

GEF SGP Country Programme Strategy for OP6



Country:

Guinea-Bissau

OP6 resources:

- GEF CORE fund USD 400,000
- Co Financement: 150, 000 USD

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• **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

CPS – Country Programme Strategy

CSO – Civil Society Organizations

CPMT – Country Programme Management Team

ECOMIB – Security Mission in Guinea-Bissau

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization

GCF – Global Conservation Fund

GEF – Global Environment Facility

GEF KM – Global Environment Facility Knowledge Management

GITT – Villages Area Integrated Management (Gestão Integrada dos Territórios das Tabancas)

IBAP – Biodiversity and Protected Areas Institute (Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas)

IECA – Information, Education, Communication and Awareness

IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature

LQAP - Protected Areas Framework Law (Lei-quadro das Áreas Protegidas)

M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation

NC – National Coordinator

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

NSC – National Steering Committee

OFEV – Federal Office for the Environment (Switzerland)

OP6 – Operational Phase 6

PA – Protected Areas

PNC – Cantanhez National Park (Parque Nacional de Cantanhez)

PNLC – Lagoas de Cufada National Park (Parque Natural das Lagoas de Cufada)

PNO – Orango National Park (Parque Nacional de Orango)

PNTC – Tarrafes do Rio Cacheu National Park (Parque Natural de Tarrafes do Rio Cacheu)

SEADD - State Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development (Secretaria de Estado do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Durável)

SGP – Small Grants Programme

SWISSAID – Swiss Foundation for Development and Cooperation

UNIOGBIS – United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

UNDP - United Nations Development Program

UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services

USD – American Dollar

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Small Grants Programme is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the UNDP and operated by UNOPS. The sixth phase implementation of the GEF Small Grants Programme requires the existence of a strategy and a baseline assessment, from which the key components and priority projects linked to the operational program are identified. The objective of the SGP is to provide grants to the communities, to support conservation actions and sustainable use of natural resources and of the environment.

The 6th operational phase (OP6) program has “landscapes¹”, as the main theme, a dubious environmental concept for most of the environmental stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau, which refer, *lato sensu*, to natural resources as landscape, whereas natural resources are part of the landscape.

With respect to the Guinea-Bissau case, the strategy framework development required a more adequate definition of that concept, one that considers landscape inclusive of dwelling, work, leisure places and human identification. Additionally it must consider animal and plant habitats and the special expression of the cultural patrimony, which constantly evolve with the natural resources through interaction factors, including the human use and management of resources, which can be translated into an economic value.

Landscapes where natural transformations take place and are predominant, are known as *natural landscapes*, and the remaining, which are subject to human transformations, through the use and exploration of natural resources, are known as *cultural* or *human landscapes*. Natural landscapes have a different *temporality* from that of the human landscapes. Whereas environmental dynamics usually occur according to a slower transformation speed, social and cultural dynamics quickly and radically change the areas.

In the initial workshop held under the OP6 strategy scoping process, the participants identified five (5) strategy components, from which the strategy was developed after a baseline assessment of the state of landscapes in Guinea-Bissau. The strategy components identified are as follows: *Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation*; *Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology*; *Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits*; *Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+)*; *Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+)*. The baseline assessment considered the division of the country in three geographic areas, taking into account the areas' specificities: the *island area* which includes the Bijagós archipelago, the Jeta/ Pecixe islands and the islands in the Tombali area (Como, Caiar, Melo, Cametungo, Catungo, Canifaque and Uedequeia); the *coastal area* which includes Cacheu, Biombo, Quinara and Tombali, and the *continental area* which includes primarily the Bafatá and Gabu areas. The baseline assessment revealed that the main damages factors of the natural landscapes are: deforestation due to the cashew tree plantations, with the replacement of the natural land cover; the elimination of the fauna and flora habitats; the silting of the water lines and wetlands; the itinerant cultures in the plateau, and the dwelling and economic infrastructure land use, as well as the cutting of mangroves, which has caused coastal erosion and destruction of agricultural production infrastructures.

The absence of a coherent land management policy allows for the anarchic land occupation with no consideration of its landscape, function, and cultural values.

The assessment results indicate that the Guinea-Bissau government is concerned with the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, which led to the creation of a dedicated organization, the establishment of biodiversity protection and conservation units, and the conversion of more than 20% of the national territory to conservation areas. All these measures allow for landscape conservation.

Governmental concerns regarding the environment are diminished by the little effort put into increasing human productivity and production systems, which could reduce the need for larger production areas and limit the

¹ Stratégie paysage de l'OFEV – Office Fédéral de l'environnement, Confédération suisse, Octobre 2011

itinerancy of the cultures and impacts from population growth. They are also diminished by past policies that encouraged the cashew tree plantation expansion and replacement of the natural land cover, and by current forestry development policies that are limited by the existing institutional instability which allows for vandalizing of wood and non-wood forest products without valorisation and unlawful export. The exploration activities of forest products are one of the main constraints to the landscape conservation.

A better contribution from other governmental institutions for landscape conservation could result in a national horizontal strategy concerning the sustainable management of land cover, less tree loggings, with a value chain leading to job creation, higher fiscal revenues and reinvestment in landscape conservation².

Considering that agriculture is the main economic activity in the various assessment areas and that the current production systems in the country have a significant impact in landscape destruction (IBAP, 2007), a short assessment was carried out to identify the different climate change related constraints and the resilience of those systems, in order to improve project frameworks regarding smart agro-ecology and agro-meteorology.

Taking into account the climate change in the country, a resilience assessment was performed considering four (4) indicators, including vegetation cover, animal and marine biodiversity, knowledge/innovation and governance (which includes equity and social inclusion). The ranking varied from **5** (very good) to **1** (bad). The four indicators averaged **3.48**, which indicate the good resilience of the landscapes in Guinea-Bissau.

The strategy defined priority projects according to the following strategic components:

- (i) **Component 1.** *Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation* – Habitat conservation and promotion of fauna and flora conservation through the adoption of critical landscape areas and the participation of communities in the management of important landscapes;
- (ii) **Component 2.** *Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology* – Development of the farmers’ capacity in the use of new technologies and crop systems leading to the production diversification as a mitigation action, dissemination of agro-meteorological data allowing for an improved crop planning taking into consideration the weather forecasts, collection of traditional knowledge about landscape and natural resources management;
- (iii) **Component 3.** *Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits*;
- (iv) **Component 4.** *Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+)* – This should be a priority when considering the integration of gender issues in the SGP implementation, as well as the inclusion of youth and people with disabilities, supporting projects with income generation initiatives; and
- (v) **Component 5.** *Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+)* – Knowledge-sharing programmes, that is, giving priority to initiatives that promote the dissemination and sharing of experience, in the best-practice results, which should be broadly shared with other countries, mainly through a South-South innovation and experience exchange platform.

The following institutional partners were identified for the OP6 implementation: the State Secretariat for Environment and Sustainable Development (SEADD) and its environmental and conservation departments, environmental CSO, community organizations, main groups and associations and the local authorities.

In terms of responsibilities, the Government is responsible for ensuring the legal justice and institutional legality regarding conservation and preservation, as well as for regulating the following actions:

- CSO actions, through orientation and providing framework for communities/groups/associations in conservation/preservation activities, training/qualification and development of institutional synergies that allow economies of scale;

² Contribution of NSC member, José F. Fonseca.

- Community actions, through ecosystem service valorisation projects, facility management, income generating actions and appropriation of technological innovations;
- Private sector actions, through relevant services for landscape conservation.

1. CONTEXT

The GEF Small Grants Programme, financed thirty two (32) projects since its beginning in 2010, during Operational Phase 5 (OP5), with a total amount of USD 975,590 from CORE funds.

Eighteen (18) of the selected projects are in the focal area of Biodiversity Conservation, eleven (11) relate to Climate Change, and three (3) to Soil Degradation.

Biodiversity Conservation

The Biodiversity Conservation focal area includes the “Contribution of schools for sustainable forest management in PNLC” project, where twenty-five (25) hectares are managed by the students and ten (10) hectares were replanted with six thousand (6,000) plants. Also, four thousand (4,000) natural juice bottles were produced by the students and teachers. This project had a budget of USD 79,709, including USD 32,140 funded by the SGP.

Another project in the same focal area is the “Reintroduction of traditional rice varieties for profitable rice production”, where thirteen (13) varieties of rice were recovered and one thousand eight hundred and twenty (1,820) Kg of seeds were produced for distribution and production continuity. This project had a budget of USD 92,541, including USD 46,541 funded by the SGP.

Climate Change

In the climate change area, one of the funded projects was “Support to the solar salt production – Knowledge and innovation”, where nearly one hundred (100) women and ten (10) men received training in solar salt extraction and management of small projects. A solar salt production manual was written and four (4) tonnes of salt were produced. USD 10,000 was distributed through microcredit to one hundred (100) women, and was fully reimbursed with a 10% interest rate.

Another project in the same focal area is “*No djunta mon pa rapati consumo di lenha*” (“Let’s join efforts to reduce the consumption of firewood”) where a community market was organized to sell improved stoves. In this project, eight hundred and thirty-seven (837) improved stoves and fifty-five (55) solar stoves were produced. Additional training on coal and wood expenses was provided to eight hundred and ninety-two (892) families. This project had a budget of USD 42,094, including USD 26,667 funded by the SGP.

Land degradation

In the land degradation focal area, two projects actively involve youth in project implementation. In the first one, “Community contribution for the forest management and conservation in the future PNB”, sixty-four thousand six hundred and sixty-three (64,663) hectares are managed in a sustainable way, one hundred and sixty (160) hectares were replanted with twenty-five thousand (25,000) plants and one community forest management code was approved and fully implemented. Additionally, four hundred and ninety-nine (499) enhanced stoves were produced, one thousand seven hundred and seventy (1,770) people benefited from the construction of enhanced stoves and 70 beekeepers received training on sustainable honey exploration techniques. In this project, four hundred and sixty-five (465) women benefited from microcredit. This project had a budget of USD 96,275, including USD 48,006 funded by the SGP.

Also in this focal area, the project “Conservation and management of the community forest of the Bironque Section” had a total budget of USD 65,964, including USD 35,369 funded by the SGP. One hundred (100) hectares were replanted with more than twenty-six thousand (26,000) plants in three (3) community forests, and

one community forest management code was approved and fully implemented. Six hundred eighty-five (685) enhanced stoves were produced, surpassing in almost six (6) times the initial objective, two hundred and ten (210) children and four hundred and twenty-five (425) youth benefitted from and were directly involved in the project implementation. In this project, one thousand and twenty-five (1,025) women benefitted from microcredit.

2. SGP OP6 country programme niche

2.1. Alignment with national priorities

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Rio Conventions & national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1995
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2009
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	2013
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	1995
African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)	2006
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1995
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1 st - 2005, 2 nd - 2011
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2014
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	2006
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	1990
World Heritage Convention	2005
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1995
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2006
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP)	2005
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	2005
RAMSAR Convention	1990
Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas "Rede Regional das Área Marinhas Protegidas" (RAMPAO)	2003
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	2010
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2012
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	2014/2016
Strategic Action Programmes for shared international water-bodies	-
Minamata Convention on Mercury	2015
Protected Areas Framework Law	2011
Forestry Decree-Law No.5/2011	2011
Fisheries General Law (Decree-Law No.10/2011)	2011
Non-industrial Fishing Regulation (Decree-Law No.24/2011)	2011

2.2. Guinea-Bissau GEF SGP mission, vision and principles

2.2.1. Vision

"To be a reference programme where the local communities from various landscapes actively participate in the sustainable use and management of natural resources aiming to increasing production, productivity, biodiversity restoration, creation of wealth and a continuous flow of ecosystem services, integrating traditional development knowledge into new conservation practices."

2.2.2. Mission

“To contribute to the promotion of local initiatives that allow for sustainable management of natural resources and of landscapes in particular, with the aim to improve the population’s quality of life in the communities within the programme priority intervention areas in Guinea-Bissau.”

2.2.3. Principles

The principles under which the programme will operate in the country are as follows:

- Environmental, social and cultural commitment, taking into consideration the landscape;
- Commitment for sustainable development, respecting the conservation and development principles, to foster the improvement of the population’s quality of life and the sustainable management of resources;
- Transparency in the programme operational methods;
- Teamwork with a participative approach.

2.3. Potential for complementary and synergy of the selected OP6 strategic initiatives

Table 2. SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 Briefly describe the SGP Country Programme niche ³ relevant to national priorities / other agencies ⁴	4 Briefly describe the complementation between the SGP Country Programme and UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/seascape conservation	Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Promotion of ecosystem management through maritime and terrestrial landscapes, biodiversity conservation strategies and sustainable use	Contributes to the Guinea-Bissau CPD (Country Programme Document) (2016-2020) in Outcome 4: Public institutions, CSO and private sector promote biodiversity conservation and development and risk prevention and management.
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	The programme will promote innovative and smart organic agriculture and/or agro-ecology with regards to climate in certain areas of the country where indiscriminate tree cutting and deforestation occur.	Contributes to the Guinea-Bissau CPD (Country Programme Document) (2016-2020) in Outcome 4: Public institutions, CSO and private sector promote biodiversity conservation and development and risk prevention and management.
Community landscape/seascape conservation	Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments	Contributes to the wetland conservation programme, mangrove replantation, as well as to the IBAP biodiversity conservation strategy (2015-2020) Focus on mangrove conservation and rehabilitation on RAMSAR	

	contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	sites.	
Energy access co-benefits	Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	Focus on the more commercial construction of improved stoves, solar stoves, solar irrigation and solar salt production.	Contributes to the Guinea-Bissau CPD (Country Programme Document) (2016-2020) in Outcome 4: Public institutions, CSO and private sector promote biodiversity conservation and development and risk prevention and management.
Social inclusion (gender, youth)	GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan	Increase the support of gender equality and women empowerment through the promotion of projects managed by women and in integrating gender in all relevant projects.	Fits into the UNDP strategy concerning gender integration and women empowerment.
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	Contribute to GEF KM efforts	Production of publications to share knowledge.	Fits into the UNDP strategy concerning knowledge management.

3. OP6 STRATEGIES

3.1. Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

Cross-cutting grant-making strategies in non-priority areas should prioritise projects dealing with coastal erosion prevention, restoration of natural land cover and community forest management, sacred sites, wetland protection and income generating initiatives related to sustainable use of forest resources and fishery.

In the island and coastal areas, projects in the surroundings of protected areas should also be prioritised, whilst, in the continental area, protection of *wendos* (small freshwater ponds), conservation of vegetal formation and sustainable use of wetlands should be considered in the grant-making. Additionally, lands surrounding protected areas and continental fauna corridors should also be prioritised.

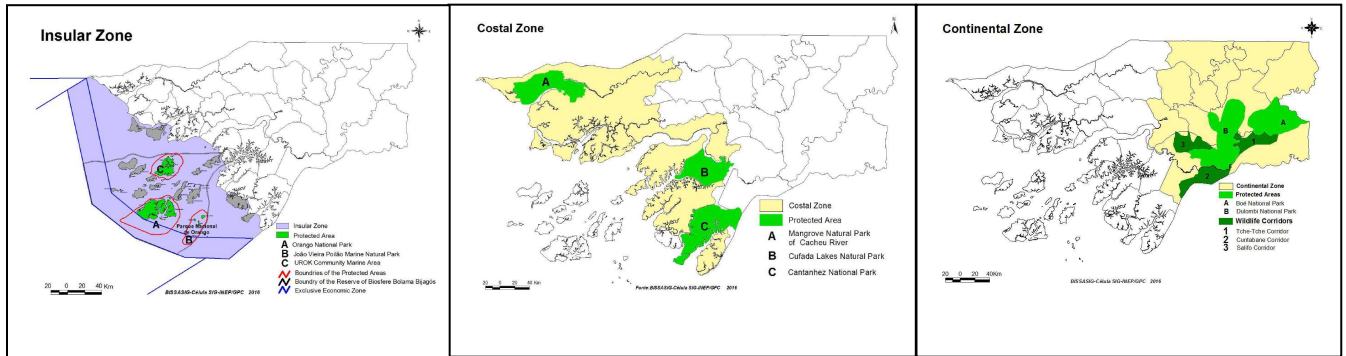
3.2. OP6 grant-making strategies

Guinea-Bissau has a natural richness regarding diversified natural land covers, which constitute pristine and diversified fauna and flora habitats. Their use is not always sustainable which results in the degradation and transformation of unique natural sceneries.

The creation of the Protected Areas System (PAS) allowed for significant progress in the natural land cover conservation and sustainable use processes. The PAS resulted in the establishment of thematic parks in the marine and coastal areas, in addition to the extension of the PAS to the continental area, allowing more than 20% of the national territory to be within protected areas. Guinea-Bissau is one of the few Western African countries to comply with CBD COP 10 and 2020 Aichi agreements, exceeding the foreseen 17%.

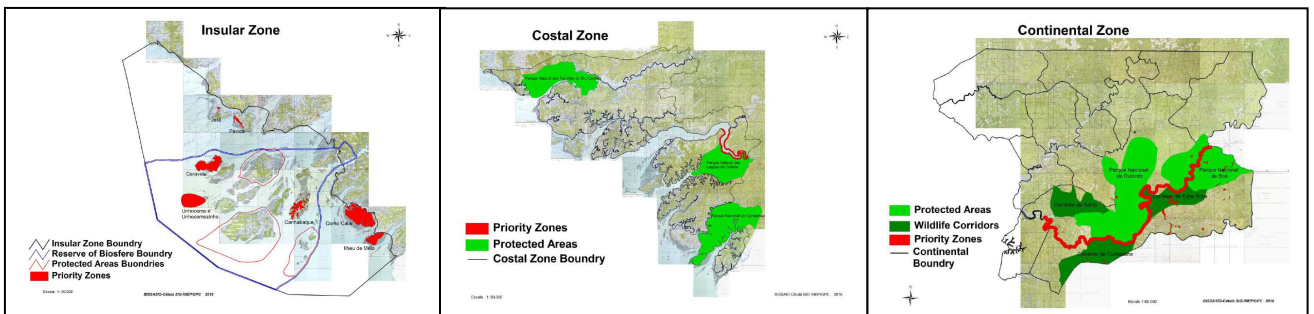
The country is composed of a coastal territory (including the entire island area), which includes not only the coast but also all areas influenced by the tides, and a continental territory.

For the purposes of the strategy drafting, the consultants decided to divide the coastal area in two areas, island area and uniquely coastal area, in order to allow a better characterization of both areas taking into account the different nature of their respective constraints. The terrestrial/continental area remained unchanged. The main factor for such a decision is insularity, a phenomenon that indicates the ocean's influence and the influence of marine phenomena in those territories, both in physical impacts and in socio-economic impacts to the islands and their inhabitants. That division is also due to the fact that in each area there are conservation units with different objectives, although all are related to the landscape conservation, as shown in **maps 1, 2 and 3**.



