



**A Report on the Proceedings
of the:
Joint Workshop
for
Trans-boundary Harmonization for Biodiversity Conservation: Policy and Management**

STEWARD/MRU/Darwin Initiative

**October 4-8
Sanniquellie, Nimba County, Liberia**



December 2010

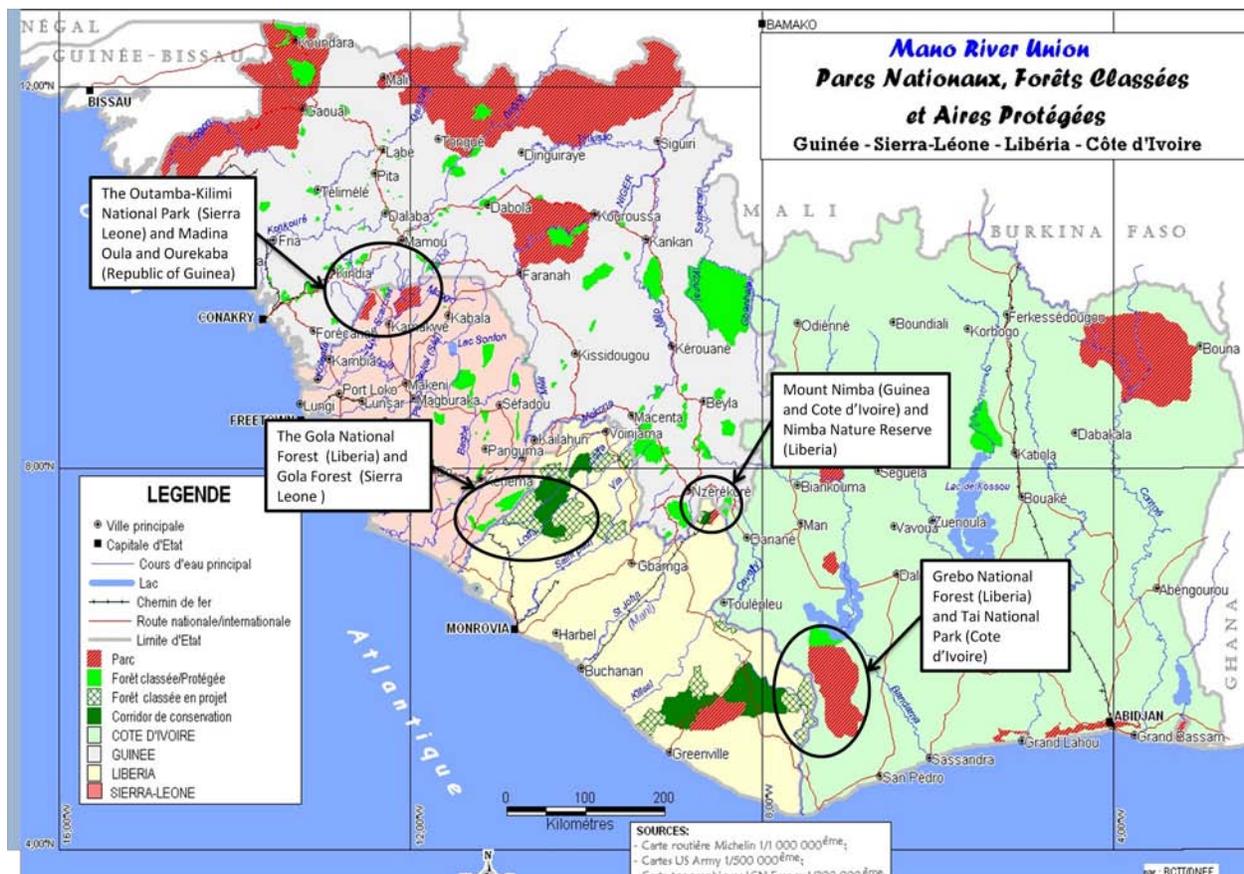
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I. Executive Summary:

The Sanniquellie Trans-boundary workshop had two primary goals. The first was to review and refine the content of the Trans-boundary Policy Harmonization Preliminary Report produced in August of 2010. That document compared the environmental laws of all the countries of the Mano River Union (MRU). The Policy Report also characterized some topics that warranted further action by the member nations and/or the MRU. Discussion of these topics and the formulation of action plans was the second goal of the workshop. The Policy Harmonization Report will be refined with comments received at the workshop, and a final version of the report will be distributed to participants. This 2nd report focuses on the proceedings and action recommendations made at the October 2010 workshop itself.

The agenda was designed to stimulate discussion and, ultimately, to create action plans. Six topical areas, largely driven by the recommendations in the preliminary report discussed above, were the focus for the discussions. Those items that the individual country groups thought were important and possible to make progress on in the next 12 to 18 months were selected by the groups to develop into action plans. Small breakout groups were used to encourage maximum participation. The composition of the groups varied somewhat by topic. Small groups break outs by protected area complex were used for the topics of “protected areas”, and “challenges of community integration”. The topics of: grazing/tenancy; climate change; protected species; and inter-agency coordination were discussed in country groups. Lastly, using these topic-specific work sessions, each country group was asked to develop 5 action plans for any of the recommendations (on any of the six topics) that had been brainstormed to that point.



A summary of the country action plans is listed below. The plans themselves are provided in Section V of this document. The original presentations of the plans and some explanatory content are found in Annex C.

Cote d'Ivoire

1. Initiate agro-sylvo-pastoral projects; (micro) income-generating alternative activities and social projects
2. Strengthen the capacity for effective implementation of legislation in cross-border areas
3. Progress in the development of cross-border management and development plans
4. Develop a national strategic plan for REDD
5. Prioritize development and implementation of management plans for the local area/people. Projects in cross-border areas

Guinea

1. Clearly define and delimit the boundaries of Mt. Nimba
2. Develop income generating activities (for communities impacted by protected areas)
3. Definition and implementation of the procedure for establishment of the protected border area for MO-OK-SOY
4. Reinforce the capacities of management structures in the areas of PES and REDD
5. Increased communication/participation in the management of protected areas (Nimba, OKNP, Madina Oula, Ziamawenegizi)

Liberia

1. Improve Livelihood options in Nimba (for local communities) – the development of a trans-boundary biodiversity governance platform
2. Suggest and promote Inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation (among the nations of the MRU)
3. Capacity building of communities and institutions in climate change
4. Benefit sharing in climate change to be addressed and harmonised
5. Sapo/Tai/GREBO complex, Train local communities in alternative ways to generate income
6. * Create holding grounds for animals at border (see explanation in detailed text)

Sierra Leone

1. Community Engagement: support the implementation of co-management in trans-boundary areas
2. Legal Framework: Harmonize laws/ policies/ regulations on trans-boundary management
3. Lobbying and advocacy: MRU lobby for prioritization of protected area management and climate change in the sub-region
4. Education and communication: Enhance education and communication for all stakeholders in trans-boundary areas
5. TB Corridor: Establishment and Management of trans-boundary corridors.

Next Steps

This document, which contains the proceedings of the workshop, will be distributed to the participants as well as to key agency officials and NGO partners. The participants should brief their Ministry contacts on the recommendations developed. Making progress on any of the actions described above is totally dependent on the individual and collective actions of motivated individuals, organizations and agencies to make the Action Plans become a reality. In some cases, more specificity must be developed in the action plans. The individuals who participated in the workshop are the people who can add to that specificity where needed. The participants also need to make the necessary contacts to surface both the problems and the recommendations developed during this workshop in order to move toward the solutions. The MRU, USAID/STEWARDS Program, and Fauna and Flora International (FFI) Darwin Initiative will utilize the information developed to help shape their out-year programs and will use the contacts and relationships developed through the workshop to collaborate more effectively with a variety of partners. The MRU and member nations will be able to use the Policy Harmonization report as a working tool and can use the proceedings of the workshop to refine the existing MRU work plan and to move toward completion of prioritized actions identified at the workshop.

II. Background and Acknowledgements

The workshop on Trans-Boundary Policy Harmonization was a working meeting of nearly 80 individuals. That number includes both those supporting the workshop as well as those representing Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The MRU Executive Secretariat, the USAID funded STEWARDS program, the US Forest Service (USFS), and the FFI Darwin Initiative all worked together to sponsor and organize the event. Individuals who attended represented diverse interests from the governments of each country, non-government organizations, MRU officials, local tribal leaders, and facilitators from STEWARDS and Forest Service International Programs.

The workshop was held in Sanniquellie, Liberia. Our thanks go to the Red Cross in Sanniquellie for their support in hosting the workshop. Thanks also go to the enthusiastic participants who made a significant effort to attend the meeting and who kept up their participation for the five (very full) days it took to cover the topics. The location was chosen because of its proximity to the Mount Nimba protected area complex which has protected areas in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Mount Nimba is one of the four priority trans-boundary protected areas that provided a geographic focus for the workshop. Locating the workshop in Sanniquellie made possible a field trip to the village of Thuo, which is near the Mt. Nimba World Heritage site in Guinea. Allowing the participants to hear, first hand, the perspectives and issues of community people living near a protected area was an important aspect of the workshop.

In August, prior to the workshop, STEWARD and the USFS prepared and circulated a preliminary Trans-boundary Policy Harmonization report. That report compares environmental policy, law and regulations for all the countries of the MRU with a particular emphasis on how these legal instruments affect four trans-boundary protected area complexes (The four areas being: Mt. Nimba; Sapo/Tai/Grebo; Madina Oula/OKNP; and Gola/Lofa/Foya). Design of the workshop facilitated an opportunity to review and make additions and corrections to the Policy Harmonization report. Such feedback will be used to improve that report's utility as a reference. The final Trans-boundary Policy Harmonization report is to be published and distributed in both French and English, hopefully by early December, 2010.

Review of the Policy Harmonization report and its findings was also the impetus to bring together knowledgeable stakeholders to discuss the complex issues involved in trans-boundary protected area management in the MRU sub-region. These stakeholders included leadership of the Mano River Union, key agency officials from Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, Paramount Chiefs from communities near Mount Nimba, Park and Reserve officers, and representatives from over a dozen non-government organizations working in or near trans-boundary protected areas in the sub-region. A complete list of participants is in Annex A.

The logistical preparations for the workshop were considerable, especially given that the participants came from many different nations, often with lengthy travel by air or vehicle. Several commercial guest houses in Sanniquellie were used to house participants. Our thanks go also to BHP Billiton for use of company guest house and for use of a company vehicle to assist in transport of participants from Monrovia to and from the workshop in Sanniquellie. Thanks also go to FFI Darwin Initiative for their financial and logistic help to STEWARD in transport and housing as well as in helping to provide simultaneous translation equipment. The able services of interpreters Jean Baptiste Akoi and Florence Bile and their technical assistant, Paul Bandou, proved invaluable. Given the diversity and complexity of the topics discussed at the workshop; the need to communicate in both French and English was critical and was well covered.

The MRU took a leadership role for the workshop. Their effort in sending out invitations, and providing overall coordination for the workshop and in the agenda planning was greatly appreciated. The workshop also greatly benefitted from the direct participation of Deputy Secretary General Simeon Moriba, and Deputy Secretary General Linda Koroma as well as from country updates from representatives of each member nation.

We would also like to thank the Governments of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone for sending their delegations which comprised of high level officials. A special thanks to the Government of Liberia, the leadership of Nimba County and the city of Sanniquellie in particular for their hosting of the workshop and their high level of participation. The Governments of Liberia and Guinea should also be recognized for their cooperation and coordination in arranging an extremely smooth border crossing for the field trip to the community of Thuo.

Overall coordination of the workshop was provided by Jason Ko (USFS) with in-country assistance from the STEWARD staff of Jordan Kimball, Abu-Bakar Massaquoi, Djomba Mara, and Peter Conteh. Seydou Sidibe (STEWARD) and Steve Brady (USFS) prepared the initial report, helped established the meeting format and agenda, and helped facilitate the meeting.

FFI's team of Dr. Julian Bayliss, Dr. Chloe Hodgkinson, and Dr. Nouhou Ndam helped set the agenda and facilitate it, integrating the Darwin Initiative for Mt. Nimba seamlessly into the overall program. They also coordinated dozens of details of lodging, transport, and other logistic considerations to help make the workshop a success.

Lastly, we greatly appreciate the community of Thuo, Guinea for their gracious welcome of the group and for their engaged participation in the information gathering sessions held at their school house.

III. Summary of Workshop

The workshop was divided into MRU Country reports (day 1), six general topical areas with small group break-out sessions (days 1-3), a field trip (day 4), and an action planning development break-out session (day 5). This section provides a summary of each portion of the workshop. Complete original notes are provided in the Annex (Parts C, D, E and F).

MRU Country Progress Reports

What follows is a brief summary of the reports presented by the participating representatives of Member countries- in regards to their



advancement of the MRU workplan in their respective countries..

Cote d'Ivoire

This presentation was made in two parts. The first presentation showed the history, current status and developments within and near the Mount Nimba protected area in Cote d'Ivoire. The second presentation was a more general overview for Cote d'Ivoire from SODEFOR, the agency within the Ministry of Environment, Water Resources, and Forests, charged with management of Cote d'Ivoire's forest resources. This report focused on the status of several trans-boundary protected areas in the country including the complex near Tai National Park, which includes the forest areas of Haute Dodo, Cavally, and Goin Debe which are nationally and internationally thought to be important linkage areas in maintaining protected wildlife species. Also discussed in the report was the status of protection in the Mt. Nimba/Tiaplue area which has connectivity to protected areas in Guinea. SODEFOR and the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation signed an agreement (2009/10) to work collaboratively on the protection of habitat for a significant chimpanzee population in the Tai/Cavally/ Goin Debe area. Unfortunately, with the current instability in the country, no concrete actions have been undertaken relative to the agreement at this time.

Guinea

This presentation was also in two parts. The first presentation was by CEGENS (Center for Environmental Management of Mount Nimba) which included a review of the history of the cooperative work on Mount Nimba which started in 1995. In 2003, the scope of the working area was expanded to include Simandou which led to the current acronym, CEGENS. The organization is founded in Guinean law with a mission of coordination of activities both within the World Heritage site and in adjoining buffer and transition areas near Mt. Nimba and Simandou. Goals include management of renewable resources, maintenance of biodiversity and poverty alleviation in the area. The presentation showed several ongoing projects in the area which are benefitting local communities. The second presentation was focused on the status of elephant populations and habitat in the Ziama Forest Reserve. The report included the status of forest cover as well as population estimates and trends with a focus on activities to help preserve elephants in the area.

Liberia

This report gave a broad overview of the status of forests in the Upper Guinean rainforest and moved into focus on Liberia's forest areas. Included in the presentation were suitability maps created for Liberia delineating areas for community, conservation and commercial forest use. The presentation also included a discussion of the tri-national initiative (Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Liberia) begun in 2001 and which grew to a full sub-regional effort in 2007. Also included was discussion of collaborative work on trans-boundary areas throughout the MRU through the MRU technical forestry team. The presentation discussed efforts within Liberia to focus on the balance of community, commercial, and conservation sectors to optimize activities regarding trans-boundary natural resource management. Utilizing the MRU work plan approach of prioritizing activities in the areas of "nature", "wealth", and "power" activities; the country has emphasized three main activities:

- Expansion of conservation areas in the Gola Forest, Mt. Wonegizi and Grebo Forests including the designation of the Gola Forest as a National Park;
- Building capacity of protected area management through Ranger recruitment and training, field office establishment, and boundary demarcation and maintenance;
- Strengthening sub-regional collaboration with Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire.

The report discussed the following legislative activities which have occurred in recent years: passage of the community rights laws (2009), creation of benefit sharing regulations, and development (in draft stages) of a revised wildlife management law. Additionally, substantial effort has gone into mapping and acquiring of resource information in trans-boundary areas.

The presentation defined four main challenges in better trans-boundary protected area management: inadequate management capacity, difficulty in accessing funding, overlap of institutional policies, and uncoordinated implementation of the work plan.

Sierra Leone

This report began with a summary of the LAMIL project undertaken with USAID from 2007 to 09 which was implemented by the Sierra Leone Forestry Division (FD), ICRAF, and CIFOR to collect baseline information (including a socio-economic survey), biodiversity survey, collaborative project design with communities, establishment of site specific governance structures, and capacity building for implementation of emerging micro-projects (the latter including improvement of crop varieties, agro-forestry training, and tree nursery and plantation establishment). Results included a variety of accomplishments in the "nature", "wealth" and "power" areas of the MRU work plan.

Sierra Leone and USAID/STEWART worked together in 2009 to develop an MOU between FD and STEWART to produce:

Community needs assessments, identification of specific projects within communities, recruitment of project personnel, and the conduct of capacity building sessions. The latter including sessions targeted at: fire management, agro-forestry, bee keeping, and tree nurseries and plantation establishment.

Also since 2009, Sierra Leone, in partnership with a variety of donors, conducted a national chimpanzee survey covering all trans-boundary areas in the nation. The country also launched the Gola Trans-boundary Intervention which resulted in the gazettement of the Gola Forest as a National Park (ratification pending), while establishing community management structures and decreasing illegal activities in the area. The presentation concluded with a brief summary of some of the challenges to wildlife management in trans-boundary areas.

General Topics: Group Presentations and Discussions

The General Topical discussions which follow represent the output of the “small group” work sessions for each topical area. Each of six topics was discussed in break-out sessions through the first 3 days of the workshop. The composition of the break-out group varied between country specific break-outs and two which were specifically aimed at protected area complex information. The small groups worked together to respond to a series of questions for each topic. A summary of those responses is what follows. For each topic a short “topic summary” is included to provide an overview of what was discussed. Also provided is a short summary of elements that all the small groups appeared to have in common. A short summary of the large group discussions which occurred after each group of presentations is included. The full texts of both the small group presentations and the plenary group discussions about them are included in Annexes D and F.

General Topic 1, Creation/Expansion of Protected Areas

Topic Summary: The focus areas of: Mt. Nimba (Guinea, Cote d’Ivoire, and Liberia), Sapo/Tai Grebo (Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia) OKNP/Madina Oula (Sierra Leone, Guinea) and Gola/Lofa, Foya (Sierra Leone, Liberia) were discussed in four break-out sessions by area. The groups discussed and made recommendations on a set of five questions (for detail see Annex D). The topic was designed to discuss and prioritize a variety of issues related to potential expansion and coordination of management of these focus areas.



Mt. Nimba Complex

The Mt. Nimba complex break out group consisted of participants from Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia and the responses (shown in their entirety in Annex D) to many of the questions were broken out by country. In general, there are existing, and varying, types of protected area- in the Mt. Nimba region in all three countries. The resources of most concern to all three countries are: forests, water, wildlife and minerals. The latter reflecting the known presence of valuable iron deposits in the area. Initiatives in the complex are often in the areas surrounding the protected areas themselves (buffer areas and corridors) and the activities (see Annex D) involve a variety of partners.

There is consensus between Liberia and Guinea on areas needing further protection. Liberia, Guinea, and Cote d’Ivoire have not yet reached agreement on such areas and there is agreement between Guinea and Cote d’Ivoire (details in Annex D). The top priorities to be resolved prior to any expansions in the area include drafting and accepting a trans-boundary environmental management plan (which is also the main objective of the Darwin Project) between the three countries, and a variety of work with the local communities involving consultation, boundary posting, training, and livelihood development.

Gola/Lofa/Foya Complex

Common Elements in Presentations: The following elements were common to the four presentations:

- Resources of concern: forests, wildlife, water.
- Effects on local communities (particularly livelihoods) and coordination with them in development of management plans.
- Development and Management of Buffer and Linkage corridors

Group discussion summary: The observations in the general group discussions focused primarily on the trans-boundary coordination issues such as mining and hunting and the needs in the trans-boundary protected areas for coordinated training and management. The role of the MRU in such activities was also discussed (See Annex F for more detail).

This complex is shared by Sierra Leone and Liberia. Some of the responses (See Annex D) are country specific. The status of the Gola Forest in Sierra Leone is that it has been gazetted as a National Park with ratification as such pending. Communication between the governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia has been ongoing about establishment of a trans-boundary park in the area. Both Sierra Leone and Liberia are in the process of drafting new wildlife laws with the hope that such will be in place within the next year. Community rights laws passed in Liberia (2009) are being used in the area as the basis for coordination with local communities. It is hoped that corridors linking areas in the two countries will be included as part of a trans-boundary park with such actions likely to take place after new wildlife laws in both countries are in place. In this complex, the main natural resources unique to the area are the forests (with potential for REDD), water (with potential for watershed management), and endangered species (leopards, bongo, elephants, picathartes, pigmy Hippos, and Gola malimbe).

There are four primary initiatives in the area: the trans-boundary initiative (Peace Parks/Across the River), the Gola Forest Program in Sierra Leone, the COPAN program in Liberia, and livelihood initiatives in Sierra Leone in the Kenema area. These initiatives involve many NGO and governmental partners. (See Annex D for details).

There is consensus on the trans-boundary areas to be considered in expanding the protected area to an International Peace Park. Maps of the areas can be found through Gola Forest Program/FDA (Liberia), FD (Sierra Leone) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds websites.

The issues to be resolved in moving forward on protected area management are:

- Establishment and harmonization of buffer zones (which vary in size now) and linkage zones.
- Community capacity building, outreach and livelihood alternatives are issues to be addressed in the area in both countries.
- Capacity building for law enforcement and protected area management
- Establishing revenue sharing mechanisms for such opportunities as REDD are needs in moving forward.

Outamba-Kilimi/Medina-Oula Complex

This complex is shared by Sierra Leone and Guinea. Some of the responses (See Annex D for more detail) are country specific. In Guinea, USAID is working with the government on the potential establishment of parks similar to the Outamba-Kilimi National Park in Sierra Leone. Those areas in Guinea are: Soyah, Penselly Oula Madina, and Madina Oula. Work on elephant conservation is ongoing in the area. In Sierra Leone, mapping of the Kourou area (as a potential expansion of the Outamba NP) through the LAMIL project funded by USAID has been ongoing. Additionally, there is consideration of expansion towards the forest of Kounoukan Mellakoré West area. Relative to the natural resources unique to the area, the following were the main features: the flora, wildlife (elephants, lions, Chimpanzee), watersheds; and the hills landscape perspective. Several initiatives are underway in the area with several NGO's and governmental agencies working on a variety of projects in the complex (see Annex D for more detail). There has been work on delineating potential expansions areas in both countries, but the work is still ongoing.

