



**MRU/GEF PROJECT “ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND
INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OF
THE MANO RIVER UNION**

**REPORT OF THE SECOND (2ND) SESSION OF THE
REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE, 06 APRIL 2018,
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

Drafted by the MRU Secretariat April 2018

Introduction

The Second Session of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the MRU/GEF Project "Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management of the Mano River Union", held on 06 April 2018 at the Hotel Corina, Monrovia , Republic of Liberia.

This Inaugural Session recorded the effective attendance of the Statutory Members of the Regional Steering Committee including:

- the MRU Secretariat;
- the representatives of the four member countries of the MRU;
- the Representatives of the main projects at the cross-border site level (WABiCC, German Cooperation GIZ) with the exception of Rainforest Alliance;
- the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as observer.

The attendance list is attached as Annex 1.

The workshop was focused on the following points:

- Election of officers for the Session;
- Presentation Session followed by the debates;
- Recommendations

I. Election of Officers for the Session

In accordance with the practical arrangements agreed upon for the functioning of the Regional Steering Committee of the Project, the Officers for the Session are as follows:

- **Chairperson:** the Deputy Director General of FDA, Liberia,
- **Vice Chairperson:** Mr. Abu Bakarr Tarawalie, Deputy Secretary General of the MRU;
- **Secretariat:** The Mano River Union (MRU) Secretariat, Regional Project Management Agency, supported by Côte d'Ivoire.

II. Presentation Session

II. 1. Items on the agenda

The Session began with the presentation of the Agenda by the Chairperson of the Session, which was adopted as follows:

- Adoption of the agenda ;
- Presentation of the progress report of the project since the first Session of the Regional Steering Committee;
- Presentation of the Work Plan and Budget of the Regional Implementation Agency as well as those of the National Implementation Agencies for 2018;
- Presentation of the Terms of Reference of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC).

II. 2. Summary of the debates

Discussions were focused on two items including the presentation of the documents to be submitted for approval and the deliberation of the RSC.

2.1. Presentation of documents for approval

Documents prepared by the project implementing entities (MRU Secretariat and Member States) were presented to the RSC for review, amendment and approval. They include:

- ❖ Progress report (technical and financial) of the Project from 07 July 2017 to 05 April 2018;
- ❖ Annual Work Plan and Budget of the Project for 2018 of the Regional Project Implementation Unit (SG / MRU);
- ❖ Annual Work Plans and Budget for the year 2018 of the National Coordination Units (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire);
- ❖ TORs of the RSC.

These presentations were followed by questions and comments and suggestions by the Steering Committee Members. These include particularly:

- ❖ From the date of signature of the contracts between IUCN and MRU in October 2017, on the one hand and between the Mano River Union and the National Agencies in December 2017, on the other hand;

- ❖ Recruitment of the Communication Expert before 05 May 2018 and launch of the M & E Expert's call for applications before 30 April 2018;
- ❖ Transfer of the salaries of the regional M & E and Communication Experts at the regional level;
- ❖ Recruitment and contracting of international Consultants;
- ❖ Procurement of goods and services and the financial execution of the project, including among others vehicles, equipment for setting up the database;
- ❖ Reimbursement of expenses incurred before the signature of the national agencies contract;
- ❖ Rainforest Alliance's participation in project implementation activities;
- ❖ Quality of members and the functioning of the RSC.

Concerns raised and clarifications sought received the presenter's responses supported by IUCN Experts.

2.2. Proceedings of the Regional Steering Committee

Following the presentations and debates, the Regional Steering Committee of the MRU / GEF Project unanimously approved and adopted the documents submitted to it during this first Session, subject to taking into account the observations and amendments made by the Members of the Committee.

II. 3. Recommendations

At the end of the debates, the recommendations were sent to IUCN, the Regional Implementation Agency and the National Implementing Agencies.

❖ Recommendation N ° 1 on the payment of salaries of regional M & E and Communication Experts

After examining the budget allocations of the project, the National Implementing Agencies noted that the salaries of the Monitoring and Evaluation and Communication Experts are credited to the national budgets and requested a review by the RSC which took note and recommended that IUCN take necessary measures to ensure that the allocations concerned are retransferred to the Regional Project Implementation Agency.

❖ **Recommendation N° 2 on the recruitment and contracting of international Consultants**

After examining the 2018 annual work plan, it was noted that budget lines for the regional studies are at the national level. The RSC took note, and recommended that to IUCN that these budget lines be identified and transferred to the regional level.

