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**First Bureau Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention on Cooperation for the Protection,
Management and Development of the Marine Environment and
Coastal Areas of the Atlantic Coast of the
West, Central and Southern African Region (Abidjan Convention)**

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 1st July 2019

Report on projects implementation

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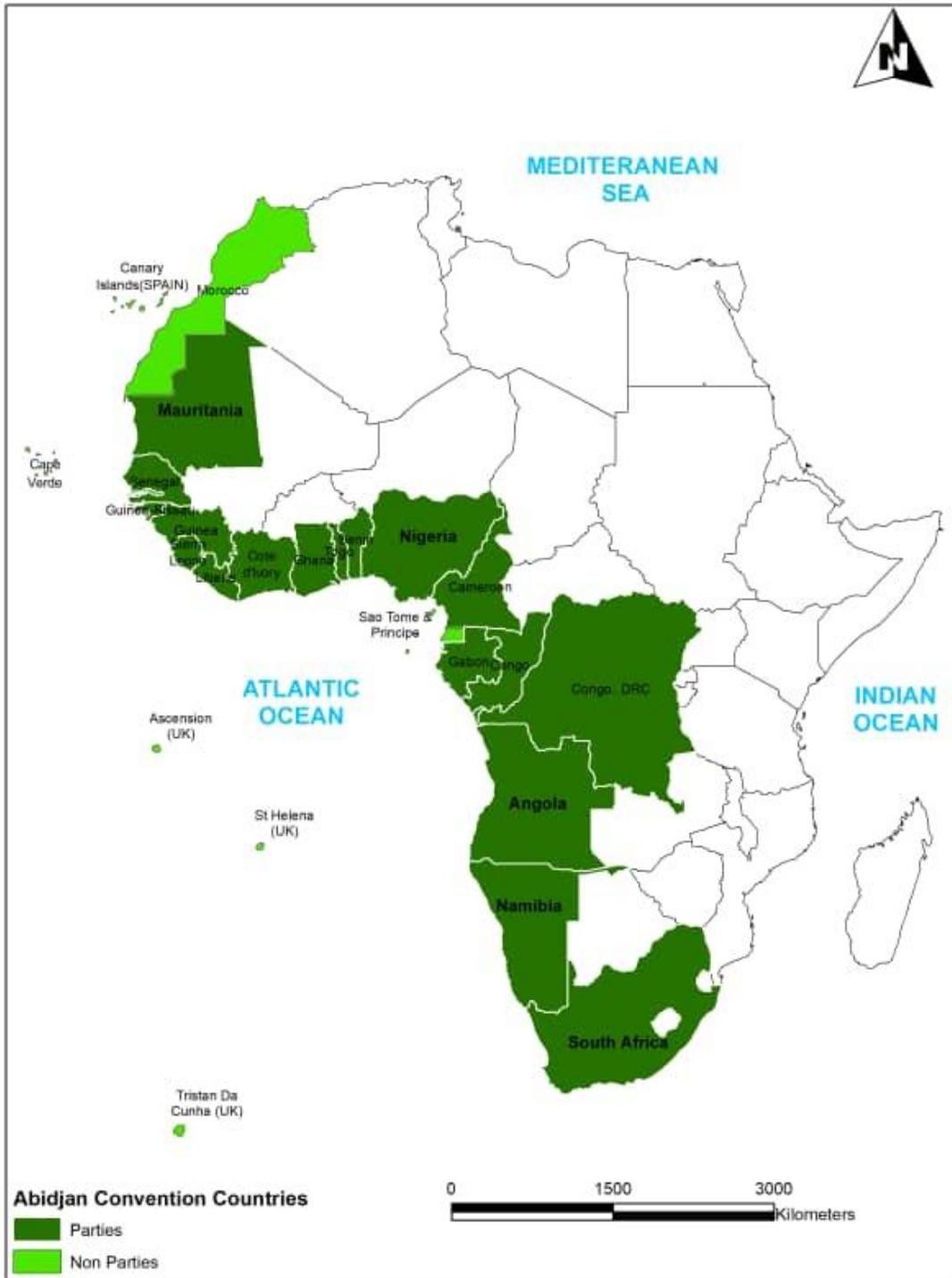
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Map by Ariel Medrid

INTRODUCTION

The Background

The Abidjan Convention covers the protection and development of the marine environment and coastal areas of the West, Central and Southern African region.

