



GEF Mano Infos

GEF Mano Project Bi-Monthly Newsletter / Le Bimensuel d'Information du Projet FEM Mano

Ziama Biosphere Reserve The development and management plan approved

Biosphere of Ziama
Credit photo / NEA Guinea

GUINEA - LIBERIA

**Signature of a Framework Agreement for Management
Of the Transboundary Landscape of Ziama Wonegizi Wologizi**

GUINEA - SIERRA LEONE - LIBERIA

Establishment of a MOA / MAKONA Transboundary Basin Committee

October - December 2019 - n° 04

GUINEA / CONTRIBUTION OF THE GEF MANO PROJECT TO THE ELABORATION AND VALIDATION OF ZIAMA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Centre Forestier of N'Zérékoré is supported by 3 partner projects (GEF Mano project, WABiCC/USAID program and UNOPS /European Union) for the development of Ziama management plan. To develop the plan, GEF Mano project, supported the CFZ by contributing to the consultation process through financial and technical supports. It facilitated the holding of the community consultation workshop which brought together the representatives of all the neighboring villages, the Prefectural, Sub-prefectural and community authorities, the decentralized technical services of the area as well as the organization of the national validation workshop. This contribution is in line with one of the results of the GEF Mano project, which is the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources in Upper Guinea's forest ecosystems, while involving local communities.

Community conservation, the restoration and regeneration of landscapes, an approach advocated by the GEF Mano project and included in the management plan de facto translates that the current status of this transboundary forest landscape requires governance shared with the communities. In addition, within the framework of the implementation of this plan, it will be a question of privileging the trilogy meaning: "to do with, by and for the communities". This would facilitate the certification of products (examples: coffee, palm, etc.) with the training of farmers aiming to improve their management practices to respond to the certification programs developed within the framework of the GEF Mano project, for mention only this point. Since the validation of the management plan and the signing of the Bilateral Management Agreement by the governments of Liberia and Guinea in October 2019, CFZ is seeking funds to implement the plan. Indeed, CFZ submitted to GEF Mano project a request to fund the Business Plan of the management plan, which will contribute to the mobilization of the financial resources.



High table - Photo/ NPCU Guinea



Speech of the Regional Coordinator GEF Project - Photo / NPCU Guinea

GUINEA / BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ZIAMA - WONEGIZI – WOLOGIZI

The Government of Guinea and the Government of Liberia have signed a historic agreement to protect one of the most unique and precious ecosystems in West Africa: the Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi Transboundary Forest (ZWW), which straddles the border between the two countries. This important signing ceremony for a bilateral agreement and an operational Memorandum of Understanding took place on October 24, 2019 in Conakry, between representatives of the two countries.

The purpose of this agreement is to formalize this partnership, which should provide a platform for cross-border collaboration and coordination; establish transboundary wildlife corridors and foster dialogue for the creation of a peace park in the future. The Centre Forestier of N'Zérékoré and the Forest Development Authority (FDA) were supported by 3 partners project (GEF Mano project, Program WABiCC/USAID and UNOPS program) to prepare the bilateral agreement with purpose to promote the management of transboundary forest landscape of Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi «ZWW» between Guinea and Liberia which is one of the priority landscapes of the Mano River Union. Since February 05-06th, 2019, at Voinjama, in Liberia the draft of this bilateral agreement was validated between the two managers, the FDA and the CFZ.

SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSBOUNDARY COMMITTEE IN THE (I) MOA-MAKONA, (II) CAVALLY, (III) GREAT SCARCIES-KOLANTÉ BASINS RESPECTIVELY

The Secretary General of the Mano River Union (MRU) has set up the transboundary committee of the Moa/Makona River Basin



The establishment of a governance body in the Moa/Makona transboundary basin for the preparation of the preliminary Strategic Actions Plan and the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis was the subject of a regional workshop on Friday 15 November 2019 in Kenema, Sierra Leone. The workshop, led by the Secretary General of the MRU, Amb. Medina A. Wesseh, brought together delegations from the national platforms of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The formalization of this committee resulted in the election of the members of the executive committee of the cross-border committee, the adoption and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, an internal settlement of the committee between the platforms of the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Sierra Leone. The transboundary committee of the Moa/Makona River Basin is a privileged tool that will serve as a framework for the three countries for the exchange of technical information, dialogue through users (civil society) within the framework of the management of international water resources.

