

BIOPAMA

De la Connaissance à l'Action pour une Planète Protégée

ATELIER REGIONAL DE LANCEMENT DE LA SECONDE PHASE DU
PROGRAMME POUR LA BIODIVERSITE ET LA GESTION DES AIRES PROTEGÉES
(BIOPAMA) POUR L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE

Douala, Cameroun

26-28 Septembre 2018



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Le programme BIOPAMA est une initiative du Groupe des États ACP
financée par le 11^e Fonds européen de développement de l'Union européenne

Résumé (Executive Summary)

The regional inception workshop for the second phase of BIOPAMA for Central Africa took place from 26 to 28 September 2018 at the Akwa Palace Hotel, Douala, Republic of Cameroon. The event was organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Center of the European Commission (JRC) under the aegis of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC). The aim of the workshop was to inform and encourage the involvement of these stakeholders around the information system set up by COMIFAC and supported by BIOPAMA, in order to monitor the state of the environment and the management of the protected areas and biodiversity to improve regional conservation strategies and policies.

The 80 participants represented the wide range of stakeholders in the management of protected areas and environmental information systems including: personnel of national agencies, ministries in charge of protected areas in 8 countries, international and local NGOs, regional and international agencies and institutions; resource persons with technical skills and specific experience.

The efficient and flowing structure of the workshop, supported by seamless logistics stimulated the active engagement of the participants through constructive dialogues, success stories, lively presentations and exchange of suggestions and identification of joint priority actions for the region, countries and the communities. Within the three days' sessions, the attendance achieved the workshop's expected outputs:

- Disseminated information the BIOPAMA Action Fund - its objectives, expected results and key activities and identify key regional features to be communicated to the stakeholders
- Established a cooperative framework and agreed training priorities of protected area professionals to enable the effective use of the regional information system on protected areas in Central Africa;
- Establish a list of priorities and needs to implement OFAC's protected areas management effectiveness planning tool (IMET)
- Established cooperation's and lists of priorities for the most important areas of knowledge that has to be developed in the region to improve conversation and inform the COMIFAC's policy indicators.

On the final word, the Secretary Executive of COMIFAC insisted on the paramount onus importance of strengthening stakeholder engagement around the public mission of OFAC and to enhance the efficiency of the reference information system for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management in order to orient regional and national policies and strategies. Participants agreed to jointly promote data sharing, information management and capacity building for protected area management.

These efforts will make an effective contribution to influencing policies to be put in place and, in general, decision-making at different levels for biodiversity conservation and better governance of this sector in the Central Africa.