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# REPORT ON THE THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION FOR THE TAÏ- GREBO-SAPO FOREST COMPLEX BETWEEN CÔTE D'IVOIRE AND LIBERIA

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## ACRONYMS

BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung
CF	Classified Forest
CCF	Cavally Classified Forest
CdI	Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
ELI	Environmental Law Institute
GDCF	Goin-Debe Classified Forest
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMC F	Forest Management Contract F
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
MD	Managing Director
MINEF	Ministry of Water and Forests (CI)
MLME	Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy (Lib)
MRU	Mano River Union
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	National Park

OIPR	Office of Parks and Reserves (CI)
PA	Protected Area
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PGNP	Proposed Grebo National Park
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SC	Steering Committee
SCM	Steering Committee Meeting
SODEFOR	Forest Development Corporation (CI)
TC	Technical Committee
TGS	Tai-Grebo-Sapo
TGSFC	Tai-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex
TNP	Tai National Park
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNEP-GRASP	United Nations Environment Program-Great Ape Survival Partnership
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCF	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2015, the third annual steering committee meeting took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, at the Ivotel, funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Presided by the Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR), represented by the General Director, Col. Adama Tondossama, the meeting brought together key stakeholders in the transboundary collaboration for the Taï-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex (TGSFC) of Côte d'Ivoire et Liberia. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Refisch from the United Nations Environment Program-Great Ape Survival Partnership (UNEP-GRASP), while members of government institutions (OIPR, FDA, SODEFOR, DEPN), international NGOs (WCF, FFI) and technical and financial partners (GIZ, KfW, WWF) were present.

Over the two days, members of the steering committee updated partners on the activities led within the context of the TGSFC. This was followed by an update on the urgent actions matrix with some new urgent activities added, associated with the institution responsible for the implementation. On the first day, the committee also briefly reviewed the roles of the technical committees, after which the consultant for the GIZ project, Mr. Peter Lowe, then presented an overview of the GIZ funding. On the second day of the meeting, Johannes Refisch presented the need for a bi-partite agreement between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire for the management for the Taï-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex. He detailed the different possible chapters and examples that exist from other similar projects across Africa. It was decided that for Liberia, the FDA could sign, whereas in Côte d'Ivoire, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Prime Minister would have to sign. It was stressed that getting this process started with a consultant would also encourage donors to provide funding to the area.

On day 2, the committee looked further into the Technical committees, and re-assigned new leader institutions to each to ensure the coordination of the committees. WCF was chosen to do this for the three transboundary technical committees since they are present in both countries. National committees were also assigned leaders to coordinate on a national scale, to ensure communication and to push forward the activities and studies of the committees. Following this, the actions points were reviewed and updated too. The meeting was closed by the General Director of the OIPR.

## INTRODUCTION

Since the launching of the initiative of the transboundary collaboration for the Taï-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex in 2009, the Governments of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire have met annually since 2013, to hold a Steering Committee meeting to ***“Promote and encourage the transboundary collaboration to reach the objectives leading to the global vision”***. On the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2015, the third annual Steering Committee Meeting was held in Abidjan at IVOTEL. The meeting brought together key stakeholders and members of the committee to work together to ensure the conservation of the largest contiguous forest block of West Africa, home to important yet threatened biodiversity. In Côte d'Ivoire, it consists of Taï National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere reserve), and three (3) adjacent classified forests (Cavally, Goin-Débé,

Haute-Dodo). In Liberia, it consists of Sapo National Park, Proposed Grebo-Krahn National Park and a large forest concession (known as FMC F). Presided by the Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR), the meeting was organized by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and facilitated by United Nations Environment Program-Great Ape Survival Partnership (UNEP-GRASP).

Present at the meeting were representatives of the Ivorian Government: OIPR, Société de Développement de Forêts (SODEFOR) and the Direction de l'Ecologie et de la Protection de la Nature (DEPN); of the Liberia Government: Forestry Develop Authority (FDA); International NGOs: Fauna and Flora International and WCF; Donors/Technical and financial partners: GIZ and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW); observers from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Fondation des Parcs Et Réserves de Côte d'Ivoire (FPRCI); and a facilitator from UNEP-GRASP. Together, the members and observers present reviewed the outcomes of the first 2 meetings held in Abidjan in 2013 and in Monrovia in 2014 (reports of which can be found at [www.wildchimps.org](http://www.wildchimps.org)), and subsequently presented updates on their work completed, updated the urgent actions matrix and action points table, progressed further with the roles of the technical committees and validated the need to bring in a consultant to start the process to develop a Bi-Partite agreement between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire for the Tai-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex.