The issues to be resolved in moving forward are:

- Definition and implementation of a procedure for the establishment of cross-border protected areas;
- Completion of socio-economic studies (vulnerable communities);
- Sharing information with the central Government and the communities in order to support the negotiations to ensure the status of protected areas

Sapo/Tai/Grebo Complex

This complex is shared between Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. Some responses (see Annex D for more detail) are country specific. In Côte d'Ivoire there are 4 protected areas: Taï National Park, Goin Débé Classified Forest, Cavally Classified Forest, and Haut Dodo Classified Forest. The following areas in Cote d'Ivoire are areas within the complex but which currently have no protected status: the proposed corridors in between Tai NP –Grebo NF, the corridor to Tai-Grebo North and the corridor to Tai-Grebo South (the desired protected status for these areas could be 'Voluntary Community Reserves'). In Liberia there are two protected areas: Grebo National Forest (Proposed National Park for 2011/2012 to Include in the proposed Protected Area Network of Liberia) and Sapo National Park. There is no current protected status for the proposed corridor in between Grebo and Sapo (desired protected status could be 'Community Forests'). The complex contains unique flora (with 1.350.000 ha of potentially protected areas, the complex is the largest contiguous forest bloc in West Africa and holds enormous potential as Carbon stock), fauna (likely holds the most viable populations of chimpanzees and woodland elephants in West Africa), and watershed values (see Annex C for details). A trans-boundary initiative is ongoing for the Tai/Sapo complex (conference in 2009). Also ongoing is an initiative between the government and FFEM for sustainable management in the Cavally and Goin Débé classified forests in the complex. A "Life-web" project has been submitted for creation and improvement of protected areas in Liberia, including Grebo, Gand Kru and Sapo.

Consensus was reached on the composition of the complex during the Abidjan Workshop in October 2009 for the Tai-Sapo Corridor with a resolution and press release. A full report and maps are available through the WCF, OIPR, and FDA. Prior to moving forward with area expansion the following are the top 3 items to undertake:

- Assure the protection of the existing protected areas against illegal activities such as hunting, bush meat trade between borders, and deforestation
- Establish and make operational the steering committee for the area as outlined during the Abidjan workshop
- Complement ongoing feasibility studies in the Tai-Grebo Corridor

General Topic 2, Grazing/Tenancy

Topic Summary: The topic was designed to discuss the impacts that grazing/agriculture may have on specific protected areas. The topic also explored if tenancy of grazing is an issue that needs additional legislative or policy attention to resolve significant ongoing disputes or issues. Small break out groups by country were used to explore five questions. (See Annex D for the questions and detailed responses).

Common Elements in Presentations:

- Working with livestock grazers/communities.
- Developing local solutions.
- Increase education and management capacity. Important area for MRU to play a trans-boundary role.

Group discussion summary: This topic engendered the most lively group discussion of all six topics. Concerns on movement of cattle across borders (particularly from Guinea into Liberia) surfaced as an important issue which the MRU agreed to examine. A large variety of somewhat divergent viewpoints were shared and an in-depth response from the MRU was given. (See Annex F)

Cote d'Ivoire

Grazing was not thought to be a problem in the Cote d'Ivoire portion of the Nimba or Sapo/Tai/Grebo complexes, but was a serious problem in Comoe National Park. The question was also applied to deforestation due to agriculture or timber harvest. In this regard, deforestation through illegal logging or agriculture was felt to be a problem to some extent in all areas (See Annex D for details). The group felt that laws existed to control grazing and deforestation in protected areas but the capacity for enforcement and application of the laws is the larger issue. In corridors or protected areas yet to be established, an important point will be to clarify the land rights related to grazing or agricultural/logging activities before designating the status (such as voluntary reserves).

The following recommendations were made:

- Create trans-boundary collaborative efforts to stop migratory influx into protected areas (especially in Goin Dèbé and Tiapleu);
- Identify and provide trans-boundary protected area officials contact information for their counterparts for use when incidents occur;
- Provide education on regulations to local populations and authorities;
- The MRU Secretariat should work with a Council of Ministers to harmonize how penalties will be applied when offenses occur by citizens of different countries within a given nation.

Guinea

Grazing is thought to be a protected area management problem in Guinea and includes agriculture and use of fire for clearing. There are some grazing legal issues that need resolution, particularly as relates to traditional farming and impact by transitory grazing. Current law does not clearly address transitory grazing as it relates to protected areas. Recommendations include:

- develop consistent law at a national level relative to grazing in protected areas, with harmonization occurring in the wildlife, forestry, agriculture, and environmental codes and regulations;
- Develop more specific regulations on grazing in protected areas;
- Provide education to local communities and officials about such regulations.
- The group thought there was adequate recognition of historic grazing in current codes as it relates to communities, but that codes relative to grazing in unprotected areas need to be refined.

The group saw some problems relative to trans-boundary grazing and recommended the following:

- Development of corridors and border zones in the protected areas which address grazing;
- Develop transition zone-level planning which includes provisions to address the grazing issues;
- Create areas specific to livestock control and the means to track inter – State movement of livestock.

Liberia

This group did not think grazing was a significant issue at this time in Liberia, but expected problems to increase in the future. Of more immediate impact are deforestation related to agriculture or illegal timber harvest. Current law was not particularly a problem relative to grazing, but is a problem related to agriculture and harvest near protected areas. However, the group recommended that laws need improvement and strengthening relative to grazing, in particular noting that cattle currently can move freely off private land, and that transitory grazing is a particularly difficult issue to resolve. The group believes there is a need to harmonize grazing and agriculture policy/law among the Ministries of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Forest Development Authority. In particular, it is thought that enforcement of existing laws needs improvement and that law for agriculture in protected areas needs improvement. The primary issues noted were: the interpretation of the Community Rights Law relative to land tenancy as it relates to agriculture, and grazing of animals which traditionally come from Guinea into Liberia. There were several recommendations including:

- Development of laws for community compensation for transitory grazing;
- Work on the conflict between free movement of trade (under MRU policies) vs the need for health control and protected area management as it relates to transitory grazing;
- When NGOs work with communities on livelihood issues that promote livestock development, they should also work with the Ministry of Agriculture to pre-resolve any potential issues if they plan to introduce livestock.
- As these issues are worked out, it is important to work with affected communities/tribes to involve them in the solutions.

The original discussion included more recommendations and detail. The full text of recommendations can be found in Annex C.

Sierra Leone

Grazing was thought to be an issue in the following protected areas: OKNP, Mamuta Mayossoh, Wara wara, and Tingi Hills. In relation to laws on grazing, it was thought that the Wildlife law and Policy are sufficient to manage grazing in protected areas, as the grazer should first obtain a permit, however there are no other specific regulations on grazing. Recommendations included:

- Make regulations for controlled management of grazing in protected areas;
- Develop capacity for the development and implementation of management plans;
- Adopt a participatory approach in the development and implementation of management plans;
- Work in collaboration with the Livestock Division of the MAFFS to harmonize grazing regulations.

Traditional grazing is addressed in law but it controls spatial limits of such grazing and to that extent does not well-address transitory grazing. The following suggestions were made relative to transitory grazing: elevate buffer zone management within the legislation for multiple land uses including grazing; assess the grazing potentials in lands adjacent to the protected areas; improve management of established grazing areas outside protected areas; institute traditional bye-laws to address sustainable and equitable grazing.

Relative to trans-boundary ramifications of the topic, the following were noted:

- There is an existing cross border grazing problem at OKNP;
- Recommend harmonize grazing regulations for trans-boundary grazing between Guinea and SL;
- Enforce compliance with traditional bye-laws on grazing at the local level in line with national regulations for protected areas.

General Topic 3, Climate Change (cc)

Topic Summary: Presentations on the subject by Tim Foley (USFS) and Dr. Nouhou Ndam (FFI) were made prior to the break-out discussions. The break-out questions and detailed responses for each country group are found in Annex D. A summary of the small group break-out sessions (held by country) follows.

Common Elements in Presentations:

- Need for increased education and awareness at all levels,
- Climate change is affecting water/riparian/shore areas, agriculture, specific species of plants and animals, forested areas
- Development of revenue sharing mechanisms and accountability that are effective in getting benefits back to the areas affected (REDD).
- Work with communities in establishing REDD.
- Establish National focal points for climate change policy and REDD.
- The role of NGO partners is consistently seen as that of technical support

Group discussion summary: This topic drew significant interest and questions, but general



discussion (due to time constraints) was limited to a few specific questions and to summarization from the MRU. (See Annex F for details)

Cote d'Ivoire

This group thought the natural resources most threatened by climate change were: water bodies, agricultural production, endangered species, forest cover and some forest species. Protected areas are thought to be important relative to cc in that they provide greater bio-diversity than other areas, and thus may afford more protection to many species in the face of cc. Several agencies have a role in managing the issue of climate change including the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Department of Education as well as many NGO's and institutions. There is a cc focal point for the country. The country has ratified the Kyoto Protocol and has codes on the environment, forest code, the protected areas law of 2002 which relate to the issue. There are some ongoing initiatives in the country. (More detail is provided in Annex D).

Recommendations to help the country adapt to climate change include:

- Study areas threatened by climate change and deforestation to identify areas and projects eligible for REDD;
- Establishment of an inter-ministerial Committee on climate change; and developing a national strategic plan for REDD.

Potential areas of trans-boundary collaboration exist with increased cooperation among border forests, and in exchanging experiences with Ghana and Liberia which are more advanced in the process for REDD capacity building on climate change, (with support for such activities by the MRU recommended by the group)

Guinea

Natural resources most at risk from climate change are: forests, water resources, mangroves, and marine zone agricultural sources. Several ministries have roles including: the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture, and others. The role of NGOs and international partners is seen as: advocacy, technical and financial support, and resource mobilization. No specific laws have been adopted relative to climate change, however the Kyoto and Copenhagen Protocols have been ratified and the government has established a lead for the country in developing strategies (including REDD). The country has been working with STEWARD to begin inventory training relative to REDD.

Recommendations include:

- Development of specific National policies on climate change,
- Development of cc priorities at the level of priority areas (OKNP Madina Oula, Nimba, Ziama Wonegizi);
- Adopt a strategy for implementation of the various initiatives on climate change (adaptation, mitigation of the effects, REDD,)
- Build capacity to understand the issues and take advantage of available assistance.

The group saw potential in REDD in expanding protected areas, but would need to work with communities for their involvement as it affects local livelihoods, and would need to work with communities and government on allocation and management of funds developed through REDD, including development of effective distribution systems. In a trans-boundary context, the primary recommendation is to communicate and share climate change plans and strategies and harmonize them.

Liberia

Climate change threats are primarily to forests, animals, water, and threats to the coastline. All of the natural resources identified are tied to protected area (PA) management. There could be long term financial benefits for PA's in Liberia through climate mitigation schemes such as REDD(+) and such areas could benefit from modelling planning to identify sites that need the most protection. Changes in government can reshape priorities and may result in either increased or decreased emphasis on the topic. The government agencies with a role in climate change include: EPA, FDA, MPEA, Agriculture Dept., and MA. These government organizations have the charge of managing climate change mitigation strategies in association with the National Climate Change committee (approx. 30 agencies). The role of NGO's is seen as one of support – build capacity within country (financial and technical) along with the involvement of civil society in policy formation. No current laws or policy is in place on REDD strategy.

Recommendations are:

- Broad participation as laws are developed relative to climate change,
- More coordination between government agencies within country and between countries.,
- Capacity building for communities/institutions
- Benefit sharing needs to be addressed and harmonized at all levels.

In order to make use of REDD the following should be done:

- Trans-frontier complementary planning for REDD initiatives,
- Develop mechanism of accounting and distribution to the local level – benefit sharing transcends boundaries,
- Communities should be part of the decision on the distribution of benefits – down to the people – which can be problematic.

The issues most in need of trans-boundary coordination include: addressing issues of leakage; Information dissemination such as sharing projects and methodology; development of regional climate change projects; development of cross boundary projects with sub – regional prioritization.

Sierra Leone

The Natural Resources seen to be at risk are: Semi-deciduous Forests, Mangrove Forests, Water bodies and their sources, Aquatic species and Terrestrial Species. This can affect protected area (PA) management if there is development of adaptation mechanisms to inform planning based on vulnerability of species and the composition/biodiversity of the PAs. The Ministry of Transport has the lead role in climate change for the country with nearly all ministries as stakeholders. The recommended arrangement would be to establish a Secretariat In the office of the President – composed of an inter-ministerial body. The role of NGO's is seen as technical support. Currently there is no clear cut legal framework; however a National Climate Change Coordination Committee is in place.

Recommendations are to:

- Develop Regulations on Climate Change and REDD;
- Establish Climate Change Secretariat; maintain Coordination Committee (inter-ministerial);
- Promote capacity building for the Committee,
- Direct engagement of the government and wider public on issues of climate change;
- Lobby for the inclusion of climate change and REDD in Sierra Leone's development packages;
- Incorporate climate change and REDD in District Development Plans.

The potentials for use of REDD are:

- Invest in low impact eco-tourism, improve forest co-management,
- Improve use of Agro-forestry – especially tree crops.
- Address land tenure ambiguities,
- Stimulate the establishment of management groups, including capacity building;
- Develop a legal framework to elevate groups to legal institutions;
- Establish reliable and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms;
- Formalize financial resource management, including banking practices.

Potential areas for regional cooperation include: integrated trans-boundary forest management for climate change mitigation and REDD; Capacity Building; Exchange program; development of Intra-regional training programs and several other suggestions (see Annex D for more detail).

General Topic 4, Protected Species

Topic Summary: In the development of the Preliminary Report the authors found limited current regulation in some countries relative to protection of threatened or endangered species. All of the countries of the MRU have ratified the Convention on International Trades in Endangered Species (CITES). The purpose of this topic was to verify the current legal framework in each country relative to protected species and promote discussion of ways to improve conservation of these species both within countries and in a trans-boundary context. The break-out groups were by country. Complete texts of the break out groups are found in Annex D. A summary of the discussions by country follows.



Common Elements in Presentations: Nations need to work together on regulations, fines, cooperative enforcement. Education is needed about laws both at community and agency levels.

Group discussion summary: This was also a very lively large group discussion best reviewed in its entirety in Appendix F. There was some commonality in the tone of the discussion relative to the need for harmonization of laws to conform to CITES obligations through nation to nation cooperation, more commonality in penalties among the nations, and the need for local protected species

lists to reflect local knowledge. The need for increased enforcement of wildlife regulations and capacity for it were common points.

Cote d'Ivoire

The group noted that the preliminary report should be modified to include the prohibition on hunting that was imposed in 1974. Two additional regulations on wildlife and one on protection of tree species were noted to include in the final report. There are no new laws recently passed but there is draft work on revision of wildlife regulations and the forestry code. There is not a need for changes in the country's protected species laws to be in alignment with CITES, however enforcement, education, and capacity are issues that need to be addressed. There is a need for improved trans-boundary cooperation in endangered species management, particularly in the important areas of: in Tai-Grébo, the Cavally-Grébo area, and the Tai Grébo corridor. The group did see the need for the following activities to better manage protected species:

- Educate stakeholders in cross-border areas on the prohibition of trafficking in protected species;
- Conduct joint patrols in cross-border areas;
- Equip protected area agents with the means to enforce the law.

Guinea

The preliminary report contains the most current laws and regulations for Guinea as regards protected species with the exception of the regulations on West African mangroves adopted and ratified in July 2010. There is pending legislation in the form of a National Policy on the Environment. There is a need to adopt the CITES guidelines and revise laws appropriately. In the arena of trans-boundary cooperation for protected species management, there is a need for cooperative efforts. Specifically the group recommended that attention be given to migratory species and the regulation of hunting. The priority areas for cooperation in protected species management are: Mount Nimba (Guinea – Ivory Coast – Liberia) Madina Oula – Otamba Kilimi (Guinea – Sierra Leone) Ziama – Wenegesi (Guinea – Liberia). There is a need for:

- Trans-boundary protected species awareness,
- Development of a cooperative platform of governance related to protected species
- Development of means for local communities for generating alternative incomes where hunting (and other activities) has been limited.

Liberia

The report accurately describes the Wildlife Regulations as published (1988) including the 2000 Forestry Law, 2006 Forestry reform law. There are draft wildlife law and regulations under formation – neither adopted as yet. The new laws and regulations that relate to Wildlife are being reviewed by CITES, which should bring the new laws very much in alignment with the CITES treaty. Relative to trans-boundary collaboration, the group made several recommendations (see details in Annex D) among which are:

- Formulation of treaties that respect CITES,
- Capacity building for law enforcement;
- Increasing community awareness;
- Integrated border management
- Institutional collaboration between ministries among others.

The group thought there was a need for educational programs and other actions and had several recommendations including: common curriculum, exchange of practitioners between countries; formal training for law-enforcers (judges, border guards etc); promotion of indigenous knowledge as well as several other suggestions. (See Annex D)

Sierra Leone

The preliminary report contains the most recent Laws and Regulation on Protected Species. There are two pending policies in draft; the Forestry Policy, and the Wildlife Conservation Policy. A variety of laws will need revision after the new policies are adopted and these revisions should be made to meet treaty obligations. The group saw the need for trans-boundary treaties and working agreements at a variety of levels, and suggested several specific activities (see details in Annex D). Similarly the group saw the need for:

- Executive endorsement of trans-boundary education programs,
- Adaptation of education program with sensitivity to country demographic, while maintaining CITES & CMS integrity,
- Development and implementation of communication protocols for trans-boundary protected areas at all levels including: public meetings, and community radio.



General Topic 5, Challenges of Integrated Management

Topic Summary: The issue to be examined is balancing the effective long term management of protected areas and the livelihoods of current and future generations in the area. This topic is designed to identify community issues that may be specific to some areas, and to identify if there are issues that are common in a trans-boundary context. The groups were asked to articulate priority actions to be considered both from a site-specific and a trans-boundary perspective. This topic was prefaced by a presentation by Fauna and Flora International on the Darwin Project. The Darwin Project has been working closely with communities in and near the Mount Nimba complex and the presentation was directly informative to the topic. The text of that power point presentation is found in Annex D. Summaries of the groups' findings by protected area follow.

Common Elements in Presentations:

- Serious engagement of communities in planning needed.
- Alternative livelihoods needed (training and thoughtful work with communities/agencies so livelihoods projects are sustainable).
- Boundaries an issue from many perspectives (lack of posting, lack of work with communities in establishment of boundaries)

Group discussion summary: Of all six topics, this one generated the most commonality of thought in the plenary discussions. All who commented saw the importance of working with communities both in management of protected areas and in the development of alternative livelihoods. See Annex F for more details.

Mt. Nimba Complex

The group noted the following community issues related to successfully managing the Mt. Nimba complex: there are limited alternative livelihood options and more options are required; there is a need for careful livelihood planning because livelihood backgrounds and the skill sets of community members vary greatly; greater education is required at the community level – lack of training to develop livelihood options; and the communities have limited involvement in decision making (governance).

Recommendations for work with communities include: improve livelihood options, increase education, and increase community involvement. Trans-boundary pressures that exist in the area include: Illegal hunting, fire (high level), logging, shifting cultivation, illegal mining, and the fact that often no clear boundary demarcation exists between countries. Some resources available to alleviate these problems are: communities, laws, and organisations such as CEGEN, SODEFOR, OIPR, FDA, CFZ responsible for boundary protection. Because current law enforcement is not strong, efforts must be made to increase it, but improvements will also require meetings, dialogue, and exchanges between countries. A variety of ecological and social data exists and the sources were being compiled during the workshop.

Recommendations for improvement of community integration from a trans-boundary viewpoint include:

- Taking community empowerment seriously – actually giving power to communities,
- Promoting greater awareness of the environmental issues,
- Harmonization of guidelines,
- Trans-boundary livelihood acceptance,
- Creation of community task force to protect areas,
- Community exchange visits between countries,
- Socio-economic studies to provide understanding of communities in different countries,
- Creation of a trans-boundary management committee.

The main objective of the FFI Darwin Initiative project is to create a biodiversity governance platform for the Nimba complex between Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Guinea. Its creation would address many of the recommendations as a result of this topic.

Gola/Lofa/Foya Complex

This group noted very similar community issues as the group above: the need for livelihood alternatives programs for local communities; the lack of understanding of issues related to trans-boundary management (both in communities and agencies); and the need to harmonize local governance structures within the communities.

Among the recommendations are:

- Liberia to study lessons from Sierra Leone's alternative livelihoods under Gola FP;
- Develop trans-boundary PA awareness campaign (in local dialects);
- Hold structured meetings to improve integration on specific issues;
- Map the stakeholders.

Among the suggestions to improve trans-boundary management in the complex are:

- Joint patrols between country forest guards,
- Involve communities through Forest Management Committees in protection;
- Harmonize penalties across boarder and strengthen capacity to enforce them,
- Provide for community involvement through community co-management;
- Take advantage of assistance through the work of NGOs and projects like the Darwin Project.

The group reports in Annex D details many data sources available for the complex as well as contains other specific recommendations

Outamba-Kilimi/Lofa-Foya/Medina-Oula Complex

The key issues in the complex related to community integration are: governance (including such issues as equity, gender participation, low community capacity and others); unclear benefit sharing mechanisms; education/communication/outreach; and land tenure. Recommendations in regard to these issues are:

- Adopt participatory approaches in protected area management;
- Design communication packages taking into consideration cultural sensitivities;
- Build capacity (physical, technical, and governance).

