



West African Coastal and Marine Conservation Program



GENERAL REPORT

SIXTH REGIONAL COASTAL AND MARINE FORUM OF WEST AFRICA
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Introduction



The Sixth Edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum of the Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme (PRCM) for West Africa provided a genuine platform for highlighting the added value of PRCM, and reviewing the achievements and impact of Phase II of this Programme, as well as the lessons learnt from it. All participants agreed that activities implemented during Phase II were wide ranging.

Central to the 6th Forum were side events, presentations on initiatives underway in the sub-region, the future of PRCM, and global events to take place in 2012, i.e. Rio+20 in Brazil and Jeju in Korea.

The main innovation of this Forum lied in the diversity of the side events organised. Indeed, these enabled interaction and down-to-earth discussions on field initiatives and the progress made in the sustainable management of marine and coastal biodiversity. Focus was laid on such issues as support-led progress in the various Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the transboundary diagnostic analysis of CCLME, the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) of marine and coastal environment, the contribution of MPAs Network to fisheries management, capacity building for conservation stakeholders, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The future PRCM Programme is designed to address those factors that hindered efficiency in Phase II, including slow financial procedure, inadequate resources to partners, and leverage of founding international NGOs in the governance process. The new programme will therefore evolve into a partnership between a coalition of stakeholders in the sub-region. Given the change of paradigm and the new governance bodies, it is critical for the programme to be long-lasting and promote shared vision and responsibilities.

Issues of concerns to be discussed at Rio+20 and the forthcoming Global Conservation Congress in Jeju, Korea have a global dimension. The challenge, however, for the sub-region is to be able to harmonise, based on PRCM spirit, positions on transboundary environmental issues as part of the international negotiations and agendas of these two events.

Finally, the 6th Forum provided the opportunity to express gratitude to technical and financial partners who have so far supported the regional partnership process underway since the launch of Phase I of the PRCM in 2004.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place under the Chairmanship of Her Excellency Dr Aja Isatou Njie Saidy, Vice-President of the Gambia and Minister of Women's Affairs. Also sitting at the high table were Mrs Fatou Ndeye Gueye, Minister of Forestry and the Environment; Mrs Lynda Mansson, Director General of the MAVA Foundation for Nature; and Mrs Sylvie Goyet, Director of the Banc d'Arguin International Foundation and Chairperson of PRCM Steering Committee.



In her preliminary remarks, Mrs Goyet first welcomed the number of women at the high table as a highly encouraging sign. She registered her appreciation to the Government of the Gambia and its institutions for hosting the 6th Forum. Mrs Goyet also recalled her recent visit to Guinea-Bissau where she could see partners, whether or not beneficiaries of the Basket Fund, involved in joint activities, thereby testifying to the strong vitality of PRCM spirit. Initially designed as a collaboration facility, the PRCM today must be transformed into a coalition of stakeholders in the sub-region. Indeed, issues at stake are complex, too wide and even threatening, and can only be addressed through shared vision and responsibilities. Mrs Goyet insisted that synergies would be upheld, regardless of the future funding sources and mechanisms. She assured participants of the availability of FIBA to provide assistance throughout the new process. The full version of her speech is attached in **Annex I**.



In her address to the audience, Mrs Fatou Ndeye Gueye welcomed participants to the 6th Forum, stressing the importance of the PRCM to her Ministry. She said that the next Phase of PRCM should enable us to respond to common issues confronting the sub-region. With support from the PRCM basket funds through the ICAM project the ICAM Project, the Gambia has performed well in managing the coastal zone. The project has benefited communities at large, especially women. Indeed, as a project, ICAM proved effective in preserving coastal ecosystems, developing income-generating activities, and rehabilitating mangroves. Mrs Gueye underscored the commitment of H.E. Yaya Jammeh, President of the Republic, to marine and coastal conservation. She expressed deep appreciation to all partners and donors and to the President of the Republic, and concluded by wishing participants fruitful deliberations. The full version of her speech is attached in **Annex II**.





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The opening address was delivered by Dr Aja Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice-President of the Republic. First and foremost, she thanked all the honourable guests for attending. She

then emphasized the personal interest that H.E. the President of the Republic of the Gambia shows in marine and coastal environmental issues and, on behalf of the President, extended her warm welcome to participants on the smiling coast of the Gambia. Natural resources account for a significant share of the Gambia's heritage, but remain confronted with severe degradation. Dr Aja Isatou Njie-Saidy conveyed her satisfaction at the information that financial resources

would still be allocated to the PRCM, as many challenges still lied ahead, especially with regard to climate changes and coastal erosion along with its impact on the tourist industry. *"Unless we resolve to face those challenges right now, the situation may deteriorate further. For its part, the Government of The Gambia has expressed its commitment to finding solutions, with a focus on community involvement and poverty alleviation"*. She reiterated her thanks to PRCM stakeholders for this trailblazing programme. Welcoming the Forum as a model platform which seeks to promote experience sharing and dialogue between stakeholders, she called for a new Phase, urging PRCM partners and member states to provide support in this regard. She expressed gratitude for choosing The Gambia to host the sixth edition of the Forum. While wishing every success to the deliberations, she declared the Forum open. The full version of her speech is attached in **Annex IV**.

I. Day I

I.1. Review of Activities for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone

I.1.1. Status of implementation of the Nouakchott Recommendations

By Barthélémy Jean Auguste BATIENO, Programme, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Capitalisation Officer at PRCM Co-ordination Unit

From the outset, the Programme Officer placed a number of things on record, as summarized below, regarding the recommendations adopted at the Nouakchott Forum in 2010 :

- Recommendations are too general, numerous, and not always directed at a specific category of stakeholders or institutions;
- The process for drafting and adopting recommendations does not always ensure that all stakeholders do share in such recommendations;
- Recommendations are not always communicated to those organizations for which they are potentially or clearly intended;
- No mechanism has been put in place at the country level to report back on recommendations, which implies that there is no monitoring mechanism either.

With regard to the status of implementation, significant actions were conducted to ensure, *inter alia*, the interest of decision-makers to participate in the Forum and conservation activities; the ratification of the Abidjan Convention and MARPOL by many countries; and strengthened partnership between PRCM and key stakeholders such as the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention, the Secretariat of the Common Wadden Sea, and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The issue of access to fishery resources was also considered during the revision of the Convention on Minimal Access to Resources across the CSRP zone. Finally, recommendations aimed at promoting the participation of grassroots communities in the Forum and at restructuring the Forum so as to facilitate discussion and dialogue between players were also examined. The CSRP Council of Ministers, however, felt that the recommendation on establishing a conference of Heads of State on fisheries was not timely.

The PRCM Programme Officer concluded his presentation by suggesting the following :

- the recommendation development process to be reviewed;
- participants from PRCM member countries to share, upon arrival in their respective countries, the Forum's recommendations with stakeholder organizations involved in the littoral conservation and natural resources sustainable management;
- concerted mechanisms to be established at country level for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Forum's recommendations, which should lead to country progress reports. Those reports, along with additional information to be collected, will serve as a basis for PRCM Co-ordination Unit to update participants at each edition of the Forum.

I.1.2. Review of Achievements and Key Outcomes of PRCM Phase II

By Ahmed Senhoury, Director of PRCM Co-ordination Unit



Dr Senhoury first reminded that PRCM seven member countries, i.e. Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, all formed an ecoregion. He further reminded that Phase II (2008-2012) hinged on three components - Biodiversity Conservation, Fisheries Sustainable Management et Integrated Management Support - and that it was implemented by 4 governance bodies - the Forum, the Scientific and Technical Guidance Committee (CoST), the Steering Committee and the Co-ordination Unit.

Dr Senhoury then disclosed the major achievements and value addition of Phase II, as follows :

Achievements :

- significant increase in funding for marine conservation in West Africa;
- establishment of over 9 new Marine Protected Areas and of an official Regional Network of MPAs (www.rampao.org);
- development of regional plans of action for the conservation of key habitats and species, including MPAs, sharks, turtles, manatees, and mangroves;
- establishment of a unique platform for multi-stakeholder discussion at the regional level; i.e. the Regional Forum;
- putting in place of the Network of Parliamentarians on Marine and Coastal Conservation (APPEL);
- enhanced legal framework of littoral management;
- strengthened capacities of stakeholders (Governments, civil society, students, medias, etc.);
- increased visibility of some countries and key players in the sub-region;
- improved regional co-operation in the area of conservation (charter on mangrove, ministerial meetings, transboundary MPAs); and
- holding of a roundtable meeting on the financing of protected areas in West Africa.

Value addition:

- Good leverage and advocacy capacities of PRCM vis-à-vis political and decision-making circles in the sub-region;
- Significant sub-regional integration framework;
- Intersectoral consultation framework;
- Relevant discussion forum and co-ordination mechanisms;
- Token of credibility vis-à-vis donors and technical partners; and
- Tremendous potential for generating scientific, technical, and institutional knowledge.

Regarding the lessons to be learnt, the PRCM showed that it was possible to:

- establish a coalition of governmental and civil society stakeholders who work together and pursue the same goals;
- initiate actions concurrently, from the local to the regional levels;
- bring private and public donors to work together and produce joint reports; and
- better impact political decision-making through not only collective action but also work with national and local players.

Finally, Dr Senhoury outlined the way forward to address some of the shortcomings, in particular:

- ▶ Aim for an entity more centred on local stakeholders;
- ▶ Further promote collaboration with regional and international conventions (CBD, Abidjan Convention, etc.).
- ▶ Identify other sources of funding for conservation in West Africa ;
- ▶ Further promote collaboration with regional and international conventions (CBD, Abidjan Convention, etc.).

I.1.3. Overview of some Achievements of the MPA/FisheryCo-management Project (AFD/CSRP)

By Philippe Tous, MPA/Fishery Co-management Project Co-ordinator at CSRP

Financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) and implemented by the CSRP, the MPA/Fishery Co-Management Project has been designed to support joint fisheries management mechanisms and promote MPAs as a tool for the sustainable management of fisheries through an ecosystemic approach. The ultimate goal is to have the concepts of co-management and ecosystemic approach mainstreamed into the fishery policies of CSRP member states. The Project consists of three components: Co-management (support to land development initiatives), MPA (support to MPAs creation and to existing MPAs), and Capacity Building (training). Whereas Components 1 and 2 focus on promoting partnership and synergy at the local and sub-regional levels through co-financing, Component 3 favours networking and communication.



With regard to Component 2, the Project has achieved the following preliminary results:

- Study on the role of MPAs in fishery management.
- The findings of this study were reported back in 2011 at the sub-regional level, with recommendations tabled to CSRP member states and partners; the reference technical document (www.spcsrp.org) and the summary document (to be available in French, English and Portuguese) are being finalized.
- Support to the Initiative "Let's promote together a fishery management approach encompassing Marine Protected Areas (CEPIA)". 4 pilot sites have been selected to improve the contribution of MPAs to fishery management. Doing this requires, *inter alia*, listing/addressing stakeholders' expectations in the area, pooling their empirical and scientific knowledge, and ensuring compliance with local management and governance processes.

I.1.4. Status of Implementation of the CCLME Regional Project

By M. Birane Samb, CCLME Project Co-coordinator (FAO/UNEP)

CCLME is a project jointly financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and beneficiary countries/partners, and implemented by FAO and UNDP in the framework of the Abidjan Convention. The project area covers 7 countries in West Africa, i.e. the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Morocco, and Senegal, all of them parties to the Abidjan Convention, except for Morocco. Implementation started on 1st April 2010, and the Co-ordination Unit is based in Dakar, Senegal. Designed to counter, through an ecosystemic approach, the deterioration of the Large Marine Ecosystem of the Canary Current caused by overfishing, habitat change, and decreasing water quality, the CCLME Project is based on three components, as follows :



► **Component 1:** Develop regional processes and frameworks to gain insight in and address priority transboundary issues. Progress achieved so far include the adoption in 2011 of terms of reference (ToR) for ADT and GT3/CC working groups; ADT/PAS training for country teams and members of the working groups; the creation of a “Caucus” on African Large Marine Ecosystems; the adoption of several tools such as a work plan; the adoption of ToR for GT2/PAS working group; and the establishment of relationships with potential partners and projects with a similar focus.