Recommendation N ° 3 on the procurement of goods and services and the financial execution of the project

Having noted the slowness in the procurement of the work equipment at the ANEx level, the RSC recommended that the National Implementation Agencies take appropriate measures for acquiring these materials according to the procedures of the Mano River Union before the end of June 2018.

• **Procurement of vehicles**

Having noted the insufficient amount allocated for the procurement of vehicles, the RSC recommended to the ANEX concerned to make use of additional resources from other activities while being within the same product.

• **Procurement of equipment for the database**

The establishment of the regional database requires the use of a server at the regional level. Having noted the inadequate budget allocated to this activity, the RSC recommended that the Regional Implementation Agency take additional resources from the budget lines of the activities involved in feeding the database into the database within the same product or result. The Regional Implementing Agency shall provide a detailed procurement plan by 22 April to enable follow-up.

Recommendation N ° 4 on Expenditure incurred prior to the signature of the National Agency Contract

Following the adoption of the 2017 work plan and budget at the first Session of the RSC in July 2017, in Freetown, the national implementing agencies pre-financed their own funds for activities in 2017, while the

contracts were signed at the end of 2017 and the first project funds were received in January and February 2018. The RSC recommended that IUCN examines possible ways of reimbursing the said expenses incurred before the signature of the contracts, particularly those relating to the establishment of the Multi-sectoral Technical Committees on presentation of the supporting documents of the expenses and the retroactive payment of the premiums of the National Coordination Units of the Project.

Recommendation N ° 5 on the participation of Rainforest Alliance

Having noted the absence of the Rainforest Alliance during the national project launching workshops and having no knowledge of its representation in the four countries, considering that it is a partner identified during the gestation of the project to carry out certain activities, the RSC recommended that IUCN contacts Rainforest Alliance within two weeks from 09 April 2018 and asks to establish working relations with the MRU on the availability or not to conduct the activities dedicated to it. In the case of unsuccessful contact, a partner of equal competence will be solicited on the basis of competition.

Conclusion

Following discussions leading to the approval and adoption of the submitted documents, the Chairperson of the Session expressed his warmest felicitations to the members of the RSC for the frankness and enriching nature that marked the Session. He thanked IUCN for its support to the Mano River Union to effectively address the challenges of degradation and destruction of the natural resources in the Sub-region.

On these notes the Session Chairperson declared the work of the Second Session of the Regional Steering Committee of the Project closed

AGENDA

Day One			
Time	Subject	Objective	People in charge
Session [1] INTRODUCTION			
8:00 – 9:00	Registration of the participants	List of participants on paper	Participants
9:15 – 9:30	Welcome Statement	Welcome Statement by the host country.	FDA Liberia
9:30 – 9:45	Introduction of the participants Presentation of the day program	Validation of the Agenda	Moderator
	Gouvernance Structure	Election of Officers	Moderator
Session [2] – CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE PROGRESS REPORT			
9:45 – 10:05	Presentation of the progress report	Consideration and approval	SECRETARIAT OF THE MRU
10:05- 10 :30	Discussions		Chair of the Session
10 :30- 11: 00	Coffee Break and Group Picture		
Session [3] – CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE 2018 WORK PLANS AND BUDGET			
11: 00 - 11 :20	1.1. Presentation of the 2018 Work Plan and Budget by SG, MRU Presentation of the 2018Work Plan and Budget of ANEx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Validation of the Work Plan and Budget of the MRU Secretariat ❖ Validation of Work Plan and Budget of ANEx 	MRU Secretariat
11:20 – 12:20	1.3 Presentation of the TORs of the RSC	Consideration and Validation	MRU Secretariat
12:20- 13: 30	Discussions within the RSC	Formulation of the draft recommendations	Chair of the Session
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch		
Session [4] – ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS			

16:30 – 17:30	Reading of the report and recommendations	Adoption of the report and recommendations	Chair of the Session
CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE SESSION			

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Monrovia, Libéria, le 06 avril 2018

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PRESENTATION OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT

ACTIVITIES INTRODUCTION July 2017 to date, the main results are focused on the implementation of the recommendations of the first meeting of the regional steering committee held on July 7, 2017 in Freetown, such as the establishment and operationalization of implementing agencies, the establishment of multi-sectoral committees, the commitment of implementing partners; support to States to take ownership of project documents.

1. PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN RELATION TO IMMEDIATE RESULTS

The progress made during the period contributed to the results of the three components of the project which are as follows:

1.1. Established and Operational Project Management Team: Result 3.1.1

The four national agencies (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) and the Regional Implementing Agency will have been formally formalized. The national and regional management units of the project are officially created and equipped. The Regional Steering Committee has been established, each implementation has opened an account for the project. The IUCN-PACO Implementation Agency and the UFM Secretary-General have signed an implementation agreement on October 2017. The UFM Secretariat, the Regional Implementation Agency, signed in December 2017, an implementation agreement with each of the four national agencies.

1.1.1. Purchase of office equipment for project management and co-ordination

The five executing agencies paid for the funds which should improve the working conditions for the effective and efficient implementation of field activities. The purchase of computer equipment is ongoing for the 4 national co-ordination units. The regional unit has already purchased 3 laptops and a printer for the staff and another mobile computer is needed to staff all staff. The purchase of vehicles and motorcycles in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. A procurement plan needs to be developed in order to have a clear vision, a template of the plan can be found in the project implementation document. The procedures of the UFM must be followed.

1.1.2. Staffing of the Regional Project Management Unit

The process of recruiting a Communications Expert is ongoing. The publication of the post in the 4 countries has already been made. Applications have been received and the evaluation process will be finalized on April 30th.

1.2. Budget of the SG Mano and validation SG UFM

11: 20 - 12:20

1.3 Presentation of the ToR of the Regional

Steering Committee SG MRU12: 20 -13: 30 Discussions within the CRP Formulation of Draft Recommendations Chairman of the meeting13: 30 - 15:00 LunchSession [4] - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT and RECOMMENDATIONS16: 30 - 17:30 Reading of the report and recommendationsThe post of ExpertSuivi & Evaluation will be published in April 2018 and the end of recruitment by May 31st, however, the Sierra Leone National Agency of Protected Areas Agency's Evaluation Officer has been part-time staffed until June 2018.1.1.1. Preparation of the terms of reference With the support of the regional implementing agency, the 4 national implementing agenciesproduced the terms of reference for the national launching workshop as well as those of the CTM. Sierra Leone's National Execution Agency has developed terms of reference for the establishment of the local advisory committee for the national portion of Forest Gola. With IUCN, the Terms of Reference for MEOR have been developed and will need to be finalized.1.1.2. The transfer of the first tranche The four (04) National Agencies of execution will have requested the transfer of the first tranche. The NSAs of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, for example, deferred the transfer of the first installment in the amount of three hundred and sixty-two thousand three hundred and twenty-nine United States dollars (US \$ 362,329.00) in January 2018. Côte d'Ivoire's ANEx received the first installment of fifty-nine million US dollars (US \$ 59,210.00) in February 2018. The four national agencies performed a total of US \$ 1,146,197.00. The MRU Secretariat received US \$ 183,926.00. The funds earmarked need to improve working conditions for effective and efficient implementation of activities in the field.

1.2. National Multisectoral Technical Committees, Created and OperationalResult

2.1.11.2.1. National launch of the project and official creation of the CTM in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia The national implementing agencies of Sierra Leone, Guinea of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia have officially launched the project for Kenema (the 15 and 16 February 2018), in Conakry (14-15 March 2018), Abidjan (20 March 2018) and Monrovia (02-03 April 2018). In these countries, all ministries, local authorities, NGOs the technical and financial partners are involved in the management of forests and water resources. More

than one hundred and sixty (160) people, including 25 women, took part in the meetings. Participants were informed of the project's objectives, expected results and institutional framework. The implementation commitment plan of the project partners has been reviewed. The multisectoral technical committees of the 4 countries have been officially established, their regulations and mandate approved. The MTC is responsible for the first activity by reviewing and envisioning the Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2018 presented by the ANEx. The AWPB provides the basis for the project monitoring and evaluation system. The overall goal of the launching workshop is to inform national stakeholders about the project and the expected results, the implementation plan of the project. project and to review and engage the national partners identified in the country during project development, and formally establish MTC, present and validate the 2018 Annual Work Plan and Budget. The end of the national workshops was as follows: With regard to the list of MTCs, it was agreed to add the missing national technical structures and the Civil Society and also to take into account the representativeness of women and traditional chiefs in the field. decision-making body • In Guinea, the workshop recommended that the Ministry of the Environment add to the MTC list the Ministry of Gender, MAWOPNET and Ea National Partnership. Guinea • In Côte d'Ivoire, the Ministries in charge of Energy, Mines and Gender • In Sierra Leone, we must add the representatives of women and customary chiefs • In Liberia, we must add the Ministry of Gender, the University of Liberia, the list of partners as observer of the CTM: World Resource Institute, CSC-L, GIZ /, KfW / AHT and FFI, Côte d'Ivoire Ivory and Guinea had already made a decree creating the CTM signed by the ministers. Sierra Leone and Liberia are also expected to establish two MTCs by ministerial decree.