Maps 1, 2 and 3 – Division of the country in island, coastal and continental areas, respectively, with indication of the current formal conservation units (see annex 2)

Based on the objectives of the Guinea-Bissau PAS conservation units, and on their management plans, those conservation units, as well as other areas with landscape value, were identified as priority areas for potential actions funded by the SGP OP6, as shown in maps 4, 5 and 6.



Maps 4, 5 and 6- Priority areas for grant making with current conservation units (see annex 3)

The consultation of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) dealing with conservation actions took place to collect information about all their conservation activities and projects, and their contributions for the baseline assessment. All governmental stakeholders were consulted, taking into account their involvement and institutional responsibilities concerning conservation and biodiversity.

In order to expand the stakeholders' participation, a workshop was held to discuss the initial assumptions for the baseline assessment and the SGP OP6 strategy, where various contributions were collected, mainly concerning the identified strategic components, which are as follows:

- **Component 1:** Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation;
- **Component 2:** Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology;
- **Component 3:** Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits;
- **Component 4:** Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+);
- **Component 5:** Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+).

Then, a field trip to the island and the terrestrial/continental areas, mainly to Orango, Formosa, Canhabaque and Pecixe, and to a more continental area of the country (Boé), took place, using a quantitative survey, conducting interviews and performing *djumbais*.⁵ The objective of the quantitative survey was to collect the knowledge of the potential beneficiaries on the themes identified for the OP6 (concept of landscape, climate change and social inclusion). The interviews aimed at collecting additional information about the local *status quo* and *djumbais* provided information about the SGP and the potential advantages of community participation in the conservation of areas with landscape value.



Figure no. 1: Views of various priority landscapes in island areas (coastal erosion in Bubaque, itinerant agriculture system in Pecixe and mangrove cutting in Tombali islands)



Figure no. 2. Views of landscapes in coastal areas (coastal erosion in Varela and silting in the Cufada pond)



Figure no. 3: Views of the vulnerability in the continental area (logging in the Oio Region, abandoned and fallow *bolanhas* (swampy and fertile land) and itinerant agriculture and forest fires frequent in the eastern part of the country)

⁵ Informal discussion meetings with a group of persons, aimed at collecting different opinions on a certain subject, in a community, age or gender group.

OP6 should contribute to the following strategic initiatives:

- ✓ Habitat conservation and the promotion of fauna and flora conservation through the adoption of critical landscape areas and the participation of communities in the restitution/reforestation of species with important ecologic and landscape value;
- ✓ Awareness about the landscape resilience to climate change and its social, cultural and economic value;
- ✓ Community-based management of natural resources;
- ✓ Training in new technologies and crop systems leading to production diversification as a climate change mitigation action;
- ✓ Dissemination of agro-meteorological data allowing for improved crop planning taking into consideration the weather forecasts;
- ✓ Promotion of organic agriculture and food safety in the selected landscapes;
- ✓ Collection of traditional knowledge about landscape and natural resources management and conservation;
- ✓ Development of skills to carry out and manage project, thematic training about landscapes, and environmental volunteerism, associations and entrepreneurship;
- ✓ Projects focusing on the rational use of flora, non-wood forest products and fisheries, and on the establishment of chain value for non-wood forest products;
- ✓ Joint landscape structuring or landscape conservation projects among CSO, public institutions and communities, groups, and associations;
- ✓ Promotion of entrepreneurship and support to income generating initiatives and to initiatives that improve the population's quality of life;
- ✓ Recovery/restoration initiatives regarding relevant architectural structures within the project's intervention areas;
- ✓ Promotion of ecotourism and sustainable development.

The specific strategy of grant making aims particularly at promoting national awareness about the cultural, economic and environmental importance of landscapes, influencing the public's consideration in land management and national policies. Specifically, it draws the attention of policy makers to an underestimated topic that has often not merited much discussion that has, however, a considerable potential to contribute to the well-being of populations.

The potential projects, if implemented, should take into account the various current conservation actions in the identified areas, which may result in significant synergies as part of a whole. This is why the participation of the CSO and public institutions is crucial so that duplicated actions are avoided and, instead, actions are promoted and expanded.

On the other hand, there are commitments from international agencies, through environmental projects, in the selected areas, and a National Strategy on Protected Areas. Also, the 2025 Government National Development Strategy ("Terra Ranka") includes funding of the Natural Capital Sector, with the potential conservation funding through the Bio-Guinea Foundation. At the regional level (CEDEAO, UEMOA), participation in the various environmental projects may contribute to the co-financing.

Funding of actions outside priority areas should give priority to awareness and some landscape reconstruction actions, mainly the integrated management of villages territories (GITT), resettlement upstream of important landscape features (*wendos*, *bolanhas* (rice fields), river bank coverage), sustainable exploration of forest non-

wood resources (environmental entrepreneurship) and rehabilitation of the relevant landscape features in the SGP intervention areas.

3.3. Grant-makers+ Strategies

The SGP Guinea-Bissau development objectives in the grant-making framework include the supply of added-value activities to empower communities and OSC in addition to grant-making, increasing the impact of the initiatives, promoting the use of new technologies and fostering more partnerships to increase resilience and impact.

3.3.1. Local, regional and national policy influence

Several governmental institutions, as well as various national NGO at different locations, mainly IBAP, NANTINYAM, AD, TINIGUENA, APRODEL, SWISSAID, KAFO, are SGP partners. In order to ensure the best project performance during its implementation, it is necessary to identify beforehand the human resources needed to participate in the local disclosure of the program and its projects. The disclosure of the SGP should focus on community radio stations, identifying in each location at least one person that may support community organizations and NGO providing detailed information about the ongoing programme and projects.

These permanent local resources will be in charge of managing information about the ongoing programme and projects. They would also be responsible for identifying project priorities and results that should be exchanged with other associations. Governmental institutions, NGOs or community organizations in the area that benefited or are benefiting from GEF SGP funding, and are available to help disclose their own experience to other local community organizations, would also contribute to this effort.

The SGP National Coordination will organize an annual workshop with policy makers and traditional regional authorities to share lessons learned from the SGP in Guinea-Bissau. The results from the workshop discussions and their policy implications should constitute input elements for a memorandum to be considered in the relevant sectorial bodies. The program should articulate the platform of environmental and natural resources government institutions, in order to exchange information and foster actions' potential synergies.

3.3.2. Promoting social inclusion

Gender will be considered as part of all funded activities. In grant-making, projects submitted by women's groups will be positively discriminated, as long as they are technically well designed, and priority will be given to income generating activities, mainly transformation and trading of non-wood forest products, reduction of work strain, training and structuring of women's organizations. The main objective of gender integration is to ensure equality, efficiency and sustainability, and to minimize resistance to gender in the implemented projects.

Concerning the youth, volunteer projects, environmental entrepreneurship and training should be favoured. Positive discrimination should take into account the poverty level, vulnerability and women and youth intervention on natural resources and on critical areas to ensure landscape conservation.

3.3.3. Knowledge management plan and communication strategy

➤ Dissemination and promotion of lessons learned as best practice

At the end of each project, a report will be produced by the beneficiary and revised by the NC, who provides the global assessment of the project focusing on the strong and weak points, achievements, surpassing strategies and, above all, lessons learned, in order to maximize successful experiences throughout the project.

During the various field assessment for each project, meetings will be held with the beneficiaries so they can define their vision as well as recommendations that they find necessary.

Regarding communication, one should point out that one of the main project components is learning and information sharing. It is expected that each beneficiary organization contribute in the production and documentation of best practices and lessons learned. To that effect, each community project should set aside part of its budget for information and communication technologies (ICT), in order to obtain specific knowledge about lessons learned with the proposed activities.

Information produced during the communication with the beneficiaries, with the assistance of the Project Coordinator, should include the following:

- ✓ Quarterly reports to be distributed to all stakeholders, including the donors' community, if interested;
- ✓ Study cases/publications, learned lessons, best practices and emerging experiences to be shared with other countries, to be produced annually. Study cases should be defined during the project operation phase;
- ✓ Guidance documents (flyers and posters);
- ✓ The report should include visual elements, mainly photographs and videos.

➤ ***Replication of best practices and lessons learned with the project implementation***

In each follow-up visit to be conducted to ongoing projects in the selected priority landscape areas, the Coordination team meets with the partners to analyse the strong and weak points. First, the discussion is structured in a way that maximizes strong points as cases of success and weak points as lessons learned; it is also discussed how to best disseminate the ongoing project results, in order to foster the replication of the successful results and to define priorities.

To foster the exchange of information, through an annual meeting with the various project beneficiaries, would be the easiest and most feasible way to make available and disclose best practices and lessons learned during the programme implementation.

4. SGP OP6 national programme expected results

Table 3. SGP OP6 national programme expected results, indicators and activities

1 Component (Output)	2 CPS objectives	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 # projects	6 Means of verification
<u>SGP OP6 Component 1 (Outcome): Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation</u>					
<u>SGP OP6 Output 1:</u> Promote and reinforce coherent landscape and natural resources conservation and valorisation policies of land management for a sustainable development	<u>Immediate objective no. 1:</u> Reinforce and improve landscape management and conservation policies, through resource management traditional regulations	1.1.1. Promote initiatives that apply feasible traditional practices of landscape and natural resource management and conservation regulations.	- No. of affected communities that apply good resource management practices Baseline = 5 Target: 16	Minimum of 2 projects	- SGP Database, project reports - Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories
		1.1.2. Promote innovative conservation initiatives, integrated management and valorisation of threatened species or habitats.	- No. of species or habitats with same or improved state of conservation Baseline = 10 Target: 18		- SGP Database, project reports - Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories
	<u>Immediate objective no. 2:</u> Promote mangrove protection, replantation of degraded areas and protection/conservation of sand dunes	1.2.1. Promote protection of mangrove areas and sand dunes through replanting initiatives	- No. of hectares (ha) of mangrove degraded areas with conservation status that were replanted and improved Baseline = 200 ha Target: 450 ha		- SGP Database, project reports - Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories

	<p>Immediate objective no. 3: Promote fisheries and agricultural products added value through processing and conservation processes</p>	<p>1.3.1. Promote marine products/fisheries processing and valorisation community units</p>	<p>- No. of tonnes of marine/fisheries processed products Baseline = 160 T Target: 500 T</p> <p>- No. of families benefiting from marine/fisheries processing products and valorisation projects Baseline = 40 Target: 250</p>	<p>- SGP Database, project reports - Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories</p>
	<p>Immediate objective no. 4: Promote a landscape inclusion policy in the degraded reforestation and restoration areas</p>	<p>1.4.1. Promote restitution and reforestation with endemic forest species and restoration of degraded areas</p>	<p>- No. of hectares (ha) of preserved and restored degraded forest areas Baseline = 200 ha Target: 600 ha</p>	

SGP OP6 Component 2 (Outcome): Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology

<p>SGP OP6 Output 2: Promote smart agro-ecology and agrometeorology as form of adaptation and impact minimization of climate change effects</p>	<p>Immediate objective no. 5. Integration of a smart agro-ecology and agrometeorology system used for landscape protection, reduction of greenhouse gases and improvement of community crop systems</p>	<p>2.5.1. Promote intensive agricultural practices (irrigation system, varieties, crop rotation, etc.), and the use of enhanced seeds in the agricultural production, given the effects of climate change</p> <p>2.5.2 Promote innovation of cultivation systems using modern equipment and inputs (i.e. wells with pumping systems using renewable energy and drip irrigation systems)</p>	<p>- No. of hectares (ha) of land using intensive agriculture sustainable practices, through the use of enhanced seeds and other agricultural inputs Baseline = 200 ha Target: 350 ha</p> <p>- No. of beneficiary farmers with awareness of and applying intensive agriculture best practices Baseline = 80 Target: 150</p>	<p>Minimum of 5 projects</p>	<p>- SGP Database, project reports -Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories</p>
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	<p>Immediate objective no. 6: Promote and encourage bas-fond rice cultivation, as an alternative to plateau rice cultivation</p>	<p>2.6.1. Promote bas-fond rice cultivation through intensive agriculture (water management, enhanced seeds and other agriculture inputs).</p>	<p>- No of hectares (ha) of recovered degraded <i>bolanhas</i> (rice fields), using an intensive rice cultivation system Baseline = 26,000 ha Target: 37,500 ha</p> <p>- No. of tonnes of rice produced via intensive rice cultivation Baseline = 104,000 T Target: 150,000 T</p>		<p>- SGP Database, project reports -Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories</p>
	<p>Immediate objective no. 7: Promote and encourage the establishment of a value chain for agriculture products as a way to promote business opportunities and to create jobs</p>	<p>2.7.1. Promote supporting actions to local business opportunity creation and increase of agriculture income</p>	<p>-No. of business initiatives regarding agricultural products value chains in the local economy. Baseline = 5 Target: 20</p>		<p>- SGP Database, project reports - Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories</p>

SGP OP6 Component 3 (Outcome): Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits

<p>SGP OP6 Output 3: Promote Co-benefits from access to low carbon energy as a way to reduce carbon emissions</p>	<p>Immediate objective no. 8: Promote demonstration, development and use of low carbon emission technologies in the local communities</p>	<p>3.8.1. Promote initiatives of use of low carbon emission technologies (enhanced stoves, solar panels, etc.), in the local communities.</p>	<p>- No. of families that use low greenhouse gas emission technologies Baseline = 200 Target: 500</p> <p>- No. of enhanced stoves Baseline = 200 Target: 500</p> <p>Production of solar salt Baseline = 30 T Target: 50 T</p> <p>No. of beneficiaries of the solar salt production project Baseline = 200 Target: 350</p> <p>- No. of rural communities that benefit from access to electricity from renewable sources Baseline = 5 Target: 20</p> <p>- No. of families with access to local renewable energy Baseline = 0 Target: 8</p>	<p>Minimum of 5 projects</p>	<p>- SGP Database, project reports -Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories o</p>
	<p>Immediate objective no. 9: Promote technology, innovation and traditional knowledge disclosure, demonstration and transfer at local communities, through IECA</p>	<p>3.9.1. Promote IECA actions about the importance and advantages of landscape conservation, using community radio stations</p>	<p>- No. of beneficiaries with awareness of and using best practices. Baseline = 2500 Target: 4000</p> <p>- No. of dissemination programmes in local languages Baseline = 10 Target: 30</p>		<p>- SGP Database, project reports -Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories</p>

SGP OP6 Component 4 (Outcome): Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+)

<p>SGP OP6 Output4: Promote social inclusion (youth and women) in landscape conservation, as well as players' empowerment strategies, synergies and programme M&E</p>	<p>Immediate objective no. 10: Reinforce CSO, organizations and grassroots associations' organizational capacity for the project production, management and M&E</p>	<p>4.10.1. Promote the empowerment of CSO and grassroots associations for project production, management and M&E</p>	<p>- No. of empowered CSO in project monitoring and evaluation Baseline = 10 Target: 20</p>	<p>Minimum of 4 projects</p>	<p>- SGP Database, project reports -Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories</p>
	<p>Immediate objective no. 11 Promote social inclusion initiatives (women, youth, children and people with disabilities) as key players in landscape conservation and decision making</p>	<p>4.11.1. Promote training and empowerment actions to foster equity, efficiency and sustainability, and to minimize resistance to gender in the projects</p>	<p>- No. of training and empowerment actions carried out; Baseline = 10 Target: 15 - No. of training beneficiaries Baseline = 500 Target: 750</p>		<p>- SGP Database, project reports - Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories</p>
	<p>4.11.2. Promote and support initiatives by women, youth and people with disabilities.</p>	<p>- No. of fund beneficiaries supporting initiatives by vulnerable groups (women, youth and people with disabilities) Baseline = 100; Target: 250 - No. of beneficiaries trained in SGP key areas, articulated and clearly integrate gender and social inclusion (disaggregated data by gender and age) Baseline = 0 Target: 50</p>			

	<p>Immediate objective no. 12: Poverty reduction through income growth and improvement of the food safety and families' living conditions</p>	<p>4.12.1. Promote and support sustainable vegetable production and income generating food initiatives (sesame, potatoes, beans, corn, etc.)</p>	<p>- No. of supported women (beneficiaries) that practice and diversify their vegetables through intensive production Baseline = 4,500 Target: 6,200</p> <p>- Income increase in USD Baseline = USD 1,983 Target: USD 2,005</p> <p>- No of sustainable income generating food crops Baseline = 5 Target: 10</p>		<p>- SGP Database, project reports -Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories</p>
		<p>4.13.2. Promote short-cycle livestock farming (goats, pigs, chickens, etc.) – semi-intensive production.</p>	<p>- No. of communities with awareness of and practicing semi-intensive production of short-cycle livestock farming, with stabling units Baseline = 10 Target: 25</p> <p>- No. of beneficiaries of projects supporting short-cycle livestock farming Baseline = 50 Target: 150</p>		
<p>SGP OP6 Component 5: Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+)</p>					
<p>SGP OP6 Output 5: Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+) to supply and provide access to information</p>	<p>Immediate objective no. 14: Promote synergies between partners in the South-South network and cooperation</p>	<p>5.14.1. Promote cooperation with its counterparts and other partners in the South-South cooperation</p>	<p>- No. of lessons learned and disseminated best practices in the Connect database and in the GEF, CSO Network Baseline = 0 Target: 3</p>	<p>Minimum of 1 project</p>	<p>- SGP Global Database - Annual Monitoring Report - Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

5. Monitoring and evaluation plan

SGP Guinea-Bissau will be responsible for coordinating all projects and activities under the CPS and will monitor their implementation through regular reporting by grantees and monitoring visits. Each grantee will supervise its work plan, performance, and will report, quarterly, their progress and difficulties during project coordination meetings or during monitoring visits. Regular reports will be routinely analysed and consolidated by the National Coordinator in preparation for the annual reports and project revisions.

Minimum guidelines to be applied in the monitoring process of financed projects are as follows:

- *Monitoring visits:* Each project will receive a monitoring visit at least twice, before and after the project implementation, in order to assess its implementation capacity, and NSC members with relevant technical experience should conduct the project evaluation;
- *Progress reports:* The grantee organizations must submit quarterly progress reports as well as the financial report to the NC. The presentation of an estimate of required resources is needed for the disbursement of a new tranche;
- *Final project evaluation report:* Grantee organizations must present a final report, with a summary of the achieved results and lessons learned, including the final financial report;

This strategy will be revised every year during a meeting between the National Coordinator and the members of the National Steering Committee (NSC). Changes will be made when needed to ensure the improvement of the implementation process.