► **Component 2:** Strengthen management policies and systems by enhancing knowledge and achievements gained in demonstration projects, in order to address priority transboundary issues pertaining to the degradation of marine resources in the project area. **Achievements include** support to setting up the FAO working group on the assessment of small pelagic

fishes in North-West Africa in 2010 and 2011; organization of a working group on the planning and review of ecosystemic campaigns in 2010; and implementation of actions jointly with the EAF project – Nansen (“Nansis” training session in 2010, ecosystemic campaigns carried out in Cape Verde, Guinea, and Morocco, and acoustic campaigns in Guinea and Senegal in 2011, and AEP training course in Agadir).

► **Component 3:** Strengthen basic knowledge, capacities and policies required for the appraisal and transboundary management of habitats, biodiversity and water quality, which are key to fishery sustainability. Actions taken in this regard include the designation by relevant countries of members of the group on biodiversity, habitats and water quality as well as the adoption of the ToR of this group, and the formalization of rules for implementing demonstration projects on MPAs and mangroves in partnership with CSRP and IUCN/WIA.

Further information on the expected results and outcomes of each Component is available on the CCLME Project’s website at www.canarycurrent.org.

1.1.5 Discussion Session on the Review of Conservation Activities in the Coastal and Marine Zone

In opening the session, Mrs Sylvie Goyet, Chairperson, recalled the function of the Forum, which was to promote communication and exchange, consultation and collaboration at various levels, as well as conviviality and stimulation, adding that the 6th Forum, in particular, would be an opportunity to look into the next Phase of PRCM.

During the discussions devoted to the presentation on the 5th Forum’s recommendations, participants mostly enquired about the progress achieved in implementing those recommendations. It was suggested that it would be highly useful to specify the stakeholders targeted by each recommendation, for instance Governments, PRCM, civil society, international NGOs, or other payers.

With regard to other presentations (that dealt with PRCM activity report, the MPA/Fishery Co-management Project, and the CCLME Project) the following was alluded to through the questions put to the relevant speakers:

- definition of biological rest periods and harmonisation of such periods across the region;
- creation of new MPAs, extension of the national network of protected areas to Guinea-Bissau, availability of tools that can help measure the rehabilitation of fish stocks within MPAs;
- need to go beyond paying lip services to climate change and initiate concrete actions against this phenomenon;
- concession of fishing licenses to foreign industrial fleets at the expense of national fishery sectors.

By way of answers to the issues raised, it was noted that:

- As a rule, RAMPAO's partners find it preferable to strengthen the existing MPAs network rather than establish new MPAs.
- It is difficult to harmonise biological rest periods at the regional level. Actually, regulating access is the main issue to face. It is necessary to first establish a baseline situation to have a clear idea of what is being protected, and subsequently develop a matching monitoring system. In the face of increasing mobile resources, the efficiency of MPAs remains limited. Inversely, MPAs prove very effective for the rehabilitation of habitats (as non-mobile resources), although some negative effects may occur when efforts are more targeted on big predators, as these can cause imbalances likely to damage habitats.
- It is essential to deepen our understanding of not only climate changes but also overfishing.

I.2. Model Regional and International Multi-Stakeholder Partnership for Resources Conservation and Sustainable Management

I.1.2. The Experience of the Common Wadden Sea (CWS) Secretariat

By Mr. Jens Enemark, Executive Secretary of the CWS Secretariat

The Executive Secretary of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWS), Mr Jens Enemark, shared the experience of his institution with participants. Bordered by three countries, the Wadden Sea holds a great amount of biodiversity (a transit place for 10 to 12 million birds after 4,000 to 5,000 km into their migratory corridor). It is the world largest continuous expanse of sediments along the littoral (i.e. 11,000 sq.). The Wadden Sea area is also home to many people, most of them living on recreational activities. It goes without saying that tourism holds a place of choice (10 million of tourists per year, representing an income of 2.8 to 5.3 billion euros per annum).

Mindful of protecting the integrity of this sensitive zone, the three bordering countries (the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark) have agreed on trilateral co-operation and a governance structure at the following three levels:

- political: ministerial meetings are held at least every three years, with rotating presidency;
- technical: 4 working groups have been created to help with decision-making; and
- executive: the Executive Secretariat facilitates and coordinates the implementation of activities in partnership with the three member countries which provide the needed financial resources.



- provide a scientific appraisal of the status of the Wadden Sea ecosystem; and
- assess the status of implementation of trilateral targets set in the Wadden Sea Plan.

All aspects of the Wadden Sea ecosystem are monitored using chemical, biological, human usage, habitat, and other general parameters. The information generated through the monitoring process, which also builds on a geographic information system, is entered into a database for capitalization purpose. This process has had a positive impact on the conservation of the Wadden Sea and reporting.

A Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) has been put in place to:

1.2.2. The Climate and Development Network

By Emmanuel Seck, Program Officer at ENDA

The presentation on the *Climate and Development Network* highlighted the rationale for creating the network, as well as its goals, characteristics, functioning, achievements, challenges and prospects. It was created in 2007 in Dakar, Senegal, and consists of 60 NGOs from Africa and Europe. While overall co-ordination is the responsibility of *ENDA & Réseau Action Climat -France*, outreach activities have been entrusted to JVE-Côte d'Ivoire. The Network has 1 seat on the *CAN International Board* and 4 on *CAN Political Co-ordination Group*.

The goal of the Network is to:

- strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations and negotiators to exert greater influence through advocacy and lobbying in climate negotiations; and
- promote the mainstreaming of development issues in climate negotiations.

A specific feature of the Network is that its member NGOs operate in many countries in the South (Mali, Senegal, Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo, Guinea, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, and Burundi) as well as in countries in the North (France, United States of America, Switzerland, Canada, and Germany). Moreover, the Network is represented at all meetings organised on climate and development issues by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or other similar bodies. Other important assets of the Network are its email address franclimat@rac-f.org, which includes hundreds of contacts, and website <http://ressourcesclimatdeveloppement.jimdo.com/>.

The Network has achieved the following preliminary results:

- A French-speaking platform of civil society organisations has been created for the purposes of co-ordination, exchange, learning and joint lobbying;
- Civil society organisations intervening in the areas of development and climate changes are better informed about relevant political processes;
- The Network has gained recognition as a key interlocutor and facilitator, as well as for its leadership in development and climate changes;
- Reference documents dealing with climate changes and development are published on a yearly basis.

A number of weaknesses were also hinted at, including inadequacies in operational activities on the ground and poor documentation of good practices of successful experience exchanges. Other constraints faced by the Network were inadequate resources and difficulties to mobilise a high number of players, including local communities.

In terms of prospects, several activities are contemplated in the areas of capacity building and development, as follows:

- Develop capacities to ensure effective involvement in natural resources sustainable management and in the "climate" process;
- Set up stronger co-ordination mechanisms for civil society stakeholders at the local level to rally more players around common initiatives;
- Increase awareness-raising and mobilisation on climate change issues;
- Further contribute to the implementation of concerted action programmes on climate, desertification and biodiversity;
- Enhance the documentation and dissemination of good practices in climate change control;
- Forge alliances for advocacy and lobbying.

By Lisa Benedetti

Among other things, the UNU:

- The mandate of the Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), established in 1996, is to help solve critical global issues confronting the United Nations, its peoples and member states, through research and capacity building. To this end, it develops initiatives with several potential partners, and fosters multi-stakeholder partnership not subject to the lengthy formalities of UN Agencies and Governments. Recent projects underway are :

- Caribbean Coastal Pollution Project (CCPP);
- Improving Coastal Zone Management in the Arabian Gulf;
- Marine Protected Areas Design;
- The project on a second world atlas on mangroves; and
- International training course on mangrove biodiversity and ecosystems.

Presentations in this session shed light on a range of partnerships that may be envisaged for the future PRCM, and attracted the following comments:

On the Wadden Sea:

- Are management-related decisions made at the ministerial or other level?

It was observed that there was much to learn from the collaboration that the three member states developed to protect the Wadden Sea ecosystems. Outcomes of ministerial meetings are more of a guidance nature, and it is the responsibility of the Executive Secretariat to formalise such guidelines into agreements. When a partnership is confined to legal aspects, decisions have less impact.

On UNU-INWEH:

- Which steps need to be taken for creating partnerships?
- How are training venues selected?



Entering into a partnership requires a shared vision, consensus, and commitment from both Governments and civil society organisations.

Training is provided through the world nexus of UNU institutes. Depending on the type of course, however, the choice of the host university will be guided by technical considerations such as expertise, material, laboratory and site relevancy.

I.3. Side events - Review of Stakeholders' Initiatives

Side events enabled participants to hold fruitful discussion on transboundary environmental issues. Specific focus was on progress achieved in activities related to marine protected areas, the transboundary diagnostic analysis of CCLME, and ICCAs.

I.3.1. Supporting Marine Protected Areas: Which Achievements a Decade on?

Promoter : FIBA - Person in charge : Dr Charlotte Karibuhoye

This side event provided an opportunity to review the tools that have been developed to support MPA managers in three key areas: management planning (which involved management and business plans), maritime surveillance, and monitoring of management-related measures. MPA managers outlined developments in this area using a few examples of good practices recorded so far.

❖ Management Planning

Management planning, based on management plans, was the first issue to be addressed. In 2008, only 6 MPAs had a management plan, against 17 in 2011. In the context of PRCM, several experiences were conducted in the sub-region, resulting into a specific guide developed by FIBA in the light of existing international guides and the sub-region's specificities. Alkaly Doumbouya, a researcher at CNSHB¹, presented the process that led to the creation and rules of management of the Tristao MPA in Guinea. Launched in 2002, this process culminated in the official recognition of the Tristao MPA in 2009, after draft management rules were adopted in 2008. Support from PRCM enabled the site managers to complete the process and embark on drafting a management plan to be approved in 2012.

Also required for management planning are an accurate assessment of financial needs and the adoption of a fundraising strategy. While no MPA had a business plan before 2010, the training of trainers organised as part of the BioCas Project² in collaboration with WWF helped trigger this process across the sub-region, and a guide is even being drafted to support MPA managers. Alfredo Da Silva, Director of IBAP³, outlined the activities carried out by his institution in this regard, including the development of 9 business plans in 2009 to improve the management of protected areas for which it is responsible in Guinea-Bissau.

1. Boussoura National Centre for Fisheries Sciences

2. Project for West Africa's marine and coastal biodiversity management through the strengthening of conservation and monitoring initiatives in marine protected areas, funded by the French Global Environment Facility and piloted by FIB

3. Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas of Guinea-Bissau

❖ Maritime Surveillance

The situation remains varied from one MPA to the other. Indeed, while some MPAs have received significant support, others have always been confronted with limited resources. Generally speaking, however, the nautical training sessions organised by FIBA helped to increase the number of trained staff from 6 in 2001 to 56 in 2011, and to put in place a team of regional trainers. Moreover, a guide was first launched in 2007, and a number of MPAs have received appropriate equipment.

Ahmedou Ould Hamadi, Surveillance Officer at PNBA,⁴ showed how the surveillance system evolved in this MPA that is regarded as a model in the sub-region and implements new methods or technologies to improve surveillance.

❖ Follow-up of the impact of management measures

Finally, monitoring the impact of management measures revealed that progress ensued recently, in particular after the launch of the BioCos Project whose activities being implemented in the Niomi National Park of the Gambia were partially illustrated by Ousainou Touray from DPWM. In 2011, a participatory monitoring system for shell resources was launched on this MPA, in order to assess the impact of management measures on such resources, and ensure that they were used in a sustainable manner. A monitoring guide was even put together to support those managers of sub-regional MPAs who wish to embrace this system.

