Sustainably Managing Oil and Gas Activities

West Africa is experiencing a considerable expansion of offshore oil and gas activities and must, as of now, be prepared for the major development it will generate. Extractive activities can be a significant opportunity for development. They can help meet national energy needs and contribute to economic and social development. However, the development of extractive activities, if not properly supervised and controlled, can lead to serious economic, social and environmental consequences.

“The objective of this action plan is to manage and reduce the environmental risks associated with offshore activities.”
Salla Ba, Program Officer, MAVA West Africa Programme

WHERE ARE OUR GEOGRAPHICAL INTERVENTION AREAS?

The priority countries are Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone. These are countries that already exploit oil and gas such as Mauritania and Sierra Leone, or have fields already confirmed and are being exploited by private companies.

SPECIES AND HABITATS THREATENED

SPECIES: Marine turtles, small pelagics and seabird

HABITATS: mangroves, seagrass beds
HOW WE THINK CHANGE WILL HAPPEN

The action plan is based on a “results chain” elaborated according to the methodology of the Open Standards for the practice in conservation. A summary is presented below.

EXPECTED KEY RESULTS

- Implementation of an early warning system and an environmental control system
- Improvement of information and awareness among civil society and decision-makers
- Improvement of the management capacities of administrations and civil society
- Strengthening the supervision for offshore extractive activities through the ratification and implementation of relevant texts
- Development of CSR approaches
- Consolidation of oil pollution response plans

WE AIM TO:

- Anticipate and manage the environmental risks of offshore oil and gas activities;
- Balance the sustainable use of marine resources and development of the offshore extractive sector

HOW IS THIS ACTION PLAN BEING IMPLEMENTED?

The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) provides overall coordination of the action plan, in close collaboration with implementing partners. It also facilitates and moderates the steering committee of this action plan.

Each strategy is driven by a key partner:
- BirdLife oversees scientific research and environmental monitoring activities.
- PRCM focuses on capacity building and advocacy, which are part of its area of intervention.
- The Abidjan Convention is responsible for developing the strategy of the pollution response plans, which is part of its prerogatives for the establishment of national contingency plans against pollution incidents and for the protection of marine environments of its contracting countries.
- IDDRI directly oversees the monitoring and strengthening of the regulation of offshore activities and CSR.

WHO ARE OUR MAIN PARTNERS?

- BirdLife International
- PRCM
- IDDRI
- UNEP
- Convention d’Abidjan

ANNUAL BUDGET

An average annual budget of EUR 1,080,000 is allocated to this action plan.

INTEGRATION WITH OTHER ACTION PLANS

Cross-cutting to the whole West Africa MAVA strategy, in particular with the action plan on infrastructure (WAS) which addresses similar themes

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