IUCN

Mainstreaming the environment in poverty alleviation policies

Influencing policies and practices through dialogue and dissemination of innovative responses

CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA PROGRAMME (PACO)

Sida

Mainstreaming the environment in poverty alleviation policies

Influencing policies and practices through dialogue and dissemination of innovative responses

Capitalization of the implementation of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI) 2009-2012

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Preface

Aimé J. NIANOGO
Regional Director
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We can consider that each programme, each project is an undertaking that aims to solve problems, remove obstacles or foster the accomplishment of the ambitions of a community or a nation. At the end of the programme or project it is important to measure and evaluate progress made, but this is not good enough, because even if the outputs are achieved, each initiative is necessarily multidimensional, including processes, mechanisms or approaches that may more or less function well, successful or unsuccessful interactions or discussions between actors, communication or advocacy actions that have more or less had an impact, events with more or less long-lasting effects, etc. Also, each category of actors, each target group has its own perception of what has been a success or failure in the programme.

The exercise of capitalizing the experience of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative - PREMI - provided IUCN and partners who played a role in PREMI an opportunity to review all the aspects of the programme between 2009 and 2012 in order to analyze outputs, learn lessons and work out avenues for future actions. PREMI actors hope that the reader will find in the experiences shared here, useful elements for his/her own reflection.

This is to first of all thank the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), which ensured the success of our initiative with his financial support, then all of our institutional and technical partners: ECOWAS, WRCC, UEMOA, VBA, NBA, CILSS, AGHRYMET, GWP/WA, WRC/Ghana, DGRE/Burkina Faso, DGEA/Togo, SP/CONEDD, PRAI-MFD, ASCNA-HO, CRUBN, central and decentralized services, local authorities and the many communities that participated in the initiative. They not only planned and carried out field activities but also took part in the post-project analysis that helped in the capitalization. It should also be recalled that the exercise was carried out under the leadership of IED-Africa that availed its experience for the smooth conduct of the exercise and the writing of this document.

Acronyms and abbreviations

AJCS/BF	Association of Science Journalists and Communicators of Burkina Faso
AEDD	Environment and Sustainable Development Agency
AGR	Income Generating Activities
ANBO	African Network of Basin Organizations
ASCNA-HO	Association for the Conservation of Nature-Man Couple for self-reliant development
BO	Basin Organization
CDP	Council Development Plans
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CILSS	Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
COGEL	Consolidation of local environmental governance
CPCS	Permanent Framework for Coordination and Follow-up
CRCRE	Regional Collaborative Council on Water Resources
CPP	Partnership Program for Sustainable Land Management
CRUBN	Regional coordination of users of the Niger Basin
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTE	Technical Committee of Experts
CTGEN	Tranboundary WaterResource Management Committee of the Nakanbé
CVC	Village Consultation Committee
DGAT	General Directorate of Territorial Administration

DGEA	General Directorate of Water and Sanitation
DGRE	Directorate General of Water Resources
DRAH	Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Water
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
GWP	Global Water Partnership
HDI	Human Development Index
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IPE	Environment Poverty Initiative
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JTC	Joint Technical Committee
JTC-IWRM	Joint Technical Committee on Integrated Water Resource Management
MATDS	Ministry of Regional Development and Decentralization
NAPA	National adaptation programmes of actions
NBA	Niger Basin Authority
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PACO	Central and West Africa Programme
PAGEV	Project for Improving water governance in the Volta transboundary basin
PDESC	Economic, social and cultural development plan
PRAI–MFD	Regional program of integrated development of Fouta Djallon Highlands
PREMI	Poverty Reduction and Environnemental Management Initiative
RDP	Regional Development Plans
REPASE	Restoration and payment of environmental services in the Tinkisso basin
ROPPA	Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa
SAPA	Service for Agricultural Management and Productions
SP	Permanent Secretariat
SP/CONEDD	Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TOP-SECAC	Toolkit for planning, monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation
UEMOA	Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa
VBA	Volta Basin Authority
WA	West Africa
WCD	World Commission on Dams
WEAP	Water Evaluation and Planning
WFJS	World Federation of Science Journalists
WRC	Water Resources Commission
WRCC	Water Resources Coordination Center
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
2iE	International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering
6WWF	6th World Water Forum

Foreword

This document aims to share lessons learned from the implementation of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative – PREMI designed and executed by the Central and West Africa Programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-PACO). This initiative sought to promote integrated management of natural resources, reduce poverty and adapt to climate change in West Africa. Three intervention avenues were given priority, namely: ❶ capacity building of actors of the region, ❷ highlighting the importance of taking into consideration the value of ecosystem goods and services in regional development plans, in poverty reduction and in climate change adaptation policies and strategies, and ❸ multi-actor dialogue on some important future regional development issues.

Implemented from 2009 to 2012, the Initiative has in some cases contributed to the current dynamics at the level of State and regional organizations, but also engineered new processes. On the whole, the initiative has generated a large amount of knowledge that would help take the environment into account in the fight against poverty, both in terms of national and regional policies and in terms of initiatives implemented by communities. Given the variety and scope of achievements, it became essential to re-examine and learn lessons that will benefit the population, civil society and policy-makers in Africa West in particular and the international community in general.

This document does not attempt to provide a comprehensive analysis of a large and complex programme. It rather aims to share the main structural outputs that, according to partners, have triggered the best process of taking into consideration the environment in policies and programmes to fight against poverty; to identify the key factors and conditions that led to these outputs and to learn lessons that emerge from this analysis. Thus, as in any capitalization conducted in collaboration with partners of the initiative to be reviewed, it was necessary to make choices and to report only on the most relevant outputs and lessons whose sharing can contribute to continuing the process and scaling the main achievements of the programme.

To promote integrated management of natural resources, reduce poverty and adapt to climate change in West Africa

Executive summary

This capitalization document aims to share lessons learned from the implementation of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative - PREMI. Implemented from 2009 to 2012 by the Central and West Africa Programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-PACO), PREMI seeks to demonstrate how a proper consideration of the environment in policies and programmes can contribute to a more effective fight against rural poverty.

PREMI is divided into three components corresponding to three strategic objectives: ❶ promote multi-actor platforms for governance of water resources, promotion of equity in relation to gender and empowerment of stakeholders, ❷ demonstrate the importance of the value of ecosystem services, their rational management and consideration of climate change to improve on the livelihoods of rural populations and increased opportunities for poverty reduction; and ❸ facilitate the creation of a network of actors including leaders, managers and representatives of environmental civil society to act as catalysts for change in sustainable management of natural resources.

The strategy adopted by the programme is based on multi-actor dialogue, building a critical mass of technical and methodological expertise of different groups of actors, anchoring national arrangements for operational management of the various sectorial policies so as to facilitate the institutionalization achievements; and building relationships based on partnership and mutual responsibility of actors to facilitate ownership of processes, tools and outputs produced.

Thanks to this strategy, the implementation of various components of PREMI contributed in achieving several structural outputs. Thus activities carried out under Component 1 contributed in building a shared vision of integrated management of water resources

and related ecosystems; positioning civil society as a key actor in regional dialogue on dams that led to the production of new guidelines adopted by various basin organizations and ECOWAS; adopting the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach as a tool for transboundary governance of shared water resources.

Under Component 2, the main outputs obtained include inter alia: the effective involvement of grassroots communities in the consultation process; the adoption by pilot local authorities of powerful tools to mainstream climate change in local planning; the building of a critical mass of resource persons capable of supporting the dissemination of these methodological tools; the contribution toward revitalizing National RAMSAR Committees in Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso; the adoption of appropriate tools to strengthen the sub-regional strategy to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Finally, the knowledge management system operationalized under the cross-cutting Component 3 revealed many sources of environmental information and helped to increase significantly the number and quality of articles and radio programmes on topics related to the environment, climate change and poverty alleviation; create an active network of experts in the area of gathering and enhancement of environmental information; strengthen sharing amongst journalists in the region.

However, in spite of these results, a number of constraints were encountered during the implementation of the various components. They include especially: the need to further improve the connection of PREMI to IUCN country offices in the implementation of activities; the high mobility of staff in central administrations, which has sometimes led to a halt in the participation of structures concerned; linguistic constraints or constraints to access certain information and communication technology that limit the participation of certain actors in discussions or access to media products, etc... In addition, the weak relationships with some state institutions and the persistence of practices of over-exploitation of natural resources in some intervention areas were specific constraints experienced in Component 2.

In order to overcome these constraints and consolidate the scaling of the outputs, it is important to take the following actions: strengthen existing bridges to facilitate mutual learning between components and projects of the same component; design a new approach to knowledge management by institutionalizing capitalization and sharing of experiences as a permanent feature of projects and programmes to strengthen the participation of regional farmers' organizations in regional dialogue; adapt tools and channels of animating forums to facilitate the participation of local actors; promote large-scale adoption and institutionalization of methodological tools to mainstream climate change into planning by including them in training programmes; make functional a mechanism for monitoring the adoption of guidelines.

Introduction

In West Africa, agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry and direct use of fauna and flora are the main activities on which the vast majority of rural people depend for employment and income generation.

These activities are based mainly on the exploitation of natural resources that are today facing a situation of continued degradation due to a combination of several related factors, including every increasing strong pressure on these resources due to high population growth, and changes in weather conditions which manifest by growing rainfall and agricultural production instability. Caused to a great extent by a rapid process of global warming, climate change is a threat whose long-term effects may be particularly serious for the region. In fact, according to forecasts, an increase in temperature from 2 to 3°C could result in a decline in cereal production to the tune of 25 to 50%. The impact on the living conditions of the population would be dramatic.

These weather events are amplifiers of situations of poverty and vulnerability that are already very critical. Today, West Africa is one of the world's poorest regions. In 2010, 14 of the 16 countries of the region were among those with the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) in the world. This level of poverty results in poor access to basic social services such as education and health as well as low levels of employment. Rural household dependence on natural resources is greater given that more than half of the population is considered to be poor. Often, it is observed that there is the phenomenon of overexploitation of resources, resulting in a decrease in soil fertility and crop yields, and excessive grazing pressure.

Yet despite this, the potential of available natural resources remains significant because the region has a diversity of ecosystems with extensive semi-arid areas conducive for animal breeding; a dense network of wetlands; a variety of forest ecosystems of which the wettest are among the richest in terms of biodiversity in the world; and finally the very rich and dynamic coastal ecosystems that provide a dependable basis for a wide range of economic activities.

