



PROGRAMME A

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Identifying and assessing funding opportunities for covering the Urok Islands Community Marine Protected Area

Project for West African Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management by Strengthening Conservation and Monitoring Initiatives in MPAs - 'BIOCOS'

1. Presentation of Banc d'Arguin International Foundation – FIBA and Tiniguena “Esta Terra é Nossa”

FIBA is a Swiss foundation created in 1986 at the initiative of Dr. Luc Hoffmann and several international organizations dedicated to the research and conservation of nature.

Drawing on its longstanding experience in assisting Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA) in Mauritania, FIBA is now involved all over the West African coastline; in particular, focusing support to Protected Marine Areas (MPA). Its mission is to support the conservation, development and promotion of Banc d'Arguin and other West African critical coastal ecosystems for harmonious and sustainable development. FIBA's strategic objectives are the following:

- Promote a regional approach to managing coastal and marine resources through MPAs
- Support technical and financial autonomy of key stakeholders for sustainably managing marine and coastal resources
- Foster the development of a community of stakeholders as the lynchpin in conserving and sustainably managing natural resources in West African MPAs.

FIBA's partners on the ground are local and national organizations to whom it gives financial support and technical expertise. In particular, it assists in mobilizing new partners, networking, sharing experience and strengthening capacity. It stresses participative approaches and ways of co-managing natural resources.

FIBA's conservation activities are centred around four (4) programmes:

- Programme A – Marine Protected Areas (MPA)
- Programme B – Banc d'Arguin National Park
- Programme C – Protection and management of resources
- Programme D – Capacity and skills

The support mission which these ToR address will be conducted as part of the Biocos Project, implemented under programme A; a programme which aims to assist in the structuring and sustainability of the RAMPAN network, and contribute to improving marine and coastal conservation in the sub-region; in particular, by strengthening MPA management mechanisms, and by supporting the creation of protected sites of recognized importance.

For more information on FIBA, consult the Foundation website: <http://www.lafiba.org>

Tiniguena is a national NGO from Guinea-Bissau that was founded in 1991 with the mission to "promote participatory and sustainable development, based on the conservation of natural and cultural resources and the exercise of citizenship."

Tiniguena intervenes in Urok since 2000; the NGO has facilitated the negotiation process between local communities which led to the formal establishment of the Urok community MPA in 2005 and has been supporting initiatives to promote socio-cultural and sustainable development for local communities.

Tiniguena works in other areas south of Guinea-Bissau (Zona Verde – in the Quínara region and Cantanhez – in the Tombali region), by strengthening local communities for better ownership and exploitation of spaces and strategic natural resources towards food, economic and socio-cultural sovereignty.

Tiniguena also works at the national level through information campaigns, awareness and education of the public and policy makers, as well as through advocacy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage.

For more information on Tiniguena , visit the website : <http://www.tiniguena.org>

2. Context

Presentation of the 'BIOCOS Project

West Africa's marine environment provides a wealth of services to people living in the sub-region, of which nearly 14 million live close to the coastline. These include among others: food, jobs, economic revenue (mainly in the fishing sector) and people's social well-being. Yet, these marine and coastal ecosystems are bearing the brunt of intensifying pressure from human development (over-use of resources, degradation of sensitive habitats such as mangroves or grasslands, pollution, etc.). This degradation of the environment has, in return, a major impact on the social and economic well-being of people in the sub-region. In West Africa, MPAs are increasingly considered as robust tools for conserving biodiversity, protecting marine and coastal resources and associated cultural heritage, promoting local development alternative activities, sustainably managing fishing resources, and managing conflicts in the use of space or resources. However, creating and managing MPAs are complex tasks requiring the mobilization of various resources. The need to strengthen the incorporation of MPAs in different sectoral policies in countries of the sub-region is also increasingly recognized. Difficulties remain, however, concerning various MPAs' operational capability, management effectiveness and sustainability of operations; in particular, in terms of sustainable funding.