Recommendations for management of trans-boundary pressures on the area include:

- Stakeholder management committees;
- MRU to elevate eco-guards to the status of para-military for trans-boundary law enforcement;
- Utilize resources (such as GEF-WB Project; STEWARD; ADB/MRU TB Project) to get work done.

Some sources of data include: Biodiversity studies (Chimps, Elephants), NTFP, Important Bird Areas, ongoing forest Inventory, and Socio-economic studies, (contact information was not provided). The priority items to do to alleviate trans-boundary pressures on this complex area:

- Harmonize laws and policies in favor of community involvement in protected area management;
- Define clear roles for communities in protected area management;
- Coordinate issues of National priorities at trans-boundary levels

Sapo/Tai/Grebo Complex

Key community integration issues in the complex are: conflicts between people and managers associated with the problem of land clearing. Development projects do not always take into account the needs of populations. Promises made by the players and projects sometimes create confusion and great expectations in local populations; there is a low level of education within the population on protected areas management activities. Recommended approaches to these problems include:

- Enhancement of sustainable agriculture;
- Establishment of an overall land management plan for the area;
- Integration of forestry projects, agro-forestry, livestock management in a regional development plan;
- Train people in income generating trades.

Issues and recommendations relative to trans-boundary pressures on the complex include: disparities in the laws on hunting between CI and Liberia (recommend information and awareness programs); lack of means of control (recommend increase staffing, financial and material resources); lack of a framework for cross – border trading (recommend implementation of a cross – border management framework). The group notes a variety of sources of information about the complex as well as provides suggestions on additional means of data gathering. Group recommendations in this regard are: establishment of joint team for bio-monitoring, increasing staffing/financing and increasing capacity-building of the workforce. Suggestions to maintain cultural values include: implement community eco-tourism projects based on the enhancement of nature and culture: use sociological studies and take into account the achievements in the management of areas protected.

General Topic 6, Inter-Agency Coordination

Topic Summary: The purpose of the topic was to explore over-lap or confusion of jurisdictions among agencies in protected area management. The topic break-outs were by country to develop recommendations to improve interagency coordination and/or the clarity of administrative jurisdiction as it relates to management of resources within protected areas. Details of the group reports are found in Annex D.

Common Elements in Presentations:

- Development of inter-ministerial councils between nations was a common thought.
- More trans-boundary coordination needed on mining/hunting/timber harvest.
- Internal coordination issues varied widely (see reports below for detail).

Group discussion summary: The large group discussions on this topic focused on the trans-boundary government - to - government coordination issues. In this regard there were specific items that were thought to be the role of the MRU to bring to the attention of the governments, but there was also some commonality of thought on the value of trans-boundary ministerial coordination among ministries of different nations with similar responsibilities in protected area management.

Cote d'Ivoire

The group detailed the various ministries with authorities to issue permits (see Annex D). Inter-ministerial mechanisms are set up for coordination of some types of permitting processes. The laws and regulations for the management of protected areas are clear; however the sub-surface rights in the country are managed by the Department of Mines which may cause conflicts in protected areas. The group had no recommendations in this regard. Root causes for conflicts between ministries in protected area management are seen as increased poverty and crisis-related socio-economic conditions influencing governmental functions. The primary resolution of these fundamental problems is government stability, and peace. Another issue is the human migrations (from both inside and outside of Côte d'Ivoire) to forest areas, including protected areas. This issue prompts the recommendation of diplomatic awareness of the issue and control at the national level. Another root cause of some conflicting management agendas arise from the emphasis on extensive agriculture practices. With the current social and political situation in the country, cash crops draw more attention. An emphasis on sustainable agriculture is recommended as, despite the clarity of the laws for protected areas, land use economic issues may play to the disadvantage of conserving the natural environment. The group felt that, for the most part, such issues are internal, but that there is the need for government to government coordination related to mining in trans-boundary areas.

Guinea

The group detailed the various ministries with authorities to issue permits (See Annex D). The National Council on the Environment provides a forum for coordination between ministries. The group thought the protected area laws are clear, but that steps need to be taken to insure their effective implementation. Though the laws may be relatively clear the group recommends that there be translation of texts to local languages, and dissemination/training regarding existing laws among agencies. They also felt that there was a need to insure better enforcement of existing law and that protected area management would benefit from the creation of a framework or structure to facilitate cooperation among ministries with overlapping jurisdictions. Internal coordination is not as large a problem as government to government coordination. In this area the nations need to resolve:

- Boundary posting,
- Harmonizing laws that mutually affect one another across borders,
- Gaining consensus among the nations on trans-boundary management (as it affects protected areas).

Liberia

The report for this topic in Annex D contains the detail for Liberia regarding permit issuance. The group felt that some of the laws and regulations are not entirely clear regarding protected areas; particularly mineral development in National Forests. The law appears to state that such activity is not allowed, but it has occurred. Even more unclear is what activities can occur in unclassified forests where the status remains ambiguous (particularly those areas which may be suitable for protected area status, but have not yet been gazetted as such). The uses that take precedence are unclear and needs clarifying. Recommendation: review the laws; and national forests/proposed protected areas need to be assessed through an inter-ministerial review if there is an application for development within such an area after it has been proposed.

Root causes for management conflicts that do occur include: demarcation lines are not on the ground; there is a perception that land use decisions are already made at a higher level; there is inadequate consultation with field offices and communities; lack of information flow to the field people; conflicts of Interests of those involved; lack of capacity of the authorities; and communication gaps. Some recommendations in this regard are: mark more boundaries having undertaken the appropriate consultation; proper coordination and consultation between relevant parties; and increase capacity to enforce existing laws.

On a trans-boundary level, the following government – to - government coordination recommendations were made:

- Promote Inter-Ministerial coordination and communication on the issues of common interest at sub-regional level (Forestry section for the countries to communicate and collaborate for example);
- Engage the MRU to promote the activities above;
- Traditional authority (primarily chiefs etc.) is important and dialogue across boundaries of these entities needs to be promoted and facilitated.

Sierra Leone

Annex D contains the detail relative to ministries which issue permits. The primary coordinating mechanism between ministries is the Sierra Leone EPA which was charged with these duties under law in 2008. This mechanism has not always been working well. The group felt that guidance in the laws; regulations and policies are in place; especially the Forestry Sector Laws and EPA law for management of protected areas. The group's recommendations to alleviate coordination problems are:

- More effective use of the inter-agency coordination mechanism provided by Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency (SLEPA) (SLEPA needs to have more autonomy for effective functioning);
- Identify and harmonize all legislation and mandates within other sectors especially those conflicting with protected area (PA) management objectives;
- Educate all land-use sectors on the revised mandates and legislation supportive of PA management objectives.

Root causes of conflicts in protected area management include: discovery of valuable mineral Resources in PAs in the face of critical resource constraints for national development; unsustainable agriculture practices in the face of population concentration close to PAs; and that the government lacks the resources and capacity to manage the PAs. Recommendations in this regard are:

- No exploration license should be issued for Protected Areas;
- National Strategic Land use planning – Comprehensive analysis of the magnitude of mineral deposits to determine alternatives;
- Work in collaboration with the MAFFS to improve agricultural practices;
- Lobby for the prioritization of PA management within government strategic directions.

The group saw most of these as internal issues to resolve emphasizing the need for: inter-agency dialogue, effective monitoring, and the harmonization of fines through the institution of bye-laws. On a trans-boundary basis the following areas need government to government coordination: grazing, mining and hunting.

Field Trip Summary



On October 7, 2010 the workshop participants visited the community of Thuo, Guinea which is located near the Mount Nimba World Heritage site in that country. The purpose of the field trip was to provide the workshop participants the opportunity to hear, first hand, the perspectives of community residents on protected area management. The participants broke into four groups to hear from local residents, as well as from government and park officials. The field trip was also an opportunity to view a community project sponsored by STEWARD which developed a rice/fish agro-aqua-culture project with a group of citizens of the village.

The participants of the workshop would like to thank the community of Thuo for their warm welcome, their candor in responding to the questions asked, and for their high level of interest. The insights of the community members were extremely valuable additions to the workshop.

Summary of comments: The complete notes from the field trip are found in Annex E. The comments received were extensive and varied. A short summary will tend to over simplify the many points of view expressed and for that reason readers are encouraged to review Annex E for a full flavor of the type of comments received.

Most of the villagers who spoke knew that the Mount Nimba protected area existed. Some, but not all, expressed knowledge of why the area came to be protected. Most of those who expressed an opinion did not feel the protected area benefitted them and some expressed the opinion that promises to help them establish better livelihoods had not been met. Most expressed the need for help in this regard and many expressed concern that the capacity of the lands they could farm, hunt or log was more limited than the lands they had been moved from to establish the park.

The government officials interviewed expressed the need for help in building capacity of the people to sustain and improve their living conditions with new agricultural techniques. They also proposed that more energy be spent in working with the communities in establishing protected areas and the associated management plans. The capacity (physical infrastructure, training, supplies, and personnel) available to manage the Park is limited and needs improvement to allow more affective interaction with communities in

enforcement; community training/education, and development of livelihood projects that are sustainable in the site-specific situations found in area should be encouraged.

IV. Recommended Changes to the Policy Harmonization Report

One purpose of the workshop was to solicit input on the Preliminary Trans-boundary Policy Harmonization Report. During the course of using the report over the five days of the workshop, several suggestions were made which will be included in the final version of that report. The finalized version will be translated into French and English and distributed for use as a reference tool for those working on trans-boundary biodiversity and natural resource management issues.

Changes to be included in the final report are:

- Inclusion of two new sections which are:
 - Laws, regulation or policy under development by country
 - Ministry and Agency contact information by country
- Inclusion of Sapo in the discussion of the Sapo/Tai/Grebo complex
- Additional discussion of treaty implications in addition to the CITES treaty
- Addition to the Liberia section of discussion of FDA Regulation 25 on Wildlife
- Addition to the Liberia section of discussion of the Wildlife and National Parks Act of 1988
- Addition to the Liberia section of discussion of the transitional role of the National Forestry Law of 2000.
- Addition to the Liberia section of discussion of recent community co-management memorandum (2010)
- Addition to the Cote d'Ivoire section of the 1994 Hunting Regulations
- Addition to the Cote d'Ivoire section the Decree 19936 on species to be exploited
- Notation in the Cote d'Ivoire section on the 1974 general hunting prohibition decree
- Addition to the Guinea section on the 2010 Law on mangrove protection
- Various small content corrections, edits, or additions to the tables

V. Action Item Summary

The development of action plans for each country was a key objective of the workshop. Each country, building on the work done in the general topic discussions and field trips, spent the last day of the workshop selecting at least five recommendations to develop into action plans. Those plans are listed below by country and are shown with a few more details in Annex C.

Cote d'Ivoire

1. Initiate alternative income generating activities (agro-sylvo-pastoral, micro-projects) and social projects
 - Execute an assessment inventory (projects, NGOs and other existing actors, needs of population)
 - Research financial means to implement them
 - Reinforce the technical and financial capacities (project management and introduction of new techniques)
2. Reinforce the means for the effective application of laws and regulations in the trans-boundary zones.
 - Educate the actors in the trans-boundary (TB) zones on the prohibition of protected species trafficking and hunting laws
 - Put in place a TB conflict management structure
 - Put in place a mixed TB team for bio-monitoring
 - Execute anti-poaching and forest clearing patrols to control population migrations in and around protected areas.
 - Reinforce technical capacities of actors on bio-monitoring and surveillance (govt. agents, villagers)
3. Continue to elaborate TB management and land use plans.



- Complete feasibility studies to elaborate TB management and land use plans
 - Establish and make operational, a steering committee and technical working group for Tai-Sapo
 - Put in place a governance platform for Mt. Nimba
 - Draft TB land use and management plans
 - Research sustainable financing for the execution of TB plans
4. Elaborate a National REDD Strategy
 - Create a inter-ministerial committee on climate change and REDD
 - Reinforce the capacities of state institutions and other actors
 - Elaborate a PIN Project (project concept) and submit to donors
 - Execute feasibility studies on zones threatened by climate change and deforestation
 - Identify zones and projects eligible for REDD
 5. Prioritize the development and execution of national land use management plans in TB zones
 - Arrange a discussion framework with the Minister of Planning to emphasize the urgency of the execution national land use management plans in TB zones
 - Research additional funds for financing the execution of this activity

Guinea

1. Clearly define and delimit the boundaries of Mt. Nimba
 - Update the technical delimitation committees to include local communities
 - Identify and geo-reference border marking points
 - Clear and plant a bamboo belt
2. Realize revenue generating activities
 - Identify and prioritize community needs
 - Engage the training of economic interest groups
 - Reinforce the capacities of groups
3. Define and execute the procedure for the establishment of Madina-Oula/Oure-Kaba/Soya TB Protected Area
 - Inform and educate the local population
 - Describe the bio-geographical characteristics of the site
 - Compile and submit the designation dossier for signature
4. Reinforce the capacities of management structures in the areas of PES and REDD
 - Train TB protected area managers in PES and REDD
 - Train local communities in protected area zones on PES
 - Identify and organize appropriate sites for PES and REDD projects (Bossou corridor, Bonama Forest...)
5. Improve community participation in the management of TB PAs of Nimba, Ziama-Wenegizi, and Madina Oula/Ourekaba/Soya
 - Create co-management and surveillance committees
 - Train local guides for development and eco-tourism

Liberia

1. Improve Livelihood options in Nimba – Action Plan
 - Collect data on current situation;
 - Ask the Chiefs about best Livelihood options identified by local NGO, and ENNR management team;
 - Data available from ARD, Darwin, Steward, UNDP, GEF, SGP
 - Projects identified by communities;
 - Share results across borders;
 - Collect all existing data before February workshop
 - Create a trans-boundary biodiversity governance platform
2. Suggest to Ministries the promotion of trans-boundary Inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation – Action Plan
 - Already a trans-boundary ministerial council which meets regularly – MFA, Mo M, Mo EA.
 - Use this as model to establish coordination between like ministries of MRU countries

- Include agencies to meet as well as ministries where agencies have similar responsibilities
3. Capacity building of communities and institutions in climate change – Action Plan
 - REDD technical committee already exists, funded by FCPF and NORAD/FFI, CI/Mcallmcaun, IUCN
 - REDD website being developed (active soon) www.reddliberia.org
 - Continue this work and expand upon it
 4. Benefit sharing in climate change to be addressed and harmonised – Action Plan
 - Pending consultation of overall REDD framework
 - Already existing benefit sharing trust for commercial forestry & mining (possible example to use)
 - Use lessons learned from these when creating a benefit sharing scheme such as REDD and PA working groups
 - Benefit sharing working group should be fully consulted
 - Benefits for adjacent communities to PAs need to be carefully considered, and they should be engaged
 5. Sapo/Tai/GREBO Train local communities in alternative ways to generate income – Action Plan
 - Identify partners working in area
 - Clear Action plan was developed in NCF workshop, Abidjan (implement/expand where necessary)
 - Use existing plan to identify training needs (& implementing partners)
 6. * Create holding grounds for animals at border – Action Plan
 - From these meeting notes recommend to the Ministry of Agriculture:
 - Work with local governments to establish the areas and plan of management for them,
 - Work through the Ministry of Agriculture with the appropriate County to do this preparatory work prior to any construction.
 - Financing to be sought both through Ministry of Agriculture and NGO s.
 - (Special note: this action plan was included, but was thought by many of the group to be part of a broader item when the Action Plan topics were voted on, hence its inclusion within the list of broader actions)

Sierra Leone

1. Action Plan 1 – Support of Co-management in Trans-boundary (TB) Areas
 - Identify areas for co-management
 - Community consultations and engagement
 - Nature and socio-economic studies
 - Establishment of governance structures
 - Development of management plans
 - Signing of memorandums of understanding (MOU's)
 - Joint Implementation, monitoring and evaluation
2. Action Plan 2 – Harmonize Laws, Policies and Regulations
 - Review relevant laws at national level to identify gaps and weaknesses in consultations with respective TB member states
 - Draft new legislations for TB areas
 - Lobby the government for enactment
 - Create national oversight committees for TB activities
3. Action Plan 3 – MRU Lobby for Prioritization of Protected Areas and Climate Change Management in the Sub-region
 - Bring to the table TB and CC issues in the Council of Ministers meetings and Summits of Heads of States. Facilitate national and regional inter-agency meetings on TB and CC issues
 - MRU facilitate and organize studies on CC and carbon assessment in TB areas
 - Equip the MRU to serve as an information clearing house and communication for CC and TB areas
 - MRU annual updates
4. Action Plan 4 – Enhance Education & Communication for All Stakeholders in the TB areas
 - Develop comprehensive Natural Resource Management (NRM) education strategy for TB areas
 - Sensitization and awareness raising on laws, policies and regulations governing TB areas at all levels
 - Capacity building for NRM education programs at all levels
 - Develop and implement communication protocols for TB protected areas at all levels (including public meetings, radio, effective reporting)

- Monitoring and evaluation of activities
5. Action Plan 5 – Establishment and Management of Corridors Linking Protected Areas in Trans-boundary Complexes
- Identify and assess corridor areas for demarcation
 - Hold consultations and engagement with communities in the corridor areas regarding corridor establishment and management
 - Identify and design compensation and livelihood packages for communities affected by the established corridors
 - Initiate community and joint patrols of TB corridor areas
 - Monitoring and evaluation

VI. Conclusions/Next Steps

As with most workshops, the key element in follow up is to share the information. The Sanniquellie Workshop was a step to bring knowledgeable people together from all four countries of the Mano River Union to examine laws, regulations and policies in the context of protected area management and to examine specific issues in that regard. The workshop served its purposes well in evaluating and improving the Trans-boundary Policy Harmonization Report. That document will be finalized with improved content and features as discussed above. The workshop also helped to improve contacts among governments, NGOs, and civil society. It was evident during the workshop that the individuals and groups in attendance had many objectives in common which could be well served by collaborative work and sharing of information. It may be that the relationships formed will be the most valuable and long lasting of the results from the workshop.



The action plans established by each country can become tangible steps to make progress in solving some of the many issues discussed. That will happen only through the concerted effort of the individuals and groups who attended the workshop to use its momentum to make the plans real. To that extent, we hope that one of the next steps is the thorough vetting of the details of the workshop by participants with their counterparts who did not attend. Key Ministries and Agencies in each country should be made aware of these findings and recommendations.

The sponsors of the workshop also have work to do. It is the work of the MRU to bring those items which are best dealt with on a trans-boundary basis to the direct attention of the governments which comprise the MRU. Fauna and Flora International, working through activities such as the Darwin Initiative, hope to use the results of the workshop to gain support for their work in the Mount Nimba Complex. They will be working with many of those who attended the workshop on the development of a trans-governance platform for the area to bring coordination, consistency and resource attention to the Mt. Nimba complex. The USAID STEWARD Program will use the recommendations and action plans developed to focus on the more detailed national level work that the actions plans often describe.

The organizers would like to thank all for their attendance, candor, energy and good will during the workshop. We hope that it was a valuable experience for all and that you will find both this report and the Policy Harmonization Report useful tools in continuing the important work that you do to in caring for the people and the natural resources of the sub-region.



Annex A – Workshop Participant List

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Annex B – Workshop Agenda

October 4, 2010 (Monday)

Opening Ceremony

- **8:00 - 8:10** Welcome statement from local facility Manager and brief orientation to meals and the facility.
- **8:10 - 9:00**
 - Opening Statements: by Heads of MRU Delegations: Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone
 - Statements by STEWARD and FFI Representatives
 - Statement and official opening of the workshop by Head of Host Liberian delegation

Deliberations

- **9:05** - Updates made in the implementation of the MRM work plan Country Representatives/Tech Team begin.
 - **9:05 - 9:40** - 1st Report Liberia, **9:45 - 10:20** - 2nd Report Cote d'Ivoire
- **10:20 - 10:40 Coffee Break**
 - **10:40 - 11:15** - 3rd Report Sierra Leone, **11:20 - 11:55** - 4th Report Guinea
- **11:55 - 1:00 Lunch**
- **1:00 - 1:30** Presentation of highlights of preliminary report
- **1:30 - 2:45** General Topic 1, Creation/Expansion of Protected Areas Formation of discussion breakout groups
 - Mt. Nimba;
 - Tai/Grebo;
 - OKNP/Madina Oula;
 - Gola/Lofa, Foya;
- **2:45 - 3:00 Coffee Break**
- **3:00 - 3:30** Continuation of breakout groups meetings.
- **3:30 - 5:00** Presentation of break-out group recommendations by group (15 minutes each) to plenary group and group prioritization of trans-boundary related action items.

Break for dinner and mingling (On Site)

- **7:30 - 8:30** Evening Program

October 5, 2010 (Tuesday)

- **8:00 - 8:15** Recap of Day 1 (led by country representative from Sierra Leone)
- **8:15 - 8:45** General topic 2: Grazing/Tenancy Whole group discussion
- **8:45 - 9:30** Break out group discussion by country (Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea)
- **9:30 - 9:45 Coffee Break**
- **9:45 - 10:45** Report of break outs to plenary group and large group brainstorm
- **10:45 - 11:15** General topic 3: Climate change plenary presentation/ short questions and answers
- **11:15 - 12:00** Country specific small groups to discuss climate change issues
- **12:00 - 1:00 Lunch**
- **1:00 - 2:00** Plenary meeting to present reports of small group (15 minutes each)
- **2:00 - 3:00** Plenary recommendation of top 3 priority actions for MRU work plan
- **3:00 - 3:15 Coffee Break**
- **3:15 - 3:45** General topic 4: Protected Species plenary discussion of report on the topic
- **3:45 - 4:00** Discuss wildlife issues in country-specific break-out groups
- **4:00 - 4:45** Small groups present reports including recommendations to plenary group
- **4:45 - 5:30** Plenary brainstorm trans-boundary actions needed relative to wildlife issues.