Located on the south-eastern Atlantic coast, the Abidjan Convention stretches from Mauritania to South Africa, representing a coastline of nearly 14,000 km. It includes three large marine currents: Benguela (BCLME), Canary Islands (CCLME) and Guinea (GCLME).

Noting the region's unique coastal and marine environment and its economic and technical limitations, the countries recognized the need for a regional approach to address cross-border maritime environmental challenges. For instance, in 1976, following a fact-finding environmental assessment mission to 14 States in the region, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recommended the development of an action plan. It is designed to connect the assessment of the quality of the marine environment and the causes of its deterioration with the management and development activities of the marine and coastal environment of West, Central and, later, Southern Africa. The plan was first adopted by 11 countries at a conference in Abidjan in March 1981 and entered into force on 5 August 1984, after the sixth country had filed its instrument of ratification. This recognizes the unique environmental character of the region's marine and coastal environment, as well as the threats and the need for action. Today, of the 22 countries concerned in the region, 19 have signed and ratified the Abidjan Convention texts. South Africa applied for membership in 2000 and ratified it in 2002.

The implementation of regional legal agreements between West and Central Africa has been facilitated by numerous technical surveys, studies and reviews prepared by UNEP with the cooperation of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Health Organization, the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization and many other organizations.

The Mandate

The Convention is intended to provide a comprehensive legal framework for all sea-related programmes in Central, West and Southern Africa.

Pursuant to its mandate, the Convention lists sources of pollution requiring special attention and continuous monitoring: ships, spills, pollution from land-based source activities, exploration and development of the seabed and air pollution. It also identifies environmental management problems which call for cooperation efforts between Member States. These include grasslands, wetlands, barriers and lagoons. These highly productive and diverse ecosystems support fishing, coastal tourism, industries, minerals such as limestone and sand, congested seaports and oil extraction.

However, the rapid growth in the region resulted in unsustainable use of natural resources and significant pollution. As a result, critical habitats are being destroyed or threatened.

The Convention secretariat's mandate is to "**protect, preserve and develop the Abidjan Convention area and its resources in the interest and for the well-being of its inhabitants**". This is a duty that the Secretariat is committed to complete.

The Mission

Member States have mandated the Abidjan Convention to "*foster regional cooperation to address environmental issues and give due recognition to governing bodies, political, social and economic alternatives among and between Member States and their impact on the human and technological resources that are provided through political will*". To this end, the Convention deals with cooperation in the field of the marine and coastal environment, knowledge of environmental risks, pollution, habitats, biodiversity, sustainable resource development and other activities which may adversely impact on the health of marine and coastal ecosystems.

The Convention advocates scientific and technological cooperation (including information and expertise sharing) to identify and manage environmental issues.

Revitalization

For years, particularly from 1985 to 1999, the Abidjan Convention was hampered by many difficulties that slowed its progress. Today, the Abidjan Convention has successfully completed its revitalization process, which has resulted in:

- The introduction of a regional emergency plan and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents (2011)
- Ratification of the Additional Protocol on Cooperation for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West, Central and Southern African Region against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol - 2012)
- The setting-up of the Ad Hoc Committee on Science and Technology (2014)
- The establishment of the Regional Coordination Centre for Marine Pollution Emergencies of the Abidjan Convention.

Likewise, the signature and ratification process has been initiated for three additional protocols to the Abidjan Convention:

- Protocol on the Sustainable Management of Mangroves
- Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management
- Protocol on Environmental Norms and Standards for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration and Development

Contracting Parties

Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo.

