Seagrass beds play a significant ecological, economic and social role and provide many ecosystem services. These underwater meadows composed of flowering plants grow on the coastal seabed and represent a habitat, a food source and a breeding ground for many marine fauna species such as fish, turtles, mollusks or crustaceans.

Seagrass beds contribute to maintain water quality, store carbon, and produce a large amount of oxygen used by different organisms. They thus play a predominant role in the climate cycle and in the protection of the coastline.

Despite this, the attention paid to sea grass beds is well below the importance of services rendered and they face many human-induced threats. Knowledge of seagrass beds is still limited in West Africa, including spatial distribution and health status.

"This action plan aims to strengthen knowledge on marine seagrass meadows in West Africa and to conduct pilot actions on selected sites, aiming at implementing management tools and improving their protection status."

Salla Ba, Programme Manager, MAVA West Africa Programme

WHERE ARE OUR GEOGRAPHICAL INTERVENTION AREAS?

The countries concerned are Mauritania, Senegal, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone

SPECIES AND HABITATS THREATENED

SPECIES: green turtle, wetland birds
HABITATS: seagrass beds
HOW WILL THIS ACTION PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED

Wetlands International Africa (WIACO) coordinates the action plan in collaboration with the various implementing partners.

Each strategy is led by a key partner, who collaborates and implements the activities with the different national institutions in the countries:

- WIACO leads the advocacy and awareness raising strategies and the partnership building.
- GRID-Arendal is in charge of scientific research and monitoring.
- RAMPAO is in charge of actions to strengthen and protect pilot seagrass sites

WE AIM TO:

To improve the knowledge on seagrass beds in West Africa
To strengthen their conservation and regulatory status

MAVA (68.36%)  Conancing (31.64%)

INTEGRATION WITH OTHER ACTION PLANS

M4: reducing the impacts of fishing on threatened marine species and habitats
WA1: Turtles
WA2: Wetlands and coastal areas
WA4: Oil and gas

BUDGET 2020-2022

MAVA has allocated € 866,668 to this action plan
Ensured co-funding: € 401,106

WHO ARE THE MAIN PARTNERS?

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V2.0 08/09/21

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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.

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