Break for Dinner and Mingling (On-site)

- **7:30 - 8:30** Evening Program

October 6, 2010 (Wednesday)

- **8:00 - 8:15** Recap of Day 2 (led by country representative from Guinea)
- **8:15 - 8:45** General Topic 5: Challenges of integrated management Community Involvement in Protected area management
 - Brief summary of review of FFI's experience and finding of preliminary report
 - Group discussion/brainstorm to capture Issues related to specific issues relative to Community Involvement in Protected area management
- **8:45 - 10:00** Small group discussion

- NGO small group discussion
- Private Sector small group discussion
- Government small group discussion
- **10:00 - 10:15** Coffee Break
- **10:15 - 11:00** Small group presentations to larger group (15 Minutes each)
- **11:00 - 12:00** Plenary groups discuss presentations and prioritize top 3 recommendations for regional consideration.
- **12:00 - 1:00** Lunch
- **1:00 - 1:40** General topic 6: Within-country interagency coordination, and jurisdictions relative to protected areas
- **1:40 - 2:30** Break into individual country groups for country specific discussion.
- **2:30 - 2:45** Coffee Break
- **2:45 - 3:45** Small groups present findings and recommendations to plenary group (15 min each)
- **3:45 - 5:00** Plenary discussion/recommendations of trans-boundary issues related to overlapping jurisdictions
- **5:00 - 5:15** Orientation to following day's field trip

Break for Dinner and Mingling (On-site)

- **7:30 - 8:30** Evening Program

October 7, 2010 (Thursday)

- **8:00 - 5:00** Field trip to Mt. Nimba Site (Liberia/Guinea)

Participant Needs: Water bottle, boots, and field clothes.

October 8, 2010 (Friday)

- **8:00 - 8:15** Review of previous day field trip led by MRU representative from Liberia.
- **8:15 - 10:00** Country Breakout sessions to develop country specific action plans in areas discussed to date. Utilizing discussion from the field trips in addition to the topic specific discussion develop:
 - General Topic 1: Creation/Expansion of Protected Areas: Recommended action plan.
 - General Topic 2: Grazing/Tenancy Issue: Recommended action plan.
 - General Topic 3: Climate change: Recommend action plans
 - General Topic 4: Protected Species: Recommend action plans
 - General Topic 5: Challenges of Integrated Management: Recommend action plans
 - General Topic 6: Interagency coordination: Recommended action plan.
- **10:00 - 10:15** Coffee Break
- **10:15 - 12:00** Small Group work plans continued and wrap up country specific actions
- **12:00 - 1:00** Lunch
- **1:00 - 3:00** Present report on country specific action plans to plenary group (30 minutes per country)
- **3:00 - 3:15** Coffee break
- **3:15 - 4:30** Discussion of MRU wide action plan revisions relative to the six topics above and any other items of group interest. Outcome is update of MRU work plan.
- **5:00 - 7:00** Social and Wrap Up Dinner

October 9, 2010 (Saturday)

- Return to homes

Annex C – Final Country Action Plans and Recommendations

Cote d'Ivoire Action Plan

Recommandations et Plan d'actions

- Côte d'Ivoire
- RECOMMANDATIONS
-

1. Initier des activités alternatives génératrices de revenus (projets agro-sylvo-pastoraux, micro-projets) et projets sociaux
2. Renforcer les moyens pour une application effective de la législation dans les zones transfrontalières
3. Progresser dans l'élaboration des plans d'aménagement et de gestion transfrontalière
4. Elaborer un plan stratégique national pour le REDD
5. Prioriser le développement et la mise en œuvre du projet de plans de gestion des terroirs dans les zones transfrontalières

- ACTIVITES TAI-SAPO, NIMBA

1. Initier des activités alternatives génératrices de revenus (projets agro-sylvo-pastoraux, micro-projets) et projets sociaux
 - Faire l'état des lieux (Recensement des projets, ONG et autres acteurs existants, Besoins des populations)
 - Rechercher des moyens financiers pour leur mise en œuvre
 - Renforcer les capacités techniques et financières (gestion de projets et introduction de nouvelles techniques)
2. Renforcer les moyens pour une application effective de la législation dans les zones transfrontalières
 - Sensibiliser les acteurs dans les zones transfrontalières sur l'interdiction du trafic des espèces protégées et sur les disparités de la législation de la chasse
 - Mettre en place une structure de gestion des conflits transfrontaliers
 - Mettre en place une équipe mixte transfrontalière pour le biomonitoring
 - Faire des patrouilles anti défrichement et anti braconnage pour le contrôle des flux migratoires des populations vers et dans les aires protégés
 - Renforcer les capacités techniques des acteurs sur le biomonitoring et la surveillance (agents, villageois)
3. Progresser dans l'élaboration des plans d'aménagement et de gestion transfrontalière
 - Compléter les études de faisabilité pour l'élaboration des plans d'aménagement et de gestion transfrontalière
 - Etablir et rendre opérationnel le comité de pilotage et le groupe de travail technique pour Tai-Sapo
 - Mettre en place la plate forme de gouvernance pour le Mont Nimba
 - Rédiger les plans d'aménagement et de gestion transfrontalière (draft)
 - Rechercher des financements durables pour la mise en œuvre des plans transfrontaliers
4. Elaborer un plan stratégique national pour le REDD
 - Créer un comité interministériel sur les changements climatiques et le REDD
 - Renforcer les capacités des structures étatiques et des autres acteurs concernés
 - Elaborer le projet PIN (idée de projet pour la RCI) et le soumettre au Bailleurs de fonds
 - Faire des études sur les zones menacées par les changements climatiques et sur la déforestation
 - Identifier les zones et projets éligibles au REDD
5. Prioriser le développement et la mise en œuvre du projet de plans de gestion des terroirs (national) dans les zones transfrontalières
 - Prévoir un cadre de discussion avec le Ministère chargé du plan pour la prise en compte urgente de la mise en œuvre d'un plan de gestion des terroirs dans les zones transfrontalières

- Rechercher des fonds additionnels pour le financement la mise en œuvre de cette activité

Guinea Action Plan

Groupe de discussion sur la Guinée

- PRIORITE I : Nimba
 - MATERIALIZATION DES LIMITES DES MONTS NIMBA.
- PRIORITE II
 - DEVELOPPER D'ACTIVITES GENERATRICES DE REVENUS
- PRIORITE III
 - DEFINITION ET MISE EN ŒUVRE DE LA PROCEDURE D'ETABLISSEMENT DE L' AIRE PROTEGEE TRANSFRONTALIERE MO-OK-SOYA
- PRIORITE IV: Changement climatique
 - VULGARISATION DES P.E.S ET RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES SUR LA REDD
- PRIORITE V: Gestion Intégrée
 - ACCROISSEMENT DE LA PARTICIPATION COOMMUNAUTAIRE DANS LA GESTION DES APT (NIMBA, OKNP, MADINA OULA, ZIAMA- WENEGESI)

Guinea Action Plan (Table of Actions highlighting next 12-18 months shown on next page)

Logique d'intervention	Délai d'exécution	Responsables	Observations
RESULTAT 1 : Limites des Monts Nimba matérialisées	12 mois		
Activité 1.1 : réactualiser les commissions techniques de délimitation impliquant les communautés locales	1 mois	PCBMN/CEGENS/MAB	Financement disponible
Activité 1.2 : identifier et géo-référencer les points d'implantation des bornes et panneaux	3 mois	PCBMN/CEGENS/IREB/SMF G/CFZ SSMN/Communautés	Financement à rechercher
Activité 1.3 : défricher et planter le cordon de bambous	8 mois	PCBMN/CEGENS/IREB/SMF G/CFZ SSMN/Communautés	Financement à rechercher
RESULTAT 2 : Des activités génératrices de revenus sont réalisées	15 mois		
Activité 2.1 : identifier et prioriser les besoins des communautés			
Activité 2.2 : susciter la formation de groupements d'intérêts économiques			
Activité 2.3 : Renforcer les capacités des groupements pour la réalisation des actions identifiées			
RESULTAT 3 : La procédure d'établissement de l'APT Madina-Oula/Oure-Kaba/Soya est définie et mise en œuvre.	16 mois	DN/DBAP, MAB	
Activité 3.1 : informer et sensibiliser la population			
Activité 3.2 : décrire les caractéristiques biogéographiques du site			
Activité 3.3 : constituer le dossier de classement pour signature			
RESULTAT 4 : Les capacités des structures de gestion sont renforcées en matière de PES et de REDD	10 mois	PCBMN/CEGENS/IREB/SMF G/CFZ SSMN/Communautés	
Activité 4.1 : former les gestionnaires des APT (cadres et agents) en PES et en REDD			
Activité 4.2 : former les communautés riveraines des APT en PES			
Activité 4.3 : identifier et aménager les sites les plus propices à l'implantation de projets PES et REDD (corridor de Bossou, Forêt de Bonama...)			
RESULTAT 5 : La participation communautaire est effectivement améliorée dans la gestion des APT de Nimba, Ziama-Wenegizi et Madina Oula/Ourekaba/Soya	18 mois	PCBMN/CEGENS/IREB/SMF G/CFZ SSMN/Communautés, DN/DBAP, MAB	
Activité 5.1 Créer des comités de gestion et de surveillance			
Activité 5.2 Former des guides locaux pour le développement de l'écotourisme			

Liberia Action Plan

1. Improve Livelihood options in Nimba
2. Inter-ministerial coordination
3. Capacity building of communities and institutions in climate change
4. Benefit sharing in climate change to be addressed and harmonised
5. Sapo/Tai/GREBO Train local communities in alternative ways to generate income
6. * Create holding grounds for animals at border

1. Improve Livelihood options in Nimba – Action Plan

- Collect data on current situation
- Ask the Chief's about best Livelihood options collected by local NGO, and ENNR management team.
- Data available from ARD, Darwin, Steward, UNDP, GEF, SGP
- Projects identified by communities
- Share results across borders
- Try and collect all existing data before FEB workshop

2. Suggest to Ministries the promotion of trans-boundary Inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation

- Already a trans-boundary ministerial council which meets regularly – MFA, Mo M, Mo EA.
- Use this as model to establish coordination between like ministries of MRU countries and
- include agencies to meet as well as ministries where agencies have similar responsibilities
- Establish a trans-boundary biodiversity governance platform.

3. Capacity building of communities and institutions in climate change

- REDD technical committee already exists, funded by FCPF and NORAD/FFI, CI/Mcallmcbau, IUCN
- REDD website being developed (active soon)
- www.reddliberia.org

4. Benefit sharing in climate change to be addressed and harmonised

- Pending consultation of overall REDD framework
- Already existing benefit sharing trust for commercial forestry & mining
- Use lessons learned from these when creating a benefit sharing scheme such as REDD and PA working groups
- Benefit sharing working group should be fully consulted
- Need to carefully consider the benefits accrued to PA adjacent communities

5. Sapo/Tai/GREBO Train local communities in alternative ways to generate income

- Identify partners working in area (steward?)
- Clear Action plan was developed in NCF workshop, Abidjan (implement/expand where necessary)
- Use existing plan to identify training needs (& implementing partners)

6. * Create holding grounds for animals at border

* (Special note: this action plan was included, but was thought by many of the group to be part of a broader item when the action plan topics were voted on, hence its inclusion within the list of broader actions recommended)

- Issues to be resolved Reduction of introduction of noxious plants, reduction of introduction of diseased animals. Also would avoid traffic problems, Some of the diseases which we seek to avoid being introduced are, tuberculosis, foot and mouth disease, Newcastle's Disease, Brucellosis...For example There are serious problems ongoing at the GBADIN rice project sit where noxious weed have been introduced by animal feces would could regulated by such holding facilities.
- Action: Create holding grounds for animals at border
- From these meeting notes recommend to the Ministry of Agriculture, work with local governments to establish the areas and plan of management for them, and work through the coordinator of the Ministry of Agriculture with the appropriate county to do this preparation work prior to any construction Financing should be sought be both through ministry of agriculture and NGO s.

Sierra Leone Action Plan

Thematic Areas

- **Community Engagement**
- Legal Framework
- Lobbying and advocacy
- Education and communication
- Trans-boundary Corridor

Recommendation

1. Community Engagement
 - Support the implementation of co-management in TB areas
2. Legal Framework
 - Harmonize laws/policies/regulations on TB management
3. Lobbying and advocacy
 - MRU lobby for prioritization of PA management and climate change in the sub-region
4. Education and communication
 - Enhance education and communication for all stakeholders in TB areas
5. TB Corridor
 - Establishment and Management of TB corridors

Action Plan 1 – Support of Co-management in TB Areas

- a. Identify areas for co-management
- b. Community consultations and engagement
- c. Nature and socio-economic studies
- d. Establishment of governance structures
- e. Development of management plans
- f. Signing of MoUs
- g. Joint Implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Action Plan 2 – Harmonize Laws, Policies and Regulations

- a. Review relevant laws at national level to identify gaps and weaknesses in consultations with respective TB member states
- b. Draft new legislations for TB areas
- c. Lobby the government for enactment
- d. Create national oversight committees for TB activities

Action Plan 3 – MRU Lobby for Prioritization of PAs and Climate Change Management in the Sub-region

- a. Table TB and CCC issues into the Council of Ministers and Summits of Heads of States
- b. Facilitate national and regional inter-agency meetings on TB and CC issues
- c. MRU facilitate and organize studies on CC and carbon assessment in TB areas
- d. Equip the MRU to serve as an information clearing house and communication for CC and TB areas
- e. MRU annual updates

Action Plan 4 – Enhance Education & Communication for All Stakeholders in the TB areas

- a. Develop comprehensive NRM education strategy for TB areas
- b. Sensitization and awareness raising on laws, policies and regulations governing TB areas at all levels
- c. Capacity building for NRM education programs at all levels
- d. Develop and implement communication protocols for TB PAs at all levels
 - Public meetings
 - Community radios
 - Effective reporting mechanisms
- e. Monitoring and evaluation of activities

Action Plan 5 – Establishment and Management of Corridors Linking PAs in TB Areas

- a. Identify and assess corridor areas for demarcation
- b. Hold consultations and engagement with communities in the corridor areas regarding corridor establishment and management
- c. Identify and design compensation and livelihood packages for communities affected by the established corridors
- d. Initiate community and joint patrols of TB corridor areas
- e. Monitoring and evaluation

Annex D – Group Topic Presentations

General Topic 1: Creation/Expansion of Protected Areas

Topic Worksheet

Issue: Steward, the MRU and a variety of NGO partners have been working through the years on additional protected area management in the region with a focus to conserve key blocks of limited habitats that often span national boundaries. The focus areas selected at this time are: Mt. Nimba (Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia), Tai Grebo (Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia) OKNP/Madina Oula (Sierra Leone, Guinea) and Gola/Lofa, Foya (Sierra Leone, Liberia). This topic is to discuss and prioritize a variety issues related to potential expansion and coordination of management of these focus areas.



Related MRU Work Plan Activity: (by Activity shown in Draft 2))

- N 2 (Draft or renew management plans & propose boundaries) N 5 (Boundary Demarcation)
- N 10 (Assessment of trans-boundary areas relative to bio-diversity and natural resource use)
- N 11 (Evaluate and select suitable sites for Biosphere reserves)
- N 29 (Raise Awareness on demarcation of priority zones) N 31 (New maps for priority zones)
- N 30 (Creation and Management of Buffer Zones). P 2 (Review existing policies/legislation)
- P 3 (Propose Trans-boundary Biodiversity management legislation)
- P 6 (Identify the different target zones and the surrounding communities)
- P 8 (Validation of proposed trans-boundary intervention zones)
- P 9 (Propose Legislation for Enactment for protected areas)

Discussion Questions: Use these questions to structure your breakout discussion. Please provide a “consensus” set of answers for your break-out group:

1. What is the current protected status (by country) of areas of interest within your priority area including any pending legislation?
2. What are the top three natural resources unique to the area that need to be conserved by protected area management?
3. Are there ongoing or pending initiatives within this priority area with NGO's or other partners to facilitate existing management of a protected area or to expand the protected area?
4. Is there a consensus on the area(s) where additional trans-boundary protection is needed? (for example are there maps available of areas acceptable to the countries involved?)
5. What are the top three priority area specific issues to be resolved prior to moving forward with any expansion proposal? Would these issues need law, regulation, policy or trans-boundary coordination to resolve?

Group Presentations

GOLA Trans-boundary (landscape)

1. What is the current protected status of areas of interest within your priority area

- Gola- Sierra Leone
 - The Gola Rainforest has been gazetted as National Park and currently awaiting ratification.
 - End of 2010 is timeframe for declaration of National Park.
 - Approval of the National Forestry and Wild life policy also due by the end of the year 2010
- Gola-Liberia
 - Consultations on going for establishment of National Park

- Management team in Gola to further consultations
 - Staff capacity building ongoing (training of 43 forest guards)
 - Draft wildlife laws under review by parliament for ratification by 2011
 - Community rights law application needs to be reviewed
 - Trans-boundary
 - Once laws in both countries have been ratified corridors will be designated as Trans-boundary Peace Park for Liberia and Sierra Leone.
 - There is political commitment from both governments as was evidenced in the inaugural meeting of the two presidents in 2009)
 - Potential for REDD
2. What are the top three natural resources unique to the area that need to be conserved by PA Management
- Forests; Potential For REDD
 - Water; Potential for Water shed management
 - Endangered Species (Leopards, Bongo, Elephants, Picathartes, Pigmy Hippos, Gola Malimbe)
3. Are there ongoing or pending initiatives within this priority area with NGO's or other partners?
- Trans-boundary Initiative (Peace Parks/ Across the River)
 - Partners involved : SCNL, CSSL, GOL, GOSL, Birdlife, RSPB, Conservation International, EU, FFEM, CEPF, WB/GEF, USAID
 - Gola Forest program (Sierra Leone)
 - EU, FFEM, GCF, GOSL, RSPB, CSSL, Local Communities
 - COPAN (Liberia)
 - WB/GEF, FDA
 - Livelihood initiatives (Kenema, SL)
 - WHH, WWF, German Agro, Concern, GTZ
4. Is there consensus on the areas where additional transboundary protection is needed?
- Yes. There are existing maps for trans boundary area which can be resourced through FDA, RSPB, BIRDLIFE, FD
 - Efforts to ground truth maps are currently underway by across the river program
 - There are currently maps available for Gola forest that can be sourced from FD (Sierra Leone)/Gola Forest Program/FDA (Liberia)
 - Efforts are underway in Liberia to develop site management maps (FDA)
5. What are the top three priority area specific issues to be resolved prior to moving forward with any expansion proposal?
- Sierra Leone: establishing buffer zones and corridors to connect the peace park
 - The legislation has captured buffer zone creation but not corridors
 - Liberia: insure that legal framework is set up for protected area establish
 - The policy has captured buffer zone creation and corridors
 - To be harmonized buffer zones in both countries (1.6km Sierra Leone, Liberia 3km)
 - Trans-boundary: Harmonize trans-boundary benefit sharing mechanisms
 - evaluate SL Model and Trust
 - look further at REDD program development
 - share lessons with Liberia
 - Capacity building for law enforcement agencies
 - Training of customs officers and immigration on MRU protocol 15 free movement of Persons and locally produced goods
 - Training of Communities and protected area staff
 - Joint patrols and exchange of experiences
 - Alternative livelihoods for Communities
 - Working with NGO's on Agriculture and NTFP(Knowledge sharing Between Liberia and sierra Leone)
 - Look at options for community management

Madina-Oula / Outamba-Kilimi Landscape

1) The Current State of Proposed Zones

In Guinea, USAID is in the process of creating the parks across from Outamba Killimi and Kourou en SL : These are : Soya, Madina Oula, Penselly and Madina Oula.

- PA (Process).
- Conservation of elephants
- Creation of 5 community forests in Madina Oula –Ouré Kaba (Watershed technical model FAO).
- Mapping of the zone by LAMIL (USAID financing)
- Proposal of the enlargement of Outamba (Hills of Kourou)/ Recommendation of the study financed by EU in 1994.
- Proposal of the expansion of the western zone of Mellakoré towards the forest of Kounounkan.

2) The 3 principal natural resources to conserve

- Plant life(Parkia biglobosa, Chlorophora excelsa, Borasus sp...)
- Wildlife (Elephants, lions, Chimpanzees...),
- Watersheds (Kolenté)
- Hill from the landscape point of view
- In depth socio-economic studies

3) Current Activites

- Jane Goodall Institute from 2006-2008 : environmental education, ecotourism and chimpanzee studies
- Steward from 2009 with USAID financing
- FAO
- NGOs : APEK, SARA, RGTA, TRIAS, CAFODEX, ATC, CCF, Sabou Guinée, CAPE;
- National Action Plan for the fight against desertification PAN/LCD, financed by UNDP. At Kindia, this project covers the Madina Oula Zone

4) Consensus between country parties

- In Guinea, there are satellite images with the proposed limits
- In SL, there are non-delineated zones and delineated zones

5) The 3 principal questions related to protected areas

- Definition and execution of an establishment procedure for trans-boundary sites;
 - o Socio-economic studies (focusing on vulnerabilities of communities)
 - o Sharing of information with communities and the central government to support negotiations to assure the statut of protected area
 - o Sensibilisation of all parties, civil, military and paramilitary
- Establishment of migration corridors, including less degraded forests – specifically on the Guinea side
- Resolution of MRU political and security issues (ex Yenga to Gueckedou)

Mount Nimba Landscape

Question 1: What is the current protected status (by country) of areas of interest within your priority area including any legislation?

Liberia: ENNR PA status- Nature Reserve–(2003) 13,669 ha

- GOL shifted from management alone to Co-management with local communities-
- Sept 18, 2010 “MOU” was signed between GOL(FDA) and local community.

Cote d’Ivoire: 1982 UNESCO designated World Heritage Site and Tiaplue forest reserve-28,000 ha

Guinea:

- 1) World Heritage Site-12,540 ha
- 2) De’re’ Forest (Strict PA)-8920 ha
- 3) Bossou(320 ha)

2010 law and update status of Guinea site “Decree updating Nimba status”

Quest.2: what are the top three natural resources unique to the area that needs to be conserved by PA management?