Table 4. Monitoring and Evaluation Project Plan

Monitoring					
No.	Monitoring and evaluation	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
1.1	Pre-project evaluation and site analysis	Evaluation of baseline conditions and NGO capacity	NC, NGO, grantee	SGP operating costs	At planning phase of the project and before its approval by the NSC
1.2	Baseline data collection	Description of the landscape socio-ecologic characteristics	Grantee, NC	Grantee co-financing	During the project proposal preparation
1.3	Elaboration of operational work plan with indicators	Involve grantees in the project planning and implementation	Grantee	Grantee co-financing	Prior to the reimbursement requests
1.4.	Project progress and financial reports at each reimbursement request	Monitor performance indicators of landscape and financial management	Grantee, NC, PA	Covered under grant and co-financing	At each reimbursement request
1.5	Project implementation support mission and/or quarterly monitoring and evaluation meetings of stakeholders	Monitor performance indicators of landscape and grantee financial and project management capabilities	NC, NSC	SGP operating costs	As needed, but at least twice a year at the time of the 2nd and before the end of the last reimbursement
1.6.	Project participatory monitoring by other grantees	Learn with best practices and correct emerging errors	Grantees	Covered under grant	During the project implementation phase
1.7	Project evaluation visit	Evaluate project performance and review landscape	NC, NSC	Variable	At the end of the project

		management approach.			
1.8	Final project report	External overview of project performance	External consultant/grantee	Covered under grant	After conclusion of project activities
1.9	Project study cases	Selection of best practices and preparation of study cases for dissemination	NC, NSC, External consultant	Variable	After conclusion of project activities

5.1. Evaluation Results and Indicators

Each project has its own progress indicators to measure progress and expected results, leading to the project evaluation.

The National Coordination Team will conduct regular visits to each project during their implementation phase. These visits should start at the pre-selection phase, at the beginning of the project and on a continuous basis until the project's conclusion. In the case of ongoing projects, visits' frequency shall be biannual during the project duration, with the participation of the GEF-SGP team and the members of the National Steering Committee. In subsequent phases, visits will be conducted according to the needs, complexity and requirements for each project.

Each organization (NGO, associations) that executes the project has the responsibility to prepare and send to the program's National Coordinator the quarterly progress reports, technical and financial reports, and to carry out participatory annual evaluations, taking into consideration the obligations undertaken at their implementation strategy.

The National Coordinator (or National Coordination Team) analyses those reports and the visits to the project implementation sites, in order to identify and recommend adjustment measures, as deemed necessary. A performance evaluation and systemization of experiences from all projects will be conducted annually and a report will be produced and disseminated to the stakeholders and key people involved in the Guinea-Bissau environmental and natural resources management. The National Coordinator (or National Coordination Team) must always work in the continuous update of templates for proposal presentations, progress reports and project participative evaluations, to ensure that they are used to obtain necessary information and to place results in documents that show the impacts at the national level (see table 4 - M&E Plan).

The SGP OP6 is based upon a strategy that guides its application during this 6th phase. The Annual Work Plan (AWP) must be produced annually to ensure strategy compliance. The AWP must be developed by the National Coordination Team and shared at the beginning of each year with the stakeholders. The plan must detail the activities to be carried out, responsible parties and proposed results.

The AWP must be checked weekly and monthly and evaluated at the end of each year by the SGP team. These evaluations may be used to identify the necessary adjustments to ensure strategy compliance. The NSC must be actively involved at different stages of monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing projects as well as on the programme to be implemented. At least 2 annual meetings should take place to monitor the strategy progress and the main decisions regarding the programme execution.

Annually, a country progress report is sent to the global coordination to provide a general outlook of the programme and a summary of the CPS implementation measures. The SGP team must have its own work plan that defines the strategies established by the AWP.

Table 5. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Part of the learning and adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under the SGP operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs
NSC meetings	For ongoing review of project results and analysis, and approval of projects according to CPS	NC, NSC, and UNDP	Covered under the SGP operating costs	Minimum twice per year
Annual Country Report	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under the SGP operating costs	Once per year
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donors	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under the SGP operating costs	Once per year
Performance Results Evaluation (PRE) of NC and PA	Evaluation of NC and PA performance	NC, NSC, UNDP and CPMT	Covered under the SGP operating costs	Once per year
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Part of the learning and adaptive management strategy	NSC	Covered under the SGP operating costs	Once per operational phase

6. Additional Resources Mobilization Plan

GEF CORE funds will be the main source of financing during the OP6.

The resource mobilization strategy must start with briefing sessions for local authorities and central government about the importance of SGP OP6 funding and the ecosystem/landscape protection by national institutions.

The dissemination of information will take place at the State Secretariat for Environment (and other governmental agencies that work in the same area), embassies, European Union, World Bank, among other potential donors, and will concentrate on areas of activities that are specifically shared among them. This dissemination must count on the support of these international institutions based in the country (FAO, IUCN, SWISSAID, UNDP, etc.) and of international NGOs.

The GEF SGP will also provide incentives for the development of joint projects with NGOs, the government and the private sector, as well as community based associations to ensure cost sharing.

Part of the funding will be provided by the organizations and by the beneficiary communities as co-financing. These contributions may be financial or material, including local labour. Total community grantee contributions

should represent 50% of the project's total cost. It is recommended that they combine with the income generating activities or savings that ensure sustainability/autonomy prior to the end of the requested funding.

7. Risk Management Plan

The political-institutional instability, followed by a weak project funding mobilization capacity, as well as a weak implementation capacity, is a considerable risk for the implementation of any development action in Guinea-Bissau. As a result of the institutional instability, devastation of the vegetation cover occurs, modifying the landscape and also destroying important ecosystems for the fauna and flora. Selective cutting of forest species also occurs. The communities' educational level is low, resulting in the lack of capacity to produce quality projects to be submitted to the SGP, thus creating a void in terms of priority areas receiving grants. The communities' poverty level may constitute an obstacle to the submission of projects in the priority areas, taking into account the compulsory co-financing requirement.

Table 6. Description of risks identified in OP6

Describe the identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Political instability, including military intervention in the democratic process	High	High	An early warning and political dialogue mechanism under UNIOGBIS mandate
Inadequate resource financing and mobilization and low national capacity for project implementation	High	Medium	A resource and work mobilization strategy with partners to strengthen the implementation of the national programme and the monitoring and evaluation capacity
Presentation of a low number of projects due to the lack capacity of project elaboration by the beneficiaries	Medium	Medium	Adequate training on project elaboration and management
Poverty may constitute an obstacle to the submission of projects by the communities in the priority areas	High	High	Better project co-financing accounting presented by the communities in the priority areas

Risk tracking and risk review, including probability and degree of risk and appropriate mitigation measures adjustment, should occur during CPS annual meetings.

8. National Steering Committee Endorsement

Table 7. Signature of endorsement

No.	NSC members involved in CPS OP6 development, review and endorsement	Signatures
1	Dauda Sau	
2	Raimundo Lopes	
3	Farmata Coté	
4	Mauricio Insumbo	

5	Alexandrina Rafael Marino Mané	
6	Gueri Gomes Lopes	
7	Miguel de Barros	
8	Jamel Handem	
9	Lázaro Barbosa	
10	José Filipe Fonseca	

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- Plano de Gestão do Parque Nacional de Orango (PNO) – IBAP: Junho 2008;
- Plano de Gestão do Parque Natural das Lagoas de Cufada (PNLC); IBAP: Junho 2008:
- Identificação das futuras Zonas de Conservação das Áreas Protegidas Transfronteiriças da Guinéa-Bissau, AGIR; Dezembro de 2004;
- Plano de Gestão do Parque Natural dos Tarrafes do Rio Cacheu (PNTC); IBAP 2008;
- Plano de Gestão da Reserva de Biosfera do Arquipélago de Bolama- Bijagós; IBAP;
- Estratégia Nacional para as Áreas Protegidas e a Conservação da Biodiversidade na Guinéa-Bissau 2007 – 2011; IBAP 2007

ANNEXES

Annex 1:

GEF SGP Baseline Assessment of Landscapes for OP6 in Guinea-Bissau



Country:

Investment resources:

Guinea-Bissau

- GEF Core Fund USD 400.000
- OP5 remaining balance: USD 49.000

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• LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AD – Aid to development NGO (Ajuda ao Desenvolvimento)
APALCOF – Associação de Autopromoção de Luta Contra a Fome
BAS - Bissau Autonomous Sector
CIPA – Applied Fisheries Research Institute (Centro de Investigação Pesqueira Aplicada)
COAJQ – Agricultural Cooperative for Young Professionals (Cooperativa Agropecuária de Jovens Quadros)
CPS – Country Programme Strategy
CSO - Civil Society Organizations
DBT - Dulombi, Boe and Tchetché Complex (Complexo Dulombi, Boé e Tchetché);
DEA - Agricultural Statistics Directorate (Direcção de Estatística Agrícola);
DGA – Environment General Directorate (Direcção Geral do Ambiente)
DGF – Forest General Directorate (Direcção Geral das Florestas)
GDP - Gross Domestic Product
GEF - Global Environment Facility
GITT - Villages Area Integrated Management (Gestão Integrada dos Territórios das Tabancas)
IBAP - Biodiversity and Protected Areas Institute (Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Areas Protegidas)
IECA - Information, Education, Communication and Awareness
INEP - National Institute of Studies and Research (Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa)
INITA - National Institute of Applied Technology Research (Instituto Nacional de Investigação de Tecnologias Aplicada)
INM - National Weather Institute (Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia)
INPA - National Institute for Agricultural Research (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa Agrária)
IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature
KAFO – Farming Federation KAFO (Federação Camponesa KAFO)
LQAP- Protected Areas Framework Law (Lei-quadro das Areas Protegidas);
MDRA – Ministry of Regional and Agriculture Development (Ministério de Desenvolvimento Regional e Agrícola)
M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation
NANTINYAM - Guinean NGO
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization;
NSC - National Steering Committee;
OFEV - Federal Office for the Environment (Switzerland)
OP6 - Operational Phase 6;
PLAN INTERNATIONAL – Children’s development organization
PNC - Cantanhez National Park (Parque Nacional de Cantanhez)
PNLC – Lagoas de Cufada National Park (Parque Natural das Lagoas de Cufada)
PNMJVP – João Vieira/Poilão Marine National Park (Parque Nacional Marinho João Vieira/Poilão)
PNO - Orango National Park (Parque Nacional de Orango)
PNTC - Tarrafes de Rio Cacheu Natural Park (Parque Natural de Tarrafes do Rio Cacheu)
RBABB – Bolama-Bijagos Archipelago Biosphere Reserve (Reserva da Biosfera do Arquipélago Bolama-Bijagós)
SGP - Small Grants Programme
Swissaid - Swiss Foundation for Development Cooperation
TINIGUENA – Guinean NGO
TOR - Terms of Reference
TT - Technical Team
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
UNOPS - United Nations Office for Project Services
USD - American Dollar
WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

1. INTRODUCTION

Guinea-Bissau's phytography is very rich with a diverse vegetation cover, which is the preferred habitat for a varied fauna and flora. The use of these unique landscapes does not always respect the sustainability criteria, changing and degrading natural scenery.

The 36,125 km² country surface is covered with mangroves which represent 9% of the national territory and the second in extension in West Africa, due to the still existing sub-humid forest area, the continuity of rainforests of the Congo basin, the tree and shrub savannahs, open and dry forests, a riparian coverture of riverbanks of national importance, *wendos* (small freshwater ponds), lakes and the foothills of the Fouta Djallon. The Fouta Djallon could provide true paradises for nature lovers and contribute economically to the well-being of local populations, as a service of the different ecosystems that they conceal.

The anthropic activities in recent decades have had a major effect on these landscapes, namely the replacement of the vegetation cover by cashew plantations, and production systems based on itinerant cultures. An increase of population density has had effects on land and natural scenery, especially in marine and coastal areas. In the case of the island area it is starting to have an impact on property preferences, replacement of vegetation, and the destruction of natural and religious settings by tourist camps and by the hoarding of land by tour operators.

The exploration activities directed towards certain species of fauna and flora, especially towards flora, have been degrading even more landscapes of national interest, in addition to plundering the surrounding habitats, despite some conservation and protection of species conducted by the Guinean State, the creation of a national system of protected areas and the involvement of communities in the direct management of their resources.

In a country where the primary sector represents over 44% of GDP, one can easily understand the importance of natural resources in the livelihood of its population regarding the need of land for agricultural production, fuel (firewood), wood for construction works, hunting, exploration of non-wood forest products, subsistence fishing and commercial fishing, and the efforts these needs pose to the physical environment.

In a country where the effects of climate change are already being felt (desertification and deforestation), the attention given to the conservation of natural scenery is little, despite the critical state of subsistence needs, due to the increased population coming mainly from cross border migration and exploration habits of natural resources by these immigrants, who often do not comply with the conservation practices.

In addition, there are excesses in fishing activities (use of mangrove in fish processing) that contribute to the degradation of the landscapes of coastal and island areas. State conservation efforts are denigrated by the little effort made to increase human productivity and production systems, which could reduce the need for an increased amount of surfaces for production by limiting the itinerant crops and impacts due to the increase in population. Moreover, past policies encouraged the growth of cashew plantations, which replaced the natural cover. Currently, with cycles of institutional instability, there is a policy of exploration of forest wood and non-wood resources, without proper valorisation and with illegal exportation practices. The forest products exploration activities constitute a major bottleneck in the conservation of landscapes.

Increased participation of other state structures for the conservation of landscapes could contribute to the development of a national horizontal strategy concerning the sustainable management of vegetation cover, with

less tree cutting, a chain of values that provides jobs, more tax revenue and reinvestment in conservation of landscapes⁶.

If Guinea-Bissau, a country with a great tourism potential, wants to take economic advantage from its different natural settings, it should give particular attention to the conservation of existing natural and cultural landscapes, landscapes that could serve as a decoy for nature-based tourism, which the indigenous peoples can benefit from as guardians of these landscapes, thus stimulating the preservation of these sites.

The Small Grants Programme is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and administered by UNOPS, provides grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBO) to help countries addressing global challenges in the resolution of sustainable development of local needs. It is now entering its sixth operational phase (OP6), under the theme *landscapes*, which aims to support the creation of global environmental benefits and protection through community and local solutions that complement and add value to actions at national and global levels.

The theme *landscapes*, chosen for the SGP OP6, provide safeguard opportunities for landscapes' great visual effects on local communities, through grants for the conservation of major ecosystems in different geographic areas of the country.

The multifunctional OP6 strategic initiatives may be gateways to the resolution of many problems listed above regarding the awareness of the importance of conservation of landscapes as decoys for the development of local economic activities based on nature tourism, but also in the sustainable management of natural resources in local communities.

In this context, the preparation of this strategic plan required a baseline assessment, whose **goal** is to design a strategy for the implementation of the GEF SGP 6th Operational Phase (OP6) with *landscapes as its theme*, establishing priority and non-priority zones, taking into account the priorities set out in the terms of reference (TOR), but also the national situation regarding the diversity of landscapes.

⁶ Contribution by José F. Fonseca, member of the NSC

2. METHODOLOGY

The preparation of this Baseline Assessment results from the drafting process of the Guinea-Bissau OP6 Programme Strategy (2015-2018), considering the steps outlined below:

- I. Private meetings with key partners, both state and civil societies, for discussions and collection of contributions;
- II. Meeting with members of the National Steering Committee (NSC);
- III. First (1st) workshop with partners/stakeholders of State Organizations and Civil Society;
- IV. Development of research tools (quantitative survey and semi-structured script of interviews); visits to the island area (archipelago of Bijagos and Pecixe) and to the continental area (Boe), using the quantitative questionnaire and *djumbai* (informal discussion meetings with a group of persons, aimed at collecting different opinions on a certain subject, in a community, age or gender group);
- V. Coding, data input and correlations for statistical analysis;
- VI. Diagnosis and strategy development for the OP6;
- VII. Second (2nd) Workshop with partners/stakeholders of State Organizations and Civil Society to validate the strategy.

In the meeting with the SGP Coordination, concerning the CPS diagnosis and preparation, reports of the previous phases of the Programme and other documents that served as a reference for drafting the strategy were provided to the consultants. Moreover, the GEF SGP initiatives for OP6 and the NSC directives were announced. Among the provided directives, the previous selection of priority areas for the SGP funding, of which 70% were marine/coastal areas and 30% continental areas, was highlighted. Then, the collection of the key environmental laws was carried out.

The meetings with state actors and civil society aimed fundamentally at discussing how each partner intervenes in the conservation of natural resources and their perspectives in relation to the theme announced for the SGP OP6. A team of consultants composed by the National Institute of Studies and Research (**INEP**), National Institute of Agricultural Research (**INPA**) and National Weather Institute (**INM**) contacted the main conservation actors (state and civil society) to collect relevant data and information regarding their activities and prospects concerning the topic under study.

The contacts with the Steering Committee took place at a meeting with a low turnout, in order to answer consultants' questions about the OP6 SGP coverage area, and to hear members' opinions and suggestions for the formulation of the strategy. The meeting with the Steering Committee was preceded by the development of research tools, including a quantitative survey form and a guide of semi-structured interviews (*djumbai*), logistical arrangements for field missions and their execution.

As the local communities are the beneficiaries of the GEF SGP projects, the work with the civil society organizations was the central approach for the development of this diagnostic and Programme strategy. Thus, a workshop was held with the partners of state organizations and civil society who identified as stakeholders in nature conservation in the country and were invested in the different priority areas. The objective was to inquire and decide, through interactive dynamics, about conservation and thematic priorities for landscape conservation.

To this end, the participants (after the theme presentation) were divided into three (3) working groups, discussing the potential previously identified strategic components summarized into three (3) major components:

- **Component 1:** Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation;
- **Component 2:** Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology;
- **Component 3:** Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits;

The concerns reflected in the strategic component 1 have to do with the absence of a specific legislation for landscapes as natural resources (their importance is appreciated intuitively through existing legislation), which often neglect its human or cultural aspects. The consideration of the landscape aspect by appropriate legislation in a country where land management "is still under initial thought" is of utmost importance.

Regarding component 2, communities and decision-makers essentially lack information regarding landscapes, which results in a lack of participation of communities in decision-making or in defence of landscapes, given the absence of relevant information.

