



MANO RIVER UNION
UNION DU FLEUVE MANO
SECRETARIAT



CONVENTION OF COLLABORATION
BETWEEN THE LOCAL CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEES OF GUINEA AND LIBERIA FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MANO RIVER
UNION TRANSBOUNDARY PLATFORM OF
THE FOREST LANDSCAPES OF ZIAMA AND
WONEGIZI
Abbreviated
«MRU-TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI»

NOVEMBER 2021

1. PREAMBLE

Recognizing that the effectiveness of the restoration activities of the transboundary landscape of the Ziama and Wonegizi forest between the two countries can only be done through cooperation, consultation, partnership, mutual support and joint actions;

Considering the Fourth Protocol of the Mano River Union, which places particular emphasis on the sustainable use and management of our natural resources within member states;

Being aware that this management cannot be done on a lasting basis without international cooperation, involving the two riparian countries of Ziama and Wonegizi with the involvement of the two national platforms;

Considering the establishment of the local consultative committee of the Guinean part of the Ziama reserve on **May 29, 2018** in Seredou, Republic of Guinea;

Considering the establishment of the local consultative committee of the Liberian portion of Wonegizi/Wologizi forest on **December 10th 2018** at Konia, Republic of Liberia;

Considering the centuries-old relations of friendship and brotherhood that exist between the two countries and their respective peoples;

Considering their common interest in conserving forest ecosystems which constitute not only a rich universal heritage, but also an important role of economic development and an irreplaceable living environment for the communities who live there;

Considering the Protocol of Agreement operational since April 25th, 2019 related to the conservation and sustainable management of the transboundary forest landscape of Ziama-Wonegizi/Wologizi between the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia;

Considering the bilateral Cooperation Agreement on November 24th, 2019 related to the conservation and sustainable management of the transboundary forest landscape of Ziama-Wonegizi/Wologizi between the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia

Mindful of sound management of transboundary natural resources for the benefit of adjacent communities;

Aware that the Ziama-Wonegizi forest are shared between the two member states of the Mano River Union that are Guinea and Liberia are endowed with important transboundary natural resources;

Aware of perceptible effects of climate change in the sub-region;

Considering the engagement of riparian communities of Ziama-Wonegizi to establish a transboundary platform for the sustainable management of natural resources;

Considering the necessity to establish a transboundary dialogue in the aims of sharing experiences, finding solutions to common problems and to implement activities for the restoration of the Ziama-Wonegizi/Wologizi forest landscape;

Given that conservation efforts cannot be sustained without transboundary collaboration and with technical & financial support from the “conservation of ecosystems and management of international water resources of the Mao River Union” project;

The two parties jointly undertake to:

- Contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular the forest ecosystems of the Ziama-Wonegizi landscape;
- Contribute to raising the awareness of all stakeholders about development issues;
- Share information and experiences relating to best practices in forest landscape restoration;
- Contribute to the prevention and management of transboundary conflicts in the use of these natural resources;
- Mutually exchange information concerning actions undertaken or projects in each national portion;

Hence the present Protocol of Agreement establishing the transboundary platform of the forest landscape of Ziama – Wonegizi abbreviated « **TP-ZIAMA –WONEGIZI** » the local consultative committees of the Guinean and Liberian national portions, is hereby signed by the two representatives.

2. TITLE I: CREATION - NAME - OBJECTIVE AND MISSIONS

1. Creation and Name

Article 1: It is created between the local consultative committees of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia, a framework for dialogue, animation and promotion of the sustainable management of the forest landscapes of Ziama and Wonegizi called Transboundary Platform for the Sustainable Management of the Forest Landscape of ZIAMA -WONEGIZI abbreviated "TP – ZIAMA -WONEGIZI".

2. Name

Article 2: The name of the structure must appear on all acts and documents emanating from the transboundary platform and intended for third parties, in particular letters, invoices, announcements and various publications. It must be immediately preceded or followed by the address, the registered office and the mention of its date and place of creation.