Today, West Africa is probably that part of the African continent where the process of regional integration is most advanced and most dynamic, including in the area of the environment. With substantial support from partners of the international community, regional organizations such ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS in particular have been very active in recent

years in developing regional policies and strategies in the areas of the fight against poverty, management of natural resources and emerging environmental issues. Encouraged at regional level, decentralization policies implemented by the various States mostly aim at promoting the sustainable management of natural resources through greater empowerment of grassroots communities.

It is however noted that most of the proposed or initiated policies do not coherently and effectively articulate direct links between the level of poverty of the population and their ability to manage and enhance natural resources. This situation is mostly because projects do not demonstrate and measure, through methodologies and suitable tools, evidence of such a relationship, which particularly shows how natural resources generate goods and services that contribute to improving the living conditions of the population. At national level, this results in little consideration for environmental and climate change issues in economic planning instruments. Consequently, the degradation of ecosystems continues to aggravate. This is especially so as the strategic choices on development, exploitation of natural resources and major infrastructure are still often decided without sufficiently taking into consideration current and potential services provided by ecosystems.

Thus, there is a huge challenge for methodological research and development, communication and advocacy on the one hand to build a shared vision between actors, including the value of natural resources and their contribution to the fight against poverty; and on the other hand to institutionalize organizational and technical processes for its implementation. It is under this outlook that the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI) initiated by the Central and West Africa Programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-PACO) fits. The main idea underpinning the implementation of this programme is to cause ecosystem conservation and sustainable development to contribute to poverty alleviation.

Presentation of PREMI

A programme aimed at showing how to better consider the environmental dimension of problems in policies and programmes, through multi-actor dialogue, promotion of good governance of resources and experimenting of technical solutions at local level.

The objective of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI) is to improve the livelihoods of populations and economic growth through integrated management of natural resources. The overall objective of the initiative is to strengthen options and livelihoods and economic growth through integrated natural resource management in West Africa. This overall objective is made up of three strategic objectives that prong onto each of the components.

Planned to be executed over an initial four-year period (2009-2012), PREMI has three components.

Component1: Governance and development of water resources

In a bid to achieve the first strategic objective, this component supports the implementation of mechanisms for sustainable governance of water resources, on the basis of better consideration of the needs and objectives of the people, the preservation of ecosystem functions and services, and uncertainties concerning hydrological conditions at the level of water basins. Such governance will facilitate poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental protection, through the participation of communities and other actors in decision-making processes, the adoption of best practices and the development of appropriate infrastructure. The expected outputs are ❶ actors who have the power and capacity to participate in and influence decision-making and ❷ an appropriate institutional and legal framework that contributes to greater sustainable management of water resources.

The three strategic objectives of the PREMI Programme

❶ Promote multi-actor platforms for governance of water resources, promote equity in relation to gender and empowerment of stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups and local institutions in a bid to have self-sufficiency and wealth creation.

❷ Demonstrate the importance of the value of ecosystem services, their rational management and integration of climate change to improve on the livelihoods of rural people and increase opportunities for poverty alleviation.

❸ Facilitate the creation of a network of leaders, managers and environmental civil society actors to act as catalysts of change in sustainable natural resource management.

This component is executed through two projects:

1. Project for improving water governance in the Volta transboundary basin (PAGEV 2),

2. Project on regional dialogue on major hydraulic infrastructures.

The first project which is in its second phase, aims to improve the livelihoods of people of the Volta Basin through integrated and transboundary management of water resources of the basin in the context of an improved institutional environment.

As for the project on regional dialogue on major water infrastructures, it seeks to involve non-state actors in environmentally sustainable and socially equitable management of water resources in West Africa and in the process of designing and implementing major water infrastructures.

Component 2: Ecosystem services, Forests and Poverty

The implementation of this component is based on the promotion of multi-actor platforms for dialogue to encourage the sharing of best practices in ecosystem management in a bid to reduce rural poverty. These mechanisms are all the more important in that poverty alleviation policies and programmes do not sufficiently take into consideration the role of natural resources and ecosystem services in improving the livelihoods of populations. The expected outputs from the implementation of this component are ❶ policy-makers are convinced about the value of ecosystem services in the process of fighting against poverty and ❷ ecosystem functions and services mainstreamed into national sustainable development strategies.

This component aims to achieve Strategic Objective 2 through four projects:

1. Project on Economic evaluation of wetlands to improve management policies,

2. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into poverty reduction policies and strategies,

3. Project on Restoration and payment of environmental services in the Tinkisso basin,

4. Project of support of ECOWAS for regional dialogue on forests.

These projects aim to improve regional policies in West Africa through ❶ greater sustainable enhancement of wetlands and natural ecosystems for the benefit of populations; ❷ mainstreaming climate change adaptation actions into poverty alleviation strategies and development planning; ❸ promoting integrated management of the Tinkisso water basin using the ecosystem approach; and ❹ strengthening links between stakeholders to arrive at a common vision and understanding of the role of forests in adaptation to climate change and poverty alleviation.

Component 3: Capacity building and networking for environmental management

Expressed in strategic objective 3, this component aims to identify, capitalize and disseminate good practices in the area of governance of natural resources and innovative technical solutions that impact the livelihoods of the populations. In fact, in so far as these practices remain disjointed in the environment in which they were developed, their overall impact on society will be limited. The implementation of a communication strategy tailored for scaling can contribute in achieving expected outputs, namely ❶ leadership and sharing mechanisms for sustainable natural resource management and poverty alleviation, and ❷ enhanced capacity building for advocacy and advisory support for IUCN.

The component is implemented through the Project on mobilizing environmental knowledge for the improvement of regional policies in West Africa. The objective of this project is to support the implementation of regional environmental

and climate change adaptation policies through the mobilization of knowledge.

Strategy and approach

A strategy based on multi-actor dialogue, capacity building and networking to stimulate significant changes in policies and practices.

The cross-cutting nature of avenues that structure the PREMI, namely environmental management and the fight against poverty, recommends the adoption of an open approach so that the greatest number of actors participate in the design and implementation of activities. Such an approach is entirely consistent with the distinctive competencies of IUCN namely ❶ the provision of reliable knowledge, ❷ the creation of coalitions for action and ❸ linking the local to the global to influence policy processes.

As concerns PREMI, the multiplicity and diversity of actors involved in the implementation of the programme and the desire to create conditions for ownership and institutionalization of approaches and tools developed, have led to the adoption of an implementation strategy based on some cross-cutting principles and methodological options that are common to all components:

A multi-scale and multi-actor approach: that is concretised through the creation of networks and platforms operating at various levels: regional (in partnership with intergovernmental organizations such as ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, WRCC, at level of river basins with the VBA and NBA); transboundary (in bilateral approaches with governments, at the level of sub-basins, with devolved authorities and technical services of States); national (with state or para-statal bodies in charge of Water Resources, Agriculture, Environment, Forestry, Water Supply, etc..) and finally local (with decentralized institutions in charge of natural resource management, local authorities, civil society organizations and communities). The connection of actors has been developed to promote collaboration and cooperation to resolve issues related to natural resource management. In many cases, these are the same actors gathered around platforms that exist in all the three components. This approach relies on existing organs of dialogue and consultation or those it helped to create, which will continue their mission beyond PREMI (CTGEN, JTC-IWRM).

Building a critical mass of technical and methodological skills: it is essential to facilitate the ownership of approaches, tools and outputs generated by the programme. In view of the multi-scale and multi-actor approach, the profile of beneficiary actors and the content of capacity building programmes vary from one component to another. For example, under Component 2, the focus in the countries concerned was capacity building of research teams in the area of economic assessment of natural ecosystems and mainstreaming climate change policies in the fight against poverty; in Component 3, capacity building activities have mostly benefited environmental journalists - pressmen and/or members of specialized networks - and parliamentarians, and they focused

on environmental issues and on disseminating scientific research findings for the benefit of the environment and the populations. These activities were carried out in connection with the Global Water Partnership - West Africa (GWP/WA) and the Association of Science Journalists and Communicators of Burkina Faso (AJCS/BF).

Anchoring in national arrangements for operational management of existing policies: this has helped to create conditions for greater ownership and sustainability of the programme's achievements. To this end, IUCN has positioned itself as a hub and facilitating agency for projects managed by national technical structures, water basin agencies such as the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) or interstate institutions such as the Water Resources Coordination Centre (WRCC), which are acting as regulatory agencies for development interventions and initiatives in water basin areas. By opening the decision-making processes to new stakeholders, IUCN allows each class of actors to defend its interests and play its role. Civil society actors act as relays, build capacity and raise awareness of grassroots communities, enabling them to defend, for example, the interests of users of basins in discussions at the highest level with basin organizations and States. Journalists, parliamentarians in their respective fields play their role in disseminating, legislating, monitoring and controlling the implementation of policies.

Building relationships based on partnership and mutual responsibility: within the framework of a collective initiative, the degree of stakeholder commitment and their feeling of ownership of initiated processes are closely linked to the quality of aspects that bind them and the nature of their roles and responsibilities. That is why PREMI gave priority to the establishment of partnership relations based on mutual trust, shared vision and a common understanding of the purpose of the partnership and mutual and shared responsibility. The intention of building partnerships is to go beyond impromptu collaborative relationships to develop sustainable mutual commitment between organizations based on a common vision and shared responsibility.

Implementation of partnerships is underpinned by setting out rules that are understood and accepted by the various partners. These rules can be formalized in writing or they can be by tacit agreement. In this perspective, several approaches have been adopted. PREMI has involved key regional organizations in a Strategic Orientation Committee of the Programme. Beyond co-financing arrangements for specific activities such as training of environmental journalists, IUCN and GWP/WA regularly consult within the framework of most of their

To go beyond impromptu collaborative relationships to develop sustainable mutual commitment

Some examples of factors of success of multi-actor partnership

Example 1

Production and strengthening of guidelines adopted by various basin organisations and ECOWAS.

This output was made possible by mutual recognition of the importance of coordination of interventions by previous multi-actor regional cooperation experiences between UEMOA, ECOWAS, GWP, IUCN, etc.; mutual recognition by partners of the importance and complementarity of their respective competencies.

Example 2

Institution of transboundary dialogue frameworks by PAGEV.

This process took place through the identification of various actors, the organisation of regional consultations with the VBA and GWP/WA and national consultations with the technical departments of agriculture, the environment and animal resources as well as NGOs in Ghana and Burkina Faso. These consultations led to the development of consensus guidelines for the management of water resources in the Volta sub-basin contained in the Code of Conduct of Water Resources of the Volta. The success of this experience stems from the construction of a strong commitment to community initiatives for dialogue and consultation, the relevance of the problem of integrated water resource management in Burkina Faso and Ghana, and the establishment an effective means of sharing knowledge and information for decision making. Building a culture of transboundary multi-actor consultation for the management of shared problems such as transhumance, poaching, ecosystem protection is already seen as a success and is an important factor for sustainability. Replication in other sub-river basins and IWRM devices applied in the pilot sites under PREMI will consolidate the national frameworks under which they occur and ensure their sustainability.

