



TOWARDS FINANCING ROUNDTABLES FOR
strengthening West African Protected Areas

Investing in Protected Areas in West Africa

to sustain biodiversity, address climate change
and secure livelihoods



TOWARDS ROUNDTABLES ON FINANCIAL COOPERATION FOR THE WEST AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

Coastal and marine species and habitats have been facing increasing pressure in West Africa. Overfishing, mangrove and other habitat destruction, pollution, urbanization, growing extractive industry, and uncontrolled tourism development are main threat factors causing significant environmental degradation. In order to address these challenges, considerable efforts have been made by various players (governments, local communities, NGOs and development partners) to build a representative network of Protected Areas in West Africa. However, in order to speed up the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and enable countries to meet their obligations, there is a need to develop sustainable financing mechanisms for Protected Areas both at national and regional level.

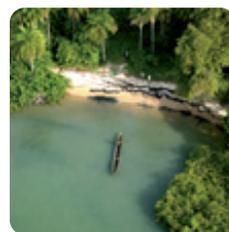
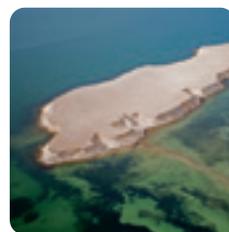
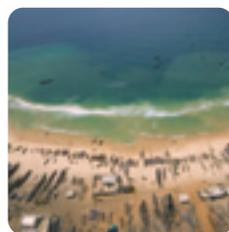
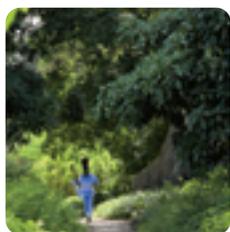
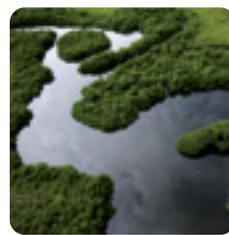
Individual countries have been implementing biodiversity conservation strategies and conservation action plans for specific species. However, considering the transboundary nature of many habitats and migratory patterns of certain species, seven West African countries (Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia) have decided to join their efforts to adequately address common issues related to the conservation of coastal and marine resources.

Besides efforts from individual states, different partners from Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia are engaged in implementing the Regional Program for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM) with the technical support of international conservation organizations (IUCN, FIBA, WWF, Wetlands International) and international financial partners. As called for in the CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), an ecological gap assessment is being carried out at the regional MPA system level, and management effectiveness assessments have been carried out at national and regional levels. In addition, based on the ongoing PoWPA review of implementation, financial needs assessments at national and regional levels are also planned.

Important results have been achieved in mobilizing the political engagement and formal support of the states to the different regional conservation initiatives. Significant progress has been made so far in terms of raising increased awareness on the conservation needs of the most threatened species and habitats and on the necessity of reinforced cooperation and of a harmonized approach at the subregional scale, in order to achieve the CBD targets in this part of the world.

Considerable efforts are being invested in order to put the CBD program of work on Protected Areas into practice, such as the regional strategy for marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which led to the establishment of a regional network of MPAs in 2007. However, one of the main challenges remains the need to further strengthen sustainable funding for Protected Areas.

The seven countries have agreed to organize a regional roundtable on protected area financing, consistent with Decision VIII/24, paragraph 18a of the 8th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, as well as recommendations of SBSTTA 14 to the 10th Conference of the Parties, in cooperation with the CBD Secretariat's LifeWeb Initiative. This round table among governments and



international cooperation partners have been announced at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CDB (COP10), hold its first in-depth meeting on May 27th, 2011, in Dakar, Senegal, with the goal of strengthening and fostering coordination for financing of protected areas solution in the region. The round table will be convened by governments of the region, PRCM and the CDB Secretariat's Life Web.

Goals

In accordance with national and regional priorities as well as current and post CoP targets of the CBD, the main objectives of the Round Table are:

- » Strengthen and raise awareness about national and regional priorities on the creation and effective management of Protected Areas in relation to the 2010-2020 CBD targets ;
- » Identify and agree on national and regional priorities for sustainable financing for Protected Areas;
- » Catalyze the engagement of donors in protected area management for West Africa, especially potentially new donors for the sub-region)

Expected results

This round table meeting will showcase the important achievements in biodiversity conservation in the countries of the PRCM region, catalyze ambitious commitments to achieve the Post 2010 targets and mobilize sustainable financing for protected area management to address the most urgent challenges. The priorities which will be conveyed by the governments of the region to the international donor community during this round table will be based directly on identified ecological, management and financial priorities, as called for by the CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas.

Next Steps

1. Sub-regional technical workshop on the review of the implementation of the CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas and the identification priorities and needs in the sub-region in April 2011, in Dakar, Senegal.
2. Organize a first financing roundtable for strengthening Protected Areas in West Africa, on the theme: «West African Protected Areas» in May 27th 2011, in Dakar.



PROGRAMME RÉGIONAL DE CONSERVATION
DE LA ZONE CÔTIÈRE ET MARINE
EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

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