3. Objectives

Article 3: The Transboundary Platform of Forest Landscapes of Ziama and Wonegizi aims to be a space for dialogue between the two (2) local consultative committees for the coordination of the

activities and the strengthening of cooperation among riparian communities in the forest landscape of the Ziama and Wonegizi.

4. Missions

Article 4: The « TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI» has the power invested in its area of control with the following missions:

- Ensure synergy in forest landscape restoration interventions under the GEF MANO-IUCN project,
- Exchange experiences on best practices,
- Validate the annual work plans of the local consultative committees.
- Make recommendations to local committees and national technical structures on any concerns or disputes that may arise in the management of forest landscapes
- Mobilize all stakeholders in the forest resources sector for concerted management of the Ziama and Wonegizi landscape;
- Contribute to building the capacities of stakeholders in the concerted management of the Ziama and Wonegizi landscapes on the dynamics of its functions, its values (socio-cultural, ecological, economic, etc.) and the socio-economic situation of its populations;
- Collaborate with national and regional structures directly concerned with the management of forest resources;
- Make recommendations to political decision-makers likely to contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources;
- Contribute to the capacity building of national platforms, support their projects and programs, capitalize and disseminate the results of their activities;
- Ensure compliance with stakeholder commitments;
- Contribute to the mobilization of the necessary resources from various organizations, partners or Member States of the Mano River Union to finance projects aimed at improving the living conditions of the populations of Ziama and Wonegizi;
- Promote ecotourism and the most relevant and feasible types of restoration intervention identified by the project around the Ziama and Wonegizi landscape;
- Promote the techniques of manufacturing organic fertilizers and bio-pesticides
- Promote high added value Agroforestry species identified within the landscape by the stakeholders, per example:
 - ✓ *Raffia vinifera*
 - ✓ *Piper guineensis*
 - ✓ *Garcinia cola*
 - ✓ *Xylophia aethiopica*
 - ✓ Cocoa
- Popularize the certification process for some agroforestry agricultural products / practices initiated by the project
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation of the assisted natural regeneration plots identified and installed by the project;
- Popularize the scheme of the device for mixing forest and perennial species based on certification;

- Organize intercommunity exchange visits around the pilot plots;
- validate opportunity maps for the restoration of the Ziama and Wonegizi – Wologizi landscape developed by the project

3. TITLE II: DURATION - FISCAL YEAR - HEADQUARTERS

5. Duration

Article: 5 The “MRU-TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI” is created for an unlimited period, from the day of its creation, except for early dissolution by its members at a General Assembly with an absolute majority.

6. Fiscal Year

Article 6: The Fiscal year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of each year.

7. Headquarters

Article 7: The headquarters of the transboundary platform for the management of natural resources of the Ziama and Wonegizi in short “MRU-TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI” is found at the city of residence of the Chairman Country.

It can be transferred to any other location on the site by decision of the General Assembly

8. TITLE III: COMPOSITION

9. Members

Article 8: The members of the "TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI/WOLOGIZI" are the representatives of the two (02) local consultative committees of Guinea and Liberia.

In addition to these two local consultative committees, the Mano River Union Secretariat convenes the meetings of the General Assembly, without the right to vote but in the event of a tie, its vote will be decisive in breaking the tie.

10. TITLE IV: ORGANIZATION

11. Governance structures

Article 9: The governance structures of TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI are:

- The General Assembly
- The Executive Body
- The ad hoc committee
- The Auditors

12. General Assembly

Article 10: The General Assembly is made up of all the members and constitutes the supreme deliberative body of the transboundary platform. Its decisions are applicable to both present and absent members. The sessions of the General Assembly are chaired by the Chairman of the platform that hosts the present General Assembly

The General Assembly meets once a year in ordinary session, if necessary in extraordinary session.

Members of the General Assembly must be representatives from the two (02) local consultative committees and must take gender into account:

- ✓ The local consultative committee of Guinea is represented by 06 delegates
- ✓ The local consultative committee in Liberia is represented by 06 delegates

The representation must take into consideration the gender issue.

13. Executive body

Article 11: The members of the executive body of **TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI** are elected by the General Assembly for a period of two (2) years, renewable only based on consensus of the general assembly.

