

Evaluation Abstract

Title, author and date of the evaluation report: Internal evaluation of IUCN-Guinea Bissau Office, by François-Corneille Kêdowidé, January 2003.

Mandate of the organizational unit: Promoting the adoption of an integrated management model and wise use of natural resources, in order to provide sustainable benefits for the Guinean society.

IUCN Area of specialisation: Sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources.

Geographical area: Guinea Bissau, West Africa

Project or programme duration, length of existence of organizational unit:

Overall budget of the project or programme:

Donor(s): Swiss Cooperation (almost exclusively)

Objectives of the evaluation: Description and assessment of the IUCN – Guinea Bissau Office implemented activities impact since its restructuring in July 2001.

Type of evaluation: Programme Evaluation

Period covered by the evaluation: 2000 - 2002

Commissioned by: IUCN BRAO

Audience :

Evaluation team : Internal

Questions of the evaluation: (see TDR)

1. Relevance : Assess the relevance of the Office activities with regard to the national and local needs of the beneficiaries in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
2. Effectiveness: Assess the effectiveness of the implemented activities and their appropriateness with regard to overall IUCN and Office objectives, as well as to the funding agreement concluded with the various donors.
3. Efficiency : Assess cost-effectiveness of resources utilization for the implemented activities.
4. Impact : List, analyse and assess results and their impact on the environment and the socioeconomic situation of the recipient communities.
5. Sustainability : Identify specific fields and activities on which beneficiaries, stakeholders and partners could build upon.

Methodology used: (see TDR and Part II of the report)

Findings:

- The Office projects are relevant to the country needs in the fields of conservation, sustainable development and poverty alleviation.
- IUCN: reference institution concerning biodiversity conservation and management.
- The programme depends almost exclusively on one single donor. However, efforts for funding diversification are in progress (World Bank, Swedish Cooperation, European Union).

Recommendations:

- Develop new concepts.
- Build upon the Office achievements: the natural resources conservation and management model incorporates traditional and local know-how as well as modern methodology.
- The Office capacities should be strengthened concerning project / programme development and management, with the recruitment of a Programme Officer and improved budgetary and financial monitoring. Increased support from BRAO Regional Office.
- Increase management participativeness in order to encourage individual initiatives.

Lessons learned:

- Large support from government, administrative, and traditional authorities (opinion leaders), for natural resources conservation and management. Cooperative work has been put into place while taking into consideration the stakeholders' respective interests.
- Mitigation of conflicts between natural resource users.
- Biodiversity management may have unexpected impacts, e.g. an improvement in local communities life: better living conditions, schooling for girls, less burden for women, etc.

Language of the evaluation report: French

Available at: IUCN/West Africa Regional Office (BRAO) and IUCN Global M&E Initiative, Gland, Switzerland.