

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION AND PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMBAT THE  
BIODIVERSITY CRISIS IN WEST AFRICA BY 2030

1. This information document is submitted by Nigeria in relation to agenda item 36.2.\*

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## STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION AND PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMBAT THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS IN WEST AFRICA BY 2030

Strategic areas of intervention identified as pillars for combating biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems and achieving the contribution of ECOWAS countries to the designation of 30% of land and ocean areas as protected worldwide by 2030 are as follows:

**PRIORITY 1:** EXPAND THE ECOWAS PROTECTED AREA NETWORK (TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE)

**PRIORITY 2:** ENHANCE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE OF EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS

**PRIORITY 3:** ELIMINATE ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES IN PROTECTED AREAS

**PRIORITY 4:** ENSURE ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

**PRIORITY 5:** ENHANCE CAPACITY OF PROTECTED AREA STAFF

**PRIORITY 6:** ENSURE EQUITABLE AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL RIGHTS HOLDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

### PRIORITY 1 - EXPAND THE ECOWAS PROTECTED AREA NETWORK (TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE)

- 1.1 Undertake national surveys to identify potential new Protected Areas.
- 1.2 Conduct multilateral consultations for potential transboundary Protected Areas.
- 1.3 Prepare development and management plans for proposed Protected Areas, utilizing scientific research and inventories, GIS data, stakeholder consultations and migration corridor data.
- 1.4 Secure legislative support for designations of new Protected Areas.

### PRIORITY 2 - ENHANCE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE OF EXISTING PROTECTED AREAS

- 2.1 Undertake regular national needs assessments to evaluate Protected Area Management effectiveness.
- 2.2 Develop a mechanism for prioritizing Protected Areas in need of support. Secure examples from countries that have already developed similar mechanisms.
- 2.3 Develop/update Management Plans for Protected Areas. Ensure harmonization of management plans and coordination amongst national Protected Areas and ECOWAS member States.
- 2.4 Ensure boundaries of Protected Areas are well defined and communicated to stakeholders, utilizing legal and spatial data.
- 2.5 Develop national action plans for restoring biodiversity in depleted and degraded ecosystems, including specific strategies for species recovery and country-wide protected areas strategies.
- 2.6 Establish / strengthen regional forums and institutional frameworks for transboundary Protected Areas to establish a shared approach and collaboration in Protected Area management.
- 2.7 Ensure all countries have access to existing tools for assessment of Protected Areas (e.g. IMETT, BIOPAMA, EOH). Design and development of new tools that meet contemporary challenges (e.g. Forensic monitoring)
- 2.8 Collaborate with appropriate regional and global bodies to ensure that insecurity and terrorism in Protected Areas can be addressed.
- 2.9 Strengthen and harmonize national and regional legal frameworks for Protected Area management.
- 2.10 Improve coordination and communication amongst Protected Area managers to ensure the coordination of interventions within the framework of sub-regional cooperation in West Africa.
- 2.11 Establish and implement scientific research programmes on Protected Areas, especially on biological diversity, for the realization of complete inventories and monitoring of resources.

### **PRIORITY 3 - ELIMINATE ILLEGAL EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES IN PROTECTED AREAS**

- 3.1** Build capacity of stakeholders including Protected Area staff on the West Africa Strategy on Combating Wildlife Crime (WASCWC) and National Wildlife Crime Strategies (NWCS) and how they relate to combating illegal activities in Protected Areas (e.g. illegal logging, mining and illegal fauna exploitation)
- 3.2** Establish mechanisms and provide resources for Protected Area managers to engage with Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Forces (WLETF) in combating illegal activities.
- 3.3** Establish / enhance an information exchange system for sharing of information through a central database.
- 3.4** Introduce incentives for law enforcement officers to prevent corruption in all its forms.

### **PRIORITY 4 - ENSURE ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1** Establish / Develop a sustainable financing mechanism for designated Protected Areas.
- 4.2** Develop a regional strategy for financing the establishment of new Protected Areas.
- 4.3** Ensure that every Protected Area has an approved budget line that covers all basic requirements, including staff salaries, equipment, operating resources, monitoring tools, training and capacity building.
- 4.4** Develop detailed budgeted equipment needs for Protected Areas in order to facilitate fundraising (vehicles, communications equipment, monitoring tools etc).
- 4.5** Partner with relevant stakeholders in the development of funding proposals to address resource gaps (e.g. infrastructure development, capacity building).

### **PRIORITY 5 - ENHANCE CAPACITY OF PROTECTED AREA STAFF**

- 5.1** Create knowledge exchange program opportunities for Protected Area staff from West African countries and build networks to aid collaboration.
- 5.2** Establish a sub-regional group of Protected Area experts to train on Protected Area managers.
- 5.3** Ensure all Protected Area staff regularly receive training in anti-poaching techniques, weapon handling, research tools and other necessary skills.
- 5.4** Strengthen the capacities of Protected Area managers in the enforcement of the legislative and regulatory texts relating to the use of resources and the occupation of space in all Protected Areas.

### **PRIORITY 6 - ENSURE EQUITABLE AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL RIGHTS HOLDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 6.1** Improve knowledge of the Convention on Biological Diversity of local populations through participatory communication, education and awareness programmes.
- 6.2** Strengthen the social acceptability of the PA concept through information, public awareness and education program on the importance of Protected Areas.
- 6.3** Ensure social mobilization and communication structures for the information, training and sensitization of local populations of Protected Areas.
- 6.4** Take necessary actions (e.g. stakeholder consultations, and community needs assessment using traditional and modern means of communication) to ensure the views of stakeholders are incorporated into Protected Area decision-making.
- 6.5** Develop Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms for Protected Areas
- 6.6** Engage all stakeholders including development partners to ensure that alternative livelihood programmes are created and implemented for communities within protected areas.