

Climate-Resilient Communities and Protected Areas in Coastal West Africa

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Project Objectives

- 3-year project (2012-2015) funded by the MAVA Foundation and executed by UNEP-WCMC
- Overall goal of the project:
 - Enhance livelihoods and increase social-ecological resilience in West African coastal protected area systems to the negative effects of climate change

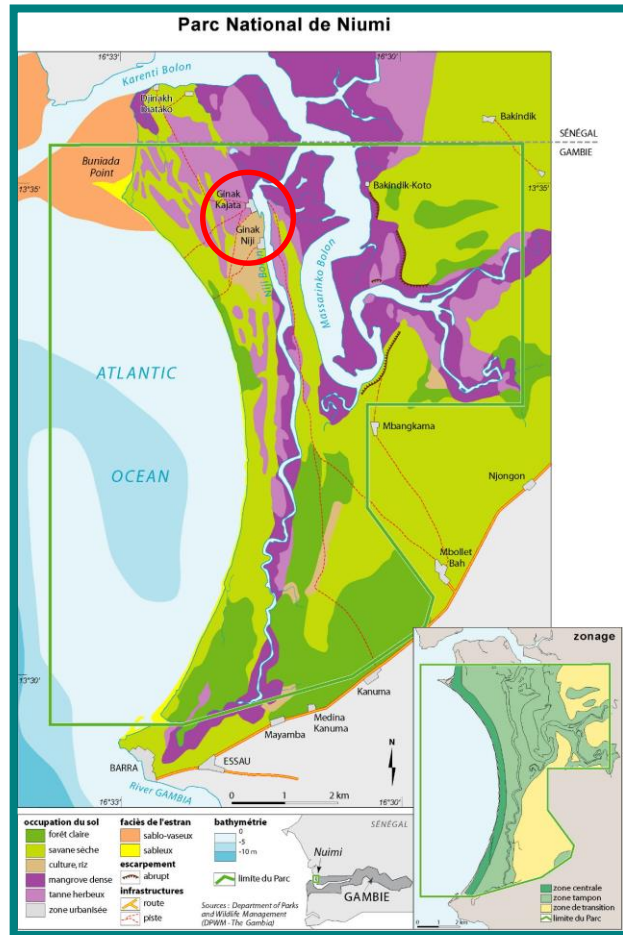


Project Objectives

- Assessment of the social vulnerability to climate change of natural resource dependent human populations living in and around marine protected areas (MPA)
- Building capacity of protected area managers and communities to use this information for adaptation measures

