REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

N.E.A.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

TERMINAL EVALUATION REPORT OF THE ACCC PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY THE NEA



NATURA CONSERVATION - KANIFING ESTATE,

Serekunda, The Gambia

September ® 2012

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Acronyms

ACCC	Adaptation to Climate and Coastal Change in West Africa -
CCLME	Canary current large marine ecosystem project
COP	Conference of Parties
CSRP	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
GEAP	Gambia Environmental Action Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GOOS	Regional Ocean Observing and Forecasting System for Africa
GRBDO	Gambia River Basin Development Organisation
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NSC	National Steering Committee
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP-CO	UNDP Country Office
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
TWC	Tanbi Wetlands Complex
TBR	Tanji Bird Reserve

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2010 Country Assistance Strategy of the UNDP is designed to support the attainment of *The Gambia Incorporated Vision 2020* goals and is focused on securing a sustainable reduction in the incidence of poverty whilst addressing climate change issues and its impact on the livelihood and survival of coastal communities. Through GEF Funding, the UNDP support to this agenda is multi-faceted and includes complementary projects that address environmental concerns both directly and indirectly. The Adaptation to Climate Change - Responding to Coastal Change in its human dimensions in West Africa through integrated coastal area management' (ACCC) is a Regional pilot Project which focuses on implementing measures to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change on coastal resources. *It also underpins a significant portion of livelihood opportunities of the coastal communities.* The pilot project was implemented in Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and the Cape Verde Islands. The project targeted highly vulnerable communities in the five West African countries in increasing their capacity to adapt to long-term climate change including variability.

Specifically, the ACCC project did complement the on-going UNDP Poverty, Energy and Environment program through its linkages with the poverty alleviation agenda in both rural and peri-urban environments and its promotion of sustainable use of natural resources on the coastal and marine environment of the Gambia. The MSP is implemented to build upon previous interventions, information and experience gained through the GEAP, Ramsar, NBSAP, and other planning processes, and did provide a vital complement to the ongoing and incipient program of activities directly and indirectly related to coastal management. It has provided great support to the Government's efforts to strengthen the coastal and marine communities and sensitive conservation areas of Biodiversity in The Gambia.

The **Goal** of the project is to reduce vulnerability and to increase adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change in the focal areas in which GEF works. The Objective of the pilot project was to maintain or strengthen ecosystem resiliency to climate change along the canary coastline current through developing and piloting a range of effective coping mechanisms for reducing the impact of climate change induced coastal erosion in vulnerable regions in five countries in West Africa. In the Gambia, the development of the project underpinned the need for interventions designed to achieve three outcomes in support of the project objective. These are:

- Pilot activities to increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of coastline ecosystems in regions vulnerable to climate change impacts implemented;
- Climate change and adaptation issues integrated into coastal area management policies and programs;
- Enhanced monitoring of coastal erosion and capacity building in coastal management and planning.

The Gambia component of the project had the following outputs:

- Construction of eco-tourism camp at Tanji Bird Reserve for communities of Tanji, Madiyana, Ghana Town and Brufut and the other satellite villages.
- Fencing of old sand mining quarry in Kartung
- Demarcation and Mapping of the TWC
- Re-foresting of wetland degraded areas in the TWC

- Capacity building to enhance community adaptation strategies to climate change impacts on the coastal zone.
- Coastal benchmark setting up along the 81km of coastline to monitor sea level rise and accretion in the coastal environment.

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the achievements of the project in the areas of project design, outputs, constraints, achievement of overall objectives, partnership strategy, cross-cutting issues and sustainability. The evaluation exercise examined all aspects of the project from its inception in April 2009 to December 2011.

Findings

- Almost all the expected outputs of the project have been achieved

- There have been some delays during disbursement of project funds

- The project staff departure for training/transfer has seriously affected project

- The NSC, as set out in the Project, was efficient.

- In spite of all these implementation issues the project has helped improve relationship between stakeholders and initiated livelihood ventures for local coastal communities living around ~~a~~ Marine Protected Area

- A constant monitoring system would have highlighted the difficulties met

- The ecotourism camp remains not functional until now to provide revenue for the benefit of local communities around TBR.

