



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



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United Nations
Environment Programme



Abidjan Convention
Convention of Abidjan



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MAMI WATA

Enhancing Marine Management In West, central and southern Africa through Training and Application

The marine and coastal environment of the African Atlantic coast is home to a wide range of biodiversity hotspots and highly productive ecosystems, on which communities rely for food security, livelihoods, and climate change resilience. Nevertheless, the health of these environments is in widespread and rapid decline due to human activities.

With the overarching aim to reduce the pressures and impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, the Mami Wata project strengthens national and regional capacities for Integrated Ocean Management (IOM). IOM brings together all relevant government bodies, sectors and stakeholders in a holistic approach for a more effective and sustainable management of oceanic resources to ensure socioeconomic development.



In order to support regional to local action for capturing the value of marine and coastal ecosystems, the project adopts a dual approach:

- applying State of the Marine Environment (SoME) reporting and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), and defining Ecologically and Biologically Significant marine Areas (EBSA), within an efficient IOM framework, and
- developing national and regional capacity through training and technical cooperation.

Mami Wata is implementing three pilot projects in countries of the Abidjan Convention: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Each pilot project develops opportunities for aligning nature conservation with economic and social development:

- Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management Project (GIZMaC) (Benin),
- Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Area from Abidjan to Assinie (GIAMAA) (Côte d'Ivoire), and
- Ecosystem-based approach to Integrated Marine and Coastal Environment Management (EIMCEM) (Ghana).

The national pilot projects are supported by three regional Centres of Expertise. These provide support in developing capacity for each of the three Mami Wata tools through dedicated training and technical expertise:

- the Centre for Environmental Monitoring (Dakar, Senegal) for EBSAs;
- the Environment Protection Agency (Freetown, Sierra Leone) for SoME;
- the International Ocean Institute – African Region (Cape Town, South Africa) for MSP.

The Mami Wata project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), and implemented by the Abidjan Convention (UN Environment) with the technical support GRID-Arendal (Norway).

For more information, visit the project website mamiwataproject.org and follow us on twitter @MamiWataProject