Example 3

PREMI and SP/CONEDD Partnership on capacity building of institutions charged with development planning.

One of the important outputs of this partnership is the consideration of climate change in community development plans with the help of appropriate methodological tools. The project has trained actors at three planning levels (national, regional and local) to use the TOP-SECAC toolkit for planning and monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation capacity. Some factors have contributed to large-scale appropriation of this toolkit. The project was based on an existing national process, placing human resources at the disposal of councils. PREMI has undertaken to provide additional value in the implementation of actions, to enhance the specific strengths of organizations involved in the partnership and to strengthen links between organizations. The proposed tools required relatively low costs compared to those of classical planning process.

The participatory nature of the process made it possible for large numbers of actors to join in the localities concerned. Subsequently, other projects expressed the interest of adopting the tools rather than developing new ones. Finally, through the Permanent Secretariat of CONEDD, national authorities acknowledged the relevance of these tools and have included their use in guides to prepare local development plans. This has resulted in the development, under the supervision of the SP/CONEDD and in partnership with other institutions (the General Directorate of Land Management and Development/Support to Decentralisation, the Local Governance and Administrative Strengthening Programme, the Project on Local Environmental Governance Consolidation), of a "Brochure for consideration of sustainable management of land, wetlands, climate change, biodiversity, natural disaster risks in local development plans." The project has provided a highly appreciated contribution in the process of revising local planning guides.

respective activities. The collaboration started during the facilitation of regional dialogue on major water infrastructures and has resulted in ongoing relationships between IUCN and the WRCC to implement the recommendations of the dialogue.

Besides these examples of partnership, there are forms of relations based more on how to cause-to-do. An illustration drawn from the experiment carried out under Component 3 is provided by the agreement signed with the association of science journalists and communicators of Burkina Faso for the creation of a blog aimed at disseminating research findings in the field of the environment and sustainable development. The cause-to-do approach is not necessarily based on the same principles as partnership but it has certain benefits. It is first a pragmatic choice used to circumvent the often limited internal capacity - availability of human resources in particular - to carry out activities following the timetable of activities. Then, when the service is provided by local organizations - producer organizations, local service providers, etc. - it contributes to the building of new local capacities and enables initiated organizational and technical processes to continue after the project. In addition, the outputs obtained by partner organizations are in synergy with those of PREMI and they are reinforced from outside. The cause-to-do approach can also help reduce bias of all kinds often observed when decisions and methodological processes are conducted exclusively by stakeholders at the base of the project (IUCN, direct beneficiaries, etc.).

Project approach: strengths and weaknesses

However, if the overall implementation strategy of the Programme has some flexibility and has contributed greatly to strengthening the participation of various actors, it has sometimes faced some malfunctioning related in particular to the lack of sharing mechanisms and functional and effective gateways to share experiences and consolidate scaled lessons between projects and a fortiori between components. In fact, although the projects of the one component are based on the same principles and approaches, they often worked separately. For example, the two projects of Component 1 and those of Component 2 have worked with similar tools, similar forums bringing together actors, similar websites and documentary films in terms of communication, but no formal sharing mechanism has allowed for learning first experiences and enhancing lessons learned.

The teams have clearly preferred the project approach rather than a more complex component approach. This is largely due to the lack of mechanisms and a clear system to institutionalize mutual learning between projects and between components. With regard to component 1, the non-concurrent implementation of projects that make it up is another factor that can explain this situation. In fact, PAGEV that already existed at the time of the launching of PREMI had a large team and had acquired a certain degree of organizational autonomy, while the project Dialogue on Dams was coordinated by a single person who was also in charge of coordinating another project (Global Water Initiative - GWI).

Other challenges to be overcome for partnership relations

1. The slow progress in the implementation of the dialogue on dams caused by reluctance, at the outset, for States to accept the involvement of civil society;
2. The often high costs of the participatory approach and related charges for participants and the time required to achieve dynamic compromise, especially when some partners do not have the capacity to directly bear charges related to their participation (case of civil society in the dialogue on dams);
3. Unequal power relations between actors in the partnership: those who have the resources tend to have a dominant position (intentional or induced) in the decision-making process;
4. Coordination difficulties between partners involved who have no control on the agenda of others;
5. The weak financial capacity of local communities that would slow down the replication process of tools such as TOP-SECAC;
6. The little involvement of national IUCN offices in supporting pilot projects in their respective countries;
7. Seeking compromises which sometimes resulted in a reducing control on the management of activities.

Testimony of Mr Henri-Claude ENOUMBA, PhD.

Division Head of Studies and Planning, Niger Basin Authority

"Through PREMI, IUCN has participated in the process of Dialogue on water infrastructures. It can be clearly retained that during this process, it was possible to align adopted natural resource policies at transnational level of ECOWAS in West Africa to the Water, Energy and Agriculture sectors.

The Dialogue has produced the "guidelines (good practices) for the development of water infrastructures in West Africa" from the sharing of experiences, brainstorming between States, Basin Organizations using the participatory approach animated by a panel of independent experts under the leadership of a consortium of technical and financial partners (CCRE/ECOWAS, UEMOA, ANBO, GWP/WA, WWF, IUCN, CRCRE, CTE/CPCS,) concerned about implementing IWRM principles and especially good water governance.

Dialogue on infrastructures cultivated amongst actors involved, an atmosphere in which citizen participation was coordinated in a fair manner, fostering honest feedback that tolerates failures on the way. These are all aspects that have promoted innovation, proper formulation of good practices and policy decisions based on evidence of practice on the subject, their discussions using modern technological tools and their adoption at intergovernmental level.

Dialogue on infrastructures has also helped to properly appreciate the constituent role of the platform of non-state actors, and civil society, a priori, considered as taking an aversion of development projects of the State, and then reinstates it into its participatory overseeing role and governance sentinel.

At the core of the PREMI programme, the intrinsic value of social capital that a community can muster for its general development was perceived and especially for its water infrastructures. It will be retained that the implicit involvement of civil society remains a good governance principle articulated in IWRM and in connection with its mandate.

IUCN has shown tangible proof of the critical need to strengthen the means of coordination or participation of civil society to avoid it being taken for granted or just being present during decision-making."

Tangible outputs that reflect the relevance of the strategy adopted by PREMI

PREMI has achieved significant outputs including consolidation. Also, scaling can contribute to a significant improvement in the governance of natural resources and improving on the living conditions of rural populations. Although these outputs vary from one component to another, they are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Promoting a shared vision of water resource management

As a reminder, the implementation of Component 1 had to give actors the power and the capacity to participate and influence the decision-making process and help create an appropriate institutional and legislative framework that contributes to a more sustainable management of water resources. To achieve such outputs, the set of activities carried out focused on raising awareness of all parties in the dialogue, information and knowledge sharing, improving decision-making processes regarding the equitable and sustainable use of water resources.

In general, these activities contributed in achieving expected outputs. In fact, multi-actor and multi-scale dialogue forums that have been established have offered actors varied avenues for participation and expression. These avenues have enabled all the series of actors to build a shared vision on water governance, which is the basis for proposals on reforms of the legislative and legal framework. They also led to recognition and strengthening of some actors, including civil society in the dialogue process. Finally, they helped adopt principles and approaches on integrated water resource management.

At institutional level, the formulation of new proposals to modernize legal frameworks that have helped improve management and governance of water resources during the initiation of major hydraulic works in West Africa is a far-reaching output. Although integrating these new rules into the legal system can take some time after the enactment of new guidelines, their adoption is a major step towards harmonizing and aligning policies at regional level. Moreover, their implementation opens new fields of action for partners.

Outputs in terms of governance

❶ Significant improvement of the legal and institutional environment; through several mechanisms, such as the formulation of a Code of Conduct on water resource management between Ghana and Burkina Faso; the formalization of a framework for decentralized governance of water resources of the Nakanbé (White Volta) sub-basin through the creation of the Transboundary Water Resource Management Committee of the Nakanbé sub-basin (CTGEN) and finally the establishment of mechanisms to co-manage the project through national technical institutions in charge of water resources.

❷ Adoption of IWRM as a tool for transboundary governance of water resources shared between Ghana, Burkina Faso and Togo, evidenced by the existence of a multi-actor platform, management bodies of water resources at local level and capacity building in IWRM.

❸ Strengthening and production of new guidelines adopted by basin organizations and ECOWAS, which inspired the NBA to draft Annex 1, dealing with the environment, of the NBA Water Charter, and guidelines for the development of water infrastructure in West Africa, thus contributing to increased awareness of the importance of environmental management and paving the way to better coordination of interventions;

❹ Increased empowerment of communities in the management of water resources and other natural resources in the Tinkisso upper basin; through the creation of local governance institutions such as village consultation committees and support for the implementation of concrete actions in the basin.

❺ Recognition by States and organizations of the basin of the crucial role that civil society can play in the dialogue on dams and water governance: more than half of the recommendations adopted by ECOWAS directly involve users and civil society in their implementation; and the need to strengthen their capacity in advocacy techniques for proper ownership and dissemination of challenges related to dams.

❻ Institutionalization of regular meetings at the highest level on major transboundary issues (flood alerts, transhumance, farmers/ breeders conflict, transboundary insecurity ...) made possible by the existence of functional water resource management bodies (e.g. JTC-IWRM, CTGEN, Country Committees, Committees for the Protection of River Banks) and building their capacity in the collection and dissemination of information (Volta Basin Observatory)

Lessons learnt from the effective involvement of West African civil society in the process of regional dialogue on major water infrastructures.

IUCN has proposed to the steering committee of regional dialogue on major water infrastructures of ECOWAS to put PREMI funds at the service of dialogue to open it to non-state actors. The approach is structured on the one hand around a communication plan on consultation and on the other hand on a process of building civil society with a view to enable it to express its views in ongoing brainstorming. Communication was organized through an electronic forum, the creation of a website dedicated to the dialogue and the production/distribution of a film presenting the conclusions of the dialogue through the testimony of actors of basins. Civil society actors discussed the issue of dams and sharpened their reflection through two actors' forums in the Senegal and Niger basins, and training in advocacy to enable them express their views at high-level regional meetings to validate the recommendations of the dialogue proposed by a panel of independent experts. Such capacity building of civil society has been capitalized in the summary document published by IUCN.