Recommendations

- Although the ecotourism camp construction is now completed, efforts should be put on its effective functionality for income generation to improve livelihood of local communities.

- Considering the isolate location of the eco camp, interest should be vested on the security conditions to ensure durability and security of the assets. Indeed, security considerations should be aimed at frustrating the efforts of thieves, and mitigating the impacts of fire or other calamities which could be caused with or without premeditation. For security purpose, the study is proposing the handing over of the premises of the Eco-Camp to the DPWM.

- Despite the numerous trainings and community sensitization that had been organised, the reports did not mention any assessment/monitoring of the performance or success in terms of appropriation of the skills inculcated; although it can be understood that it was premature perhaps for a given reason. In this regard, the review advocates for

a follow up monitoring of these activities to make sure that the inculcated skills and know-how are been utilized by the communities. Such a follow up could be assigned to comities comprising members of the NSC and some community representatives as far as it was recognized a high community leadership in project activity definition.

- Exchange of experience is an important aspect that is given priority by this type of regional projects, where member countries are asked to networking in favor of a global context for supplementing and supporting efforts. The review recommends that more efforts should be put into networking /study tours to reconcile national and regional experiences for the successful implementation of the project.

Lessons Learned

1. Environmental management is broad and cross-sectoral undertaking and addressing it will require a more programmatic approach that requires long term perspective to yield results.

2. Local communities can play important roles in managing the environment when their interest is at stake and when they are part of the decision-making process. Fruitful collaboration is needed to create a conducive and an appropriate context for local community development.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation is a vital component in the ACCC project given its importance in highlighting deficiencies and guiding in the achievement of success.

4. It is an advantage to avoid or to reduce to the maximum changing of staff particularly when this one is vested with crucial management responsibility in ongoing project.

5. There is a growing awareness of local communities to maintain a healthy, beautiful environment with high biodiversity potential for the promotion of eco-tourism activities.

Evaluation (rating)

Evaluation Ratings:			
1. Monitoring and Evaluation	***rating***	**2. IA& EA Execution**	***rating***
M&E design at entry	100	Quality of UNDP Implementation	100
M&E Plan Implementation	85	Quality of Execution – UNESCO-COI	100
Overall quality of M&E	92	Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	100
3. Assessment of Outcomes	**rating**	**4. Sustainability**	**rating**
Relevance	100	Financial resources:	85
Effectiveness	85	Socio-political:	70
Efficiency	90	Institutional framework and governance:	100
Overall Project Outcome Rating	91	Environmental :	65
		Overall likelihood of sustainability:	75

1. INTRODUCTION

This Terminal Evaluation Report (TER) covers all activities supported by the GEF/ UNDP intervention. It details an ***assessment of progress of GEF interventions*** towards related outputs and outcomes, evaluates ***project performance***, analysis of the ***project design***, suggestions on ***Partnership Strategy*** as well as ***Resource Mobilization***. It further elaborates on the integration of ***cross – cutting issues,*** identifies ***constraints and hurdles*** experienced during project implementation, generates lessons learnt and finally suggests a ***way forward*** for better future project implementation.

The ***methodology*** employed for the TER is based on the review of existing project documents, field activity reports, discussions held with UNDP staff, interviews with project staff of the implementing agency and more importantly field visits to assess impacts made at the level of stakeholders and beneficiaries.

1.1 Institutional Setting

The project was prepared and submitted to GEF for funding in 2006 and its implementation started in 2009 until December 2011. However, it had to be extended until September 2012 in order to complete the remaining activities and prepare the terminal report.

The NPMT housed by NEA consisted of a National Project Director (assigned by the NEA as in-kind contribution), a National Project Coordinator and his team of assistants. UNDP provided the quarterly financial support for the national activities upon request of the NPMT. It was reported that The NPMT in collaboration with UNDP established administrative procedures and operational systems, perform annual audit, and establish project financial management system in accordance with UNDP procedures and the administrative system in place at the NEA headquarters.