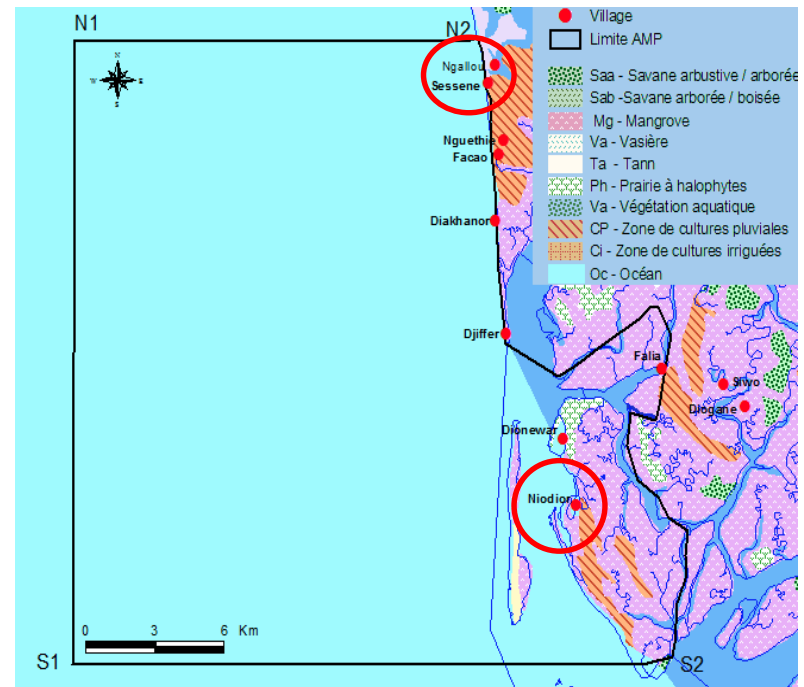


Geographic Scope and Pilot Sites



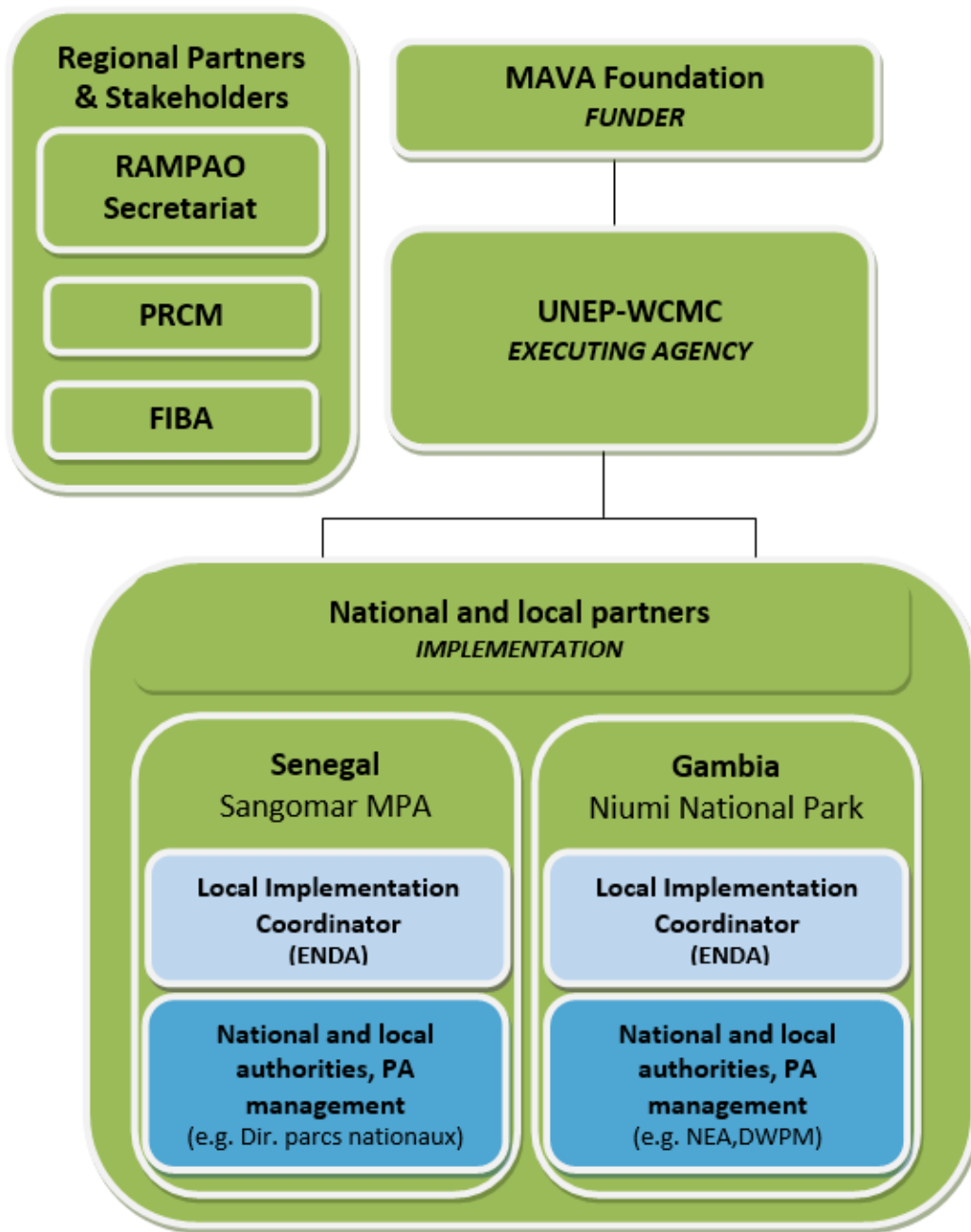
Niumi National Park, The Gambia

3 pilot sites in 2 MPAs in the coastal strip of West Africa



Sangomar MPA, Senegal

Project Partners and Governance



Project Activities

Project methodology and manual developed to:

