



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Diagnosis study of the Grand MANO priority conservation landscape : « Management of mangrove forests from Senegal to Benin »

Background

The PAPBio (Protected Areas and Biodiversity) program of the European Union (EU), which include this project, has as overall objective, promoting endogenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development, responding to the challenges of climate change. Specifically, the program should help achieve integrated protection of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems and enhanced resilience to climate change.

To this end, a grant was awarded to IUCN during the negotiation of the Environmental Component of the Regional Indicative Program (PIR - AO) called "Program relating to biodiversity and climate change in West Africa" for a "Management of mangrove forests from Senegal to Benin" action. The overall objective of the program is to achieve integrated protection of the diversity and fragile ecosystems of Mangrove in West Africa and their enhanced resilience to climate change.

The programme is part of the environmental policies and strategies of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Abidjan Convention Mangrove Additional Protocol, the EU strategic framework for which it contributes to the specific objectives of the "Environment and Climate Change" thematic area of the "Global Public Goods and Challenges" Program. The action is also part of the 2030 Agenda by contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and 15, as well as to the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The project is also the culmination of various conservation and restoration processes of mangrove landscapes at national and regional scales in West Africa and in particular within the framework of the Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone in Africa West (PRCM) - of which IUCN is a co-founder with Wetlands International. These processes culminated in the Charter for the Conservation of Mangroves signed by the Ministers of the Environment of six (6) countries, which became the Calabar Protocol to the Abidjan Convention, specifically dedicated to mangrove ecosystems.

The project operates in 9 countries divided into 4 priority conservation landscapes (PCL). Wetlands International is a leader in the « Grand MANO » priority conservation landscape (Sierra Leone-Liberia). The "Grand Mano" PLC corresponds to the transboundary area, between Sierra Leone and Liberia connected to a large extent on the transboundary Gola ecosystem. It extends from the outskirts of the city of Freetown (Sierra Leone) to Monrovia (Liberia). In Sierra Leone, it includes the Yawri Bay Marine Protected Area and the Sherbro Estuary, the Sewa Waanje Reserve, the Strict Transboundary

Mangroves Reserve in Sulima. In Liberia, it includes the Ramsar site of Lake Piso (As describe in the following map).

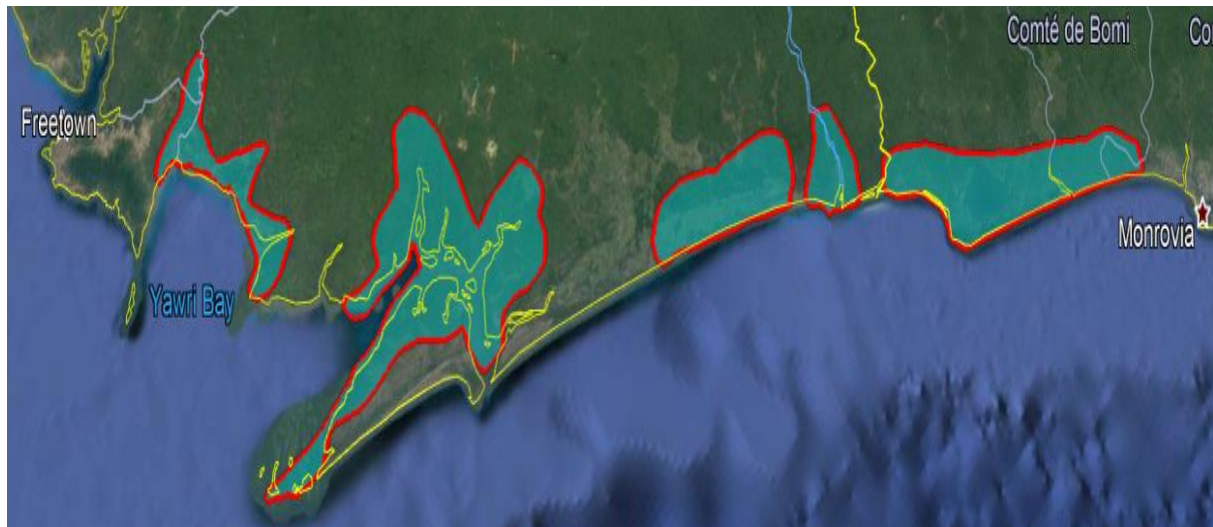


Figure 1 : "Grand MANO" landscape

The first activity to be carried out is the diagnosis study of the Priority Conservation Landscape "Grand MANO". The purpose of this diagnosis is to select the intervention areas based on different identified criteria. This diagnosis should include :

2. General framework

- Synthesis of existing works and analyzes on mangroves within the landscape;
- Presentation and analysis of the biophysical and ecological framework of the landscape;
- Presentation and analysis of the legal and institutional context of the landscape;
- Presentation and analysis of the socio-economic context of the landscape;
- Analysis of land use and use within the landscape.