2. THE PROJECT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 The Development Context

The Republic of the Gambia is situated between latitude 13 and 14 degrees north, and 17 and 12 degrees west. It has a total area of about 11,300 sq km of which 10,000 sq km is land and 1,300 sq km is water. According to the 2003 Population Census, the Gambia's population is estimated at 1.7 million, and it is growing at an annual rate of 1.2%. The 2003 Integrated Household Survey (HIS) classified 61% of the population as poor, and of this 56% is rural and 44% is urban. The country's Human Development Index (HDI) in 2007/2008 was put at 0.502 ranking it 155th out of 177 countries of the world. Beside no less than 21 other African countries have a lower HDI than the Gambia. Life expectancy at birth is 53.9 years and adult literacy is 37.8%.

Although small in size, The Gambia harbors a wealth of terrestrial, coastal, marine and wetland habitats and species of local, national, regional and global significance. The coastal and marine environment is defined in the Gambian context as not only those areas that border the Atlantic but also those with brackish water that border the River Gambia, extending 200km inland. It is one of the areas identified as of particular importance in the GEAP, NBSAP, and Climate Change national communications. It is a natural resource rich area with particularly high biodiversity of national, regional and global environmental significance.

The Gambia's coastal and marine areas are under increasing pressure. A large proportion of the country's population resides in coastal areas and depends upon them for their livelihoods. Population growth and immigration as a result of disrupted rainfall patterns and land degradation in the hinterland translate into growing pressure on coastal and marine resources. Anthropogenic pressures arising from subsistence and small-scale economic exploitation include sand mining, fishing, clearing of forest and mangroves for fish-smoking and fuel wood, arable crop production, and pastoralism. There is also evidence of significant pressure on species of global and regional concern such as nesting and migratory birds and marine turtles, the eggs of which are frequently collected; sharks, harvested for their fins; and manatees hunted for meat, as well as growing conflicts between humans and wild species such as hippopotamus as the two are increasingly forced to depend upon the same resources for survival. The coast also is the primary tourism attraction of The Gambia, which alongside other economic development initiatives is increasing development pressure in this zone.

2.2 The Project Document

The overall target of the project is the highly vulnerable communities in the five West African countries to assist them increase their capacity to adapt to long term climate change including variability. In this regard, the project bears two levels of engagement: an internal level whereby the project works within the national institutional and legal framework of each of the participating countries and an external level that entails a joint effort of all the concerned countries to create a harmonious context for exchange and complementing strategies. With respect to GEF SPA guidelines to access funding, the project had to develop and pilot a range of effective coping mechanisms for reducing the impact of CC induced coastal erosion in the vulnerable regions of these countries to reach its goal.

With such a large scale project, a thorough and accurate evaluation requires inputs from different sources. Form the local to the regional through the national sources, all are important to mainstream a concise evaluation of the achievements. This is more so important for this evaluation-assessment since it would help in light of the different realities between the concerned countries, an exchange of experiences and by the way foster acquisition of new knowledge and skills. In itself, the project contains also specific indicators applicable at different levels and/or timescale in the course of the achievements which help grading of its performance.

At national level, the National Environment Agency (NEA) in collaboration with different local and foreign institutions is the main implementing agency. Several other local Institutions and development partners such as the DPWM, UNDP, the department of Forestry, the department of Fisheries and Water resources, many NGO and local coastal communities to name a few are partners, given their interest in and the vital roles they play in natural resources management, particularly in building the resilience of coastal communities to the impacts of climate change of socio-economic and ecological set-ups.

Different coastal communities living in localities with high biodiversity potentials but seriously threatened by the effects of climate change impact were targeted by the project. As a four-year period project, several deliverables deemed appropriate to contain the impacts of climate change especially along the coastal area were proposed. The present consultancy is intended to evaluate these achievements in order to give feed-back on the overall performance of the project and suggest appropriate adaptation strategies for addressing the impacts of climate change on coastal communities.

Although many of the project's intended-activities have been completed, a few co-laterals are still remaining with the hope to finalize them when necessary additional funding is available. From the project design and its implementation at national level, with the constraints and challenges to the lessons learnt and the budget allocation or financial disbursements, all items are reviewed and scrutinized to pinpoint the strengths and/or weaknesses pertaining to integrated coastal area management geared towards adaptation to coastline change in its human dimensions under the influence of climate change impacts.