❖ Discussions

During the discussions that followed, participants underscored the 3 areas as being the most important ones in MPA management. On management plans, it was emphasized that processes needed harmonisation to ensure experience sharing among MPAs. Although a number of MPAs have not received direct support from the PRCM, they have benefited from the networking and tools put in place.

Participants also highlighted the lack of means and the growing issues faced by stakeholders. Addressing these would necessarily require stronger political commitment from the Governments in order to protect both MPAs and their resources.

As to surveillance, it was seen as a costly activity in a context of limited resources. MPAs managers would therefore have to prioritise the sites to monitor and species to protect. Areas far off the coast prove difficult to monitor because MPAs managers generally have a limited access to coastal zones.

Although business plans and fundraising strategies are not a must for successful MPA management, they may, however, facilitate contact and negotiations with donors. Indeed, given the shrinking financial resources and the necessity for MPAs managers to diversify their sources of funding, it is essential to hold such negotiations. If these tools are not widely implemented, it is because they must be updated on a regular basis.

❖ Recommendations to MPAs

- Harmonise management plans development processes to promote experience sharing between MPAs ;
- Diversify funding sources and put in place business plans, in order to facilitate negotiations with potential donors;
- And Involve local communities in the surveillance system, to improve the effectiveness of this costly activity.

1. Banc d'Arguin National Park

2. Direction of Parks and Wildlife Management of The Gambia

I.3.2. Minutes of the Meeting on CCLME Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis Preliminary Document

Promoter : CCLME - Person in charge : Birane Sambe

At this side event, participants took a look at the progress report presented by the Consultant, Dr Moussa BAK-HAYOKHO, on the brainstorming exercise mounted for the development of a document on the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the CCLME Project.

The purpose of the meeting was to invite comments on this document that reviews transboundary issues identified in the preliminary TDA; the drafting plan for the future TDA document outlined by the CCLME's TDA working group, with indications on available information to collect; knowledge to acquire in the framework of CCLME's working groups; gaps to close; and strategies for completing the job. Comments were specific to the various issues raised.

❖ Baseline Information and Data

It was suggested to strongly build on TDA documents from other African Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), particularly the BCLME and GCLME from which the CCLME could draw useful lessons, for being the most recent LME. Guinea Bissau is a member of both the GCLME and the CCLME, and could therefore share its experience with other CCLME member countries.

Taking advantage of research findings available in sub-regional research institutions was also suggested. In this regard, it was requested to approach member countries to review and send relevant data to the CCLME.

In general, participants recommended that the results of all research activities conducted across CCLME member countries should be capitalized on by Inter-Departmental National Committees and presented as member countries' counterpart contribution to GEF financing.

❖ Significance of Socioeconomics and Governance

The need to delve into the governance concept drawing from numerous studies devoted to this issue was given appropriate consideration, with studies conducted by Rhodes Island University in the United States quoted as an example. This appeared all the more important that the CCLME Project could possibly gain specific value addition at the regional level. Indeed, the kind of governance on which the CCLME Project has embarked could be promoted to technical and economic bodies of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) where there is on-going discussion on the form of governance to embrace. It was therefore suggested to strongly solicit the input of Inter-Departmental National Committees to the process underway at the CCLME Project.

❖ Selling TDA to Decision-Makers

The need to delve into the governance concept drawing from numerous studies devoted to this issue was given appropriate consideration, with studies conducted by Rhodes Island University in the United States quoted as an example. This appeared all the more important that the CCLME Project could possibly gain specific value addition at the regional level. Indeed, the kind of governance on which the CCLME Project has embarked could be promoted to technical and economic bodies of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) where there is on-going discussion on the form of governance to embrace. It was therefore suggested to strongly solicit the input of Inter-Departmental National Committees to the process underway at the CCLME Project.

I.3.3. Indigenous Community Conserved Areas of Marine and Coastal Environment: Strengthening Positive Aspects!

Promoter : UICN/CEESP, consortium APAC - -Person in charge : Grazia Borini

Presentations at this side event briefly reviewed the concepts of governance and natural resources management, focusing on ICCAs and how these are rooted in the history, culture, and traditional knowledge and know-how of the peoples and communities in the sub-region. Following an overview of ICCAs, it was explained how ICCAs emerged in West Africa, using the specific example of the Kawawana ICCA which is now managed by the Association of the Mangagoulack Rural Community's Fishermen (APCRM) in Casamance, Senegal. It should be noted that this phenomenon was not prompted from outside, i.e. by an external project or NGO, but came about as a result of the history and local culture of solidarity harboured by community members. The Chair of APCRM went through the background to his ICCA, which is now recognised by the Casamance Regional Council and the Governor of the Casamance Region, and represents a significant local success story: as a matter of fact, fishermen of this community now make so many catches that selling on the local market has become problematic. Women have also organised to collect shells and market fish catches, in addition to being involved in the ICCA governance.

The presentations gave rise to a fascinating and rewarding debate. The gist of this discussion is as follows:

- ICCAs need to be better recognized and supported across the sub-region in the most appropriate and enabling manner, although legal recognition is often desirable.
- Communities in the sub-region have a great sense of sacredness and mystique (including spirits), and these aspects could be extremely useful in advancing conservation and promoting ICCAs. It is obvious that ICCAs should not consist of sacred areas only. However, sacred areas could be turned into biological rest or reproductive areas, while also furthering ecosystem rehabilitation sites through the adoption of rules for the sustainable exploitation of natural resources, as was the case with the Kawawana site. Such a complex ICCA with internal zoning is most appropriate to meet the region's needs.
- Participants considered the specific case of Guinea characterised by an overlapping of customary and modern laws, the nonexistence of a land registry office, and a great deal of land insecurity. An official recognition of ICCAs would help secure customary rights over lands and fishing areas adjacent to communities. It should be noted that ICCAs must guarantee indivisible and inalienable collective rights. This needs to be examined in a flexible manner, although marine issues are particularly complex. Granting collective rights, however, may be a good step towards settling these legal issues. Furthermore, advantage can be taken of international covenants ratified by countries in the sub-region, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that all countries should implement. Most importantly, it could be argued that ICCAs – based on the CBD – can be recognised not only as a major category of protected areas but also as community lands outside protected areas, which fall under rules established by local communities to ensure sustainability.
- ICCAs are under considerable pressure caused by mining, oil and gas development, and land grabbing for extensive farming. Nature lovers must try their best to protect ICCAs from these threats, including by requesting a special status, such as “no go zone for destructive activities”, “biologically important area”, and “component of national protected areas system”. As the Coastal Law of Senegal provides for the establishment of new sites along the shoreline, it would be appropriate to utilize potential ICCAs to achieve this goal.
- ICCAs in the sub-region should be recognized and supported, as they need to network with a view to mutual learning and capacity building. This would go a long to promoting values such as integrity and solidarity, as well awareness-raising for the benefit of the environment.

II. Day II

II.1. Future PRCM Guidelines

II.1.1. Presentation on Future PRCM Guidelines

By Paul Siegel, Marine Conservation Adviser, WWF

The speaker started by recalling the background to the new partnership, i.e. the external/independent assessment of PRCM II; the creation of a multi-stakeholder design committee; the organisation of national workshops to review weaknesses, strengths, challenges and prospects; and finally the holding of a regional meeting to approve the consolidated diagnostic study of the conservation of the West African coastal and marine zone. He then highlighted a number of factors that hindered efficiency throughout Phase II, including cumbersome financial procedures (donors, Basket Fund, implementing agency, field reality), inadequate resources to partners, lack of clarity in the role of founding international NGOs (which are often both judge and judged) and their influence in the governance (decision-making) process.

To remedy this situation, future PRCM guidelines must span a long term period, and embrace the following major objectives:

- Ensuring a sound coastal and marine ecosystem for the well-being of west African citizens;
- Strengthening the governance and conservation of coastal zones, with a view to better integrated and more robust management of natural resources.

In keeping with this widely shared vision, the new partnership would primarily rest on 4 strategic areas, being:

- Good governance of the coastal and marine zone;
- Conservation of the shoreline, and sustainable management of marine natural resources;
- Analysis, prevention and management of risks and issues related to the coastal and marine zone; and
- Mobilisation and co-ordination of partnerships for the coastal and marine zone.

Regarding **Strategic Area 1**, the following actions are contemplated:

- Conduct policy advocacy to update, disseminate and implement legal frameworks;
- Strengthen and mobilise capacities for updating and harmonising existing policies and tools, and for developing additional tools;

Reconcile national legal and political frameworks with transboundary, regional and multilateral agreements.

Strategic Area 2 involves the following:

- Strengthen MPAs governance;
- Enhance the conservation status of a number of marine and coastal species;
- Promote sustainable funding mechanisms for the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems;
- Develop, disseminate and use tools for the concerted management of marine natural resources.

Priority actions identified under **Strategic Area 3** are as follows:

- Improve knowledge on risks associated with climate change in coastal and marine zones;
- Identify, understand, and mitigate risks entailed by biophysical degradation as well as diffuse and accidental pollution resulting from mining (oil and gas development).

Regarding **Strategic Area 4**, the following actions need to be taken:

harmonise interventions;

- capitalize on experiences;
- interact on the various interventions;
- monitor and evaluate activities; and
- strengthen and sustain key networks, including networks of stakeholders involved in marine and coastal management.

II.1.2. Presentation on the Future PRCM Governance Mechanism

By Moustapha Kébé, FAO/Accra, member of the CoST/PRCM

Mr Kébé outlined the bodies to be put in place under the future PRCM for partnership governance.

❖ The Regional Steering Committee (RSC)

The role of the Regional Steering Committee would be to conduct strategic thinking. It would consist of 8 standing members, representatives of Colleges and observers (Technical and Financial Partners). Key colleges would include the civil society (1 seat), professional organizations (1 seat), research institutions and academia (1 seat), international NGOs (2 seats), and technical and financial partners (1 seat each).

As the very structuring of the Regional Steering Committee is a significant novelty in the new partnership strategy, the speaker briefly explained that the colleges would be put in place and function in the following way:

- Development of a first list of organisations per type of College wishing to join the partnership;
- Signing of a membership charter in the wake of the Forum;
- Acquisition of voting rights within the relevant College to choose their representative(s) and alternate(s);
- Update of the list of members represented on each College, after each edition of the Forum;
- Organisation of a special meeting on the election by members of their representatives/alternates, the development and approval of functioning rules, identification and approval of consultation mechanisms that individual Colleges would use in the inter-Forum period;
- Endorsement of an 18-month term for representatives of each College; a term may not be renewed for more than 2 years;
- Renewal of not more than half of the representatives at a time;
- Creation of a virtual consultation platform per College.

❖ The Regional Steering Committee (RSC)

The Forum provides a communication and exchange platform for all stakeholders, while also facilitating the supervision and guidance of the Partnership. It is held every 18 months on a rotating basis. Novelties will be introduced to enhance the effectiveness of the Forum in its new format, including anchoring the Forum and its value addition in a partnership perspective; plenary sessions; thematic sessions; task forces; consensus-building on a limited number of recommendations and rules for monitoring the implementation of such recommendations; creation of an expert roster; and creation of a side platform for the 6 meetings of individual Colleges.

❖ The Mobilisation and Co-ordination Unit (MCU)

As a technical wing endowed with real capacities and decision-making powers, the Mobilisation and Co-ordination Unit is responsible for, *inter alia*, oversight, implementation, interventions review, support to project promoters, and activities monitoring.

❖ Roster of Scientific and Technical Experts

A roster will be developed for the purpose of mobilising external technical expertise in such areas as annual planning, activities assessment, and impact indicators monitoring. Experts on the roster will be selected on the basis of their areas of expertise and geographical location.

Regarding the operational management mechanisms, it is anticipated to establish a biennial bottom-up planning system that will be essentially participatory in both devising and implementing action plans.