Component 3 deals with climate change and its effects on the destruction/preservation/maintenance of landscapes, based on rainfall/climate variability and its effects on different human pressures on the landscape resources, derived from human movements and the search for survival opportunities. There was still the need for two strategic components, namely:

Component 4, which refers to the relevance of promoting social inclusion (Grant-makers+) and

Component 5, which deals with the global reach for a citizen practice-based knowledge Programme (Grant-makers+);

A 2nd workshop involving all stakeholders (including the study proponents) was carried out to validate the national strategy, followed by the merging of different information, contributions and recommendations for the final report to be delivered to the National Coordination Team.

The final report will be disclosed to the identified communities, via radio and in the local languages of the identified sites. Local communities will be directly involved from the beginning of the process, identifying facilitators, opinion leaders, traditional and religious authorities, socio-professional associations, and women and youth, as valid interlocutors for defining the local strategy.

3. LANDSCAPE BASELINE ASSESSMENT IN GUINEA-BISSAU

3.1. Landscapes concept

The first task is to find landscape settings that frame our national situation, that initially define the configuration of the elements as they are presented spatially, and can be perceived by humans through the use of at least one of their five senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste). The landscapes that reveal and dominate the transformations performed by nature are called *natural landscapes*, and landscapes that show changes made by humans through exploration and use of natural resources are called *cultural* or *human* landscapes.

A better definition is given by OFEV⁷ that considers the landscape as covering whole areas as we perceive them and where we live, encompassing the environment inhabited by mankind that allows both the individual and society to satisfy their physical and psychological needs, as it is a resource with multiple functions. In other words, the landscapes are considered as places of dwelling, work, leisure and identification of human beings, living areas of animals and plants and are also spatial expressions of cultural heritage. That is, they are dynamic structures that constantly evolve from natural factors interacting with human use and management, and also represent an economic value.

Natural landscapes have a different *temporality* from that of the human landscapes. Whereas environmental dynamics usually occur according to a slower transformation speed, social and cultural dynamics quickly and radically change the areas.

3.2. The situation of landscapes in Guinea-Bissau

With increasing urbanization and mobility, new areas for housing are needed and areas are used haphazardly, without taking into account the aesthetic and functional values of existing landscapes, as in the case of wetlands in major urban areas of Guinea-Bissau.

Human livelihoods propel the continuous clearing of new land, destroying not only landscapes but also important ecosystems in terms of fauna and flora. Subsistence is associated with the replacement of natural forest area with cashew plantations due to the global demand for that product.

The anarchic exploration of forest resources has contributed to the impoverishment of the visual value of our vegetation formations, with consequences affecting the richness of our ecosystems and fauna.

The fact that planning is still "shy", and could be of great importance in protecting the landscapes, indicates a need for categorization of different natural environments and the legal protection of these areas, a land management practice only observed in protected areas (PA).

Climate change begins to have sensitive influences in the country, with the notable desertification in the East and deforestation in the Centre. These changes require a new vision in terms of climate modelling and production technologies associated with the theme, and thus there is a need to integrate landscape into mitigation and adaptation measures.

In terms of tourism, the "capital landscape" does not play its role as a decoy for nature lovers, despite its great potential, which would grant guardian communities benefits for the conservation of these landscapes with respect to ecotourism and nature tourism.

Notable experiences of landscape protection have included the active participation of young people in habitat restoration (i.e. mangroves) through volunteering efforts that promote reforestation, initiatives of civil society organizations (CSO), and the active role of the indigenous peoples, through their traditional management and

⁷ Office fédéral de l'environnement, Swiss Confederation

conservation initiatives for the creation of community forests and pilot experiences in the villages Area Integrated Management (GITT) in Bafata and Gabu Regions.

With respect to women, their involvement in the processing and marketing of non-wood forest products can serve as the basis for the conservation of those resources and thus for maintaining their visual characteristics.

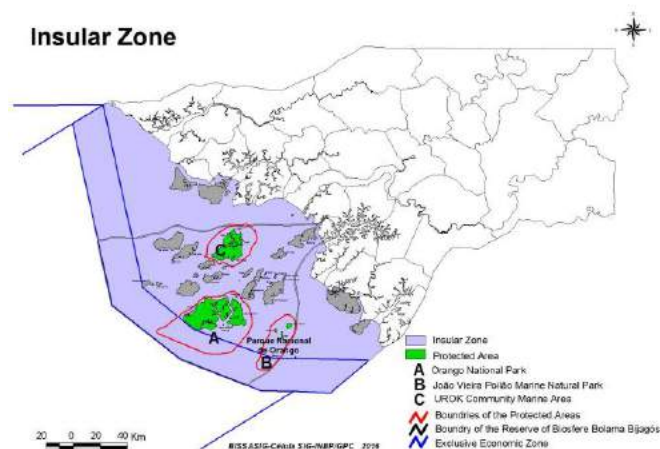
3.3. Existing landscape legal requirements

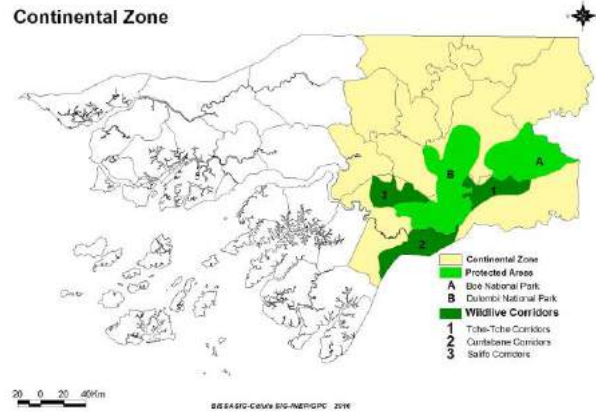
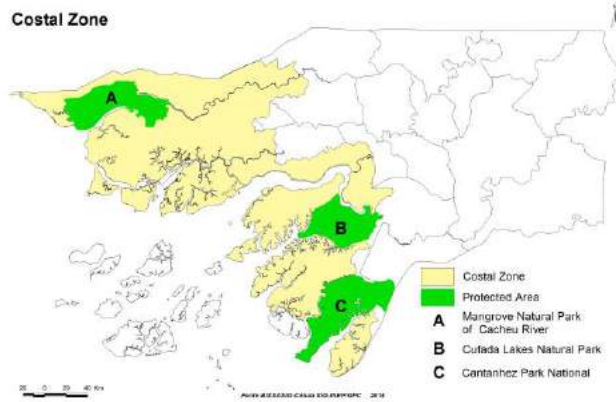
The Forestry law established by Decree-law No. 5/2011 of February 22, provides the reforestation and repopulation initiatives of degraded areas in terms of natural landscape recovery. The Land Law promulgated in 1998 stipulates that all land use must take into account the ecological value and ensure the soil protection and regeneration. The Environmental Assessment, Earth and Environmental Base laws require that all activities related to the use of natural resources likely to cause impacts on the environment- and consequently on the landscape- should be subject to these laws and guidelines; the Protected Areas Framework Law (LQAP) published in the Official Gazette No. 9 of 01/03/2009 regroups the creation, decommissioning and management rules of protected areas for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Guinea-Bissau.

4. BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IDENTIFIED AREAS

Given the specificities of the existing realities in the country, the country is usually divided into coastal areas, including the whole island area and covering not only the coast, but also all the areas subject to the tides, and the mainland.

Regarding the strategy drafting, the discussions held by the consultants resulted in the breakdown of the coastal area respectively into island and coastal areas for a better characterization of the two areas (taking into account the different natures of constraints of the island and coastal areas), and maintaining the terrestrial/continental area as a whole. Insularity has contributed to this breakdown, as it is a phenomenon that shows the physical influence of sea and marine phenomena as well as socio-economic influence of the islands and their inhabitants (see **maps 1, 2 and 3** below).





Maps 1, 2 and 3. The country breakdown in identified areas

4.1. Identification and description of the insular area

The Bolama/Bijagos archipelago constitutes a territorial political entity called Bolama/Bijagos Region, with a surface of more than 10,000 km², classified as a Biosphere Reserve in June 1996 with the following objectives:



Figure 1 – Bijagos Archipelago - Uracane Island
(Photo: Constantino Correia)

protection of biological diversity and ecological processes associated with traditional management of areas and resources of Bijagó culture; the improvement of living conditions of the population through a development model that prioritizes the rational and sustainable exploration of natural resources; an improvement in scientific knowledge of the region; proposition of alternatives for sustainable development; and implementation of an efficient management mechanism.

The archipelago is composed of nearly 90 islands, 21 of which are inhabited and 21 are temporarily used for agricultural activities. (See Figure 1)

The territory has an intertidal surface of 1,600 km² (sandy banks), a mangrove area of 350 km², and halo-hydromorphic and sandy-hydromorphic soils derived from marine alluvium, ferralsols and phaeozem soils, red to reddish yellow in their core, used for agriculture, and occupying an area of 10,000 km².



Figure 2. Mangrove ecosystem areas (photo: IBAP, 2014)

The climate of the Archipelago is sub-humid, heavily influenced by the winds, latitude and marine currents, receiving trade winds (land and sea winds) from the intertropical front of convergence that induces upwelling from December to March, with an average temperature of 26°C and a rainfall pattern that divides the year into two seasons: the rainy season from June to October with rainfall of around 1500 to 2000 mm/year and the dry season from November to May. The relative humidity varies between 70-85%.

The continental flora is represented by a vegetation formation composed of palm plantations (22% of the region's surface), sub-humid and semi-dry vegetation formations, shrubby and herbaceous savannah, and 42,480 hectares of mangroves (31% of the territory), represented by the genus *Rhizophoraceas* (*mangle*, *racemosa* and *Harisoni* species), *Avicinia africana*, *Languncularia racemosa* and *Conocarpus erectus* (see **Figure 2**).

Situated in a combination of continental estuaries where there is a mixture of fresh and marine waters during the rainy season, drifts and coastal currents from the South and North along the continent, that join into Guinea-



Bissau, coastal waves, and semidiurnal tides, this complex system benefits the archipelago with plankton and organic materials that contribute to a high biological productivity. This results in the presence of fish, molluscs and crustaceans with high commercial value, represented by 154 species, such as: *Dsyatidae*, *Mugilidae*, *Haemulidae*, *Garridae*, *Carngidae*, *Rhinobatidae*, *Clupidae*, *Ludjanidae*, *Sparidae*, *Serenidae*, *Scianidae* and *Sphyraenidae*, and the molluscs *Anadara senilis*, *Tagellus adansoni*, *Pugilina sp* and *Cymbium sp*.

Figure 3. Hippopotamus (photo: IBAP, 2014)

The fauna is characterized by a community of aquatic animals such as the hippo, five species of sea turtles, and two species of crocodiles and manatees, with a total of 18 species distributed among different habitats. The Bolama/Bijagos archipelago is an IBA (Important Bird Area) site for migratory birds, with more than one million birds annually.

The main economic activities at the Archipelago are artisanal fishing, subsistence agriculture based on the production of rice, groundnuts and beans, emerging sport fishing, and sun and sea tourism.

Three protected areas were created in the archipelago as a result of concerns after the establishment of the Bolama-Bijagos Archipelago Biosphere Reserve: **João Vieira/Poilão Marine National Park** (PNMJVP), **Orango National Park** (PNO) and the **UROK Community Marine Area**.

João Vieira/Poilão Marine National Park (PNMJVP), is located in the extreme Southeast Bolama/Bijagos Region and includes João Vieira, Meio, Cavalos and Poilão islands and respective marine areas, involving shallow areas down to the isobaths of 10 meters, with a surface area of about 49,500 hectares, of which about 95% is composed by the intertidal and shallow marine-aquatic areas. This marine-aquatic area is part of an extensive area of shallow waters surrounding the island shores and extends to the areas outside the park boundary, especially the Oliveira Musante and Gaivotas shallow areas. The intertidal areas still include extensive areas of sand banks, silt, and mangroves, with terrestrial vegetation characterized by dense and semi dense dry forests natural palm forests, savannahs and some clumps of sub-humid forest.

Regarding the administrative organization of the Bolama-Bijagos region, PNMJVP is included in the Bubaque sector. Under the RBABB zoning, PNMJVP is part of the integral protection zone and its establishment, as decreed by Decree-Law No. 6-A/20001 of August 2000, published in the Official Gazette No. 34 of August 24, 2000, concerning the conservation of biological heritage, a comprehensive knowledge of the important species that inhabit or seek it, the protection of breeding sites and the reproduction of species, especially sea turtles and waterfowl, the valorisation of the natural landscape and tourism, and the local traditional land management and planning systems.

PNMJVP is the second largest spawning area for sea turtles in the West African coast, and has been classified as a **"Gift to the Earth"** in 2001 in a public ceremony, as a Guinean government contribution and a commitment to the protection of biodiversity at the global level, and in which a WWF certificate of recognition was issued by its

managing Director⁸. Located in the southwest of the archipelago, the **Orango National Park (PNO)**, consists of numerous islands (including Orango Grande, Canogo, Menegue, Orangozinho and Imbone) and islets (Acapa-Imbone, Ancurum, Anabena, Amenopo, Canuopa, Anabaca, Adagar and Anhetibe) covering a total of 1,582.35 km², of which terrestrial areas occupies 576.9 km² and the aquatic areas just over 1,000 km² (including sand banks and sandy mud flats, becoming terrestrial areas between the high and low tides). PNO is the RBABB central area and, thus, has full protection.

The main objective of the PNO, being the RBABB central area and having international importance, is the biodiversity maintenance and conservation, specifically of the species and ecosystems that it contains, as well as the fundamental ecological processes inherent to them, within the park boundaries. It should create conditions so that its threatened species have their critical conservation areas preserved, and can reproduce in order to create stable and sustainable populations that can even populate the surrounding areas. (**Figure 4**).

According to the Decree-Law No. 11/2000 published in the Official Gazette No. 49 of 12/04/2000, the specific objectives of PNO are: preservation, conservation and defense of the unchanged ecosystems of the Orango archipelago, the safeguard of endangered animal and plant species and of their habitats, the conservation and recovery of the migratory fauna habitats, the promotion of correct land use and of its natural resources in order to ensure the continuity of the evolutionary processes, the defense and promotion of the activities and of the traditional ways of life of resident populations not detrimental to the ecologic patrimony, and the promotion of the economic development and the well-being of the resident communities so that the natural and cultural values are preserved.



Figure 4: Colony of Flamingos in the sandbar (photo: IBAP, 2014)

The vegetal cover is dominated by mangroves (173.5 km²), with *Rhizophora racemosa*, *Avicennia nitida*, *Laguncularia racemosa* and *Conocarpus erectus*, arboreous and shrubby savannahs, dry, dense and open forests, natural palm forests, and herbaceous savannahs.

Regarding biodiversity, in PNO thirty-one (31) families of amphibians, seventy-four (74) of reptiles, sixty-one (61) of fishes, fourteen (14) of mammals, fifty-six (56) of birds and thirty-four (34) of flora can be observed. PNO is one of the few places in the world where hippos live in marine environment.⁹ Administratively, PNO is part of Uno Administrative Sector, although Orangozinho is part of Bubaque Sector.

The **UROK Community Marine Area**, located North of Bijagos Archipelago, is composed of a group of islands and islets including Formosa, Nago and Chediã, covers a surface of 545 km² of which 147 km² is terrestrial area, 66 km² of mangroves, 203 km² of intertidal zones and 8 km² of deep canals. The importance and the conservation level of the coastal environment led to the classification of this territory as central zone of Biosphere Reserve zoning.

The coastal zone of the Urok islands is characterized by mangroves that occur on three islands, forming one of the largest natural mangrove areas. The zone is crossed by permanent canals that separate the three islands is occupied by the Quai, Ratum and Acoco islets, many of which are sacred, as well as by sand banks used by

⁸ Plano de Gestão do Parque Nacional Marinho de João Vieira e Poilão (PMJVP) - IBAP

⁹ Plano de Gestão do Parque Nacional de Orango (PNO) – IBAP: Junho 2008

migratory seabirds as resting places. This zone is designed locally by *barriga das ilhas* (island belly), a term that clearly indicates its central position among the islands and, simultaneously, its particular function for the reproduction of resources. The mangrove is equally well represented, almost continuously, along the edges of the three islands. The few coastal segments of the islands without mangroves are occupied by sandy beaches, namely on the western coasts of Chediã and Nago. Sea turtles, particularly the green turtle, occupy these beaches during spawning season.

The important landscape value of *barriga das ilhas* has to be considered in the Urok islands coastal management process. The outstanding beauty of the landscapes include mangroves, palm forests and forests on the edges of canals where dolphins swim, sand banks covered with waders and herons, and eagles perched on high branches of red mangroves, waiting for their prey. The beauty of the site is, in a way, the result of the balance between the environment and of those who explore it, a harmonious relationship that needs to be preserved.

In addition to the mangroves on the shores of Urok islands, there are great tidal sandbanks that are sandy sediment, or mudflat, formations, with rock outcrops and mangroves or large trees covering some islets, as they are located in tidal areas fed by the estuary of the Geba-Corubal River.

Accessibility of the resources of the tidal sandbanks depends directly on tides, and during the low tide the sandbanks are exposed, allowing for the exploration of existing resources such as *Anadara senilis*, *Tagellus adansonii*, *Pugilina morio* and *Cymbium spp.*, which are collected by women who contribute to food and nutritional subsistence of local communities, replacing the local basic diet of rice during lean periods.

The interior of the Urok islands is characterized by a diversity of natural resources in various landscapes, such as palm forests, herbaceous and shrubby savannahs and small forests. The inner vegetation cover was highly affected by cashew tree plantations, with the destruction of large-sized species and palm trees, impacting the fallow system, as cashew trees would be planted immediately after the rice itinerant crop.

Regarding marine resources, about sixty species of fish were identified and observed regularly in the coastal waters of the Urok islands, including species associated with mangroves, such as tilapias (*Tilapia sp.*), demersal species, such as catfish (*Arius sp.*), snapper (*Lutjanus sp.*) and red porgy (*Pagrus sp.*), or even the coastal pelagic species such as mullet (*Mugil spp.*), *Ethamalosa sp.* or barracuda (*Sphyraena spp.*) that enter the river channels in order to reproduce.¹⁰

The **insular part** of the Tombali Region is composed of seven islands (Como, Caiar, Melo, Cametungo, Cartungo, Canifaque and Uedequeia), all of them of small dimensions compared to the Bijagos Archipelago. The islands are covered with mangroves, with some arboreous and shrubby savannahs, are characterized by rice production on salt water *bolanhas* (swampy and fertile land), extensively used for bovine cattle breeding, and fishing as the main economic activity of the residents, as well as of expatriate communities from the sub-region.

There are a few studies about the biodiversity in these areas, as well as few data relating to the economy. It is known that the inhabitants have problems with drinking water and the mangrove rice production system produces surpluses commercialized in the region and in Republic of Guinea.

