



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Combating Living Resource Depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem through Ecosystem- based Regional Actions

GEFID#: XX, [[GEF Agency Project ID#]]: XXX, Project Status: [Active or Completed]



1. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) developed and disseminated to all stakeholders
2. Strategic Action Programme (SAP) developed, adopted and National Action Plans (NAP) prepared and validated by 15 IGCC member states with costed Investment Projects.
3. Decision by Ministers of 16 IGCC member states to establish the Guinea Current Commission

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project has been designed to address the priority problems identified by the 16 GCLME countries that have led to unsustainable fisheries and use of other marine resources, as well as the degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems by human activities. The long-term development goals of the project are: 1) recover and sustain depleted fisheries; 2) restore degraded habitats; and 3) reduce land and ship-based pollution by establishing a regional management framework for sustainable use of living and non-living resources in the GCLME. The project has five main components with associated objectives identified by the root cause analysis carried out during the project preparation process: i) Finalize SAP and develop sustainable financing mechanism for its implementation; ii) Recovery and sustainability of depleted fisheries and living marine resources including mariculture; iii) Planning for biodiversity conservation, restoration of degraded habitats and developing strategies for reducing coastal erosion; iv) Reduce land and sea-based pollution and improve water quality; and v) Regional coordination and institutional sustainability.

RESULTS: PROCESS

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was completed in 2006 and disseminated to all stakeholders. The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was completed and endorsed by all 16 governments in 2008. The development of National Action Plans (NAPs) was completed in early 2011. In addition the development of National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (NPA-LBAs) was completed and validated in all 16 GCLME countries. At the National level, 16 project coordination structures are in place and fully functional as well as 16 National Inter-Ministerial Committees. With the establishment of the Interim Guinea Current Commission (IGCC) and the Ministerial decision to establish a permanent Guinea Current Commission (GCC) the institutional structure for the sustainable management of the GCLME's living and non living natural resources has been established. A fully functional Regional Coordination Unit supports regional consultation and joint actions and serves as the Executive Secretary to the Interim Guinea Current Commission. A draft treaty for the establishment of the Guinea Current Commission has been prepared and intergovernmental consultations on the best institutional set-up for the establishment of the Guinea Current Commission are ongoing.

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

Under the regional demonstration project on productivity the GCLME's carrying capacity was assessed and under the regional demonstration project on fisheries the status of dominant demersal and pelagic fish stocks was assessed in close collaboration with FAO. The results were used to demonstrate the GCLME countries which impacts management interventions will have on the recovery of their fish stocks. In several training sessions capacity for the development of management plans was built and the development of action plans for the conservation and management of shared stocks was facilitated.

In cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) the identification of invasive species introduced through ballast water and the elaboration of recommendations for the necessary amendments of national laws and regulations with regards to biodiversity and introduced species was facilitated.

The national demonstration project in Togo identified an appropriate solution to reduce water pollution with transboundary significance from an industrial point source. Low cost technologies to treat Phosphate and Cadmium rich effluents (up to 100,000 m³/day) from a phosphate factory in Kpémé were identified, tender documents and BOQs for the implementation were developed and a sludge management concept was elaborated.

Under the national demonstration project for Benin technical assistance was provided for the participatory process to establish and develop management plans for 4 Marine Protected Areas with a total surface of 27,020. Critical lessons learned were disseminated through a participatory workshop.

Ghana's national demonstration project on the establishment of a waste stock exchange management system resulted in the recycling of 80,000 t/annum of waste oil and 12,000 t/annum of plastic. This best practice to involve the private sector was disseminated eco-system wide for replication.

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Demonstration projects in the fields of Nypa palm management/mangrove restoration, Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) and the Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts of coastal erosion defense measures were successfully implemented to demonstrate best environmental practice. The lessons learned were disseminated through participatory workshops to all other GCLME countries to allow for replication and up scaling except for the Nypa Demo which is pending due to security constraints..

*In Cameroon (Kribi-Campo area) a coastal area with a surface of 350.000 ha is sustainably managed using ICAM methodology.
In Nigeria (Cross River Estuary) it was demonstrated how the conjunctive management of Nypa palms and mangroves can allow to reduce the dominance of Nypa palms and the restoration of native mangroves.
In Cote d'Ivoire (Assinie beach) a design on how coastal erosion can be reduced by low cost technology and which environmental and social impacts have to be taken into consideration when planning for coastal erosion defense measures.*

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