I – Description des activités

Economic appraisal of marine and coastal ecosystems

In partnership with GRID-Arendal, an economic appraisal of the goods and services provided by the marine and coastal environment is being finalized. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and synopsis of three economic evaluations, each conducted to identify the benefits of the "value flow" - or "ecosystem service" - resulting from one of West Africa's three large marine ecosystems (LMEs). While the term "marine" denotes "ocean"; ecosystem services are derived from both the oceanic and coastal ecosystems that make up the LMEs of West Africa. This report encompasses both the oceanic ecosystem services and the coastal issues reviewed by all three assessments.

The first study looks at ecosystem services from the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME). This complex system evolves with a temperate climate and plays a "key role in global climate and ocean processes". The BCLME is one of the most productive LMEs in the world and includes the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) in Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

The second study appraises the highly productive Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (in English, GCLME). The GCLME stretches from a well-defined northern boundary (with seasonal fluctuations) to a less clear southern boundary formed by the South Equatorial Current. It covers 16 countries, from Guinea-Bissau on the northwest coast of Africa to Angola in the southwest.

Finally, the third study examines the goods and services emanating from the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME), a cold water upwelling off the coast of northwest Africa. CCLME ranks third in the world in terms of primary productivity after Humboldt LME (west coast of South America) and Benguela LME, with the highest fish production of all African LMEs. CCLME is bordered by Morocco, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, the Canary Islands of Spain, the Gambia and Cape Verde.

Formulation of the additional protocol on sustainable mangrove management

In compliance with Decision - CP 11/1. d) COP. 10/7: Sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in the area of influence of the Abidjan Convention *"which fosters the translation of the Charter for the Sustainable Management of Mangrove Resources signed in 2010 by the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone into an additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention, pursuant to recommendation 2 adopted at the 7th Regional Coastal and Marine Forum held in Dakar in 2013"*, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat initiated the development process for this protocol.

To this end, three expert panels were conducted. The first, held in Abidjan in November 2014, helped translate the mangrove charter into a protocol and vet the draft version. The second meeting held in August 2015 in Calabar-Nigeria helped improve the tentative version, initiate the development of an action plan based on the protocol and launch the annexes' development process. The third panel, which met in Bissau in May 2016, validated the draft version of the Protocol, reviewed and validated subject to the annexes to the Protocol and developed a roadmap for national consultations.

It is noteworthy that the Abidjan Convention contributed to the development of the Mangrove Law in Guinea-Bissau, a country with 80% of the marine ecosystem, of which 7% is mangrove. Unfortunately, the rice growing in mangroves affects the ecosystem balance. The challenge is to combine the need for food security with biodiversity preservation.

Finally, national consultations were held in all the relevant countries, with the support of WABiCC, CCLME, MAVA Foundation and the German Ministry of the Environment.

Formulation of the Additional Protocol for Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Marine and coastal spaces host a wide range of human activities such as maritime transport, fishing and aquaculture, renewable energy production, raw material extraction and nautical tourism. Over several years, experts have been ringing the alarm about the threats that such activities pose to the marine and coastal environment. Strengthening oversight has gradually become a major objective for the Member States of the Abidjan Convention.

In this respect, management based on an ecosystem approach was recalled at COP 10¹ and 11².

Parties considered that the drafting of an ICZM protocol would contribute to more effective management of coastal areas and the marine environment. For this purpose, the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention held the first meeting of the Panel of Experts of the Abidjan Convention on the drafting of an additional protocol for the integrated management of the coastal area in West, Central and Southern Africa. It was held in Accra, Ghana, from 16 to 18 June 2015 and resulted in the establishment of a working group and the adoption of the main lines of the protocol.

Following this meeting, the second meeting of experts was held in Lomé, Togo, from 24 to 26 May 2016, which (i) adopted a new version of the preliminary draft protocol, (ii) such adoption was subject to the guidelines of the four appendices to the protocol and finally (iii) established the roadmap for the national consultations held from July to September 2016.