The fishing camps established during previous decades had several impacts. In addition to the considerable repercussions on the fauna, they had a significant influence in the destruction of the mangrove (used in fish smoking and even for mangrove wood commercial purposes), they inadvertently fostered illegal fishing, which lead to a notable increase in the impacts of tides on the production infrastructures (breaking of dykes), and in the decrease of fish captures. While there has been an improvement due to the cessation of fishing camps, the mangroves on these islands need to be rehabilitated.

¹⁰ Management Plan for the Coastal Zone of the Urok Islands (Formosa, Nago & Chediã) 2004-2008, TINIGUENA

Pecixe and Jeta islands have a joint surface of 195 km² (125 km² and 70 km², respectively) and present a low insularity rate when compared to the RBABB islands. They are part of the coastal plains, with the terrestrial part almost flat, without expressive reliefs, mainly along the big rivers (Geba and Mansoa), and are characterized by the successive sandy cords, which include 2-5 meter sand dunes. The weather is dry and humid, with precipitation varying from 1,000 to 1,500 mm/year, and 40% to 70% humidity (**Figure 5**).

Hydrologically, the remarkable characteristics of these islands are the surrounding large river channels that extend from the coast to the inner parts of the islands, forming very complex meanderings surrounded by mangroves, and are identified as a nursery, growth and shelter area for the shrimp and other marine species.



Figure 5. Pecixe's sand dunes (Photo: Simão Gomes)

The wild fauna is limited, and the bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) is the dominant species. It is rare in the islands but it is found in its natural habitats such as palm forests, savannahs and mangroves. Mongooses (*Herpestes paludinosus*) and otters (*Aonyx capensis*), which feed on fish and crustaceans, are easily found on the coast and in the mangroves.

Regarding vegetation cover, the mangrove is dominant and includes the following species: *Rhizophoras mangle*, *Rhizophoras racemosa*, *Avicennia Africana* and *Laguncularia racemosa*. In the terrestrial areas, the palm is prominent but it is highly under explored with regards to the collection of its products. Other vegetation types include semi-dry and dry forests, herbaceous and shrubby savannahs, which are declining due to their replacement by cashew trees, the main produced resource of the islands and an important component in food safety for the islands' communities.

The most sighted species are neocarya (*Neocarya macrohylla*), velvet tamarind (*Dialium guineense*), African mesquite (*Prosopis africana*), bush banana (*Uvaria chamae*), sweet detar (*Detarium senegalensis*), kapok tree (*Ceiba pentandra*), adansonia (*Adansonia digitata*) and many others¹¹.

4.1.1. The prevailing production and culture system in the island zone

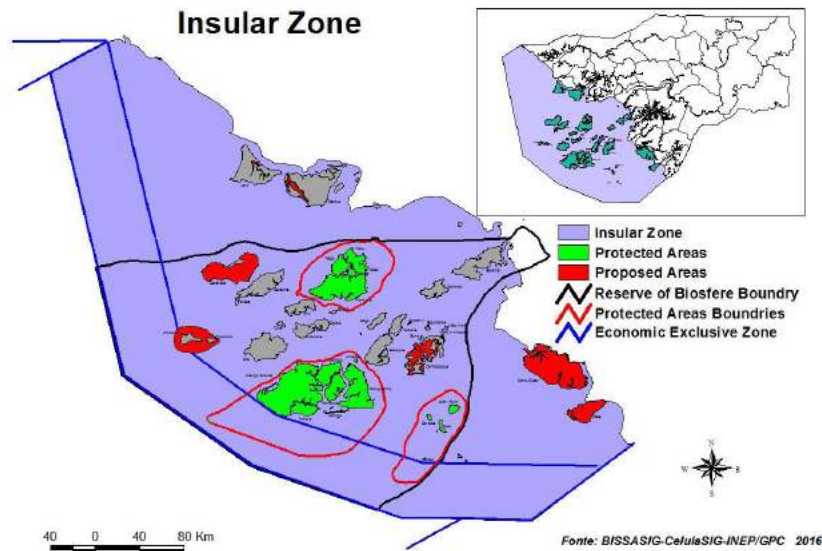
In general, little research was made regarding productive systems, particularly the Guinea-Bissau island zone productive systems.

The plateau rice cultivation constitutes the dominant system with a surface of 3,199 hectares, marked by a fallow period of 5 to 10 years, according to the land availability (DEA 1994). The bas-fonds rice cultivation (rice production on inland-valleys soils) takes an area of 1,314 hectares, subsisting despite water management problems and damages caused by wild and domestic animals, in the latter case related to the free stabling system during crop periods.

The mangrove rice cultivation in the insular zone is decreasing compared to cultivation in the plateau, due to the lack of technical knowledge, cultivation practices and good quality seeds capable of withstanding climatic changes and damage of basic infrastructure (dykes and others), caused by the pressure of the tides as a result of mangrove cutting downstream. There aren't independent statistics concerning the insular zone areas or production, whereas estimates are done regionally in the case of the islands of the Tombali Region.

¹¹ Proposed Management Plan for Jeta and Pecixe in the islands proposition frame as Community Protected, SWISSAID, Julho 2009

With respect to horticulture, civil society organizations (CSO) sporadically help women in the vegetable production, but insularity makes it very difficult and the costs are high when compared to other areas in the country.



Map 4. Guinea-Bissau insular zone map

Concerning leguminous plants, the main cultures are beans and peanuts, with a trend for the degeneration of these culture's germplasms, while secondary grains are almost non-existing in crop systems with minimal production of roots and tubers.

The animal system, in turn, is characterized by free stabling, mostly bovines. The production systems, sanitary systems, hygiene and animal feed are not widely known. The knowledge of the zootechnical characteristics of each animal is minimal, which is a main cause of mortality in the different study locations, and poses as an obstacle to the sustainable livestock development, mainly for short-cycle animals in the insular zone. In certain islands (Uno, Caravela, and Bubaque) an exotic bovine race resides, different from the traditional *Ndama* race.

The synergies between agriculture and animal husbandry are very weak, existing only in the use of animal sub products (cow and goat manure) as crop fertilizers.

4.2. The coastal zone – Cacheu, Biombo, Quinara and Tombali Regions

Guinea-Bissau's coastal area is very rich regarding biological and plant resources, and both terrestrial and aquatic landscapes. It has an area of 18,000 km², a shallow and extensive continental shelf with 53,000 km², known as one of the most important places for the reproduction of fish species in West Africa, supported in part by the upwelling phenomenon that comes loaded with many nutrients that feed marine life.

The coastal area of Guinea-Bissau has increasing precipitation from the North to the South, with values ranging from 1,000-1,500mm/year in the North to 1,500-2,000 mm/year in the South. This geographic increase is due to the pattern of hot and humid trade winds that blow from the south to the north, dragging a relative humidity of 75%-90%, thus favouring an increase in rainfall in the southern part of the coastal zone. The temperatures in this area range between 19.8°C and 34.2°C, with an annual average of 27°C.

The coastal area is home to nearly 80% of the population, as well as to the major population centres. It is characterized by a large area of mangroves occurring along the coastal and estuarine zones, and mangroves can be seen over a hundred kilometres inland, in all areas covered by the tides. The root systems of these forest species are very dense and allow fixation of sediments, thus limiting coastal erosion and providing shelter to small

organisms, playing a particularly important role in the recovery of marine resources (laying, growth, food, shelter and rest areas).



The prevalent vegetation in the coastal area are mangroves which occupy approximately 10% of the coast, associated mainly to low areas. In the low plateaus up to 20 meters high, there are palm trees and gallery forests (7.1%) and coastal shrub savannahs (2.3%). In the higher plateaus, from 20 to 100 meters, there are dry and semi-dry forests (26.3%), and arboreal savannahs (19.2%), as well as a small portion of sub humid forests (5.1%) in the south, specifically in Cantanhez zone (MDRA/DGF, 2013).

Figure 6. Abusive timber harvest (MDRA/DGF, 2013)

Cacheu and Quinara regions are forestry areas, and cutting of certain species is done with no regard to forest regulations, both by the loggers holding timber harvest licenses and by the illegal loggers, endangering these and others species (see **Figure 6**). If we stratify the coastal area in its units, we can have a view of the situation in terms of biodiversity, but also regarding the ongoing conservation efforts.

The **Biombo Region**, due to its proximity to the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, is the metropolitan area of this administrative division of the country, where land occupation for housing and some industrial plants, and cashew plantations are responsible for the destruction of large areas of vegetation cover. While cashew plantations still remain the main source of destruction of these areas, even they are being cleared for the construction of housing and industrial facilities. This type of occupation is not only limited to the highlands, but also affects most of the wetlands adjacent to the city of Bissau, particularly in the Prabís and Safim Administrative Sectors, where rice producing *bolanhas* (rice fields) are used for the construction of various infrastructures, as well as in the neighbouring areas of Quinhamel Sector and the autonomous Bissau sector.

The Region's original vegetation were open forests, herbaceous and shrub savannahs, with mangroves surrounding channels of the Mansoa and Geba Rivers. There are scattered populations of trees such as *Ceiba pentandra*, *Parinari excelsa*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Adansonia digitata*, *Kaya senegalensis* and other large tree species, some serving cultural/religious functions, and others used as timber to build canoes.

Mangroves are subject to non-sustainable exploration, used as domestic and commercial fuel, even though they are capable of supporting large groups of residents, both for subsistence fishing and gathering of shellfish (by women) and for commercial artisanal fishing (by men). The main receiver of mangroves' related products, in addition to local consumption, is the city of Bissau.

There are no specific studies on the Region's biodiversity, nor were socio-economic studies published, which hampers an accurate diagnosis. In any case, observations made over the years¹² identify the vegetation cover as the one that suffers from the occupation of land, mainly in the humid areas, as highlands are scarce around Bissau, leading to a radical change of landscapes in the region.

However, there are no known protection areas except the sacred forests, and even these may disappear in case land occupation pressure extends and inhabitants are relocated. Anthropogenic pressures in the Region's mangroves led to coastal erosion and destruction of rice production infrastructures, and thus the Region's food safety depends on the marketing of cashew nuts, of which it is the third national producer.

Cantanhez National Park (PNC) coincides geographically with the Bedanda Sector of Tombali Region, also covering portions of the Quebo and Cacine Sectors, and occupies an area of 1,067.67 km², and borders the Cacine lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Balana River to the north and the Cumbijã River to the west.

¹² Personal communication by Daniel Rodrigues, Agronomist, Agricultural and Environmental Researcher

PNC's territory consists of a series of land cords with an altitude of less than 50 meters, cut by brackish estuaries, with an important vegetation cover consisting of dense and humid forests, degraded secondary forests, an extensive mangrove coverage, and shrubby and herbaceous savannahs, in addition to a vast traditional palm grove.

Its institutionalization as a conservation unit is due to the famous Cantanhez forests, rainforest units further to the west and the continuity of the Congo forests, an area rich in animal and plant diversity, which became a national park as a way of safeguarding the aforementioned biodiversity (see Figure 7).

PNC is rich in terms of animal biodiversity, including several species of monkeys, chimpanzees and other primates, Cape and forest buffalo, different kinds of gazelles, leopards, and hippos and manatees in the brackish



basins. There are two species of crocodiles, iguanas and a great range of snakes from the Squamata order. The waters bordering the PNC are extremely rich in biomass, resulting in a large number of fishermen and artisanal fishing camps. Cantanhez is the last area in the country where there are still dense sub-humid forests, is part of a set that covers the Republic of Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and is characterized by a vertical stratification, in which exists large species such as *Ceiba pentendra*, *Parinaria excelsa*, *Sterculia africana*, *Syzigium guineense*, *Guibourtia copalifera*, *Alstonia congensis* and others, there are species such as *Hunteria elliotii*, *Strombosia pustulata*, *Xylopis aethiopica* and different types of lianas.

Figure 7. Forest of Cantanhez (photo: C. Correia)

PNC is one of the nine most important natural sites in the world in terms of biological diversity, according to the classification of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) under the name "Basin Cacine River and Cumbijã", which are Cantanhez natural borders.

Lagoas de Cufada National Park (PNLC) is located between the *Grande Buba River* (to the South) and *Corubal River* (to the North) of Guinea-Bissau, is the largest freshwater reserve in Guinea-Bissau and consists of the Biorna, Bedassa and Cufada Ponds, that is, permanent ponds among which Cufada was classified as a RAMSAR site due to existence of Palearctic and African-tropical birds with regional and international importance. Two hundred and twenty-three (203) species of birds have been identified in the park and it covers a surface of 890 km².



Figure 8: Bird Colonies

The PNLC is the final station of the migration routes of many species of boreal birds and permanent refuge for resident bird species. This stems from the fact that the ponds are the only permanent freshwater bodies in the coastal region of West Africa. Its wealth in birdlife includes populations of white pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) coming from Mauritania and Senegal, a large number of African goslings (*Nettapus auritus*), and some birds that are part of the IUCN Red List whose status is that of almost threatened, such as the black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*), and the black-casqued hornbill

(*Ceratogymna can*). Other species of interest include stinger duck (*Plectopecterus gambensis*), pink flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), and egret (*Butorides striatus*) (see **Figure 8**).

PNLC is also characterized by the extraordinary landscapes of lakes and a significant wealth in macro fauna of mammals of great interest, including some ungulates as Roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*), Waterbuck (*Kobus defessa*), buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*), manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), leopards, hyenas, 7 to 8 species of primates including the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), with a total of 54 species of mammals present in almost every area of the Park. There is also the Dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*), as part of the 11 species of the Squamata order. Some of PNLC areas are recognized as macrofauna corridors (See **Figure 9**).



The following abundant vegetation species stand out: *African Afzelia*, *Albizia rusty*, *Kaya senegalensis*, *Ceiba pentandra*, *Borassus aethiopicum*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Parkia biglobosa* and *Daniella olivieri*, among the 615 identified vascular plants. Also, 577 angiosperms and 8 pteridophytes were identified, demonstrating the biological diversity of the park in terms of species¹³.

Figure 9. Lake of Cufada (Photo: C. Correia)

Tarrafes do Rio Cacheu Natural Park (PNTC) is considered the 5th largest park with a continuous mangrove ecosystem in Africa. Its creation is essentially based on the protection of that continuous area and in promoting the sustainable use of natural resources throughout the territory including the maintenance of fishing productivity, protection of the coast against the processes of marine erosion, protection of rare fauna species, such as the sitatonga (*Tragelaphus spekei*) and conservation of palm forests, shrubby savannahs, turtle spawning areas and beaches with great tourism potential. The area of the park is 80,000 ha.

As part of the coastal plain, the PNTC area does not present a significant relief: the surface of the terrestrial part is almost flat, monotonous or presenting slight and little expressive undulations, especially at the edges of Cacheu river, characterized by the accumulation of marine deposits and by the successive sand banks including dunes, especially in the three islands that make up the northern part of the park (Elia, Djobel and Arrame). In general, the elevations reach a few meters, and the maximum is about 5 meters above sea level.



Figure 10: Coastal zone landscape

With a predominance of highlands and lowlands, i.e. areas under the influence of rivers, these two distinct landscapes have huge expanses of mangrove ecosystems (68% of the 80,000 hectares of the Park total area), mainly *Rhizophoras mangle*, *Rhizophoras racemosa*, *Avicennia africana* and *Laguncularia racemosa*, bordering the great estuary of the Cacheu River, and important stands of palm trees (13% of surface area).

In the area, there are various vegetation types such as dry and semi-dry forests, herbaceous (*lalas*) and shrubby savannahs. The dominant species in PNTC North Zone are *Neocarya macrohylla*, *Dialium guineense*, *Prosopis africana*, *Uvaria chamae* and *Ditarium senegalensis*, in addition to the extensive cashew plantations (*Anacardium occidentale*) resulting from the destruction of the natural vegetation cover, and fauna habitats. In the PNTC South Zone one can find *Prosopis africana*, *Daniella oliveri*, *Borassous*

¹³ Management Plan for Lagoas de Cufada National Park (PNLC), IBAP, Junho 2008

aethiopicum, Parkia biglobosa, Kaya senegalensis, Raphia exica, Saba senegalensis, Oxytenanthera abyssinica and *Borassous aethiopicum*.

Wildlife is very diverse. The bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*), predominantly nocturnal, inhabits the palm forest, savannah and mangrove areas and is rare in the Park. Nevertheless, its significant presence is still marked by residents and nature guards in the Cobia area and the S. Domingos Sector¹⁴.

4.2.1. Current production and crop system in the coastal zone

Cacheu, Biombo, Quinara and the Tombali Regions constitute the coastal zone. Production systems in this area are very diverse and the production factors such as capital and agricultural inputs are still very poorly managed and the intensification of production systems is based on the land and labour. Lands are currently available, but their management is problematic.

The lack of sufficient labour is a result of the significant flow of youth towards urban centres looking for education and a better quality of life, which has led to an aging population and has had negative effects on labour productivity (exodus of young labour to the construction of mangrove rice production infrastructure) and on bas-fonds management (see **Figure 11**).

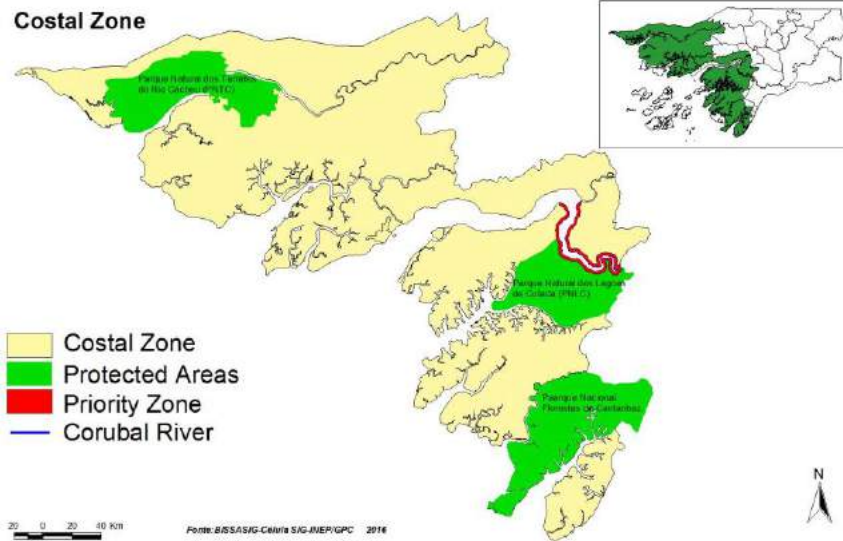
There is an increase of abandoned agricultural land (mangrove and bas-fonds) due to the lack of skilled labour and the shift to plateau rice production, with adverse effects on the conservation of natural resources and landscapes. There is also a mixed system of production based on rice cultivation on the mangroves and plateau, practiced by some ethnic groups, which, in some cases, is associated with fruit farming.