The possibility for IUCN to join the steering committee of the dialogue and offer its services thanks to funds made available by PREMI was decisive. IUCN had the legitimacy to connect actors and bring civil society to the dialogue table.

Institutional partners, particularly ECOWAS and Basin Organizations have realized how civil society, if properly prepared and supported, can actively contribute in discussions. They were surprised at the quality of its interventions in general.

Towards effective appropriation of tools to mainstream climate change into development planning in Mali

After training stakeholders on how to use methods of identifying the best climate change adaptation strategies, we attempted to use these methods to plan the development of councils and regions. The restitution of outputs obtained during a national workshop convinced policy-makers and local elected officials to adopt them to revise their planning document. The project has enabled the transfer of skills and met the expectations of decision-makers in quest of working methods. Key institutions have been identified at regional, national and local level to continue the process of appropriation of tools and retained frameworks. Thus for example, the GIZ/AEDD project, in addition to its Climate proofing tool, decided to adopt the TOP-SECAC tool for the implementation of its activities. The Mopti and Segou regional councils now intend to establish a partnership with IUCN to support them in the process of formulating their economic, social and cultural development plan (PDESC).

Hubert N'Djafa Ouaga, Programme Officer IUCN/Mali

Demonstration of the importance of ecosystem services for development

The strategic objective of this component is to show the importance of the value of ecosystem services, conserve them through sound management and take into consideration climate change in all efforts aimed at improving the livelihoods of rural populations and looking for opportunities to alleviate poverty. This component targeted two important outputs, firstly to convince policy makers to take into consideration the value of ecosystem services in the process of fighting against poverty and secondly to ensure that ecosystem functions and services are mainstreamed into national sustainable development strategies.

The activities consisted in acquiring knowledge about the ecological and economic value of ecosystems and to share them with decision-makers and planners, and to build the technical and scientific capacities of wetlands conservation and management officials. A pilot project in the Tinkisso upper basin, a tributary of River Niger in Guinea,

Testimony of Mr NANA Mahama

Permanent Secretariat of CONEDD, Burkina Faso

"The SP/CONEDD is a body that aims to strengthen the process of considering environmental and sustainable development concerns in national, intersectorial and sectorial development policies, strategies and plans.

Partnership with IUCN continues with the support of SP/CONEDD in the implementation of activities such as training and awareness of people of the central north, central west and centre regions by reviewing Council Development Plans (CDPs) and Regional Development Plans (RDPs) in order to mainstream climate change and to develop a handbook that will facilitate the mainstreaming of emerging themes such as Climate change (CC) into RDPs and CDPs at national level.

Despite the end of PREMI, the administration (MATDS / DGAT) and other ongoing projects of the SP/ CONEDD (IPE COGEL, NAPA, CPP), which participated in the development of the guide, ensure the effective inclusion of climate change during the revision of the CDP and RDP. Indicators to test this inclusion and a national workshop to validate the handbook and national guide are underway."

Testimony of Mr Telly BARRY

President of the Kindoye Village Consultation Committee, Guinea

"Before the arrival of REPASE, work was done haphazardly on the banks of the Tinkisso River. But since the coming of the REPASE Project, they have sufficiently sensitized us on the security gap between farming areas and the bank of the Tinkisso, as well as on the importance of protecting and properly managing the environment. Also, the REPASE Project involves us in all workshops to make sure that our concerns are taken into consideration."

Outputs that enhance ecosystem services

1. Significant improvement of collaboration between sub-regional institutions and their partners in formulating and executing Dialogue on ECOWAS forests, by putting in place new institutional mechanisms.
2. Building a shared vision for integrated management of water resources and related ecosystems in the Tinkisso upper basin; consolidated by the setting up of a consultation platform on governance of water resources and associated ecosystems particularly to the water basin, and defining the terms and conditions for its functioning.
3. Restoration of the Tinkisso dam by implementing the recommendations of various studies on the basin and effectively involving grassroots communities in the consultation process.
4. Recognition by various partner organizations, of the facilitator role of IUCN to support the preparation of the Convergence Plan in countries where there are IUCN programmes or forestry projects like in Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Bissau.
5. Effective integration of methodological tools (TOP-SECAC, Climate Proofing) disseminated by the programme in local planning processes of pilot local governments.
6. Effective use of outputs of the study on the economic value of wetlands in Burkina Faso, as a case study under the sub-regional strategy for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in West Africa.
7. Building a critical mass of resource persons capable of supporting the dissemination of methodological tools to mainstream climate change in local planning.
8. Revitalization of RAMSAR national committees in Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso by training their members on the functions of wetlands, and developing action plans for national committees so that they act as relays to the authorities in considering economic aspects in the management and administration of wetlands.

also helped promote a similar approach on the ground aimed at improving the Dabola micro dam.

In order to achieve the identified outputs, this component is focused on two distinct but complementary implementation processes. The first is a strong and sustained commitment to regional and national policy-makers to influence their decisions. The second is the capacity building of actors to enable them mainstream climate change into development policies. This approach has helped to bring closer the various institutions involved in the management of forest resources, to make available institutions - especially local governments - responsible for development planning, methodological tools to mainstream climate change into local planning and finally renew available knowledge on the real economic value of ecosystems.

Capacity building and networking for environmental management

This component's aim was to build a multi-actor network capable of

catalyzing change for sustainable management of natural resources and get on the one hand the emergence of opinion leaders and experience sharing mechanisms on sustainable management of natural resources and the fight against poverty and on the other hand capacity building for advocacy and advisory support of IUCN. This cross-cutting component complements and supports the other two components. Activities implemented have been mainly related to networking of actors, gathering and sharing of relevant information.

In this context, the volume and diversity of information and knowledge were significant as well as the media collection and product sharing tools. In addition, the central place occupied by some strategic actors such as journalists and civil society members in facilitating the process,

is now showing a high degree of ownership. The implementation of this component has relied heavily on the development of information and communication technologies such as web sites and radios, which helped to reach a broad audience, although some local actors did not have easy access to them due to the working language barriers or access to some of these technologies.

Impacts on poverty alleviation

Most of the activities carried out by the programme focus on the creation of forums for dialogue and the dissemination of principles, approaches and tools that underpin sustainable management of the environment. The main expected impact is poverty alleviation through the development of policies and programmes that include environmental management into government policies. Some direct impacts, already visible, come from initiatives undertaken by projects such as PAGEV to support economic activities of local populations.

Some examples:

› Protection of waterways such as the Nakanbé between Ghana and Burkina Faso, and Oti in Togo, that reforesting their banks with more than 55,000 surviving trees led to the restoration of these ecosystems and the return of their services for the benefit of local populations.

› Improvement of living conditions of local communities: for examples activities carried out within the framework of support to the gardening sector (technical support and provision of improved seeds) helped increase incomes between 375 000 to 630 000 CFA Francs per producer in Ghana and 500 000 to 17 500 000 CFA Francs per group in Burkina Faso.

› Emerging practices that enhance the economic empowerment of populations: the production of seedlings for reforestation in some communities in Burkina Faso and Togo, the purchase of motor pumps and seeds with own funds observed in Burkina Faso, onion seeds production by some communities such as Mogr-Noore in Burkina Faso and Kubore in Ghana, marked increased consideration of women's views within management bodies, increased integration of women in active economic life of the community, etc.

The central place occupied by some strategic actors such as journalists and civil society members in facilitating the process, is now showing a high degree of ownership

Factors of success of reforestation activities to protect the banks of the Nakanbe and Oti Basins

- consensus and voluntary acceptance of actors and stakeholders in the process;
- voluntary acceptance to free small/big beds and shifting crops backward to a relative altitude;
- technical reforestation adopted after various unsuccessful attempts;
- generating alternative incomes and/or reducing wood fetching by women;
- judicious choice of species for reforestation, with native species, adapted to the environment;
- internal capacity building of communities: nursery attendant; manufacturers of manure; control of the entire reforestation chain;
- mainstreaming gender in the decision-making process; women's right to land and to have a say; as well as development of small-scale AGR as farrowing small ruminants.

However, in spite of significant fall outs of various activities, some constraints were noted by the population in the intervention area of PAGEV, such as the strip reserved for firewood that is considered as an obstruction, lack of training for maintenance of motor pumps, and lack of transparency of the system of handing back animals.

Testimony of Mr Zampaligre Inoussa

Exploiter of the banks of River Nouaho

"I am very happy with the actions of the Project, especially the banks reforestation component. Our lands were diminishing and water was scarce in the river because of sand. After this protection, we now have water reservoirs that will enable us do gardening. This has helped me make money and start building."

Testimony of Mr M'bemba FOFANA

President of CVC of Arfamoussaya, Guinea

"The REPASE Project has given us a lot of hope through roundtables organized within the framework of the development of management plans in the Tinkisso upper basin. Also, the communication campaign and climate change adaptation strategies have enabled us to make a comparison between the previous and current state of the basin through surveys."

Outputs that build the capacities of actors

1. Existence of diversified media production dealing with environmental issues, climate change and poverty reduction; driven by a variety of initiatives, including the production and broadcasting of radio content in several countries or putting online and animating a regional collaborative blog to popularize research on environmental science.

2. Existence of a critical mass of experts - over 200 in total - from the media, NGOs and women's organizations in the techniques of editing and disseminating knowledge as well as mobilizing and making use of information.

3. Establishment of a functional network of environmental journalists, which helped facilitate knowledge sharing and substantial improvement in the quality of interaction between journalists of the region who work on environmental issues.

4. Influence of national and regional decision-makers illustrated by considering the findings of various studies in the formulation and implementation of environmental policies.

5. Behaviour change by communities and other users of natural resources thanks to environmental and social communication campaigns in the Tinkisso upper basin in Dabola; and illustrated by local initiatives, such as the exclosure of sources of springs and demarcation of areas of bank protection decided by the Prefect of Dabola.

Testimony of Mrs Nènè Fatou BARRY

Treasurer of CVC of Dogomet - Guinea

"We are very happy to have the REPASE Project with us because before now there was no structure to manage and protect resources in our locality; but we thank God that today we are fully responsible and sensitized on the management of this environment through institutions of the village consultation committees (CVC). What we require of the REPASE Project is for it to streamline its financial procedure which is in our opinion a bit slow and this caused a lot of delay in the setting up of the village consultation committee."

Testimony of Mrs Tindane Adissa

Garderner (PAGEV)

"The actions that impressed me are gardening and breeding that I benefitted from. I am today occupied thanks to this project, if not I would be at the gold mining site. All of these planks belong to me and I can foot my bills thanks to the sale of the products."

