



Convention sur la
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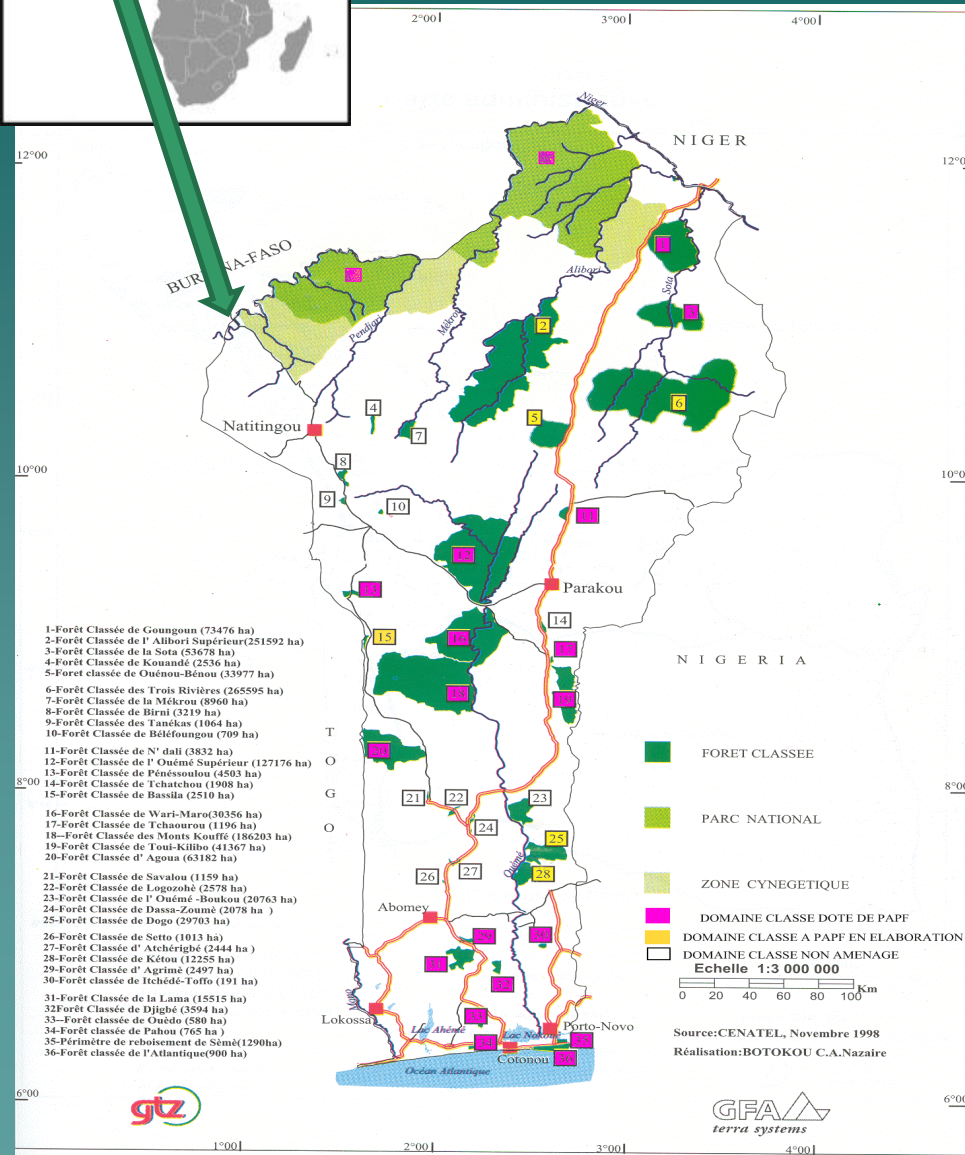


STRATEGY OF INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN POLICIES, ACTION PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT: EXPERIENCE OF BENIN

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Data on the Economy and Poverty



- Country located in West Africa with an area of 114.763 Km²;
- The Country economy is basically based on subsistence agriculture: 85%;
- No commercially exploitable mineral resources;
- Poverty Index: 47.8;
- Human Development Index 0.46;
- Adult literacy (above 15 years): 34.7%

BEFORE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTEGRATION

- ◆ Conservative management was characterized by a sectoral vision
- ◆ Only the ministry in charge of environment was responsible for solving environmental problems
- ◆ The impacts of environmental protection and natural resources on poverty alleviation were less known by other development actors
- ◆ The ministries ignore the process and the poverty-environment relationships
- ◆ **Consequence:** The degradation of the environment jeopardizes many efforts made at various levels to alleviate poverty.
- ◆ Taking into account the environment in policies, programs and projects has become imperative

WHY THE INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN SCRP (GREENING)?