Discussions on Future PRCM Guidelines

The recommendations below emerged from the discussions that followed the two presentations on the articulation of the future PRCM Programme:

- On the activities presented under the future Programme, it was felt that the focus was more on studies, consultation, and meetings, and that only a few activities dealt with the rehabilitation of ecosystems. This would cause the Programme to be somewhat imbalanced.
- As to the proposal of moving the PRCM Co-ordination Unit from Nouakchott to Dakar on logistical grounds, some participants believed that this was not sufficient a reason. On the contrary, they argued that consideration should be given to the great deal of experience gathered by Mauritania in the conservation of marine and coastal resources as well as in other institutional areas, to maintain the Co-ordination Unit in that country.
- Several participants observed that the future Programme did not sufficiently mainstream fishery, and recommended it should be given greater importance.
- Regarding the relationship between Phase II and the Future Programme, a number of participants feared that the new features could entail a disruption, which might result in a loss of 8 years of experience gained by the PRCM. It was therefore recommended to make sure that the transition period was used to bridge the gap between the two phases.
- Many felt that it was necessary to take stock of achievements, experiences, lessons learnt, and constraints stemming from the Forum, as a platform; hence the proposal to make room for an assessment session in the programmes of future editions of the Forum.

Following the discussions, a Declaration of Adherence to the PRCM Charter on preserving the coastal and marine zone of West Africa and its resources was presented to the meeting. See **Annex V**.

II.2. College-based Working Group

Provisional colleges identified to seat on the Regional Steering Committee held a meeting to discuss their representation and functioning modes. These were:

1. College on national civil society ;
2. College on governmental agencies and sub-regional committees;
3. College on national and local representatives;
4. College on professional organizations;
5. College on research and higher education;
6. College on international NGOs.

Stakeholders of each College were able to:

- become acquainted with the proposed new PRCM governance bodies and the role expected from Colleges in the new set-up;
- review and validate the terms of reference (ToR) for the Regional Steering Committee, and also advise on ToRs for Colleges;
- consider and propose a process for choosing College membership; and
- make proposals on modalities for appointing representatives (and their alternates) of Colleges on the Regional Steering Committee.

A roadmap of activities was developed, starting with the identification and appointment of relevant stakeholders and the organisation of the first meetings.

Appointment of representatives of Colleges

Representatives of colleges will be voted by the members of each college for an 18-month term, renewable only once (i.e. for a period of not more than 36 months). To ensure continuity in the Regional Steering Committee, only half of the representatives may be renewed at a time.

Representatives of Colleges on the Regional Steering Committee will be voted by PRCM member organisations based on the following criteria:

- To be recognised as a leader in the area of coastal and marine conservation, depending on the College membership;
- To be actively involved in advocacy for coastal and marine governance and conservation;
- Defend the interests of the College membership;
- Have connections in an external network;
- Be available to represent the College in meetings of the Regional Steering Committee held on a semi-annual basis, and in any other meeting, as may be required.

II. 3. Presentation on Field Activities

II.3.1. Campaign against Plastic Bags in Cape Verde

By Januario Nascimento, Président de ADAD

The video shared by the Chairperson of the NGO "Associação para a Defesa do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento-ADAD" on the "Cape Verde without Plastic Bags" Campaign, showed that plastic bags thrown in the nature could take over 400 years to complete their biodegradation process, not without polluting the ground and waters, and killing turtles and dolphins. Central to the Campaign, in addition to the promotion of other usable bags, was behavioural change with a view to preserving the beauty of the country's islands.

Activities implemented under this campaign included a panel discussion, activities at the Port of Palmeira, sports activities, and a TV reporting.

II.3.2. Resolution of Conflicts over Land Use: Case of Rice Field Protection from Damages related the Presence of Hippopotamuses in the Orango National Park

By Tome Mereck, CBD Habitat.

In his presentation, Mr Mereck highlighted actions undertaken in the Orango National Park and in the continental regions of Cacheu, Bissora and Carantaba to protect rice fields from hippopotamuses through electrical fences. He then explained that farmers received training in putting up and maintaining electrical fences. The speaker illustrated his presentation on the Orango National Park with the Bolanhas electrical fence which helped to boost rice production from 16,957 kg in 2009 to 55,403 kg in 2010, representing an increase of 38,446 kg (26%) and an additional economic estimate value of CFA 19,203,000 (€29,272).

II.3.3. Results of the Monitoring of Cartilaginous Fishes Caught in Guinea Bissau

By Leon RAZAFINDRAKOTO, Noé Conservation

In his presentation, Mr Razafindrakoto recalled the goals pursued under the strategy of the Guinea Bissau National Plan of Action for Sharks (NAP-sharks), as follows: strengthening technical capacities; enhancing the level of information on rays and sharks catching; implementing conservation and management approaches; promoting consultation between stakeholders; and regional, sub-regional and international cooperation in the area of rays and sharks conservation and management.

To monitor this strategy, it was decided to train surveyors and organise them in a network, review the field survey sheet, and opt for an analysis based on identification, morphometry, and localisation (i.e. table, graphics, mapping).

Key species of rays surveyed in 2009 and 2010 under the Guinea Bissau NAP-Shark accounted for 85% of ray resources, and fell in 4 categories as follows : Rhinobatidae (1 species), Dasiatidae (2 species) and Gymnuriidae (1 species).

Key species of sharks surveyed in 2009 and 2010 under the Guinea Bissau NAP-Shark consisted of pointed muzzle sharks (Rhizoprionodon, 69%), Carcharinidae (24%) and the hammerhead shark (Sphyrnidae, 6%).

In terms of ways forward, it would be essential to strengthen monitoring on the field, by increasing the number of surveyors, enhancing surveyors' capacities, analysing data, and using data for decision-making in management.

II.3.4. Open Floor for Fishery Professionals

By Sid'Ahmed Oud Abeid, President of CAOPA

The speaker dealt with the contribution of fishery professionals to fisheries sustainable management in West Africa. From the outset, the speaker recalled that CSRP, PRCM and CCLME were operating in a geographic area with similar environmental features (Canary current, Guinea current, upwelling) and fishery resources (essentially temperate and tropical species). He also observed that, across this space, traditional fishermen shared the same concerns about the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity (extension of accessible marine protected areas, poverty in coastal communities, etc.) and fishery management (expansion of small-scale fishing; greed of foreign fishing fleets; overexploitation/shrinking of fishery resources, especially demersal species; vulnerability of traditional fishing as sustainable livelihood, etc.).

The speaker then insisted that a number of constraints were seriously hampering the sustainable management of fisheries, including the strong influence of Governments in this area, failure to recognize that some resources are shared, and inadequate fishery development. In terms of fishery governance, progress to co-management at the country level and concerted management at the regional level, is slow.

In conclusion, the speaker strongly called for the putting in place of a multiparty CSRP/PRCM/CCLME programme for the benefit of small-scale fishing in West Africa. Such a programme could integrate several components, such as training/professionalization (i.e. rationalising related professions), security of traditional fishermen (providing jackets, GPS, radar reflectors, etc.), support to the controlled development of fishing (registration, shipping register, licensing, etc.).

II.4. Side events on Intervention Prospects in the Sub-Region

II.4.1. Towards a Network of MPAs for Easier Fishery Management

Promoters : CSRP, FIBA, UICN et RAMP AO - Persons in charge : Dr Charlotte Karibuhoye, Hamady Diop, Pablo Chavance and Philippe Tous.

As a follow-up to the recommendations of the 4th RAMP AO General Assembly meeting held in November 2011 and the CSRP workshop on the role of MPAs in fisheries management held in December 2011, an MPA-fishery working group should be established at the sub-regional level.

Central to the main mandate of the working group is finding ways to strengthen existing MPAs and address the shortcomings of the MPAs Network in fishery management.

The main conclusions and recommendations of this side event are summarised below.

The proposal to set up a regional working group on MPAs and fishery was approved. The working group would provide a bridge between the CSRP and fishery stakeholders, on the one hand, and RAMPAO and environmental management agencies, on the other. It is hoped that this dual institutional rooting would help address issues related to the use of MPAs for fishery management.

The regional working group would remain open to international expertise, with it works possibly going beyond sub-regional integration frameworks. In this regard, the representative of Morocco expressed the interest of his country to join the working group.

Discussions during the side event revolved around three issues:

1. Strengthening of the state-of-the-art;
2. Putting in place of monitoring systems; and
3. Inter-institutional co-operation and improved governance.

Participants were able to single out priorities that would form the core agenda of the working group which should meet in the second quarter of 2012 to work out a roadmap for Phase III of the PRCM.

Regarding thematic area 1 on **strengthening the state-of-the-art knowledge**, recommendations on priority actions were the following:

1. Baseline situation and capitalization
 - Strengthen the capacities of stakeholders involved in defining the baseline situation;
 - Promote participatory, harmonized, and cost effective approaches;
 - Systematize baseline situations while focusing on relevant issues;
 - Identify the specific purposes of the baseline situation (biological cycles, critical habitats, etc.)
2. Mapping approaches
 - Use maps as communication tools;
 - Use participatory processes for mapping exercises;
 - Invest in data quality and geographical information systems;
 - Set out the purposes of mapping exercises (such as migration corridors, connectivity, buffer zones, etc.)
3. Zoning of usage patterns
 - Include zones inside and outside of MPAs;
 - Identify MPA beneficiaries and most significant pressure zones.

Regarding thematic area 2 on **the establishment of monitoring systems**, recommendations on priority actions were the following :

1. Adoption of a co-construction approach to devise monitoring systems:
 - Develop/provide stakeholders with a guide on the steps involved in co-construction;
 - Identify resource persons with wide experience in the implementation of this co-construction approach with a view to replication on other sites.
2. Harmonization of monitoring systems and indicators:
 - Undertake efforts to link up monitoring systems with those existing at the national level. Indeed, some aspects of country-wide monitoring may help to address concerns at the local level, just like monitoring systems put in place for MPAs may partly feed into national systems, and even ensure effectiveness for RAMPAO as a whole;
 - Develop a methodological guide with the chief goal of facilitating the gradual implementation of the co-construction approach, harmonization issues being incidental.
3. Feedback arrangements; these must be specified from the beginning, taking into account how the results yielded by the monitoring systems will be used.
 - Consider such aspects as data storage and analysis.

II.4.2. Capacity Building for Conservation Stakeholders

Promoter : FIBA, IUCN, WWF/ ADEPA - Person in charge : Simon Mériaux

This side event consisted of two sessions:

A **presentation session**; presentations were received from 1) FIBA's Transco Project; by Simon Mériaux; 2) IUCN's small grants project; by Matar Diouf; 3) Biosfera I, a beneficiary NGO that received support from the Transco Project and the PRCM's small grants project, by Tommy Melo; and 4) WWF-ADEPA Capacity Building Project for professional fishing organizations, by Charles Bakundakwita.

A **question and answer session**, during which recommendations were made, as shown below.

Participants unanimously acknowledged the wide range of capacity building activities implemented during Phase II of the PRCM. Although these activities impacted beneficiaries in very diverse ways, their usefulness was not questioned. By and large, it was agreed, prior to formulating further recommendations, that these activities should be considered as aiming at synergy, resource pooling, and sustainability. The idea was to avert unnecessary duplication of efforts, or training programmes that did not adequately reflect the needs of NGOs and professional organizations.

The following is a summary of the recommendations:

- Small grants to be offered to NGOs and professional organisations, as was the case in Phase II ;
- Small grants to be coupled with training activities (project proposals should include BOTH the actual project activities and matching capacity building activities);
- Monitoring of small-scale projects (particularly field implementation monitoring) to be entrusted with a BINGO already intervening on the field;
- Proposal for young local NGOs and professional organizations to be coached by older and more experienced NGOs and professional organizations. To this end, it is necessary to promote a mechanism for networking staff members of these NGOs and professional organizations;
- Mapping documents (especially those developed by FIBA) for NGOs and professional organizations, to be capitalized on and widely disseminated;
- Joint training gathering a significant number of NGOs and professional organizations around concrete technical issues to be promoted;
- Capacity building activities to be centred on governance and accounting management as key factors for local NGOs and professional organizations;
- Greater emphasis to be laid on qualitative impact assessment of capacity building activities;
- Refreshing courses to be proposed in main areas.

