



Review of practices for assessing protected areas management effectiveness and their scope/impact on relevant areas in PRCM member countries

Terms of reference



I. Context

National systems of protected areas have been put in place in West Africa in PRCM member countries. These systems help to preserve natural resources, rehabilitate deteriorated ecosystems when necessary and improve the living conditions of local communities. The creation of protected areas also meets an international obligation under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Indeed, Target 11 of the 2011-2020 CBD's strategic plan calls on parties to ensure that "By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas... are conserved through effectively and equitably ... systems of protected areas...".

Key assessment tools used in the sub-region include i) **rapid assessment and prioritization of protected areas management (RAPPAM)**, ii) **management effectiveness tracking tool (METT)**, iii) **integrated management effectiveness tool**, iv) **enhancing our heritage (EoH)**, which has been specifically designed for world heritage sites. All these tools comply with the assessment principle established by the World Commission on Protected Areas and cover the six main components of protected areas management, i.e. context, planning, inputs, management process, outputs and impact.

IUCN, WWF, FIBA and RAMP AO have supported relevant countries in constantly assessing protected areas either at the national level, i.e. the system of protected areas existing in a country, or at the regional level by considering all the sites falling under RAMP AO's responsibility.

All assessment exercises have shown gaps in (ecological) representativeness, areas management and governance effectiveness as well as in cooperation for the management of shared resources.

It must be recognised, however, that since the beginning of the assessment exercise, a disparity has been noted between countries while the implementation of the various recommendations has not always been monitored and evaluated by those institutions responsible for relevant protected areas or by external partners.

As no monitoring and evaluation took place, no insight could be yielded regarding the scope and direct impact on the management system and ultimately on how the conditions for conserving resources could be improved.

In this regard, PRCM (through the CBD project) in partnership with RAMP AO, plans to hire a consultant to carry out a study on practices for assessing protected areas management effectiveness and their impact on relevant areas in PRCM member countries.

These terms of reference set the framework of such a study.



II. Objective and outcome

The study aims to highlight the relevance, scope and impact of the successive assessments of protected areas management effectiveness conducted in the relevant countries (Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone). A review on a country and regional basis is expected.

On completion of the study, both protected areas managers and partners should be in a position to ascertain:

- the level of implementation of the recommendations from the various assessments; and
- the impact of such recommendations on enhancing the quality of protected areas management.

Specific recommendations will have to be formulated in order to better refine and focus future assessments and put in place an appropriate monitoring framework for the implementation of recommendations arising from such assessments, with a view to more visible effects.

III. Assignment

The successful candidate must:

- Review assessments carried out since 2008 at the national, regional and sub-regional level, regardless of the tool or method used;
- Appraise the monitoring and implementation of recommendations emerging from the various assessments of protected areas management effectiveness;
- Examine the extent to which recommendations from project assessments realised between 2008 and 2016 within PRCM intervention area are taken into account;
- Single out obstacles (in all forms) to the implementation of recommendations;
- Propose guidelines to assist countries in implementing recommendations resulting from assessment exercises in which they have participated;
- Examine assessment exercises and existing assessment tools and identify, on a comparative basis, the strengths and weaknesses of each one with reference to the West African background. Recommendations must be formulated for each tool presented regarding its adaptability in the sub-region;
- Highlight West African contextual specificities that need to be taken into account for adapting these tools.



IV. Methodology and scope

The study will set out to review the outcome and recommendations from assessments conducted since 2008 in PRCM member countries and at the regional level.

The successful candidate will undertake a visit to 2 or 3 countries in the sub-region to liaise with protected areas managers. Countries to be visited will be selected in common agreement with PRCM and the consultant. During such visits, the consultant will find out about the implementation status of recommendations from past assessments and their real and indirect impact on the ground. A field visit (to protected areas) might also be organised with relevant authorities in these countries.

Discussions via Skype will be organised between the consultant and protected areas managers in countries where visits are not scheduled. PRCM will facilitate coordination in this regard.

At the end of the study, an **invitational** workshop, to be hosted by the consultant, will be convened by the consultant to present the findings of the study. Recommendations and feedback from the workshop will be integrated in the outcome document by the consultant.

PRCM will provide the consultant with all reading materials necessary to complete their assignment, in addition to facilitating contact with target resource persons.

V. Duration and deadlines

The duration of the assignment will be about two months from the date of signature of the contract between the consultant and PRCM.

A preliminary draft report should be submitted to PRCM 45 days following the inception of the assignment. PRCM will forward such report to participants in the workshop at least 10 days in advance. The duration of the workshop may not be included in that of the assignment. PRCM will set the date and venue of the workshop jointly with the consultant once in receipt of the final report.



VI. Profile

The ideal candidate must have a relevant experience in the management of coastal and marine resources, especially in West Africa, including at least 10 years of experience in assessing protected areas management effectiveness, and hold at least a postgraduate degree in a subject related to environmental studies, socioeconomics, sociology, etc.

VII. Contact address and information

Addition information may be directly requested from PRCM at Complexe SICAP –Point E, Immeuble A, 2^e étage (2nd floor); tel: + 221 33 869 81 80 or via electronic mail at malle.diagana@iucn.org.

Interested firms or consultants are requested to send in their technical and financial bids as well as a detailed planning of the assignment to the following two email addresses by 20th September 2016 at 5:00 p.m.:

Malle.diagana@iucn.org

Ahmed.senhoury@iucn.org