Following the regional process of developing the above-mentioned protocols, national consultations were held to ensure that national concerns were reflected in the protocols as much as possible. To do this, the Secretariat of the Convention established 3 teams of experts to crisscross West and Central Africa between July and October 2016 and conduct these national consultations. At least 50 participants from various backgrounds participated in each country: relevant Ministries' engineering departments, policy makers, private sector, Civil Society Organizations and Researchers,

The profiles of the participants are also varied: environmentalists, oceanographers, biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, mining engineers, lawyers, communicators... The fields of expertise targeted included: mining, environmental assessments, pollution, marine and coastal biodiversity, fisheries, environmental law...

On average, the workshops lasted 3 days during which all the articles were discussed. At the end of the discussions, notes in the Track change mode will be appended to the country report. In October 2016, the Secretariat invited the members of the Committee on Science and Technology to be notified of the Parties' comments, observations and recommendations.

The results of all the national consultations and meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology of the Abidjan Convention were presented in the form of a guiding note attached to the proposed decision. These were the consolidated versions, resulting from a long participatory and iterative process, which were presented and adopted by the Parties at the Twelfth Conference held in Abidjan in March 2017.

To date, the Secretariat is actively preparing the meeting of plenipotentiaries to be held from 2 to 4 July 2019. This requires the integration of the amendments made to the protocol by the Contact Group set up at CoP12. To this end, CST, the body authorized to do so, met from 23 to 27 May 2017 to take into account the amendments.

¹ COP 10 was held in Pointe Noire, Congo, from 12 to 16 November 2012

² COP 11, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17 to 21 May 2014

Environmental norms and standards for offshore oil and gas activities

The establishment of a regulatory framework for the surveillance and monitoring of offshore oil and gas activities is a response to COP 9³, during which the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention took important decisions to prevent and control pollution resulting from offshore activities.

At COP 10, the Contracting Parties adopted Decision CP.10/8 "Environmental standards for exploration and development of mining and mineral resources undertaken along the coasts of the States Parties".

It was in this context that the first meeting of the Group of Experts on Regional Environmental Standards for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration and Extraction in West, Central and Southern Africa was held in Abidjan on 23 and 24 September 2013. The workshop gathered representatives of 12 States⁴ as well as several international experts.

At CoP11 the information note was proposed and was the subject of decision CP 11/1. "Implementation of COP 10 decisions" including decision CP 10/8: "Environmental standards for offshore exploration and mining activities for mining and mineral resources off the coasts of the States Parties".

After CoP11, the Secretariat organized the Dakar meeting, which defined the main focuses of the additional protocol and the roadmap for its adoption. The Malabo meeting amended and adopted the preliminary draft protocol and launched the idea of initiating national consultations to share the document with all national stakeholders concerned by the offshore oil and gas issue who do not have the opportunity to participate in the regional process. The last meeting, held in Praia, resulted in the adoption, subject to the appendices of this Additional Protocol, and the preparation of a roadmap for national consultations.

Stakeholders involved in the implementation of the protocols

The popularization and implementation of the Convention and the Additional Protocols require the involvement of actors such as:

The States

Decision-makers/legislators

Opinion leaders (local NGOs and civil society)

Organizations, traditional community leaders, interest groups

Partners of the Abidjan Convention

Local communities

The researchers

The media

National and regional administrations,

Networks of parliamentarians

³ Held from 28 March to 1 April 2010 in Accra, Ghana

⁴ Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

II. Successful partnerships and projects developed

The Abidjan Convention is now recognized as a major player and a privileged partner in the management of marine and coastal biodiversity along the Atlantic coast of the African continent. In addition to the activities implemented and partnerships established, others are being finalized.