- Forest
- Wildlife
- Water resources

- Minerals (iron ore, etc)

Quest. 3: what are the ongoing pending initiatives within the priorities areas if NGOs or other partners to facilitate existing management of a PA or to expand the protected area?

- Liberia:
 - Yes but in areas around officially proclaimed area
 - Acelor Mittal Liberia agreements in areas adjoining
 - Joint stakeholders meetings between AML, FFI, CI, EPA, FDA and LNGOs
- Cote d’ivoire:
 - Suspended agreement to be reactivated by UNESCO \$30,000 grant
 - Creation of local communities conservation groups
 - Collected ecological data-which will be useful (DARWIN)
- Guinea:
 - Participatory biodiversity conservation programs- GoG, GEF, UNDP and FFI collaboration
 - Institutional capacity building for stakeholders (offices, labs, and houses, etc.) funded by GOG, SMFG and BHP Billiton
 - Co-mgt initiatives of PAs (De’re’ and Tiaplue) proposed to be funded by FFI GOG, FFI and GoCI (communities think this should be a priority for STEWARD
 - FFI proposal to EU for income generation activities
 - AUDER/ STEWARD for environmental education, and community forest management plan

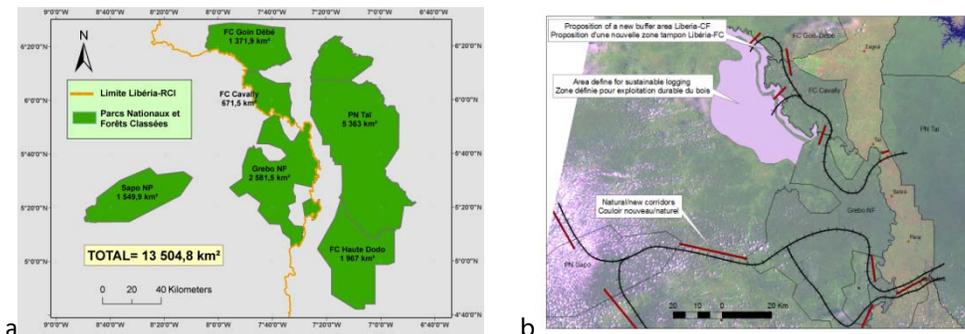
Quest.4:

- Liberia and Guinea:
 - WN to Guinea (corridor)
 - Ziama and Wonogizi (Lofa)
- Liberia and Cote d’ivoire:
 - No agreement yet
- Guinea and Cote d’ivoire:
 - De’re and Tiaplue

Quest. 5:

- Drafted and accepted trans-boundary environmental mgt plan
- Sensitization and public for local communities
- Need to work with local communities to est. local boundaries (consultation)
- Alternative livelihood for local communities
- Benefit sharing mechanism developed
- Conflicting objectives of governments on either sides of the mountains (no government coordination exist)

Tai-Sapo Complex



- a: Tai-Sapo Complex (6 protected areas, totalling 1.350.000 ha of forest)
- b: Existing and proposed Tai-Sapo corridors. Source: Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

Q1: What is the current protected status of areas of interest within your priority area?

- Côte d’Ivoire –
 - 4 protected areas:
 - Tai National Park

- Goin Débé Classified Forest
 - Cavally Classified Forest
 - Haut Dodo Classified Forest
- No current protection status:
 - Proposed Corridors in between Tai NP –Grebo NF
 - Corridor Tai-Grebo North & Corridor Tai-Grebo South (aimed protected status could be ‘Voluntary Community Reserves’)
- Liberia
 - 2 protected areas:
 - Grebo National Forest
 - Proposed National Park for 2011/2012
 - Included in Proposed protected Area Network of Liberia
 - Sapo National Park
 - No current protected status:
 - Proposed Corridor in between Grebo and Sapo (aimed protected status could be ‘Community Forests’)

Q2: Top three natural resources unique to area

- 1) Fauna: Threatened and endangered species
 - The Tai-Sapo Complex holds probably the most viable populations of forest elephants and chimpanzees in whole West Africa, also important populations of pigmy hippos, Jentink & Zebra Duikers, Red Colobus and Diana monkeys, Picarthartes....
- 2) Flora: The Tai-Sapo Complex with 1.350.000 ha of protected areas is the last, biggest contiguous forest bloc in whole West Africa and therefore holds enormous potential as Carbon stock
- 3) Watershed
 - springs within protected areas in Tai-Sapo Complex
 - river system passing through the Tai-Sapo complex

Q3: Ongoing initiatives

- 1) Trans-boundary Initiative for the Tai-Sapo Complex
 - a. Workshop held in Abidjan in October 2009 with 100 participants (40 Liberians, 60 Ivorians from governments, Protected area managers and NGOs)
 - b. Discussions on establishments of corridors and trans-boundary collaboration mechanism (workshop report can be downloaded at <http://www.tai-sapo.org>)
- 2) Project with funding from FFEM: Sustainable management for the Cavally and Goin Débé Classified Forests
 - a. Main objective is to update Management plans and assure sustainable management practices
- 3) Lifeweb project submitted: Creation and Improvements of protected areas in Liberia, including Grebo, Gand Kru and Sapo

Q4: Consensus on trans-boundary protection areas

- Consensus was reached during Abidjan Workshop in October 2009 for the Tai-Sapo Corridor
- Resolution and Press release, Full report and maps available through WCF, OIPR, FDA

Q5: Top three priority area specific issues

- 1) Assure the protection of the existent protected areas against illegal activities such as hunting, bush meat trade in between borders, deforestation
- 2) Establish and make operational the steering committee as outlined during the Abidjan workshop
- 3) Complement ongoing feasibility studies in the Tai- Grebo Corridor

General Topic 2: Grazing and Tenancy

Topic Worksheet

Issue: In the development of the preliminary report for the workshop, the authors heard from many of those interviewed that grazing is a significant issue in some protected areas. The review of laws indicates that general laws relative to permitting or regulating grazing may not exist in the countries of the MRU. In general, there do appear to be regulations on grazing and other agricultural practices within protected areas in most of the countries in the MRU. The topic is to discuss the impacts that grazing may have on specific protected areas, and examine the current legislation and/or policy relative to grazing in these areas. The

second portion of the topic is to address, even if a legislative framework exists within a given protected area, whether the historic tenancy of grazing is an issue that needs additional legislative or policy attention to resolve significant ongoing disputes or issues?

Related MRU Work Plan Activity: (By activity shown in Draft 2)

- N 8 (Environmental Monitoring), N 9 (Sustainable land use practices contribute to management...)
- N 10 (Assessment of trans-boundary areas relative to...agriculture...)
- N 24 (Create awareness of codes and regulations) N 28 (Assess status of human impacts)
- W 3 R2 (Participate community needs and land tenure assessment for socio-economic programs)
- W 7 R2 (Introduce improved animal husbandry)
- W9 R1&2 (Review and improve legislation that secures community rights/land tenure)
- P 10 (Formalize the process of natural resource control and usage for local populations)
- P 16 (Identify and validate key stakeholders for natural resource management)

Discussion Questions: Use these questions to structure your breakout discussion. Please provide a “consensus” set of answers for your breakout group:

1. Is grazing an issue relative to biodiversity conservation within your country, and if so, for which particular protected areas within your country is it a significant issue?
2. Are current law, regulation, and policy relative to protected areas sufficient to provide a legal framework to manage grazing (in protected areas) consistently with the management intent of those areas?
3. If the answer to “2” is no, what 3 recommendations would you make within your country to enhance, or modify the legal framework of your country regarding grazing, particularly as it relates to protected areas?
4. Is recognition of historic grazing adequately addressed either in protected area legislation or in land tenancy regulation, law or policy? If not, what 3 recommendations do you have to improve the situation?
5. Are there significant issues in specific protected areas (or desired future protected areas) relative to transitory grazing that crosses international boundaries? If so, what 3 recommendations do you have to alleviate such trans-boundary problems?

Group Presentations

Cote d'Ivoire

Question 1 – Is grazing an issue?

Grazing

- Grazing is not a problem in Nimba or Tai-Grebo-Sapo
- Grazing is a serious problem for the Comoe NP (transfrontalier avec le Burkina Faso)

Deforestation

- Tai-Grebo Sapo
 - Haute Dodo, Goin Debé important illegal deforestation (ca 40%), still limited in Cavally
 - Complicity of indigenous (autochtone) populations to sell land to strangers that belongs to the state
 - Tai National Park existence of 1% illegal occupied zone nominated ZOC, that needs to be managed
- Nimba
 - Tiapleu recent deforestation and illegal infiltrations, indigenous population is opposing illegal infiltrations in Classified Forest

Question 2 – Is current law, regulation, and policy relative to protected areas sufficient?

- Law 2002 states that no grazing is allowed in any National Park or Reserves,
- Code Forestiere 1965 allows grazing and resource extraction for non commercial use in Classified Forests; in Classified Forests grazing can be restricted if it conflicts with the Management plan
- Deforestation (agricultural infiltration) is forbidden in all protected areas including National Parks and Classified Forests
- Law 1998 modified in 2004 concerning Land rights (Loi Domaine Foncier Rurale) is operational but the application of the texts is problematic
- For the corridors it will be important to clarify the land rights (Titre de propriete) before designating status such as Voluntary reserves

Question 3 – If the answer to “2” is no, what 3 recommendations would you make?

- In Cote d’Ivoire the text regulates sufficiently but the government structures in charge of regulating illegal infiltrations in National Parks and Classified Forest don’t have sufficient human, materiel and financial resources

Question 4/5 – Recommendations:

- Trans-boundary collaborative efforts are necessary to stop migratory flux of stranger communities into protected areas (especially Goin Débé and Tiapleu CF)
- Identify structure/management unit and their contacts in case of trans-boundary conflicts (e.g. recent case of Liberian hunter caught in Ivorian classified forest who took hostage of Ivorian eco-guards)
- Inform local populations/authorities in trans-boundary zones about differing regulations/laws in bordering countries and the effective application of laws on each side of the border (e.g. a Liberian hunter that is LEGALLY hunting in Liberia is ILLEGALLY hunting in Cote d’Ivoire, if he gets caught in Cote d’Ivoire he will be judged and imprisoned according to Ivorian law)
- MRU secretariat could introduce a demand to the Council of Ministers of the MRU to regulate that penalties in case of infractions will be applied according to each countries laws
- (extradition, transfer)

Guinea

Question 1: Is grazing an issue in comparison to the conservation of biodiversity in protected areas of Guinea?

- Yes: Grazing is a problem for the conservation of biological diversity in Guinea
 - Degradation of the area
 - Bush Fire
- Example of problematic sites:
 - Mount Nimba biosphere Reserve (Trans-boundary protected area Guinea-Liberia Cote d'Ivoire)
 - Classified forest of Nyokolo Badiar - (Trans-boundary protected area Guinea-Senegal)
 - TPA(Trans-boundary Protected Area) Guinea Guinea-Bissau
 - TPA Baffing Falemé
 - PA (Protected Area) Madina Oula - Outamba Kilimi
- Example of sites or critical area
 - Prefecture of Gaoual
 - Prefecture of Beyla

Question 2: Are the current laws, regulations and policies related to protected areas sufficient to provide a legal framework for the management of grazing in the protected law.

- Existence of several codes
 - Pastoral Code: General rule on the organization of traditional livestock (traditional area between agriculture and livestock and does not mean protected areas)
 - livestock Code;
- The current laws and codes sufficiently address the concept of grazing in and around protected areas (you must fill this gap)

Questions 3: Three Recommendations

- Include harmonized provisions at national level about laws and regulations relating to grazing management in the Protected Areas;
 - Code of Wildlife
 - Forestry code,
 - Environmental Code
 - Etc.
- Develop implementing texts on grazing in protected areas;
- Disseminate effectively at the local level all the texts of laws relating thereto.

Question 4: Recognition of the history of grazing in the legislation

- Yes (Communities code)
- But it remains to be completed by an implementation text on protected areas

Question 5: Are there significant problems in specific areas crossed by international borders?

- Yes, there are serious problems
- Recommendations:
 - Planning of the migration corridors in the border areas in the transition zone of the protected areas;

- Creation of specific areas for breeding
- Control and monitoring of Inter-State transhumance

Liberia

Quest. 1:

- No, grazing is not a problem now in Lib. At the moment
- Grazing is a bit of a problem for future PA mgt for East Nimba-ENNR, Sapo and Grebo
- Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is training 16 veterinarians
- Transitory grazing (Guinea, Liberia)
- Shifting

Quest. 2:

- Currently not a problem for grazing but will be a problem in the future
- It is a problem for agriculture (land clearing) near Pas
- Pit sawing is a problem in/and near PAs

Question 3

- Laws need improvement/strengthening relating to grazing
- Cattle grazing is allow to move off private land
- Nomadic grazing is particularly difficult to resolve
- There's conflict between ministries (MOA, EPA, FDA) in the harmonization of laws
- Needs rigid enforcement of laws
- Laws for agriculture used in Pas needs improvement

Quest. 4:

- For agriculture, an issue will be the interpretation of the community rights law (CRL) relative to land tendency
- Grazing of animals from Guinea coming to Liberia

Recommendations

- There's a need to strengthen existing laws
- Capacity for enforcement needs improvement
- No laws for compensation for transitory grazing for. Develop laws for community compensation
- Create holding grounds for animals
- Some areas are grassland and very difficult to control
- MRU laws allow free movement of animals across the borders
- NGOs working with communities to promote life stocks, they should first communicate with MoA
- Traditional leaders will like community involvement in the formation of the laws
- MoA and EPA should decentralize their regulatory procedures on the importation and grazing of animals
- Coordination among CSOs and Gov't land ministries (MoA, EPA and FDA)

Sierra Leone

1. Is grazing an issue

- **Yes**
 - The OKNP
 - Mamuta Mayossoh
 - Wara wara
 - Tingi Hills

2. Sufficiency of Policies, Laws and Regulations

- The Wildlife law and Policy are sufficient to manage grazing in PAs, as the grazer should first obtain a permit
- There are no Regulations on grazing

3. Recommendation to modify legal framework

- Make regulation for controlled management of grazing in protected areas
- Develop capacity for the development and implementation of management plans
- Adopt a participatory approach in the development and implementation of management plans
- Work in collaboration with the Livestock Division of the MAFFS to harmonize grazing regulations

4. Incorporation of Traditional Grazing in the Laws?

- Traditional grazing is addressed in the law but it controls the spatial limits

- Elevate buffer zone management within the legislation for multiple land uses
- Study/ Assess the grazing potentials in lands adjacent to the PAs
- Improve management of established grazing areas outside PAs
- Institute traditional bye laws to address sustainable and equitable grazing

5. Specific Significant issues on cross borders

- There is an existing cross border grazing problem at OKNP
- Harmonize grazing regulations for trans-boundary grazing between Guinea and SL
- Enforce compliance with traditional bye laws on grazing at the local level in line with national regulations

General Topic 3: Climate Change

Topic Worksheet

Issue: Incorporating planning for climate change into protected area management and biodiversity conservation is becoming increasingly vital. Through proper planning of climate change adaptation as well as mitigation and REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) strategies, natural resource management can be greatly enhanced. A thorough understanding of the science of climate change, and an enabling policy environment are both important precursors for successfully managing under a changing climate. The purpose of the topic is for you to think critically about the current policy environment in your country surrounding climate change, and think strategically about how to develop it in the future.

Related MRU Work Plan Activity: (By activity shown in Draft 2)

N 12 (Implement and support ongoing conservation education programs..)

N 16 (Carry out priority biodiversity studies and research)

W 1 R1 (Carry out needed studies and research on Nat Res Mgt opportunities for ... income generation)

W 2 R1 (Identify potential markets for local natural resource and Agricultural products) (REDD?)

P 10 (Formalize process of natural resource control and usage for local populations)

P 14 (Develop reward mechanisms to enhance NRM) (REDD?)

Discussion Questions: Use these questions to structure your breakout discussion. Please provide a “consensus” set of answers for your break-out group:

1. What are the natural resources that are most under threat from a changing climate in your country? How are these threats tied to protected area management? How do you envision climate change planning specifically benefitting protected area management?
2. What government agencies in your country are/should be involved in developing policy relevant to climate change? What would be the role of NGO’s and international partners?
3. What is the status of current legislation in your country regarding climate change and/or REDD strategy development (laws, regulation, policy), or are there any pending initiatives (governmental or non-governmental) in your country regarding climate change?
4. What are the top three recommendations you have for your country to better address climate change? (examples: specific focal point institution, legislation or regulation, training needed, etc.)
5. What do you see as the potential to utilize REDD credits to facilitate additional protected area expansion (where desired) and what governance issues would need to be addressed to insure community benefits from REDD credits?
6. What do you see as potential areas of collaboration between nations in the region on climate change issues and/or REDD strategies?

Group Presentations

Cote d’Ivoire

Question 1: Natural Resources Endangered

- 1.a
 - Watershed
 - Agricultural Production
 - Forest cover, forest regeneration
 - Endangered species

- No awareness of any specific studies on threatened areas and species
- 1.b
 - Increases the state of degradation of biodiversity in protected areas
- 1.c
 - Establishing the state of deforestation and degradation in protected areas (PN Marahoué, Sangbé, Peko, FC Téapleu, etc..)
 - Creation of corridors that may play a role in the protection of protected areas
 - Avoid deforestation and reforest degraded areas
 - Contribution of the private sector that exploits natural resources around protected areas for these areas conservation.
 - Improved farming techniques

Question 2: governing body Involved

- Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests (Existence of a focal point for climate change)
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Education and Scientific Research
- Trust structures: OIPR SODEFOR ANDE CIAPOL, Universities, BNETD, SODEXAM, etc..
- Role of NGOs and Partners
 - Facilitate the understanding of the concept
 - Lobbying and Resource Mobilization
 - Undertaking specific studies

Question 3:

- 3.a: Legislation
 - Ratification of Kyoto Protocol
 - Focal Point for Climate Change
 - Code of Environment, Forest Code, Law 2002 on the PN and Reserves and other implementing legislation
- 3.b: Initiatives
 - National Reforestation Policy
 - No significant database on protected areas, but to be updated
 - Palm oil residues use project as bio-fuel (private)
 - **Note:** Côte d'Ivoire has not developed the basic document for submission to the World Bank

Question 4: Recommendations to fight against climate change

- Study on areas threatened by climate change and deforestation
- To identify areas and eligible projects for REDD
- Creation of an **inter ministerial** committee on climate change
- Develop a national strategic plan for REDD

Question: 5

- 5a Potential
 - Corridors
 - degraded areas to reforest
 - Development of community protected areas
- 5b Governance
 - Develop a strategy for benefit sharing
 - Clarify issues related to the title of ownership
 - Forest Code in Review

Question 6:

- 6A. Potential areas of collaboration
 - Trans-boundary forests
- 6b
 - Share experiences with Ghana and Liberia which are advanced in REDD process.
 - Capacity building on climate change, supported by the MRU

Guinea

Q1

- Natural Resources most threatened by climate change:
 - Vegetation cover (Degradation of forest)
- Water Resources (rivers)

- Mangrove Resources (marine fauna)
- Agricultural areas
- Sources:
 - 1st and 2nd National Communication available
 - 3rd National Communication preparation in progress
- Kabak Mangrove Area
- Kindia Area
- Loss of habitat (consequence: species migration and disruption of the food chain)
- Increase of human pressures on protected areas
- Planning in relation to protected areas: access to funds allocated to climate change and improve natural resources management in the coastal population (Community forestry)

Q2: Agencies

- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
- Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture,
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock,
- Water and Energy
- Education and Research,
- Mines and Geology,
- Public Works and housing ...
- Role of NGOs and international partners:
 - Advocacy, technical and financial support, resources mobilization

Q3. Legislation

- No specific text dealing with climate change but Guinea has ratified the Kyoto and the Copenhagen Protocol. Two papers were prepared and a third in approval process. The national plan for adaptation to climate change developed and adopted
- Initiative: Reflections on the establishment of a climate unit responsible for implementing strategies of REDD + STEWARD, popularizing PES and REDD in the PZA 1 and provided in the Nimba Mountains in 2011 + carbon monitoring program at the communities level by STEWARD
- Designated National authority and established for the implementation of mechanisms of a specific department

Q4: Recommendations

- Specific regulations on Climate Change
- Extension of PES in priority areas (OKNP/ Madina Oula, Nimba, Ziama Wonegizi)
- Adopt a strategy for implementation of various initiatives on Climate Change (adaptation, effects mitigation, REDD, specific Development _PES
- Capacity building

Q5: Potentials of REDD credits use and governance issues

- existing forest cover
- Creation and enlargement of community forests
- Restoration of degraded forests
- Governance: effective community involvement in mobilizing and managing funds, developing co-management, involvement of the genus

Q6 Potential areas for regional collaboration on climate, REDD

- In border areas as REDD activities demonstration areas
- The MRU space: harmonize policies and strategies on climate change

Liberia

1. What are the natural resources that are most under threat from a changing climate in your country?...How are the threats tied to PA management? How do you envision climate change planning specifically benefitting PA management?

- Forest, Animals, Water, threats to coastline due to climate change
- Yes all of the natural resources identified are tied to PA management
- Long term financial benefits for PA's in Liberia through climate mitigation schemes such as REDD(+)
- Model planning will identify sites that need most protection.
- Changing governments may threaten biodiversity status because of loss of priority

2. What government agencies in your country are involved in developing policy relevant to climate change? What would be the role of NGO's and International Partners?

- EPA, FDA, MPEA, Agriculture Dept., MA – these GO’s have the remit to manage climate change mitigation strategies – National Climate Change committee – approx. 30 agencies
- Role of NGO’s is one of support – build capacity within country (financial and technical)
- Involvement of civil society - important

3. What is the status of current legislation in your country regarding climate change and/or REDD strategy development, or are there any pending initiatives in your country regarding climate change

- Policy review on Liberia’s laws and national REDD strategy – no current law in place

4. What are the top three recommendations you have for your country to better address climate change?

- Participation as laws are developed relative to climate change
- More coordination between government agencies
- Capacity building – communities / institutions. In the long term that will have as part of its mission climate change management
- Benefit sharing needs to be addressed and harmonized at all levels

5. What do you see as the potential to utilize REDD credits to facilitate additional PA expansion and what governance issues would you need to be addressed to insure community benefits from REDD credits?

