

# FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Name:** Conservation International – West Africa

**Project Title:** Conservation Priority Setting Products and Dissemination

**Date of Report:** July 2003

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

There have been significant staff and management changes through the life of this project, which have had a direct effect on the delivery dates of the projects outputs. Yet despite this, the programs involved have produced high quality products that are now available to stakeholders throughout the West African region. These products have been influential in spreading the results of the workshop, which in turn, have had a tremendous effect on conservation activities within the region. Stakeholders are now pursuing a more strategic approach to conservation, focusing on identified priority areas.

## III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

***Project Purpose:** This project will enrich ongoing national processes, such as National Biodiversity Conservation Strategies and National Environmental Action Plans, as well as evaluations of conservation effectiveness throughout the region, through the production and dissemination of informational products agreed upon during the West Africa Priority Setting workshop.*

### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	

<p>1) <i>At least four new conservation projects operating in the priority-areas by December of 2003.</i></p>	<p>There have been multiple new projects developed within the priority sites, some of which encompass more than 1 site, key projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CI &amp; FFI: Liberia Forest Reassessment (LFR)(EU/CEPF)</li> <li>• CI &amp; Birdlife: Marahoué and Mt. Peko (EU)</li> <li>• CI: Establishment of Grebo National Forest as a National Park (GCF)</li> <li>• BirdLife: Building Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa (CEPF)</li> <li>• CI: Laying the Ground for a protected area network in Liberia (CEPF/GCF)</li> </ul> <p>Additional projects have been developed throughout the region, many of which have been actualized through CEPF funding.</p>
<p>2) <i>Donors including the WB, GEF, USAID, and EU using the results as a basis for funding projects by December 2003.</i></p>	<p>Several major donors have begun to include the priority setting results into their funding decisions. Examples of this can be found in the World Bank's funding of the PCGAP process in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as EU funding for the LFR and the Marahoué/Mt Peko projects. CI's West Africa Program will continue to pursue this objective this fiscal year, as it endeavors to bring the priority setting results to the ECOWAS level.</p>
<p>3) <i>All major International Conservation NGOs working in the region orienting their activities around the priority areas.</i></p>	<p>Within West Africa, all major International Conservation NGOs have begun to focus their activities around the priority sites. Examples of this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FFI: Sapo and Nimba</li> <li>• BirdLife: All 5 high priority countries in the region, Marahoué, Mt Peko</li> <li>• WWF: Tai, Iles Ehotile</li> <li>• CI: SW Ghana/SE Côte d'Ivoire, Sapo-Tai, Marahoué, and the Greater Nimba Highlands</li> </ul>
<p>4) <i>Priorities influencing government planning in managing biodiversity.</i></p>	<p>The governments of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia are all integrating the workshop recommendations into their planning processes. In Ghana, the results of the workshop have been included in the revised National Biodiversity Strategy. In Côte d'Ivoire, these results are being used to steer the PCGAP process. In Liberia, priority-setting results have been used to define an MOU between CI and the Government of Liberia to create a protected area network.</p>

***Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.***

This project has been incredibly successful in achieving its intended impact. Throughout West Africa major conservation NGOs and donor agencies are focusing their efforts on the identified priority areas. This has resulted in the development of countless new conservation projects, including several major projects developed by international NGOs such as CI, FFI, WWF and BirdLife International.

In addition, the governments of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia have all integrated the results of the West Africa Priority Setting Workshop (WAPS) into their national level planning processes for biodiversity conservation. This has resulted in more focused national level conservation activities and programs.

In the coming year, CI's West Africa Program will continue to disseminate products, expanding upon its target audience. This will include efforts to bring the priority setting results to the attention of policy makers at the ECOWAS level.

**Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

N/A

<b>IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS</b>
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**Project Outputs:** See below.

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1: Production and dissemination of Priority Setting Report</b>	
1.1 <i>Priority Setting report translated into French by end of Jan 2002</i>	Report was translated into French and received several reviews before finalization.
1.2 <i>French translation laid out and 3000 copies printed by end of March 2002</i>	CI's Communications team laid out the French translation and 3000 copies were produced for distribution.
1.3 <i>Both English and French reports disseminated to all participants, local and national governments, donors, NGOs and other key stakeholders by June 2002.</i>	English/ French reports have been sent to all participants, local and national governments, donors, NGOs and other key stakeholders. Distribution of these materials will continue through CI's field offices and through local partners.
<b>Output 2: Production and dissemination of Priority Setting CD-Rom.</b>	
2.1 <i>CD-Rom designed and produced by Feb 2002</i>	The CD-Rom was completed in May 2003. Several technical difficulties occurred in the production of this CD, causing delays in its completion, they however have been overcome at this time.
2.2 <i>Information for CD-Rom translated into French and incorporated into CD production by Jan 2002</i>	Information has been translated into French. The final CD offers both French and English options.
2.3 <i>CD-Rom disseminated to all participants, local and national governments, donors, NGOs and other key stakeholders by June 2002.</i>	Due to the delay in CD production, dissemination has also been delayed. The West Africa Program is currently working to ensure that the CD is distributed to all participants, national governments, donors, NGOs, and other stakeholders. The program will continue dissemination of this project through its field offices and local partners.
<b>Output 3: Priority Setting Map, outlining all regional scientific priority areas, disseminated through the region to all key stakeholders.</b>	
3.1 <i>Priority setting map disseminated to participants, local and national governments, universities, donors, NGOs and other key stakeholders by June 2002.</i>	Priority setting maps have been disseminated to all stakeholders and can currently be found on the walls of many West Africa institutions, including partner NGOs, government institutions, universities, etc.

<b>Output 4: Priority-setting website complete</b>	
1.4 website online and available on the web	The WAPS Web site has been operational since April 2002. It can be found at <a href="http://www.biodiversityscience.org/priority_outcomes/west_africa">http://www.biodiversityscience.org/priority_outcomes/west_africa</a>

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

Through this project the West Africa Program, the Communications Department and the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science have succeeded in delivering all of the intended outputs. Staff within each of these departments have collaborated to produce several high quality documents including a full color workshop report in both English and French, as well as a CD-Rom and a website where additional information can be accessed. Through close coordination these products have been produced with a common look and feel that unites them as a complete set.

These products have been distributed widely through out West Africa, targeting workshop participants and other key stakeholders. Distribution of these products will continue in the future supported by the West Africa field offices and other local partners.

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

Each of the outputs has been realized, however delivery of the associated products often took much longer than expected. This was due to several staff changes within the various departments, and several other logistical problems. Each of these issues was overcome, through communication and coordination between the various departments, allowing for the full delivery of the project objectives.

**V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS**

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

N/A

**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.***

The major lesson learned through this process was the need for strong coordination among contributing partners. In order to create products with a similar look and feel, there needed to be a strong collaboration. This was facilitated through the regional program, which served as the coordinating body for the project.

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

N/A

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

The main impediment to the project's execution was continuous staff and management changes within the various collaborating departments. Each of these changes brought with it new challenges and often delayed delivery of the products, which has also delayed distribution. To compensate for this, the West Africa Program will continue to disseminate products and lessons from the workshop through its regional offices and partners.

<b>VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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