- *Conduct social vulnerability assessments to climate change at pilot sites*
 - *Develop adaptation action plans*
 - *Test plans for robustness*
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- Informed by multiple community-adaptation planning frameworks and tried and tested participatory adaptation workshop methodologies (CCAFS, ENDA, SEI)
 - Tailored to context of communities dealing with the effects of climate change and living in or near PAs
 - Simple, step-by-step, practical community-level planning tool suited for work with subsistence-based communities
 - Work in progress to include lessons learned – to be published early 2016

Adaptation and Resilience Planning for Communities and Protected Area Management



Version 2.0

Workshop Design

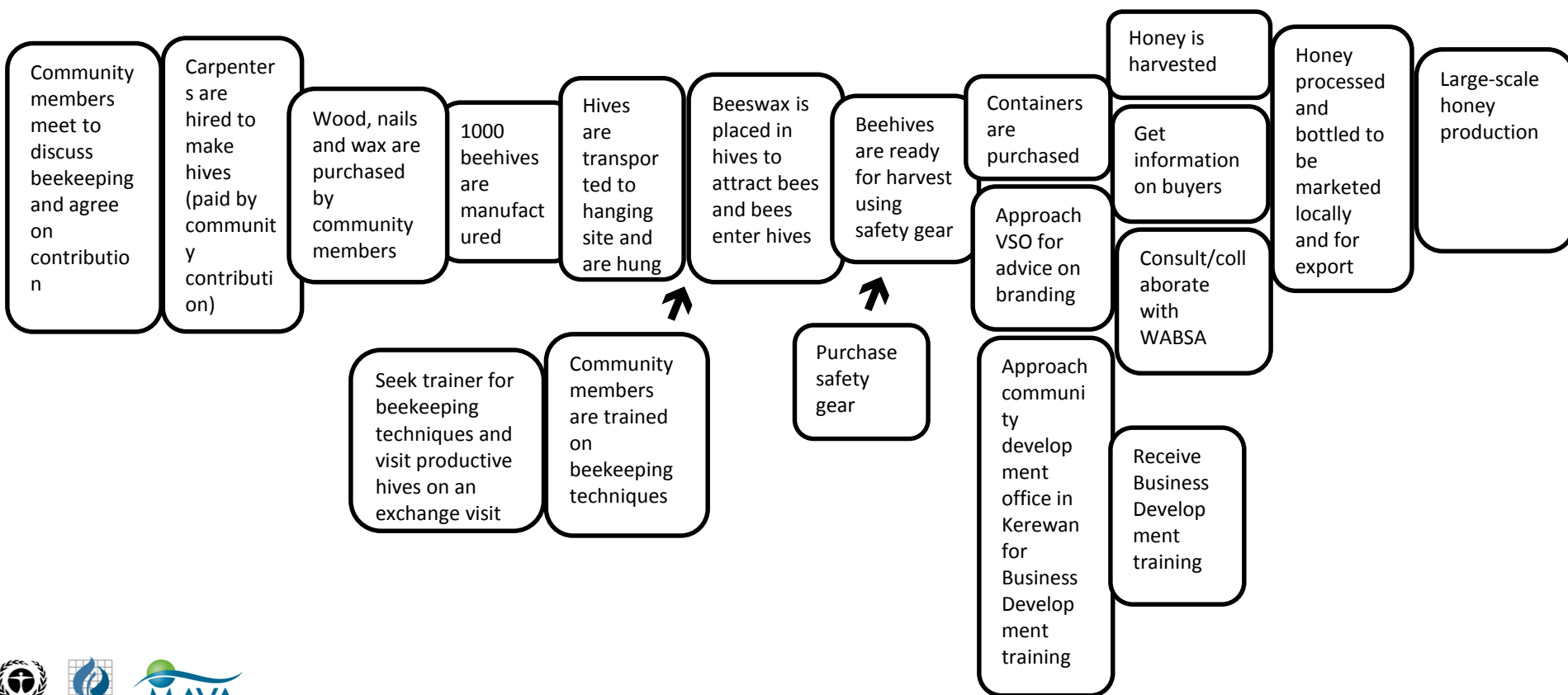
- **3-day Adaptation Planning Workshop:**
 - Day 1: Framing adaptation: ‘of what, to what, on whose terms?’
 - Day 2: ‘Where do we want to go? Where are we now?’
 - Day 3: Building a step-by-step plan



Back-casted plan for large-scale honey production in Jinack Nigi and Jinack Kajata, The Gambia