Factors that guarantee reproducibility and sustainability of achievements

The possibility of reproducing the organizational and methodological processes and technical solutions provided by the project to identified problems is a key determinant of ownership of the Programme's achievements by various actors. It is also a prerequisite for sustainability. As part of the implementation of PREMI, several factors of sustainability were identified.

Consultation forums and efficient institutional mechanisms

› The emergence of a culture of dialogue between actors is probably the main factor of sustainability. At transboundary level, several problems are solved locally today through consultations between Ghana, Burkina Faso and Togo for the management of common problems such as the issue of transhumance, organized crime, flooding, poaching, protection of river ecosystems, or the fight against water pollution. Governance institutions initiated at local level facilitate the acquisition of new planning and negotiation capacities by communities and their participation in the consultation process.

› The influence of a regional policy framework through the formulation of guidelines on major water infrastructure adopted by ECOWAS and the promotion of the water charters of basin organizations, such as that of the NBA enhanced by its Annex 1 using the recommendations of ECOWAS, is a major output that can guarantee sustainable management of water resources in the region. However, the effective implementation of these guidelines will largely depend on institutional monitoring and evaluation mechanisms put in place to accompany the various institutions.

› As part of the actions directly carried out on the ground to support income-generating activities and the fight against poverty, partners stressed the need to consolidate several factors of sustainability. Central and decentralized structures of the State and beneficiary communities should be more committed to the implementation of IWRM; mastery of technical itinerary introduced especially in the production of nurseries and seed production; the emergence of a local market for nurseries reflecting ownership of introduced reforestation practices.

Tangible environmental services

› The process of economic assessment of environmental goods and services developed and tested under the REPASE project is an important methodological innovation. It is an approach that may be appropriate and valued far beyond the area of intervention of PREMI. However, the degree of adoption of this tool will depend on the ability of its designers and users to show its direct impact on natural resource management and on improving the living conditions of the populations.

Knowledge sharing facilitated

› Contributing towards the establishment of a critical mass of people from the media, civil society organizations and structures sensitized and trained on issues related to the environment, climate change and their interaction on poverty issues is a major asset for the appropriation of the programme's achievements beyond its lifetime. The increased number of visits to the website and requests to register in the discussion forum shows that actors are very interested in environmental knowledge. We can thus expect that the continuous animation of the platforms set up (web, radio, etc...) will be pursued without external support.

Testimonies of Mr Jean Baptiste ZONGO and Mr Rigobert GUENGANE

Secretary General of the Centre-East Region, and Chief of Service for Agricultural Management and Productions (SAPA) and CTGEN/PAGEV/DRAH-CES Focal Point

"The implementation of PAGEV in the Centre-East Region (Volta basin) in Burkina Faso was an unprecedented experience. It adopted a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach for actions of technology transfer and capacity building. We also witnessed the manifestation of transboundary inclusion of rural communities, technical services, institutions and administrations of three countries with different political backgrounds. At political level, the management of common water resources helped create and maintain permanent political dialogue between frontier administrative authorities of the three countries (Ghana, Burkina Faso and Togo) through the formalisation of rotating periodic meetings during which all issues related to geographic co-existence were discussed; security, trade, transport, etc. The relevance of this dialogue framework has caused its extension to the Centre-South region of Burkina Faso that played host to the first tripartite meeting in 2012 in Kombissiri (Burkina Faso). At humanitarian level, there is a trend towards mutual acceptance of one another in the intervention area. In fact because of an inter-community conflict in the Zabre zone, the displaced populations of the said area sought refuge on the Guinean side where they were warmly received."

Despite significant outputs, some challenges remain

Despite the significance of the outputs generated by the programme and the existence of several factors that can contribute towards ensuring ownership and sustainability of these outputs, a number of challenges need to be addressed in view of consolidating and disseminating this experience. While some of these challenges are cross-cutting and concern the whole programme, others on the contrary are specific to a given component.

Cross-cutting challenges

› The involvement of IUCN offices should be further enhanced to ensure more effective implementation of the programme's activities. This was the case for example when identifying civil society representatives to participate in the programme. This reflects the need for better use of the outputs of PREMI by national offices to enhance their ability to promote and enhance them. Beyond these immediate operational implications, this strengthening will facilitate institutionalization of principles, tools and approaches developed under the programme within IUCN.

› The high rate of rotation of political and administrative personnel in national and regional institutions creates some instability in some key dialogue bodies and at the same time causes loss of institutional memory within certain structures. In fact, with the lack of a culture of internal information sharing, accumulated knowledge and information capital may be lost if the representative of a structure in any dialogue body set up by the PREMI, changes position.

› Networking activities have played an important role in broadening the audience of PREMI thanks especially to good expansion of ICTs. However, this choice for technology has proven to be discriminatory against certain key local actors such as local elected officials and rural producers. This goes a long way to explain why there is lack of debates during the electronic forum. The choice of working language - French - has also been a drawback in discussions with non-French-speaking actors.

› Sharing various capitalization products is still limited to national actors; access to these products by grassroots communities is not yet effective because of the nature of the products, films and documents, and logistical implications, including factors related to producers' timetables and disseminating them at local level.

Specific challenges

› The relatively short lifespan of the Programme did not allow projects to benefit from the outputs of activities and findings of the studies of other projects. For example, strengthening governance of water resources of the Volta could not benefit from the findings of studies on dams and put them to use.

› At local level, sustainability of initiatives could be affected by the persistence of certain recurring difficulties such as those related to management of transhumance in reforestation and gardening sites. Another example is the weakening of water resource governance systems caused by leadership struggles. These affect the functioning of committees as observed in Zékézé and Sampéma in the PAGEV intervention area.

Testimony of Mrs Warmena

Beneficiary (PAGEV)

"The project has given me three sheep, two females and one male. I had to in-turn give to another woman. Thank God, today I have six sheep. I sold a ram to treat myself. I thank the project for thinking about women. This gesture is saving us. I am also very thankful for the borehole and would like to call on decision-makers to bring back the project soon."

› Generally, projects of Component 2 found it hard to build their institutional base within state structures, even though working in synergy with these state structures was crucial. This has somewhat limited the inclusion of activities undertaken by PREMI projects in the arrangements made by these structures and in their planning. This is so partly due to the difficulty of establishing formal governance bodies for these projects, such as scientific committees or steering committees. Such bodies could have played a monitoring role that is vital for building bridges with other national initiatives. In cases where such formal steering mechanisms have been put in place, project performance was sometimes affected by the instability of staff within PREMI itself, thus preventing proper utilization of the outputs of the project as in the case of economic assessments. Only the climate change project managed to bring together, at the level of each country (Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal), technical committees to support the implementation of activities by availing their technical expertise.

› Tools to support decision-making such as TOP-SECAC or Water Proofing developed under the Project on mainstreaming climate change adaptation in poverty reduction strategies proved to be an important grounding to promote innovation in planning and evaluation applied to governance of water resources. However, operability is sometimes hampered by insufficient or lack of reliable data in various countries and lack of a functional network of observations on groundwater and/or water quality.

› The fact that PREMI is working in partnership to support institutions has made the organization of certain activities more complicated because of the difficulties of harmonizing timetables for the holding of forums on planned dates as in the case of the WEAP tool used to help in decision-making. In fact, the high mobility of experts representing countries makes it difficult for continuity in the learning process.

› In field actions, for example in Tinkisso in Guinea, ecosystem restoration required working on all resources (water, forest, wildlife, agriculture, livestock, etc.) and their interrelationships require an integrated approach based on a long-term vision. But the lack of visibility on how this process could be built beyond the lifetime of PREMI has led to difficulties in articulating the project's activities with the vision set out by the various actors involved.

With the lack of a culture of internal information sharing, accumulated knowledge and information capital may be lost

Some lessons

Demonstrating, through its various projects, how to better take into account the environment in development policies and programmes can contribute to the fight against rural poverty more effectively, PREMI contributes to improving the performance of interventions in the area of rural development. It thus appears that the demonstrative nature of this programme has offered the various actors an opportunity and a learning space that is a source of lessons to share.

› PREMI actors and partners stressed the importance of partnership, particularly because organizations and institutions benefit from it, within the framework of their own work and initiatives. The fact that IUCN does not directly intervene to support existing organizations allows for activities of the partnership to continue after PREMI. Actors also appreciate the fact that it gives them visibility, independent from IUCN proximity. Whether they involve exchanges of financial resources or not, these partnerships usually expend a minimum of contracts formalization by which actors establish common goals, determine their strategies and recognize themselves as complementary partners.

› The implementation of the various components of the programme has resulted in many awareness and advocacy actions. It can be expected that they have helped to raise the level of awareness of actors on current environmental problems and their interrelation with climate change. There is already a beginning of change in the practices of some institutions, such as the inclusion of climate change into local development plans in Burkina Faso through the use of the toolkit developed by IUCN, Agrhymet and Observatory of the Sahara and Sahel (OSS). But to be sustainable, these changes must be generalized through incentives. In fact, poor rural households depend heavily on natural resources. It can only be mitigated by the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at building and consolidating in a sustainable manner key assets such as access to credit, income generating activities, veritable land tenure security, etc... capable of lifting the people out of poverty.

› The impacts of many decisions taken by governments have repercussions on natural resources and thus directly affect the livelihoods and production systems of local communities. To take into consideration the views of users during discussions and decision-making and ensure that their interests have been taken into consideration

in major developments, it is necessary to develop media and communication channels adapted to ensure good participation of vulnerable groups in discussion forums.

› The partners and staff of IUCN really appreciated the capitalization process as an exercise to read the path treaded together. But after more than four years of work at various geographical levels, through many partnerships between actors of all types and all walks of life, everyone was unanimous in admitting the complexity of the task to be undertaken. Its coming late in the course of the programme raised concerns especially as this phase of PREMI is coming to an end and lessons learned from the exercise will not benefit the project that is winding up. It is therefore clear that capitalization should be part of the programme of its various components as a continuous learning process, undertaken at all level within each partnership or group of partners. To this end, it is important for it to establish common rules that allow teams to initiate such a move to undertake it in a clear and rigorous manner with their respective partners and to document the steps and lessons. This does not mean that an overall exercise is not justified, but it should probably take place earlier in the course of the programme.

Other lessons, more associated to the implementation of specific components have also been learned.

› The IWRM approach, based on a participatory and inclusive process for the building of a system of local governance of water resources, has contributed to the emergence of an eco-citizen spirit that is expressed in many

localities through the preservation, restoration and protection of river banks as well as natural and residual forest galleries. However, the development of such a process takes time while the life cycle of the PREMI programme is relatively short. It begs the question of whether the dynamics that exist at local level are sufficiently proven to take place without external support, which will justify IUCN monitoring, as part of a new project or not.