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (SCM)**

The general objective is to monitor and evaluate the current development of the actions lead for the TGSFC since the last meeting in June 2015.

Specifically, the meeting will aim to:

- Evaluate the progress and validate proposed adjustments made for the urgent actions
- Review the progress of the work of the technical committees
- Validation of a draft bi-partite agreement between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire
- Outline a first draft Transboundary Strategic Plan (validation of chapters)
- Agree on future funding for the steering and technical committees
- Exchange information on the status quo regarding the implementation of the Financial Cooperation and Technical Cooperation projects (KfW/GIZ)

### **Expected results**

- Urgent actions are evaluated and adjusted and show progress towards retaining the integrity of the TGSFC
- Work of the technical committees has progressed and show clear areas of corridors proposed
- A preliminary draft of the bi-partite agreement is validated
- Chapters for the Transboundary strategic plan are validated
- Possibilities of future funding are validated

- A common understanding of the complementarities between the different projects and initiatives (with their respective institutional setups) and their intermeshing is established

### **PROGRAM OF THE THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Day 1 (26/11/15)	Recap on TGSFC Corridor/Summary of SCM2 meeting - WCF
	Presentations FDA – Progress from the past 12 months
	Presentations OIPR – Progress from the past 12 months
	Presentations SODEFOR- Progress from the past 12 months
	Presentations WCF – Progress from the past 12 months
	Presentations FFI - Progress from the past 12 months
	Update of the urgent actions matrix
	Presentation of the technical Project of AMBERO, for GIZ
Day 2 (27/11/15)	Presentation on examples of Bi-partite agreements
	Presentation of status quo in the implementation of FC/TC projects and of their institutional setup (FDA/FPRCI/MINESUDD(DEPN), KFW/GIZ)
	Group work on drafting of bi-partite agreement
	Presentation on examples of Transboundary strategic plans (J. Refisch)
	Group work on drafting of Transboundary strategic plan

### **PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

After a recap on the second meeting held in 2014, presentations were done by various participants on the work completed in the past year.

OIPR summarized their results for the TNP from January to November 2015 to now as well as the current threats. They presented information both on the equipment and infrastructures as well as human resources. There are now a total of 98 rangers and 26 interns who work for the TNP, which has helped have an impact on the park. For law enforcement, they led 135 patrols in total, leading to the arrest of 129 persons, of which 91% were charged. A summary was also presented on the 10<sup>th</sup> phase of biomonitoring, research, education and agroforestry efforts. As for the ecotourism program, a total of 82 tourists visited the park this year so far.

FDA presented a summary on the creation of the Grebo-Krahn National Park, as well as education done with communities in the corridor area and the corridor wildlife survey. FDA described the steps needed to gazette a park and explained that after initial consultations, biomonitoring and socio-economic surveys, the communities and regional authorities have given their agreement to the park. What remains is to hold a national consultation process and for WCF to submit the final gazettelement package for validation in 2016.

FFI provided information on the work completed in Sapo National Park (SNP). This included an overview of the Sapo Conservation Center, their Capacity Building Scheme, the Conservation Education program and the Bio-monitoring and Camera Trapping program. They also plan to research human-wildlife conflict around Sapo and look into Buffer Zone management for the park. FFI also highlighted the challenges for the management of the park which included inadequate capacity & logistics to support law enforcement efforts; slow or no prosecution of people conducting illegal activities in the park; limited inter-sectorial coordination between line ministries responsible for natural resource management and an ambiguous definition of buffer zone and what activities are allowed in the landscape.

WCF presented an overview of the work completed and highlighted key results. This included the support to the FDA for the creation of the Grebo-Krahn National Park, the wildlife survey in the Grebo-Sapo Corridor; the camera trap survey in the Grebo-Cavally Corridor; support to the FDA for community and target law enforcement; support to an agroforestry program along the Hana River Corridor and the development of a FLEGT based project in the Cavally CF. The results from the wildlife survey in the corridor show that the chimpanzee encounter rate is the highest in all of the TGSFC, but that it is threatened by illegal mining and hunting. The camera trap survey shows that a diverse array of wildlife is using the corridor area between Grebo-Krahn National Park and the Cavally Classified Forest, including the threatened Jentink's Duiker. A map of key threats to the corridor area was also presented, highlighting mining camps, chewing stick camps, elephant poaching, etc.

