



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-WAFR/1/4

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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### REGIONAL CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR WESTERN AFRICA, COMOROS AND DJIBOUTI, ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, AND THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
29 September - 3 October 2008

### WORKSHOP REPORT

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has recommended that regional and/or subregional workshops be convened to discuss national experiences in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, including consideration of obstacles and ways and means for overcoming the obstacles (decisions VIII/8, paragraph 6, and IX/8, paragraph 17).
2. In response, the Executive Secretary has organized a series of regional and subregional capacity-development workshops on these issues.
3. The regional workshop for countries of West Africa was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Government of Burkina Faso. It was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 29 September to 3 October 2008.
4. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen national capacities for the development, implementation, review and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and for mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism), national policies, strategies and planning processes, including cross-sectoral national strategies such as National Planning Strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), National Strategies for Sustainable Development, activities for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and local planning processes.
5. The workshop aimed to promote the exchange of experiences and training on the use of relevant tools and mechanisms and provide an opportunity for Parties to identify ways and means to overcome obstacles associated with the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as inform the ongoing review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.
6. The workshop took place in the conference room of the Soritel Hotel in Ouagadougou and was attended by 53 participants from 17 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone,

Togo), together with representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies (UNDP Burkina Faso, United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies), inter-governmental organizations (Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), IUCN Burkina Faso, West African Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme (PRCM), non-governmental organizations, as well as representatives of educational institutions. The complete list of participants is available on the website of the Convention at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=NBSAPCBW-WAFR-01>. The workshop was held in French, with translation into English for anglophone participants.

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP**

7. The workshop was opened at 9 a.m. on Monday, 29 September 2008, by H.E. Mr. Salifou Sawadogo, Minister of Environment and Social Management Framework of Burkina Faso, who drew attention to Article 6 of the Convention that requests Parties to develop strategies, plans and programmes for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development and to integrate their objectives in planning documents. Minister Sawadogo highlighted that Burkina Faso had adopted its NBSAP in 2001, with the view to achieving responsible biodiversity management by 2025 through the engagement of the entire population of the country. He stated that several national development sectors and sub-sectors linked to natural resources have integrated their concerns into strategic documents such as the Strategic Framework to Combat Poverty, National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, National Strategy to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), National Programme for Soil Management, National Strategy for Rural Development, Investment Programme for Livestock Farming. Also, in spite of the considerable economic, demographic and environmental stresses faced by Burkina Faso and other countries in the region, the Minister was convinced of the possibility of achieving sustainable development through combined efforts, an active exchange of ideas and the formulation and implementation of sound workshop conclusions.

8. Minister Sawadogo added that the workshop was a privileged opportunity to learn from one another, and that its purpose was not to evaluate the performance of countries but rather non-complacently share information on approaches and measures (successes and failures) used, as well as gaps and obstacles encountered, with a view to enhancing national capacity for implementing the Convention more efficiently and effectively in the short, medium and long terms.

9. The Minister thanked the CBD Executive Secretary for the confidence placed in his country to host the workshop and expressed his gratitude to the international, regional and subregional communities for their daily support to Africa to appropriately respond to biodiversity challenges by 2010. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) were thanked in particular for their important financial and logistical contributions to the organization of the workshop.

10. On behalf of Mr. Ousseini Salifou, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources and Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission, Mr. Bertrand Zida, Department of Environment and Water Resources, ECOWAS Commission, thanked the Government of Burkina Faso and, in particular, H.E. Minister Sawadogo for having accepted to host the workshop and for placing all necessary facilities at the disposal of participants. Mr. Zida drew attention to the fact that almost all of the economies of the ECOWAS countries were in large part supported by natural resource exploitation, and that the demographic growth rate was very high (2.7% annually) with economic growth at 6%. Rapid urbanization, changes in consumer consumption patterns and poverty, combined with high demographic growth, have created conflicts and impasses in resource management which have led to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. This situation is the result of a lack of knowledge and poverty on the one hand, and the absence of precautionary measures or inaction by authorities and stakeholders on the other hand. If the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved, this situation is unacceptable. Moreover, it is important that appropriate measures be undertaken within a framework for socioeconomic development, and that biodiversity not remain the responsibility of specialists alone but rather mobilize and engage all actors involved in development.

11. The ECOWAS Commission has undertaken regulatory and institutional measures to reinforce capacity for sustainable development in the subregion. For example, agricultural policy has been translated into a regional investment programme, 15 national agricultural investment programmes and the adoption of regulatory measures on seeds and pesticides. A regional plan for biotechnology/biosafety, a subregional environment policy, a subregional forests policy, a water resource policy for West Africa as well as a fisheries programme have also been implemented. At the institutional level, the Commission collaborates with other institutions in the subregion and has made various support mechanisms available for policy and programme implementation through these institutions serving as the Commission's technical arm.

12. Mr. Zida underscored the urgency to: develop scientific knowledge and observation mechanisms at the national level; develop and reinforce networks and synergies among the international scientific community and actors involved in subregional development projects; adopt a multi-sectoral approach for management and impact assessment of ecosystems (water, soils, fauna, flora) through the training of experts in these areas; reinforce institutional and legislative capacity to stop the erosion of both physical and genetic biological resources; develop plans and programmes for collaborative management of natural resources; establish an efficient system for monitoring and evaluation. He thanked the CBD Secretariat and the Regional IUCN Office for organizing the workshop, as well as the ensemble of development partners for their support to the ECOWAS Commission and the countries in the subregion for activities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. He concluded by stating that the Commission would spare no effort in supporting the implementation of the workshop's recommendations.

13. Mr. Boniface Soumayila Bancé, President of the National Organizing Committee for the Workshop, and CBD National Focal Point for Burkina Faso, also welcomed participants to Burkina Faso, stressing the importance and urgency of addressing the themes of the workshop as well as the potential provided by the workshop to increase regional solidarity, share experiences and reinforce capacity among countries. He stated also that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the exploitation of genetic resources, are imperative for satisfying humanity's vital food, sanitation, spiritual and cultural needs and to ensure economic and ecological security for present and future generations. As current trends reveal that biodiversity loss is increasing as a result of anthropogenic factors, and being further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, efforts taken by various actors should be joined, measures to improve the efficiency of production systems adopted, methods for responsible environment management promoted, and regional and international cooperation reinforced.

14. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. David Cooper welcomed participants to the workshop, thanking the Government of Burkina Faso, in particular H.E. Mr. Salifou Sawadogo, Minister of Environment and Social Management Framework, for having accepted to host the workshop and for all efforts undertaken by his ministry to ensure its success. Gratitude was also expressed to Mr. Boniface Soumayila Bancé, CBD National Focal Point for Burkina Faso, for his valuable contributions to the organization of the workshop, as well as to ECOWAS and UEMOA for financial and logistical support provided. The IUCN Regional Office for the Central and Western Africa Programme (PACO) was also thanked for having arranged travel for participants.

15. Mr. Cooper reminded participants that COP-10 will be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and will assess progress achieved towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target adopted at COP-6 in 2002 whose overall objective is "to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth". This challenge is enormous, a fact further confirmed by the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) which underscores that considerable efforts are still necessary to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target and suggests that biodiversity loss and the decline in ecosystem services threaten the achievement of other important milestones, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Mr. Cooper elaborated that, while the 2010 Biodiversity Target has been integrated into the MDG framework under Objective 7, it is important to also consider the contribution of biodiversity and the ecosystem

services it underpins to other MDG goals on nutrition, health, education and gender equality. In brief, the incorporation of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as key elements in strategies for poverty eradication, regional and national development policy can no longer be ignored.

16. Within the above context, the importance of national biodiversity strategies and action plans is very clear. These documents are the cornerstone of the Convention and the only real means to implement its objectives at the national level. Effective NBSAPs are key to meeting the challenge of reducing biodiversity loss by 2010 and beyond, and to contributing to the most important goal of all which is poverty eradication. Mr. Cooper was pleased to note that all countries present at the workshop had completed and adopted their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. However, he underscored that this was but a first step towards implementing the Convention and that regular updates of the NBSAP are essential to ensuring that it responds to the evolution of the programmes of work of the Convention as well as to changes within the country. Moreover, NBSAPs must be implemented and become tools for integrating biodiversity into decision-making across all government departments, sectors of society and the economy, particularly with respect to national development and poverty reduction strategies.