As highlighted in the project proposal, the integration of climate change concerns into policies and programs, the project needed to focus more on sensitizing policy makers on the risks posed by climate change and the necessary conditions for adaptation. This would have reduced the maladaptive practices that exacerbate vulnerability of social, ecological and geomorphological systems in the coastline area in the name of short-term economic development. Communication between departments and agencies and between policy makers and coastal communities would have improved, with greater stakeholder involvement in policy development and implementation. Tourism development and conservation zones more clearly delineated should facilitate more effective coastal zone management. Regulatory frameworks would be strengthened and enforcement mechanisms well developed, resulting in reduced anthropogenic pressure on coastal systems. Awareness of climate change and sea-level rise in the policy community would encourage the inclusion of climate change and sea-level rise considerations into new policy initiatives.

The project would assist in the improvement of monitoring of coastline change, climatic trends and environmental conditions, adaptation initiatives had to be implemented, thus leading to adaptation measures that would be more acceptable to communities with a greater awareness of the risks associated with CC and SLR. The project developed links with existing programs in order to ensure that activities across different projects and program are complementary, and to avoid the unnecessary duplication of activities. The project developed ICAM framework, within the context of existing activities, and in turn provide an ICAM context within which ongoing activities can continue.

Table 1: Project Budget in USD dollars

Award ID: tbd									
Award Title: PIMS 3341 CC-A FSP: West Africa Shoreline Project									
Project ID: tbd									
Project Title: PIMS 3341 CC-A FSP: Adaptation to Climate Change - Responding to Shoreline Change and its human dimensions in West Africa through integrated coastal area management.									
Executing Agency: National Environment Agency									
GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity**	**Responsible Party**	**Source of Funds**	**Atlas Budgetary Account Code**	**ERP/ATLAS Budget Description/Input**	**Amount (USD) Year 1**	**Amount (USD) Year 2**	**Amount (USD) Year 3**	**Amount (USD) Year 4**	**Total (USD) All Years**
OUTCOME 1: Implemented pilot activities to increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of coastline ecosystems in regions vulnerable to climate change impacts	MEA	GEF	71200	Intl Cnslt	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	32,000
			71300	Lcl Cnslts	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	24,000
			71600	Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000
			72100	Contr-Cmpy	160,000	74,000	75,000	41,200	350,200
			74200	Printing & Publications, Translation	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,000
		sub-total	**GEF**		**177,000**	**91,000**	**92,000**	**58,200**	**418,200**
OUTCOME 2: Climate change and adaptation issues integrated into coastal area management policies and programmes.	MEA	GEF	71200	Intl Cnslt	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700	18,800
			72100	Contr-Cmpy	6,380	8,520	14,200	7,100	36,200
		UNDP	71300	Lcl Cnslts		5,000	6,000	10,000	41,000
		sub-total	**UNDP**		**25,000**	**25,000**	**25,000**	**25,000**	**100,000**
		sub-total	**GEF**		**11,080**	**13,220**	**18,900**	**11,800**	**55,000**
Subtotals		GEF			**188,080**	**104,220**	**110,900**	**70,000**	**473,200**
		UNDP				**25,000**	6,000	**10,000**	**41,000**
		TOTAL				**129,220**			**514,200**

The overall implementation guidance of the project was to be entrusted to a National steering committee comprising the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Forestry and the Environment as the Chairman. National Environment Agency, Ministry of Fisheries & water resources, Department of Water Resources, Department of Forestry, Department of Physical Planning & Housing, Geological Department, Department of Parks & Wildlife Management, Gambia Tourism Authority, National Planning Commission, Gambia Ports Authority, The Associations of NGOs (TANGO), Gambia Hotel Association, Association of Small scale Enterprises in Tourism, UNESCO National Commission, UNDP CO Banjul, Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education, Tanji Bird Reserve Committee and Office of the President. The Executive Director NEA was to serve as the Project Director assisted by a Project Officer for the day to day project activities.

For the disbursement of project funds, a financial management system in line with the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) has been adopted. Initially UNDP was to disburse funds for the implementation of the project based on requests for payment authorized by NEA. With increased capacity within NEA, quarterly advance modality was ~~be~~ employed based on the Funding Authorization and Certificate of Expenditure (FACE). The PSC, supported by the Project Management Unit (PMU) was responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the project.