- Trans-frontier complementary planning for REDD initiatives.
- Mechanism of accounting and distribution to the local level need to be established – benefit sharing...transcends boundaries..
- Communities should be part of the decision on the distribution of benefits – down to the people – can be problematic

6. What do you see as potential areas of collaboration btw nations in the region on climate change issues and/or REDD strategies?

- Information, Dissemination, sharing projects and methodology
- Regional climate change projects
- Develop cross boundary projects
- Sub – region prioritization
- Address issues of leakage

Sierra Leone

1. Natural Resources at Risk

- What?
 - Semi-deciduous Forests
 - Mangrove Forests
 - Water bodies and their sources
 - Aquatic species
 - Terrestrial Species
- How?
 - Micro-climate range survival decreases
 - Habitat loss
 - Loss of endemic species
- Planning of PAs?
 - Adaptation mechanisms to inform planning based on vulnerability of species composition/ biodiversity of PAs

2. Govt. Institution and NGOs

- Current Arrangement
 - Ministry of Transport
- Current Stakeholders
 - SL-Environment Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Min. of Transport and Aviation
 - Ministry of Internal Affairs and Rural Development

- Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and Environment
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
- Min. Finance and Development
- Preferred Institutional Arrangement
 - Secretariat In the office of the President – composed of an inter-ministerial body
- Role of NGOs
 - Technical Support

3. Current Legislation

- No clear cut legal framework
- A National Climate Change Coordination Committee is in place

4. Recommendations

- Develop Regulations on Climate Change and REDD
- Establish Climate Change Secretariat
- Coordination Committee (inter-ministerial)
- Capacity building for the committee
- Direct engagement of the government and wider public on issues of climate change
- Lobby for the inclusion of Climate change and REDD in Sierra Leone’s development packages
- Incorporate climate change and REDD in District Development Plans

5. Potential for REDD

- Potential Areas of Investments
 - Invest in low impact eco-tourism
 - Improve forest co-management
 - Agro-forestry – especially tree crops
- Governance Issues to Address
 - Address land tenure ambiguities
 - Stimulate the establishment of management groups, including capacity building
 - Develop a legal framework to elevate groups to legal institutions
 - Establish reliable and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms
 - Formalize financial resource management, including banking practices

6. Potential Areas for Regional Cooperation

- Integrated trans-boundary forest management for climate change mitigation and REDD
- Establish trans-boundary benefit sharing mechanism
- Formalize benefit sharing mechanism among the respective governments
- Harmonization of climate change and REDD policies among the MRU states
- Capacity Building
- Exchange program
- Intra-regional training program
- Effectively pursue the existing trans-boundary landscape management program within the MRU, including water basin management
- MRU to facilitate access to legal and technical arbitration mechanisms to address issues of regional scope and deemed to be beyond a single member state to handle

General Topic 4: Protected Species

Topic Worksheet

Issue: In the development of the Preliminary Report the authors found limited current regulation in some countries relative to protection of threatened or endangered species. All of the countries of the MRU have ratified the Convention on International Trades in Endangered Species (CITES). In most cases the ratification of CITES has occurred more recently than the most recent flora and fauna protection regulations we were able to find for the countries. In addition, it appears there are differences in existing regulations among the countries relative to hunting regulations (particularly which species may or may not be hunted under regulation in each country and in the punishments for illegal taking of protected species). These differences can lead to management issues in protected areas, particularly where species and/or hunters cross international boundaries. The purpose of this topic is to verify the current legal framework in each country relative to protected species and promote discussion of ways to improve conservation of these species both within countries and in a trans-boundary context.

Related MRU Work Plan Activity: (By activity shown in Draft 2)

- N 10 (Assessment of trans-boundary areas for data on biodiversity...)
- N 14 (Monitoring species distribution) N 23 (Translate laws... on natural resource exploitation...)
- W 9 R1&2 (Review and improve legislation that secures community rights/land tenure)
- P 2 (Review...existing policies/legislation for opportunities for cooperation)
- P 4 (Support establishment and operation of inter-state monitoring committee)
- P 8 (Validation of the status of proposed Trans-boundary intervention zones)
- P 10 (Formalize process of natural resource control and usage for local populations)
- P 11 (Improved partnership between Organizations and states which facilitate sustainable NRM)
- P 13 (Identify and develop management tools to enhance partnerships)
- P 17(Develop institutional framework for collaborative resource management)
- P 18 (Assure surveillance and enforcement)

Discussion Questions: Use these questions to structure your breakout discussion. Please provide a “consensus” set of answers for your break-out group:

1. Does the Preliminary report contain the most current laws and regulations for your country regarding protected species? If not, could you provide information on how to access more current law or regulation?
2. Are there pending revisions to your country’s policy or laws related to protected species, or general hunting regulations and can you provide information on how to access these revisions?
3. Is there a need in your country for modification of laws or regulations to be in alignment with CITES treaty obligations? If so, what are your recommendations in this regard?
4. Is there a need for trans-boundary treaties, mutual aid agreements for law enforcement, memoranda of understanding between agencies for co-management, etc. relative to the issue of protected species? If so, what are the 3 most important areas to focus on?
5. Is there need for cooperative education programs or other activities to better manage protected species across international boundaries within the MRU? If so what are your top 3 recommendations in this regard.

Group Presentations

Cote d’Ivoire

Question 1

- No
- The decree of 1974 about the closing of hunting in Republic of Cote d’Ivoire is not in the preliminary report
- Law No. 94-442 of 16th August 1994 amending Law No. 65-255 of 04 August 1965 on the protection of wildlife and on hunting (conformity compared to the CITES Convention)
- Decree No. 66-122 of 31st March 1966 determining the protected forest species

Question 2

- Before bill in progress on the regulation of hunting and wildlife protection
- Revision forest code in progress
- Note: These texts are not currently available because it is not yet adopted

Question 3

- No, existing laws are in compliance with CITES, yet they are not sufficiently implemented

- Recommendations:
 - o Conduct awareness campaigns to stop the trade and consumption of endangered species
 - o Accelerate the adoption of the law on the regulation of hunting and wildlife protection
 - o Effectively implementing regulations in border areas

Question 4

- Yes
- Important Areas: Tai Grébo / Cavally-Grebo +Grebo Corridor

Questions 5

- Yes
- Sensitize the actors in the border areas on the prohibition of trafficking protected species
- Carry out patrols in border areas
- Equipping agents of Waters and Forests in control means to enforce the law

Guinea

Q1

- Yes, the preliminary report contains the latest laws and regulations of Guinea with regard to protected species with the exception of the charter of the West African mangroves adopted and ratified in July 2010 (Action Plan 2010-2015 available in the appendix of the charter)
- The text is available with the specialist

Q2

- Yes, the National Environment Policy of the Republic of Guinea
- Document being validated

Q3

- Yes
- Recommendations:
 - o Adopt the treaty obligations of the CITES
 - o Revise laws

Q4

- 4.1. YES, especially for migratory species and for the regulation of hunting
- 4.2. Priority Sites
 - o Mount Nimba (Guinea - Ivory Coast - Liberia)
 - o Madina Oula - Otamba Kilimi (Guinea - Sierra Leone)
 - o Ziama - Wenegesi (Guinea - Liberia)

Q5

- YES
 - o Awareness
 - o Governance Platform
 - o Alternative income-generating

Liberia

1. Does the preliminary report contain the most current laws and regulations for your country regarding protected species? If not could you provide information on how to access more current law or regulation?

- Yes it accurately describes the Wildlife Regulations as published (1988)
- 2000 Forestry Law
- 2006 Forestry reform law
- Draft wildlife law and draft regulations under formation – neither adopted as yet

2. Are there pending revisions to your country's policy or laws related to protected species, or general hunting regulations and can you provide information on how to access these revisions?

- Yes there are pending revisions – both Wildlife law and regulations

3. Is there a need in your country for modification of laws or regulations to be in alignment with CITES treaty obligations? If so what are your recommendations in this regard?

- The new laws and regulations that relate to Wildlife are being reviewed by CITES –
- Therefore the new laws will be very much in alignment with CITES

4. Is there a need for trans-boundary treaties, mutual aid agreements for law enforcement, and memoranda of understanding between agencies for co-management etc relative to the issue of protected species? If so, what are the 3 most important areas to focus on?

- CITES is an example of a trans-boundary treaty
- Need to formulate treaties that respect CITES
- Build capacity within the country to enforce and understand laws
- Prevent illegal transport of endangered species
- Build awareness in the communities on either side of the boundaries in the countries where they reside
- Integrated border management
- Institutional collaboration between ministries
- Create a list of protected species within the **sub region**

5. Is there need for cooperative education programs or other activities to better manage protected species across international boundaries within the MRU? If so what are your top 3 recommendations in this regard?

- Yes there is a need for education programs
- Common curriculum, exchange of practitioners between countries
- Formal training for law-enforcers (judges, border guards etc)
- Promote indigenous knowledge
- Sub-regional workshops to exchange knowledge
- 'What is permitted not just what is *not* permitted (**e.g.** Hunters)
- Livelihood support – alternative livelihoods.
- Help build capacity for animal quarantine at border crossings

Sierra Leone

1. Report contain the most recent Laws and Regulation on Protected Species

- Yes

2. Are there Pending Revisions – Policy or Laws? Access to Document?

- There are two new policies
 - Forestry Policy
 - Wildlife Conservation Policy
- Contacts;
 - Sheku Mansaray; Director of Forestry; MAFFS – +232-76-640429
 - Eugene C. Cole; NRM Policy Reform Specialist, CEPESL; eugchris@yahoo.com; +232 76 630451

3. Need for Modification of Laws and Regulations to CITES? + Recommendation

- Yes
 - The Forestry Act, 1988
 - The Wildlife Conservation Act, 1972
 - 1. The Government of Sierra Leone, the Law Reform Commission, with technical support from CEPESL takes the review process forward through the rest of the year (2010)
 - 2. Enactment of the laws through parliament in 2011

4. Need for Trans-boundary Treaties, etc? Priority Areas of focus?

- Yes – at the national level
- Mutual Aid agreement on law enforcement for joint patrol (Guinea-SL-Lib)
- Signing of Trans-boundary Memorandums of Understanding (MoU)
- Ensure that MoUs on Gola are signed between SL-Lib
- Initiate contact for the signing of an MoU between SL-Guinea on the OKNP
- Harmonize regulations, laws and regulations on trans-boundary areas

5. Cooperative Education Program

- Executive endorsement of trans-boundary education program
- Adaptation of education program with sensitivity to country demographic, whilst maintaining CITES & CMS integrity

- Development and implementation of communication protocols for trans-boundary PAs at all levels
 - Public meetings
 - Community radio
 - Effective Reporting mechanisms

General Topic 5: Challenges of Integrated Management

(Community Involvement in Protected Area Management)

Topic Worksheet

Issue: Conflicts involving local communities and protected area managers have arisen in some areas where local uses of the land base have been changed and livelihoods are affected. Tensions over jurisdictions with local communities or tribes have occurred in some areas. Engagement with local communities prior to boundary establishment and development of protected area management plans was also mentioned by some as an issue. Effective revenue sharing that returns a benefit to local communities from the management of protected areas was also cited by some as an issue. This topic is designed to identify issues that may be specific to some areas, and to identify if there are issues that are common in a trans-boundary context. The groups individually



are asked to articulate priority actions to be considered both in a site specifically and in a trans-boundary context. The larger group will consider the various issues/actions developed and recommended the top 3 action items from a trans-boundary view point.

Related MRU Work Plan Activity: (By activity shown in Draft 2 of MRU Work Plan)

- N 2 (Draft or renew management plans and propose boundaries of the different zones)
- N 6 (Elaborate local management plans...) N 7 (Assure monitoring and evaluation of the local management plans)
- N 9 (Sustainable land use practices contribute to management of trans-boundary forests..)
- N 13 (Implement & Support on-going conservation education programs)
- N 17 (Establish Community Woodlots for diversified needs) N-27 (Promote local economic development plans)
- W1. R1. (Carry out needed studies and research on NRM opportunities for sustainable income generation...)
- W3. R2. (Participative community needs and land tenure assessment for socio-economic programs)
- W8. R2. (Encourage CBO and strengthen their capacities...)
- W9 R1&2 (Review & improve legislation that secures community rights/land tenure)
- P 5 (Establish community trans-boundary dialog committee) P 6 (Identify.. zones and surrounding communities)
- P 10 (Formalize process of natural resource control and usage for local populations)
- P 11 (Improved partnership between organizations and states which facilitate sustainable... NRM)
- P 15 (Develop community-based NRM programs and scale them up)

Discussion Questions: Use these questions to structure your breakout discussion. Please provide a “consensus” set of answers for your break-out group. Break out groups for this topic will be by

- Mt. Nimba complex
- OKNP/Madina Oula complex
- Sapo/Tai/Grebo complex
- Gola/Lofa/Foya complex

- 1) From your perspective, what are the top 3 issues related to community involvement in (trans-boundary) protected area management within your area of concern?
- 2) What are your top 3 recommendations to improve integration of communities in protected area management relative to the issues identified above?
- 3) How can you manage trans-boundary ‘pressure’ issue related to PA management (logging, hunting, and mining)? What resources exist and how best to manage and monitor them? What data exists on biodiversity (GIS Species lists) – how can we all access these?

- 4) What are the top 3 priorities to resolve in community involvement from a trans-boundary point? What are your suggestions to resolve those issues? Making community based management work! – how do we integrate culture and tradition?

Group Presentations

GOLA Trans-boundary (landscape)

- 1) From your perspective what are the top 3 issues related to community involvement in PA management within your area of concern
 - a. Need for livelihood alternatives programs for local communities
 - b. Lack of understanding of issues related to trans-boundary management
 - c. Need to harmonize local governance structures within the communities
- 2) What are your top 3 recommendations to improve integration of communities in PA management relative to the issues above?
 - a. Liberia to study lessons from Sierra Leone’s alternative livelihoods under GFP and harmonize programs across boarder
 - b. Develop trans-boundary awareness campaign implemented on both sides (in local dialects)
 - c. Hold structured meetings to improve integration on specific issues (for example: 15th protocol mtg happening this week)
 - d. Study governance structures within both countries and find commonalities/ make recommendations for harmonization (traditional structures are same already)
 - e. Stakeholder mapping
- 3) A: How can you manage trans-boundary pressure issue related to PA management?
 - a. Joint patrols between country forest guards
 - b. Involve communities through FMC’s in protection
 - c. Encourage political will on both sides (commitment from Presidents)
 - d. Harmonize penalties across boarder and strengthen capacity to enforce them
 B: What resources exist and how best to manage/ monitor them?
 - a. Flora and Fauna (including endangered)
 - b. Freshwater catchment areas
 - c. Manage through community co-management
 C: What data exists on biodiversity? How can we all access them?
 - a. Comprehensive Species lists for Gola SL- GFP Website (www.golarainforest.org)
 - b. Rap Study of Gola –Liberia @CI (www.conservation.org)
 - c. Additional biodiversity studies ongoing by Annika Hillers @ GFP
 - d. GIS information for Liberia @FDA/ CI
 - e. GIS information for SL @Gola Forest Program
 - f. Chimpanzee assessment @ GFP/ Tacugama/ WCF (www.wildchimps.org)
- 4) Top 3 priorities- already answered in #2
How do we integrate culture and tradition?
 - a. Conduct study to identify traditional and cultural practices and sacred areas
 - b. Identify stakeholders to target
 - c. Design awareness activities based on traditional knowledge and culture
 - d. Integrate activities into trans boundary management plans
 - e. Need to involve traditional leaders in all of the above to respect local traditions

Madina-Oula / Outamba-Kilimi Landscape

- 1) Top 3 Issues Related to Community Involvement
 - a. Governance
 - Equity
 - Gender Participation
 - Negligence of Local Authorities
 - Low capacities in communities
 - Lack of confidence and cooperation between NRM personnel and communities
 - Visible government presence (structures and activities)
 - Difference in Government Structures across the border
 - b. Unclear benefit sharing mechanism

- Central govt., district and communities
 - c. Education, communication and outreach
 - d. Land Tenure
- 2) Top 3 Recommendations to Improve Community Involvement in PA Mgt
 1. Adopt participatory approaches in PA management
 - i. Communities, e.g. Leaders, youths, women, vulnerable groups, etc
 - ii. Appropriate sectors, e.g. Agric, forestry
 2. Communication packages to be designed with cultural sensitivities, e.g. language, social settings, tradition, etc.
 3. Capacity Building
 - i. Physical – public infrastructure (roads), services (water)
 - ii. Technical – livelihood activities
 - iii. Governance – management committees
 - 3) Management of Trans-boundary ‘Pressure’ Issues related to PAs? Existing Resources?
 - Stakeholder Management Committees
 - Communities Joint surveillance planning and management
 - National coordination mechanisms and schedules
 - MRU to elevate eco-guards to the status of para-military for trans-boundary law enforcement
 - Resources – GEF-WB Project; STEWARD; ADB/MRU TB Project
 - Studies – Biodiversity (Chimp, Elephants), NTFP, Important Bird Areas, ongoing forest Inventory, Socio-economic; etc.
 - 4) Top 3 Priorities to Resolve relative to community Involvement
 - 1) Harmonize laws and policies in favor of community involvement in PA management
 - a. Promote the development of byelaws at local levels
 - 2) Clear roles and responsibilities, rights and limitations of communities in PA management
 - 3) Coordination issues of national priorities at TB levels
 - a. Develop TB consultations on a regular basis to ensure understanding of evolving management issues
 - b. Develop opportunities for food security and TB markets of locally produced goods and services

Mount Nimba Landscape

- 1) From your perspective what are the top 3 issues related to community involvement in (trans-boundary) protected area management with the area of your concern?
 - 1) Limited alternative Livelihood options – more options required
 - Need careful planning as livelihood requirements are many
 - 2) Greater education required at the community level – lack of training
 - 3) Limited involvement in decision making (governance)
- 2) What are the top 3 recommendations to improve integration of communities in protected area management relative to the issues identified above?
 - Within communities.....
 1. Improve livelihood options
 2. Increase education
 3. Increase community involvement
- 3) How can you manage trans-boundary ‘pressure’ issue related to PA management? What resources exist and how best to manage and monitor them? What data exists on biodiversity – how can we access these?
 - Pressure = Illegal hunting, Fire (high level), Logging, shifting cultivation, illegal mining
 - No clear boundary demarcation between countries
 - Resources: Communities, Laws, Organisations such as CEGEN, SODEFOR, OIPR, FDA, CFZ responsible for boundary protection
 - Law enforcement is not strong (therefore increase)
 - Resolve = meetings dialogue, exchanges between countries
 - Data List being compiled by: Country, Institution, Data type, Locality, Date, Contact
- 4) What are the top 3 priorities to resolve in community involvement from a trans-boundary point? What are your suggestions to resolve those issues? Making community based management work – how do we integrate culture and tradition?
 - Taking community empowerment seriously, actually giving the power to communities to decide what happens – not just talking about it (or saying it has been done)
 - Greater Awareness of the environmental issues
 - Harmonisation of guidelines
 - Trans-boundary livelihood acceptance
 - Creation of community task force to protect areas

- Community exchange visits between countries
- Socio-economic studies to provide understanding of communities in different countries
- Trans-boundary management committee

Tai-Sapo Complex

Q1: 3 main issues related to community involvement

Conflicts between population and managers, related to the problem of land (land compensation)

- Development projects do not always take into account the needs of populations
- No coordination of actors activities create confusion and high expectations in the minds of people
- The low educational level of populations does not enable to use them in certain activities of management of protected areas
 - ✓ NB - For Tai, people are involved in the management of protected areas under the local management committee
 - ✓ For Sapo, development projects of community forests are implemented and there are regional forums to discuss forestry issues

Q2: Recommendations

- Intensify sustainable agriculture
- Establish a land management plan
- Integrate silviculture projects, agro-forestry, animal protein and etc. in the regional development plan
- Train people in income generating trades

Q3:

1) COMMUNITY CROSS-BORDER ISSUE AND RECOMMENDATION

- Disparities in hunting laws between countries Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia (information and awareness)
- Deficiency of means of control (Provision of financial and material means)
- Lack of platform or framework for cross-border trading (Establish a framework for trans-boundary management)

2) EXISTING RESOURCES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

- Wood tracking by satellite analysis, bio-monitoring and inventory,
- wildlife followed by bio-monitoring (transects, audio and camera trap)
- minerals and water followed by respect for multiparty agreements,

3) DATA AVAILABLE ON THE BIODIVERSITY AND THEIR ACCESSIBILITY

- Bio-monitoring data available (OIPR, WCF, FDA and CI) including wildlife, flora and illegal activities
- Data can be placed on the website of the respective cross-border projects
 - **Constraints:** Financial, technical capacity
 - **Recommendations:** establishment of joint team for biomonitoring, availability of sufficient financial and capacity building

Q4: Integrations culture and tradition

- Establish community ecotourism projects based on the enhancement of nature and culture
- Use social studies and take into account the achievements in the management of protected areas

General Topic 6: Within-country Interagency Coordination

Topic Worksheet

Issue: In the development of the preliminary report, the authors heard from many sources that conflicting uses of protected areas have sometimes been authorized. In addition, the review of laws, regulations, and policies of the MRU countries indicate that, at times there appears to be a lack of clarity regarding what agency or ministry has authority to issue developmental permits (for example for mining) or use permits (for example for grazing or agricultural use) within protected areas. The purpose of the topic is to explore this issue with break-outs by country to develop recommendations to improve interagency coordination and/or the clarity of administrative jurisdiction particularly as it relates to management of resources within protected areas.