#### **UPDATE ON THE URGENT ACTIONS MATRIX**

Following the update from all partners, the participants reviewed the urgent actions matrix, which was subsequently completed on the second day of the meeting. Note that the urgent actions matrix was developed to guide all of the parties involved, by producing a set of pertinent activities that needed to be executed over a period of twenty-four (24) months initially. The table below is a new updated version from the 2015 meeting.



**Urgent Actions Matrix:** In the progress column, the green color signifies that the activity has either begun or been completed (on-going and OK). The red color signifies that it has not started or is a new urgent action. SC members are encouraged to use this matrix as a guideline of results expected to be achieved before the next steering committee meeting in 2015. Comments made on the various urgent actions are also presented.

Threats	Expected Result	Activities	Responsible	Progress SCM N3	Comments 2015
Transboundary bushmeat markets	Protected species of Liberia are no longer sold on the market	Station two FDA officers at Tempo and Tassara to confiscate bushmeat of protected species.	FDA	on-going	FDA needs more people to patrol and be stationed. Kfw project will help to recruit and train and then to place rangers along corridor.
		Lead sensitization campaigns in Djouroutou, Tai, Tempo and Tassara/	WCF, FFI, OIPR, FDA, SODEFOR	on-going	Is done regularly by WCF animators who discuss the creation of the Grebo-Krahn National Park. The Ebola Outbreak has had an impact on the consumption of bushmeat in CdI
		Station two Water and Forestry agents in Daobly and Djouroutou to confiscate protected species of Liberia	DEPN	on-going	In Djouroutou, this is already done by OIPR rangers, but in Tai it should be done by the Tai Cantonnement agents. DEPN should be responsible for following up on this.
		Investigate and share information on Elephant hunting in Grebo/	FDA; WCF; OIPR, FFI, E+F	NEW	5 elephant carcasses were found in Grebo-Krahn National Park this year, which has never been seen before. It was stressed that intelligence on such issues needs to be shared to stop these illegal activities
Illegal Human pressure on Pas/	Signs of hunting decrease by 50%/	Increase the presence of anti-poaching teams	FDA, OIPR	on-going	FDA has started to do target law enforcement in Grebo-Krahn NP
		Increase the field personnel	FDA, OIPR, SODEFOR	on-going	In Grebo-Krahn, SMART training is on-going for the community eco-guard program as well as for law enforcement mission. A new Law Enforcement officer has been identified. In TNP, there are now 96 rangers and 23 interns for law enforcement. OIPR agents have been trained to train others to use SMART. In Cavally CF, only 7 rangers are available.
	All illegal mining activities in PAs are stopped/	Stop illegal mining activities through law enforcement and sensitization/	FDA, OIPR, SODEFOR	Started in Liberia	New signs of prospection sites, and information about CVI mining camp in corridor area, as well as potential mining companies mining in FMCF and the Dugbe River need to be sorted. A Task force of FDA and the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy has been set up and this will lead to no permits being issued in PAs and PPAs. Efforts are now underway to evict miners. A nationwide cadastre is underway at the National Bureau of Concessions. A workshop to clarify issues with artisanal mining is needed.
		FDA leads joint security patrol to evict illegal occupants of the Sapo park	FDA	NEW	Urgently need to find donor