17. Mr. Cooper stressed the important role that regional policies can play in mainstreaming activities and was pleased to note that the environment policies of ECOWAS and UEMOA commonly aim to reinforce links between regional organizations and the Rio Conventions, including the CBD. He added that it was his hope that the workshop could contribute in a meaningful way to regional processes.

18. Mr. Cooper explained that the main objectives of the workshop were to provide countries with renewed energy to update their NBSAP, while acknowledging the essential role that the NBSAP can perform in contributing towards poverty eradication. In this light, the workshop will promote the application of the best tools and techniques available to mainstream biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. The workshop also aims to promote the exchange of experiences among countries in regard to the development and implementation of NBSAPs and mainstreaming, and to identify case studies of best practice. The workshops will also better inform the Conference of Parties on the progress (and obstacles to progress) occurring on the ground in the countries, thereby contributing to the refinement of the Convention's future work programmes.

## **ITEM 2. OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE WORKSHOP**

19. Mr. Eric Belvaux of the CBD Secretariat presented an overview of the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop and introduced participants to the programme for the workshop as outlined in document UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-WAFR/1/1/Add.1. He elaborated on the role of the NBSAP for West African countries to achieve concrete results, guide public policy, identify priorities, involve national stakeholders in related processes, including those undertaken in the economic sectors (e.g. agriculture, forests, fisheries, tourism) and in cross-sectoral processes related to, for example, planning, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation. While the majority of CBD Parties have prepared NBSAPs, Mr. Cooper highlighted the following as the major shortfalls of the NBSAP:

- While biodiversity mainstreaming has occurred in some economic sectors (e.g. forestry, tourism), mainstreaming is weak in national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies, planning processes;
- Few NBSAPs incorporate measurable targets or respond directly to the 2010 Biodiversity Target;
- Lack of communication strategies for NBSAPs;
- Absence of integration of the Ecosystem Approach in NBSAPs;
- Lack of knowledge on the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human well-being (using the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other evaluation mechanisms);

- In general, action plans focus on the implementation of projects rather than on policy or institutional considerations;
- Problematic financing and budget allocations for NBSAPs;
- Lack of innovative financing mechanisms for NBSAPs;
- Lack of development of subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- Lack of national monitoring mechanisms incorporating indicators;
- Insufficient information available on implementation.

20. Mr. Belvaux reminded participants that this workshop was one in a series of regional NBSAP capacity-development workshops being organized by the Secretariat in response to the request of COP-8. Outcomes of workshops conducted earlier in the year had been communicated to COP-9 in May 2008. Outcomes of the entire series of workshops would be consolidated to inform the deliberations of COP-10 in 2010 on further guidance to Parties on NBSAPs and implementation of the Strategic Plan, including assessment of the progress in meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

21. Under this agenda item, the facilitator for the workshop, Mr. Mouhamed Drabo (Director, Technical Support Service, National Program for Land Management, Burkina Faso) was introduced to participants. Participants then introduced themselves and broke into small groups in order to identify some of their expectations for the workshop which were later presented to plenary.

#### **ITEMS 3 & 4. STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, AND UPDATING AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**

22. Mr. David Cooper recalled: the importance the Conference of the Parties attached to NBSAPs as the principal vehicle for national implementation of the Convention; decision VIII/8 calling for a full assessment of the status of NBSAPs; decision IX/8 calling for the adoption of national biodiversity goals and targets, the development of national communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) strategies, support for sub-national biodiversity strategies, the development of national biodiversity indicators, the use of the Ecosystem Approach, improved national reporting; and increased access to resources.

23. Under this agenda item, participants of the following countries presented a brief overview of the main features of the NBSAP in their country, its implementation and examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

##### **Benin (Mr. Bienvenu Bossou)**

Several implementation successes were highlighted in relation to the NBSAP adopted in 2002. At the institutional level, the Ministry of Environment and the National Environment Agency have been created. Examples of policy improvements include the drafting of a National Environment Action Plan, approval of a framework environmental law requiring EIA application for a wide range of projects, development of sectoral strategies for sustainably managing biological resources, implementation of a national strategy for developing ecologically sustainable tourism. Work is also underway in regard to drafting legislation on access and benefit-sharing and the protection of traditional knowledge, with the rights of local communities to participate in development programmes and decentralized management processes being given consideration in this legislation. The country plans to develop incentives for the creation of alternative means for generating revenue and improving the systems used for exploiting biological resources. Several cooperation agreements have been signed, among them a regional agreement on the

management of transboundary ecosystems (e.g. Park W). Research in the vulnerability of some species (e.g. palm oil) to climate change has also been undertaken. The three main invasive alien species have been identified and monitored and various measures have been implemented towards their eradication. Actions for sustaining ecosystem capacity to deliver goods and services and contribute to means of subsistence have been mainstreamed in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The country has also implemented a vast array of CEPA activities, involving opinion leaders and the media.

### **Burkina Faso (Mr. Soumayila Bancé)**

The NBSAP was adopted in 2001 with the vision to achieve responsible biodiversity management by the people of Burkina Faso by 2025. In response, responsibility for the management of conservation areas has been accorded to the local communities through decentralization processes promoting a strong participatory approach, especially in relation to women's groups. The rational exploitation of resources for sustainable development has been promoted through projects dealing with, for example, non-timber forest products, establishment of plantations of utilitarian forest species. Biodiversity knowledge has increased as a result of improvements in the valuation of wild biological resources, development of action plans for conducting valuation studies of local knowledge important to biodiversity conservation, and the identification of national repositories for biological resources. Biodiversity has been integrated into several strategic tools (e.g. Strategic Framework for Combating Poverty, National Environment Policy, National Action Programme for Combating Desertification, National Strategy for implementing the UNFCCC, Strategy for the joint implementation of the Rio Conventions). Obstacles identified include the need for a monitoring system, a biodiversity financing mechanism and improved mainstreaming activities. Moreover, texts should be developed (or adapted) to include the MDGs and policies created to increase revenue for the poor. Joint frameworks at all levels should be established and operationalized, while capacity for financial resource mobilization and cooperation with partners require reinforcement.

### **Comoros (Mr. Charaf-Eddine Msaïdié)**

The NBSAP was adopted in 2001. Theme 1 of the NBSAP deals specifically with the provisions of Article 6(b) of the Convention on mainstreaming. Although there has not been a significant degree of NBSAP implementation in the country, some activities have been undertaken in regard to, for example, the establishment of the National CHM and National BCH. Impediments to NBSAP implementation include an outdated policy framework; insufficient integration of environmental concerns in sectoral policy related to agriculture, fisheries, tourism, transport, education, research, finance, health; an incomplete and/or inadequate legal and regulatory framework; an inadequate economic framework, including a lack of solutions for challenging problems related to poverty; the inexistence of a consultative and participatory framework involving intersectoral agencies and populations. Other constraints include a lack of clarity concerning the mandate within environmental institutions, including research institutions; inadequate human resources in regard to decision-making, environmental expertise and environmental information systems.

### **Côte d'Ivoire (Mr. Yao Bernard Koffi)**

The Biodiversity Strategy was completed in 2002 and contains 8 themes and 18 strategic objectives. Capacity reinforcement is necessary to advance general measures for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and to establish monitoring and evaluation programmes. Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity important to agriculture have been implemented, as have measures related to the preservation and valuation of traditional knowledge. Through assistance provided by Belgium, a national CHM has been developed. The Centre National de Floristique (CNF) serves as a reference centre and node for the diffusion of information on biological diversity. The country has begun activities on updating the Biodiversity Strategy, in line with the CBD Strategic Plan and 2010 Biodiversity Target, and on formulating objectives for the short, medium and long terms. Activities linked to biodiversity conservation have been integrated into sectoral activities for forests, agriculture, water resources, environment and energy as well as into cross-sectoral policies such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy

Paper and programmes for the achievement of the MDGs. A foundation has been established which assures consistent financing for the management of parks and reserves.