Related MRU Work Plan Activity: (By activity shown in Draft 2)

- N 4 (Ecological Zones are conserved)
- N 8 (Assure environmental monitoring of the conservation zones)
- N 12 (Training and orientation for field staff)
- N 20 (Consolidate Research)
- N 22 (Share information)
- N 23 (Translate laws codes regulations and policies)
- N 24 (Create Awareness of Codes and Regulations)

- N 26 (Capacity reinforcement for organizations)
- N 29(Raise Awareness on demarcation of priority zones)
- P 10 (Formalize process of natural resource control and usage for local populations)
- P 16(Identify and validate key stakeholders for Natural Resource Management)
- P-17 (Develop institutional framework for collaborative resource management)
- P-18 (Assure surveillance and enforcement)

Discussion Questions: Use these questions to structure your breakout discussion. Please provide a “consensus” set of answers for your break-out group:

- 1) What agencies or ministries in your country are responsible for issuing permits for activity within protected areas? What mechanisms are currently in place for communication/collaboration between these agencies or ministries?
- 2) Do law, regulation, and policy in your country set clear guidance relative to management priorities in protected areas in regard to permits for mining, timber harvest and other commercial activities?
- 3) If there is confusion or conflict relative to question “1” what are the top 3 recommendations the group has relative to modification of existing law, regulation or policy that could alleviate the problems?
- 4) What do you see are the root causes of conflicts in management direction for protected areas (particularly if they are not caused by confusion or conflict in the legal frameworks in place) and what are the top 3 recommendations for resolution of these problems?
- 5) Are these issues primarily internal issues to resolve or are there trans-boundary jurisdictional issues to also resolve? If so, what are the top 3 trans-boundary jurisdictional issues you would take to the larger group to discuss?

Topic 6 Country Presentations

Cote d’Ivoire

Question 1

1a. Ministries and Organizations

- National Parks
- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for Permits
- MINEEF / OIPR access permissions
 - Tourism
- OIPR for access permissions
- Role of the Ministry of Tourism not yet clarified
- Classified Forests
 - Exploitation of lumber and secondary products
- MINEF / SODEFOR issue permits
 - Exploration / Mining
- Ministry of Mines

1.b Mechanisms

- Interdepartmental Committee gives its opinion for the exploration and mining in the classified forests (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Waters and forests and Ministry of mines).

Question 2

- Yes Ivorian legislation provides clear guidance on priorities for management of national parks and reserves and classified forests (CF) as far as the permits are concerned
- However the basement in the CF being managed by the Ministry of Mines, there may be conflicts of interest

Question 3

- No Recommendations

Question 4

- **Root causes:**
 - 1) Increase of poverty due to the socio-economic crisis
 - Recommendation: Stability, peace
 - 2) Migration flows within and outside the Ivory Coast towards forest areas, including protected areas
 - Recommendation: Awareness at diplomatic level and control at national level
 - 3) extensive agriculture, lack of interest in cultures other than cash crops
 - Recommendations:

- Sustainable agriculture and supervised by specialized structure
- Plan of the land use accompanied by actions of the state
- No confusion, but despite the clarity of text, economic issues might play against the nature conservation

Question 5

- No
- However, mining the borders must be subject to regional consultation

Guinea

- Q1: The Ministries or Agencies responsible for issuing permit are:
 - 1-1: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (Research Authorization).
 - Ministry of Environment (clearing, cutting, hunting)
 - Ministry of Mines and Geology (Exploration and Exploitation)
 - Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture (fishing license)
 - Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (Water exploitations)
 - Town Planning and Housing Department (Building Permit)
 - 1-2: Consultation Body: National Council for the Environment
 - The National Council for MAB
- Q2:
 - Yes.
But efforts are needed to ensure their effective implementation.
- Q3: The three (03) recommendations are:

Yes, there is confusion or jurisdictional dispute to mitigate them there must be:

 - Outreach and dissemination of existing texts;
 - Ensure implementation of the law;
 - Creating of a framework for consultation between the competent ministries
- Q4:
 - In light of the texts, laws and regulations, there is no conflict in the management of protected areas.
- Q5:
 - 5.1: Internally there are no problems to solve.
 - 5.2: There are problems:
 - Delineation and materialization of borders
 - Harmonization of legislation across borders;
 - Concertation between states.

Liberia

- 1) What Agencies & Ministries in your country are responsible for issuing permits for activity within PA?
 - There are 5 types of PAs – National Forest, National Park, Nature Reserve, Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve, and Strict Nature Reserve.
 - No Mining activities can occur within a National Park and a Nature reserve. It is unclear if development activities can occur in a National forest. Activities can occur in a Multiple Sustainable Use Reserve. In theory it is illegal for activities to occur in a Strict Nature Reserve but there has not been one declared yet (it is a theoretical classification).
- FDA process all permits for PA's
 - Research Permits
 - Guiding Tourism
 - Harvesting of Resources
 - Multiple Use Areas (MUA) – different but stills comes through FDA
 - EPA issues permits to conduct EIAs
 - FDA cannot issue mining permits on MUA – that is Ministry of Lands & Mines – Mining permits
 - Ministry of Public Works (MPW) issues infrastructure development permits
 - FDA cannot issue developmental (mining) permits in national forests
- Under the law that the EPA works under it is a requirement that all development activities have to have and EIA prior to development.

- However there is evidence that this has not always happened and development has started before the EIA has been undertaken (if at all).
 - In PA's a social economic survey must also be undertaken....
 - Ministry of agriculture (as well as FDA) also has to issue permit for development on MUA's (e.g. Oil Palm). Also EPA would require EIA of the land. It might also involve Ministry of Land and Mines depending on the type of land. If it passes for the EIA then the development can go ahead.
 - Inter Ministerial Concessions Committee (IMCC) has to renew, agree upon, and accept all concession permits (outside Pas) before they can be issued.
 - EPA has departments that work within them – working groups...
- 2) Do law, regulation, and policy in your country set clear guidance relative to management priorities in Pas in regard to permits for mining, timber harvest and other commercial activities?
- No the laws and regulations are not clear
 - NOTE: If minerals are found in a PA (National Forest) – who takes precedence? Law says that it is illegal for development to occur...but this has occurred in history
 - Laws are therefore but ambiguous
 - Activities in unclassified forest are very unclear – status remains ambiguous. Who takes precedence is unclear – needs clarifying
- 3) If there is confusion or conflict relative to question 1, what are the top 3 recommendations the group has relative to modification of existing law, regulation, or policy that could alleviate the problems?
- Review the laws
 - If national forests / proposed protected areas need to be assessed through a Inter-ministerial review if there is also an application for development after it has been proposed.
- 4) What do you see the root causes of conflicts in management direction for PA (particularly if they are not caused by confusion or conflict in the legal frameworks in place) and what are the top 3 recommendations for resolution of these problems?
- Demarcation lines are not on the ground – unclear where borders actually are!
 - Perception that decisions are already made at a higher level
 - Inadequate consultation
 - Lack of information flow to the field people
 - Conflicts of Interests of those involved
 - Lack of capacity of the authorities
 - Communication gaps
 - Recommendations:
 - Mark more boundaries having undertaken the appropriate consultation.
 - Proper coordination and consultation between relevant parties
 - Increase capacity to enforce existing laws
- 5) Are these issues primarily internal issues to resolve or are there trans-boundary jurisdictional issues to also resolve? If so what are the top 3 trans-boundary jurisdictional issues you would take to the higher larger group to discuss?
- Suggest and promote Inter-Ministerial coordination and communication on the issues of common interest at sub-regional level (Forestry section for both countries to communicate and collaborate).
 - Engage the MRU to promote the activities above
 - Traditional authority dialogue across boundaries also to be promoted

Sierra Leone

- 1) Agencies Responsible for Permits
- Permits
 - The Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security

- Coordination
 - SLEPA – When there are conflicting interests, the Environment Protection Agency Act, 2008 makes provision for coordination of land-use sectors, esp. Min. of Lands and Min. of Mineral Resources
 - This mechanism has not been working quite well
- 2) Do Laws, Regulations give clear guidelines for PA Management Priorities
 - Guidance in the laws, regulations and policies are in place especially the Forestry Sector Laws and EPA law
- 3) Top 3 Priorities to address confusion
 - Effective use of the inter-agency coordination mechanism provided by SLEPA
 - SLEPA needs to have more autonomy for effective functioning
 - Identify and harmonize all legislations and mandates within other sectors, conflicting with PA management objectives
 - Educate all land-use sectors on the revised mandates and legislations supportive of PA management objectives
- 4) Root Causes of Conflicts and Recommendations
 - Root Causes
 - Discovery of valuable mineral Resources in PAs in the face critical resource constraints for national development
 - Unsustainable agriculture practices in the face of population concentration close to Pas
 - Government lacks the resources and capacity to manage the PAs
 - Recommendations
 - Mineral finds
 - No exploration license for Pas
 - National Strategic Land use planning – Comprehensive analysis of the magnitude of mineral deposits to determine alternatives
 - Unsustainable Agriculture
 - Work in collaboration with the MAFFS to improve agricultural practices
 - Government Capacity
 - Lobby for the prioritization of PA management within government strategic directions
- 5) Internal Issues to Address
 - Challenges
 - Logging, Mining, grazing and hunting/ poaching
 - Way Forward
 - Inter-agency dialogue
 - Effective and monitoring
 - Harmonize fines through the institution of bye-laws

Top 3 for the rest of the Groups

- Grazing, mining and hunting

Annex E – Field Trip Notes

The following four sets of notes were taken at the Thuo, Guinea field trip by one workshop member in each of the four **groups** that met at the Thuo school house. The notes paraphrase replies from community members and local officials and do not represent precise quotations. The field trip also provided the opportunity to review a rice/fish rearing project near the village that was developed by a group of 32 local individuals with assistance from USAID/STEWART.



Cote d'Ivoire

Question: What area should be conserved?

Answer: Mt Nimba

Q: Why?

A: We know that what is found in the mountain is important, should be conserved and exploited so that we can all benefit

Q: What is important?

A: The scientists and specialists told us it was important and we saw the richness brought by the exploitation in Liberia so we need to protect it.

A: We need to protect wild animals and plants to avoid drought.

A: We need more development here. Not everyone can profit from the current projects. Help us and we will stop cutting trees.

Response: Give someone a fish you feed him for a day, teach someone to fish, feed them forever.

Q: My land is very small. Please pull back the borders of the park so I can have more land

A: The borders of the park are already established, if we make them smaller for every request, there will soon be no park left.

Q: Are you aware of the laws/codes/policies that concern the park?

A: We are aware of the borders and that we are not allowed to hunt or get resources from the mountain.

A: The laws are not explained correctly to the populations.

A: I know well that since I was born we cannot go to mount Nimba to do activities.

Q: Do the laws benefit you?

A: No, because we were made to leave the forest to do agriculture where it does not give good yields. But we did not get the assistance promised to help in the agriculture.

A: Laws don't benefit us because when the foreigners came and told us to leave they promised to **help** us adjust, but then **didn't** come back.

A: No, but need a banana (motivation) to help us do alternative livelihoods and stay out of the forest.

A: They do benefit us, Mt Nimba forests provide rain. We are dependent on the mountain because our village is located at its base.

Q: Do you appreciate the conservation efforts of Mt Nimba?

A: No

Q: Do the managers/partners effectively work to implement the policies and laws?

A: Yes, because they tell us what we cannot do and arrest us.

A: Yes, we see the evolution of the terrain (reforestation)

Q: Do you want to create new laws?

A: No, the current laws are good, and we know them. The problem is that promises are not kept.

Q: List one or more cases of policies, laws, and codes that were effectively applied.

A: We see trees are growing in areas that did not have them before and they protect us from the wind.

Q: Are there weaknesses related to law enforcement?

A: Laws are good, but promises are not kept.

Q: Do you know what a World Heritage Site is? Do you know that Mt. Nimba is a World Heritage Site?

A: No. No.

Guinea

• First Part

• Question 1:

a) Yes, we are well aware of the laws in force for the rational management of natural resources of Mounts Nimba

b) They are:

- Laws that forbid hunting
- Laws that forbid the clearings

• Question 2

- NO, these laws are not beneficial neither for us nor for our family
- Because with the application of these laws we have a problem of domain of culture and we can not go collect bark for our treatment to traditional medicine.

• Question 3

- Yes, although we appreciate the efforts of conservation of Mounts Nimba
- Because with the conservation our offspring might also benefit from natural resources that are Mounts Nimba

• Question 4

a) Yes, they are effective

b) Because the forest officers arrest the offenders in the reserve (Cutting timber, bamboo, hunting, deforestation, etc.).

• Question 5

- Yes we want new regulations but consensual ones.
- For example: regulations concerning the materialization of the limits

• Question 6

Case 1: There was a farmer who was arrested in the reserve setting traps. He was imprisoned in N'Zérékoré for more than two years and has hardly recovered his freedom.

Case 2: Another who cleared up over the limit of the reserve has been imprisoned for two months and had to repair with straw the roof of the big hut of the IFAN Station.

• Question 7

- The corruption of some forest officers
- The non-materialization of the boundaries of protected areas
- Abuse of power by some forest officers

• Question 8

- Yes
- Yes

• Second Part

Question 1

Benefits for people:

- Periodic consultations
- Acquisition of new knowledge

• Question 2

Benefits for staff:

Facilitation of protection and monitoring tasks of protected areas

• Question 3

Example of successful policies implementation:

- Delineation and materialization of the border between Guinea and Liberia

Example of failure of implementation of policies:

-The non-materialization of the boundaries between Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea Forest on the line Dere / Tiapleu

- Question 4

They are:

The game laws, laws on forests and the Penal Code

- Question 5

Proposals:

- Extension and effective implementation of the texts of laws in force.

- Question 6

State of laws:

Ten years ago the laws were better enforced compare with today because of the fact that currently the lack of respect for state authority.

- Question 7

• Proposals for strengthening policies and laws to the Nimba Mountains:

- - Strengthening the capacities of officers in charge of law enforcement;
- - Increase the number of protection officers;
- - Popularize the texts of laws.

- Question 8

• Empowerment of citizens

- - Information
- - Awareness
- - Taking into account the interests of citizens.

- Question 9

- a) Yes, we know what means World Heritage Site.
- b) Yes, we know that the Nimba Mountains are part of world heritage sites at risk.

- Third Part

- Question 1

• Yes, they are similar because they don't show no major difference.

- Question 2

• For the next steps, we suggest the proliferation of meetings between officials of MRU member countries in charge of the development and application of laws.

- Fourth Part

- Question 1

Suggestions for next steps:

- Involve people of all localities along to such meetings;
- Multiply more such initiatives and meetings.

- Question 2

• Yes, the field visit has actually revealed the need of adapting legal frameworks;

- Question 3

• Yes, the field visit revealed a need for capacity building of eco-guards, State officials and local officials.

- Question 4

• Yes, the field visit revealed effectively a need of capacities on specific topics such as the materialization of central Area boundaries of Nimba Mountains.

- Question 5
- Yes, the field visit revealed a need of solving social, economic, craft and community issues such as health, agricultural land, the participation of local communities, etc..

- FINDINGS

- Lack of information which has been the basis of some important actors such as ecoguards;
- - The problem of materialization of the limits of the central areas widely reported by farmers;
- - Compensation claim.

Liberia

Questions for residents:

1. Are you aware of the laws, codes and existing policies for the rational management of Mt. Nimba conservation? If yes, which ones?

Response # 1: “Yes, we are aware of the laws, - recently some people (organization) created awareness on the laws in their communities- this involved discussion on the importance of Mt. Nimba and the need to encourage community involvement in conservation and managing the mountains and its resources”.

Response # 2: “I have heard that it is a World Heritage site and there are laws-what I know about this mountain is that it was the home of our ancestors and we have inherited it. Only the government has the power to protect this mountain -we are powerless to do so. What I understand from your visit is that this mountain is no more our but the world in general. Yes I know of laws and with this perception people have abundant activities like building homes, farming and hunting and have settled at the foot of the mountain. Since we realized that this mountain is a World Heritage Site, we the communities have been expecting benefits but up until now, we have not benefited from anything. We also have interest in the mountain because it is the home of our ancestors. We need support to stay away from these mountains.

Response # 3: (Female)–“Our ancestors were told to leave this mountain by the government because it is protected by law and settle in the savannah which has little to offer. Our ancestors depended on this mountain for livelihoods and were told to stay away from these mountains-but as you can see, we are hungry. The laws are made for people to benefit and if this is not happening, I question what kind of law is this and where do we go to find food to sustain ourselves?

Response #4: (Female)-As a child, I was told by my parents that this mountain is protected by law. Anyone caught farming, hunting, or doing any other activity will be punished because this mountain has been set aside-“demarcated”.

Response # 5: “Yes. There are laws that protect this mountain and setting it aside as a World Heritage Site. It has been demarcated and a boundary exists as a buffer zone between the community and the mountain and I think this harsh. Recently, there have been new laws passed for the planting of trees-we are questioning this law. Already we are struggling with the land for food- the savannah is poor and small for the population and now government wants to take more for another activity. We need to benefit from the laws and not be suffered by it.”

Response #6: (Teacher) “Yes; and wants to thank parents who have taught their children about conservation and the need to protect this mountain and the environment.

Response # 7: (Youth) “Yes we know of these law governing the mountain-specifically not to farm or hunt. But we are youths and this is the only trade or career we know. The law is telling us not to carry out our livelihood activities in the area; I have 7 children. How can I send them to school when the savannah has really nothing to offer me cater to the needs of my family? Many organizations with interesting projects have come here to help in capacity building and alternative livelihood options- e.g. fish farming amongst others but these projects had to stop as a result of the current crisis in the country-when we weren’t train properly to start new projects or implement the old ones. As a result, we had to go back to what we know and that’s hunting and farming.

Response # 8: Yes we are aware of these laws-not to hunt, farm, mine, on the mountain. But the savannah grass land given us has poor yield. Therefore there is a need for assistance in their farming activities-e.g. Fertilizers and technical support.

Response # 9: (Director of School) the problem is “Poverty Alleviation”. Students don’t have fees, books and other materials to come to school. When they are asked to do so, they stay away for days or weeks because their parents can’t afford cater to these needs and have to work to get them. FAO projects use to help the students with feeding and the provision of books, but it has stopped. There is a need for projects like the MRU initiative to intervene because the education standard in Thuo is declining. Students are therefore leaving to attend school in CDI or Liberia; better still most of them just stay away from school.

Response #10: When laws are created, it should seek the local population’s interest by addressing basic needs of the people. The old laws gave just a small portion of the land to the community because, at the time, the population was small. However, there has been a massive increase in the population thus; putting pressure on the savannah whose yield is poor. As an alternative, the people have gone back to the mountains for sustenance.

Proposal: Projects should come to the people and not government-(in avoidance of corruption) and these projects should suit the needs of the community e.g. Animal husbandry, fish farming etc.. The main issue should be capacity building.

Authorities:

Response # 1-

- Effective Coordination
- Effective Partnerships to address conservation problems
- Need for Sensitization and Awareness for conservation
- Need to take into consideration population needs-in drafting laws for the MRU

Response #2: (Forest official) Called for projects around Mt. Nimba to collaborate with people knowledgeable of environmental and forestry issues.

Response #3: (Security) Welcome the initiative (MRU) but proposed the following challenges need redress:

- Agricultural Production
- Alternative livelihood
- Interventions should be site specific (feasibility study)
- Need for harmonized laws and policies for Nimba Mountains
- Dialogue between stakeholders-communities, authorities, NGOs etc

Response # 4: There is a need for:

- Lowland management program
- Agro-forestry-rubber, palm oil, etc
- Animal husbandry
- Infrastructural development
- Technical Support- production methodologies
- Need for continual improvement for harmonized laws

Participants:

Quest.1

Response #1: There is difference in the laws/policies e.g. ENNR is a co-management agreement between the Government (FDA) and Communities while, Nimba World Heritage Site is designated for strict protection by the Government of Guinea with no community participation.

Response #2: (Chief) Liberia’s effort is relatively progressive with the signing of the MoU for Co-management of the ENNR while on the Guinean front there is a need for improvement of the laws to guarantee the benefits of the communities.

Response #3: (ARD) there are laws in the two countries concerning protection of the Nimba such as no hunting, farming, mining etc. But there is a need to create awareness of the laws for the community and well as effectively enforcement.

Sierra Leone

1. Are you aware of the laws, codes, and existing policies for the rational management of Mt. Nimba? If yes, which ones?

- It is strictly forbidden to penetrate the forest, to log, to put fire to the bush, to hunt in a protected area, or to farm in a protected area.
- It is a shame we can't farm in PAs, as a result we have to cultivate in the Savanna, which is difficult because we have no tools. The Savanna is not productive and tools are not available.
- The respondent was born in the PA, but was forced to move when it became a PA.
- It is hard to find meat to eat.

2. Are the existing laws, codes, policies beneficial for you and your family? If no, why not?

- The laws are not beneficial to us at all. When it came to be set as a classified forest, the white people lied to us. They said "if you move, it will be beneficial to you and your offspring".
- We have abided by the laws, but have seen no profit from it and have suffered. Working the savanna is hard without any machines.
- A promise was made to exploit the area to the benefit of the people, but this has not happened.
- The youth of the village are idle.

Women's answers

- When the forest was first classified, my parents were forced to leave and come to this area. There was no benefit to moving from there.
- We were told we would be helped to organize into groups and co-ops to receive funds, but this has not happened.
- Our sons are becoming thieves and criminals because there are no jobs and the savanna doesn't produce. This leads to serious poverty and we cannot understand a way forward. Farming is very stressful at an old age.
- The problem is not the laws. The problem is the promises made and not kept.
- They have agreed to comply with the laws but the supporting measures have not been followed.
- Alternatives are lacking. The children are now doing illegal things in the forest.
- A French scientist named Maxime LaMont (?) kicked us out of the PA. We left the Kola trees and the coffee farms. When we left the population was small, but it has since tripled.
- All the time people ask us questions, but nothing ever changed. Nothing is ever done. We are expecting from you a solution to our problems. We are fed up with questions and answers.
- Can the scientific community help us with our farms?
- Rep. of govt. in local community
 - The reserve is 400m from where they used to live
 - Grazing
 - People have not turned up due to the non-commitment over the years
 - it is like a promise to buy a bicycle for your son, but not buying it.