	The forest damaged by these illegal plantations are rehabilitated and reforested	Rehabilitate forest by cutting illegal plantations and developing reforestation programs/	FDA,OIPR, SODEFOR	on-going	FDA would like to do this but need to do assessment first. OIPR have recuperated the old farmed places in the east of the park and will let it revegetate naturally. The university will follow this process. This includes 4000 Ha since 2012. /
Lack of land-use planning/	Land-use plans are in place/	Clarify the locations of official mining sites/	FDA / SODEFOR	on-going	Need to ensure mining camps do not come back in SNP. In TNP, gold-mining happens along the HANA, a UNESCO fund helped for continued patrols in the area which led to 110 arrests.
		Clarify the situation of Concession F and the planning of land to the north of Grebo NF/	FDA	on-going	Meeting to be held between Eurologging, FDA and WCF in 2015
		Develop land-use plans with all stakeholders	FDA	on-going	In Liberia, a national land use plan is being done as well as a forest cover map
		Refine first wildlife study in Grebo-Sapo Corridor/	WCF	NEW	
		Clarify the limit of the Corridor zone Sapo - Grebo/	FDA	NEW	With KfW funding
		Map CVI and investigate legality/	FDA	NEW	Supported by WCF
		Ensure that the CCF and TNP are taken into account for the regional plan /	OIPR and SODEFOR	NEW	This is starting now so authorities should look into this asap.
Lack of management plans/	Management plans are developed and updated/	Validate management plans of Cavally and Goin-Debe CF/	SODEFOR	on-going/	For Cavally CF, the plan is adopted by the minister but remains to be signed. For Goin Debe CF, a new plan must be done as the situation has changed.
Inadequate implementation of law/	Official laws are applied	Support implementation of law through training of prosecutors, magistrates, wildlife authorities, police and customs	FDA,SODEFOR OIPR	on-going	OIPR arrests have progressed well. A new program to evict encroachers in Cavally CF is planned. FDA worked with ELI and the VPA on this issue recently. The Worldbank funded a national law enforcement training in Wonegizi, bringing together INTERPOL and law enforcement officers etc. Currently no donor available to help with wildlife law training.
		Develop law enforcement in FMC F	FDA	NEW	Urgently need to find donor
Security issues along the border may hinder work in the field/	Security becomes less of an issue for field work/	Intensify security coverage on border (Grand Gedeh, River Gee) to reduce	OIPR, FDA, SODEFOR, MRU	A faire	OIPR was involved only for Ebola issues. FDA is not involved with the cross border meetings but proposed to make quarterly meetings for the security in Liberia with MOJ, BIN, and national security to be informed. There is a need for an action plan for law enforcement across PA network

		hunting and chewing stick extraction/			in Liberia. FDA is currently requesting the president for FDA to be part of the armed forces of Liberia and should soon be trained to carry weapons, which will help to have access to border security meetings. FDA is placed at all border to check products leaving and to ensure they are legal. CITES has trained FDA in this.
State of CF threaten integrity of TGSFC/	Action plan to ensure curbing of forest cover loss in CFs is established.	Stakeholders to develop key ideas on enforcement strict management of the forests/	SODEFOR	on-going	
Chewing stick trade is degrad Grebo Forest /	All chewing stick extraction is stopped in the Proposed Grebo National Park (PGNP)/	FDA leads joint awareness and patrols in and around Grebo with MOJ, BIN etc /	FDA	on-going	Arrests have been done in Grebo but law enforcement is currently not enough. Kfw fund will help recruit rangers from that area. There is a need to improve collaboration with CdI. All licenses have been revoked by FDA, but policing it is still a problem.
Natural corridors under threat from hunting and illegal farming/	Natural corridors are protected	Place more camera traps on Cavally CF border /	WCF	NEW	Funded by GIZ/WWF?
		Need to protect/control the natural corridor area between Grebo and Cavally CF to ensure the forest cover. /	FDA/SODE FOR	NEW	Funded by GIZ/WWF?

## **UPDATE ON THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND PLATFORMS**

The technical committees were reviewed on the first day of the meeting and then discussed more in detail on the second day. Due to the difficulty in getting the technical committees to start, it was agreed WCF would for the time being be the lead for the transboundary aspects of the committees while national leaders were identified for each country. It was agreed that the committees are fluid and members called upon depending on the issue at hand. For each of the key activities, the members of the committee are provided below, as well as resources person, comments made and potential donors.

To launch these technical committees this year, many suggestions were made. For the legislation and law enforcement committee, two meetings were proposed. The 1<sup>st</sup> one concerns the development of the bipartite agreement for the TGSFC. This should be followed at the ministerial and FDA level, with support from legal practitioners from both governments. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting should be held at a more local/regional level, with members such as the park and forest managers, local county attorneys/legal practitioners to discuss gaps in legislation for transboundary law enforcement and a harmonized strategy to enhance law enforcement for transboundary traffic.

For the land-use and land tenure committee, 2 national meetings were proposed to discuss the locations of the corridors. Following this, a transboundary meeting will then be held to exchange on the different criteria to set up the corridors and to also analyze the use of transboundary natural connectivity such as “Grebo-Cavally” and to see how best such corridors can be monitored.

