Overview of the ongoing capacity building activities in West Africa
(gaps and opportunities for synergies)

Sub-Regional Workshop for West Africa on Capacity-building for Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas

-Arona SOUMARE, WWF WAMER
Growth of Protected Areas

Extent of protected areas (km² x 1,000)
Number of protected areas

5 year period beginning...
And it IS good news...

Biodiversity
Food
Water
Culture
Health
Spirit
Knowledge
Stability
Development
The bad news...

Threats

Poor design

Degradation

Ineffectiveness
The challenge (1)

Many PA managers and policy makers, including local and indigenous community members and other stakeholders,

✓ Do not have access to the newest information and guidelines on effective PA management.
✓ They also have little opportunity to learn from conservation scientists and seasoned resource managers and share their experiences with other PA staff around the region and the world.
The challenges (2)

- Few institutions offer special training program on Conservation Biology or PA Management.
- Some institutions have good facilities as a training institute but lacks permanent instructors particularly trained in PA management.
- Insufficient funds dedicated or committed towards PA management training.
The challenges

- Some staff at the professional level are trained in PA management, but they are posted somewhere else.
- Retaining staff: they move to more attractive sectors or stay abroad
- Sustainability: donor driven and not always relevant to the targets and the needs
- Too many one-off workshops:
Existing programmes

✓ Diplôme d’Université sur le « Renforcement des Compétences en Gestion des Aires Protégées » Université Senghor d’Alexandrie - UICN PAPACO

Mali, de la Côte d’Ivoire, du Bénin, du Niger et du Burkina Faso.

✓ Master en gestion des aires protégées, Ouagadougou

✓ Ecole de Faune de Garoua,
✓ The College of African Wildlife Management

✓ La chaire UNESCO-UCAD/Master GIDEL (Gestion intégrée et développement durable du Littoral Ouest Africain) de l’Université Cheikh Anta Diop
Many capacity building initiatives

- Appui au renforcement institutionnel du Réseau régional d’AMP en Afrique de l’Ouest (RAMPÃO) et à la mise en œuvre de son plan de travail – FIBA

- Gestion participative des Sites et des Ressources Naturelles en Afrique de l’Ouest- GP Sirenes (UICN /)MACO

- Protected for areas for a living planet (MAVA) – WWF (capacity building for PowpA implementation WWF protected areas programme (capacity building and institutional support for PA managers)

- Appui à la création de nouvelles AMP et sites de conservation (FIBA)
Many capacity building initiatives

- West African Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Network – BIOMAC- Wetlands international

- Integrated area and marine biodiversity management project in the Gambia (ICAM II) – WWF

- UNESCO-UCAD Chair on Integrated coastal management, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal (training)
What is needed

- offering a range of PA management core courses and activities that are tailored to the management needs of West Africa;

- developing on-going support and a follow-up program to ensure that the knowledge and skills gained through the training are implemented.
1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to be?
3. What will it take to get there?
1. What are the capacity building needs in your country and at regional level
   - What target audiences
   - What are the priorities issues
2. Which partners to involve
3. What kind of support is needed from the CBD Secretariat and the partners
4. What are the concrete steps to be taken (short, medium, and long term)
Merci de votre attention