The variety of established partnerships helps the Secretariat of the Convention deliver on its mandate and achieve its programme objectives. A range of partners have supported the Secretariat by providing funds directly to back up the implementation of activities.

1. WA BiCC⁵

The West African Biodiversity and Climate Change Program (WA BiCC) is a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which aims to improve conservation and growth resilient to climate change and low emissions in West Africa. By working with key regional partners, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union (MRU) and the Abidjan Convention, and with targeted national and sub-national institutions, WA BiCC builds institutional capacity at all levels, including to combat wildlife trafficking, strengthen coastal resilience to climate change and reduce deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss.

Recognizing the central role of the Abidjan Convention in the region, the WA BiCC programme conducted the Integrated Technical and Organizational Capacity Assessment (ITOCA) in October 2015, which resulted in the formulation of an institutional strengthening plan with the following results:

- Designing a communication strategy;
- Recruiting a communications specialist to support the implementation of the strategy; and
- Recruiting a consultant to develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for the projects in the Convention portfolio; and
- Evaluating the support for the setting up of a data management system.

The next steps of the plan include: Developing and conducting an organizational network analysis; and Recruiting a consultant to work out a resource mobilization strategy.

The objective of this assessment is to improve an effective internal system to measure the progress and performance of all the Convention's project activities.

2. STRONG High Seas⁶

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the project will facilitate the development and implementation of comprehensive cross-sectoral approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) in the southeast Atlantic and southeast Pacific. Based on the interests of both regions and global political dynamics, it will identify best practices and provide regional institutions and national authorities with the knowledge, tools and

⁵ Designed to strengthen West African regional institutions, the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention, the ECOWAS Commission and the Secretariat of the Mano River Union to better manage the resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities in the face of climate change.

⁶ Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas

capacities to support the implementation of existing approaches and the development of new approaches to regional ocean governance.

To this end, the project will advance technical and scientific cooperation and propose actions at the regional level. The experiences will be shared with other regions and stakeholders to facilitate mutual learning and identify common practices. The experiences will be shared with other regions and stakeholders to facilitate mutual learning and identify common practices.

In addition, this project will develop regional governance options in a future international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and transfer lessons learned at the global level to support ocean governance at appropriate scales.

3. MAMI WATA

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through its International Climate Initiative (IKI), the Mami Wata project "Strengthening Marine Management in West, Central and Southern Africa through Training and Implementation" works with African countries to build their capacities in integrated ocean management⁷ (IOM). Aware of the importance of healthy marine and coastal ecosystems for human well-being and development, the project applies tools and strategies to improve the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity in the countries of the African Atlantic coast.

The project covers the Abidjan Convention⁸ area, a combined exclusive economic zone of more or less 4.8 million km². The project is implemented by the GRID-Arendal partners and the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention. The Mami Wata project, which promotes IOM, aims to strengthen national and regional action to enhance marine and coastal ecosystems through a twofold approach:

1. Capacity building of the stakeholders concerned, through training on State of the Marine Environment Assessments (SoME) and the description of Marine Areas of Ecological and/or Biological Importance (MBAs) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and
2. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

The Mami Wata project supports the development of technical capacities in the member countries of the Abidjan Convention, with a view to integrated ocean management. A key aspect of this capacity building is the development of a set of tools that can support the three elements of Integrated Ocean Management namely: The State of the Marine Environment Report, the identification of the CBD's Ecological and/or Biological Areas of Importance and Marine Spatial Planning.

Marine Spatial Planning" is a relatively new method of managing human activities in the high seas. It is a long-term strategic process that guides stakeholders in the use of marine spaces, including where, when and how it is done.

⁷ Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) is an approach that brings together all relevant government players and stakeholders for more effective and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas.

