

Information on National CHM

THE GAMBIA

(Updated on 2014-05-09 by Mr. Abdoulie Sawo)

National CHM	
Web address (URL)	
Title	
Brief description	
Responsible organization	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management / Ministry of Environment Parks and Wildlife
Webmaster name	
Webmaster email	
Content management system (CMS)	
Database system	
Search engine	
Available human resources for maintenance and development	
Other comments	NO CHM EXISTS

Other national websites on biodiversity		
Web address (URL) & title	Brief description	Responsible organization
www.thegambiawildlife.com	This is designed mainly for sharing information in relation to Protected Areas and other biodiversity conservation related activities.	Department of Parks & Wildlife Management
www.mofen.gov.gm	This is a government website that incorporate its line departments programmes and strategies	Ministry of Environment Parks and Wildlife
www.nea.gm	This is designed to ensure dissemination of national environmental reports, action plans, programme, policy and regulations among others.	National Environment Agency

Other national websites on biodiversity		
Web address (URL) & title	Brief description	Responsible organization
www.gambiauniversity.gm	This site provide opportunity for civil servants and others to undertake Agriculture and Environmental Science courses.	The University of The Gambia
www.nari.gm	This website is created with a view to inform stakeholders and decision makers about agricultural related research activities such as crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and other natural resources.	National Agricultural Reserach Institute
www.bajgambia.org	This is designed by a national NGO of Journalist, as a platform for sharing, disseminating and creating online discussions on environmental issues for all actors.	Biodiversity Action Journalist

Major national organizations involved in biodiversity		
Acronym	Full name	Role
DPWM	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management	This is a government institution responsible for the conservation, management and development of the country's wildlife resources, through establishment of protected areas, bio-right projects, capacity development, research and monitoring etc. It is the focal point institution for CBD, RAMSAR, CITES, AEWA etc
NEA	National Environment Agency	Is a government institution responsible for coordinating all environmental matters within the country. It deals with coastal and marine environment, agriculture and natural resources, environmental education and environmental information management, environmental impact assessment, environmental legislation, environmental quality, pesticides and hazardous chemicals, ozone depletion and disaster preparedness.
DoF	Department of Forestry	This institution is responsible for establishing both the state and community forest parks which are utilized through licenses. They regulate/ control bush fires and endangered/ threatened flora species
DoFish	Department of Fisheries	Is responsible for planning, management and development of fisheries sector to ensure sustainable exploitation and utilization of the country's fisheries resources by providing scientific based advice on the requisite exploitation rate of the resource. Others include enforcement of standards for fishing gears, zones and methods

Major national organizations involved in biodiversity		
Acronym	Full name	Role
DWR	Department of Water Resources	This is the technical focal point department for climate change. Their responsibilities include; water resources assessment, monitoring and management, and weather and climate observation, recording, assessment and monitoring. It is currently, instituting early warning system on climate change for farmers in particular
DOA	Department of Agriculture	These institutions (Department of Livestock, National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and Department of Agricultural Services(DLS) are responsible for the country's soil, domestic plants and animals. They train farmers on sustainable land management and also preserve domestic plants. Conduct research; provide veterinary services, control invasive species and quarantine plants and animals imported in the country, among others.
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency	This Agency is recently created to assess and manage all disaster related problems in the country in collaboration with concern stakeholders.
DCD	Department of Community Development	This institution is responsible for local structures in all the regions that deals directly with local people.
UTG	The University of The Gambia	Provide training for biodiversity institutions and conduct biodiversity research within the country
GTBoard	Gambia Tourism Board	Is responsible for tourism activities in the country and manage some of the coastal areas designated as tourism industrial sites used by aquatic species in particular.