II.4.3. Film followed by Discussions: IUU Fishing

Promoter : EJF/IUCN/PRCM - Person in charge : Renaud Bailleux

This side event was about illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and the Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 to eliminate this phenomenon. In partnership with the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) NGO and under the RECARGAO Project, the PRCM and IUCN co-produced a film dealing with this issue. On 1st January 2010 came into force a regulation compelling importers and exporters to strictly comply with traceability standards for fishery products entering the EU markets. This movie brings to light not only the functioning of this rule, but also the shortcomings of its implementation, especially at the Las Palmas port as the entrance point of most IUU catches.

Generally, participants welcomed the good quality of the film and the opportunity to discuss the issue of IUU fishing at the PRCM Forum. One aspect which was particularly commended was the fact the movie did show that IUU fishing was partly a consequence of the weak action plans implemented by some countries in the sub-region, and that the EU control systems were still too weak to ensure stringent implementation of 1005/2008 Regulation.

Discussions highlighted the difficulty of putting in place an effective surveillance system in the sub-region, especially when administrative bodies often connive at such practices. It would be essential, at the CSRP level, to draw a list of all fishing vessels allowed into the waters of member states, and even a blacklist of fleets that have repeatedly infringed the rules and are known for practicing IUU fishing. Participatory surveillance, to ensure the effective participation of relevant communities, was the subject of a prolonged discussion in which a number of participants showed it as an alternative that should be promoted in member countries which, in most cases, did not have the financial resources to successfully implement an effective traditional surveillance system.

The discussion eventually resulted in the following recommendations to countries in the sub-region and to the CSRP:

- Promote cost effective means of combating IUU fishing through the National Action Plan on IUU fishing, the convention on port State measures, and participatory surveillance;
- Update data on IUU fishing in partnership with academia and research institutions;
- Raise the awareness of highest decision-makers on IUU fishing, using, *inter alia*, the film on this phenomenon;
- Support the process for harmonizing the national registration of industrial fishing vessels that operate in the CSRP waters, as well as the development of a blacklist of ships involved in IUU fishing.

III. Day III

III.1. Development of the Coastal and Marine Zone and Sustainable Management Financing

In this session, participants received three presentations, as follows:

III.1.1. Abidjan Convention and CCLME Projet

The Abidjan Convention emerged from the need to (1) join efforts to protect and develop coastal and marine zones of West, Central, and Southern Africa and (2) ensure the sustainable management of natural resources through a balance between economic activities and environmental protection.

The Abidjan Convention was adopted in 1981 and entered into force in 1984. It covers marine environment and coastal and marine zones falling under the jurisdiction of Governments of West, Central, and Southern Africa (i.e. from Mauritania to South Africa). To date, the Convention has been ratified by 23 coastal countries out of 25 contracting parties; the remaining countries are well ahead with this process.

Contracting parties to the Abidjan Convention have agreed on Côte d'Ivoire as the Stakeholder of the Convention and on the United Nations Environmental Programme to run the Secretariat. The Convention plays a major part in the implementation of the CCLME Project, especially under Component 3 relative to "Biodiversity, Habitat and Water Quality", as it provides for the:

- creation of a working group on biodiversity, habitat, and water quality in the framework of the Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis;
- development of geographic database on habitats, biodiversity and training;
- assessment of biodiversity, including in MPAs, and globally threatened species;
- assessment of the impact of land and sea activities, and sediment quality;
- development of a plan for managing the Grand Marine Ecosystem and monitoring critical habitats;
- development of regional action programme for land activities;
- development of an intervention plan to mitigate and avert offshore pollution; and
- development of a regional conservation and rehabilitation plan for mangroves in the CCLME project area.

III.1.2. Open Floor for the Gambia : Presentation on a Local Issue

In his intervention, Mr Ousainou Touray gave a presentation on the historical perspective of community participation and involvement in natural resources management. He said that involving littoral communities in the development of protected areas in the Gambia first started in 1984 with USAID-funded initiatives.

This project was conceived to test as a pilot phase community participation and involvement in Biodiversity management in the country. After a successful implementation and the creation of the first Community owned wildlife reserve (Bolong Fenyo in Gunjur), the strategy has been reciprocated in all protected areas of the country with the institutionalisation of the establishment of Site Management Committees (SMC) in all protected areas, thus facilitating the full participation of local community members in governance and decision making in protected areas. The initiative was further strengthened by the implementation of the ICAM II project sponsored by the PRCM. This project went further to establish village banking schemes in 10 communities around Bao Bolong, Tanbi and Bolong Fenyo.

Achievements in this area include:

- Establishment of local committees on protected areas development;
 - Putting in place of improved living conditions programmes;
 - Strengthened capacities for local communities development; and
 - Heightened awareness of issues related to protected areas.
-

Mr. Touray concluded that with the new GAWA initiative proposed by government to upgrade the DPWM into an autonomous Authority, the portfolio of community participation and involvement will be institutionalised with the establishment of a Community Based Natural Resources Board to regulate the strategy. The new perspective today under microscopic loops is to put a Revenue Sharing Mechanism in place for the benefit of community development and above all to reduce or alleviate poverty in and around protected areas of the country.

III.1.3. Regional Project for the Funding of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa UNDP/GEF

Mr Yves De Soye explained the background to the regional project which was that much still remained to be done for MPAs in west Africa, especially in terms of effective networking and sustainable fundraising. The goals of the project are to:

- Review existing legal and institutional frameworks for resource mobilisation at the sub-regional level;
- Strengthen MPAs management; and
- Develop funding tools that can be used at both the national and sub-regional level.

Establishing possible connections with the PRCM could result into a value addition for the Project.

Mr De Soye also outlined the procedure to secure funding from the Global Environmental Facility for activities implemented across the PRCM zone, specifying that co-financing was the principle.

Recalling the general thrusts of the Project, Mr De Soye concluded that the Project was endeavouring to mobilise \$ 4.7 million.

III.2. Review of Proposed Recommendations and Discussions

Participants looked into the proposed recommendations. Those agreed upon are attached in **Annex 6** as the 2012 Forum's Recommendations.

III.3. High-Level segment

A high-level segment was organised under the chairmanship of the Minister of the Environment of Guinea Bissau, and attended by Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of the Environment of Senegal, Guinea, the Gambia, as well as diplomats and important persons serving in the Gambia. The agenda consisted of three items: the Rio+20 issues, the Jeju World Conservation Congress, and the statements of heads of delegations.



III.3.1. Overview of Rio+20 issues

Dr Arona Soumaré, Conservation Director at WWF – WAMPO, recalled a number of milestone dates in the history of sustainable development, as follows: 1972 (Stockholm, creation of UNEP); 1992 (Rio de Janeiro, UNFCCC, CBD, CCD, Agenda 21); 2002 (Johannesburg, MDGs); and 2012 (Rio de Janeiro+20, UN General Assembly Resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009). The UN resolution aims to close gaps in the implementation of commitments and to promote a green economy through new approaches. The green economy concept focuses on greening high impact sectors (energy, foodstuffs, housing, transport, raw materials, infrastructure, cities) stimulating financial flows, and improving governance and progress monitoring mechanisms.

Lobbying at the Rio+20 Conference should aim at a political statement that underpins the environmental causes of food insecurity, water, energy, economic incentives for environmental protection (recording of the full cost of the natural capital use), and the man-made environmental footprint on the planet. This may lead to a positive outcome for GDP (better estimate of ecosystem services), grant allocation reform (particularly grants for fossil fuels, fisheries, and agriculture), and other emerging issues (such as food items, water, energy and oceans which could be part of SDG pilot objectives). To ensure a positive outcome at the Rio+20 Conference, there is need to iron out points of contention regarding green protectionism, trade and aid conditionalities, shared responsibilities, justice, finance under the transitional period, and technological co-operation.

III.3.2. Issues of the next World Conservation Congress (Jeju, Corée)



Prof. Aimé Nianogo, Regional Director of PACO-IUCN, first announced that the World Congress on Nature was the supreme body of IUCN. The Congress meets every 4 years, and the forthcoming one will provide an opportunity for over 500 events in 5 days (including workshops, knowledge cafés, posters, conservation campuses, and exhibition), the review of IUCN Programme for the 2013-2016 period, and the World Leaders' Dialogue.

Regarding Jeju 2012 scheduled from 6th to 15th September, 1,057 events were proposed and 530 accepted. Expected outcome of Jeju 2012 include:

- Approval of IUCN programme and financing plan;
- Election of membership of IUCN governance bodies (Chairpersons, Treasurers, Regional Directors, Chairpersons of committees);
- Adoption of resolutions tabled to IUCN and recommendations to its members and partners.

More information on the Congress is available at www.iucn.org/congress.

III.3.4. Statements by Heads of Delegations



The heads of delegations of PRCM member countries (Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, and Sierra Leone) reiterated their commitment to biodiversity conservation and, in their individual capacities, reviewed the progress achieved so far.

It resulted that they were confronted with similar issues, i.e. climate change and its impact on coastal zones and resources; overexploitation of some fish stocks; inadequate means for the protection, conservation, and management of vulnerable productive areas (humid zones, marine areas, reserves, etc.); manifold risks of shoreline pollution (from offshore oil and gas development, industries, and urban wastes); and scarcity of funding for the environment at large, and marine and coastal environment in particular.

Finally, individual heads of delegation expressed their commitment to the PRCM and noted with complete satisfaction the highly positive results achieved under Phase II. They seized the opportunity to register their deep appreciation to technical and financial partners who supported PRCM activities, in particular Phase II which is coming to an end in June 2012.

III.3.5. Interventions of Financial and Technical Partners

In his intervention, the representative of Kfw insisted that cooperation in the green sector was of great importance to his country, Germany. In this regard, he stated the readiness of Kfw to embrace priorities set for the West African coastal conservation, based on Kfw's own objectives and terms.



III.4. Closing Ceremony

III.4.1. Presentation of PRCM Prize

The 2012 PRCM Prize for Conservation was awarded to the Indigenous and Community Conserved Area of Kawawana (rural community of Mangagoulak in the region of Zinguichor, Senegal), in recognition of its support to the conservation of the West African marine and coastal zone.

The Kawawana area was officially recognised as an ICCA in 2010 following a regional decree. This decree provided for the update of traditional regulations governing access to this ICCA's resources (bolongs and mangroves) whose surveillance has now become the responsibility of a committee appointed within this ICCA. Members of this committee have been mandated to write up minutes and make seizures. Results achieved so far are quite encouraging.



And fishermen, who themselves undertake the monitoring of catches as well as the socioeconomic and ecological monitoring, have noted the return of species of high commercial value in the area.

III.4.2. Votes of Thanks

Participants extended their gratitude for all the efforts that went into supporting the organisation of the Forum in the Gambia and conservation initiatives in West Africa. Votes of thanks were therefore adopted for technical and financial partners of PRCM Phase II, the Gambian authorities, and Dr Luc Hoffman for his remarkable commitment to conservation across West Africa. The full version of these votes of thanks is attached in **Annex 7**.

III. 3. Closing Speeches

In his capacity of new Chair of PRCM Steering Committee, Prof Aimé Nianogo, PACO Regional Director, addressed participants. He reviewed the three days' deliberations and welcomed the quality and conviviality of the discussions. He urged participants to maintain the ties they have forged during the 6th Forum, in order to work more synergistically in the area of conservation to which all stakeholders are committed. Prof. Nianogo therefore called every participant to take ownership of all recommendations while facilitating their dissemination and implementation. He stated that, personally, he derived many ideas and suggestions that would help advance the design of the future PRCM Programme. The full version of his speech is attached in **Annex 8**.