The BIOCOS Project for West African Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management by Strengthening Conservation and Monitoring Initiatives in MPAs also supports efforts already deployed in the sub-region for conserving biodiversity resources, by building on the work of other initiatives; in particular, other FIBA projects, initiatives of the Regional Programme for Marine and Coastal Area Conservation in West Africa (PRCM)¹, as well as those of local NGOs (Océanium and Tiniguena) in setting up community MPAs which function effectively on the ground.

Started in April 2009, the project has three (3) specific objectives which form its components:

1. Specific Objective 1 (Component 1): Strengthen the functionality and effectiveness of MPA models to make them pilot sites for biodiversity conservation in West Africa.
2. Specific Objective 2 (Component 2): Set up reliable systems for monitoring the ecological and socio-economic impact of MPAs, if possible through simple, realistic and participatory methods.
3. Specific Objective 3 (Component 3): Promote better understanding of and appreciation for MPAs, through information and awareness-raising of target audiences locally and nationally, and the sharing of experience and effective models, and sustainable resource management.

In the 1st component, the project supports two (2) MPAs as pilot sites: Bamboung in Senegal, and Urok in Guinea-Bissau. Although they are often cited as examples in the region, evaluation of these two (2) MPAs shows that progress remains to be made in order to reach a phase of autonomy. One of the results expected as part of this is to put in place functional and operational management systems in these two (2) MPAs.

Concerning Urok Islands MPA, this result is expected to be achieved by putting in place the following:

- a. - Preparation and implementation of a management plan,
- b. - Formulation of a business plan,
- c. - Identification and setting up activities to support the funding of the MPA running costs.

¹ Today a regional partner for the conservation of the marine and coastal area; a joint initiative with FIBA, UICN, WWF and Wetlands International Africa, in collaboration with the sub-regional Fishing Commission

Urok Islands MPA

The Urok Islands MPA is situated in the northern part of Bolama-Bijagós Archipelago Biosphere Reserve. It incorporates a group of islands and islets, of which the main islands are Formosa, Nago and Chediã. Created officially in 2005, Urok Islands Community MPA covers a total area of 545 km²; including 147 km² of land, 66 km² of mangroves, 203 km² of intertidal mudflats and 8 km² of deep-water channels.

The resident population of the three (3) islands is 2, 928 inhabitants, divided between 1, 873 inhabitants on Formosa, 619 inhabitants on Nago, and 436 inhabitants on Chediã, living in 33 villages in all. Within the three (3) islands young people under 20 years old make up 55% of the population, whilst those over 40 years of age make up just 20%. The islets are uninhabited and are only used periodically to cultivate rice, collect palm-tree produce and conduct traditional religious ceremonies. Non-resident users from mainland Guinea-Bissau emigrate to Urok Islands at certain periods of the year to exploit certain natural resources such as straw, palm oil and shellfish.

The main sources of monetary revenue are cashew nuts, followed by palm oil and fish. Like other islands in the Bijagos Archipelago, Urok faces constraints due to isolation, despite the commissioning of two (2) large *pirogues*, as part of CMPA support projects with FIBA/MAVA's financial support. As the name indicates, the Urok Islands are a community managed MPA, governed by a local management committee, with support from the Guinea-Bissau NGO (Tinguena) and a representative of the National Institute in charge of Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Guinea Bissau (IBAP).

3. Objectives and expected results of the mission

Mid-term evaluation of the BIOCOS Project in 2011 showed that although the level and quality of progress made by Urok MPA had improved since the beginning of the project; the main weakness is the 'non-sustainability' of MPA funding. In fact, the MPA has an up-to-date management plan and has calculated costs for the business plan; however, the identification and setting up of support for funding the MPA's operating costs have not advanced very far.

Urok MPA currently has no strategy for sustainable financing of its operation, excepting the search for new donors and supports projects. The establishment of such a strategy is a priority under the project). Currently the option of eco- tourism development in the MPA has been excluded; other funding mechanisms of the MPA must be identified and supported. The evaluation therefore recommended a feasibility study of the different options possible to strengthen the MPA's financial sustainability.