2.3 Environmental Management in The Gambia

Although several public institutions have responsibility in managing the environment in The Gambia, the National Environment Agency is the lead agency responsible for environment policy formulation and coordination of all environment related activities.

Established in 1994 through the National Environment Management Act (NEMA), the NEA had the responsibility to implement the GEAP. The Act provides for the establishment of the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) which oversees environmental policies, environmental standards, guidelines and regulations proposed by the NEA. The Council is chaired by His Excellency the President. The NEA is headed by an Executive Director supported by Directors in the areas of Technical Services, Inter-sectorial Services Network, and Administration and Finance.

There are Senior Program Officers responsible for the various program run by the Agency. At present there are 10 program areas in: Agriculture and Natural Resources Management, Environmental Education and Communication, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Legislation, Environmental Quality Monitoring and Enforcement, Coastal and Marine Environment, Pesticides Regulation and Control Board and The Ozone Program. The Agency also administers a number of Acts and regulations such as the Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides Control and Management Act 1994 and the recently enacted Anti-Littering Regulations.

As part of its decentralization process the NEA has Principal Environmental Officers and Inspectors posted at the regions-Lower River, Central River, Upper River and the North Bank Regions. The Western Region and the rest of Greater Banjul Area are covered from the NEA headquarters. The total staff complement at the NEA is 85 at the time of the project which include the support staff. To facilitate coordination the Agency has set up inter sectoral and technical working groups with membership drawn from key partner technical institution.

2.4 Progress in Project Implementation and Achievements

Through this matrix, the project terminal assessment exercise revealed the following:

Project Outcomes	**Key Activities**	status	Remarks
Pilot Activities to increase Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of Coastline Ecosystems at the Tanji Bird Reserve (TBR) and Bijol Islands Implemented	**Ecotourism Camp Construction**	The Camp construction was completed by September 2012.	The construction of the Eco- Camp was completed with the provision of water and electricity and a furnished kitchen and restaurant. Yet, it has been noted in the one hand that the mini-conference room is still under completion; in the other hand, the camp does not yet start generating funds to increase community participation and enhance livelihood around TBR. However, the extension of the project & provision of additional funding (2012) has helped finalization of pending/outstanding activities.
	Training on eco camp management	Achieved in 2011	Representatives of 4 communities around TBR were trained on eco-camp management in order to foster community leadership in the day to day management of the ecotourism camp. This will enable employment creation for the benefit of the local communities. In the long run the communities will be adequately capacitized to run the ecotourism camp successfully.
	Mangrove Restoration Study	The study fully accomplished in June - Dec 2009	Conducted by WABSA, this consultancy was done to assess degraded mangrove areas in the Tanbi Wetland Complex (TWC) and the Niumi National Park
	Tanbi Wetland Complex boundary line demarcation	accomplished in January 2011	Approximately 27km of boundary line were delimited with 581 concrete pegs of 1.5m height placed at 50m distances. it has been noted that the delimitation will help limit encroachment within the complex
	Fencing-off of old mining quarry at Kartong Village	An approximate length of 80m was fenced-off and two gates installed at key entrances.	To protect abandoned sand mine that has become a haven for birds and other coastal wildlife and with high potential for boosting local ecotourism. This was a great success meaning that the project supported establishment of the management scheme of the quarry but also enabled acquisition of bird watching and field guides materials to the KUBWC
	Mangrove restoration:	An area of 12 ha was planned to be reforested	Only eight (8ha) hectares of degraded mangroves areas within the Tanbi Wetland complex as a pilot activity were reforested. According to staff of Tanbi and field observations, the area is successfully