In the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness to Development (adopted in 2005), donors and partners are committed to "develop and apply common approaches for strategic environmental assessment at the sectoral and national levels."

In 2006 Benin has adopted a new vision which is "to make Benin an emerging country by 2011"

To implement that vision, Benin elaborated a development strategy called: Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction (SCRIP in french)

- ◆ The technical tool for integration of the environment and biodiversity is the **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**.
 - ◆ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an administrative and technical evaluation of systematic strengths and weaknesses
 - ◆ SEA promotes concrete political measures to integrate environment in plans, programs and related projects in a sustainability perspective.
 - ◆ It aims to ensure that we consider **environment** and **sustainability principles** at the beginning of any decision-making process and **give equal importance to environment, economic and social considerations**.
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- ◆ This commitment is in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Law of Benin on the environment which states that:

Section 3-c, "protection and valorization of the environment must be part of the plan for economic and social development strategy and its implementation";

Article 3-d "different social groups must be involved at all levels in the formulation and implementation of the national environment policy on the environment: **This principle is very important for the process of poverty alleviation and development**";

Article 6.2: "The Minister for the Environment ensures that programs and projects on national territory comply with the provisions of the law and notify the regulatory authorities as appropriate."

Policy

Plan

Program



Strategic
Environmental
Assessment

Project

Project



Environmental
Impact Assessment

- ◆ The final objective of the SEA and therefore greening is:
 - Increase the environmental credibility of the decisions contained in the SCRP, leading to their implementation easier;
 - Ensure consistency between the SCRP and environmental policies;
 - Avoid mistakes when choosing strategic axes to structure the SCRP;
 - Have a better understanding of the linkages between environmental, economic and social concerns, facilitating the selection of optimal options;

OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND GREENING

Increase the environmental credibility of the decisions contained in the SCRP, leading to their implementation easier

Ensure consistency between the SCRP and environmental policies


Avoid mistakes when choosing strategic axes to structure the SCRP

Have a better understanding of the linkages between environmental, economic and social concerns, facilitating the selection of optimal options

◆ Greening was held in two stages:

The first step

To ensure the participation of sectoral actors, nine (9) focus groups were created as follows:

- Group 1: Social sectors and basic infrastructure
 - **Group 2: Environment and lifestyle**
 - Group 3: Macroeconomics and growth sectors
 - Group 4: Private sector and employment
 - Group 5: Good governance, decentralization and capacity building
 - Group 6: Agriculture, natural resources and land issues
 - Group 7: Security and Peace
 - Group 8: New technologies of information and communication
 - Group 9: Poverty and targeting.
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- ◆ The group 2 is the environmental expertise of the entire process of greening with the following missions:
 - develop and monitor the implementation of the methodology for SEA;
 - to validate the thematic reports prepared by each of eight groups;
 - ensure consistency analysis between the environmental thematic reports
- The first step has allowed the development of environmental issues, identify environmental issues and develop strategic diagnosis

◆ **The second stage**

In the second step was carried out:

- ◆ * **Analysis of consistency with the priorities of national development and environmental policies in force such as the (National Programme for Environmental Management and the National Program for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources);**
- ◆ * **Scenario development with analysis of environmental effects of each option;**
- ◆ * **Environmental analysis of the strategic axes**
- ◆ * **Development of indicators for environmental monitoring**

Examples

Axis 1 Acceleration of growth.

The Government will ensure that investments are accompanied by a framework of environmental risk management, 2) The Govt. take measures to control the quality and use of chemical inputs to protect the health of population / ecosystems

Area 2 Development of infrastructure.

Strengthen environmental management and protection of natural resources in infrastructure projects in road sector, ports, airports and energy.

Axis 5 Balanced and sustainable development of the national space

(i) the promotion of territorial planning and management of resources, (ii) the promotion of decentralization and, (iii) strengthening the level of equipment at the base.

◆ Examples

Axis 3 Enhancing human capital

Familiar at all stages, students with major environmental issues relating to civic and social integration and the preservation of their health.

Awareness is a major focus of this policy that will focus on the following areas:

- Adapting and strengthening programs for the improvement of school health and environmental protection;
- Adaptation of training modules for teachers and students in school health and environmental protection;

Promoting gender equality and empower women

Axis 4 Promotion of Good Governance.

- ◆ Submit plans, sectoral programs and projects to an environmental assessment.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

Greening entails defining the following responsibilities:

Authority: The Minister of Planning and / or finances.