#### **Djibouti (Mr. Mohamed Elmi Obsieh)**

The NBSAP was adopted in 2000. Recently, national committees have been established to guide and facilitate the implementation of national biodiversity and desertification strategies. These committees provide technical support for actions and are composed of representatives of NGOs, associations and various development partners. The NBSAP contains 18 themes and an action plan comprised of 33 projects and has been integrated into the 2001-2010 National Environment Action Plan. A decree on biodiversity protection was adopted in 2004. A law on marine and terrestrial protected areas was also adopted in 2004 contributing to biodiversity conservation in the 7 protected areas in Djibouti, of which 4 are terrestrial (Day and Mabla Forests, Lakes Abbé and Assal) and 3 are marine (Musha-Maskali Islands, Sept Frères-Khor-Angar-Godoria and Harramous).

#### **Gambia (Mr. Alagie Manjang)**

The NBSAP was completed in 1999. A revision was proposed in 2005 however has not been carried out. Activities are coordinated and systematically implemented by the Working Group on Agriculture and Natural Resources which assumes the functions of the National Biodiversity Coordinating Unit. The NBSAP emphasizes integration in sectors (i.e. wildlife, forestry, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, water resources, land resources), cross-cutting policies, legislation and action plans that promote the participation of the public in implementation. Thematic working groups were established for the purposes of conducting expert studies and collecting data during the process of NBSAP preparation. Dialogue has taken place with the participation of various sectors at meetings of the Working Group on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Biodiversity conservation as a means for generating income for local communities has been identified under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. In addition, priorities related to biodiversity conservation were established during the development of the Gambian Environmental Action Plan (GEAP), Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) and Community Action Plans (CAPs). Ecotourism is being promoted at the community level. Major challenges relate to capacity constraints, local community conflict in relation to protected areas, institutional conflict on policy, protected areas and species inventorying, language barriers in bilateral agreements, regional cattle and other livestock migration.

#### **Ghana (Mr. Eric Amaning Okoree)**

The Biodiversity Strategy was completed in 2002. An action plan has still not been developed however GEF funding has been received to review the strategy and complete the action plan, while taking into account actions for biodiversity, climate change and the MDGs. The mainstreaming of activities into other ministries has not yet taken place however actions are being negotiated, as are incentives to foster new ways of thinking. Several activities have been carried out in regard to the protected areas system comprising 280 forest reserves (covering 11% of the country), 29 of which have been designated as globally significant biodiversity areas (covering 117, 322 ha); 36 important bird areas (covering 11,494 km<sup>2</sup>); and 3 biological corridors. In addition, there are 16 legally constituted wildlife reserves covering 5.3% of the total land surface. Actions contained in the strategy for the management of protected areas include awarding full payment compensation to landowning stools and skins from whom forest land was taken and involving the local communities in the management of the protected areas system. The government also plans to accord legal backing to traditional laws and sanctions promoting biodiversity conservation.

#### **Guinea (Mr. Maadjou Bah)**

Four priority areas are identified in the 2001 NBSAP, namely, biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, general measures for the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and

international cooperation. Examples of activities undertaken to implement the articles of the Convention were highlighted by the presenter. In regard to Article 7, a National Fisheries Monitoring Centre and a regional observation programme for cetaceans have been established, in cooperation with Japan and African member countries of the International Whaling Commission. Participatory monitoring of artisanal fisheries contributes to the implementation of a regional programme dedicated to sustaining the local livelihoods provided by the fisheries. In regard to Article 11, incentive measures for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use have been incorporated into the Environment Code, a project for the integrated management of ecosystems and a support programme for local community associations. In regard to Article 13, radio stations contribute to the promotion of CEPA initiatives at local, national, subregional and regional levels. In regard to Article 14, EIA requirements, content and methodology are outlined in two respective decrees. In regard to Article 15, the Ndama breed of cattle, known for its trypanotolerance, has been provided to certain countries to improve cattle stocks. Certain varieties of palm oil have been provided to Indonesia. In regard to Article 16, bilateral and multilateral agreements have been established with several countries, organizations and scientific institutions in the areas of agriculture, husbandry, fisheries, agroforestry, natural resource and ecosystem management.

#### **Guinea-Bissau (Ms. Matilde da Conceição Gomes Lopes)**

The NBSAP was validated in 2001 however has not been updated due to lack of funding. The NBSAP incorporates the majority of themes and cross-sectoral matters prioritized at the national level, as well as targets and indicators that coincide with the CBD Strategic Plan and 2010 Biodiversity Target. Although confronted by several constraints, several positive outcomes were highlighted. NBSAP implementation has resulted in the promulgation of the “Earth Law” (“Loi de la Terre”), increased agricultural diversification, updating of technical/scientific knowledge, recognition of the biodiversity potential of the country, transformation of protected areas into conservation pillars, a more rational use of resources, introduction of improved techniques regarding stoves and ovens, elaboration of an organigram that clearly defines the competencies of each institution, implementation and promulgation of environmental laws (Framework Environment Law, Law for Mangrove Management, EIA Law and Regulations). The NBSAP has been integrated into policies for various sectors (agriculture, forest, fisheries, industry and mining), as well as in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, activities for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, action plan on desertification. Constraints to implementation include, for example, the absence of a budget and personnel devoted specifically to NBSAP implementation, loss of traditional knowledge, absence of a benefit-sharing mechanism, weak capacity at the local level, climate change.

#### **Liberia (Mr. Johansen T. Voker)**

The NBSAP was completed in 2003. Achievements in implementation include the construction of storage facilities for conserving local crops, provision of local crop genetic materials for use by local communities, consolidation of socioeconomic data for a proposed protected area, training of EIA technicians and decision-makers, capacity-building in risk assessment and management in modern biotechnology; establishment of a unit for the implementation of environment related conventions; reactivation of the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI); support for the timber certification scheme for sustainable forest management; establishment of two protected areas with combined areas of 193,500 ha with eight additional protected areas proposed; enactment of the new Forestry Law. Additionally, the NBSAP was used as the basis for environmental strategies in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and forms part of the agricultural sectoral policy. The country believes that the way forward should include activities related to the provision of alternative sources of livelihood in rural areas; sustained public awareness raising; capacity strengthening at all levels; better coordination among relevant institutions; compliance to laws and regulations on biodiversity conservation; promotion of cooperation on the conservation of shared resources; stronger political will to support and promote biodiversity conservation.



**Mali (Mr. Mohamed Ag Hamaty)**

The NBSAP was validated in 2000. The action plan is contained within the national policy for environmental protection and will be implemented through specific programmes and linked to initiatives currently underway. In response to the results of expert studies and concerns expressed by regional actors, five specific programmes have been proposed for policy implementation: (i) reinforcement of protected areas (ii) rational use of biological resources (iii) reinforcement of human capacity for biodiversity conservation (iv) valuation of traditional knowledge and practices (v) preservation of local varieties and races of domestic animals threatened by extinction. Activities were launched in July 2008 to develop a National Strategy for Protected Areas. In parallel, a study being conducted to evaluate current and potential methods (adapted and new) for protected area management highlights increasing protected area coverage, particularly by territories accorded IUCN Category V and Category VI classifications. Other objectives of the study are to examine the conservation practices of local communities and to acquire the support of the communities regarding protected area management. The government recognizes the importance of engaging women who are custodians of information for natural resource management, through traditional processes and technologies, in this process. The engagement of the private sector is also being examined. Activities to reintroduce the Oryx began in July 2008 (Mali profited from the experiences of Senegal that has successfully reintroduced the species, including through ex situ conservation in a protected area). Projects have also been implemented that illustrate the integration of biodiversity in the economic sector which has resulted in pertinent issues being linked to national priorities, national action plans and programmes.