1.2.2. Identification of implementing partners and their commitments During the national launch, all partners identified in the project document and new implementing partners from the project working in the project landscape were invited. confirmed their commitment: • In Guinea BRIDGE and WOKO ADECAM project • In Sierra Leone, RSPB-SL Gola Forest Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) and the BRIDGE Project • In Côte d'Ivoire, WABiCC through the Chimpanze Foundation, GIZ and KfW / AHT • In Liberia, WABiCC through the Chimpanze

Foundation, GIZ, RICCE FAGACE, FFI, the BRIDGE Project. New partners have been identified

- Guinea Ecology and AGUIBES in Guinea. Some partners

The potentials were identified during the national workshop in relation to the implementation of the activities and all would like to evolve into a consortium to achieve the objectives assigned to the project. (See Annex VII of the workshop report.) So it is not only the two partners.

Parties prenantes	Pays	Rôle/Responsabilité	Partenaires locaux	Commentaires
Rainforest Alliance	GN	Activités d'appui 1.2 :	Association de Défense du Café Ziama-Macenta (ADECAM) African Conservation and Development Fondation (ACDEF), ACAD, Guinée Ecologie	Bien que Rainforest Alliance ne soit pas représenté en Guinée, elle pourra travailler en collaboration avec ces organisations nationales qui ont un niveau de compétence permettant d'atteindre le résultat escompté. Ces organisations peuvent se structurer en consortium et être des partenaires Rainforest Alliance. Au cas où Rainforest Alliance n'aurait pas l'intention d'ouvrir un bureau en Guinée, le chef de fil de ce consortium pourrait servir point focal sous le contrôle de l'ANE du projet. Une lettre sera adressée à Rainforest Alliance pour connaître sa position par rapport à sa disponibilité et son intérêt pour le projet. En cas de réponse négative de Rainforest Alliance, l'ANE doit prendre les dispositions nécessaires ;
		1.3 ; 1.4	ACDEF, ADECAM, ACAD	
		1.6 :	Terre Plante et Vie (TEPEV), ADECAM, Guinée Ecologie.	
		1.7 ; 1.8 :	Guinée Ecologie, ACDEF, ADECAM	
Guinée Ecologie, ACDEF, ACAD, ASADEC, ADECAM	GN	Activités d'appui 1.13 sur les sites GN,		Fauna and Flora International, (FFI) a affirmé son indisponibilité à participer au projet.

Environnemental management Centre des Monts Nimba (CEGENS) ; Centre Forestier de Zérékoré (CFZ), ADECAM	GN	1.7 ; 1.10 ; 1.9		
CFZ	GN	1.5 1. CFZ, sur sites GN		
Comité Technique Multisectoriel (CTMS)	GN	Activités d'ap pui 2.1 : 2.2, 2.3		
Guinée Ecologie, AGUIBES, Agence de Coopération pour la Recherche et le Développeme nt/Guinée, Acteurs Unis pour le Développeme nt Intégré (AUDI), REFMAP, ACAD, ADECAM, ASADEC	GN	2.10 :		
Partenariat National de l'Eau (PNEGui), AGUIBES, ASADEC	GN	2.11,		
DNH, AGUIBES, ASADEC	GN	2.12,		