		in August 2011	recovering.
	Training for oyster collectors	The training was accomplished in September 2010	This was done to build capacity of 65Women *of the Lamin village Oyster Collectors' Association* on new and sustainable oyster farming methods and harvesting techniques. Furthermore, 25 women among *of the Lamin village Oyster Collectors' Association* benefited a training on tie-and-dye for alternative livelihood during off seasons for oyster harvesting. Reports reviewed do not highlight any subsequent follow up and M&E to determine success or failure of these initiatives in terms of appropriation of the skills inculcated; although it can be understood that it was premature perhaps for a given reasonThese initiatives could have positively impacted on the sustainable exploitation of the mangrove resources (shell fish) and assist in the reduction of poverty around Tanbi.
	Provision of Dugout Canoes to Women Oyster Collectors	Accomplished in September 2010	The gesture has enhanced the capacity oyster collectors to reach farer places along the creek.
	Coastal Sand Dunes Stabilization Study	The study was duly completed in June - Dec 2009 .	It was meant to assess coastal plants for the stabilization of coastal sand dunes from *Solifor* point to the mouth of *Allahein River*. This is part of the strategies to reduce coastal erosion in the selected sites. However it has been noted during the review that recommendations of the study were controversial which gave undue course to the implementation of the activity by the project.[n
	Community Sensitization:	activities were conducted 2010	four community sensitization meetings and fieldtrips conducted to popularize the project but specifically on ecotourism and adaptation to climate change. (See below for the full sensitization program)
	Erosion rate of Bijol Islands stabilized or reduced	Not done	The project has not conducted any direct activity on the islands to help reduce erosion. However, four associated communities have been highly sensitized on issues related to the importance of the Islands which would help reduced any human interference. The review did even wonder how this outcome was integrated in the project design because islands ecosystems are very fragile and do require greater

			attention inputs in terms of erosion control tentative, there was no study to propose strategies.
			The Department of Parks & Wildlife Management has recorded a species total of 305 in a study in late 2010. The indicators selected during the project design are not suitable to measure success of activity implementation. Considering the fragility of the islands ecosystems, the review team concurred with the NPMT not to implement the planned activities
	Climate Change Video Production	Achieved in December 2009	A video was produced on the threats to natural resources systems in the Gambia from climate change; and also on government efforts in the challenge of climate change But its dissemination, especially on the TV and internet could have been a great opportunity to improve awareness of the citizenry on climate change its impacts
Adaptation to Climate Change issues and Coastal Area Management Policies and Programs Integrated	**Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) Study**	A study successfully completed in June- Dec 2009	This study was proposed to produce a framework for ICAM Plan with establishment of an independent Coastal Zone Management Department as major recommendation with Representation from all relevant government sectors as ma and propose a work plan. The study was done but the recommendation was not implemented. With the existing Costal Area Management Working Group at NEA, The review team found redundant the establishment of such in fear of duplication of roles and conflict of interests
	Study tour to Cape Verde:	this was planned for June or July 2010 but was cancelled	The Cape Verde study tour did not materialize due to breakdown of communication. This budget line was utilized for the construction of footpath at the Tanji Ecotourism Camp. The project has missed a very important aspect in terms of collaboration and exchange of experiences and programs with neighboring country; which would be great in fostering regionalization of stands.

	Sensitization on Environmental Impact Assessment and on Anti-littering regulations	] Only four meetings were accomplished in November 2010.	This activity was undertaken to raise awareness on the importance of EIA for the benefit of 8 coastal communities. Mobilization was below expectation as anticipated by in the project design. There was difficulty to mobilize all the communities to attend the meetings
	Zoning of TWC	The study was cancelled	It was proposed to collect information and produce a land use / land cover map of TWC that would be used as the basis for the development of a *sea level rise* regulation. Some reports highlighted the inability of the contractor to meet deadline whilst in other reports there is a justification relating to budget inadequacy. In available reports, it was mentioned that TWC communities preferred demarcation instead of Zoning. This is a very important activity of the project since it was meant to assist in the development of a *sea level rise* regulation that the country would find very useful. It is also a very important management tool for all stakeholders dwelling in the coastal areas.
Develop and Pilot a Range of Effective Coping Mechanism for Reducing the Impact of Climate Change Induced Coastal Erosion	The post-project assessment	Not done	A score of 200 for the *capacity development scorecards* increased by 50% to 300 at the end of the Project. As revealed in the project brief, Monitoring and Evaluation should be a vital component of the project with the assistance of the PSC. In all reports reviewed, this assessment did not happen.
	Sand-watch Teacher Training	successfully accomplished in March 2010	Training workshop was provided on the concepts of SANDWATCH to teachers from both primary and secondary level schools to mainstream beach protection in the school curricula. The training was very successful but the mainstreaming of coastal protection into the school curricula remains to be achieved.
	Sand watch exercise for school children	Successfully implemented in 10 schools in March and Sept 2010	Initially this activity was planned for 5 schools. With the involvement of the UNESCO Sand-watch training program, this has successfully exposed 10 schools on beach protection. Training material and logistical support were provided.
	Establishment of shoreline measurement	June-Oct 2011 completed	Planned to establish 42 bench marks along the coast line (81km) for shoreline measurement purpose.