Figure 11: Bas-fonds *Bolanha*

In the early 1990s, the civil society organizations (CSO) introduced horticultural production activities in order to allow women a more visible contribution to the family economy. Horticultural activities are practiced by women and have several associated problems such as land irrigation, protection, product conservation and processing, and serious problems regarding unit management production, in an activity of utmost importance for food and nutritional safety of the population and the fight against poverty.

¹⁴ Management Plan for Lagoas de Cufada National Park (PNLC), IBAP, Junho 2008



Map 5: Illustration of Guinea-Bissau coastal zone

The main additional economic activities of agricultural populations are small-scale fishing, beekeeping, palm oil production and exploration of natural palm forests. Native and non-native populations trade basic products during weekly markets organized to facilitate product exchanges.

The extraction of sea products, such as *Pugilina morio* and *Tagellus adansoni*, among others, is an income generating activity for women and guarantees family food safety.

The economy of the area is penalized by communication problems due to the lack of good road access and poor use of the waterways, which results in serious production losses of perishable products (banana, cassava and sweet potatoes), which play an important role in the improvement of households' living conditions, and in the increasing abandonment of production strategies (mango, banana, citrus).



Figure 12: Small-scale subsistence fishing

4.3. Terrestrial/continental zone - Bafata and Gabu Regions

The continental zone consists essentially of the Bafata and Gabu Regions, with a total area of 14,515 km², and a humid tropical climate. The average annual temperature is 32°C to 35°C. Rainfall is symmetrical, with low rainfall between 1,000-1,500mm/year. The relative humidity is between 40% and 70%.



Figure 13: Community forests - Djalicunda

The predominant vegetation types are savannahs, dry and open forests and gallery forests in the Boe sector. The dominant species in the terrestrial zone are: *Borassus aethiopum*, *Dichrostachys glomerata*, *Lophira alata*, *Parinari macrophylla*, *Smilax anceps*, *Sterculia tragacantha*, *Strophantus*, *Uvaria*, *Combretum* spp., *Adansonia digitata*, *Bombax buonopozense*, *Kaya senegalensis*, *Butyrospermum parkii*, *Terminalia macroptera*, *Sterculia setigera*, *Azelia africana*, *Erythrophloeum africanum*, *Daniellia oliveri*, *Parkia biglobosa*, *Faidherbia albida*, *Cordyla africana*, etc. and lianas of the genus *Landolphia*, *Strophantus*, *Cissus*, *Opilia*, *Entada*, etc. (see figure 13).

The herbaceous plants include: *Eragrostis tremula*, *Eragrostis squamata*, *Eragrostis Pilosa*, *Eragrostis Albida*, *Cténium canescens* *Cténium Newtonii*, *Aristida* spp, *Alysicarpus glumacens*, *Alysicarpus Vaginalis*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Heteropogon melanocarpus*, *Andropogon gayanus*, and *Penisetum setaceum*¹⁵.

Gallery forests grow along the riverbanks where evergreen species with leathery and glossy leaves dominate, namely: palm tree (*Elaeis guineense*) cabopa (*Mitrgyna stipulosa*), velvet tamarind (*Dialium guineense*), negro peach (*Sarcocephalus latifolius*), *Carapa procera*, *Pseudospondias microcarpa*, *Erythrophleum guineense*, *Funtumia africana*, etc.

The diverse habitats allow a variety of animal life in the area and species of great faunal and rare value such as *Cephalophus dorsalis*, *Ourebia ourebi*, *Mellivora capensis*, *Felis caracal*, *Felis serval*, *Lycaon pictus*, *Cercopithecus petaurista*, *Pan Troglodytes*, *Lepus saxatilis*, *Orycteropus afer*, *Syncerus caffer* and *Francolinus achantensis* are easily observed between Canjadude and Boe (Limoges *et al.* 1990).

This zone has a vast agro-pastoral area and has major freshwater water bodies, including the Geba and Corubal Rivers, and other small tributaries and also a large wetland surface potentially important for rice production and grazing.

4.3.1. The production system in the terrestrial zone



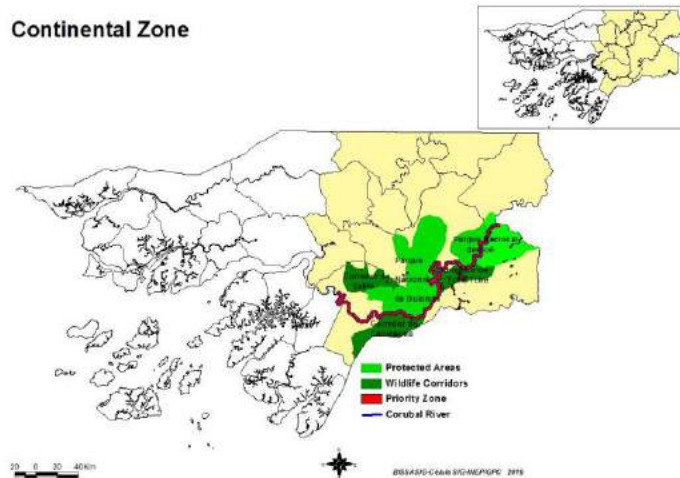
Figure 14: Bas-fond Bolanha (rice field)

Production systems in the terrestrial zone are characterized by agro-pastoralism, made possible by the presence of the highest concentration of cattle in the country (72%), which is an important factor for the introduction of large scale mechanization (animal traction), and has positive effects on productivity, also reducing hardship and working time.

Production systems are based on bas-fonds rice cultivation (see Figure 14), mostly practiced by women although plateau cultures (corn, fennel, peanuts, beans, cotton), as well as plateau rice crops are continental production systems, mainly in the Boe sector.

¹⁵ Identifying future Conservation Areas of Transboundary Protected Areas of Guinea-Bissau, AGIR; Dezembro de 2004

Continental Zone



Map 6: Terrestrial zone map

Horticultural crops grown by women play an important role in the fight against food and nutrition insecurity and poverty in rural areas.

The area has potential irrigable bas-fonds of over 25,000 hectares and has access to water resources from the Corubal and Geba rivers, as well as from some of their tributaries.

After the early 1970s, the area benefited from important development projects that improved the existing production systems. Presently, however, these production systems have become stagnant, that is, production techniques are rudimentary, there has been a reduction of mechanization, and there is an absence of quality germplasm in most cultures.

In addition, there is a weak rural structure, although certain peasant organizations were created in the early 1980s and comparative advantages available to the area regarding research-development projects were implemented nationwide.

4.4. Non-priority landscapes

In the OP6, some parts of the areas were not considered a priority, particularly those outside conservation areas, as well as some remarkable cultural landscapes and iconic symbols in the project intervention areas, even though they had a unique landscape, and historic and cultural characteristics (architectural landscape). These areas could be included in the SGP framework as an estimated 30% of the overall amount is allocated for the financing of non-priority areas.

In non-priority landscapes, priority funding should be given to the projects concerning the most remote communities and communities with difficult access, especially if they involve actions aimed at preserving the cultural heritage (sacred woods and sites), conserving plant formations (community forests), training in landscape management (natural resources) and conserving/restoring architectural heritage, and particularly if these characteristics can serve as a decoy for ecotourism, business and leisure tourism, or allow the implementation of income generating activities for the benefit of the communities.

4.5. Landscape resilience in Guinea-Bissau

The degradation of natural landscapes in Guinea-Bissau has to do with the people's ways of life, in particular the activities they undertake to meet their subsistence needs, construction of basic infrastructure, including housing,

and social and economic facilities (schools, hospitals, health centres, and public administration facilities), and the clearing of large natural surfaces and their conversion into food production areas.

The prevailing food subsistence production systems in the outlined areas are the main element of landscape degradation, in addition to the processing of fishery products, the use of firewood (cutting of mangroves, palm trees and other species) in the smoking processes.

The mangrove production system requires the cutting of different species, resulting in coastal erosion, lack of protection of production infrastructure, especially primary and secondary channels, and degradation of visual aspects due to discontinuous coverage. In addition, there is the reduction of breeding, growth and feeding habitats for different fish species, both from brackish and salty waters.

The bas-fonds production system, usually fed by wetlands - many of them with an important landscape value - experience a reduction in resilience due to upstream vegetation cutting, causing siltation as well as surface, fertility and productivity reduction, often leading to its disappearance. The main resiliency factor is the upstream replacement of vegetation or clearing limitations. Many communities are affected by the reduction in resilience of bas-fonds, but the materialization of the appropriate measures for the promotion of resilience, namely financial resources, still remains undetermined.

Regarding the resilience of mangroves, if the area is abandoned, it repopulates naturally or can be replanted successfully. Pilot experiments were conducted successfully in some areas of the coastal zone (Antotinha, Suzana, Campeane, Arame, etc.), especially when degradation is not complemented with an increase in salinization.

Once cleared, humid and semi-humid forests rarely reconstitute themselves, and there are known examples of reforestation of humid and semi-humid forests, given that regeneration with lower level species follows the clearing. Hence, the importance of taking into account the vulnerability of these species (which is why the Cantanhez forest areas received special treatment and the territory was institutionalized as a park (PNC)), and the concern to highlight its areas as conservation priorities.

Regarding other vegetation types, the expansion of cashew plantations is the main threat, as the natural landscape rapidly changes with the replacement of natural species. In this case, the landscape definitely changes to cultural landscape, considering the anthropic effect on natural resources. Special attention should be paid to plant formations on the edge of freshwater courses (riparian vegetation), a landscape with great visual impact located in areas with a large agricultural potential (Corubal, Fefine, Composa and Geba Rivers), where a noticeable coverage discontinuity exists in certain areas due to the clearing up to the river banks, with the loss, not only of biodiversity and habitat, but also of its landscape.

In coastal and inland areas subject to the clearing system, the replacement of species, as stipulated in the Forest Act, should be the main element of the resilience of species subject to exploration, and should be funded by the Forest Fund, with the involvement of civil society organizations (CSO) and community playing an important role in the resilience of the species in their action area. This already happens in pilot projects in the Oio, Bafata and Gabu Regions, through the establishment of community forests, but without official synergies with the official institution in charge of the forest area, since this institution authorizes cuts in the areas of community protection, which is counterproductive.

Lakes, ponds and *wendos* (small freshwater ponds) are heavily threatened by rain erosion due to the cut of species upstream that protect them from this natural phenomenon, which contributes to their silting, impacts on the water

quality and on their use by different (aquatic, bird and fish) species. Resilience requires the restocking of natural species, or the classification of the surrounding areas as water resource protection zones.

The animal biodiversity resilience is definitely linked to the conservation status of habitats/landscapes, as it is observed that, in well preserved areas, species proliferate and there is a return of species considered rare in the country or missing, due to the conservation and protection measures taken. As an example, the forest and Cape buffalos (*Sincerus caffer nanus* and *Sincerus caffer caffer*), today, have appreciable populations, beyond the gradual return of elephants and certain felines reported as missing in the country, a phenomenon that has not happened for twenty years. It is possible due to, not only the conservation measures of their habitats, but primarily because of the understanding of the importance of conservation and the resilience of habitats by the local communities.

Regarding marine resources, conservation measures are realized, especially through better regulation of artisanal fisheries, the establishment of marine area protection, and the dismantling of fishing camps mainly surrounding breeding zones, providing the latter area with opportunities for natural replantation of mangroves around old camps thereby restoring habitats and aesthetics. These measures play an important role in the resilience of marine resources, since in areas where the lack of fish is clearly felt, there begins to be a greater flow of goods and especially of species of commercial value to the satisfaction of the chain of values based on marine products.

Vast knowledge was acquired through the baseline studies for the institutionalization of protection units in the island area (except the Tombali Region islands) and coastal and terrestrial areas, through environmental, socio-economic and anthropological studies, which fostered understanding of the relationships of communities with their environment, traditional forms of conservation and use of resources, management mechanisms in line with traditional management of the areas, equity in the use of resources, and the contribution of communities in resource conservation.

The analysis of landscape resilience in Guinea-Bissau identified four (4) resilience indicators, including vegetation cover, animal and marine biodiversity, knowledge and innovation, and governance, to be applied in the evaluation of the study areas, ranking from 5 (very good) to 1 (bad) (**Table 1 below**).

5. Table 1. Resilience analysis of the Guinea-Bissau geographical areas

Nº	Zones where landscapes were identified	Resilience Indicators' Categories			
		Vegetation cover	Animal and marine biodiversity	Knowledge and innovations	Governance, equity and social inclusion
1	Insular landscapes	4	4	4	3.5
2	Coastal landscapes	3	3	4	3.5
3	Continental landscapes	2.5	3.5	3	2.5
Total (average)		3.16	3.50	3.66	3.16

Regarding the **vegetation cover**, it is not surprising that the continental zone shows a weak landscape resilience, as it is mainly a diversified agricultural area, with production on the plateau requiring the cutting of natural cover, often replaced by cashew plantations, a strong use of timber forest resources that, in the harvest and transportation process, requires the clearing and the decline of other species to provide access routes, and forest fires and siltation of wetlands as a result of deforestation. (See **Figure 15**).



In the coastal area, due to the presence of healthy mangroves, although there is replacement of natural cover by cashew trees in large areas, landscapes are considered stable due to conservation measures regarding some important resources (i.e. PNC and PNTC). As can be observed by the situation occurring in the Biombo Region, occupation of the areas endangers the natural vegetation, and the cashew plantations that replaced the natural vegetation are now being replaced by housing and economic infrastructures, due the lack of space in the Bissau autonomous sector (BAS), thereby forcing the occupation of wetlands in two territorial units in the country.

Figure 15. Itinerant agriculture

The insular zone, despite threats to traces of sub-humid vegetation in some islands (i.e. Canhabaque) and to the mangroves (Tombali islands), the landscapes are in good condition, mainly thanks to synergies between community inhabitants, the conservation authorities and the adopted management model. With regard to **animal and marine biodiversity**, the island area is resilient, particularly as the host ecosystems are in good shape (landscapes), and do not reach maximum scores because of the situation in the islands of the Tombali Region.



Figure 16. Siltation in Cufada Lagoons

In the coastal area, which houses more than half of the Guinean population, it is understandable that the use of animal and marine resources is greater, but awareness efforts by the government and civil society are yielding positive results, contributing to an institutionalization of three conservation units in the area (PNTC, PNC and PNLC). The

resilience score relates more to the character of the use of wood forest resources (harvest area) than to the maintenance of palm forests, savannahs and mangroves.

In the terrestrial zone, the resilience score refers mainly to the diversity of observed and existing animal species, some with protected status, considering that, as a cutting area, flora is subject to visual changes in occupancy areas by different species and the reforestation of the explored species has not taken place. Community initiatives for community forest conservation and pilot projects of the Villages area integrated management (GITT), the

latter with the objective of a rational and sustainable use of the villages' areas, contribute to the protection of landscapes.

Regarding **knowledge and innovation**, dozens of studies, surveys and investigations were conducted in the areas, focusing on the creation of protected areas and knowledge of traditional management systems, contributing to participative initiatives in the management of natural resources and, hence, of landscapes. The score of the coastal zone is an indicator of the generated level of knowledge. The innovation in the areas is the participatory management of resources (i.e. park management, areas and community forests committees).

In terms of **governance**, which includes **equity** and **social inclusion** in the conservation of landscapes, there is a commitment by the national authorities with regard to conservation, which was regulated through conservation laws, the creation of a protected areas system covering more than 15% of the country, the creation of an institute devoted to the protection and conservation (IBAP), and the nearly completed expansion of protected areas (DBT complex). Equity in landscape refers to gender, and in the protected areas that serve as areas for human habitation, the role of women in resource exploration and conservation is very important, especially with regard to the use of bas-fond for rice production, non-wood forest resources (palm forest productivity depends on clear and maintained areas) and fishery resources. Youths in communities have an important role in the conservation of landscapes, because their future is intrinsically linked to natural resources, which is why we are witnessing, in some areas, the creation of environmental clusters and associations, especially under the impulse of civil society organizations, organized in certain areas as community guards and friends of nature, both in order to contribute to the conservation (i.e. Cantanhez).

5. Landscapes stakeholders

✓ *Direct beneficiaries*

Taking into account the actions and the sustainability of their activities, primary landscape (mainly terrestrial) stakeholders are farmers, small processing industry business owners, traditional healers, cattle raisers, and the general population, as well as landscape tour operators. In island landscapes, key stakeholders are: fishermen, fishmongers and coastal communities in general, as they depend on sea related activities for their survival.

✓ *Indirect beneficiaries*

The secondary stakeholders, that is, the indirect beneficiaries, are the representatives of the state authorities (governors of regions and sectorial administrators), the delegations of the Rural Development Ministry, coordinators of the various parks such as Protected Areas representing the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Institute (IBAP), the Environment General Directorate, Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Project in the Gabu Region, the Fisheries General Directorate, research institutions (CIPA, INITA, INEP), researchers, etc.

These actors intend to formally, or informally, support the associations with technical training in specific areas, and provide technical assistance in project development as well as in the regions surrounding priority areas in order to avoid duplication of actions and efforts. However, there are already local partnerships between local institutions and the GEF-SGP in previous projects and Programmes; thus, this partnership needs to be formalized to improve the management of future projects. Therefore, there is an urgent need to have GEF-SGP focal points in different locations or to form a Technical Team (TT) to strengthen the National Steering Committee (NSC) to support the design, monitoring and control of future projects.

6. CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Strategy Development Process of Guinea-Bissau Programme for OP6 (2016-2018) achieved the proposed consulting activities with the National Steering Committee, the partner organizations and

civil society organizations in Bissau. In general, all activities were successful, emphasizing that the identified and proposed priority areas or zones met the pre-established criteria; a broad framework of project typologies were presented in each area and, upon consultation, priority areas were outlined.