DNH, AGUIBES, ASADEC	GN	2.15 pour les portions des organisations Bassins		
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• GolaRainforest Conservation Ltd by Guarantee (GRCLG) and Greenlife West Africa, Sierra Leone • Greenlife West Africa, Liberia. When Meetings in Sierra Leone and Guinea, WABiCC and FFI were absent. But WABiCC was represented in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, FFI was represented in Liberia. However, the coordinator of WABiCC, Mr. TIEGA Ananda met during his mission on March 14, in Freetown, Ms. Sadya Karim, National Coordinator of Sierra Leone, As partners who gave up the project, Fauna and Flora International in Guinea confirmed its withdrawal from the project. It was recommended to all ANEx to map all partners implementing a project in the same forest landscape and river basins to enhance synergy and complementarity as a whole. co-financing partners. Implementing partners were positioned on activities and there were activities that had more than one partner. It was agreed that activities that have more than one partner, the ANEx will request a proposal (RFP) that will be evaluated on the best option. In Sierra Leone it was agreed that a week would be given to them but in the event of an activity, ANEX would request proposals from other duly qualified companies, national and international NGOs operating inside and outside the landscape.1.2.3. Status of the Rainforest Alliance During the maturation of the GEF project, the main implementing partner identified was Rainforest Alliance. Regarding the main project implementation partner, Rainforest Alliance, it has been noticed since the launch in Sierra Leone, its absence and also its non-representation in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. In Guinea, it was recommended to the National Executing Agency to send an email to Rainforest Alliance requesting its commitment in the project. Pending the response of the Rainforest Alliance, potential local and national implementing partners have been identified to carry out the activities. It was noted that the implementation of activities requires a multidisciplinary team and it would be difficult for a single partner to implement the activity in question. The system of a partnership consortium with a leader was

recommended. In the event that Rainforest decides to participate, it must work with the consortium. In Sierra Leone, a possible inclusion of Rainforest Alliance has been considered and this has been suggested. Most members of the MTC agreed on the idea because they were already in partnership with RSPB / GRNP. However, consultancies may be granted to them provided that they meet the criteria for selection. we. However, it was unanimously agreed that Rainforest Alliance be included for the possible need of their technical expertise. GolaRainforest Conservation Ltd by Guarantee (GRCLG) also suggested to be part of the list of implementing partners. Although the Rainforest Alliance does not operate directly in Sierra Leone, CTM, RSPB and CCSL have decided to request the expertise of Rainforest Alliance on activities where needed. In Liberia, the same situation was still noted, Rainforest Alliance is not known. By consensus, at the second session of the Regional Steering Committee, in Monrovia, Liberia, the Rainforest Alliance case will be discussed, and the decision will be made.

1.3. Best practices in activities related to production sectors that threaten the forest ecosystem are identified and disseminated in the main production sectors (Outcome 1.1.1)

The organization of a regional mini-training on the MEOR approach for capacity building of implementing agencies was held on 5 April 2018, in Monrovia, Liberia, which will help identify opportunities and options for restoring different landscapes and collecting all socio-economic information and establishment local and cross-border advisory committees and other platforms for negotiating the integrated management plan.

1.4. PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT TO ACHIEVING RESULTS DOCUMENTED AND SHARED WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS (Result 1.2.1 & 2.3.1)

1.4.1. Production, knowledge, communication and monitoring and evaluation

1.4.1.1. Key Communication Activities

Central Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia National Project Coordination Units produced a National Inception Report. During the Inception Workshop, the GEF project its institutional framework, the progress report from July 2017 to March 2018 were presented by the regional and national coordination units, the landscape initiatives by the implementing partners were presented to national stakeholders in the four countries. The communication through the media TV, radio and newspapers was made. Interviews on radio and television were recorded and press releases produced. All communications have been documented by the ANEx. IUCN-PACO

issued a press release in their bulletin.1.4.1.2. Second Regional Steering Committee The second Regional Steering Committee will be held on April 6, 2018 in Monrovia, Liberia. During the session, the progress report, the annual work plan and the 2018 budget will be examined and approved by the CRP. The statutes and the composition of the regional steering committee will be discussed.1.5.

IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES NEAR PROTECTED AREAS (RESULT 1.1.3) 1.5.1. CREATION OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF GOLA FOREST IN SIERRA LEONE