› The greatest opening up of ECOWAS to work closely and more regularly with civil society organisations will contribute to strengthening the culture and mechanisms of good governance of natural resources. The high capacity of CSOs to perform an overseeing, warning and questioning role is a positive factor that would justify the institution of systematic mechanisms of inclusion and participation on the part of decision-making bodies. In return, CSOs are entitled to seek greater responsibilities accompanied by greater control over their outputs in the management of natural resources.

› The presence of several IUCN teams in the region and their geographical proximity to actors are assets. IUCN does not yet have all the skills needed to carry out all planned activities, which sometimes contributed to make more complex and difficult the internal process of selecting and mobilizing technical partners. The existence of regional structures owned by users, such as the regional coordination of users of the Niger Basin (CRUBN), however made it possible to work with motivated actors and to progress quickly in brainstorming.

› Economic evaluations of wetlands have helped to highlight the interactions between environmental management and improvement of living conditions. In this regard, they are a tool for decision-making, leading to greater consideration of the environment in development policies. However, the biggest challenge today remains the transition from a pilot application in a programme with a limited lifespan, to the adoption and use of this tool on a large scale by national structures charge to design and implement environmental and poverty alleviation policies and programmes.

› The existence of agents of change in a partner institution can contribute to the sustainability and replicability of outputs related to the production of knowledge on economic values and their use in policies on sustainable management of the environment and the fight against poverty. A good example is provided by the SP/CONEDD of Burkina Faso, which has been a catalyst in the adoption at national level of tools to facilitate the consideration of climate change in local planning.

› Many outreach activities were conducted through various channels. They reached a large and diverse audience, and contributed to discussions on environmental issues and climate change. However, they do not seem to have always been able to highlight the link between environmental management and the fight against poverty. This is largely due to the thematic approach that is very strong in determining content, often with a lack of cross-cutting perspectives at the level of the component.

Recommendations

1. Building bridges to facilitate mutual learning between components and between projects of the same component. Formal institutional mechanisms and tools are needed to install a systematic habit of sharing, when the programme concerned is organized into components and multiple projects. The existence of such mechanisms as well as considering outputs and lessons that are derived should be elements for evaluating projects' performance. The experiment reveals that the sharing of experiences rarely takes place spontaneously. It always needs to be stimulated. In this perspective, internal sharing of experiences and lessons should not be seen as a simple routine act, but considered as an indicator of output and/or performance of the project; which involves the implementation of an organized system of monitoring and evaluation of internal practices of sharing experiences and lessons.

2. Establish a new approach to knowledge management by institutionalizing capitalization and experience sharing as a permanent feature of projects and programmes. This recommendation complements and strengthens the previous one. In fact, the dispersion of experiences and lessons is largely due to lack of permanent knowledge gathering and sharing mechanisms. The common practice is to make capitalization an activity used to share lessons at the end of projects. When capitalization is integrated as a support function to project activities, it becomes an essential tool to continuously inform the decision-making process based on lessons that can be learned. It also helps to timely identify all faults related to internal and external knowledge sharing. However, it should be integrated into a system of knowledge management, which requires the establishment of clear strategic objectives, structures for the generation, collection, management and sharing of knowledge, and dedicated human, material and financial resources.

3. Strengthen the participation of regional farmers' organizations in the regional dialogue. The absence of national or regional umbrella organizations such as ROPPA in dialogues and various electronic forums prevents legitimate and well-informed perspectives to be considered in the formulation of decisions. Their participation in the dialogue process would contribute to better articulation of the needs and concerns felt by the populations in areas of the basin with regard to regional and national agricultural policies.

4. Articulate the establishment of mechanisms for local governance of natural resources with support to the establishment of key assets by the poor. For the latter, participation and inclusion are not ends in themselves. They must lead to improving their living conditions. In this perspective, demonstration projects on improving the living conditions of the populations should focus on the creation of long-lasting assets such as capacity building, access to credit, insurance, land, possibility of purchasing animals, etc. It is in this perspective that one must include the proposal made by beneficiaries of PAGEV's intervention and introduce a credit system and provide equipment to support income-generating activities. This

will help consolidate livelihoods more sustainably by diversifying various household assets.

5. Adapt animation tools and channels of forums to facilitate the participation of local actors. The Internet technology option preferred for animating forums should be complemented by other more appropriate mechanisms to facilitate the participation of rural actors in these important discussion and dialogue processes. The current constraints on access to certain information and communication technologies by people in rural areas require the establishment of alternative mechanisms to facilitate their inclusion in discussion processes. In this perspective, the mechanisms must focus on promoting direct interaction (face to face) combined with the use of other techniques such as rural radios. It is therefore necessary to explore the possibility of establishing a critical mass of well trained local animators (including animators of community radio stations that can be organized into networks) who could facilitate in situ forums with communities. Some community forums such as rural or municipal council meetings and weekly markets in nearby areas to basins should be better exploited to achieve awareness raising activities.

6. Fostering large scale adoption and institutionalization of methodological tools to mainstream climate change in planning. Educational institutions (schools specialized in development, universities, etc...) are important vectors for disseminating new methodologies and innovations. Therefore, an appropriate strategy should be proposed to facilitate partnerships with some training and research facilities.

7. Establish a mechanism to monitor the adoption of guidelines on major water infrastructures. Ensuring effective implementation of the various recommendations that will lead to the development of ECOWAS framework guidelines should be a priority and IUCN should continue to play a catalytic role in this regard. In this context, it will provide consultation activities to continue sharing experiences and extending its support to WRCC in its mission. This initiative should be accompanied by the application of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the implementation of recommendations and their impact on governance of water resources and the improvement of people's livelihoods. This process could be co-driven by other stakeholder organizations.

FACTSHEETS OF PROJECTS

Factsheet 1

Component 1: Governance and Development of Water Resources

Project: Improving water governance in the Volta transboundary basin

Objective: Improve the livelihoods of the people of the Volta Basin through integrated and transboundary management of water resources in the basin through an improved institutional framework

Activities carried out

- Compilation and sharing of a knowledge base to help decision-making at basin level
- Implementation of IWRM interventions as a governance tool (shared transboundary water resources Ghana , Burkina and Togo))
- Improving the legal and institutional environment

Outputs achieved

- 2 reference baselines on water resources in the Volta Basin established
- 2 joint analysis reports on water quality validated
- 2 joint analysis reports on water quality
- 45 training workshops organized per year with an average of 60 participants per workshop.
- 12 steering committee meetings
- WEAP model available online and its use practised by end-of-course students and researchers
- Reforestation to protect the banks of water ways (Nakanbé, Oti): 55 137 surviving trees, 56 209 km, 81.34 ha of reforested banks
- About 38 women and 7 men, beneficiaries of the animal fattening operation and about 120 animals distributed
- Creation of 20 community nurseries

Outcomes achieved

- Consensus among experts of 6 member countries of the VBA on relevant parameters to be followed and their methods of analysis established
- Incomes of recipient households increased significantly (incomes generated vary from 375 000 to 630 000 CFA F per producer in Ghana and from 500 000 to 17 500 000 CFA F per group in Burkina Faso)
- Group dynamism has been developed
- Water resource management bodies are functional (JTC-IWRM, CTGEN, Country Committee, Banks Protection Committee)
- In Mogr-Noore, 45% of the women of the village are permanently occupied in gardening activities
- The role of the VBA in coordinating the Volta Basin Observatory is strengthened to collect and disseminate information
- Information is shared between experts of Ghana and Burkina Faso on water resources and developments on their respective national portions (7 sessions)

Constraints observed

- Insufficient or lack of reliable data in various countries,
- Few countries have functional networks for the observation of groundwater and/or water quality
- High cost of analysis of water quality
- Adverse effects of transhumance on reforestation and gardening
- Leadership tussles impacting negatively on cohesion within committees (case of Zékézé and Sampéma)
- Tribal conflicts in Bawku
- Slowness in producing progress reports of partners
- Frequent change of political leadership at national and regional levels in Ghana and Burkina Faso
- Different levels of decentralization in the three intervention countries
- Multi-actor IWRM process is slow and costly
- Weak financial resources to allocate and support the functioning of such a set up (partners still few, state contributions small, …).

Factsheet 2

Component 1: Governance and Development of Water Resources

Project: Regional dialogue on major water infrastructures in West Africa

Objective: Involve non-state actors in discussions with States and basin organizations, for environmentally sustainable and socially equitable management of water resources in West Africa, through the process of design and implementation of major water infrastructure, and promote good practices in the matter.

Activities carried out

- Animation of an electronic forum
- Organisation of 2 civil society regional forums (Senegal and Niger Basins)
- Holding of a regional workshop to prepare civil society in WRCC consultations
- Participation of civil society in WRCC workshops in the basins (Ouagadougou, Niamey, Dakar) to present recommendations of the panel and at regional level (Ouagadougou), to present the revised recommendations after amendments
- Study to evaluate the influence of the WCD at the level of international policy, with two case studies: Senegal (Water Charter) and Cameroon (Lom Pangar Dam)
- Capitalisation of the dialogue process and sharing of achievements

Outputs achieved

- 2 forum reports and a summary report of the two meetings
- 1 report of the regional workshop to prepare civil society (FR/ENG)
- 15 civil society representatives of the ECOWAS zone (1 per country) trained on advocacy
- 1 recommendation document (FR/ENG) prepared by civil society
- 3 final communiqués for workshops in the basins
- 1 final communiqué for the regional workshop
- 15 ECOWAS recommendations, on a total of 25 adopted by ECOWAS that specifically commit civil society actors in their implementation.
- 1surver report on CMB (FR/ENG) distributed mostly via Internet
- 1 website and 1 mailing list
- 1 documentary film (FR/ENG) in 2 versions: long (61mins) and short (13mins)
- 1000 DVDs (700 FR/300 ENG) long version and 500 DVDs short version
- 1 capitalisation document titled “Regional dialogue on major water infrastructures in West Africa : proceedings of consultation from 2009 to 2011”

Outcomes achieved

- Raising awareness of about 100 participants on the subject of problems and challenges related to large dams and information on the regional consultation project of ECOWAS
- Commitment of partners to contribute and monitor future stages of the dialogue
- Good appropriation of challenges related to dams and civil society contribution
- Successful launching of the dialogue through an open inclusive and innovative debate (electronic forum, consultations in the basins), leading to relevant recommendation themes
- A good contribution of civil society appreciated by all partners (ECOWAS, BOs)
- General awareness that civil society can help a lot constructively to dialogue, with quality contribution
- Enhancement of the participation and interests of basin users (through civil society) in most of the recommendations adopted by ECOWAS
- Many documents (impact assessments, case studies, etc.) made available and downloaded (over 4100 downloads for those most appreciated)
- Experience of dialogue capitalized and widely disseminated (meetings, workshops, 6WWF, 2iE, etc.).

