

Meeting of CBFP College 7 – 24/10/2017 - Douala

Present : UNESCO / UNE / UNDP / FAO / CBFP

Topic 1 : assessment of annual priorities proposals :

In general, the college approve the interest of the annual priority approach to help better coordinating actions and building synergies within a common framework

Proposal 1 :

Agreement of all organisms present on proposal 1 and manifestation of interest of UNDP ; UNESCO and UNE to contribute to the action programme as it relates respectively :

- For UNESCO, to the CAWHFI and MAB programme
- For UNDP to the starting second phase of TRIDOM programme (Cam/Gab/Congo)
- For UNE to some of activities carried out by GRASP.

Some concerns :

- Planning should consider the sensitivity of addressing national security/defense issues that relate to country sovereignty.
- We were not clear on whether eco-security staff will be new staff involved in wildlife crime only or whether the programme will also address the need to strengthen capacities of existing specialized forces in charge of wildlife management/anti-poaching.
- We would like the proposal to :
 - o more clearly build on existing models that have been successful in terms of operationalizing transboundary collaboration to fight wildlife crime such as TNS, and in general all lessons learnt from past transboundary initiatives. UNESCO, UNE and UNDP have lots of evaluation and monitoring reports on that topic which should be useful in identifying priorities and approaches to be used;
 - o consider national commitments to international conventions and respect of standard monitoring tools by countries as a complementary approach.

Ok with this proposal ; synergies possible and the proposal should be an opportunity for the integrated transboundary wildlife crime to align with EU wildlife -Interrogations sur l'éco-sécurité/renforcement de ce qui existe ? Qu'est-ce que cela implique? En lien avec la souveraineté des pays.

Proposal 2 :

Agreement of all organisms present on proposal 2 and manifestation of interest of UNESCO and FAO to contribute to the action programme as it relates respectively :

- For UNESCO to conservation status database and World heritage sites and MAB sites monitoring/reporting database, as well as ongoing discussion with OFAC on how these database could be shared with them;
- For FAO to forest resource assessment campaigns and ongoing project on the reporting of forest aspects related to SDG 15 commitments.

UNDP and UNE were also supportive but could not make any statement of commitment regarding their participation, although UNDP clearly saw connections with the WCMC databases.

Suggestions :

- This programme should help discussing on mechanisms that can make more systematic information and data sharing, such as conditionality for funding with an important role of donors and executing agency working with partners to ensure this condition is implemented.
- Initiatives such as BIOPAMA or new RIOFAC should be more clearly mentioned.

New proposal 3 :

UNE : proposal to raise the awareness on peatlands newly discovered in Congo and DRC and bring partners together to develop a transboundary action plan for the sustainable use of this ecosystem. Proposal relates to mid-term priority 11, 14 and 18 with a main entry point focusing on biodiversity with an integrated approach that also address climate change mitigation as the area is particularly rich in threatened species such as lowland gorillas. UNE is playing a prominent role in mobilizing support to DR Congo and RoC governments to develop a long term plan for the management of peatlands..

Topic 2 : next CBFP facilitation

The college 7 members present would like to know from the EU facilitation :

- Where we stand in terms of getting facilitation transferred to COMIFAC as planned ?
- What are the actions taken by EU to identify the next facilitator in terms of dialogue with partners, maybe setting up consortium of partners, etc.

Topic 3 : Miscellaneous

Need to update the mailing list of college 7 members urgently.