

The Preparation of the First State of the
Marine Environment report for Sierra
Leone: *the pathway to improved marine and
coastal zone management in West Africa*

**Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and Capacity –
Building Partnership Event on UN Regular Process**

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Context

Prior 2014 there was no regular cycle of assessing the State of the Marine Environment in member states of the Abidjan Convention Reports produced by the member states were characterized by non-uniform formats and methodologies.

In Decision CP10/6 and CP 10/16, Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to provide a template for compiling country reports as a means for reporting to the Convention.

Context cont

The reporting template was aimed at facilitating the transmission of such information from Parties to the Secretariat.

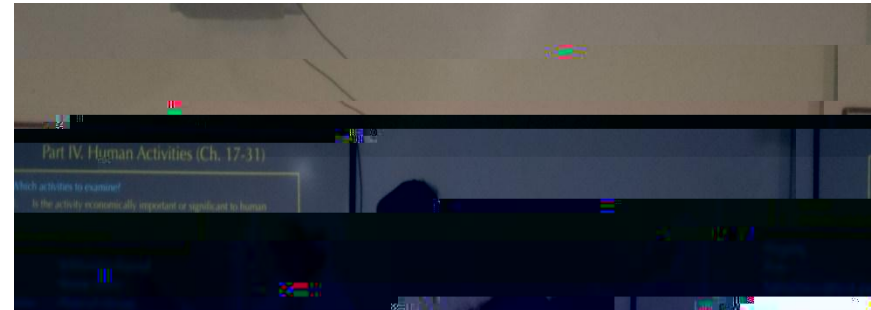
The convention also adopted a common methodology and reporting template to report on the State of the Marine environment towards the Abidjan Convention.

In 2014, EPA requested support from the UNEP through the Abidjan Convention for the development of Sierra Leone

The SoME process in Sierra Leone- Selection of methodology and costs considerations

Pilot project with technical support from Grid Arendal

The method selected depended on the type of information available and the budget.



Thus the process took into consideration the following:

Whether or not existing assessments were available that would enable a synthesis approach to be used for the assessment or portions of the assessment;

Whether or not recent data or literature were available that would enable an analysis approach to be used for the assessment (or sections of the assessment)

Whether or not knowledgeable experts were available on the different subjects in the marine assessment (biodiversity and ecosystems, the physical and socio-economic aspects of the marine

Options for funding of the Sierra Leone

SoME assessment

Government funding (regular subventions/budget support)

Donor support UNDP, Abidjan convention

Technical support: Grid Arendal, Abidjan Convention

Scope of the assessment

The assessment covered the entire coastal waters of Sierra Leone

condition of marine and coastal ecosystems: habitats, species and ecological/physical chemical processes

Assessment of pressures environmental and socioeconomic impacts

Risk assessment: consequence/impact and likelihood (5 and 50 year timeframes)

The SOME Report Production Process in Sierra Leone

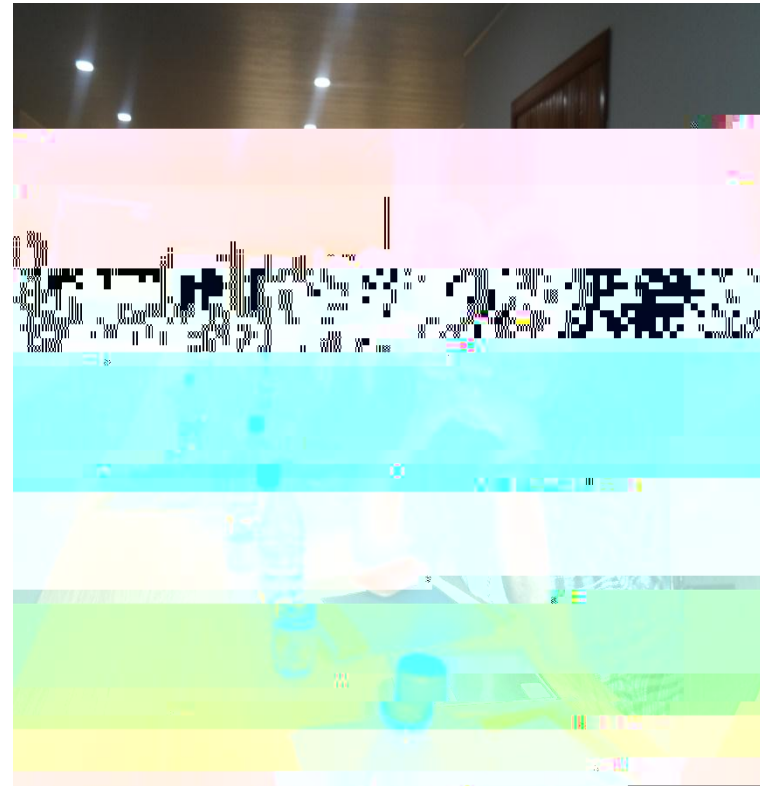
Identified stakeholders,
Institutions, selection of peer-
review team