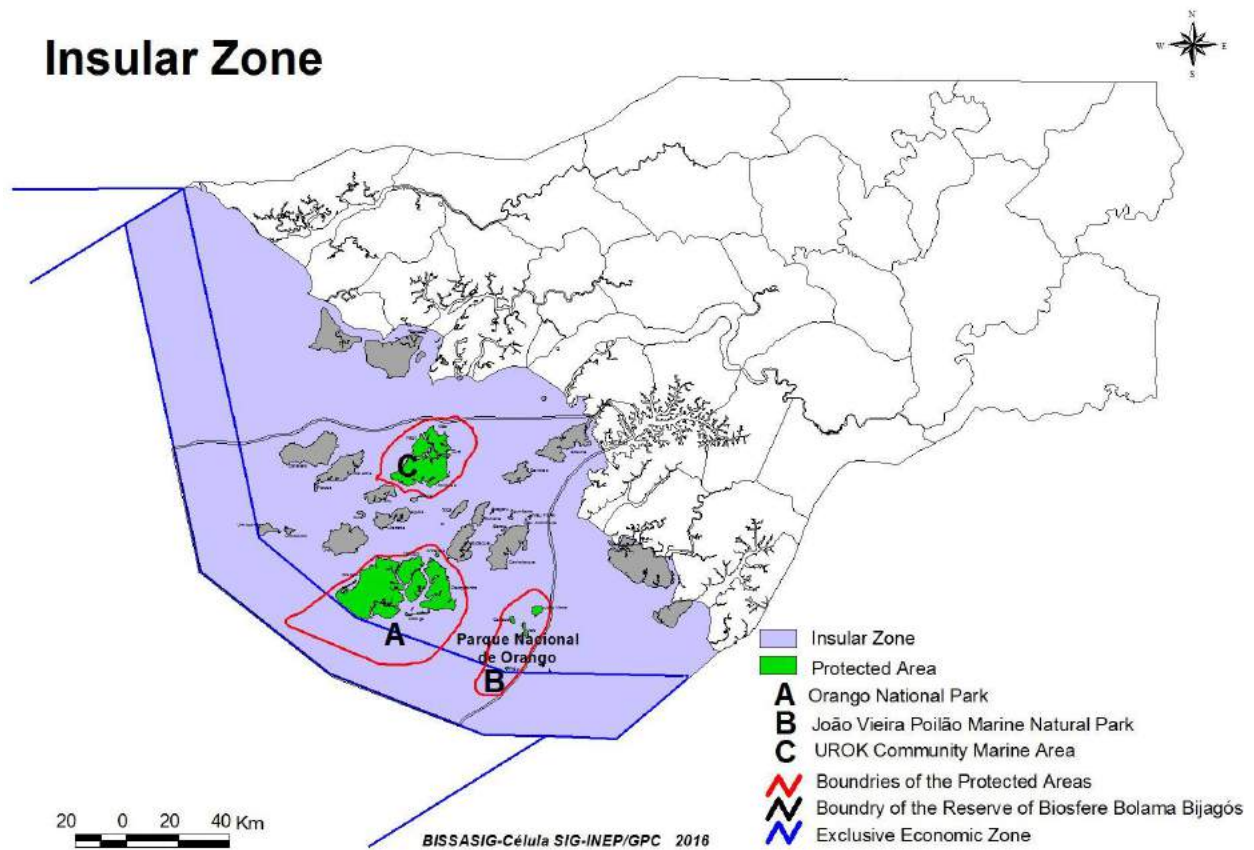
With regard to key partners, the availability of all to provide technical support and to prepare and implement the projects is emphasized. In some cases, the availability to carry out materials and/or financial synergies with SGP and CSO in order to increase project impacts was made clear.

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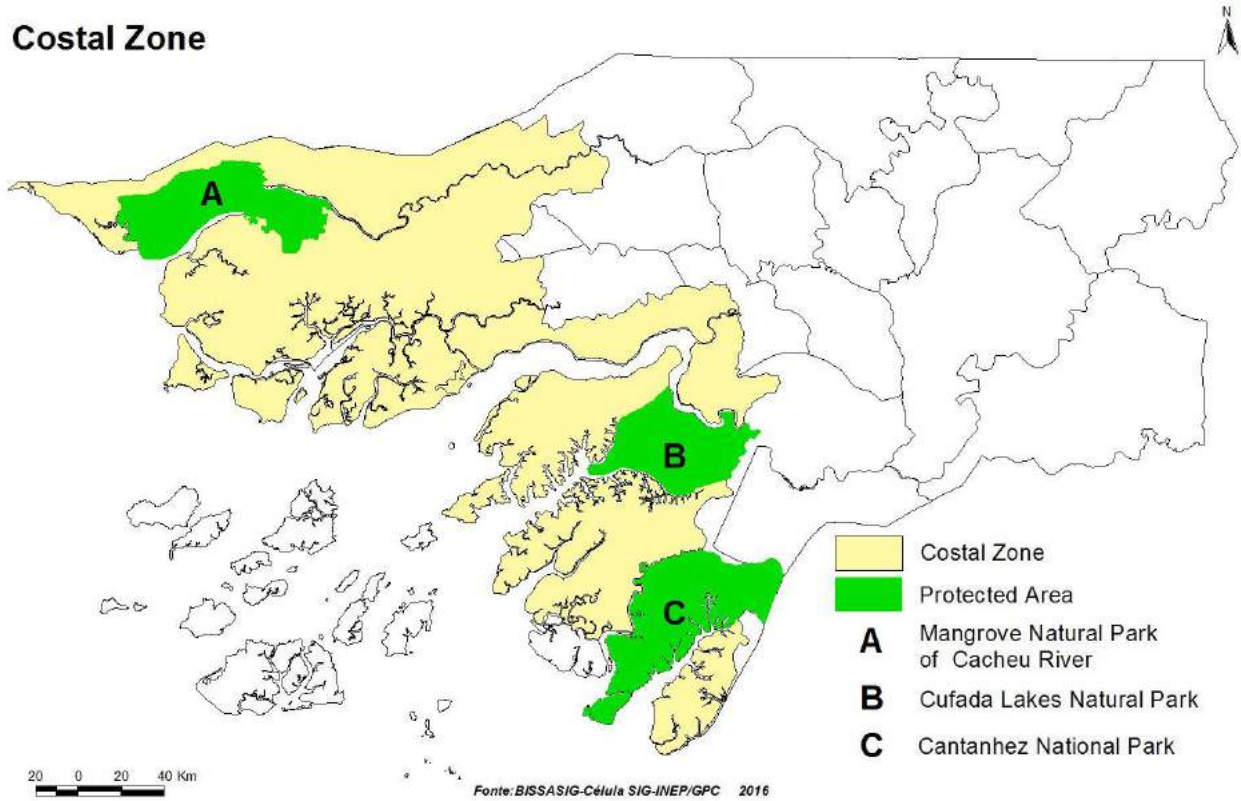
Annex 2 - Division of the country in island, coastal and terrestrial areas, respectively, with indication of the current formal conservation units

Map 1 – Country Insular zone



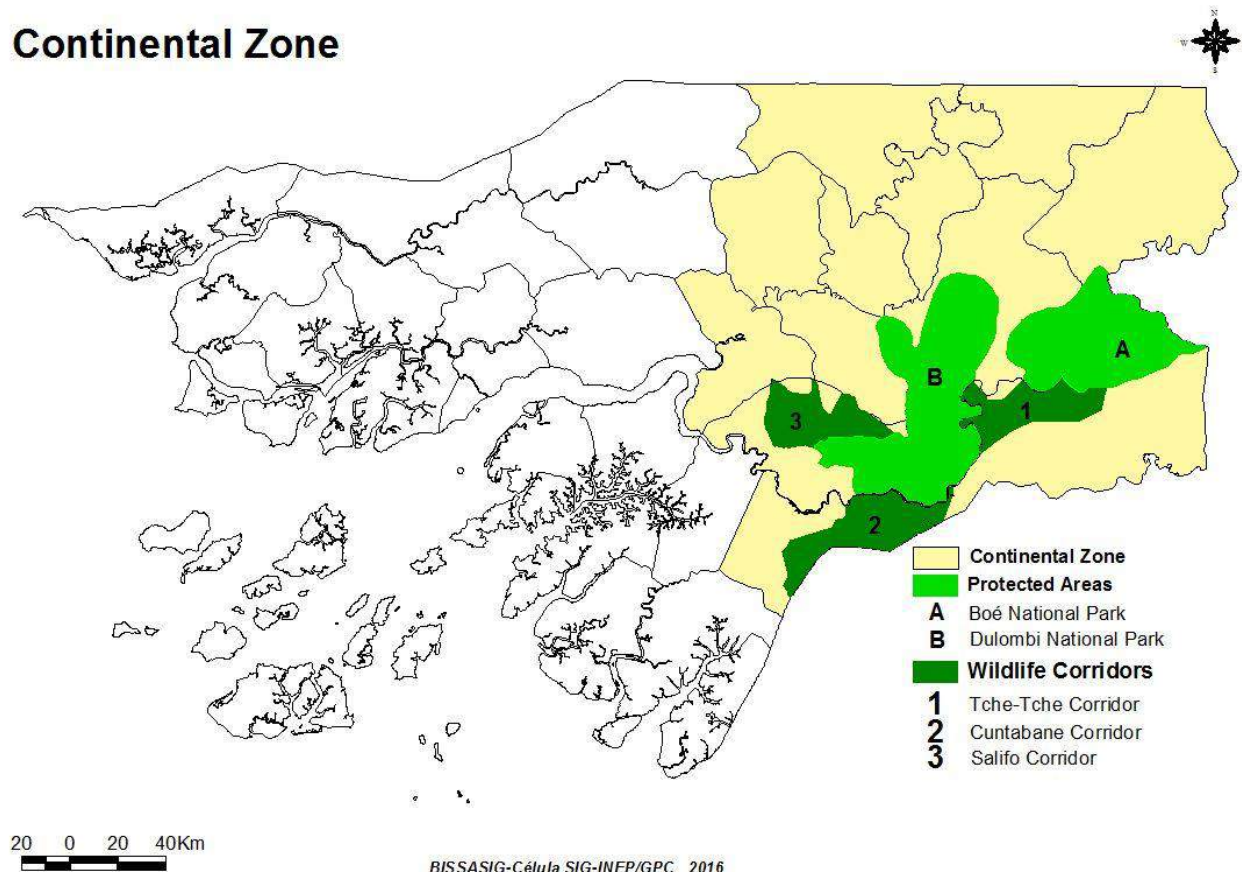
Map 2 – Country Coastal zone

Costal Zone



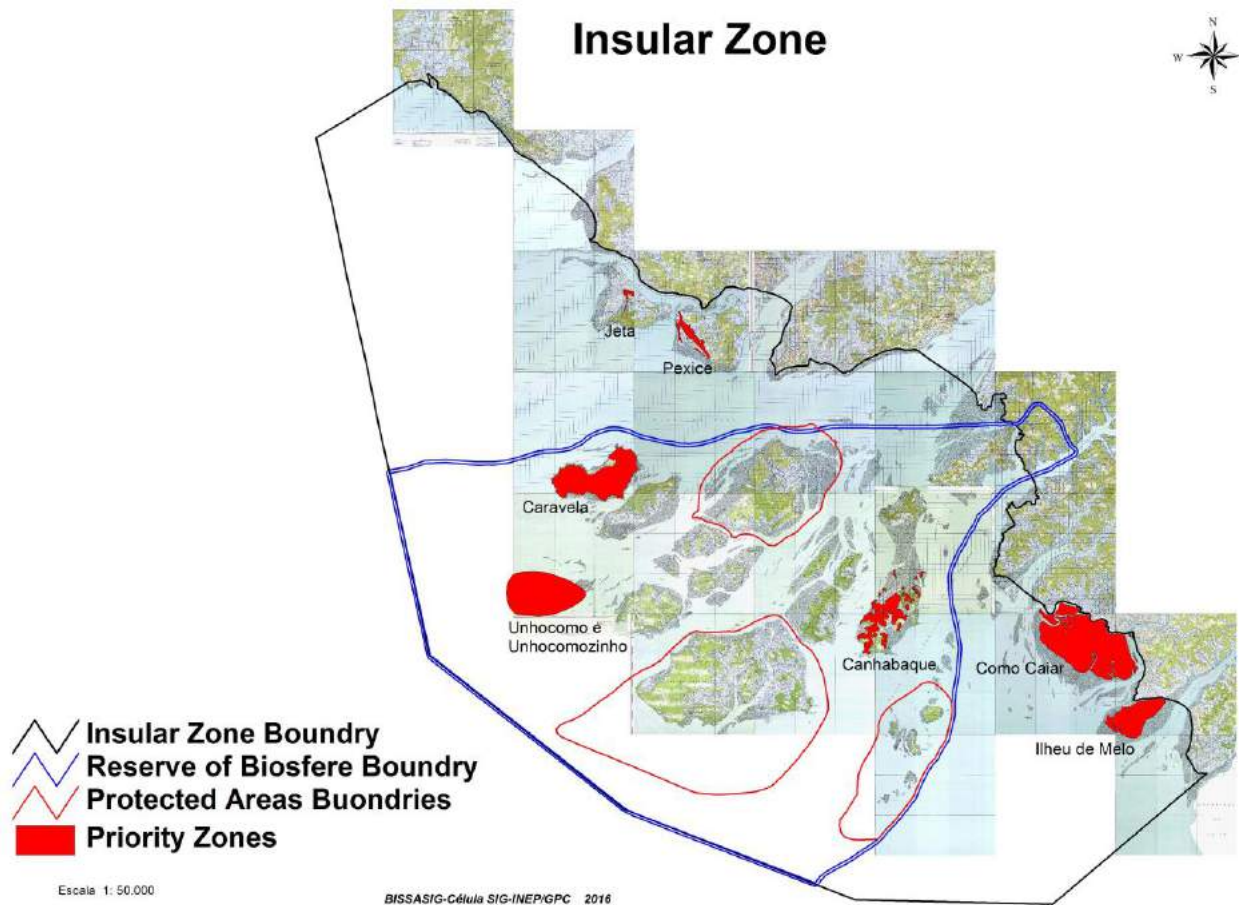
Map 3 – Country Continental zone

Continental Zone

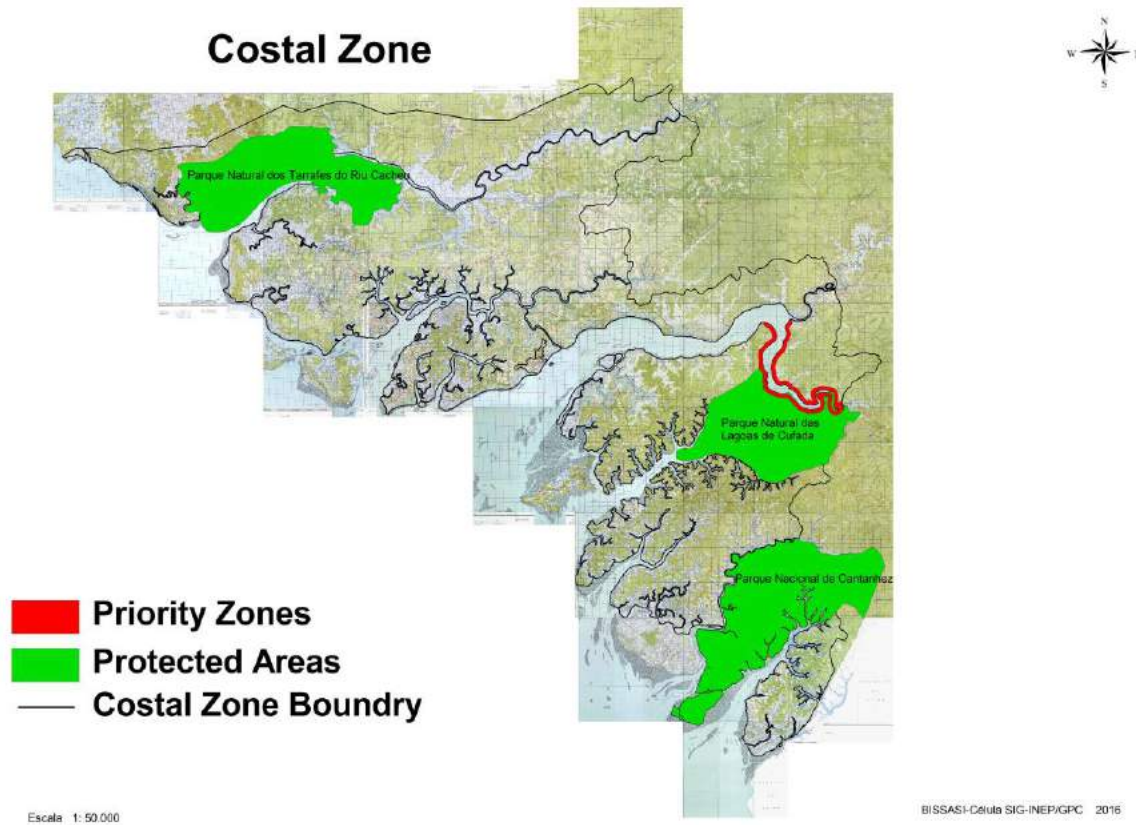


Annex 3 - Priority areas for grant making with current conservation units

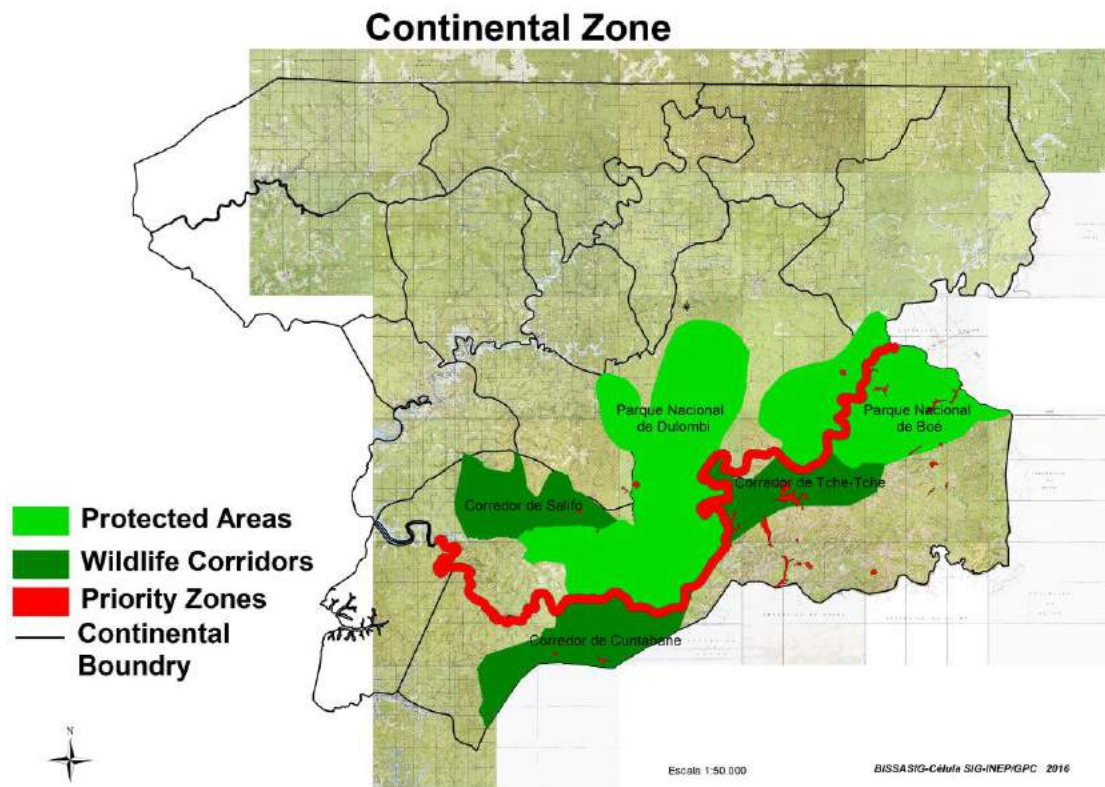
Map 4 – Country Insular zone – Priority Areas



