

CALABAR PROTOCOL: SUSTAINABLE MANGROVE MANAGEMENT: AN ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION

PROTECTING MANGROVES: A PROTOCOL ON SUSTAINABLE MANGROVE MANAGEMENT

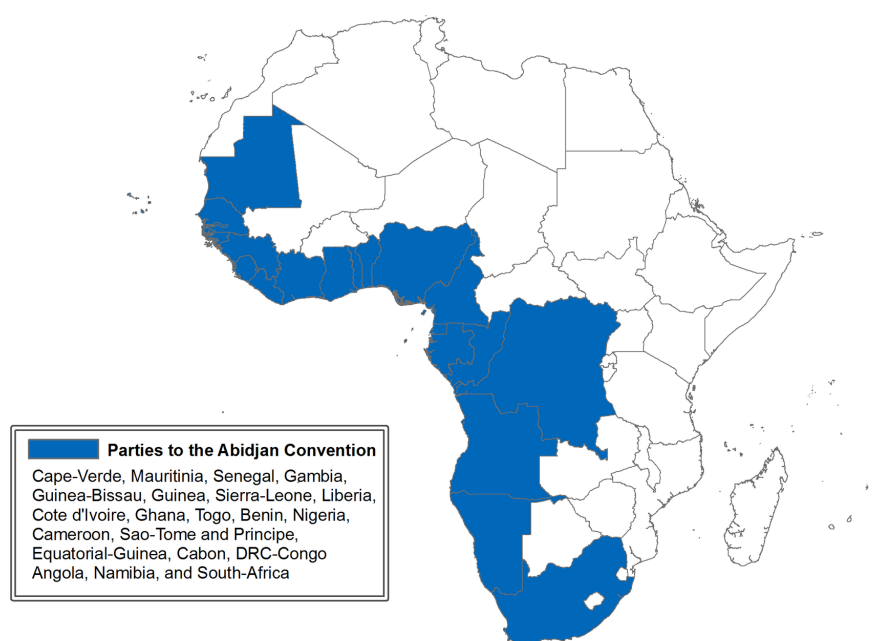
After the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Abidjan Convention in 2014, the Secretariat initiated the development of a Protocol on Sustainable Mangrove Management.

The Protocol on Sustainable Mangrove Management was validated in Bissau in May 2016 along with the development of a road map for national consultations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROTOCOL

1. Harmonize principles and set modalities for managing mangrove ecosystems;
2. Establish rules for environmental protection and conservation of mangroves;
3. Define the framework and modalities for stakeholder participation in the decision-making process for managing the mangrove ecosystems; and
4. Define modalities for the review and approval of projects, programs, and other initiatives for the use of the mangrove ecosystems.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



The Protocol will apply to the coastal zone of the 22 Parties to the Abidjan Convention. This may include littoral areas, river basins, inland waters, territorial seas, exclusive economic zones, and continental shelves.

WHY PROTECT MANGROVES?

- Mangroves are a rich source of biological diversity and natural resources that support livelihoods.
- They are a crucial component of many human activities such as fishing and aquaculture, renewable energy production, extraction of raw materials, and tourism.
- Loss of mangrove habitat reduces fish spawning grounds, which leads to the further intensification of fisheries operations and depletion of available marine resources.
- With the loss of mangroves, a natural buffer, coastal erosion is occurring at an accelerated rate posing a risk to coastal infrastructure and economic growth.

THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION PROTOCOLS

For over 6 years, the Abidjan Convention has been accelerating the process of developing regional cooperation instruments. These cooperation agreements include the additional protocols to the Abidjan Convention on:

- **Grand Bassam Protocol:** Pollution from land-based sources and activities;
- **Malabo Protocol:** Environmental norms and standards; related to offshore oil and gas activities
- **Pointe-Noire Protocol:** Integrated coastal zone management; and
- **Calabar Protocol:** Sustainable mangrove management.

WEST AFRICA KEY FACTS



31% of West Africans live in Coastal areas.



500,000 West Africans are affected by coastal floods every year.



50% of regional fisheries-related jobs are expected to be lost by 2050 if coasts continue to decline.

56%

West Africa's coastal areas generate over half of the region's GDP.

Source: World Bank

MODALITIES OF THE SUSTAINABLE MANGROVE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

Parties shall take measures that lead to the sustainable management and enable local bordering communities to make use of the mangrove resources from the standpoint of sustainability. The different modalities for sustainable management of the resources of the mangrove ecosystem are the following:

- Strengthening of the legal and institutional framework;
- Restoration, rehabilitation, conservation, and rational utilization of mangroves;
- Setting up sustainable funding mechanisms;
- Better organization of the market for goods and services;
- Setting up alternative means of livelihoods for communities bordering the mangroves, especially for women;
- Setting up a system for monitoring and evaluation; and
- Capitalization of traditional knowledge, promotion of best practices, participatory management of the mangrove ecosystem, and improvement of the information and communication systems.

HOW WILL THE PROTOCOL BE IMPLEMENTED?

To foster effective enforcement of this Protocol, the Contracting Parties shall:

- Develop and adopt national and regional action plans and programs to ensure the sustainable use of mangroves;
- Integrate the management of mangroves in relevant sectoral strategies;
- Adopt policies, specific legislative, and regulatory measures on sustainable mangrove management at the regional, national, and local levels;
- Agree on common environmental priority programs, within the first four years after the entry into force of this Protocol, to be reviewed biannually thereafter;
- Encourage the use of best available techniques and environmental practices;
- Promote the application and facilitate access to and transfer of sustainable technologies, particularly in the use and exploitation of mangrove products; and
- Encourage the involvement of all parties concerned with the management of the mangroves.



A healthy mangrove forest in Moable, part of the Scarcies region in the Sierra Leone Coastal Landscape Complex.

PUTTING POLICY INTO PRACTICE

The West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA BiCC) program, funded by USAID, is testing the implementation of this protocol through site-based activities in the Sierra Leone Coastal Landscape complex. The wide range of activities supported includes ecological restoration with an emphasis on mangrove ecosystems. WA BiCC has also supported the establishment of the Coastal Chiefdoms Natural Resources Management Network (CCNRMN) as a mechanism for promoting synergy and increasing the involvement of stakeholders within the coastal landscape with support from national institutions working on coastal areas of Sierra Leone.

Similar planning and implementation of activities is underway in the Fresco Coastal Landscape of Cote d'Ivoire to stimulate further interventions to upscale and encourage the signing, ratification, domestication, and a wider application of the Protocol in all Contracting Parties.

THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION

Signed in 1981, The Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region, known as the Abidjan Convention, covers a marine area of just over 14,000 km. From Mauritania to South Africa, the Convention provides an overarching legal framework for all marine-related programs in West, Central, and Southern Africa.

WEST AFRICA BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

WA BiCC is a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that aims to improve conservation and climate-resilient, low-emissions growth across West Africa. By working through core regional partners – Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mano River Union (MRU) and the Abidjan Convention—and with targeted national and sub-national institutions, WA BiCC increases the capacity of institutions at all levels.



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