Established working groups

A synthesis of expert elicitation
and Literature review
methodologies were applied

Defined roles and beating
administrative protocols

This method was found to be
cost- and time-effective,



Making Communication effective throughout the process

Developed possible communication scenarios for a fruitful assessment

Determined the main elements of the communication and outreach strategy

Identified target audience at each level of the process

Determined number of activities/events that were undertaken

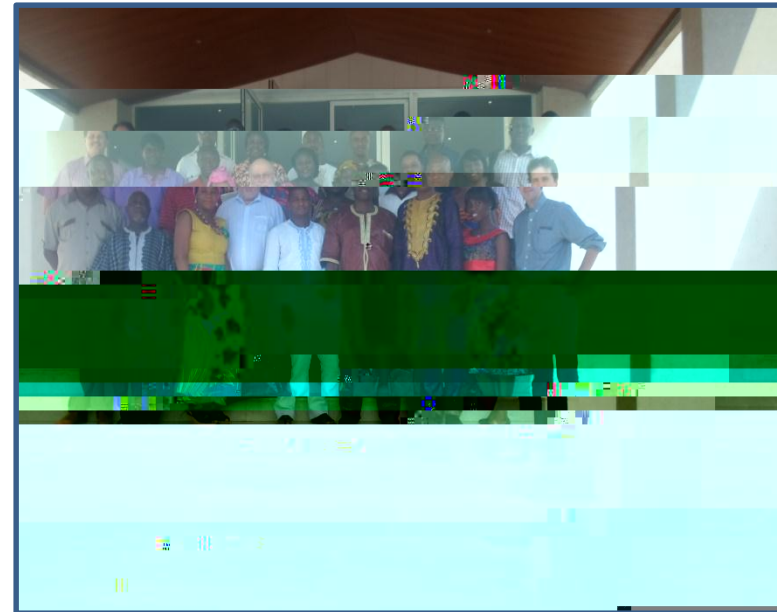
Consideration on accessibility (due to electricity, internet connectivity problems)

Challenges

Data problems

Funding constraints

Lack of interest from other groups



Mami wata Project concept

Four years project – an initiative by the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention and GRID-Arendal, financed by the German Ministry of Environment

Aim : to improve conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity, sustainable resource use and long-term provision of ecosystem services is supported by integrated ocean management (IOM) approaches adopted and applied by countries of the Abidjan Convention.