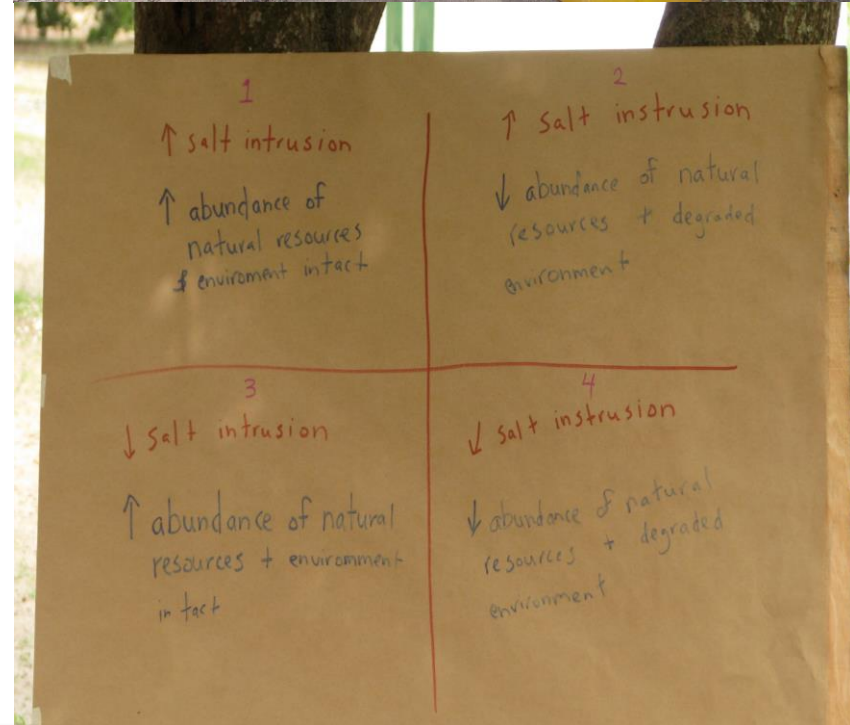
Present
2014

Future
2018



Workshop Design

- **One-on-one follow-up interviews:**
 - Ensure specific perspectives have not been marginalised by group process
 - Discuss 'hot topics' or issues that may create tension
 - Provide more information on relations between community and PA
- **2-day Community Scenario Development Workshop:**
 - Develop scenarios for alternative plausible futures to build capacity for decision-making under uncertainty and change
 - Add robustness to back-casted step-by-step plans across a broad range of plausible futures



Post-workshop

- **Workshop is an important entry point to engaging with communities on their terms:**
 - Workshop organizers can appropriately engage with the communities in their local context
 - Community buy-in to help negotiate potential trade-offs between human development goals and PA management objectives and deal with potential restrictions (infeasibility of plans under climate change, project context, budget, time frame, institutional mandate)

Workshop marks crucial first step in a process of continuous dialog and engagement with the communities and the PA in order to ensure the most appropriate and effective adaptation plans are implemented

Next Steps:

- **Writing up and analysing workshop results**
- **Reporting back workshop results**
- **Identifying funding sources and allocating funds**
- **Implementing adaptation actions**
- **Monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions**
- **Informing PA management and monitoring strategies**

Timeframe dependent on project context, availability of communities, PA staff and technical experts



Implementing adaptation actions

Supporting ecosystem- and community-based adaptation options



Sangomar MPA:

- Mangrove restoration
- Sustainable oyster harvesting
- Improved cooking stoves
- Entrepreneurial training
- Land-use planning (TBD)
- Planting climate-resilient and protein crops (TBD)



Niumi National Park:

- Mangrove restoration
- Tree replanting (Moringa, Coconut)
- Beekeeping, beeswax products and honey production
- Marketing and business training
- EU GCCA grant

Inspiring others

- Innovative approach mixing methods and workshop designs
- Integrates approaches from:
 - critical systems theory
 - resilience and adaptation theory
 - strength-based community development
 - participatory action research in a workshop format
- Systemically uses local norms and visions of resilience
- Holistic community-based planning process addressing environment and development issues in a changing climate
- Builds on local strengths as the basis for prioritizing and planning adaptation initiatives
- Aims to maximize community empowerment to build trust and achieve long-term, sustainable outcomes
- Tailored to PA context to address both conservation and development needs
- Adaptable to other contexts, project structures, partner set-up, facilitation teams, target communities, technical experts, etc.



Climate-Resilient Communities and Protected Areas



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