On behalf of the Minister of Forestry and the Environment of the Gambia, Mr Sonko Kebba, Permanent Secretary, delivered the closing speech in which he thanked all delegates for demonstrating, throughout the Forum, their commitment to preserving coastal and marine resources. He reminded that the authorities of the Gambia, starting with H.E. Sheikh Professor Alh. Dr Yahya JJ Jammeh, are profoundly attached to the conservation of nature.

Mr Kebba stated that the Gambia would consider working with the PRCM on the basis of the partnership and action guidelines developed for Phase III of the PRCM. He extended his thanks to PRCM partners for choosing the Gambia to host the 6th Forum. After wishing a safe journey to all participants, Mr Sonko Kebba brought the deliberations of the 6th Marine and Coastal Forum of West Africa to a close. The full version of his speech is attached in **Annex 9**.

ANNEX I

Address of PRCM Stakeholders

By Mrs Sylvie Goyet, Director General of FIBA and Incumbent Chair of PRCM Steering Committee

For the second time, **the Gambia** is holding an edition of the Forum of the Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM). In my capacity of Chairperson of the Steering Committee of PRCM, and on behalf of the various partners, I would like, first and foremost, to register our appreciation for the warm welcome extended to us and for the facilities offered by the Government of the Gambia for this event.

I have just returned from **Guinea Bissau** where I had the opportunity to visit the Bijagos archipelago, a site that benefits from our interventions, and meet partners. I can now confirm that the PRCM spirit is operating on the ground. Indeed, stakeholders and technical partners work together and interact to implement various projects and interventions. Whether they receive support from the Basket Fund of PRCM or not – and a vast majority does not actually – all of them proudly claim to be in PRCM partnership. **And this is very heartening**. That the collaboration spirit, which lies at the heart of PRCM's endeavours, is so lively on the ground can only inspire profound respect and a greater sense of mobilisation.

I believe that we have shifted from a mechanism of **collaboration between 4 international NGOs**, later joined by the CSRP, to a **coalition of sub-regional stakeholders** who cherish the values of cooperation and synergy.

Our sub-region is confronted with **increasingly wide, complex, and threatening issues**, of which land grabbing, large-scale mining, social and cultural destabilisation, and global climate changes are a few examples. These issues cannot be tackled in a disorganised manner. Only the concerted effort of field workers, Ministers, international bodies and the Boards of big companies can help us move forward in bringing about changes of behaviour, practices and policies. If we share the same vision of a productive and robust sub-region, it is therefore our common although differentiated responsibility to address common issues confronting us.

Working together is a **great challenge**. This cannot happen spontaneously and by itself, although we may love one another very much. To do this, we must give ourselves time, listen to one another and show attention. As a consultation and collaboration platform, the PRCM can help us rise to this challenge. The PRCM must therefore be allowed to survive but in a more effective and efficient manner.

It is important to note that **the PRCM is neither a donor nor an implementing agency**. The PRCM **should make it possible for all relevant stakeholders to work together while leaving everyone the responsibility to work** in their own areas of competence, and building their capacities. Such aspects are reflected in the new guidelines of the PRCM which will be presented tomorrow. These guidelines build on several assessments, a series of complete and participatory consultations and workshops, lessons learnt, the special value addition of PRCM, but also on the courageous reports of difficulties, inadequacies and ineffectiveness. To get the process of collaboration and ownership going and growing, **real change** must take place in line with our objectives. The situation and the context are evolving, so must our partnership to ensure that:

- Projects are more operational and efficient in terms of the support to provide to agencies whose roles, responsibilities, and competences are regarded as critical for sites and resources management;
- The principle of subsidiarity is used to choose those stakeholders that closely meet the capacities and responsibilities involved in project implementation;
- Governance as well as decision-making and guidance mechanisms are owned by a greater number of stakeholders; and
- All technical and financial partners see for themselves that their contribution is valuable.

The time of a select club of friends is over. Now is the time for opening. Let me assure, however, that the PRCM will not become a social networking service or appear on Facebook...after all why not?

The PRCM is very much geared towards field results. And this principle will be maintained and even enhanced. Regardless of whether financial resources are secured through PRCM Basket Fund or external programmes and donors, it must be ensured that cross-fertilisation and synergy are promoted; that national institutions with management, mobilisation and co-ordination capacities are strengthened; that networks of stakeholders are increasingly operational and active; that new partners are listened to and show greater commitment; and that highest government officials show interest in the issues at stake. This is what the new PRCM must aim for.

How about FIBA, my organisation? ... May I underscore that **FIBA** hopes to remain fully associated with the PRCM. My organisation will try its best to raise funds for the entire sub-region, support processes underway, and provide the expertise needed by local and national partners and institutions in the sub-region. I have no doubt that my colleagues from international NGOs will also rally around and spare no effort to further support ongoing and new initiatives.

Finally, to conclude, I wish to recall that it is of paramount importance to show the positive effects of conservation, primarily for the benefit of local communities who must take ownership of this conservation initiative. It is all about showing how conservation makes sense in areas of interest to those communities.

I thank you for your kind attention, and wish every success to the Forum's deliberations. ■

ANNEX II

Address of Mrs Linda Manson, General Director of the MAVA Fondation

It's my honor and privilege to be with you here today, and to be invited to say a few words at the start of the forum. I'm a relative new comer to PRCM. About eighty months ago, Doctor Luc Hoffman hired me as the director of the MAVA foundation. In the beginning of my time with the foundation, I began to speak with Doctor Hoffman about the places and the programs that was closed to his heart and I came to understand the special place the West Africa and PRCM has for him.

That begun my learning process understanding more and I have to admit that's begun my own attachment to the region and the people, its biodiversity and the PRCM program itself. Today many of us are very proud to be associated with PRCM and what it is become and all that it accomplished.

I'd like to stop for moment and think of the original founders, those dreamers, who sat back and dared to promote a different way of doing things of bringing people together having actors working hands in hands towards common goals, who pushed for a different way for things to happened and see what's become of it now, so many years later. That original vision has lasted through the first phase of PRCM, through to the second phase and hold through now as we're moving to the third phase. The third phase puts the accent on our coherence of efforts, building and mobilizing capacity and on integrated environment issues and international policies.

The successes of PRCM are numerous, too numerous to list here. We heard about some of them from Ahmed this morning, we heard from some of other colleagues through their presentations throughout this Forum we'll talk to each other in how ways, over coffee in the morning, at breakfast, at lunch, at dinner, possibly over drinks, maybe even at the pool. To hear our different stories, to hear what's gone well, to be proud of what's been achieve together and hopefully also to talk about the things that may be haven't gone so well and learn from what happened, so that we can do it better then we can go forwards.

You all know better than me the enormous challenges that still in place that we all face in the work that we trying to accomplished together and that's the role of PRCM, his key in going forward. This Forum is a very excited opportunity for all of us to come together and have this discussions. To talk, to discuss, to debate, to disagree, to agree and to learn from each other.

And in the spirit of togetherness, with mutual understanding to build on the successes and find the best way of meeting the challenges together as we go forward. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you a lively, engaging, and successful forum and I look forward to engaging with you with the next few days for the rest of this forum. ■

ANNEX III

Official opening adress of Mrs. Fatou Ndeye Gaye, Ministry of Forestry and Environment of the Republic of Gambia

H.E Vice President of The Gambia – Dr. Isatou Njai Saidy
Secretary General of The Gambia Civil Service
Hon. Cabinet Ministers
Director of MAVA
Representative of the Deuchtland Embassy in Dakar
Representative of KFW
Directors of IUCN, FIBA, WWF, WIA
Representative of Common Waden Sea
Permanent Secretary of Sub Regional Fisheries Commission
Director of PRCM
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
National Assembly Members
Ambassadors
Wildlife and Natural Resources Conservation Societies
The Organizing Committee and Members of the PRCM Forum
Senior Government Representatives
Civil Society
The Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Government The Gambia and the Ministry of Forestry and the Environment, I warmly welcome you to this Sixth Edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme (PRCM) for West Africa Forum. I wish to emphasize the honour and previledge in hosting this important forum to share knowledge and experiences for the effective, efficient protection and conservation of our coastal and marine resources.

Your Excellencies Ma, Honorable Ministers, distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen,

as we try to enter the new phase of PRCM, it is my believe that a strong pragmatic approach will provide member countries an opportunity to work together for a solution to problems common to common problems of the sub-region. During the course of implementing PRCM funded Integrated Coastal and Marine (ICAM) phase two costing about 700,000 Euros, The Gambia has made significant achievements in the management of Protected Areas as well as in providing economic benefits to communities living around these Protected Areas.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, communities living around the Protected Areas benefit from sustainable livelihoods through village banking, vegetable gardening and are able to control soil erosion through innovative methods among others. These activities have improved the income generation capacities of the communities in the project particularly women who are key in ecosystem conservation and management. ICAM 2 further contribute to their social cohesion.

Your Excellency Ma, Ladies and Gentlemen,

ICAM 2 continue to implement training and skills development in project areas. As a result, women are able to pay for their children's school fees, provide uniforms and above all protect the environment.

The ICAM 2 project has enhanced the sustainable management of the environment, biodiversity including many wetland eco-systems. It allowed the rehabilitation of the mangroves in more than 10 villages. In addition to the rehabilitation of the wetlands, the project complements the Department of Forestry's afforestation programme. About, 1000 ha land is planted with mangroves countrywide. The mangroves are important for fish spooning and are habitat to many species of birds and animals.

Your Excellency Ma, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to remind you of the important contribution The Gambia Government has made towards the management of the coastal and marine areas of the country under the able leadership of H.E Sheik Professor Dr. Alhagie Yahya A. J. J Jammeh. As early as his first term of his Presidency, H.E prioritized the management of the coastal area, millions of United States Dollars were spent on the nourishment of our coastal beaches specifically from Banjul to Sene-gambia areas which were seriously threatened and almost lost to the ocean. In addition, sea walls were erected including planting of coconut trees on the beaches to reduce soil erosion on the shore lines. The Gambia Government continue to upscale and improve the fishing industry by providing cold stores and fish markets which were preceded by capacity building for the fish folks.

Your Excellency Ma, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to conclude my speech by thanking all countries of the PRCM including its funding institutions. I also, wish to thank H.E. Sheik, Professor, Alhagie, Dr. Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh with his Visionary leadership for providing an enabling environment to host this forum.

Finally I wish you a successful deliberation and may God guide us. May God bless us all!

Thank you for your attention. ■

ANNEX IV

Official opening adress of Her Excellency, Dr. Aja Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice-President of the Republic of Gambia

It is indeed an honour and priviledge for me to deliver the opening statement on the occasion of the 6th Edition of the Regional Forum of the Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme (PRCM).

On behalf of His Excellency The President of the Republic, Sheikh Professor Alhajie Doctor Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, the Government and people of The Gambia, and indeed on my own behalf, I warmly welcome you all to the Smiling Coast of Africa. Feel free you are in your second home.

You will agree with me that, one of the greatest assets of this planet is the coastal and marine natural resources. Lamentably, this resource continue to degrade at an alarming rate and the wherewithal in addressing it, is not always there. However an awful lot of these damages and degradation therefore are man made and need to be redressed.

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Whilst we in the Developing Countries are grappling with meeting the needs and aspirations of our growing population, we face the greatest challenge of all times, i.e. climate change and variability.

Cognizance of the fact that the destiny of our ecosystem lies in our own hands, we cannot afford to allow the status quo to continue thus the need for an efficient management of the marine and coastal resources.

Inspite of all the damages and degradation inflicted on the Coastal and marine environment and its natural bounty, its resilience still remains but continues to be weakened. The more we learn of the natural world, the clearer it becomes that, there is a limit to the destruction that the coastal and marine environment can endure. For example, The Gambia continues to face formidable challenges in containing coastal erosion. The menace continues unabated and its affecting areas of our hotel industry. Concerted efforts are well underway in addressing the problem through beach nourishment, tree planting and sand bags.