**Mauritania (Mr. Cheikh Ould Sidi Mohamed)**

The NBSAP was completed in 1999 and contains actions for 17 themes. In recent years, institutional support has been strengthened through the creation of the National Council for Environmental Development (1995), State Secretariat for the Environment (2006), Ministry for the Environment (2007) and the Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development (2008). The country's four main development objectives pertain to increasing human resources and rigorous efforts aimed at poverty reduction; promoting growth through private-sector engagement; reinforcing capacity for economic management and public affairs management; improving environmental management. Mauritania has developed a National Strategy for Sustainable Development and a National Environment Action Plan (2007-2011). Actions related to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity have been integrated in two strategic directions contained in the National Environment Action Plan. At the regional level, the country is currently carrying out activities related to the West African Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme and, with Senegal, also in relation to degraded arid and semi-arid transboundary areas. A study to acquire more in-depth knowledge about Banc d'Arguin (a bay on the country's Atlantic shore) is also under way. The country currently envisions undertaking new projects on topics such as sustainable coastal management, marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation in coastal zones, expansion of protected areas.

**Niger (Mr. Boukar Attari)**

The NBSAP was adopted in 2000 and addresses six priority programmes of the National Environment Plan for Sustainable Development which is an integral part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the Strategy for Rural Development. The NBSAP addresses seven thematic programmes, prioritizing three of them, namely, the development and promotion of alternative energy sources, the conservation of genetic resources and the management and sustainable use of ecosystems. Only one of the seven programmes, dealing with biotechnology and biosafety, has been comprehensively implemented. Other notable achievements include the adoption/revision of legislation (e.g. Rural Code, Forestry Law, Water Regime Law, Hunting Regime Law, Fishing Regime Law, Framework Law on Environmental Management, EIA Institutionalization Ordinance). Niger recognizes that mainstreaming biodiversity in sectors such as commerce, health and tourism has not been considered in the NBSAP or in strategies for

these sectors. In addition, a sustainable financing strategy for the NBSAP is lacking, as is synergy among structures operating in biodiversity matters, NBSAP ownership by concerned sectors, a mechanism for periodic evaluation of the action plan and national biodiversity indicators.

#### **Nigeria (Mr. Timothy Daniel John)**

The NBSAP was completed in 2006 with the goal to conserve and enhance the sustainable use of biodiversity as well as to integrate biodiversity into national policy and decision-making. Various institutions and agencies such as the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and those dealing with health and agriculture have been designated to implement CBD provisions. The Federal Ministry of the Environment is the focal point for coordinating CBD activities within other agencies. Private initiatives have been implemented related to the establishment of botanical and zoological gardens. Various conservation initiatives are also supported by NGOs. It is hoped that a biodiversity agency will be established to deal with biodiversity issues. Challenges to implementation include the lack of coordination among sectoral activities and conflicting policy, as well as lack of financing, technical resources, trained staff, political will, public awareness.

#### **Senegal (Mr. Alioune Seydi)**

The NBSAP was adopted in 1998 with the main objectives to conserve biodiversity in high-density areas, integrate biodiversity conservation in programme and production activities, equitably share roles, responsibilities in biodiversity management as well as derived benefits, inform and raise the awareness of all actors on the importance of biodiversity and its conservation. Various activities are underway that promote integrated management plans for marine and coastal resources, ecosystems, invasive aquatic plants. Obstacles to NBSAP implementation are, among others, poverty, transfer of management responsibilities to local populations without providing for training in management methods, insufficient biodiversity mainstreaming in relation to agricultural and livestock farming activities contained in economic development strategies, weak communication with the local populations. The National Commission for Sustainable Development provides a framework for harmonizing different sectoral policies. An agency charged with creating and managing community marine areas also exists, as do regional environmental action plans. Biodiversity considerations have been highlighted in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

#### **Sierra Leone** (presentation not delivered; text below largely extracted from the NBSAP)

The NBSAP was adopted in 2003 with the overall goal to provide present and future generations with a framework for the sustainable exploitation of biodiversity. The government intends to integrate both the economic and non-economic values of biodiversity into national development plans and accounting systems. The strategy contains an analysis of issues and gaps as well as the specific strategies for each of 17 thematic areas, subdivided into three main groups (terrestrial biodiversity, aquatic biodiversity, cross-cutting areas). The action plan outlines foreseen actions, actors involved (government institutions, research/academic institutions, local communities, NGOs), expected outputs, implementation schedules and summarizes required funding. The government of Sierra Leone is confident that ardent strides made in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity will contribute to the realization of the vision for the reconstruction and development of Sierra Leone by 2025.

#### **Togo (Mr. Kokou Trévé Tengue)**

The NBSAP was completed in 2002 for implementation by an assemblage of actors from government, technical services, national and international NGOs, civil society (farmers' organizations, socio-professional corporations, local populations), cooperation partners, international organizations, etc. Although NBSAP implementation has been constrained by financial and capacity constraints, notable achievements at the legislative policy level include the adoption of a Framework Environment Law

(2008), adoption of a new Code for Forest Resources (2008), implementation by decree of a framework for protected areas, preparation of sectoral EIA guidelines and manuals for integrating biodiversity in management activities, institutionalization by decree of EIA procedures. At the institutional level, village associations responsible for the management of protected areas and ecosystems rich in rare, endemic or threatened species have been created, with operational support being provided by the government to these associations. The NBSAP has been integrated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. In addition, a rehabilitation programme for prioritized protected areas has been institutionalized within the national protected areas system, and biodiversity corridors comprised of various protected areas and transboundary protected areas with neighbouring countries (Ghana, Benin, Burkina Faso) have been created. The country has also witnessed a revitalization of the National Forest Seed Centre.

24. The country presentations identified general consistencies in NBSAP implementation and mainstreaming among countries in the region. Many NBSAPs include issues relevant to broader poverty and development strategies and sectoral strategies (such as agriculture). Many PRSPs already incorporate biodiversity and other environmental concerns, however, NBSAPs and PRSPs are rarely linked directly. The opportunity to make use of the NBSAPs as a strategic tool for mainstreaming should be optimized.

25. In discussions following the country presentations and from workshop exercises, participants identified the need to address issues covered under seven basic themes (knowledge gaps, institutional support, policy/legislation, CEPA, cooperation, assessment and monitoring, financing) in order to effectively prepare and implement the NBSAP and NBSAP revisions and mainstream biodiversity. Details of issues are elaborated in Annex I (Conclusions of the Workshop).

26. Capacity-building opportunities offered at the regional level through mainstreaming national strategies with the policies of ECOWAS, NEPAD and the Algiers Convention, among others, were highlighted by the Secretariat and country delegates.

#### **ITEM 5. INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY INTO SECTORAL AND CROSS-SECTORAL PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES**

27. The importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes is underlined in Article 6 (b) of the Convention and has been stressed in many decisions of the Conference of the Parties. This includes the request of COP-8 which, in considering the implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, urged Parties and other Governments to promote dialogue among different sectors, to mainstream biodiversity at the regional and national levels including, when appropriate, through the processes of the Convention, to address linkages between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and, among others, mainstream biodiversity concerns in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans (e.g. National Planning Strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, National Strategy for Sustainable Development), communication strategies and in plans of the economic sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, mining, energy).

28. Mr. Cooper stressed the importance of taking the Ecosystem Approach into account in the development and improvement of the NBSAP. He further underscored the necessity to place the ecosystem in an economic context, mainstream efforts through the involvement of all relevant sectors of society and scientific disciplines, while promoting cooperation among them, and to decentralize activities as much as possible to the local level and apply principles of adaptive management as appropriate. He elaborated on the potential contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to poverty reduction, national development and human well-being, through the use of the methodologies and the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other biodiversity valuation tools. He also stressed the need to identify the main threats to biodiversity, including direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity change. Elements to consider to effectively mainstream biodiversity and decentralize biodiversity management are summarized in Annex I (Conclusions of the Workshop), along with approaches and tools for use in relation to these processes.