National Execution Agency, invited in the afternoon of February 16, 2018, representatives of the seven sub-prefectures bordering the Gola forest and informing them of the results of the project and their role as beneficiaries of the project actions. The meeting was facilitated with the existence of local committees of the Gola Rainforest National Park, it was working to strengthen them and establish a single platform for Gola under the project. The meeting considered the composition of the local committee. The meeting noted that there are 7 existing local committees composed of 10 members per committee. After deliberation, it was agreed that each local committee should appoint two members for the Gola Forest Local Advisory Committee: the chairman of each local committee and one representative from each prefecture designated by the customary chief. It was also suggested to the Project implementation unit to work closely with various customary chiefs to map members of the Advisory Committee clearly. 2. Constraints and Difficulties encountered and proposal for solutions The funds are available; Executing agencies should be operational with equipment and logistics. There is slow progress in the preparation of the procurement plan. The main implementing partner, Rainforest Alliance is still missing in the project and this hampers the contracting process of local partners. The development of the terms of reference for the activities has not yet started, the ANEx of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea should recruit a short-term technical assistant to prepare the contracts of the implementing partners. institutional arrangement of the project presents various typologies. Côte d'Ivoire does not have a GEF STAR Fund but benefits from the regional activities of component 1. These regional activities are at the same time a condition created by intervention activities of the 3 benefiting from the STAR funds. On the other hand, the MRU coordinating the regional activities does not have funds allocated, only the 4

executing agencies have received funds. The M & E and communication experts have their budget allocated at the national level, but are part of staff of the Regional Unit. Should a Strategy be found at the national level and this could contribute to the payment of their salary? This is a special case; a proposal to implement the activities could be: a) to seek the possibility of the ANEx to contribute to the contracting and payment of the international / regional consultant through a subcontract according to interventions in the national portions to cover the amount total contract (in case the budget is not allocated to the AER that coordinates the activity concerned) .b) Retrocede ANEX allocations to the AER for the execution and monitoring of the contract of the regional activities.c) A letter from the Regional Director of IUCN should be sent to the ANEx to obtain their agreement for the transfer of the budget lines for Communication and M & E Experts. Check the possibility of this procedure. The Forest Center of Nzérékoré, is located 1200 km from Conakry, where the CTM is established. This distance appears to be a limiting factor in the activities of CTM, of which the NSA is the President. The ANEx of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia opened the project account in a commercial bank; while, Ivory Coast has its account in the public treasury. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has decided to transfer all donors to the Treasury Board. The process of withdrawing money is different from commercial banks. The financial controller asks ANEx to present the budget on the national model and to submit it to him. Since the process goes through many controls, the ANEx should work in advance or open an account in a commercial bank to carry out the activities according to the timetable of the Annual Work Plan.3. Financial Execution as of April 5, 2018 The grant agreement signed between UFM and IUCN is \$ 6,336,364 (USD 6336,364.00); The financial execution of the project as at 5 April 2018 amounts to 142677 USD (142677USD), which represents an implementation rate of 2.25%. See table below

N°	Activités	Dépense totale effective au 5 avril 2018, Montant \$US
1	Atelier de validation des dispositions institutionnelles et procédures de mise en oeuvre	12987
2	Translation of the Project Document and the Budget	5189
3	Mission de consultation de l'UICN au Secrétariat de l'UFM sur le lancement du projet et les procédures de mise en œuvre de préparation du budget, du plan de travail et du manuel d'exécution du projet	2125
4	Réunion de travail sur la méthodologie de planification, de budgétisation et d'élaboration du manuel de mise en œuvre	738
5	Lancement regional et planification du projet, 1er comité regional de pilotage	38074
6	Formation regionale and 2 nd comité regional de pilotage	20750
7	UNCP SIERRA LEONE	26273
8	UNCP GUINEA	15800
9	UNCP COTE D IVOIRE	11117
10	UNCP LIBERIA	9624
	Total	142677

CONCLUSION

The year 2018 is a year of coverage of activities execution for the first 2 years. The implementing entities need to ensure efficient energy between them using the mechanisms provided for in the institutional arrangements and the project implementation procedure. Regional (MRU) and national (country) agencies must finalize mapping of all basin-level partners and landscapes, identify synergies, complementarities to maximize use of available resources. ANExen report with AER and the IUCN to select the main partners in the forest landscapes and to engage in concrete discussions to contract them for the implementation of the project activities. The capacity for implementation is along the duration of the

project to ensure project implementation and coherence of interventions between the regional and national levels. In view of the implementation rate at the end of the first quarter of 2018, the implementation of activities contributing to the production of knowledge, studies and data collection, the establishment of other advisory bodies, the completion of purchase of logistics, must begin urgently.