Q. What would the community do if someone from the community farms in the PA?

- If there is no punishment from the government, then we will not continue to be afraid of breaking the rules and everybody will go in and farm.
- We will try to discourage them, and tell them to wait until something is done by the government.

Q. Who is in charge of enforcement?

- Eco-guards (in PA) and the Forest Police

Q. Were there legal agreements regarding your removal from the forest?

- It was made during colonial times, when there was no way for indigenous peoples to protest. It was a forced removal.
- There is a slight difference between us and Liberia. In Liberia, the classification has happened recently and the communities got to come to the table in decision making. We need to sit together with the scientists and renegotiate.

Q. What would you like to see so you could benefit?

- The people in charge of "world heritage" should arrange land so we can grow crops.
- Access to education
- Initiate projects for income generation
- Provision of tractors and other mechanized equipment to maximize our savanna land.

Q. Do you know why the Nimba Mountains were classified?

- Forest helps protect against climate change, gives fresh air, rain, and we use tree leaves for traditional medicine.
- It is important to begin negotiations with the Guinean government, to look at border demarcation and benefit for communities.
- As an educated student, I have learned that the forest is important for rain, useful leaves, habitat for animals (rare animal species)
- There are many things we can get in the forest that we cannot get in the savanna. There are species in the savanna that we need, but some are only found in the forest.
- When the forest was taken from us we didn't have the knowledge of how important the forest was. Now we are educated and would like to sit down and re-discuss.
- We have formed a management committee on Mt. Nimba, but we are not participating because we are not equipped, trained and there is no intervention.

Questions from the Villagers

Q. Do you have protected forests?

A. Yes

Q. When were they set aside? Was it during colonial times?

A. Gola – 1926 to 1930, OKNP – 1965

Q. What benefits are people getting from the PAs?

- Will prefer the limit of the PA to be at the river at the bottom of Mt. Nimba so farming can be made possible.

Q. In what forms were compensation done?

- Loss of land right – monetary compensation
- Loss of Ag/Crops – monetary compensation
- Loss of houses – relocation
- Development for compensations

Annex F – Large Group Discussion Notes

Notes from Large Group Discussion of General Topics Sanniquellie Workshop October 4-8, 2010

The following are notes taken of large group discussions which followed small group presentations. These notes are not verbatim representations of the comments or interactions, but are intended to capture the general content of the conversations. Comments and questions are not attributed to specific individuals, though summary statements by the MRU are noted as such. All comments are para-phrased due time constraints in note taking.

General Topic 1, Protected Area Management

1. What is the fate of these PAs? In Liberia, national forestry reform law aims to capture 30% of the national territory in PAs. Wonegizi should be a proposed PA too. The Government of Liberia has put in place a strategy to conserve UGFE = by CCC; 35% exclusively for conservation, portions set aside for logging concessions; portion for community use; all of this to promote sustainability ; logging permits have only been established for logging concession areas, not for fully protected areas.
2. Cross border interferences: need to address seriously
3. Do training programs for all of the law enforcement issues to promote MRU Protocol 15 = free movement of people and locally produced goods. People at immigration decide what is right for them to do to deal with any issue at hand = most law enforcement codes are not known by enforcement agencies. MRU is working on setting up an easy to read protocol version with simple language so people know what is expected of them, and so authorities know the rules; For TB to work, confidence has to be built among the countries, so that governments know they will not lose national territory.
4. Concern, especially towards Nimba group with mineral deposits. Compatibility of mining in ecosystem management is uncompromising. In Liberia there is a mapping of the govt. Nimba is a sensitive issue, so let's brainstorm to find out how the mining company can work in consensus.
5. In April, 2010, local bush meat hunter's meat was burned by CDI authorities, but the hunter, a Liberian, came over and aggressed the FFI team in the night. Army had to intervene. TB work is a very serious issue: there exists communication obstacles for people working TB – people who move products across borders do not work much with the authorities = his recommendation is to invite border authorities to next meeting.

General Topic 2, Grazing/Tenancy

1. Guinea and SL share a tight close border by virtue of the landscape; Fouta Djallon watersheds into SL on the NW side of the Kolentín, which is our most troubled spot. People are the same in terms of cultures and practices; difficult to manage the problem; Guineans are traditional cattle herders from the Foulani. Practice their own lifestyles, no problem with that. But when it inflicts on PA management, the cattle herders create a problem. Suggest a dialogue where Guinea takes the lead since it is coming out of Guinea into the other countries. That dialogue will set up a framework so that we can get some control on this transhumance movement.
2. Appeals to the MRU concerning deforestation severity in CDI; whole buses from other countries to be settled down in state-owned forest, politically motivated, very complicated, but MRU can play a role in drawing attention to this migratory flux of people, which is really endangering biodiversity in MRU countries. So, MRU to take message to ministries.
3. Dialogue should be working, and we need to manage it;
4. Crucial problem: 10 yrs ago, Guinea farmers came into CDI in Tiapleu; now with the CDI crisis, the Sahelian peoples come into the Forests Classes; armed groups; a collaboration TB can permit to slow down this migration; such a platform could help CDI to resolve the problem.
5. Where is the limit on Free Movement (MRU Article 15):
6. Shifting agriculture: MRU needs to help settle farming systems.
7. There are inter-state problems along borders; one of the MRU's reasons to exist is to find solutions diplomatically to such conflicts. Agriculture- TB, other conflicts, the dialogue needs to be started by MRU.
8. On Friday, we have the opportunity to move some of these activities into a more specific action plans.
9. In Liberia, we are just coming from conflict, but problem of animal crossing from one point to another is a serious problem, as our borders are still very porous. Cattle and sheep from Guinea into Yekepa to find food, and it poses a serious problem for the community; need to address this issue quickly. Good thing to do.
10. Paramount Chief: Speaking in Mano. We do not want trouble in this area; MRU should be controlled by MRU;

11. Paramount Chief 2: Question = talking about animals, but what about the human beings?
12. Paramount Chief 3: Guineans come into Liberia, and when there are problems, Guinean splits back to Guinea, to avoid the problem:
13. In Liberia, we see cross border farming, esp from Guinean side. Cut down trees, hunting in PA forest, so, this all causes confusion, and MRU needs to look at this issue. Hunters cross from Guinea to hunt here – can even kill somebody, and the problem rests in Liberia.
14. Need to develop TB laws to settle these issues; should not say it is one country or another – all of these MRU countries need to find a common set of laws to have a common solution;
15. Discussing MRU: Border issues with countries that are not MRU = Guinea and CDI. How do these countries deal with problems with the countries that are not MRU? (Response clarified that Guinea and CDI are in MRU)
16. MRU is very rich; the migratory animals that leave Guinea re consumed in Liberia. From the Guinean perspective, need to capitalize on what exists in the countries = very important. There is the subject of complicity – Liberians wanting to learn about animal health and quarantine cattle in holding areas and look to special cattle from Guinea that is the most resistant = an advantage for Guinea;
17. Concerned about the tone of the discussion; MRU is an organization for integration – this kind of talk promotes a separation, not a unification. We are for the international conventions to be signed; such talk illustrates a lack of integration; we are here to find TB solutions, and there are MRU articles that promote the free circulation of peoples and locally produced goods.
18. Guinea is playing a greater role in terms of integration, border movement, strategically located in the terms of border movement; Guinea played a safe haven for all of the countries here that were in conflict; refugee destruction on the Guinea territory; if the same refugee impact happened in SL, there would be no more forest in SL; all citizens of the MRU reside in Guinea; trade and employment for all of the citizens of the MRU; Guinea is the only country that has not had a conflict; during crisis in each of the MRU countries, they moved their cattle into Guinea to protect them = ten yrs or more on Guinea soil; Guinea has and is playing the role of free movement and goods; Law enforcement is an issue here = When there was the issue of elephant killing in OKNP, there is a free permit system for firearms in Guinea, but in SL, no allowance to have permits and arms collection, therefore, if a Guinean comes to SL with a gun, there would not have been any issue had there been effective gun control at the SL border;

MRU Summary: The fact that the countries are talking and sharing their problems is not divisive; it is only when such frank talk can be brought to the notice of the government, so that they appreciate them, and can do something; you can only do something when you know what the problem is; so, this is a move towards further integration, and that is why MRU was initially established. Ministries of Agriculture in all MRU, have been very effective because they are meeting and talking, and have been giving support to each other. For example: caterpillar worms invaded Liberia, and the other three countries came to their support. MRU was at the meeting, and was impressed at support other countries gave to mitigate problem; This is what we want to see, ministries coming together and brainstorming to find solutions – had Liberia not received assistance, those caterpillars could come into other countries; whatever are the issues, they will be brought to attention of other ministers to forest conservation. Each country has to take its own responsibilities in terms of forest conservation. Need to get the names and telephone and contact of all ministers who are responsible for forest conservation. MRU now talking with ECOWAS to make an MOU – for issues that MRU cannot address, go to the ECOWAS level.

New MRU Secretary General has engaged himself with Heads of State. Primary issue is that the MRU wants to be considered as a Member of the Cabinets, in order to establish direct contact with the Ministers before the issues go to the heads of state; what is happening is that ministries and agencies are making policies without any reference to the other countries and this is why we are here. The reform agenda we are trying to **pursue** lies in how well we coordinate with provisions of the MRU and ECOWAS. MRU has already signed many protocols with ECOWAS, but application is small, because the institutional structures at national levels do not exist, and, we have capacity issues. So, need to be very careful as to how we handle this issue. The MRU is for example, engaged with Mineral governance debate meeting in Monrovia. Relative to the issue of grazing; most of the meat comes from Guinea. His house in Monrovia is not far from the slaughterhouse, demonstrating that people are raising cattle right in the city. Have to be very conscious of realities on the ground. When Guinea borders close, there is no meat in Freetown. Your suggestions imply that you want a more structured system. ECOWAS is talking about promoting a community of peoples, not nations. That said, there are structures that need to be respected. Once final report comes in, MRU will analyze it, and then will hold a FORUM at ECOWAS level to see how to move forward. Conflict is not the solution. We are bound on all issues = social, economic,. We will take a lead as MRU on this topic.

General Topic 3, Climate Change

Questions on general presentations:

1. Does it take 5 yrs for a REDD program? Takes at least three years. Need to provide community with information and allow them to make a decision. If you rush, they will not want to buy credit. When audit comes, could fall apart.
2. Who are buyers of carbon credits? Banks, governments. JD working on the REDD Technical Group for 5 yrs. Liberia looking at how it will market carbon. Could be a bilateral deal or a private market. Pres. Established a National Climate Change Steering Committee. Inter-ministerial group are all part of this committee. Key decisions to be addressed during next year by this group.
3. What does a country hope to achieve from the whole REDD process? Low carbon economy assessment that CI sponsored. Did a Cost/Benefit analysis. Looked at 14 different policy options dealing with forest alone. \$55million/year in REDD money at a price of \$5/ton. This is a very conservative figure, and CI expects it to be much bigger. The Costs: About \$20 mill of foregone profits, so its leaves a profit of \$30mill.
 - a. Examples of how climate change adaptation strategies can be integrated into NRM and planning.

(MRU Summary)

1. International conventions already exist that MRU is signed up to in a number of areas: Forest Ecosystem Management Project for conservation, landscape demarcation, establishment of corridors. There is a need for capability building at the national and, Secretariat level regarding, climate change, REDD, and carbon credits;
2. Management of Water Basins: the MRU is blessed with water; deforestation is alarming; people are frightened about it, but there is potential to generate power and energy = program in the MRU Work Plan. Currently doing a study on watershed management;
3. Mineral sector: Three clusters = Looking at a holistic way of dealing with these issues concerning earning benefits from the natural endowment that it has;
4. UNDP contract negotiations. Cap building to do contracts. To take maximum advantage of contract negotiations in the interest of the peoples of the sub-region. These programs can be very supportive for generating sustainable development

General Topic 4, Protected Species

- Issue of hunters: Association of hunters in SL; do an inventory of hunting in TBAs, employed as Eco-guards.
- Mining activities in the MRU and related projects;
- Go to the indigenous people who earn their livelihoods from hunting. Community protection of PA through awareness and working with them.
- Example of reviewing the Categories of threatened animals like the shark.
- In the CITES LINK, there is a list of those endangered species in each country. Good starting point to see threatened animals.
- IUCN's role in the number of endangered species. IUCN has this data.
- Get traditional knowledge on endangered animals. MRU should incorporate traditional laws and bylaws into its operations.
- An elephant was killed on the Liberian side of the border and the meat was taken to SL. Do you the Liberians know that this has happened? Please explain.
 1. Response: Story not new to us, we are aware of the situation. Developing a strategy to react. Doing training of forest guards to stop these kinds of activities. Being taken care of.
- Recommend to MRU countries that we have similar endangered species, and see how to come up a list of these animals to pass laws on the killing of these animals; come up with the listing and laws for the MRU to do this.
- Cites was ratified by the MRU countries. Have 4 different categories. Is this an exhaustive list or simply representative? Revise the list and modernize to date the list of these species in the MRU. Immense travail, but we can do a survey.
- We have common laws, but we need similar fines. The current situation promotes cross border trade of poached animals. Without enforcement, means nothing. Have to go out there now and make sure they are respecting the law. Review and redo the fine schedule.

MRU Summary

- Concurs with a complete list of endangered species. Try to minimize negative impacts of mining ("Balance these things out". Licenses are normally given by national govt. MRU must look at livelihoods of the people: observed along the borders that communities are engaged in similar productive activities. Come up with large enterprises to support TB communities. Bring these communities into the modern economy. Problems we have are very basic: fruits often go to waste. In Freetown, mango season is an example of the wasted opportunities. These are areas where we can put resources. All of these areas will develop at a very rapid rate. You give us the issues and concerns, and we take it up with heads of state to find the solutions. We can provide direction and support that is required.

- A lot of responsibility is given to the Secretariat. Appeal to all of us as Technical People. Our governments come and go. Governments are very good at signing obligations. Take our governments to task to ensure that the conventions are applied domestically. Many times we are in the sub region doing fire fighting. Let's let go of the fire fighter approach and start to deal with issues before they come to critical levels. On species, let's examine where the species status stand: push our governments to do something. The report is very good and is an eye opener for us to look at our score sheets for each country. Ex. Of 2008: Food crisis in sub-region. Our governments signed the Maputo Declaration, which gave them the responsibility to ensure that 10% of the national budgets go to agriculture. Governments came back and did nothing. Then in '08 confronted with food crisis. Government realized that they never respected the Maputo accords and the increase of national budget to 10%. Let's not wait till situation becomes so critical. Technical people are always here. Ministers are here as politicians, but you are technical people, and you need to push the governments to be impact-oriented.

General Topic 5, Challenges of Integrated Management

1. Local authorities, land tenure, equity and sharing of benefits are common themes noted. Some observations:
 - **Power of authorities** = Communities are suspicious of Govt initiatives in the first place; different realities across countries; need to be standards in the approach, and to learn about success stories where it has worked successfully; develop standards in the approach so that communities can accept the approaches.
 - **Loss of authorities from community leaders: In OKNP**, take away ancestral rights – look at how other areas have gone thru this process. Donors do not like displacement issues.
 - **Equity**: When revenues come out of back country areas, and resources are coming, government will try to get a part of it.
2. Plea to MRU, since national development is coming last to these protected areas, the Micro projects are limited in their scope and impacts; MRU needs to draw attention to governments that we need roads that go to these parks, since people need to be able to market. Often, PAs are in most isolated parts of the country and receive little attention.
3. Livelihood issues are commonality. When you give the communities an inch, they want to take a mile. Need to sign an agreement with the communities. The agreement is VERY important since it sets the standard for clear comprehension and progress. Can always modify in later phases.
4. Conflict of farmers going into reserve areas, and farming and hunting there. FDA was stopping them, but communities quickly pointed out that they need to access the land to make ends meet. Focus on alternatives
5. Participative approach and real powers to communities as in traditional authorities. RE: participatory approach, we need to look at our practices again. Since we are still reflecting on this, need to reexamine the community based approach to see if the models are really working; examine conservation approaches again. Community power: look to bylaws, but he does not really see abilities of people in communities to create bylaws to solve their problems. Need to see how Central Govt can promote TB aspirations, and to make them popularize with communities. Laws presented to communities in laymen's' languages. Ex. If an action is considered criminal thru the law; See Paramount Chiefs being sidelined since their bylaws are not rooted in national laws. Mechanisms of actually giving power to bylaws, and linking them to national, legal documents.
6. Please do not make promises. When it does not work, there will be a problem. Livelihood programs need to be sustainable.
7. Youth. Our work is for the future. They have a greater role to play in terms of community development. Make sure youth is involved. They have a role to play.
8. Member states have responsibilities of taking care of their communities; Treaties – making sure they are applied; TB is an additional opportunity to have communities being able to manage their resources better. We know our govts in terms of resources and revenues; look to OKNP and the GEF program – level of transparency and accountability for govt in that project will set the pattern for all future projects; Partners should tap into Govt resources for rural development; in other words, help communities to tap into govt resources for PA management.

SUMMARY BY MRU

Issues we need to deliberate on some more:

1. Livelihoods: Need to know the people in terms or their potentials, risks, opportunities, etc. Under the AFDB program, have resources to determine all of those. Also have the community development fund. Critical need for capacity building. Look to marketing and infrastructure: donors can do certain things, and not do certain things. Donors are prepared to support specific activities, but will not fund the Secretariat. Only MRU countries are responsible to pay for the Secretariat.
2. Importance of culture and tradition: Evolution in Africa – good or not, open to debate. On tourism: what you have is what you can show the world. We are throwing away our own cultures in what we call 'civilization'. Important to tap into the knowledge of local traditions.
3. Demarcation: Really demarcating these PAs. If needed and feasible, fence them off when it calls for such an action for conservation.

4. Seriously prepare ourselves. AFDB not coming to re-create systems and structures. Up to us to see if the structures are appropriate in the current age and place.

General Topic 6, Inter-Governmental Coordination

1. Important to have Radio Rurale here with us. Needed to have community news here to cover the events.
 - a. **Response:** News media are invited to the session on Friday and will likely interview participants
2. Observation = Conflict between inter-sectorial mandates and the laws, however, not really a conflict in the laws, but rather in the interpretation of the laws. Laws accommodate rational decisions = and this is where the conflicts come up. For these sectors, start thinking forward about expert legal advisors (environmental lawyer); we all need to be very clear about our laws – easy to assume there are conflicts, but when you look closely at them, need to allow for legal manipulations. Very close to manipulation. Someone has to make a decision in the end, and those human interpretations are there. Law approached as an art. Be ready to take the law on; have experts who can help us to interpret those laws.
3. Inter-ministerial committees: Very important in trying to resolve these issues. Understand each and every aspect of their legislation to find out where conflicts come out. EPA comes in here to play that role. Recommends that no person is representing an environmental protection agency. They need to come on board
4. Hope that's the countries will make these recommendations happen. Need to enforce laws.
5. What role will the MRU SG play in the implementation of this workshop report?
 - a. **Response:** Each individual country needs to respond to these issues and bring forward actions to the ministries responsible for these issues, then, where issues cross boundaries, look at MRU to facilitate across boundaries.
 - b. **Response:** These recommendations are incorporated in our draft plan. Deputy Secretary Generals are responsible for programming. Summarize critical issues that need action, and then take it up with a council of ministers. There are the technical meetings. Once the ministers react, the presidents take action. This workshop will reach the council of ministers. National issues do not fall on the shoulders of the individual countries alone. Everyone needs to pull their weight.
6. **Response to above:** Fear is that most of these issues relate to communities at the respective borders. Local authority in CDI near Guinea/Nimba told him that CDI is not in the MRU. (implying the MRU should “fix” such trans-boundary issues) So, need to get information above to one and all so that folks know what it means to be in the MRU, and which country is in it.

MRU Wrap-up

Fully endorses the recommendations made in the preliminary report concerning follow-up actions with various ministries. Why? Because MRU had not been functioning the way it should have due to the civil conflicts. The MRU functioned effectively prior to the conflicts and the records can attest to this. The war effects are quite visible. We are picking up the pieces together again. Since mid-2008, the Secretariat has been going thru a revitalization process with resources (human, physical, logistical, etc); Mrs. Linda Koroma joined in December 2008; Mr. Simeon Moribah joined in July 2008; and the Deputy from CDI joined in March 2010. Concerning functionality, there are technical commissions that give direction to the Secretariat, which are immediately followed by Ministerial meetings to review and act on recommendations of the Commissions.

Thanks STEWARD and FFI: Noting that we do not have all of the resources, but we do have the POWER and influence, because we can talk to the Ministers. Two of the Executives from the Secretariat have been here full time. There are high level delegations from the Member States which shows commitment and dedication. You are assured that the important things that have been discussed and the various recommendations will definitely get to the attention of the Ministers.

Thanks to the Guinean people and their resolve and we pray for a peaceful run off Presidential elections. The wars should now be a thing of the past. Make need to make the sub-region peaceful and stable. MRU States have been considered ‘fragile states’. We hope that we will soon come out of the “Fragile state” category.

In August, Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone flew to Guinea and were joined by the Secretary General of the MRU Ambassador Thierno Habib Diallo to talk to the Interim President, the 24 contestants, pressing on the message of Peace. We also offer Prayers for CDI elections to happen in Peace. We were able to gather here because of the relative Peace in the sub-region. This has been a wonderful dialogue. We thank all of you for staying engaged. Let us not lose hope, and let us increase the volume of our voices. Thanks to the Paramount Chiefs. Any action without consultations is a violation of trust. The Founders of the MRU had considerable foresight and we should uphold their vision. This is one workshop that has made me proud because of the commitment of the professionals who are here. God bless and preserve the Union.