	Bench mark		The importance of the bench marks is to prevent accretion with large scale projects and also it gives information on sea level rise and erosion over time.
	Mapping of shoreline evolution	Was done in June 2011	This was done with GIS coordinated. The mapping is to be used as baseline tool to assess erosion and changes of the coastal zone. for modeling coast line evolution for a long period for the purpose of determining levels of coastal erosion and sea level rise magnitude
	Production of Land use/cover map of coastal districts	accomplished	The satellite images were obtained in June 2011 but they did not serve the production of the land cover map of the coastal districts; which though was produced.
	Production of risk map of costal districts	Not done	This could not be done; the reason been unavailability of a good resolution *digital elevation model* (DEM) of the said area
	Training of Kartong Upper (KUB) Basic school on Bird watching techniques	Achieved in July 2010	The bird watching club of the KUBS received binoculars and bird field guides (books). This is important for the logistical support of the Bird watching club which can interfere in empowering the local communities in the promotion of ecotourism ventures.
	Project Site Billboards	Successfully accomplished	seven project site billboards have been produced and erected on selected sites

Key partner Institutions

The following institutions were greatly involved in project field implementation activities:

- **Department of Parks & Wildlife Management:** the Project greatly collaborated with the department in both the *mangroves and coastal sand dunes studies* and also *sensitization of coastal communities.* The department also collaborated in the production of video on climate change.
- **UNDP Country Office:** the Project collaborated with the UNDP Country Office as the institution responsible for all financial matters of the project funds.

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources Working Group (ANR-WG):** the group, a representation of mainly government institutions in the natural resources management sector, submitted the proposal on the *zoning of the TWC;* it was involved in the monitoring of the activity that included the review of study products.

Second class Partners and Contracted Experts

- **West Africa Bird Study Association:** this is a local NGO that was responsible for the mangrove restoration study and bird watching training providers for the community of Kartong.
- **Department of Community Development (DCD):** the project sought technical advice from the *Appropriate Technology Unit* of the DCD on the use of *Stabilized Compressed Earth Blocks* (SCEBs) for the construction of the Camp.
- **Department of Physical Planning & Housing (DPPH):** the DPPH evaluated and advised the Project on the suitability of building plans submitted for the kitchen/restaurant unit at the eco-camp.

- **Department of Lands & Surveys (DLS):** the zoning of the TWC was contracted to the DLS based on tasks agreed with the ANR-WG

List of Institutions Represented in the NSC

1. National Environment Agency
2. Ministry of Forestry & Environment
3. Ministry of Fisheries & water resources
4. Department of Water Resources
5. Department of Forestry
6. Department of Physical Planning & Housing
7. Geological Department
8. Department of Parks & Wildlife Management
9. Gambia Tourism Authority
10. National Planning Commission
11. Gambia Ports Authority
12. The Associations of NGOs (TANGO)
13. Gambia Hotel Association
14. Association of Small scale Enterprises in Tourism
15. UNESCO National Commission
16. UNDP Banjul
17. Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education
18. Tanji Bird Reserve Committee
19. Office of the President

Project Management Arrangements

The project provided for a Project Steering Committee (PSC) which met quarterly to provide overall policy guidance and monitor project implementation, According to documentation obtained from NEA, many of the planned meetings were held. In addition to other factors, the PSC did play its full responsibility in monitoring and guiding the project as stipulated in the project document.