1 PRESENTATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL WORK AND BUDGET 2017View attached Excel file. TERMS OF REFERENCES OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF PILOTAGEI. IntroductionThe project "Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resource Management of the Mano River Union" covers the four countries of the Mano River Union namely Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone with the objective of strengthening the management of transboundary natural resources for sustainable environmental benefits and improved livelihoods for adjacent forest communities. It supports local communities in the development of alternative means of income generation, which will lead to an increase in forest cover and its associated benefits both locally and globally (ecosystem services, biodiversity, carbon sinks). The results will lead to a net gain in forest area (including recovery of degraded forests), as well as increased consideration and management of transboundary waters in regional policies. The transboundary nature of water resources will also lead to regional collaboration resulting from improved regional cooperation and interactions between communities. This project is in line with the national priorities of the four countries and those of the International Union for Migration. Nature Conservation (IUCN), will produce environmental benefits at the global level, including the reversal of global environmental degradation in the Mano River Union region, capacity building at regional and national levels, the promotion of cooperation through transboundary management of water resources and improved management of water-related sectors. The four-year 2017-2020 project includes three (03) components which are:

- Integrated Management of ecosystems that will be conducted on four (04) transboundary sites consisting of a mosaic of vegetation for Nearly intact forest and corresponding to the last blocks of forests in the Mano River Union area are selected as project intervention sites for this component. They consist of: 1 Diecke National Forest (GN), Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (GN / CI) and Nimba Oriental National Park (LB); site 2: Wonegisi-

Ziama National Forests (LB / GN); Site 3: Gola Rainforest National Park (SL) and Gola National Forest (LB) and Site 4: Sapo National Park (LB), Grebo National Forest (LB) (without Tai NP) • Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters whose actions will be carried out at the level of three (03) transboundary basins of the Union which are those of Moa / Makona, Cavally and Great Scarries / Kolenté

- Project Management. US \$ 6,336,364 financed by the GEF is implemented by IUCN which has signed a contract with the General Secretariat of the Mano River Union which is the Regional Project Execution Agency which, in turn, has signed a contract with each of the National Implementing Agencies designated in the countries. This document defines the mandate of the Regional Steering Committee (CRP), as well as the responsibilities of the members, the composition, the organization, operation and financing of the Committee.

II. Mandate of the CRP and Responsibilities of the members

1. Mandate of the Committee

The FEM Mano River Regional Steering Committee is a steering, monitoring and decision-making body. It provides overall strategic direction for the project, supports the political dialogue with the MRU countries for regional integration, coordinates cross-border interventions, facilitates resource mobilization and evaluates project results and impacts. The CRP is reviewing and approving annual work—specifically responsible for: reviewing and approving technical and financial—plans and budgets reports of projects Project Take note of the recommendations of the audit reports and—activities Follow the progress of the project and—ensure that they are implemented make decisions and orientations in order to alleviate the constraints Align the project with others—of implementation basin-wide or regional initiatives

2. Responsibilities of Committee members

Committee members in relation to the mandate of understand the purpose, objectives and—the PRC are required to: understand and represent the interests—expected results of the project. sincerely—of the project stakeholders. project use every opportunity to communicate—results and overall success. verify that the project makes objective—positively about the project. financial decisions - particularly with regard to procurement and responses to problems and risks and proposals for project-related verify that the project is aligned with national and regional—changes. strategies as well as policies and directions of the Regional

Economic actively participate–Communities (ECOWAS) and participating countries. in meetings by attending. discussing and reviewing the minutes, major achievement documents and a other support the–documents provided by the Regional Steering Committee. open discussion and debate, and encourage other members of the Regional hold the competent authority–Steering Committee to express their ideas. infordecisions, recommendations and guidelines adopted by the Committee for all levels of implementation.

III. Composition of the CRPLe FEM Mano River Regional Steering Committee is composed of statutory members and observer members from the 4 beneficiary countries, the General Secretariat of the Mano River Union (UFM), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The statutory members are not involved in the implementation of the GEF Mano River Project. The statutory members from the countries are designated within the project's Ministry of Supervision (in a Directorate other than the National Agency for Execution) or in any other country. Another Ministry in charge of the areas of intervention of the project. The composition of the CRP is as follows:

N°	Pays/Organisations	Représentation	Fonction	Nombre
Membres statutaires				
1	Côte d'Ivoire	Représentant du Ministère des eaux et Forêts		1
2	Guinée			1
3	Liberia			1
4	Sierra Leone			1
5	Union du Fleuve Mano			1
6	UICN			1
Membres Observateurs				
7	Point Focal National du Projet en Côte d'Ivoire + le coordinateur national du projet			1
8	Point Focal National du Projet en Guinée et le coordonnateur national du projet			1