With an annual operating budget² of around 65, 000 (sixty-five thousand) Euro, today the MPA is primarily funded by projects³ supported by international partners, including FIBA/MAVA and IMVF⁴. A small fund from the fines collected during marine surveillance was set up but has still not been used. As part of discussion on possible avenues to contribute to MPA funding, some possibilities have been identified locally; they include primarily the profits made from the local production of honey, pepper, *fleur de sel*, crafts, as well as the MPA lodging house and fines etc.

In addition, it should be pointed out that Guinea-Bissau has recently set up a foundation for funding protected areas and biodiversity (*Fundação BioGuiné*).⁵ The MPA is under the administrative supervision of IBAP and an integral part of the System of Protected Areas of Guinea Bissau. It therefore allows the MPA

² Operations includes here maritime surveillance, local management structures meetings, communication and awareness-raising activities, a minimum of local staff etc. outside project activities

³ Biocos Project (FFEM/AFD/FIBA); Urok framework (MAVA/FIBA); Bemba Di Vida project (IMVF)

⁴ Instituto Marquês de Valle Flor, a Portuguese NGO

⁵ The BioGuiné Foundation was created in March 2011 to act as a means for sustainable funding to conserve biodiversity in Guinea-Bissau, by focusing on the management of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP), and promotion of sustainable social development. It is a private, apolitical & non-profit foundation. The product of a dynamic and participatory vision, BioGuiné has had support and contributions by various partners and institutions; in particular, the government of Guinea-Bissau, the World Bank, UNDP, European Union, MAVA Foundation, and international NGOs such as FIBA, WWF and IUCN. The Foundation aims to catalyze strategic action in favour of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Guinea-Bissau, and targets protected areas primarily. The Foundation is today in the process of consolidating and pooling its experience.

the prospect for potentially accessing funding from the Bioguiné Foundation, in addition to any budget allocations that could be allocated in the future to IBAP by the government. Indeed today IBAP receives no direct funding from the State, but rather indirect contributions such as tax exemptions. However, capitalization of the foundation will take several more years and it is not realistic to expect that Bioguiné will cover all the financing needs of the Urok MPA in the short and medium term. Other funding mechanisms for the MPA have therefore to be developed within the framework of a strategy for sustainable financing of the MPA, which should also be translated into a revised business plan.

These terms of reference relate to a technical mission to support Tiniguena and Urok community MPA stakeholders to push forward this process of reflecting and identifying possible alternatives towards the MPA's financial sustainability. More specifically, the mission intends to support the identification and evaluation of external and internal options and possible approaches which can contribute to funding this MPA's operations, as well as analyzing options to reduce MPA costs, in order to achieve the MPA's objectives.

The approach should be participative, structured and educational, so as to provide methodological support, and strengthen local actors capacity; whilst taking into account the expectations and concerns of the different stakeholders.

At the end of this mission it is expected that:

- Short- and mid-term funds needed to implement the main management activities are updated/specified and estimated costs of the business plan updated
- the different opportunities and potential avenues contributing to funding the MPA be identified and their viability analysed
- the most viable avenues are identified and prioritised, and
- a proposal for a road map and specific recommendations are presented to implement priority actions.

The mission should be based on a close analysis of the MPA's situation; in particular, its financial needs and resources available (local resources and external support). In this context, the mission should support the members of the Urok Management Committee to assess the basic needs and constraints to the long-term operation of the community MPA and to identify the different components that can be implemented by communities and those that require external support (technical and / or financial). The identification and feasibility study of different options should also take into account Guinea-Bissau's socio-economic and general political context, as well as local particularities of the Urok Islands.

The opportunities and constraints of the different options should be clearly presented and discussed, and specific recommendations made to managers of the MPA, by highlighting preconditions in relation to each of the options chosen. The opportunities created by setting up the Bio-Guinea foundation will also be addressed in terms of this MPA's sustainability, in the light of the importance of this option in the mid-/long-term.