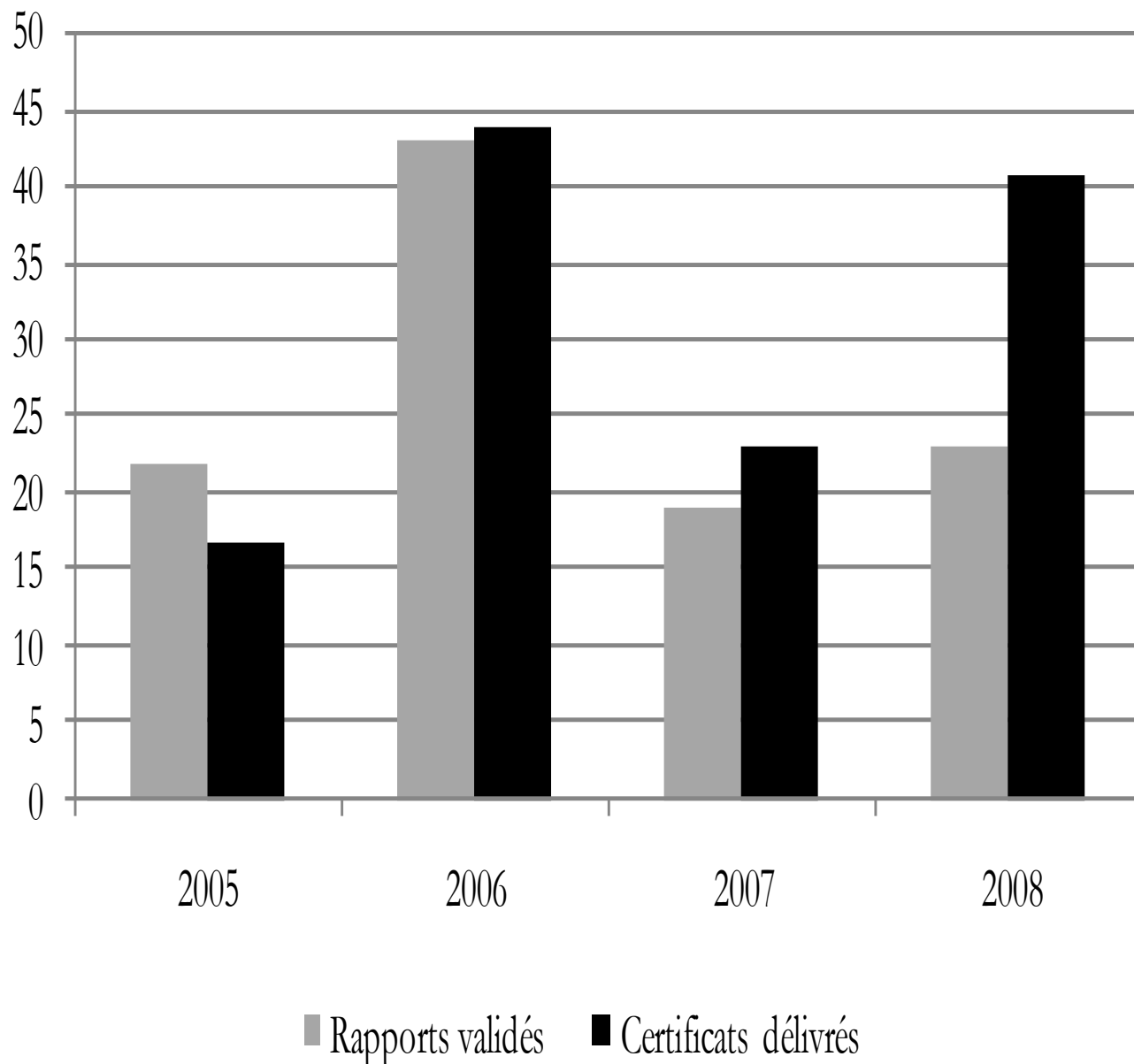
Executing authority: The sub-administrative entity conducting the planning exercise.

Expert authority: An administrative entity that by its nature and by its mandate, its staff and its resources, holds data or expertise on the environment or environmental assessment. **Benin Environment Agency (ABE)**

The Minister in charge of the environment: He provides formal notice that informs the pending approval / adoption of the law has been respected and that the sustainability parameters are effectively integrated into the document.

RESULTS

- ◆ **Consideration for the first time the potential and environmental constraints related to development goals**
- ◆ **Anticipation of externalities and taking into account the environmental costs of strategic options in the SCRP**
- ◆ **The indicators of human development in Benin have been significant improved**



Evolution of
environmental
impact
assessment
reports
validated and
number of
certificates of
conformity
issued from
2005 to 2008

DIFFICULTIES

- ❑ Lack of previous experience for the approach.
 - ❑ Limited financial resources.
 - ❑ Too short turnaround time.
 - ❑ The obligation to provide continuous capacity building at sectoral, departmental, municipal, NGOs, various associations and so on.
 - ❑ Low sectoral monitoring integration
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THANK YOU