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

The Gambian Government has expressed its commitment to conserve and preserve its Fauna and Flora on numerous occasions and has demonstrated this commitment through the Banjul Declaration of 1977, and formulation of the NEMA, New Forestry Policy, and the Fisheries Policy and Acts. These policies include the involvement of local communities in natural resources management and the sharing of benefits from natural resources utilization thus contributing to poverty alleviation. The Private Sector and local communities participation in the management and development of our remaining coastal and marine Flora and Fauna for posterity continue to occupy centre stage in the management of our natural resources.

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Suffice to say, the Pioneers of the PRCM have had great vision for the sub-région. Indeed, they have succeeded in putting in place adaptative mechanisms for the sustainable management of Natural resources and guidance to address burning environmental issues and concerns.

In this regard, I wish to recognise and congratulate IUCN, WWF, WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL, FIBA and the Subrégional Fisheries Commission for the laudable initiative.

This partnership has been extended with the involvement of new actors who brought with them their quota for a meaningful development of the subregion, amply justified by the diversity of this forum. The forum today is a model of a sub-regional platform for exchange of ideas, experiences and dialogue between politicians, researchers, parliamentarians,, civil society, international organisations, cooperate agencies. It is my understanding that the current PRCM programme ends in the 2012 and its my fervent hope that a new programme will emerge very soon to ensure continuity.

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

The Gambia is strengthening the functional representativeness of Marine Protected Areas network with particular emphasis on reinforcing efficiency of Marine Protected Areas management and creation of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), conservation sites and promoting transboundary Marine Protected Areas; In addition The Gambia is engaged in conservation and protection of endangered and threatened species such Dolphin, Marine Turtles, West African Manatee and migratory birds, and have been carrying out Monthly monitoring and surveillance of the four designated Marine protected areas.

This year's PRCM Forum is organised amidst international and global community turmoil. In the perspective of major events like Rio + 20 Conference, the incoming Conference of Parties meetings on the Convention on Biological Diversity and the world congress of conservation by IUCN, this regional forum on coastal and marine avail the opportunity of creating an ideal ground for emergence of a common strategy to address bigger challenges of the sub region. The theme of the Forum ''Mobilisation of partners for the rational conservation of the West African Coastal and Marine Resources'' is apt and timely and thus indicate the extend of the works at hand.

Distinguished Guests Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kindly allow me to avail myself of this opportunity to convey our most profound appreciation to PRCM Partners and Member countries, not only for the support and their untiring efforts but for also choosing The Gambia to host the 6th Edition of this regional forum.

I wish you every success in your deliberations, which I have no doubt will be fruitful, taking into consideration the caliber of intellectuals and experts here present.

Without much ado, I now have the singular honor to declare the 6th Edition of the Regional PRCM Forum open.

I thank you for your kind attention and God bless us all. ■

ANNEX V

Declaration of Adherence to the PRCM

Regional Partnership for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine West Africa

What we have witnessed !

Over the past several decades, we have observed a rapid evolution of the coastal West Africa. The population has increased considerably; cities have expanded and consume more and more land and produce more and more waste. Pollution has progressed while the abundance of natural resources has plummeted. While in the past, the coastal zone was a symbol of hope and development, it is now a source of concern :if the degradation of the region's ecosystems and resources is not halted, species will disappear, the condition of the land will worsen, the well-being of coastal populations will regress, conflicts will become more severe, and the development potential of the tourism, fishing and agricultural sectors will diminish.

To confront this situation, a number of actors, both governmental and from the civil society, are engaged in learning more about the risks engendered by this evolution. They are looking for solutions to save our natural and cultural heritage, as well as for opportunities to practice sustainable development. We acknowledge that the PRCM, since 2004, has worked effectively to join these various efforts and thus contributed to the emergence of a coherent vision. Together, the actors of the coastal zone have become stronger, and the solutions put in place to curtail the degradation of the marine and coastal environment in West Africa have become more effective. However, much remains to be done in a context where pressures are ever increasing.

What we believe !

We know that the coastal zone is and must remain the demographic and economic heart of West Africa it is at once diverse, complex, rich, dynamic and fragile, and as such, it must be carefully governed and managed with caution.

We believe that the future of the coastal zone and the equitable and sustainable development of coastal communities depend on conservation and the appropriate valuation of biodiversity.

We believe that each coastal actor, whether governmental, national or local elected official, civil society, or private sector, carries responsibilities in relation to the future of the coastal zone. We also believe that without a joint effort, we cannot prevent the degradation of the coastal environment, and would force future generations to pay the price for this failure.

We believe that if all parties agree to work together over the long term and at all scales, by sharing information, helping each other and working in solidarity, taking care not to damage it, we can continue to have, and bestow on our children, a beautiful coastal area, that is generous, productive, and rich in unspoiled nature.

What we promise to do !

After over 8 years of the PRCM's existence, having enabled the development of a broadly shared awareness of coastal issues, having permitted the creation of various regional networks, and the experimentation with new ways of collaborating at the regional scale, we, the actors West African coastal zone, commit ourselves resolutely and without time limit, within the Partnership for the Conservation of the Marine and Coastal zone in West Africa, to promote and uphold the following principles:

- We are active partners involved in the PRCM, and we will carry the message of hope to keep our coastal zone healthy and productive, maintained and preserved by actors who are aware and cautious, recognizing that the land, sea and resources belong to everyone, and that all actors are play legitimate roles in their management and recovery, at each of their respective scales;

- Based on scientific and local knowledge, we will consider emerging risks and periodically will prioritize, together, the main directions of our regional partnership, and will engage in our activities under this common perspective;
- We will work tirelessly on the basis of our skills, our powers and our good will, to influence policies and practices of different actors in favor of good governance, integrated management and conservation of the coastal area;
- We will seek to strengthen the coherence of actions of the partnership's members, including our countries' governments, public authorities and development partners, promoting intervention strategies, target decisions and investments into projects that fit our common vision and the objectives of the PRCM;
- We will promote and facilitate the partnership, the coastal and marine regional forum, and various thematic networks that underpin the work and networking across the region;
- We will coordinate with development and conservation efforts focusing on biodiversity and cultural issues relating to the legal and legitimate rights of coastal communities including indigenous knowledge and traditional production systems that are among the key factors of good conservation ecosystems, resources and landscapes;
- We will prioritize the economic choices that benefit all stakeholders, including women, youth and vulnerable communities, in the sense of maintaining ecosystem services and a balanced distribution of costs and benefits derived there from;
- We will support outreach and environmental education, because we are certain that this knowledge will give future generations the opportunity to improve governance and management of the coastal area and its heritage;
- We will facilitate access to information and scientific, technical, legal publications in order to facilitate the work and improve the knowledge of actors in the coastal zone;
- We will respect the rules of our partnership and the work of our colleagues, will cite their contributions and follow the terms of use of their data, images and publications;
- Finally, we will work in an open manner, focusing on collaborations that are multi-stakeholder, multidisciplinary and cross-border, in order to promote mutual learning, exchange of experience and respect for all of our complementary skills.

ANNEXE VI

Recommendations of the VIth Forum of the PRCM

Marine Protected Areas

Recommendations to MPAs managers and stakeholders

1. Processes for drafting management plans conducive to experience sharing among protected areas to be harmonized;
2. Sources of financing to be diversified, and business plans to be developed with a view to easier negotiations with donors;
3. Local communities to be involved in surveillance in order to enhance the effectiveness of this costly but indispensable activity.

Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs)

Recommendations to PRCM member organisations

4. The ICCA phenomenon requires greater recognition and support, in the best possible appropriate and flexible form, although some legal recognition might be desirable;
5. Areas for ecosystem rehabilitation to be promoted based on sustainable management principles, as was the case with Kawawana in Senegal, in addition to conserved areas;
6. International conventions ratified by countries in the sub-region to be considered, especially the section of the CBD which provides that ICCAs can be recognised as one of the four broad categories of protected areas but also as community areas outside of protected areas;
7. ICCAs in the sub-region to be recognised and supported in order to establish a network that would facilitate cross-fertilisation and capacity building for all stakeholders.

Marine Protected Areas and Fishery

Recommendations to CSRP and RAMP AO

8. A regional MPA&Fishery working group to be set up to provide a bridge between CSRP and fishery stakeholders on the one hand, and RAMP AO and environmental management agencies, on the other;
9. The regional working group to be open to international expertise external to sub-regional integration frameworks. Morocco already expressed interest in this group;
10. The working group to deliberate on three issues:
 - a) improving the state-of-the-art;
 - b) Putting in place monitoring systems; and
 - c) Fostering inter-institutional co-operation and improving governance.

Small-scale fishing

Recommendations to CSRP, PRCM and CCLME

11. A small-scale fishing multiparty programme to be established for training, security, micro-credit, capacity building, and support to fisheries development;
12. Advocacy to be conducted for Governments to adopt the amended Convention on minimal access conditions which, *inter alia*, calls for specific legislation on small-scale fishing.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

Recommendations to countries in the sub-region and to CSRP

13. Cost-effective means to be identified for combatting IUU fishing through the national action plans for IUU control, the Convention on the port State measures and participatory surveillance;
14. Data on the IUU phenomenon to be updated in partnership with academia and research institutions;
15. Awareness-raising work to be conducted on IUU fishing at the highest decision-making level, using for instance the film made on this issue in the framework of the PRCM programme;
16. Support to be provided to the processes for harmonising the national registration of industrial fishing ships that sail into CSRP waters, and to the establishment of a blacklist of ships practicing IUU fishing.

Cetacean Protection

Recommendation to PRCM stakeholders

17. Advocacy to be initiated to ensure that Ministers of the Environment and Ministers of Fisheries from the sub-region defend a common position on cetacean protection at meetings of CMS, CITES and the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Capacity Building

Recommendations to PRCM member organisations and PRCM Mobilisation and Co-ordination Unit

18. Small grant mechanism to be coupled with training activities (proposals could include project-related activities AND capacity building activities);
19. Support to structural strengthening mechanisms for NGOs and professional organisations (such as TRANSCO and FIBA);
20. Younger NGOs to be coached by more experienced NGOs.

Environmental Education

Recommendation to PRCM and IUCN

21. Support to be mobilised for building the capacities of educational stakeholders in PRCM 7 member countries in the area of environmental education, and establishing an appropriate regional network of such players, while continuing and intensifying the efforts initiated by the Regional Environmental Education Programme throughout Phase II of the PRCM programme.

Plastic Bags Pollution

Recommendation to PRCM stakeholders

22. Advocacy work to be made with decision-makers of PRCM member countries in order to promote alternative packaging in lieu of plastic bags, and adopt measures for limiting the import and use of plastic bags, as these have an adverse impact on nature, marine biodiversity and human health.

ANNEX VII

VOTE OF THANKS

❖ Expression of gratitude to Technical and Financial Partners of Phase II of the PRCM

We, participants in the Sixth Edition of the Regional Marine and Coastal Forum of West Africa held in the Gambia from 20th to 24th February 2012 :

- Convinced of the highly strategic interest of the coastal and marine area, and its resources, for communities of PRCM member countries;
- Considering that environmental issues know no borders and require, therefore, synergies and complementarities at the national, sub-regional and international level;
- Aware of the depth and complexity of issues related to the conservation and sustainable development of the west Africa's coastal and marine zone;

Hereby express our deep and warm appreciation to technical and financial partners who have been constantly available and have spared no effort to support the PRCM throughout its second phase. Our special thanks go to the MAVA Foundation, the Embassy of the Netherlands in Dakar, Senegal and the Spanish Co-operation.

Finally, we would like to remind all those who have contributed to the success of Phase II of the PRCM that a step has been taken, but many more are yet to be taken.

❖ Vote of thanks to the Authorities of the Gambia

We, participants in the Sixth Edition of the Regional Marine and Coastal Forum of West Africa held in the Gambia from 20th to 24th February 2012:

- Having benefited from the availability and support of the Gambian authorities and the excellent organisation of this year's Forum;
- Deeply touched by the warm welcome, the lavish hospitality and all the marks of consideration extended to us in the sister country of the Gambia; and
- Convinced of the commitment of the Gambian authorities to the conservation and sustainable development of the coastal and marine zone at the national, sub-regional and international level, as reiterated by Her Excellency Dr Isatou Njai Saidy, Vice-President of the Gambia;

Hereby express our most sincere gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic, Sheikh Professor Alhajie Doctor Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, and to the Government of the Gambia for the efforts they have made to ensure successful deliberations during the Forum and for the progress achieved in terms of protection and sustainable management of the coastal and marine area.