For the PES technical committee, a 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will aim at identifying the PES/REDD approach that could be specific to the transboundary collaboration for the TGSFC. The meeting will also see how to feed the TGSFC efforts in national REDD and PES schemes in both countries, to earmark the complex as a priority. A 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be held at a transboundary level to exchange with the private sector acting in the TGSFC, to engage them in the process, inform them of the location of the corridors and to begin discussions on potential PES support.

For the conflict platform, it was discussed that it was not urgent this year to develop any meeting considering that both countries have their own conflict platform and the need for a transboundary one is not a priority right now.

**LEGISLATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Expected Results	Activities	Donor	Implementer	Members	Resource persons/	Deadline /	Comments 2015
<b>Leader of Transboundary Coordination: Wild Chimpanzee Foundation</b>							
<b>Leader of Ivorian Coordination: WCF</b>							
<b>Leader of Liberian Coordination: WCF</b>							
Review and do gap analysis of existing legislation relevant for the conservation of the transboundary landscape/	Develop ToRs for legal expert and conduct technical study	WWF/GIZ	Consultant	FDA, MINEF, MINESUDD, Legal practitioners	IUCN Transboundary Work group; UNEP - GRASP	2016	See if the consultant Stephane Doumbé Bile is also available for this study.
	Suggestions of harmonized laws to facilitate transboundary collaboration/		Consultant				
Transboundary agreement is signed/	Develop a bi-partite agreement to show and ensure commitment from the two (2) countries (Need person with legal background)	WWF/GIZ	Consultant/		UNEP-GRASP	Debut 2016	
Stopping of the trade of Liberian protected species in the TB bushmeat market/	Clarify the legality of the bushmeat trade between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire/						
	Encourage the control of the illegal trade of Liberian protected species in transboundary markets and NTFP's harvested from Pas	WWF/GIZ	Eaux et Forêts/ FDA	Cavally CF Manager, TNP Manager, Grebo-Krahn Chief Park Warden, Cantonnement de Tai, Legal Practitioner of Guiglo, General Attorney Zwedru/Fishtown		First meeting to be held early 2016	
Identified natural corridors are secured (GDCF-CCF-PGNP).	Increase law enforcement patrols in natural corridors/	WWF/WCF	SODEFOR/ FDA	Cavally CF Manager, Grebo-Krahn Chief Park Warden,	Joint Security, UNMIL, MRU	ASAP	

**LAND USE AND TENURE COMMITTEE**

Expected Results	Activities/	Donor/	Implementer/	Members	Ressource persons	Deadline/	Comments 2015
<b>Leader of Transboundary Coordination: Wild Chimpanzee Foundation</b>							
<b>Leader of Ivorian Coordination: DEPNI</b>							
<b>Leader of Liberian Coordination: FDA</b>							
A land-use plan which allows for increasing the size of protected and sustainably managed forests/	Clarify land-use in the complex (cartography)	GIZ/KfW	Consultant?/	FDA, OIPR, SODEFOR, MOA,MLME, EPA, Land Commission, MIA	MPI (MARXAN)	Fin 2017 (waiting for Kfw Results)	WWF et FPRCI are future potential donors. Waiting for the results from the Kfw study before anything is done on the Ivorian side
	Identify land use in the identified corridors/	GIZ/KfW	Consultant?/		MPI (MARXAN)	Fin 2017 (waiting for Kfw Results)	First study done in Liberia with MPI using MARXAN
	Propose location of new potential corridors/	GIZ/KfW	Consultant?/		MPI (MARXAN)	Fin 2017 (waiting for Kfw Results)	Process started in Liberia./
	Identify limits of the TSGFC maximizing protected and sustainably managed areas/	GIZ/KfW	Consultant?/		MPI (MARXAN)	Fin 2017 (waiting for Kfw Results)	
	Re-evaluate commercial Vs conservation use of the forest/	GIZ/KfW	Consultant?/				End 2016

**PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Expected Results	Activities	Donor	Implementer/	Members	Resource persons	Deadline/	Comments 2015
<b>Leader of Transboundary Coordination: Wild Chimpanzee Foundation</b>							
<b>Leader of Ivorian Coordination: GIZ/REDD Secretariat</b>							
<b>Leader of Liberian Coordination: FFI / REDD stakeholder group</b>							
Payment for Environmental services (PES) are identified and contribute to a sustainable funding for the TSFC	Identify potential PES specific to the transboundary forest block	KfW/GIZ	Consultant/		FFI, CI	2014/2015	
	Make Tai-Sapo a REDD priority in both countries - Launch a feasibility study for REDD in the TSFC	KfW?	Consultant/		REDD, UN REDD, FFI, CI, personnes visées REDD (FDA,	2014/2015	
Benefit schemes with private sector are identified	look into how Agricultural development in the TGSFC may affect Corridor/complex	GIZ		Ministries, FDA, NGOs and private sectors	UN REDD		

### CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION PLATFORM

For the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Platform, the content was discussed in less detail. It was stressed that on the Liberian side, regulations for Protected areas, including community forests, require some kind of grievance mechanism and as such the TGSFC project on the Liberia side would aim to feed into processes already present in Liberia. As for Côte d'Ivoire, results from the feasibility study under KfW funds may help to see how this can be done too. No lead organization was identified, though it was agreed that lead organization should be present in the countries and as such IISD was made a resource person and not a lead organization.

Expected Results	Activities	Lead Organisation	Donor	Implementer	Resource Persons	Time frame	Comments
A platform is set up and conflicts are prevented/solved	Identify potential conflicts related to the conservation of the complex		GIZ, KfW?	IISD	IISD		Baseline study has been done in CI.
	Create and implement a platform for resolution and prevention of conflicts		BMZ/WWF/WCF, KfW?	IISD	(OIPR, WCF, Local authorities, chiefs etc), (FDA, WCF, GIZ, local authorities, chiefs etc), IISD		More funding is needed for long-term basis. The first platform should be set up for Tai-Saro conflict immediately
	Set-up a better communication between stakeholders, including local population			Platform	FDA, SODEFOR, OIPR, IISD		A local advisory committee (national) should be set up to increase communication on project, avoiding conflict, etc.



## **DEVELOPMENT OF BI-PARTITE AGREEMENT AND STEERING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

On Day 2 Johannes Refisch presented different examples of Bi-Partite agreements and Transboundary Strategic plans from other similar projects across Africa. This led on to interventions from the OIPR and FDA about transboundary projects already in place concerning both their countries, such as the Nimba Tri-national project, the Gola Peace Park Project and the Comoe Project. All have had different levels of intervention from the OIPR, FDA and the relevant ministries. It was agreed that FDA, as a semi-autonomous institution, could lead the process and sign a Bi-Partite agreement for Liberia, whereas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the prime minister have to sign on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire, as this is the protocol when more than one ministry is involved in a project, in this case the MINEF and the MINESUDD. The need to hire a consultant to begin the process of developing a Bi-Partite agreement was discussed. The Steering committee proposed to hire Stéphane Doumbé-Bile, who was present at the initiative meeting in 2009, to work with the FDA, OIPR, SODEFOR and legal practitioners in each Ministry as soon as possible. FDA has already sent an official request, and OIPR stated that they would get the request as soon as possible from the MINESUDD.

This also led on to a discussion about the composition of the Steering committee. OIPR described how in other similar projects, it is always the ministries that are the representatives of the government, while institution such as OIPR and SODEFOR are present on the technical level. It was therefore agreed that the MINEF and MINESUDD would now be the two Ivorian Government structures in the steering committee. OIPR and SODEFOR must therefore contact their Ministries regarding this and see that OIPR and SODEFOR be voted to represent their respective Ministries.

## **PRESENTATION OF TGS FOREST LINK PROJECT OF GIZ**

A new Fund has been provided by GIZ for the TGSFC transboundary project. Peter Lowe, under the consultancy of Ambero, was hired to coordinate the project with the relevant stakeholders. He presented an overview of the project which will run for 19 months. The project is based on three aspects: communication, capacity building and the creation of the Grebo National Park. In light of what has been done already on the Liberia side, Mr. Lowe stated that the project could be revised and will build on what has already been done, and that he hopes the project can feed into the process the Steering Committee had already started. He confirmed that the funds are supposed to work in line with the future funds from the KfW for the creation of the corridors, which is problematic as the KfW project is still not started yet and is still at the prequalification phase to hire a consultancy group to manage the project.

### ACTION POINTS DEVELOPED AT THE SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

A number of action points were developed at the second steering committee meeting which outlined certain activities, not listed in any of the tables above, which will help with the running of the transboundary collaboration and also to achieve its aims. This was also reviewed and updated and is presented below. It was also agreed that national meetings should be held on a quarterly basis to ensure communication and to push forward the activities that have been discussed at the annual meetings.