The executive body is made up of seven members as follows:

1. Chairman
2. Co-Chairman
3. Administrative and financial secretary
4. Secretary for Information, Education and Communication
5. Secretary for prohibitions and conflict management
6. Secretary in charge of external relations
7. Secretary of Protection, Environment and Health

14. Chairmanship of the Body

Article 12: The chairmanship (chairman & co-chairman) of the body is ensured on a rotating basis between Guinea and Liberia.

15. Responsibilities of the Executive Body

Article 13: The body performs its functions under the authority and control of the General Assembly, which elect and remove its members by 2/3 vote within the limits of the powers of the General Assembly.

This delegation of authority must be in writing and may relate to the following tasks:

- Submit to the General Assembly the planning of activities, the estimated budget of the projects to be carried out;
- Organize the holding of transboundary platform meetings, produce the minutes and the Final Communiqué of each meeting;
- Ensure the proper use of funds, the proper maintenance of equipment, the proper internal organization of the cross-border platform and the accuracy of the accounts;
- Ensure the proper execution of the field activities of the two national platforms;
- Write periodic management reports to be presented to the General Assembly on a bi-annual, semi-annual and final basis.

16. Auditors of the Account

Article 14: Two auditors are appointed by the General Assembly at the rate of one auditor per country. They are not members of the executive office. Their missions are specified in their terms of reference (ToR).

17. Ad -hoc Committee

Article 15: The executive body of the transboundary platform may, if necessary, set up an Ad-hoc committee in order to reflect on specific actions to be proposed or to resolve a problem that arises in connection with the missions of the transboundary committee.

It meets following an extraordinary General Assembly called for the cause. The Ad-hoc Committee is made up a Chairman and two rapporteurs with one (01) French speaker and one (01) English speaker.

Its composition depends on the purpose of its establishment and must, depending on the issue to be addressed, be made up of the categories of people most competent in the matter.

Its duration of office ends immediately upon resolution of the issue raised.

18. TITLE V: FINANCIAL RESOURCES

19. Financial Resources

Article 16: The financial resources of the transboundary platform consist of:

- Resources allocated by partners project;
- Contributions from local consultative committees;
- Donations and legacies;
- Various contributions;
- Various activities organized by “MRU-TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI”;
- All other receipts authorized by the General Assembly

20. TITLE VI: FINAL PROVISIONS

21. Bylaws

Article 17: Rules of procedure adopted by the General Assembly shall be established to set the specific provisions of the **TP-ZIAMA -WONEGIZI**, specify the powers and functioning of the bodies.

22. Modification of the-Protocol of Agreement

Article 18: Each national consultative committee is empowered to propose amendments to this Protocol. To be admissible, these proposals must be in accordance with the purpose of the two platforms and safeguard their interests as best as possible.

Any specific modification decision to this convention of collaboration will be taken at the General Assembly by two-third (2/3) majority of the members.

23. Resolving Dispute

Article 19: In the event of a dispute relating to the interpretation, execution or implementation of this protocol, the transboundary platform shall endeavour to settle the dispute amicably.

If this process fails, the dispute shall be settled by a neutral senior figure namely the MRU chosen by common accord of the two parties.

The decision rendered by said personality shall be irrevocable and immediately enforceable.

24. Effect

Article 20: This Protocol of Agreement establishing the transboundary platform for the management of forest resources in Ziama-Wonegizi forest landscape in short “TP- ZIAMA -WONEGIZI” between the platforms of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia takes effect from the date of signature.

25. Deposit of copies

Article 21: This Protocol of Agreement is drawn up in five (05) originals in the two (02) languages (English and French) and file with:

- ✓ For Guinea to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests
- ✓ For Liberia to the Forestry Development Authority

✓ For the Mano River Union to the Secretariat of the Mano River Union in Freetown

Adopted and signed at Macenta City on November 24th, 2021

For Guinea,



The Chairperson

Local consultative committee

For Liberia



The Chairperson

Local consultative committee

Witnessed by



MRU / SS / Programme Officer