*National case studies, subnational initiatives***Benin (Dr. Bonaventure Guèdègbé) – “Integration of biodiversity in policy, plans and sectoral programmes”**

Benin emphasizes the use of strategic environmental assessment as a technical instrument for mainstreaming biodiversity in plans and programmes. The aim is to increase the environmental credibility of decisions contained in the Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction, harmonize coherence between the strategy and existing policies and better comprehend the links between environmental, economic and social considerations. A related process was conducted in two phases, with the first phase focused on the identification of nine thematic sectoral groups (social and base infrastructure; environment and well-being; macroeconomics and growth sectors; private sector and employment; good governance, decentralization and capacity building; agriculture, natural resources, land; peace and security; new information and communication technologies; poverty). The group dealing with environment and well-being was responsible for elaborating and applying the SEA methodology, validating the thematic reports developed by the eight other groups and ensuring coherence among the thematic reports. The second phase dealt with analyzing the coherence of identified priorities with the national development plan and existing environmental policy, elaborating scenarios analyzing the environmental effects produced by each option; conducting environmental analyses of strategic directions; elaborating environmental indicators for monitoring. Emphasis was placed on the importance of defining responsibilities for the ministers of the planning and finance ministries, environment minister, executive authorities, expert authorities. A difficulty encountered related to the need to sustain capacity development at sectoral, departmental levels and for local NGOs and various associations.

**Burkina Faso (Paul Bombiri) – “A Case Study on Environmental Accounting and Biodiversity”**

A pilot project was undertaken to gather data on the contribution of natural resources to economic well-being, including assessment of fees imposed as a result of activities that pollute or degrade resources. The environmental accounts investigated related to lands and soils, forests and semi-natural areas, water resources and environmental protection expenses. In terms of strengths, the pilot project confirmed coherence among concepts and definitions; statistical harmonization/results comparability; integration with economic models (e.g. input-output); good modelization/analytical tool. Weaknesses related to the need for further statistical harmonization; new data collections; specialized technical expertise. Moreover, as a result of elevated implementation costs, results were incomplete as not all social and environmental aspects were considered in the study. It was decided that improved and extended pilot projects were required, as were the integration of environmental accounts in national accounting, resource mobilization schemes produced by the institutionalization of environmental accounts and a reinforced national system for producing environmental statistics.

**Burkina Faso (Dominique Zongo) – “Consideration of biodiversity in local development processes: the experience of PNGT2 and SILEM”**

The institutionalization of the 2004 General Charter of Territorial Collectives in Burkina Faso has transferred important responsibilities to rural communities, notably in matters related to natural resource management. The National Programme for Land Management (PNGT2-II) assists rural communities in implementing sustainable development processes through capacity development activities, local development financing, provision of support for land reform processes, stakeholder consultation. The strategy of the PNGT2-II promotes the identification of linkages between the preservation and valuation of biodiversity in local development and integration in planning and financing processes with actions initiated by municipal councils. The programme also promotes the development of a financing mechanism for development activities where 20% is put towards natural resource management, development of indicators, monitoring of implementation and impact of activities. The Sahel Integrated Lowland Ecosystem Management (SILEM) project being implemented by the PNGT2-II places a

particular accent on natural resource management while promoting integrated ecosystem management in drainage basins.

**NATURAMA (Adama Nana) – “Experience in national park management by a civil society organization in Burkina Faso”**

In 1997, in an effort to rehabilitate the Pô National Park (later renamed the Kaboré-Tambi National Park), the government of Burkina Faso conceded the eastern zone of the park to the NATURAMA Foundation for a ten-year period. In 2001, it was agreed that NATURAMA would act as concessionaire for the entire park, with surrounding villages involved in local management activities. At the local level, positive outcomes include institutional developments (e.g. creation of local associations, provincial management support committees); adaptation training in issues related to life management, financial management, conflict management, project development, monitoring and evaluation, defense, etc. for local management posts, as well as adaptation training for conservation and development activities. Gender considerations in CEPA activities have also been promoted. Improvements in ecosystem management have resulted due to better ecological monitoring of birds and large mammals (MIKE) through aerial monitoring, prescribed burning for improving habitat, etc. Increased revenue has provided communities with working capital, and the use of local service providers and a High Manpower Intensity (HIMO) Approach has engaged local manpower in almost all activities. Uncontestedly, one of the most significant results has been the development of management partnerships developed at several levels (national, subnational, international). Partnership diversification has also resulted in opportunities for financial resource mobilization. Although its 10-year contract has come to an end, NATURAMA continues to be engaged in activities related to local governance projects, microfinancing projects for non-timber forest products in forest villages, etc. Implementation of this ten-year programme highlighted that ecosystem management by an NGO requires an uninterrupted presence on the ground to sustain the mobilization of partners (including financial resource mobilization) around conservation issues; rehabilitation of such an ecosystem, including its periphery, requires at minimum periodic monitoring and long-term financing mechanisms; the tripartite (state-concessionary-community) management approach requires each party to clearly and efficiently assume its obligations.

**Gambia (Mr. Momodou Badou Sarr) – “Mainstreaming biodiversity”**

A sectoral dialogue on matters related to mainstreaming biodiversity is being conducted within the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Working Group whose membership includes the heads of government departments for agriculture, forestry, environment, fisheries, water resources, finance, economic affairs, statistics, tourism, community development, physical planning, housing, lands, surveys, wildlife management, as well the Coordinator for the UN system in the country and the UNDP Resident Representative. Two objectives of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) are to enhance the productive capacity and social protection for local communities and mainstream poverty-related cross-cutting issues in the PRSP. Some activities envisioned to achieve these objectives include the promotion of agricultural diversification (away from mono-crop agriculture such as groundnuts), investment support for the institutionalization of informal small and micro enterprises (ISMEs) and focus on poverty reduction outcomes for communities. The reduction of the Government’s asset portfolio is encouraged through privatization and divestiture. In addition, biodiversity conservation is prioritized in the development of the Gambian Environmental Action Plan (GEAP), Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) and Community Action Plans (CAPs). Ecotourism is also being promoted at the community level.

**Senegal (Mr. Amady Gnagna Cisse) – “Biodiversity in the PRSP and in the Medium-term Expenditure Framework (CDMT)”**

Studies have shown that the incidence of poverty reduction is higher in urban areas than in rural areas. In rural areas, 65.2% of individuals and 57.5% of households live below the poverty line. It is estimated that

rural populations contribute as much as 65% to poverty while comprising 55% of the total population. On the other hand, while Dakar comprises a quarter of the population, it contributes less than 18% to poverty. Senegal considered these facts in elaborating its second PRSP and aims to reduce poverty by 50% by 2015, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals by establishing a socioeconomic policy that places the country on a path towards sustainable development. The use of a participatory approach, involving state actors, NGOs, local associations, private sector and development partners, is strongly emphasized. The Senegalese government has made significant efforts to respect the disbursement ratios of public spending for implementing the PRSP, with a view to promoting sustainable development and favouring the most impoverished sectors. Nevertheless, problems regarding the effectiveness of this spending have necessitated the implementation of a medium-term expenditure framework (CDMT) for the establishment of a more effective budgetary system designed to achieve more concrete outcomes. Among other deliverables, the framework guarantees sustainable financing for strategic priorities, favours the use of the most effective and efficient resources and imposes a responsibility to achieve results in the most cost-effective manner.

### *Regional programmes, initiatives*

#### **ECOWAS (Mr. Ernest Aube) -- “Capacity-building for West African countries on NBSAPs”**

Comprised of fifteen West African countries, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) seeks to promote economic integration in fields of economic activity, including those related to energy, agriculture, natural resources, among others. Although biodiversity constitutes one of the principle contributors to economic development in the sub-region, weak support given to the risk sector continues to compromise the health of biological resources. In 2007, the ECOWAS Commission was created and departments restructured with greater priority given to addressing environmental matters. ECOWAS is currently working directly with sub-regional and international partners to safeguard biological resources, while implementing Article 3.2 of its treaty on mainstreaming, harmonizing and coordinating activities related to agriculture, natural resources, industry, energy, commerce, among other sectors, in development and sectoral policies of member countries. The Community’s 2005 agricultural policy promotes biodiversity conservation in regional and national agricultural plans and food security programmes. The objective of forest policy is conservation and sustainable socioeconomic development resulting from forest resources and ecosystem services. Other activities include the development of ecological, economic and social adaptation programmes in the face of climate change. Constraints include, among other matters, weak transboundary cooperation among states sharing biological resources and a low level of coordination of activities for managing biodiversity. ECOWAS recognizes the need to develop capacity for environmental economics and envisions conducting a strategic evaluation of biodiversity integration in regional development policies and strategies, and formulating proposals for various sectors (e.g. agriculture, industry, infrastructure, mines) with particular attention given to the 2006 Regional Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction in West Africa prepared by ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union. In addition, an advanced draft of the Regional PRSP has been completed and is subject to final validation by member states. ECOWAS also intends to initiate a project to develop, in collaboration with international institutions, a guide for integrating the environment (including biodiversity and ecosystem services) into national development and sectoral strategies. ECOWAS also intends to undertake a study related to the development of a Regional BSAP.