Comments on national situation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Gambia population 1.8 million ▶ Gambia 11,295km sq ▶ Wetlands represent more than 20%, ▶ Forest dwindled from 47% in 1999 to 43% in 2009. ▶ Mangrove forest dwindled from 69,000ha in early 1970s to 51,000ha in 1990s, however unprecedented regeneration and expansion couple with seasonal mangrove planting, the coverage is expected to increase. ▶ Faunal species remain stable but with slight increase in migratory water birds. ▶ Population of some species are booming and consequently influencing human-wildlife conflict due to lack of large predators. ▶ National objective is to protect 10% of the national territory.

Comments on national situation

- ▶ Protected areas existing are 8 representing 6.4% of the national territory.
- ▶ 10 new protected areas are in the making representing all biomes in the Gambia and certainly resulted to increase in coverage , in a bid to promote sustainable land management within the envelope of integrated biodiversity conservation.
- ▶ Gambia signed CBD in 1992 and Ratified in 1994.
- ▶ The Gambia develop its NBSAP as CBD obligation between 1996 to 1999.
- ▶ CHM was either not completed or not existing any more.
- ▶ Biodiversity and Wildlife Act 2003 for mainstreaming purposes developed.
- ▶ Sign Cartagena Protocol in 2000.
- ▶ Develop Biosafety Framework/Bill 2005.
- ▶ Signed BCH in 2007.
- ▶ On the verge to Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and the
- ▶ Nagoya Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress (Biosafety).
- ▶ Gambia adopted CBD POWPA and is implementing the action plan Particularly in the area of stakeholder networking, managing community protected areas (ICCAs).
- ▶ The Gambia is revising its NBSAP with special focus on mainstreaming objectives and issues in sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, programme and projects.
- ▶ Policies, strategies, laws etc should have been in the portal (CHM) as a way of sharing information among stakeholders.
- ▶ Equipment were supplied to ensure information sharing among stakeholders but the portal was not established.
- ▶ The Gambia end up having a single document (NBSAP) instead of having a portal with combination of sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, policies, relevant legal norms, projects and programme.
- ▶ As a result of this, its implementation was carried out by only the wildlife sector.
- ▶ Therefore, NBSAP related activities implemented by other stakeholders were not adequately reported to the secretariat

Strategic Vision

The Gambia will establish a CHM that will accommodate all relevant sectoral and cross sectoral strategies, work programme, laws, projects, reports, Biodiversity assessments and others, to ensure popular stakeholder participation and implementation of CBD and its associated protocols.

Roadmap

Priority	Objective	Activity	Responsible	Requirements
1	Establishment of functional CHM	Recruitment and contracting of an expert for development of national CHM	DPWM/ NBSAP PMU	OK

Roadmap				
Priority	Objective	Activity	Responsible	Requirements
2	Capacity development for stakeholders & actors	Trainings & provision of equipment for stakeholders and actors on uploading and finding information techniques.	DPWM/NBSAP PMU	ARR
1	Development of legal document	Development of strategic/business plan	DPWM/NBSAP PMU	ARR
2	Information publication on the CHM	Coordination	DPWM/NBSAP PMU	CR

Notes:

- Priority: 1=urgent, 2=high, 3=medium, 4=low; 5=very low
- Objective: challenge, issue, problem to resolve
- Responsible: organization or person in charge
- Requirements: Code + text
 - OK: Can be done with existing resources
 - DR: Decision required
 - CR: Collaboration required
 - ARR: Additional resources required (support, cooperation)

Comments on roadmap
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The NBSAP project is on the process of recruiting a consultant for the purpose of developing a national CHM. ▶ However, there is no budget for procurement of equipment for other stakeholders and actors, and also some institutions lack adequate human and material resources. In addition, the awareness of the general public is not enhanced in relation to CHM. Therefore, sustainability and functionality of the CHM will be affected if adequate trainings and materials are not put in place. ▶ Meanwhile, there is need for Belgian cooperation to ensure sustainability of the CHM in terms of hosting and capacity development.

Cooperation opportunities / Type of support needed
Information exchange and networking. Capacity development for actors and stakeholders. (materials and knowledge) South-south cooperation for CHM Implementation and technology transfer. Exchange visits

Thank you!