3. Mangrove analysis

- Diachronic mapping of the landscape over the past 30 years;
- Analysis of the evolution of mangrove areas in the landscape;
- Analysis of the goods and services offered by the mangrove and other conservation units;
- Analysis of management frameworks that apply to mangroves;
- Inventory of wildlife and plant species (subservient to mangroves, emblematic species, threatened with extinction or endangered, etc.) and cultural and traditional aspects (sacred sites, historic sites, traditional management methods);
- Identification of the causes (natural and anthropogenic) of degradation of the mangrove;
- Identification of the impact of socio-economic activities on the mangrove;
- Mapping of infrastructures and equipment likely to impact the mangrove and identification of the types of impact that these infrastructures or equipment have or may have on the mangrove;
- Review of income-generating activities related to the mangrove and their impacts on the ecosystem, identifying those that are sustainable and those that are not;
- Identification of the most vulnerable populations with restricted access to the mangrove, with particular attention to local populations, women and young people;
- Identification of mangrove areas causing conflicts of use;

- Identification of ongoing development and conservation programs, which will lead to a mapping of stakeholders and a proposal for partnerships;
- Identification of protected areas, containing mangroves and in need of support, and analyzing their state of degradation and proposing sustainable protection methods, with a view to strengthening their protection;
- Cost / benefit analysis of intervention opportunities;
- Identification of unprotected mangrove areas for which protection status is required, and analyzing their state of degradation and proposing sustainable protection methods;
- Definition of criteria for selection and prioritization of intervention sites;
- Analysis of transboundary issues and possible obstacles to the transboundary management of mangrove ecosystems;
- Identification of the categories of existing protected areas and their delimitation (full protection, co-management, etc.).

4. Potential impact of the project

For potential intervention areas:

- Analyze the customary rights of the populations over natural resources;
- Make an analysis of possible access restrictions, or relocation of villages following surveillance actions or changes in management rules;
- Evaluate the presence or absence of local populations and estimate the possible impacts of the extension or creation of new protected areas on their livelihoods;
- Evaluate and develop scenarios for sustainable landscape management;
- Identify indicators of program impact.

5. Stakeholders analysis

- Inventory associations, basic community organizations (OCB), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, research centers, projects and programs, local authorities, governmental technical departments, active in the protection and / or exploitation of resources coastal zone and mangroves;
- Draw up a table of these different stakeholders with their specific fields of action, their volume of funding, the results obtained, their contacts, etc.;
- Map the actors in direct or indirect interaction with the mangrove;
- Identify the capacity building needs of the stakeholders.

6. Identification of the program steering committee

- Identification of similar steering committees, already existing within the landscape, highlighting the complementarities and synergies;
- Proposed composition of the orientation committee at the Grand MANO landscape level and its role in validating the diagnosis and the development plan as well as in the implementation of the project;
- Proposal for the composition of the selection committee for small grants.

7. Prioritization of program activities

- A proposal of the main research themes in the landscape;
- A proposal for the allocation of funds according to the priorities identified;

- A monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of the landscape management plan.

8. Deliverables

A report covering all the points mentioned will be drawn up (50 pages maximum with appendices and an executive summary). Explanatory maps will be attached to the report in order to identify and prioritize the intervention areas. The report will be written in French and will be translated into English.

The results of the diagnosis will be shared with the technical services of the State, local authorities, the private sector and representatives of the communities concerned, in order to meet the existing needs of national actors.

9. Procedure

The diagnosis will be carried out in two stages:

Stage I: national studies simultaneously in Sierra Leone (Yawri Bay and Sherbro mainly) and Liberia (Lake Piso),

Stage II: compilation of the documents at landscape level.

Stage I will take place according to the following phases:

- **Phase 1:** document review: 3 days
- **Phase 2:** collection of field data and meetings with stakeholders: 5 days
- **Phase 3:** drafting draft 1 of the diagnosis document: 10 days
- **Phase 4:** examination of draft 1 by the Sierra Leonian and Liberian national consultation platform and transmission of comments to the consultants: 4 days
- **Phase 5:** finalization of the diagnosis document by the consultants: 5 days

At the Stage II, after the first stage of the diagnosis within the countries, the team leader will compile the results at landscape scale and will complete the following phases:

- **Phase 6:** Elaboration of the master plan drafts of the PCL, action plans of the intervention areas and priority projects: 10 days
- **Phase 7:** diagnostic validation workshop, adoption of action plans and priority projects: 3 days

10. Composition of the consulting team

The consulting team will be led by a senior consultant, team leader, and will include following specialists:

- A socio-economist;
- A specialist in the management of natural resources, in particular mangrove ecosystems with a good knowledge of the governance of Protected Areas;
- A specialist in Geographic Information Systems and Mapping;
- A specialist in legal and institutional matters and in organizational management of CBOs.

The members of the consulting team must have at least 5 years of professional experience in their area of specialization, as well as knowledge of the study area. Good knowledge of English would be an asset.

The team leader must demonstrate experience of at least 10 years in tasks similar to this consultation.

The consulting team will include at least one Sierra Leonian and one Liberian.