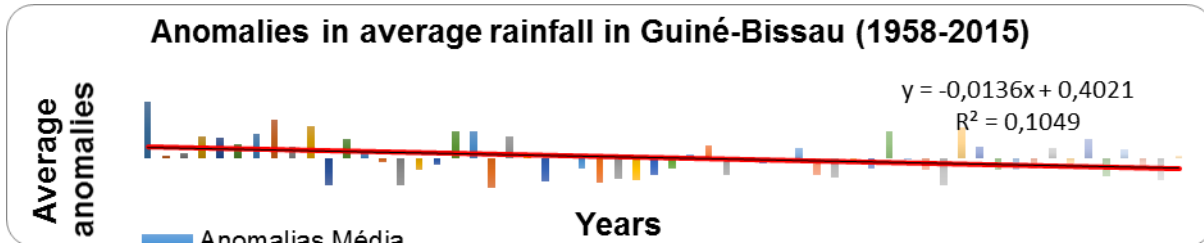
Map 5 – Country Coastal zone – Priority Areas



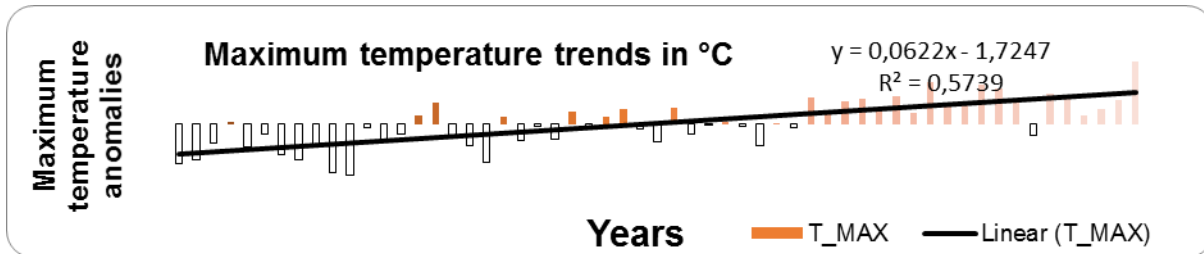
Map 6 – Country Continental zone – Priority Areas



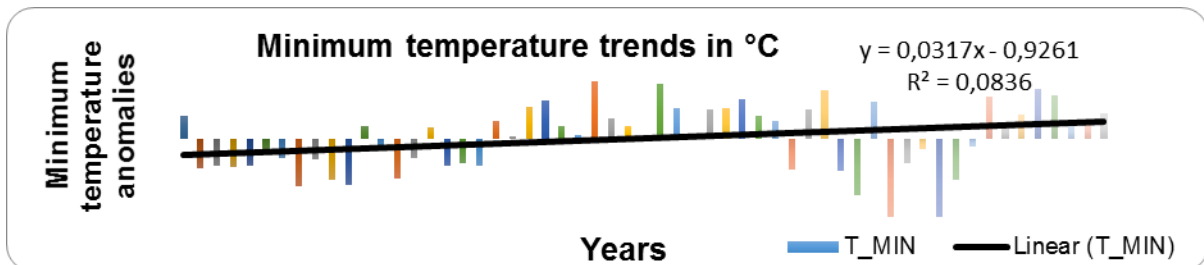
Annex 4. Climate trends in Guinea-Bissau over the past few years



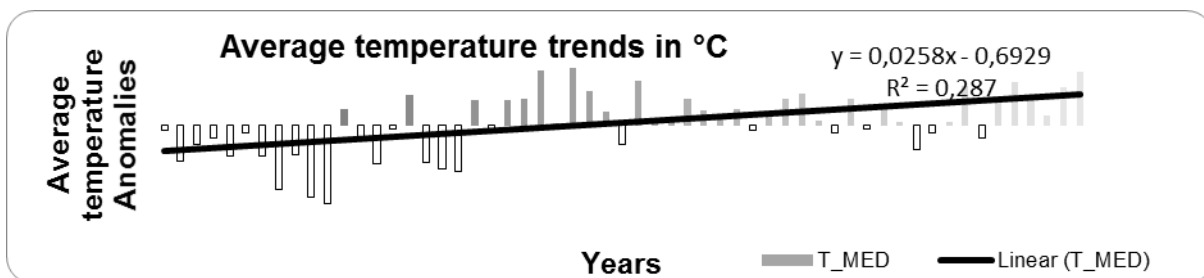
Source: National Weather Institute (INM)



Source: National Weather Institute (INM)



Source: National Weather Institute (INM)



Source: National Weather Institute (INM)

Annex 5: SGP OP6 Expected Results and indicators

SGP OP6 Component 1: Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation				
1 Output	2 Strategy targets	3 # Projects	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
Promote and reinforce coherent landscape and natural resource conservation and valorisation policies of land management for a sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national Programme will focus its actions primarily on 7 landscapes of the insular zones, 3 landscapes of coastal zones and 2 landscapes of terrestrial zones; • By 2019, 70% of the funds will be allocated to selected landscapes, prioritizing in the first year the landscapes of the insular zone: Canhabaque, Orango, Urok, Unhocomo/ Unhocomozinho, Tombali insular areas, and Djeta and Pexice islands; and PNTC, PNLC and PNC landscapes of coastal areas; • Finally, the continental/terrestrial area: <i>Wendos</i> and tributaries of Boé, and Corubal River riparian areas; • By 2018, innovative conservation projects, integrated management and valorisation of species and endangered habitats will be implemented • Until 2019, 3 community units to promote and increase the value of captured fish will be operational in Bubaque, Buba and Cacheu • By the end of 2016, promotional community conservation areas and areas of special interest to biodiversity management initiative will be funded. 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of affected communities that apply good resource management practices; • No. of species or habitats with same or improved state of conservation; • N. of hectares of mangrove degraded areas with conservation status that were replanted and improved; • No. of tonnes of marine/fisheries processed products; • No. of families benefiting from marine/fisheries products processing and valorisation projects; • No. of hectares (ha) of preserved and restored degraded forest areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on SGP funded projects • Initial assessment comparison • Analysis of baseline variables to allow comparison • Annual Monitoring Report • Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)

SGP OP6 Component 2: Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology				
1 Output	2 Strategy targets	3 # Projects	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
Promote smart agro-ecology and agro-meteorology as form of adaptation and impact minimization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2018, reforestation actions of endemic forest and forage species with priorities in the landscape, together with the fight against invasive species, will be implemented. • By 2018, at least one community unit to upgrade the value of agricultural or agro-processed products will be operational. • By 2017, integration of innovative and smart agro-ecology initiatives with regards to climate will be implemented. For example: promotion of use of improved seeds in agricultural production, and of enhanced stoves • By 2018, business opportunities initiatives or agricultural and agri-food performance enhancement initiatives to foster products' added value, will be funded. • Promotion of actions to combat desertification and to restore soils affected by desertification. 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of hectares of land using intensive agriculture sustainable practices, through the use of enhanced seeds and other agricultural inputs; • No. of beneficiary farmers with awareness of and applying intensive agriculture best practices; • No. of hectares of recovered degraded <i>bolanhas</i> (rice fields) using an intensive rice cultivation system; • No. of tonnes of rice produced via intensive rice cultivation; • No. of business initiatives regarding agricultural products value chains in the local economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reporting by proponent parties • Landscape socio-ecological resilience indicators • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) • Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)

SGP OP6 Component 3: Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits				
1 Output	2 Strategy targets	3 # Projects	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
Promote Co-benefits through access to low carbon energy as a way to reduce carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2019, at least one low-carbon initiative associated to artisanal fishing in the insular zones landscape will be implemented • By 2017, at least one rural community in the selected landscape areas will have access to electricity from renewable sources (minimum of 20 families per landscape) 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of families that use low greenhouse gas emission technologies; • No. of enhanced stoves ; • Production of solar salt; • No. of beneficiaries of solar salt production projects; • No. of rural communities that benefit from access to electricity from renewable sources; • No. of families with access to local renewable energy; • No. of beneficiaries with awareness of and applying best practices; • No. of dissemination programmes in local languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reporting by proponent parties • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) • SGP global database • Special country studies • Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)

SGP OP6 Component 4: Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):				
1 Output	2 Strategy targets	3 # Projects	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge Programme (Grant-makers+) to supply and provide access to information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training developed in local communities with a focus on the most vulnerable communities, on women's empowerment and gender equity • Promotion of local discussion initiatives about social inclusion of people with disabilities, with regards to climate change • By the end of 2018, participation of women in funded projects and other initiatives will be increased • Social and gender equity will be taken into account in the assessment of OP6 target projects 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of empowered CSO in project monitoring and evaluation. • No. of training and empowerment actions carried out; • No. of training beneficiaries; • No. of fund beneficiaries supporting initiatives by vulnerable groups (women, youth and people with disabilities); • No. of beneficiaries trained in SGP key areas, that articulate and clearly integrate gender and social inclusion (disaggregated data by gender and age) • No. of supported women (beneficiaries) that practice and diversify their vegetables' intensive production; • Income increase in equivalent US dollars; • No. of sustainable income generating food crops; • No. of communities with awareness of and practicing semi-intensive production of short-cycle livestock farming, with stabling unit; • No. of beneficiaries of projects supporting short-cycle livestock farming; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reporting by proponent parties • SGP Global Database • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) • Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)

SGP OP6 Component 5: Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge (Grant-makers+):				
1 Output	2 Strategy targets	3 # Projects	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge Programme (Grant-makers+): provides access to information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During OP6, SGP will cooperate with its counterparts and other South-South cooperation partners in the development of knowledge regarding the abovementioned objective 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of lessons learned and disseminated best practices in the Connect database and in the GEF CSO Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGP Global Database • Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) • Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)

Annex 6. SGP OP6 National Programme expected results, indicators and activities

1 Component (Output)	2 CPS objectives	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 # Projects	6 Sources
<u>SGP OP6 Component 1 (Outcome): Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation</u>					
<u>SGP OP6 Output 1:</u> Promote and reinforce coherent landscape and natural resource conservation and valorisation policies of land management for a sustainable development	<u>Immediate objective no. 1:</u> Reinforce and improve landscape management and conservation policies, through tradition resource management regulations	1.1.1. Promote initiatives that apply traditional good practice landscape and natural resource management and conservation regulations.	- No. of affected communities that apply good resource management practices Baseline: 5	Minimum of 2 projects	IBAP, TINIGUENA; SWISSAID, KAFO DGF
	<u>Immediate objective no. 2:</u> Promote mangrove protection, replantation of degraded areas and protection/conservation of Jeta and Pecixe sand dunes	1.1.2. Promote innovative conservation, integrated management of species or threatened habitat valorisation initiatives.	- No. of species or habitat with same or improved state of conservation Baseline: 10		IBAP, TINIGUENA; DGF
	<u>Immediate objective no. 3:</u> Promote fisheries and agricultural products added value through processing and conservation processes	1.2.1. Promote protection of mangrove areas and sand dunes through replanting initiatives	- No. of hectares of mangrove degraded areas with conservation status that were replanted and improved Baseline: 200		- SGP Database, project reports - Project monitoring and evaluation reports and success stories
		1.3.1. Promote marine products/fisheries processing and valorisation community units	- No. of tonnes of marine/fisheries processed products Baseline = 160 T Target: 500 T - No. of families benefiting from marine/fisheries products processing and valorisation projects Baseline = 40 Target: 250		

	Immediate objective no. 4: Promote a landscape inclusion policy in the degraded reforestation and restoration areas	1.4.1. Promote restitution and reforestation with endemic forest species and restoration of degraded areas	- No. of hectares (ha) of preserved and restored degraded forest areas Baseline: 200		IBAP, SWISSAID MDRA DGF
<u>SGP OP6 Component 2 (Outcome): Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology</u>					
SGP OP6 Output 2: Promote smart agro-ecology and agro-meteorology as form of adaptation and impact minimization	Immediate objective no. 5: Integration of a smart agro-ecology and agro-meteorology system used for landscape protection, reduction of greenhouse gases and improvement of community crop systems	2.5.1. Promote intensive agricultural practices (irrigation system, varieties, crop rotation, etc.), and the use of enhanced seeds in the agricultural production, given the effects of climate change 2.5.2 Promote innovation of cultivation systems using modern equipment and inputs (i.e. wells with pumping systems using renewable energy and drip irrigation systems)	- No. of hectares of land using intensive agriculture sustainable practices, through the use of enhanced seeds and other agricultural inputs Baseline: 200 - No. of beneficiary farmers with awareness of and applying intensive agriculture best practices Baseline: 80	Minimum of 5 projects	IBAP, TINIGUENA; SWISSAID MDRA PLAN INTERNATIONAL COAJQ
	Immediate objective no. 6: Promote and encourage bas-fond rice cultivation, as an alternative to plateau rice cultivation	2.6.1. Promote bas-fond rice cultivation through intensive agriculture (water management, enhanced seeds and other agriculture inputs).	- No of hectares of recovered degraded <i>bolanhas</i> (rice fields), using an intensive rice cultivation system Baseline: 26,000 - No. of tonnes of rice produced via intensive rice cultivation Baseline: 104,000 T		IBAP, TINIGUENA; SWISSAID MDRA PLAN INTERNATIONAL COAJQ

	<p>Immediate objective no. 7: Promote and encourage the establishment of a value chain for agriculture products as a way to promote business opportunities and to create jobs</p>	<p>2.7.1. Promote supporting actions to local business opportunity creation and increase of agriculture income</p>	<p>-No. of business initiatives regarding agricultural products value chains in the local economy. Baseline: 5</p>		<p>Private Sector IBAP SWISSAID MDRA COAJOQ</p>
SGP OP6 Component 3 (Outcome): Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits					
<p>SGP OP6 Output 3: Promote Co-benefits from access to low carbon energy as a way to reduce carbon emissions</p>	<p>Immediate objective no. 8: Promote demonstration, development and use of low carbon emission technologies in the local communities</p>	<p>3.8.1. Promote initiatives of use of low carbon emission technologies (enhanced stoves, solar panels, etc.), in the local communities</p>	<p>- No. of families that use low greenhouse gas emission technologies Baseline: 200 - No. of enhanced stoves Baseline: 200 - Production of solar salt Baseline: 30 T -No. of beneficiaries of the solar salt production project Baseline: 200 - No. of rural communities that benefit from access to electricity from renewable sources Baseline: 5 - No. of families with access to local renewable energy Baseline: 0</p>	<p>5 projects minimum</p>	<p>IBAP, DGF SWISSAID TINIGUENA</p>
	<p>Immediate objective no. 9: Promote technology, innovation and traditional knowledge disclosure, demonstration and transfer at local communities, through IECA</p>	<p>3.9.1. Promote IECA actions about the importance and advantages of landscape conservation, using community radio stations</p>	<p>- No. of beneficiaries with awareness of and using best practices. Baseline: 2,500 - No. of dissemination programmes in local languages Baseline: 10</p>		<p>IBAP, AD, GEF MSP: Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in Guinea-Bissau's agrarian and water sectors</p>

					MDRA APALCOF KAFO
SGP OP6 Component 4 (Outcome): Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):					
	Immediate objective no. 10: Reinforce CSO, organizations and grassroots associations' organizational capacity for the project production, management and M&E	4.10.1. Promote the empowerment of CSO and grassroots associations for project production, management and M&E	- No. of empowered CSO in project monitoring and evaluation Baseline: 10	Minimum of 4 projects	IBAP, NANTINYAM TINIGUENA
SGP OP6 Output 4: Promote social inclusion (youth and women) in landscape conservation, as well as players' empowerment strategies, synergies and programme M&E	Immediate objective no. 11 Promote social inclusion initiatives (women, youth, children and people with disabilities) as key players in landscape conservation and decision making	4.11.1. Promote training and empowerment actions to foster equity, efficiency and sustainability, and to minimize resistance to gender in the projects	- No. of training and empowerment actions carried out; Baseline: 10 - No. of training beneficiaries Baseline: 500		IBAP, AD, GEF MSP: Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in Guinea-Bissau's agrarian and water sectors MDRA APALCOF KAFO
		4.11.2. Promote and support initiatives by women, youth and people with disabilities.	- No. of fund beneficiaries supporting initiatives by vulnerable groups (women, youth and people with disabilities) Baseline: 100 - No. of beneficiaries trained in SGP key areas, articulated and clearly integrate gender and social inclusion (disaggregated data by gender and age) Baseline: 0		

	<p><u>Immediate objective no. 12:</u> Poverty reduction through income growth and improvement of the food safety and families' living conditions</p>	<p>4.12.1. Promote and support sustainable vegetable production and income generating food initiatives (sesame, potatoes, beans, corn, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of supported women (beneficiaries) that practice and diversify their vegetable intensive production Baseline: 4,500 - Income increase in USD Baseline: USD 1,983 - No of sustainable income generating and food crops Baseline: 5 		<p>IBAP, AD, MDRA APALCOF KAFO DGF DGA</p>
		<p>4.13.2. Promote short-cycle livestock farming (goats, pigs, chickens, etc.) – semi-intensive production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of communities with awareness of and practicing semi-intensive production of short-cycle livestock farming, with stabling units Baseline: 10 - No. of beneficiaries of projects supporting short-cycle livestock farming Baseline: 50 		
<p>SGP OP6 Component 5: Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge Programme (Grant-makers+):</p>					
<p>SGP OP6 Output 5: Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge Programme (Grant-makers+) to supply and provide access to information</p>	<p><u>Immediate objective no. 14:</u> Promote synergies between players in the South-South network and cooperation</p>	<p>5.14.1. Promote cooperation with its counterparts and other players in the South-South cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of lessons learned and disseminated best practices in the Connect database and in the GEF, OSC Network Baseline: 0 	<p>Minimum of 1 project</p>	<p>-</p>