#### **Global Environment Facility (GEF) (Momodou B. Sarr) – “GEF Awareness for NBSAP Workshop”**

The GEF Council Member for nine Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal) provided background on the establishment of the GEF in 1991, adding that the GEF was currently in its fourth cycle (2006-2010) with a budget of \$US 4 billion, with the United States being the largest donor (providing 60% of funds). An overview of the GEF Governance Structure was also provided. In September 2005, the GEF Council adopted the

Resource Allocation Framework (RAF), a new system for allocating GEF resources to recipient countries based on their potential to generate global environmental benefits and capacity to successfully implement GEF projects. It is believed that better targeting of GEF resources will serve to increase the positive impact of actions on the global environment. GEF's six focal areas (biodiversity, climate change, international waters, ozone depletion - applies to countries in transition only, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants), cross-cutting areas under GEF-4 and project eligibility requirements were also described. The strategic objectives for the biodiversity focal area are to catalyze the sustainability of protected area systems, mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes, seascapes and other sectors, safeguard biodiversity, build capacity on access and benefit-sharing. Different project cycles exist for full-size and medium-size projects. GEF's role is also to serve as a catalyst in promoting all forms of sustainability, mainstream environment into national policy frameworks and increase partnerships (Government/NGO/CBO/Private).

### **IUCN (Martin Njanje) – “IUCN and the Use of the Ecosystem Approach in West Africa”**

The presenter provided an overview of the application of the twelve principles of the Ecosystem Approach in implementing the PAGEV project which deals with improving water governance in the Volta River Basin. The project's strategic focus is to address government deficiencies linked to the uncoordinated management of the basin, conflicts produced by competing use of land and water resources, low capacity to deal with transboundary threats such as water pollution, deforestation and flooding. The PAGEV project builds on previous and ongoing consultations and joint water management initiatives between Burkina Faso and Ghana. The project brings together the strengths of relevant ongoing and planned initiatives in order to establish linkages between science, policy, theory and practice, focusing on three main themes: the development of a decision-support knowledge base; pilot interventions on integrated water resource management; policy and institutional change. Significant outputs to date include the establishment of strategic partnerships, a Memorandum of Understanding signed with key partners, policy dialogue. A draft code of conduct regarding shared water resources is in development (a draft is ready for validation by Ghana and Burkina Faso). National and local transboundary committees have also been established.

### **West African Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Program (PRCM) (Barthélemy Batiéno) - “Towards integrated coastal zone management and biodiversity valuation in West Africa”**

Seven countries of West Africa (Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde) are members of the West African Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Program which aims to sustainably conserve and manage West African marine and coastal ecosystems by promoting integrated coastal zone management and biodiversity valuation. Strategic objectives for the 2008-2011 period are to develop the capacity of actors, advocate and influence policy, promote good governance, research, communication, education and public awareness. The programme aims to conserve biodiversity by creating and reinforcing marine protected areas, conserving habitats and species and sustainably managing coastal fisheries, revising the minimum conditions regarding access to resources and encouraging co-management of fisheries and marine protected areas. Activities related to the conservation objectives of the PRCM are also carried out by the West African Regional Maritime Protected Area Network (RAMPAN), created in April 2007, comprised of the same seven countries and claiming 14 marine protected areas at present. RAMPAN is also currently engaged in activities to support the creation of transboundary protected areas (Mauritania/ Senegal and Senegal/Gambia), promote the creation of community protected areas and the application of traditional knowledge in marine protected area management.

**Park W – “Results of the Park W / ECOPAS Programme” (Burkina Faso)**

The contiguous “W” protected areas (Arly, Pendjari, Otti Mendouri) form the extraordinary WAPO complex in West Africa. These protected areas are located in Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso and governed by the three governments. The complex is rich in emblematic animals and also home to the largest populations of lions and elephants in the subregion as well as to a large number of buffalo, antelope and oryx. Between 2001 and 2008, a regional management programme, supported by the ECOPAS Project (Ecosystèmes Protégés en Afrique Soudano-Sahélienne) and funded by the European Union, was implemented with a view to reversing degradation processes and increasing information available on natural resources and biodiversity conservation through the coordination of regional processes and policy. Examples of results achieved include the creation of a scientific council for the WAPO complex, adoption of an ecosystem-oriented approach, preparation of a Development and Management Plan for the 2006-2010 period, elaboration of regional tourism strategies, harmonization of tariff-setting at the regional level, publication of a regional manual for ecological monitoring, creation of regional infrastructure. Private tourism operators also provide various types of accommodation and services to visitors to the complex.

**Gourma Biodiversity Conservation Project (PCVBGE) (Biramou Sissoko) – Overview of project**

A GEF project being conducted in the Gourma region of Mali over a six-year period focuses on the conservation and valuation of biodiversity, and on the elephants located in the region, with the objective to halt and reverse degradation trends. The region possesses a landscape of varied physical and unique biological characteristics. In addition, a herd of 350+ elephants, that is the most northernmost located on the African continent, is found in the region. Variable climatic conditions are obstacles to stable growth which is further aggravated by the degradation of natural resources and plant cover. The strategic framework for poverty reduction (CSRP) adopted by the Government of Mali and technical and financial partners identified natural catastrophes as the principle cause of poverty in rural areas, while establishing a direct link between catastrophes and the fragility of Malian ecosystems. The CSRP supports the implementation of the strategy for rural development as well as the National Environment Strategy, and emphasizes that all sectoral strategies be implemented through decentralized processes. The PCVBGE provides support to eighteen local communities in the region in regard to the development of a coherent territorial plan. It is hoped that this will eventually lead to the adoption of a territorial charter for Gourma and more sustainable access to natural resources. In addition, conservation and agropastoral projects related to elephants and livestock are being microfinanced. Tourism projects in areas where elephants are located are also being identified.

*Science-Policy Support for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)***Ghana (Prof. Alfred A. Oteng Yeboah) – Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

Prof. Alfred A. Oteng Yeboah (Ghana), Member of the IPBES Interim Advisory Committee, delivered a presentation on the process for the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) that had been presented at and adopted by COP-9 in Bonn in May 2008. The first intergovernmental meeting will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2008 and supported by UNEP. Positive results from this consultation will be transmitted to the UNEP Governing Board Meeting in January/February 2009 for adoption. The mission of IPBES is to serve as an independent and legitimate scientific platform for supporting the MEAs (not solely the CBD) as well as other multilateral agreements affected by biodiversity and ecosystem services changes. IPBES will provide scientific support to national governments, ensuring the quality and quantity of information flows to support decision-making at appropriate levels. Also, it is intended to strengthen (and not replace) the scientific subsidiary bodies of the MEAs and, unlike the IPCC, will not conduct periodic global assessments only.



*Field trip (links between NBSAPs (BSAPs) and rural development through decentralized and participatory management of local populations)*

29. On Thursday, 2 October 2008, a field trip to destinations south of Ouagadougou was organized. Participants were first able to meet with local officials in Kombissiri engaged in development projects authorized by the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulics and Halieutic Resources, aimed at improving agricultural and animal production, natural resource management and revenue for the communities of the provinces of Bazèga and Kadiogo. Participants then travelled further south to the National Park of Tambi-Kaboré and the Nazinga Reserve. Two biodiversity corridors in Kabore-Tambi-Nazinga (Burkina Faso) and in the Kabore-Tambi-Red Volta Valley (Ghana) have been created within the Pô-Nazinga-Sissili (Ponasi) Wildlife Conservation Unit with the objectives to harmonize conservation programs for elephants in the corridor, reduce human/elephant conflicts, secure elephants against poaching, promote sustainable management of habitats in the corridor, define a CEPA plan, improve the capacity of actors to conserve species. This mitigation plan has been almost fully implemented (92%) which has resulted in large fauna (e.g. elephants, antelope, oryx, guinea-fowl) having begun to re-colonize in the corridors. The space occupied by these corridors has been almost entirely liberated by the affected farmers who have been financially remunerated for their displacement as well as provided with agricultural land. A request for legal recognition of the corridors has been transmitted to the proper authorities. Results obtained from the first phase of the project suggest that further actions should deal with the pursuit of mitigation activities through a local development programme involving local associations; implementation of a joint Burkina-Ghana planning/management programme for transboundary corridors; pursuit of ecological monitoring in conservation areas of the ecosystem shared by Burkina Faso and Ghana; valuation of resources in regard to small-game hunting in collaboration with the private sector, state and local associations; maintenance of the Local Action Plan for Biodiversity (LAB).