Regarding the establishment of governance bodies in transboundary basins, the Mano River Union and member states successively installed the transboundary committee of the Mano River in 2016, that of the Kolente/ Great Scarcies and Kabba/Littles Scarcies basins in September 2019. The last to set up will be the cross-border committee of the Cavally River Basin.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL PLATFORM OF MOA-MAKONA RIVER BASIN

THE SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL EXECUTING AGENCY SETS UP THE SECOND NATIONAL PLATFORM

A national workshop for the establishment of the National Platform of Moa/Makona River Basin was held on November 14 in Kenema. The workshop brought together representatives from all districts, chiefdoms and communities in the basin. The overall objective is to set up a national platform for the Moa/Makona river basin and to adopt a legal framework for effective participation in the process of drawing up and validating the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and the Strategic Action Plan.



Group photo - Photo/ NPCU Sierra Leone

FOLLOW-UP OF THE GEF MANO PROJECT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COTE D'IVOIRE

On Friday, December 6, 2019, continued the presentation and follow-up session of projects carried out by the Ministry of Water and Forests organized by the Project Monitoring Committee. During this meeting, which took place in the Minister's Office, the GEF Mano project was presented by the National Coordinator. The session was chaired by Colonel Coulibaly Brahim, Inspector, representing the Minister of Water and Forestry.

Following the National Coordinator's presentation, the committee expressed its encouragement to the Mano River Union and Cote d'Ivoire team for their efforts. However, the Committee deplored the delay in the implementation of the project due to the failure to provide the necessary funding for the second disbursement. The committee instructed the National Coordinator to focus on the National Focal Point of the GEF in Cote d'Ivoire, in order to seek solutions to avoid the continuation of the delays in the implementation of the project. This meeting provided an informed opinion brought to the attention of the Minister of Water and Forestry.



Photo/ NPCU Cote d'Ivoire

WORKSHOP FOR PREVALIDATION OF NATIONAL POLITICAL DOCUMENT OF COTE IVOIRE ON WATER RESOURCES

Côte d'Ivoire organized a pre-validation workshop of its National Water Policy document on October 09 and 10, 2019 at Manhattan Suites Hotel, Abidjan.

The National Water Policy (NWP) is a policy document which, according to the organizers of the meeting, aims to:

- Address problems with the quality and quantity of the water resource in order to preserve and restore it;
- Provide solutions to the still sectoral and fragmented water management and promote better governance of the resource;
- Respond to a willingness of citizens to get involved in water management, to reconcile uses and to reconcile users.

In Côte d'Ivoire, a draft of the NWP document was validated in May 2010 by all stakeholders, but was not approved by the Government. In the face of increasing demand for water resources from different users and the scarcity of water due to climate change and polluting anthropogenic activities, it has become imperative to redefine a policy that takes into account the new demands associated with sustained economic growth.

It is in this context that the Ministry of Water and Forestry initiated the updating of the National Water Policy document through a workshop, with a view to taking into account the observations of the various sector experts for the updating of the document.

The work, which took place through two committees and in plenary, dealt with questions on:

- sectoral water policy objectives and strategies;
 - amending and validating different sectoral strategies;
 - the definition of the broad guidelines of the National Water Policy following the integrated approach and on the establishment of a water financing framework;
 - the preparation of a national workshop to validate the document of the National Water Policy of Côte d'Ivoire
- 20 participants representing the Ivorian institutional sectors related to the water resource were invited to the meeting. The National Coordinator of the GEF Mano Project also took an active part in this meeting.

MULTISECTORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

SIERRA LEONE / MULTI SECTORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING



Working Group - Photo/ NPCU Sierra Leone

The MultiSectorial Committee (MTC) held a meeting in Kambia on 13th December 2019. 17 participants (4 female and 13 male participants) from various ministries, departments and agencies related to water and forest resources management in Sierra Leone participate to this meeting.

The objective of this meeting was to review the activities carried out and those in progress and provide guidelines for more efficiency in achieving the project results at the national level. The members of this committee discussed the activities of component 1, in particular those related to the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) in Forest Landscapes and the activities of component 2. From a general point of view, these activities are slow, which the committee denounced and urged the National Executing Agency to be more committed.

The MTC provided technical oversight responsibility to guide the project coordination and follow up on deliverables and timeline set to achieve the goals and objectives of the project. The MTC is also set up to compliment the effort of the project by defining approaches and principles, which will guide the monitoring and evaluation and ensure quality assurance.