

# POINTE-NOIRE PROTOCOL: INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

## AN ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE ABIDJAN CONVENTION

### PROTECTING COASTS: A PROTOCOL ON INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

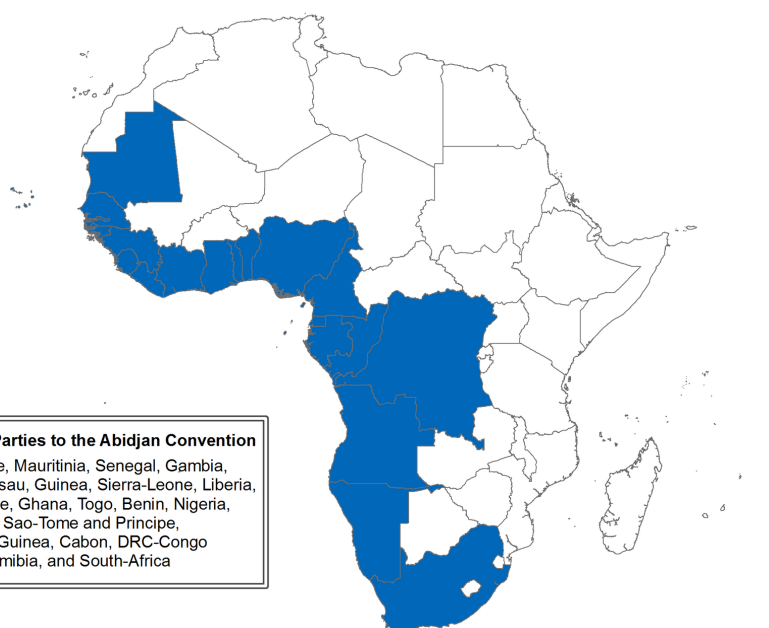
In 2012, Parties to the Abidjan Convention on marine and coastal areas requested the Secretariat to consider adding a protocol on integrated coastal zone management.

To this end, during the 11th Conference of Parties, a common framework for integrated coastal zone management was established to strengthen regional cooperation.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROTOCOL

1. Promote integrated planning and coordinated development of the coastal zone including insular belts and river basins;
2. Maintain the integrity of insular belts, coastlines, and river basins for the benefit of present and future generations;
3. Ensure sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services, including those of freshwater ecosystems;
4. Promote and maintain ecosystem resilience, including appropriate protection of sensitive areas, in the face of human activities, natural hazards, and climate change; and
5. Prevent and reduce pollution from air, land, and sea-based sources.

### 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.*

### WHAT IS INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT?

A dynamic process of sustainable management and use of coastal areas that takes into consideration the fragility of the coastal ecosystems and landscapes, how they interact, how they are used, and how they impact activities on land and at sea.

### WHY ARE COASTS IMPORTANT?

- The coastal and marine ecosystems of West Africa are rich in biological diversity and natural resources that allow human communities to thrive.
- These ecosystems are integral to many human activities including maritime transport, fishing and aquaculture, renewable energy production, extraction of raw materials, and tourism.

### WHAT THREATS DO COASTS FACE?

- The effects of climate change – like rising sea levels, shifting weather patterns, and more frequent storms – are changing the way coastal communities live and work.
- West Africans are migrating to the densely-populated coastal areas, putting additional pressure on natural resources.
- Weak governance and ineffective governance compound these threats and accelerate the degradation of vital ecosystems.

### 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.

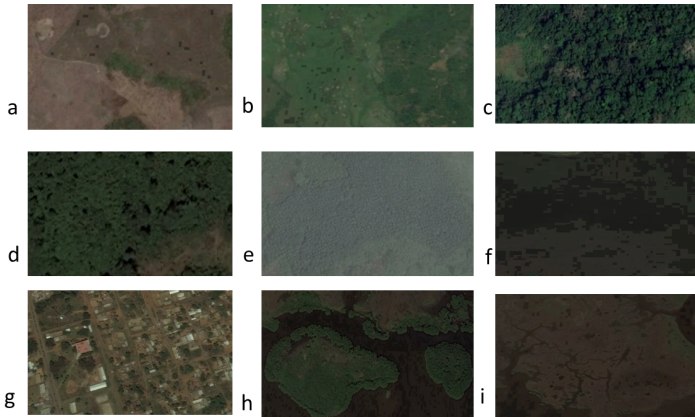
**56%**

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

Source: World Bank

## HOW WILL THE PROTOCOL BE APPLIED?

- Processes for integrated coastline and river basin management will be integrated to help link water, spaces, developments, and dynamics of the human and physical environments;
- The various stakeholders will work together on planning, developing, and integrating the management of the coastal waters and river basins;
- Water resource development and management plans will be developed in the littoral zones and river basins for all watercourses with an outlet to the ocean and inland waters so as to coordinate actions along the coastal zones;
- Parties will be encouraged to mainstream IWRM as an implementing instrument within the purview of laws governing the coast zone;
- Partnership will be supported so as to ensure that the interests of all stakeholders groups are taken into account to promote sustainable use of forests, rivers, estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, deltas, that can have an impact on the health and productivity of the Atlantic Ocean; and
- Knowledge players will be mobilized to work within the framework of observatories and strengthen the structures that exist at the sub-regional level.



*Interactions between upstream and downstream ecosystems: a) Farmland; b) classified Forest; c) Open Forest; d) Rubber plantation; e) Cocoa plantation; f) Water courses; g) Urban area; h) Mangrove; and i) Wetlands.*

## PUTTING POLICY INTO PRACTICE

The West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA BiCC) program, funded by USAID, is testing the application of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol in the Fresco Lagoon Landscape. Here, the program carried out a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment which led to the creation of an Options Analysis. This resulting analysis took into account the interests of all stakeholder groups and the execution of its suggested interventions are meant to test and support the implementation of the Abidjan Convention's new Protocol.

## 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.

## 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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