30. The presentation delivered by the representative of NATURAMA to the workshop, summarized on page 13, elaborates the experience of a civil society organization in the management of Tambi-Kaboré National Park, in collaboration with local associations, outcomes achieved and recommendations for improving park management.

31. The field trip concluded with a meeting with the local community of Guiaro located on the perimeter of the Tambi-Kaboré National Park, to discuss the integration of biodiversity in local management activities.

## **ITEM 6. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING**

32. Mr. David Cooper presented the format for the fourth national report by Parties to the Convention, due at the end of March 2009, and explained which services the Secretariat, in collaboration with other organizations, had been developed to assist Parties to complete their national report in a timely manner. He informed that a portal dedicated specifically to the preparation of the fourth national report was accessible on the CBD website, at which related documents as well as various tools (e.g. financial resources, manual, sample fourth national report based on contributions of a number of countries) to assist countries with report preparation were available at this portal. Mr. Cooper emphasized that the process of preparing the fourth national report offered an opportunity for countries to develop national biodiversity targets as requested by the COP. He emphasized the importance of the timely submission of fourth national reports and the development of national targets and associated indicators for the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target to be undertaken by COP-10 in 2010. Organizational plans adopted for preparation of the fourth national report and information on progress achieved in this regard to date were presented by the National Focal Point of Niger.

*Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)*

33. A presentation on this cross-cutting issue was delivered by Mr. Tommy Garnett, Director, Regional Programmes, Environmental Foundation for Africa (and IUCN-CEC Regional Chair for West Africa). In view of the fact that West Africa possesses abundant natural resources, as well as excellent possibilities for tourism, it should in theory be one of the more prosperous regions of the world. It is therefore important to seek solutions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development from an understanding of the socio-political and economic contexts that have evolved in the sub-region over a period of 500 years. West African governments and international assistance partners must understand the links between resource management, conflict and poverty so that real progress can be made. A major obstacle to CBD implementation in the region is the gap in decisive leadership due to a lack of consolidated and powerful forces promoting the biodiversity agenda. The lack of gender considerations and priorities defined by donor nations are among other obstacles. Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) is referred to as the “oil that makes the technical mechanisms of the Convention work” and, as such, should be used as an instrument for engaging ministries and sectors, and for changing perceptions and behaviour towards environmental stewardship by stakeholders and the public at large. To be most effective, CEPA should highlight *processes* (not information transfer alone) and make use of social instruments such as information, exchange, dialogue, education, training, marketing for implementing these processes. The IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) is comprised of experts to support IUCN in achieving this goal. The need for public- and private-sector investors to mainstream environmental and natural resource management in their programs and fundraising strategies was also highlighted. Information flow should comprise networks at international, regional, focal points and national levels, with community-based organizations, national and international non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, civil society, private sector, governmental agencies targeted as key stakeholders. Communication models (vertical versus horizontal) and approaches (information, emotional, behaviour) were elaborated.

*Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)*

34. A presentation on the national clearing-house mechanism (CHM) and information system of Burkina Faso was delivered by Mr. Norbert Sidibe of the Ministry of Environment and Social Management Framework. In 1990, the government recognized that environmental information in the country was often unavailable, dispersed, inaccessible, unknown, incomplete, unorganized, or sub-standard in quality. In consequence, this information was not contributing as meaningfully as it should to national development processes. In view of the importance of pertinent and reliable information to socioeconomic development planning, sectoral integration and proper decision-making, a National Programme for Information Management (PNGIM) was created by interministerial decree in 1993, with the Working Group on Natural Resources (comprised of 10 structural components) serving as the biodiversity focal point for the programme. The PNGIM network is comprised of providers and users of environmental data/information and is a strong feature of the national CHM, aiming to coordinate accessibility to information on information technologies, geo-information, socioeconomic and development policies, natural resources, etc. The project is however constrained by various factors such as weak provision of information by partners and weak usage of information available on the CHM. Also, the responsibilities and roles of partner structures and data they should respectively provide require clarification. The importance of developing an action plan for the national CHM is clearly recognized. A focal point for each structural component in the programme should be designated and a coordination/consultation mechanism to promote synergies among the different networks should be created. Communication among decision-makers, persons responsible for each structural component, regional directors and locally-elected persons, representatives of subregional organizations (CEDEAO, UEMOA, CILSS, ALG) and representatives of international institutions (UNDP, IUCN, EU) needs to be reinforced. At the subregional level, regional CHM associations should be constituted and regional CHM portals established to permit inter-country collaboration. Exchange of experiences with other countries in the south would also be beneficial. At the international level, the partnership developed with Belgium

within the CHM framework is very strategic and useful. Burkina Faso also welcomes lobbying by institutions such as the UNDP, EU, IUCN, to further increase partnership opportunities. It is only through partnerships at the national, regional and international levels that obstacles can be ironed out.

*Poster on the NBSAP and linkage to 2010 Biodiversity Target*

35. Mr. Suhel al-Janabi (GEO Media GbR) made a presentation on the online poster generation tool developed by *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)* to enable users to easily create posters from their own computer. These posters offer a further opportunity for Parties to share national experiences in implementing the Convention through NBSAPs. Posters presented at the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (Paris, July 2007) and at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Bonn, May 2008) can be viewed at <https://www.cbd.int/wgri2/poster-session.shtml>. Two posters were prepared for the workshop (one by Liberia on the outcomes of NBSAP implementation and another by Benin on the successful implementation of the Pendjari National Park project).

**ITEM 7. THE WAY FORWARD: NEXT STEPS IN IMPLEMENTING AND UPDATING NBSAPS AND IN MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY**

36. Mr. Cooper introduced the item, highlighting that the next two years – 2009 and 2010 – will be particularly significant for the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2010, the Conference of the Parties is expected to review progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and agree on an updated and revised Strategic Plan, including an updated post-2010 Biodiversity Target. The Conference of the Parties has indicated that all Parties should have NBSAPs in place by the end of 2010, updated if necessary. The year 2010 is also the International Year of Biodiversity, providing opportunities to promote public awareness about biodiversity and the Convention. As noted above, the deadline for preparation of the fourth national reports is 30 March 2009. The next two years will also be critical for further refining the Resource Mobilization Strategy adopted by COP-9 as well as for furthering negotiations for the adoption of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing at COP-10 in 2010.

**ITEM 8. CONSIDERATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP**

37. Under this item, participants considered the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop contained in Annex I for incorporation into its final report.

**ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP**

38. At the closing session, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Cooper thanked H.E. Minister Sawadogo and the Government of Burkina Faso for hosting the workshop and for the generous hospitality shown to all participants throughout the week. He congratulated participants for their active participation during the workshop and added that he hoped that participants were returning home to their ministries encouraged by the week's discussions and information exchanges with colleagues in the region, and that the conclusions reached can serve as meaningful guidance for integrating biodiversity in their poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies.

39. H.E. Minister Sawadogo also congratulated participants for their hard work and formulation of a sound set of conclusions and recommendations for further work. Participants thanked the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the workshop and stated that it was a very useful week to discuss regional topics, to share experiences as well as to improve their capacities and update and revise their strategies and action plans. The workshop was officially closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 3 October 2008.