⁸ The pilot phase involves three countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

4. RESILIENSEA

The ResilienSea project, funded by the Mava Foundation, focuses on sea grass beds, one of the most important habitats in the ocean. As nurseries and feeding grounds, protecting our coasts and storing carbon, among other benefits, sea grass beds are poorly known to the public and are in urgent need of protection. One of the main reasons for the lack of protection of sea grass beds is the lack of information on some of the most fundamental aspects of their distribution and health. This project will aim to increase knowledge of sea grass beds in West Africa and conduct pilot actions in selected sites to implement management tools and improve the status of their protection and the services they provide.

The project is implemented by Grid-Arendal and the Abidjan Convention in the following countries: Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Sierra Leone.

5. MAVA

Besides the project mentioned above, the Mava Foundation finances several projects with the Abidjan Convention. Thus, an initial financial support enabled the development of the additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention on norms and standards for offshore oil and gas activities. The overall objective of the project was to develop a regional instrument on the exploration and extraction of marine oil and gas reserves. Specifically, the project aimed to:

- establish a regulatory surveillance framework for offshore oil and gas activities;
- anticipate difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Offshore Petroleum Protocol;
- Strengthen role players' specialized know-how

In the same vein and to cover response issues, the Mava Foundation has funded a new project to develop pollution response plans for offshore activities as part of the project "Environmental Management of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities". Finally, Mava is funding the PRISE project,⁹ which aims to reduce the impacts of coastal infrastructure in West Africa.

6. The Coastal Fisheries Initiative Project in West Africa -CFI-

The CFI project, a joint FAO-UNEP initiative, is being implemented in Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. It aims to strengthen fishery governance, management and value chains through the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries, relevant international instruments and innovative governance partnerships.

UNEP has entrusted the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention with the implementation of Result 1.2.2. of Component 1 on Fishery Governance and Management. Through a participatory approach involving the various players (Government, civil society, private sector and researchers) at the national and local levels, the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention ensures the sustainable conservation and streamlined use of mangrove resources as set out in its Additional Protocol on the Sustainable Management of Mangroves and its implementation action plan. The Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention is expected to preserve 700 ha of mangroves in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire over the next 3 years.

⁹ Project to reduce the impact of infrastructure on coastal ecosystems in West Africa (PRISE) 1: Tools and capacity building.

7. Support the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GEMCG)

Funded by the GEF, the overall objective of this project is to strengthen GEMCG regional governance and ecosystem management by helping countries build capacity to implement a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) linked to trans-boundary fisheries, biodiversity conservation and pollution reduction measures.

This will be achieved through the implementation of activities and outputs under four components: (i) strengthening regional governance and regional and national capacities; (ii) strengthening fishery governance and management; (iii) stakeholder assessment and consultation, including relevant ministerial units; and (iv) analysis of pollution hotspots in the GEMCG countries and private sector engagement.

The expected overall environmental benefits will be the protection of world-class habitats and fish stocks in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem. The project will contribute to improving resource governance and management and building the capacity of stakeholders to take into account the values of sustainable fisheries. Improved resource management and poverty reduction in the sixteen (16) participating countries will further strengthen sustainability within the GEMCG.

8. WACA ResIP

Bankrolled by the World Bank, the West Africa Coastal Areas (WACA) programme aims to (i) provide expertise and funding to countries in the region for the sustainable management of their coastal space in response to the risks posed by erosion, flooding and pollution and (ii) strengthen regional integration of countries by working with related regional institutions and agreements, thereby strengthening the resilience of coastal communities and economic assets in West African countries.

The programme is currently active in six countries¹⁰ through a regional investment project for the resilience of the West African coastline (Resilience Investment Project - ResIP) with a total cost of US\$221.70 million and financed up to US\$190 million (credits and grants) by the World Bank. The project consists of a combination of activities at the political and institutional levels and is in line with the demands for physical and social investment, both at the regional and national levels.

It has all 4 components. The Component 1 of this project will be implemented by the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEOMA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through its Central and West Africa Programme (PACO), Centre de Suivi-Ecologique (CSE) and the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention (ABC).