Constraints observed

- Unfortunate absence of local or national elected officials and producer/user associations in electronic discussions
- Discriminatory nature of the Internet, which reduces the participation of field actors who are remote from connections
- Language limitation during the electronic forum: Anglophones were less present
- Difficulties in finding consultants to facilitate forums in basins
- Sometimes weak support from IUCN country and regional offices in organization and implementation
- Short timing imposed by the WRCC workshops weighed on logistical organization (3 workshops in basins in a week)
- The rainy season delayed the schedule for filming the documentary on the ground
- Constraints in the dissemination of the study report on WCD because of large volume of the document (100pages) and delay in the availability of a more accessible French version for many French-speaking actors of the region.

Factsheet 3

Component 2: Ecosystems Services, Forests and Poverty

Project: Economic evaluation of wetlands to improve management policies

Objective: Demonstrate the value of ecosystems services and their rational management to improve on rural livelihoods and increase the possibility of reducing poverty

Activities carried out

- Undertaking four economic assessments (Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Bissau)
- Drawing up simplified wetland economic assessment tools
- Training of conservators, planners and national focal points of environmental Conventions on economic assessment
- Training of members of RAMSAR national committees and focal points of other environmental Conventions on the functions of wetlands in the countries concerned
- Animation of RAMSAR national committees in pilot countries

Outputs achieved

- 4 training workshops for members of national committees
- 4 national assessments on the relationship between the management of natural wetlands and the well-being of communities
- 2 additional RAMSAR national committees established (Senegal and Guinea-Bissau)
- 3 action plans of RAMSAR National Committees
- Economic monitoring and evaluation tools accessible to economists and non-economists in the region and elsewhere in the development phase

Outcomes achieved

- Conservators, planners and other key actors and national partners of IUCN in economic assessment of wetlands in four pilot countries see their scientific and technical capacities strengthened
- The interest of actors involved in the process for economic assessment tools has increased
- The intervention capacities of RAMSAR National Committees have been strengthened

Constraints observed

- Poor internal response to the document produced is a factor limiting the application of the outputs
- The framework for the harmonization of the action plans of RAMSAR National Committees has not always been respected in the country
- The time given for training sessions was not satisfactory given the complexity of the subject concerned

Factsheet 4

Component 2: Ecosystems Services, Forests and Poverty

Project: Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into poverty reduction policies and strategies

Objective: Improving mainstreaming climate change adaptation into poverty alleviation strategies and development planning in West Africa

Activities carried out

- Capitalization of local knowledge, practices, strategies and technologies for climate change adaptation in three countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal)
- Inventory framework and tools for analysing the interactions between climate change and development in the three countries
- Training of trainers on two frameworks for mainstreaming climate change in local planning: Climate Proofing and Tool Kit for Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation Capacity (TOP-SECAC)
- Training of stakeholders on Climate Proofing and TOP-SECAC
- Testing of the two officials on local planning documents in the intervention area in the three countries
- Revision of two local development plans in Senegal (Fatick region and Diossong rural community);
- Organization of national workshops to share the results of tests in the three countries
- Revision of the development plans of four councils (Sio Council in Mali, Lalgaye, Ténado and Korsimoro Councils in Burkina Faso)
- Development and implementation of a communication plan
- Preparation of a handbook on mainstreaming climate change and the environment in local development plans in Burkina Faso
- Organization of a regional workshop to share the achievements of the project and develop a partnership on the environment and climate change
- Development of a concept note of the joint regional programme on climate change
- Organization of a regional development workshop to formulate a joint programme on climate change

Outputs achieved

- A total of 12 frameworks listed
- 2 frameworks (Climate Proofing and TOP-SECAC) selected and tested
- 7 trainers trained on the use of the two selected frameworks
- 140 people trained on Climate Proofing and TOP-SECAC
- 3 national studies on local adaptation strategies
- 3 training workshops for government and non-governmental agencies
- 4 council plans revised
- 2 local development plans re-updated
- 1 handbook for considering climate change and the environment written in Burkina Faso
- 1 Concept Note on a joint regional programme on climate change developed

Outcomes achieved

- 2 partnerships established to enhance achievements
- A better understanding of climate change and its consideration in the development of community projects and local planning
- Four pilot councils include climate change in their council development plan
- A critical mass of resource persons master tools for mainstreaming climate change into planning to ensure replicability and sustainability of achievements.

Constraints observed

- Lack of climate data at national level or failure to be updated was a factor blocking the capitalization of experiences exercise
- Disparities between participants in the training workshops in terms of mastery of issues related to climate change
- Low technical and financial capacity of councils is a limiting factor for ownership and use of the tools.

Factsheet 5

Component 2: Ecosystems Services, Forests and Poverty

Project : Restoration and payment of environmental services in the Tinkisso Basin

Objective: Promote integrated management of the Tinkisso Water Basin through an ecosystem approach, to reduce the effects of climate change and increase the benefits of communities living upstream and downstream of the dam

Activities carried out

- Organization of a national workshop to present the results of the feasibility study on the restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems in the Tinkisso Upper Basin in Dabola.
- Organization of a workshop to present a summary report and outputs of the country's environmental and social communication campaign in the Tinkisso River Basin in Dabola
- Organization of a local workshop to develop a shared vision of integrated water resource management and related ecosystems in the Tinkisso upper basin.
- Organization of a national workshop on the development of the Management Plan of the Tinkisso Upper Basin in Dabola.
- Organization of environmental and social media campaigns for actors and other users of natural resources in the Tinkisso Upper Basin in Dabola
- Empowering communities to manage water resources and other natural resources in the Tinkisso Upper Basin
- Studies on the economic value of environmental goods and services in the Tinkisso Basin in Guinea
- Studies on endogenous technologies for adaptation to the effects of climate change in the Tinkisso upper Basin in Dabola.
- Organization of a regional seminar on economic tools for the sustainable management of natural resources in collaboration with the NBA, CIFOR, the Fouta Djallon Massif Programme (PRAI-MFD) and the Ministry of the Environment of Guinea

Outputs achieved

- 1 shared vision of sustainable management of the basin's resources, short, medium and long term by actors concerned is shared
- 1 priority action plan, water basin approach and means of implementation
- 4 workshops organized
- 2 thematic studies carried out
- 1 description of water basin, ecosystems upstream of the dam as well as demographic, socioeconomic features and constraints and potentials of the Tinkisso Basin is made;
- Issues on exploitation of forest and wildlife resources are identified
- Model statutes and internal regulations are presented to communities.
- Baseline of the natural resources of the basin is established

Outcomes achieved

- Disenclavement dynamics is started
- Local actions and strategies for the management and sustainable development of the Tinkisso Upper Basin are defined and undertaken
- 80% restoration of the hydroelectric dam by the Guinean State;
- Launching of brainstorming on the establishment of the tripartite consultation platform
- Working relations established between the managers of hydraulic facilities and local communities living upstream and downstream
- Mission and vision of the REPASE project for the protection, restoration and sustainable development of the water basin resources, as well as the objectives of the future resource management plan in the basin are identified
- Sources of the main springs of the Tinkisso are demarcated and classified.

Constraints observed

- Delay in starting the project
- State services lack resources
- Poor consideration of gender in decision-making and management process.
- Poor structuring of communities of users of the basin's natural resources;
- Inadequate funding for sustainable development;
- Lack of micro credit to support income-generating activities especially for women
- Delay in raising funds for the holding of general meetings and election of members of the bureau of committees.

Factsheet 6

Component 2: Ecosystems Services, Forests and Poverty

Project: Support of ECOWAS for regional dialogue on forests

Objective: Encourage West African countries to manage forest and wildlife resources in a sustainable and coordinated manner by strengthening the link between the Dialogue and the International Programme on Forests, especially regarding the role of forests in climate change adaptation and poverty reduction

Activities carried out

- Support to the experts meeting in Accra in January 2009 to validate the baseline report of the Dialogue on Forests in West Africa
- Sub-regional study on transboundary restoration/ conservation initiatives of forest ecosystems;
- Experts Meeting on Relaunching Dialogue on Forests in West Africa (Abidjan, November 2009)
- Support to the meeting of experts and Ministers of ECOWAS countries to officially validate the process and Dialogue document on Forests (Cotonou, 2010)
- Capacity building forum on networking environmental civil society and related socio-professional networks in West Africa (Accra, 2010)
- Development of a website for the Dialogue on Forests in West Africa
- Support for the organization of a forum on knowledge sharing and best practices on the production, exploitation and enhancement of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in West Africa. (Niamey, 2011)
- Support to the workshop to launch the development of the Convergence Plan on Forests. Abuja, 2011.
- Support to national consultations to improve national reports on countries' priorities for sustainable management and rational use of forests and wildlife in West Africa.

Outputs achieved

- 3 reports produced.
- 1 website containing many documents on the forest convergence plan created.
- 14 national consultation reports validated.
- 6 workshops and forums bringing together experts, ministers and civil society organized from January 2009 to March 2011

Outcomes achieved

- IUCN will support the preparation of the Convergence Plan in countries where there are IUCN programmes or forest projects like in: Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Ghana, and Liberia;
- A roadmap developed with the choice of Burkina to host the first national consultation.
- A coalition of actors on the Forests Dialogue is operational: NGOs, Centres of Excellence on forestry, traditional authorities, local elected officials and parliamentarians.

Constraints observed

- Difficulties in defining actors of the dialogue
- Little time to mobilize all partners
- Poor participation and difficulties in educating civil society of which a good segment could not attend the meeting because they were not invited in time.