Key activities of the mami wata project

Train Centre of Expertise staff in conducting capacity development activities,

Provide technical capacity development to Centre staff,

Conduct joint trainings for Mami Wata pilot countries at the facilities of the Centers and with their staff,

support Centre staff on targeted capacity development and knowledge sharing with pilot project countries;

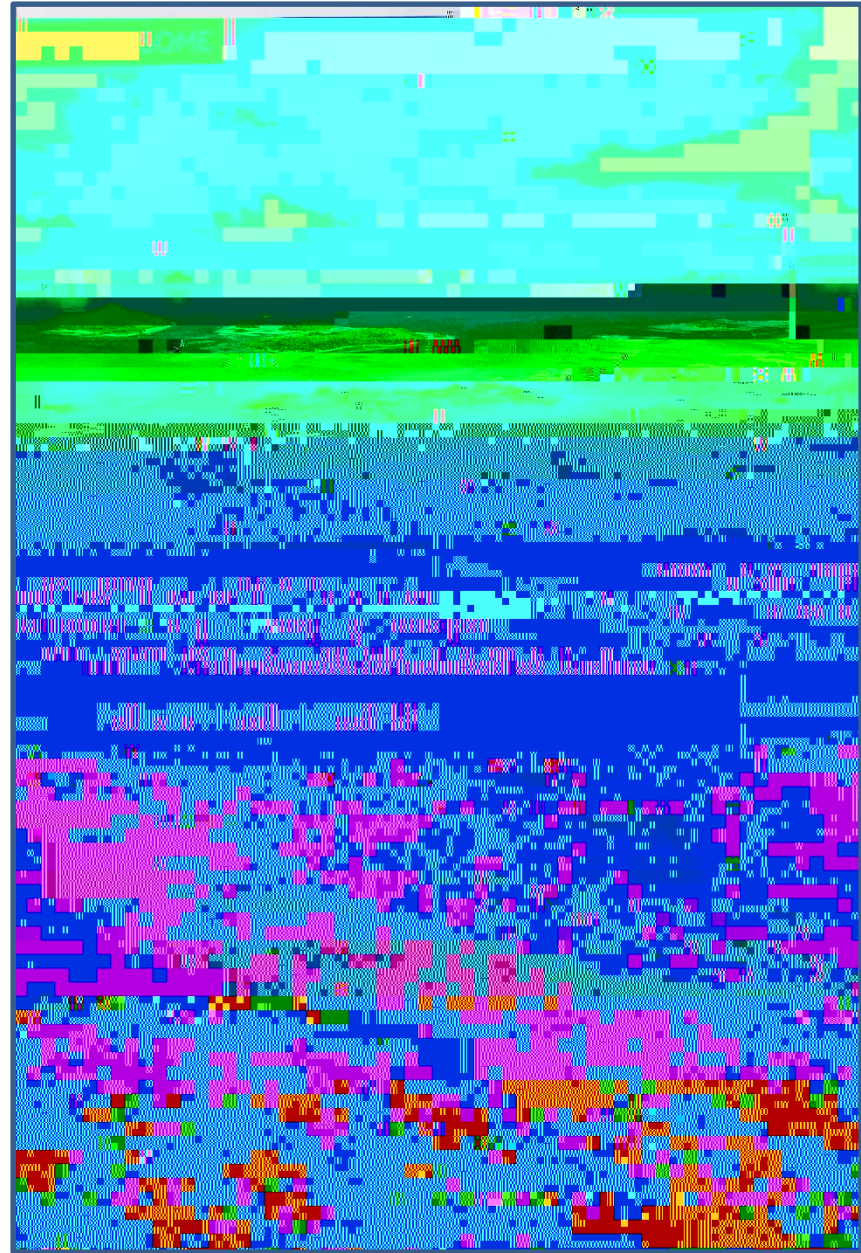
Work with Centers on long-term funding strategies.



The project aims to achieve this through a dual approach

Applying IOM tools, namely Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), the use of CBD *ecologically or biologically significant marine areas* (EBSAs) and State of Marine Environment (SoME) reporting, and

Developing capacity at the national and regional level for the application of those tools.



Ongoing initiatives of the Center of Expertise and the Mami Wata Project

Mami-wata project working with CoEs on the IOM tools in the region:

Sharing knowledge and expertise with other the countries in the region,

Strengthening the capacity within those Centres, and

Enabling those Centers to continue providing technical support to the region after the duration of the project.

Thanks for your audience