9	Point Focal National du Projet au Liberia et le coordonnateur national du projet			1
10	Point Focal National du Projet en Sierra Leone et le coordonnateur national du projet			1
11	Point Focal Opérationnel FEM du pays du lieu de tenue de la Session du CRP			1
12	West African Biodiversity and Climate Change programme (WA-BiCC) regional			1
13	Autresprojetspartenaires			
Secretariat du CRP :UnitéRégionale de Gestion du Projet				
Total				13

If for agenda reasons, a member may take part in a meeting of the Regional Steering Committee, he may give a proxy to his representative. In this case, the member must inform IUCN, the Secretariat and the PRC Chair of his / her intention to be represented and provide the name of the representative at least 10 days before the meeting. Representatives holding a power of attorney may take part in the discussions and decisions of the Steering Committee.

IV. Composition and Responsibilities of the CRP Le Office CRP is headed by a Board drawn from members whose composition and responsibilities are as follows

1. Composition One (01) President—of the Bureau of the CRP Le Bureau is composed of: who is the statutory member representing the country hosting the CRP One (01) Secretariat that is provided by the General—Session Secretariat of the MRU.

2. Responsibilities Bureau The President of the CRP Le Chair of—→of the members of the CRP approving the—the Regional Steering Committee is responsible for: checking—agenda for each meeting for the sending of invitation letters the quorum to ensure that the meeting can be held and that the recommendations and decisions are clarify the purpose of each meeting to members and explain the—valid clarify and summarize the—agenda at the beginning of each meeting.

decisions made and recommendations made at each meeting –. encourage wide participation of members in the discussion by ensuring an adequate distribution of the interventions of the members and avoiding that some members monopolize the speech to the detriment of finish each meeting with a summary of the decisions, the–others. recommendations taken and Follow the members' presence to determine if the members constantly absent–selected orientations. wish to terminate their membership and make suggestions for their replacement. In the event of an impediment prior to the holding of the Session, the President shall notify him in writing to the SG UFM and →designate his replacement to chair the work of the Committee. From the SecretariatThe Secretariat of the Committee is responsible for assisting the Chairman in his / her duties in the preparation of the Committee's sessions and for organizing them. Submit to IUCN a proposal for the venue, the draft agenda and the ToRs. of the session to IUCN at least forty-five (45) days before the date of Inform the National Focal Point of the project of the–the Session holding of the session and the preparations for the presidency of the work and for the information forward letters of invitation to–to the appropriate authorities –members at least thirty (30) days before the date of the CRP Session ensure that the agenda and documents of the meeting The work is delivered to the members prior to the meeting and provides an ensure the preservation, archiving and–update to the President at most dissemination of CRP documents. V. Conduct of the sessions of the Committee and Financing1. Keeping, Agenda and Record of Sessions The sessions of the Regional Steering Committee of the GEF Mano River project, as well as the resulting decisions, can only be considered valid if at least 2/3 of the statutory members of the CRP are present. The documentation must be sent to the members 10 days before the meeting of the Regional Steering Committee. She ininclude Minutes of the previous– The agenda of the meeting –the following: Decision documents, if– A progress report for the project.–meeting. Any other–any. document / information to be considered at the meeting. Decisions of the Regional Steering Committee are made by consensus of the statutory members of the Committee. Decisions, recommendations, orientations of the PRC are recorded the week following the meeting in a Minutes (PV) produced by the Secretariat and submitted to IUCN and

the Chair for approval. The minutes are forwarded to the members of the CRP within fifteen (15) days of the session of the Committee. The full report of the Session sent to CRP members and partners within thirty (30) days of the session of the Committee.

2. Financing of the CRPL sessions The organization of the sessions of the Regional Steering Committee is supported by the Budget of the Regional Project Execution Agency. The national coordination units take charge. The national coordinating unit hosting the CRP session is involved in financing the organization of the CRP. The functions of CRP members are free. Any time the expenses of transport and transport (plane ticket economy class) are taken in charge by the budget of the Regional Agency of Execution of the project.

Final Provisions An official letter from the General Secretariat of the Mano River Union will transmit the present terms of reference after their adoption, to the Ministers supervising the project in the countries and to the other members of the CRP, for information and action.