*Annex I*

**Conclusions of the workshop <sup>1</sup>**

**GENERAL CONSISTENCIES OBSERVED IN NBSAP IMPLEMENTATION**

- NBSAP implementation has in fact taken place in all countries present, however it should be noted that the level of implementation varies from one country to another.
- An assessment of NBSAP implementation is practically non-existent in the countries.
- The Ecosystem Approach has not been used in many instances in the countries.
- Difficulties related to financing and fund allocation for NBSAP implementation processes are experienced by almost all countries. Nevertheless, some innovative financing mechanisms have been developed in certain countries.
- A communication strategy to support NBSAP implementation is absent in all NBSAPs.
- Integration of NBSAPs in sectoral policies, projects and programmes is insufficient.
- It is difficult to protect biodiversity in post-conflict zones.
- Decentralization processes have not been sufficiently considered in the development of the NBSAP.
- The engagement of other actors (civil society organizations, private sector) in the development and implementation of the NBSAP is weak.
- There is an absence of consultation with other conventions, especially the Rio Conventions, during the development of the NBSAP.

**ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY**

**ELEMENTS A PRENDRE EN COMPTE POUR L'INTEGRATION DE LA BIODIVERSITE**

- Ensure that resource persons responsible for responding to environmental questions are integrated in the different working groups developing strategic documents (e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, National Strategy for Sustainable Development).
- Create a committee to monitor and evaluate aspects related to biodiversity mainstreaming in sectoral documents.
- Evaluate and revise various strategic documents while determining whether biodiversity is integrated in them.
- Establish a system which allows the Ministry of Environment to participate in NBSAP development.

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<sup>1</sup> Annex I (Conclusions and Recommendations) available in French at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/west-africa.shtml>

- Make environmental impact assessment (EIA) mandatory for all projects and programmes so that the biodiversity dimension is taken into consideration.
- Establish a mechanism for environmental accounting to assess the economic and financial values of biodiversity.
- Take biodiversity into consideration in regard to decentralization processes.
- Establish a framework for consultation at the national and international levels.

### **APPROACHES AND TOOLS TO USE**

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) using a systemic approach
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) = proactive analysis
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Economic valuation of ecosystem services, environmental accounting
- Multi-sectoral framework for the development and follow-up of projects/programmes to assess biodiversity integration
- Adaptive management for ecosystems
- Conflict resolution
- Consideration of legal aspects

### **ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER IN INTEGRATION PROCESSES**

#### **Participation of Parties**

Promote governance that guarantees the participation of local communities in biodiversity management.

Public engagement and participation

Identification of actors and their roles

Gender consideration

#### **Communication, education and public awareness**

Develop and implement communication plans

Educate, raise awareness and build capacity for all Parties on matters related to biodiversity (appropriate projects, sectoral programmes, etc.)

### **Cooperation at regional level**

Create consultation frameworks at regional and inter-country levels to consider shared transboundary management.

Establish a regional network for sharing information.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Update the NBSAPs with a view to:

- a) taking into consideration new directions, especially those related to the MDGs and the 2010 Biodiversity Target
- b) integrating a strategy for financing and for monitoring and evaluation
- c) considering the Ecosystem Approach

Develop a communication strategy to support NBSAP implementation.

Use a multi-stakeholder approach to integrate ensemble of parties in updating the NBSAP.

Consider events taking place in the country concerning the institutional environment (decentralization processes).

Develop an adapted system and an appropriate approach for NBSAP implementation for post-conflict zones.

Invite ECOWAS (CEDEAO) to support biodiversity integration in national and regional policies through :

Establishing a study on biodiversity integration in National Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

Developing a methodological guide on biodiversity integration in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, National Strategies for Sustainable Development and sectoral policies.

Facilitating biodiversity integration in the Regional Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for West Africa.

Developing a regional capacity-development programme on matters related to biodiversity.

*Annex II***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK****MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER**

0830 – 1000	ITEM 1	<b>Opening of the workshop</b> Opening Statements (Government of Burkina Faso, SCBD, ECOWAS, UEMOA)
	ITEM 2	<b>Overview of the objectives and programme for the workshop</b> Introduction (SCBD) Plenary Discussion
1000 – 1030		<i>Coffee Break</i>
1030 – 1230	ITEM 3	<b>Status of development &amp; implementation of NBSAPs in the region</b> National perspectives: Country presentations, 4 countries plus discussion (1-4)
1230 – 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 – 1530	ITEM 3	National perspectives: Country presentations: 4 countries plus discussion (5-8)
1530 – 1600		<i>Tea break</i>
1600 – 1730	ITEM 3	National perspectives: Country presentations: 4 countries plus discussion (9-12)
1730 – 1900		Further discussion , identification of emerging points Presentations from small groups
1900 –		Reception, courtesy of the Government of Burkina Faso

**TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER <sup>2</sup>**

0830 – 1000	ITEM 3	National perspectives: Country presentations: 4 countries plus discussion (13-16)
1000 - 1030		<i>Coffee break</i>
1030 - 1230	ITEM 3	National perspectives: Country presentations: 2 countries plus discussion (17-18)
1230 - 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 - 1530	ITEM 5	<b>Mainstreaming: integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies</b> Lessons learned from the country presentations and the field study visit Introductory presentation and group exercise
1530 - 1600		<i>Tea break</i>
1600 - 1900	ITEM 5	“Biodiversity and Livelihoods”: presentation of case studies and discussion Ecosystem Services: Introductory presentation and group exercise

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<sup>2</sup> Due to Eid El Fitr, the workshop began at 1100.

**WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER**

0830 - 1000	ITEM 5	Presentations from small groups on mainstreaming exercise
1000 - 1030		<i>Coffee break</i>
1030 – 1230	ITEM 5	Presentation and discussion on regional processes
1230 – 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 – 1530	ITEM 6	<b>Communication and Reporting: CEPA and strategic communication for NBSAPs</b> Introductory presentation and group exercise
1530 – 1600		<i>Tea break</i>
1600 – 1800	ITEM 3	NBSAP Posters

**THURSDAY, 2 OCTOBER**

0900	ITEM 5	Departure for field trip
Rest of day	ITEM 5	Field Trip

**FRIDAY, 3 OCTOBER**

0830 - 1000	ITEM 6	Fourth National Reports and the Clearing-House Mechanism Presentations from SCBD and some countries
1000 - 1030		<i>Coffee break</i>
1030 – 1230	ITEM 4	<b>Updating NBSAPs</b>
1230 – 1400		<i>Lunch break</i>
1400 – 1600	ITEM 7	<b>The Way Forward to 2010: next steps in implementing and updating NBSAPs and mainstreaming biodiversity</b> Presentation and Panel Discussion
1600 - 1630		<i>Tea break</i>
1630 - 1700	ITEM 8 ITEM 9	<b>Consideration of the Conclusions of the Workshop</b> <b>Closing of the Workshop</b>
		Departures



*Annex III***LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

<b>Document Number</b>	<b>Document Title</b>
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-WAFR1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-WAFR1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-WAFR1/2	Status and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans
UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-WAFR1/3	Updating NBSAPs, mainstreaming biodiversity, communication and reporting
<b>Information and background documents (Previously available)</b>	
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2	Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan focussing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources -- an overview
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1	Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1	Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/2	Regional preparatory meetings on implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and mainstreaming biodiversity
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: A Meta-Analysis of Earlier Review
UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10	Review of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Implementation of the Convention: A Bibliography
UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1	Implementation of the Convention and Its Strategic Plan
Booklet (English Only)	Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Workshops on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
Decision VIII/8	Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan
Decision VIII/9	Implications of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
Decision IX/8	Review of Implementation of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan

**CBD Training modules (English Only):**

A-1. Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity

A-2. Role of the CBD National Focal Point

A-3. An Introduction to National Reporting

B-1. An Introduction to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

B-2. How to prepare and update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

B-3. Mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes

B-4. Setting national biodiversity targets, making use of the CBD framework for the 2010 biodiversity target

B-5. Ensuring stakeholder engagement in the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs

B-6. Getting political support for the NBSAP and financing its implementation

B-7. Communication Strategy for NBSAPs

**Other Resources:**

Guidelines for the fourth national reports

Draft reference manual for preparing the fourth national reports

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