Expected Result /	Activities/ Action points	Responsible	Deadline	Comments	Progress SCM N3
Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment is known for Cote d'Ivoire	OIPR and SODEFOR liaise and find out together about the status of the report, and see if they can bring to the attention of larger donor communities, some of the issues involved concerning the TGSFC. They should then report back to SC.	OIPR , SODEFOR	N/A	Report is done. /	<b>Completed.</b>
Implication of Eaux et Forêt is agreed on by Ivorian Government /	OIPR and SODEFOR Contact Ministry to discuss the involvement /.	OIPR , SODEFOR	N/A	Clarified today, as the SC will now be the two ministries. The Ministries will be contacted and will appoint the persons responsible./	<b>Completed.</b>
Quarterly reports are prepared and distributed to partners and open dialogue is maintained /.	Communicate with SC members on a quarterly basis to ensure discussions are held on pressing issues, on work completed etc /.	WCF	Quarterly,	Reporting mechanism did not work. Propose to hold national meetings every 3-4 months to maintain communication	Revised
		FDA	31-03-16	Will be done beginning of 2016	Revised

Ministers are briefed on TGSFC project and steps towards bi-partite are made /.	Organize Cabinet meeting in Liberia /				
	Prepare a communication project to be presented to relevant ministers /	SODEFOR, OIPR	31-01-16	OIPR has done this for the MINESUDD, but it has not been done for MINEF. Need to ensure all SC reports are shared with Ministries. /.	<b>On-going</b>
Timescale for TC meetings and conflict platform (Tai-Saro) /	Plan dates for TC meetings in 2015.	WCF	31-01-16	Still not done, but in 2016, WCF will do timeframe, but it depends on funds. /	Revised
Build capacity in judicial system and support patrolling	WWF/GIZ/WCF/FAO	WCF		ICCWC, ELI	2016
Website is up-to-date.	Send recent reports, docs from SCM 1 and 2 to UNEP-Grasp to update tai-sapo.org website /	WCF	31-06-2016	All content lost on old website due to new domain. A Web designer will complete it in 2016./	On-going/En cours
Potential GEF funds are made available to TGSFC on Ivorian side	Reconcile the GEF in Côte d'Ivoire /	OIPR	31-01-16	Under GEF 6 in CdI, it was not a priority but maybe under GEF 7. In Liberia, content for GEF 7 is not validated yet. INGOs are in discussion with government on possible projects. /	On-going/En cours
	Contact Liberia to see possibilities to submit a joint proposal to GEF for the TGSFC /	OIPR	31-01-16	See above	
MRU financially support the TGSFC/	Follow up funding possibilities with MRU	WCF	31-01-16		NEW/Nouveau

## **CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK**

The third Steering Committee Meeting for the Tai-Grebo-Sapo Forest Complex was very successful and help to push forward the transboundary collaboration between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Many actions, mainly related to law enforcement, to decrease the threats on the complex had advanced well and appear to be having some impact on the conservation and sustainable management of the complex. The new composition of the committee, which now sees the MINEF and MINESUDD as members will also hopefully help to bring the TGSFC to higher level of importance nationally. It was also stressed that the efforts made for the TGSFC should try to feed into national processes and strategies and should also aim to look for long-term sustainable funding, such as under REDD, for example.

In 2016, the technical committees will meet and will act on issues described in the report. This will be done on a national scale followed by a transboundary scale with the WCF helping to coordinate efforts on both side of the border. Lastly, the new funding from the GIZ will help in supporting these technical committees and some of the priority work needed over the next 12 months.

ANNEX1: List of participants present at the first steering committee meeting for the TSFC



TROISIEME REUNION DU COMITE DE PILOTAGE DU PROJET TRANSFRONTALIER POUR UN CORRIDOR ECOLOGIQUE ENTRE LA COTE D'IVOIRE ET LE LIBERIA DANS L'ESPACE TAI – SAPO

THIRD TAI-SAPO TRANSBOUNDARY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR A LANDSCAPE CORRIDOR BETWEEN COTE D'IVOIRE AND LIBERIA IN THE TAI – SAPO COMPLEX

Liste de présence

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THIRD TAI-SAPO TRANSBOUNDARY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR A LANDSCAPE CORRIDOR BETWEEN COTE D'IVOIRE AND LIBERIA IN THE TAI - SAPO COMPLEX

Liste de présence

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Liste de présence

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