❖ Expression of gratitude to Dr Luc HOFFMANN

We, participants in the Sixth Edition of the Regional Marine and Coastal Forum of West Africa, held in the Gambia from 20th to 24th February 2012, extend our heartfelt and grateful thanks to

Doctor Luc HOFFMANN

for his support to the creation of the PRCM, and also for the invaluable assistance that he has relentlessly provided for the conservation of the coastal and marine zone, in the best interest of present and future genera-

ANNEX VIII

Closing Remarks by Prof. Aimé Nianogo, Regional Director of PACO–IUCN, Incoming Chair of PRCM Steering Committee

As the Sixth Edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum is drawing to a close, a new step has been taken in the process of building the regional partnership set up since the launch of Phase I of the PRCM in 2004.

For three days, we have reviewed conservation initiatives underway in the region, especially Phase II of the PRCM which will soon come to an end, and shared our experiences, while also discussing the format, content and organisation methods of the future PRCM Programme.

I wish to welcome the quality of the deliberations of this Forum which, I have no doubt, will be remembered by all as a wonderful experience. Equally commendable is the partnership spirit that all stakeholders of the coastal and marine zone have demonstrated throughout the meeting. I therefore urge every participant in the Forum to maintain the ties forged here, and to step up efforts towards the conservation of the coastal and marine area.

Discussions have been initiated to develop programmes that fully embrace PRCM's strategic goals, including with the ACCC Project in the areas of climate changes and coastal erosion risks, and with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the sustainable funding of Marine Protected Areas. Those programmes will be anchored in the PRCM platform and will help to ensure greater credibility and effectiveness in areas of intervention. Such must be the core business of the PRCM, and this is why with open arms we welcome these new partners in this constantly evolving partnership.

I note with satisfaction that side events were very much attended. This is clear evidence that holding concrete and pragmatic discussions on examples derived from field interventions across the sub-region is fully in line with the expectations of participants. The very role and interest of the PRCM, as a platform, was highlighted.

As is customary, this year's Forum has produced a set of new recommendations. Whether these are meant for us or whether they are directed at our elected representatives, our Governments or even regional and international organisations, it is the responsibility of everyone of us to disseminate, take ownership of, and implement them.

We have taken note of several ideas and suggestions to advance the process of forging the future PRCM partnership which is expected to start very soon. We already look forward to a broader participation of the various groups of stakeholders. They will seat on the Steering Committee of the new Partnership through the representatives of their respective colleges. We have also learnt that closer contact must be established with regional initiatives and conventions such as the Abidjan Convention, the CCME Project, the ACCC Initiative and many more, to take a better advantage of working synergistically with them.

Now lies before us a tremendous task which, following your approval, has been structured into 4 strategic areas and will be implemented through a more representational and efficient governance system, taking into account the improvements you have called for. In the weeks to come, we will undertake to review all these

points in order to make the new structure of the PRCM an effective partnership in the service of all its members. You will have the opportunity to note the progress achieved in this regard, as documents will soon be finalised and posted on the PRCM website.

Before I conclude, allow me, on behalf of all participants who have travelled to the Gambia, to express deep appreciation to the Gambian authorities for their warm welcome and hospitality, and to the organisers of the Forum for successfully preparing this event. By demonstrating dedication, discretion, and effectiveness, they have enabled us to work in the best possible conditions.

We are also grateful to financial partners without the support of whom this Forum would not have taken place, i.e. the Embassy of the Netherlands, the MAVA Foundation, and the Spanish Co-operation. Our gratitude also goes to our partners who have significantly contributed in raising the profile of the meeting with their presence, including the CSRP, the CCLME Project, WWF, Wetlands International, and FIBA whose Director General was up to now the Chairperson of the PRCM Steering Committee.

May I seize this opportunity to pay a tribute to Mrs Sylvie Goyet for the equanimity and effectiveness with which she has chaired the deliberations of the Steering Committee. Indeed, as you may know, the last 18 months were devoted to the evaluation process and discussions on the future PRCM, which means that during this particularly busy period many meetings were held which often involved difficult choices to make and sensitive issues to review. Thank you Sylvie!

Finally, we would like to thank all partners in the sub-region and beyond who have participated in the Forum. We wish them all a safe journey back to their respective homes, and greater courage to build a fair world in which nature is respected and valued.

ANNEX IX

Closing address by Mr Keba SONKO, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Forestry and Environment of the Republic of Gambia

I have the honour to deliver the official closing address of this forum on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Forestry and Environment, who could not be here this evening, due to some other pressing state matters.

The presentations and declaration made here over the past three days amply demonstrate the commitment of our region to protect, develop and conserve our valuable coastal and marine resources. The PRCM is a necessary and important partnership that has proved to work effectively in synergizing the various efforts being made by governmental, non-governmental and private organizations in conserving our coastal zone and marine biodiversity.

We acknowledge that the PRCM has enabled the development of a broadly shared awareness of coastal issues in the Sub-region, particularly in The Gambia. With enhanced political commitment, The Gambia will continue to uphold the PRCM Charter. As alluded to during the opening ceremony of this Forum by Her Excellency, the Vice President, indisputably His Excellency, the President of the Republic, Sheikh Professor Alh. Dr. Yahya JJ Jammeh, is the number one conservationist in The Gambia. In other words, we are lucky and proud to have a President, who is a great lover of nature.

As we witness the end of 2nd PRCM implementation phase and the beginning of 3rd PRCM implementation phase in the next couple of months, Parties to PRCM have resolved to do business differently, as enunciated in the Declaration of Adherence to the PRCM Charter. This new vision of partnership will therefore be our future guiding principles in working with PRCM. We particularly thank PRCM founding NGOs (namely, IUCN, WWF, WIA and FIBA) for their support in 1st and 2nd phases of PRCM. We encourage other NGOs, private organizations and individuals to support PRCM to enable it carry out its mission.

We once again thank the PRCM Forum for choosing The Gambia as the venue for the 6th edition of PRCM. We thank the coordinating body of PRCM and our national organizing committee for their efforts in ensuring that this Forum is a resounding success. We thank all the resource persons for their insightful inputs. We thank all the participants for enduring long hours of work over the last three days. We thank our support staff (Ushers, Drivers, Secretaries) for their support and hard work. We thank the press and media for the wide publicity they have given to this forum, which has contributed in raising the awareness of the general public on the need to protect and conserve our coastal zone and marine biodiversity.

While wishing you all safe journey home, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Forestry and Environment and the Government of The Gambia, I have the great honor to declare this forum closed. ■

ANNEX X - Detailed Program of the Forum

LUNDI 20 FEVRIER 2012	
15h - 19h	Enregistrement des participants
9h - 15h	ACTIVITES CULTURELLES - Excursion (1^{er} groupe)
18h - 20h	Cocktail de bienvenue
MARDI 21 FEVRIER 2012	
8h30 - 9h	Enregistrement des participants
9h - 10h30	Session 1 : Ouverture du Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discours de bienvenue Discours des partenaires Discours officiel d'ouverture
10h30 - 10h50	PAUSE CAFE
10h50 - 13h00	Session 2 : Bilan des activités de la conservation de la zone côtière et marine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> L'état de mise en œuvre des recommandations du forum de Nouakchott Bilan des acquis et principaux résultats de la phase 2 du PRCM Quelques résultats du projet Cogestion AMP/Pêche (AFD/CSRP) Etat d'avancement du projet régional CCLME Discussions
13h00 - 14h30	PAUSE DEJEUNER
14h30 - 15h45	Session 3 : Modèle d'initiatives régionales et internationales de partenariat multi-acteurs pour la conservation et la gestion durable des ressources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> L'expérience de la Common Wadden Sea <i>Jens Enemark - Secrétaire exécutif de la Common Wadden Sea</i> Le réseau Climat et développement <i>Emmanuel Seck - ENDA Tiers Monde</i> Institute for Water, Environment & Health (UNU-INWEH) <i>Lisa Benedetti, Université des Nations Unies</i> Débats
15h45 - 16h00	PAUSE CAFE
16h00 - 17h30	Session 4 : Side events : bilan des initiatives des acteurs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side event N°1 : Huit ans d'appui à la gestion des aires marines protégées : quels progrès ont été réalisés ? <i>Promoteur : FIBA</i> <i>Responsable : Charlotte Karibuhoye</i> Side event N° 2 : Analyse Diagnostique Transfrontière des pays d'intervention du CCLME <i>Promoteur : CCLM</i> <i>Responsable : Birane Sambe</i> Side event N° 3 : Les Aires du patrimoine autochtone Communautaire <i>Promoteur : UICN/CEESP</i> <i>Responsable. Grazia Borrini</i>

MERCREDI 22 FEVRIER

9h - 10h30	<p>Session 5 : orientations futures du PRCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Présentation des orientations futures du PRCM Mr Paul Siegel • Présentation du mécanisme de gouvernance du futur PRCM Mr Moustapha Kébé • Discussions • Lecture de la déclaration d'engagement du PRCM
10h30 - 10h50	PAUSE
10h50 - 13h00	<p>Session 6 : Groupe de travail par collège</p> <p>Chaque collège provisoire se réunira pour discuter son mode de représentation et son fonctionnement.</p>
13h - 14h30	DEJEUNER
14h30 - 16h00	<p>Session 7 : Présentation des études de cas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campagne contre les sachets plastiques au Cap Vert <i>Januario Nascimento, Président de ADAD</i> • Résolution des conflits de l'utilisation de l'espace. Exemple : Protection des rizières contre les nuisances liées à la présence des hipopotames dans le Parc National de Orango <i>Tome Mereck (CBD Habitat)</i> • Résultats du suivi des cartilagineux capturés en Guinée Bissau <i>Leon RAZAFINDRAKOTO, Noé Conservation</i> • Parole aux professionnels de la Pêche
16h - 16h15	PAUSE
16h15 - 17h45	<p>Session 8 : Side events orientés sur les perspectives d'intervention dans la région</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side event 4 : Les AMP comme outils de gestion des pêches <i>Promoteurs : CSRP, FIBA, UICN - Responsable : Hamady Diop</i> • Side event 5 : Renforcement des capacités des acteurs de la conservation <i>Promoteur : FIBA - Responsable : Simon Mériaux</i> • Ciné Débat : Pêche INN Promoteur : EJF/UICN/PRCM Responsable: Renaud Bailleux

JEUDI 23 FÉVRIER 2012	
09h - 10h30	Session 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parole à la Gambie : présentation d'une problématique locale / une stratégie nationale • Projet régional pour le financement des Aires protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest PNUD/GEF Présentation: Yves De Soye • Présentation des restitutions des sides events • Présentation de la feuille de route pour la mise en œuvre des collègues
10h30 - 10h50	PAUSE
10h50 - 13h	Session 10 : Examen des recommandations et débats Paroles données aux acteurs du Forum Examen des recommandations
13h - 14h30	PAUSE DEJEUNER
14h30 - 15h40	Session 11 Haut segment Allocutions des chefs de délégation des pays Interventions des partenaires financiers et techniques Présentation des enjeux de Rio+20 Présentation des enjeux du futur Congrès mondial de la conservation (JEJU)
15h40 - 16h	PAUSE CAFE
16h00 - 17h30	Session 12 - Cérémonie de clôture Remise du prix du PRCM Lecture des motions Discours du Président du Comité de Pilotage du PRCM Discours officiel de clôture
20h - 23h	ACTIVITES CULTURELLES Diner gala
Vendredi 24 FÉVRIER 2012	
9h - 15h	Excursion (2e groupe)

Annexe XI - List of participants

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