Factsheet 7

Component 3: Capacity building and networking for environmental management

Project: Mobilizing environmental knowledge to improve on regional policies in West Africa

Objective: Support the implementation of regional environmental and climate change adaptation policies, by mobilizing available knowledge

Activities carried out

- Collection and dissemination of information
- Support to the production of media
- Capacity building
- Networking and supporting civil society
- Raising awareness of decision-makers and support to decision-making

Outputs achieved

- 2 websites on environmental issues created
- 1 electronic platform on capitalization and sharing of African knowledge on the environment posted online
- 1 regional collaborative blog on science and sustainable development posted online
- 1 web radio created
- 3 documentary films produced
- 3 online newsletters initiated and nourished
- 1 study on the production and dissemination of environmental radio content undertaken
- 1 magazine on issues related to mining and nature conservation published
- 1 magazine on issues related to the financing of water and protection of resources published
- 6 national training and awareness workshops for media professionals
- 1 study on regional environmental policies in West Africa: collection, analysis and brainstorming for effective implementation
- 1 news brief on regional environmental policies broadcast
- 3 regional workshops for policy-makers
- 1 transboundary workshop on integrated natural resource management
- 1 planning workshop of the regional project "Wetlands and Urbanization in West Africa" organized
- 1 roadmap for the implementation of the regional project adopted
- At least 220 experts trained or sensitized on environmental issues
- Numerous newspaper articles and audio-visual coverage of topics related to the fight against poverty and nature conservation developed and broadcast in West African media

Outcomes achieved

- Improvement and development of IUCN reports with the media in the region
- Increase in the production of articles and radio programmes dealing with environmental topics in the media of the sub-region
- Increase in the number of on-line platforms to capitalize and share PREMI outputs
- Interest of communicators and managers of environmental information to contribute in the mobilization of knowledge and its dissemination through various channels and their respective networks.
- Strengthening of parliamentary interest to get involved in the implementation of the project

Constraints observed

- Lack of consistency with other PREMI projects and other components of PACO limit mutual learning
- Low technical and financial resources to carry out mobilization of decision-makers are a limiting factor hindering the achievement of the objectives
- The innovative nature of the activities requires a long period of planning
- Technical constraints of the region and the low capacity of participants in terms of mastering the tools and techniques of information sharing make it difficult to collect and disseminate information

List of publications

All the publications found on the list below, as well as studies produced over the four years of the programme's implementation are available on the PREMI website www.iucn.org/premi

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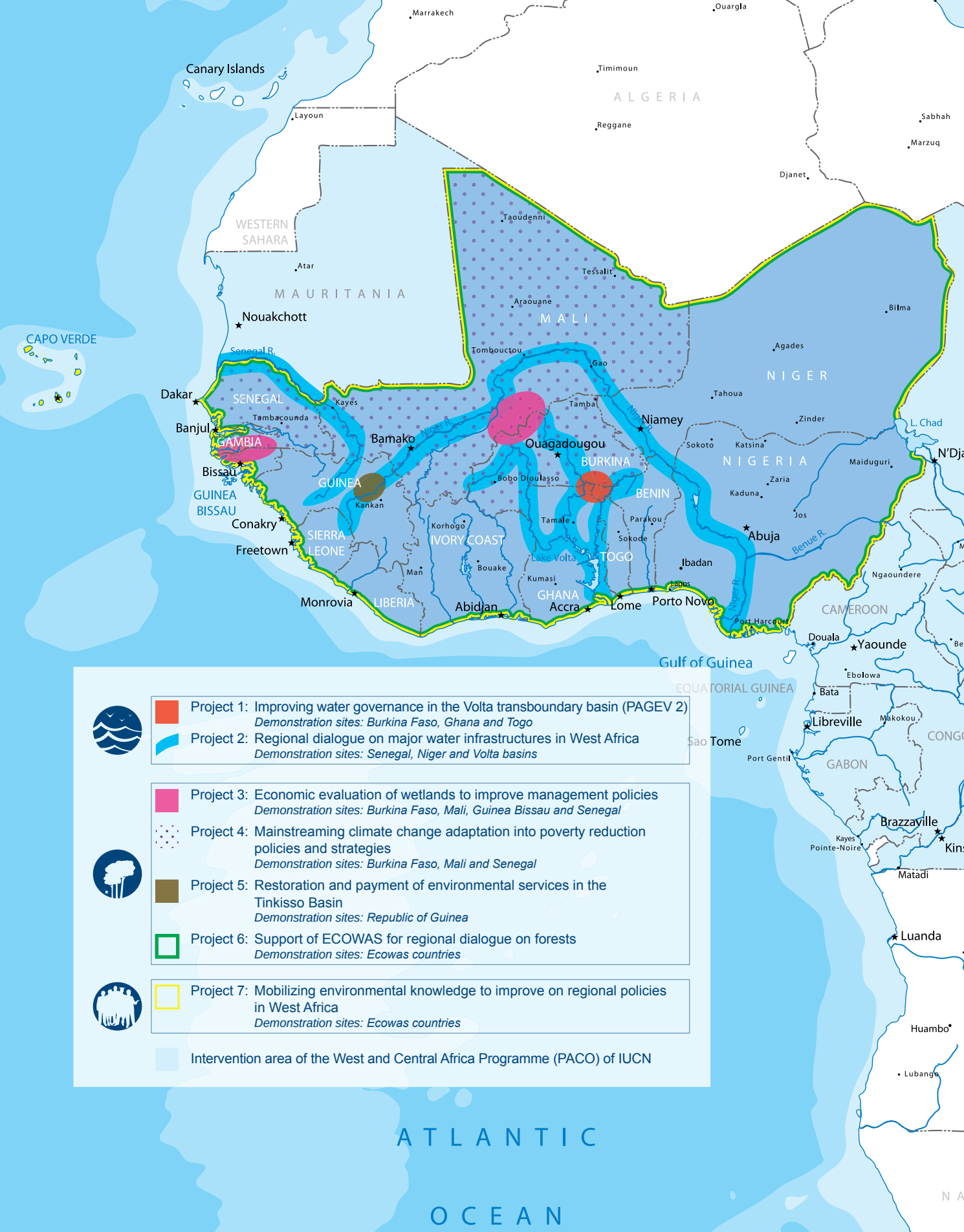
- Towards concerted governance of water resources in the Volta Basin: PAGEV experience, documentary film, IUCN-PACO, 26 mins, 2010, fr. and eng. ❶
- Volta River Basin, Ghana and Burkina Faso: transboundary water management through multi-level participatory governance and community projects, UICN 2011, 12p. (eng.) ❷
- Guide: Using appropriate tools for planning, monitoring and evaluation of adaptation capacities at local and transnational levels, UICN-PACO 2011, 6p. (fr. and eng.)
- Policy brief: Understanding climate related vulnerability is the key to climate change adaptation policies and actions in the Volta Basin, UICN-PACO 2011, 6p. (fr. and eng.)
- Economic performance of climate change adaptation activities in the Volta Basin, UICN-PACO 2013, 40p. (fr. and eng.) ❸
- Issue for consideration of sustainable land management, wetlands, climate change, biological diversity, reducing the risk of natural disasters in the local development plans in Burkina Faso, IUCN, SP/CONEDD, DGAT/AD, CPP, PRGLA, PANA and COGEL 2013, 54p. (fr.)
- Economic value of Sourou Valley: Preliminary Study, IUCN-PACO, Ouagadougou, 2010, 65p. (fr.) ❹
- The Sourou Valley: from yesterday to tomorrow, documentary film, UICN-PACO, 2010, 25mins (fr. and eng.) ❺
- Large dams in West Africa, building dialogue, documentary film, IUCN-PACO and WRCC/ECOWAS, 2011, long version: 61 mins; short version: 13 mins, format 16.9 (fr. and eng.) ❻
- Regional dialogue on major water infrastructures in West Africa – consultation proceedings from 2009 to 2011, UICN-PACO 2012, 65p. (fr. and eng.) ❼





- Making regional environmental policies a powerful tool for governance and integration in West Africa, UICN-PACO, 36 p. (fr. and eng.) ❾
- Information newsletter on water and the environment Inf'O: "Mining and protection of the environment and natural resources in West Africa", IUCN-PACO and GWP/WA 2012, 48p. (fr. and eng.) ❿
- Information newsletter on water and the environment Inf'O: "Financing water and protection of the resource", IUCN-PACO and GWP/WA 2012, 60p. (fr. and eng.) ⓫
- Economic assessment of functions and ecological services of natural ecosystems: Guide on the use of simple methods, IUCN-PACO 2013, 30p. (fr. and eng.) ⓬
- African knowledge for environment, www.iucn.org/dialoguenvironnement, electronic platform for exchange and capitalization of African environmental knowledge, IUCN-PACO, 2012
- Web portal of Radio Environnement, www.radioenvironnement.org, IUCN-PACO and Radio Environnement, 2013
- Web site of dialogue on dams, www.dialoguebarrages.net, IUCN-PACO and WRCC/ECOWAS, 2011
- Science and Sustainable Development, http://sciences2d.org, environmental scientific information blog, IUCN-PACO and AJCS/BF, 2012


Project 1: Improving water governance in the Volta transboundary basin (PAGEV 2)
Demonstration sites: Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo
Project 2: Regional dialogue on major water infrastructures in West Africa
Demonstration sites: Senegal, Niger and Volta basins
Project 3: Economic evaluation of wetlands to improve management policies
Demonstration sites: Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea Bissau and Senegal
Project 4: Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into poverty reduction policies and strategies
Demonstration sites: Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal
Project 5: Restoration and payment of environmental services in the Tinkisso Basin
Demonstration sites: Republic of Guinea
Project 6: Support of ECOWAS for regional dialogue on forests
Demonstration sites: Ecowas countries
Project 7: Mobilizing environmental knowledge to improve on regional policies in West Africa
Demonstration sites: Ecowas countries
Intervention area of the West and Central Africa Programme (PACO) of IUCN
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Parakou
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Freetown
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Aswan
Lake Nasser
Medine
Aozou
Mecque
Red Sea
Port Sudan
Nile R.
Atbarah
Faya-Largeau
ERITREA
Salalah
Al Ghaydan
CHAD
Khartoum
Asmara
Sanaa
YEMEN
Al Mukalla
Al Fashir
SUDAN
Mekele
Taizz
Aseb
Suqutra
White Nile
Blue Nile
Gulf of Aden
DJIBOUTI
AFRICA
Djibouti
Chari R.
Berbera
Dire Dawa
Hargeysa
SOMALIA
Ndele
Addis Abbaba
Wau
Asela
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Goba
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Bossangoa
Juba
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Bangui
Ubangi R.
Bangassou
Gulu
Congo R.
Bumba
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UGANDA
KENYA
Mogadishu
Ubangi R.
Kisangani
Kampala
Eldoret
Kisumu
Mbandaka
Lake Victoria
Chisimayu
Congo R.
RWANDA
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
L. Kivu
Bukavu
Mwanza
Congo R.
Kasai R.
Bujumbura
BURUNDI
Mombasa
Tanga
Tabora
Kalemi
TANZANIA
Kasai R.
Zanzibar Island
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Kananga
L. Tanganyika
Kamina
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Malange
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