4. Timetable and organization

The mission will be undertaken in Guinea-Bissau, and specifically in Bissau and on Urok MPA. The consultancy will take place from mid-October to the end of November 2014, for a maximum of 20 days. Field visits will be carried out in November and the exact dates will be confirmed. FIBA will ensure the preparation of a detailed timetable of the field visit, and organisation of the necessary meetings and consultations in collaboration with the local partner (Tiniguena).

Payment will be made in instalments (percentage of the total amount) upon the submission and/or validation of documents to be produced.

The table below summarizes the main activities to be carried out by the consultant, documents to be produced, approximate dates of submission (to be specified at a later date) and the proposal for the programme.

Phase	Activity to be carried out	Number of days	Documents to be produced	
			Type of documents	Dates for submission to be specified
Phase 1: Preparation	Studies of reference papers, preparation of methodology, tools and field visit	2 days	Timetable for the field visit with necessary meetings and consultations organized/ tools	October 2013
Phase 2: Field visits	Dakar: briefing meeting with FIBA. Bissau: meetings with Tiniguena, IBAP and meeting partners and other relevant stakeholders	10 days	Short report of the mission for FIBA A presentation (oral) of the main conclusions of the field visit in Guinea-Bissau	
	Visit Urok MPA and meetings with local partners			
	Bissau: Debriefing meeting in Bissau with Tiniguena, IBAP and possibly other partners Dakar: De-briefing with FIBA			
Phase 3: Drafting of interim report	Draft an interim report	5 days	A interim report in English or Portuguese	November 2014
Phase 4: Finalizing of research report	Incorporate the comments received to finalize the research report	1 day	A final report	November 2014
	Draw up a summary presenting the main results, conclusions and recommendations	1 day	A summary (3 pages max.) in Portuguese	November 2014

5. Consultant's qualifications

The consultant should have the following skills/experience:

- Substantial experience (minimum of seven (7) years professional experience) in the field of conservation funding;
- Good experience of community management of protected areas;
- Recognized experience of support and capacity building in the field of sustainable funding, particularly in relation to Marine Areas;
- Experience of working in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Excellent analytical skills and ability to summarize information;
- Good communication skills and ability to carry out interviews and facilitate discussion;
- Fluent in Portuguese (oral and written) and French/or English (oral and written).

6. Logistical and other support

FIBA will, in close collaboration with Tiniguena and other local partners, provide the consultant with all the necessary technical documents available before the start of the mission.

FIBA will arrange meetings with individuals/institutions chosen by the consultant and will organize their travel as part of this mission, with the support of local partners.
Mission expenses (travel, accommodation, & meals etc.) will be covered by FIBA.
International travel arrangements to be taken up by the consultant.

7. Main reference documents

- 'BIOCOS Project for West African Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management By Strengthening Conservation and Monitoring Initiatives in MPAs' document
- Revised CMPA Management Plan
- interim Urok CMPA Business Plan document
- Biocos/Urok Project annual technical and financial reports (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013)
- Biocos Project document (AFD/FFEM)
- Biocos Project mid-term evaluation report document, Oréade-Brèche – October 2011
- Urok CMPA internal regulations
- National Strategy for Protected Areas and Conservation of Biodiversity in Guinea-Bissau (IBAP)
- Final summary – Support in Developing Protected Marine Areas Business Plans in Guinea-Bissau, IBAP 2011

Other documents considered relevant for the mission by the mission will be supplied on request.

8. Technical and financial proposal

Interested candidates for this assignment should submit the following:

- A note outlining their understanding and assessment of the objectives and issues of the mission;
- A detailed methodological note
- An estimate of work involved and a cost estimate (without local field travel, which will be organized directly by FIBA) but with international travel and subsistence allowances;
- An up-to-date CV of the consultant with three (3) references and detailed information on similar work carried out by the candidate.

The completed application should be submitted by email at the latest by August 31st to Mrs Charlotte Karibuhoye Said, FIBA MPA Programme Co-ordinator, karibuhoye@lafiba.org