More specifically, the Abidjan Convention is responsible for assisting the six participating countries in technical matters related to the ratification and implementation of regional and international coastal and marine protocols (Subcomponent 1.2);

9. UN HABITAT improving the resilience of coastal communities

With a support from the Adaptation Fund, the overarching objective of this project is to strengthen the resilience of coastal institutions and communities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, and later in

¹⁰ Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Senegal, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo.

West Africa, to climate change, in line with national government priorities in the implementation of the interventions.

The sub-objectives of the project, listed below, are in line with the project components and the results of the Adaptation Fund:

- Strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of local and national governments to increase coastal resilience through coastal management and urban planning;
- Build community capacity to anticipate and respond to coastal risks linked to climate change;
- Increase the resilience of coastal ecosystems and the built-environment in target areas, taking into account (inter)national and local needs and impacts;
- Increase the resilience of coastal ecosystems and the built-up environment at the community level by adopting income-generating options.
- Support the systematic (inter)national transformation towards improved coastal management, urban planning and tangible examples of intervention through knowledge management and the establishment of institutional and regulatory frameworks.

The project comprises the following components:

1. Coastal area management and land use planning strategies at the district level.
2. Planning for resilience at the community level.
3. Transformational interventions to strengthen coastal resilience at the inter-district level, factoring in (inter)national and local needs and impacts.
4. Concrete interventions at the community level considering local needs and impacts/ livelihood opportunities.
5. Knowledge management, communication and institutional and regulatory framework at regional, national and local levels.

The five components of the project address the problems and needs identified by local and national governments. To achieve the overall objective of the project, "Increasing the resilience of coastal institutions and communities to climate change in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and ultimately in West Africa", it is essential to develop a sustainable vertical and horizontal learning environment and institutional framework that can enable approaches and interventions that meet local needs but can also be replicated and expanded elsewhere. In order to ensure the repeatability of resilience interventions, the role of the national government is essential.

Finally, the comprehensive proposal and lessons learned will benefit not only the most vulnerable communities but also central, district and community governments, aimed at supporting Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and their neighbors.

10. MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEA)

The project, funded by the European Union and in partnership with FAO, aims at strengthening and improving the capacity of ACP countries to effectively implement the selected multilateral environmental agreements, with the ultimate objective of increasing the environmental sustainability of the agricultural sector. The project will include reversing the depletion and degradation of natural resources (water, soil and biodiversity) by creating synergies and collaboration between the environment and agricultural areas, starting from global governance to policy and the ground.

The specific objective is to integrate biodiversity into all sectors of the three ACP regions in order to support sustainable agriculture and preservation of natural resources, with special focus on

specific regional priorities. Such include land degradation and desertification - and the related food security and migration problems - which result in part from damage caused by land clearing, invasive exotic species, the overuse of agrochemicals and other poor agricultural management practices.

The project will focus on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, with regard to sustainable land management issues to reverse land degradation.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The expertise and strategic positioning of the Abidjan Convention on issues related to coastal and marine management, climate change and coastal resilience are now recognized by a wide range of active partners in the field of marine and coastal biodiversity and in international cooperation on sustainable development issues in general. The Abidjan Convention serves as a regional platform and legal framework for the activities of its three large marine ecosystems (LMEs), namely the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME); Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) and Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME).

Therefore, the Abidjan Convention is the appropriate regional mechanism to forge partnerships to address new regional challenges in terms of coastal and marine biodiversity. Given the strategic nature of its regional mandate on issues related to coastal and marine ecosystem management, climate change and coastal resilience, the Abidjan Convention thus remains a key counterpart in achieving partners' programmatic objectives and building institutional capacity to promote conservation, climate resilience and low-emission growth.

This recognition has resulted in the design and implementation of projects covering a wide range of fields in the Abidjan Convention region. The Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention is currently engaged in a scaling up processes with several partners. Projects are being set up to bolster synergies, learning and experience sharing.

PARTNERS



UN ENVIRONMENT ABIDJAN CONVENTION

