

FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Name: Conservation International—West Africa Program

Project Title: Development of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Ghana

Date of Report: February 2003

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

The development of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Ghana was a felt need and therefore demand driven. The implementation therefore received overwhelming support and certificate of urgency from all partners. It is one of the high policy project profiles that CI has been involved with since its work in the Upper Guinea hotspot began over 10 years ago. With this project, CI has been able to incorporate its West African priority setting results into a national policy framework. The project has established a platform for biodiversity issues to be discussed by all stakeholders. CEPF has created an excellent opportunity for CI to influence policy in a cost-effective way. Ghana has now a dynamic working document orchestrating the work of the National Biodiversity committee and various government and non-government organizations involved in the biodiversity conversation in Ghana as a whole.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Assist the Government of Ghana to complete and adopt a National Biodiversity Strategy that will serve as a guide for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>1. Revised National Biodiversity Strategy adopted by Gov't of Ghana</i>	National Biodiversity Strategy reviewed and adopted by Government of Ghana
<i>2. Technical Working Committee on Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy in place</i>	National Biodiversity committee established to implement the strategy. CI is represented on the committee
<i>3. Implementation Agencies develop and implement work plans on National Biodiversity Strategy</i>	National Biodiversity strategy implementation action plan prepared and adopted
<i>4. Greater commitment of policy-makers, stakeholders and implementing agencies to conservation and sustainable use of biological</i>	Gov't has officially launched the strategy and action plan. Major sections of the plan have been incorporated into sector plans of the relevant agencies and development agencies programs for

resources	Ghana, e.g. USAID strategic plan for Ghana
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Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The project was completed on schedule. The government has officially adopted the strategy and the action plan at a grand ceremony in Accra. Donor community, NGOs, communities have been urged to work together in order to implement the action plan. EPA and CI's International Communications Department are already implementing the environmental education component of the Action Plan

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The Minister of Environment presented the key issues in Parliament and featured also as one of the major governments achievements since taking office about two years ago based on the conclusions of the strategy. EPA insists on the development of management plans in all vulnerable areas. The ministry strongly supported our bushmeat campaign, which is part of the national Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Output 1: Revised Second Draft National Biodiversity Strategy produced.

Output 2: Reviewed Draft Validated by Expert Stakeholders.

Output 3: Final version of National Biodiversity Strategy Published.

Output 4: Launch of Biodiversity Strategy by Gov't of Ghana.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1:	
<i>1. Review and assessment of Draft 1997 National Biodiversity Strategy carried out by consultant: Dec 01</i>	Draft produced timely
<i>2. Gaps in Draft National Biodiversity Strategy Identified Jan 02</i>	Draft revised and gaps identified
<i>3. Prepare framework for completion of the National Biodiversity Strategy: Jan 02</i>	Framework for completion completed by Jan. 2
<i>4. Identify and compile relevant information from WAPS results for incorporation into National Biodiversity Strategy: Feb 02</i>	All relevant information compiled and incorporated
<i>5. Relevant information from other sources collated: Feb 02</i>	All information from other sources collated
<i>6. Incorporate relevant information from WAPS results and other sources into Draft National Biodiversity Strategy : Feb 02</i>	Relevant information incorporated
Output 2:	
<i>1. Experts identified, provided with copies of draft and invited to consultation workshop Mar</i>	Expert group set up

02	
2. Expert consultation workshop held in Accra to validate Strategy: Apr 02	Workshop held in March 02
3. Validated Strategy written by consultant: May 02	Validated strategy prepared
Output 3:	
1. Final document accepted and approved by Gov't of Ghana: Jun 02	Final document presented to Govt. on 24/9/2002
2. About 4000 copies produced for distribution/sale: Jun 02	4000 printed for distribution
Output 4:	
1. Press conference for launch of National Biodiversity held: Jul 02	Press conference held after Rio+10 conference South Africa 2002
2. Institutional framework for implementation of strategy developed: Jun 02	Institutional strategy developed in the action plan at the Ministry of Environment & Science
3. Strategy implementation schedule developed: Jun 02	Implementation schedule developed
4. Programme for fund-raising developed: May 02	Action plan for fund raising developed. However, the fund raising itself is yet to start
5. Monitoring and Evaluation Protocol formulated: May 02	Monitoring and Evaluation plan prepared
6. Terms of reference for implementation of Strategy documented: May 02	TOR for implementation prepared by March 02
7. Implementing Agencies Identified: May 02	Implementing agencies identified in the action plan
8. Secretariat and Membership of Technical Working Committee established: Jun	Secretariat established
9. Implementation Agencies mandated to implement Strategy: Jun 02	Copies of the strategy distributed for implementation

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The project has successfully delivered all the outputs. Official letter commending CI has been received from the Minister of Environment & Science. The Ministry coordinating the implementation of the Action Plan has distributed copies of the National Biodiversity Strategy Action plan and has directed them to incorporate the relevant provisions of the Strategy in the sectoral plans.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

All outputs were realized within the time frame

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

It is easy to secure the support of the government and relevant institutions in the implementation of any project that is considered as a national priority.

The coordinating institution for the implementation of a national priority project must have the ability to take proactive decisions, engage in efficient networking and initiative to lead several government and non-government organizations into focus.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

The collaborative approach involving alliances and partnerships with all the relevant agencies helped in the speedy implementation.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

The involvement of the Minister of Environment & Science and the Chief Director and their personal commitment led to the successful completion of the project

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process. District Assemblies and agencies involved in the implementation need financial support to implement their sectoral plans.