 

**CCPAWA Inception meeting**

‘Climate Change and Protected Areas in West Africa’

Banjul, The Gambia, 30th March - 1st April 2011

**The project**

CCPAWA is a full-size GEF project focusing on the issues of climate change and protected areas. It is being managed by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which has developed the project proposal and secured co-financing.

The project will run from 2011 to 2015. The geographic scope of the project covers 5 pilot countries in West Africa: Chad, Gambia, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Togo. An additional 3 countries will participate in preparatory activities relating to transboundary conservation (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana).

The project represents a significant body of work to be undertaken across a wide geographic area. There are potentially huge benefits to the whole West Africa region from using the tools developed to increase the resilience of protected areas to climate change. The project will also allow for additional transboundary conservation initiatives. To achieve these aims, the project will require significant support from all its local, regional, and international partners.

**Objectives of the inception meeting**

* Launch the full implementation of the project.
* Review the project planning with country representatives and technical partners.
* Present the data situation and outline the data collection strategy.
* Discuss the communication strategy (website and data portal).
* Conduct initial training sessions on climate change, vulnerability assessments, mapping, conservation planning and transboundary networks.

**Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday 30th March**

9:00 Welcoming remarks Gambia representative

9:20-9:30 Opening session Charles Besancon (UNEP-WCMC)

* Plan of the meeting
* Introduction of all partners, UNEP GEF and country representatives

9:30-10:00 Presentation General Project Overview Elise Belle (UNEP-WCMC)

* UNEP-WCMC
* Climate change impact on PAs
* The project: aim, components, timeline, outputs, structure

10:00-11:15 Presentations Country profiles (15mins) All country representatives

* The Gambia
* Togo
* Mali
* Chad
* Sierra Leone
* Burkina Faso

*11:30 Coffee break*

12:00-12:30 Presentation Climate Change and Protected Areas Neil Burgess (Lead Scientist)

* Importance of PAs and effective management
* Different impacts of CC on PAs
* Tools available
* Types of measures

12:30-13:00 Presentation Summary of Baseline studies Elise Belle (UNEP-WCMC)

Bora Masumbuko (IUCN PAPACO)

* Baseline study A: Identifying current data gaps and status of data acquisition for CC and PAs in West Africa
* Baseline study B: Current state of research and understanding of the links between CC, PAs and communities
* Baseline study C: State of political tools, institutional capacities and awareness levels in relation to CC and PAs in West Africa

*13:00 Lunch*

14:30-15:00 Presentation Year 1 activities & data requirements Charles Besancon (UNEP-WCMC)

* Data review conclusions
* National data collection (Priority data area: boundary information, management effectiveness, IUCN categories, type of financing, conservation goals, species distribution, habitat distribution)
* Vulnerability assessments and CC modelling
* Development of a communication strategy (website and data portal)
* Regional framework for long term monitoring

*15:00 Tea break*

15:30-1630 Discussion Year 1 and data collection All country representatives

* Discuss and agree on data to collect, activities, and timelines
* Possible activities:
  + - * Field surveys of PA boundaries
      * Digitisation of existing maps
      * Data collection from national databases (species and habitats)
      * Management effectiveness assessments

**Thursday 31st March**

9:30-10:00 Presentation Climate change impact on biodiversity Steve Willis (Durham University)

* Modelling climate change impact on biodiversity
* Scenarios at the global scale
* Downscaling the global models

10:00-11:00 Presentation Climate change modelling (PRECIS) Richard Jones (Hadley Centre)

* Regional Climate Models (RCMs)
* PRECIS: ‘Providing Regional Climates for Impacts Studies’
* Creating regional climate scenarios using PRECIS

*11:00 Coffee break*

11:30-12:00 Presentation Climate change, biodiversity & people Neil Burgess (Lead Scientist)

* Ecosystem services provided by PAs
* Effects of changing climate on ecosystems and people:
  + - * Changes in temperatures
      * Modification of precipitations
      * Rising sea levels
* Reference to Natural Solutions publication

12:00-12:30 Presentation West Africa region: PAs, institutions Bora Masumbuko (IUCN PAPACO)

* West African institutions
* PAs in West Africa
* Projects running
* Challenges of the region

*12:30 Lunch*

14:00-15:00 Discussion Country needs & expected outcomes All country representatives

* Identification of issues with regards to CC and PAs
* Countries needs from the project

*15:00 Tea break*

15:30-16:00 Presentation Mapping and conservation planning Bob Smith (DICE)

* Use of mapping in conservation management
* Designing protected areas
* Demonstration of case studies
* Long term monitoring of CC impacts on PAs

16:00-17:00 Discussion Advantages/constraints of the methods All country representatives

* Capacity to use of GIS in country
* Advantages of simplified online mapping tool
* Practical applications of conservation planning

**Friday 1st April**

9:30-10:00 Presentation GEF reporting requirements Esther Mwangi (UNEP GEF)

* UNEP DEPI
* GEF reporting requirements

10:00-10:30 Presentation Vulnerability Assessments and CC adaptation planning

Steve Willis (Durham University) & Ken Mwathe (Birdlife)

* Assessing vulnerability of PA systems to CC
* VA modelling of the effectiveness of PAs under CC
* CC adaptation planning

10:30-11:00PresentationCommunication and project website Elise Belle (UNEP-WCMC)

* Knowledge management
* CCPAWA website
* Data portal
* Demo mapping tool

*11:00 Coffee break*

11:30-12:30 Discussion Website design & data portal All country representatives

* Design for website (different fonts and colours)
* Website branding
* Use of data portal and mapping tool

*12:30 Lunch*

14:00-14:30 Presentation Transboundary networks and corridors Rob Small (FFI)

* Advantages of transboundary PAs and corridors
* Case study in West Africa

14:30-15:30 Discussion Regional conservation strategies All country representatives

and national priorities

15:30-16:00 Conclusion of the meeting UNEP-WCMC and Gambia

representative

**List of Participants**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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*Absent: Stuart Butchard (Birdlife International); Wendy Foden (IUCN SP); Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana representatives.*

\* GEF Focal Points.