3. ANALYSIS OF KEY AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE EVALUATION

3.1 Adequacy Of Project Design

The stated objective of the project is to develop and pilot a range of coping mechanisms for reducing the impacts of climate change induced coastal erosion in vulnerable regions in five countries in West Africa. Most of activities identified, to a large extent, appear to address the situation of coastal erosion and community livelihood in the coastal zones. It is observed that two indicators (reduced erosion rate on Bijol Islands and increased number of bird species) were proposed but could not be achieved. They could not really address the outcome. These two indicators were proposed from the vacuum. In fact for both indicators, there has been no baseline study. Such an undertaking would have shown the limitations and inefficiency of the initially planned activity which was a reforestation of the island to counter the impact of water current erosion on the island. Beside the increase bird species in TBR could not be ascertained for that all figures (305 and 259) highlighted are contradictory and are as result of surveys by partnership institutions but the date of these surveys are not known.

Besides, the project design succeeded in highlighting the need of the country in terms of putting in place mechanisms and strategies to address coastal erosion induced climate change and ecosystem resilience. In that regard, numerous capacity building and awareness programmes, ecosystem regeneration, provision of small scale livelihood initiatives and field studies demonstrate the adequacy of the project design.

3.2ProjectOutputs

The outputs have been reviewed above. As a general comment most of the outputs have been achieved except few others such as the TWC zoning and the completion of mini-conference room of the Ecotourism camp which may benefit from the extension program proposed by UNDP/GEF. The achievements in the area of Anti – Littering and EIA awareness raising require long term sustained effort that goes beyond the life of the project for attitudinal change of resources users. The project has laid the foundation for future livelihood enhancement through the building of the ecotourism camp, the tie and dye and improved oyster collection techniques. The project has also helped to identify possibilities for broader partnerships of various stakeholders through the ANR-WG to ensure a greater outreach and collaboration.

3.3 Constraints

the project experienced numerous delays in the implementation of proposed activities due to the following constraints

- Inability of contractors/consultant to meet deadlines;
- long periods in processing of *request for direct payments* (RDPs) by UNDP Country Office due to late submission of requests by the project

- Project staff movement, the project experienced staff redeployment or departure for study which has impacted on project implementation.
- Difficulty to mobilize communities during EIA and Antilittering sensitizations. Although the reasons are not highlighted by the report, one could understand this shortcoming as a result of poor ground work since numerous communities were targeted.

3.4 Partnership Strategy

In the implementation of activities, the project provided for partnerships with a selected number of government institutions, NGO's and community stakeholders. Through these partnerships, transpires a full commitment of the NSC to help community preparedness to coop with climate change impacts. Yet despite the pertinence in the collaboration, the project did not show efforts to relay or link its activities with other national efforts or projects, with the target to address climate change impacts (e.g. watershed project). Each of the parties fulfilled its obligations and the project provided the much needed support for the smooth implementation of proposed activities. The partnership provided an opportunity for a wider outreach for the environmental message.

3.5 Sustainability

The activities undertaken by the project are considered important in the work for a healthier environment. Indeed the community involvement in the running of the ecotourism camp is a laudable from the perspective of employment creation, community participation in initiative in the reserve management, benefit sharing scheme from revenues generated. It is therefore important for project stakeholders to develop strategies for the quick and efficient operationalization of the ecotourism camp. Additionally, the tie-and-dye and the oyster trainings constitute strong support to community livelihood enhancement and ecosystem conservation and sustainable use.

In this assessment, it is revealed that these activities are sustainable. Therefore it is recommended to replicate the same models elsewhere in the country to contribute towards the attainment of vision 2020. An important indicator is the strong involvement of all communities around TBR and their commitment to the successful implementation of the ecotourism camp.

ANNEX 1: **LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED**

1. Mr. Momodou B. Sarr – Executive Director, NEA
2. Mr. Bulli Dibba - Director of Administration & Finance, NEA
3. Dr. Almame Camara - Programme Analyst, UNDP
4. Famara Drammeh, Programme Officer, coastal & Marine , NEA
5. Aji Awa Jarboh, Admin and Finance Assistant, NEA
6. Sutay Sanneh, Manager TBR
7. Musa Sanyang , Manager TWNP
8. Alpha Omar Jallow, Director DPWM
9. Dr. Amadou Camara, Consultant
10. Dodou Njie, Admin and Finance, WABSA

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