Conserving healthy wetlands for birds and people

Kick-off Workshop for the Climate Resilient Flyways project

Bondo, Kenya 21-24 March 2016

Supported by:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Contents

Executive Summary

Wetlands International, its partners and other stakeholders from all over the world converged for a multi-day Climate Resilient Flyway (CRF) workshop in Bondo, Kenya. The workshop was the first meeting of all the partners and aimed to share lessons learned and experiences in the conservation of wetlands that are important to waterbirds and sustainable livelihoods in a changing climate.

During the workshop, issues of climate change, and the socio-economic and environmental impacts on wetlands were discussed. Experts in these fields shared experiences in integrating wetland conservation, livelihood resilience and climate change adaptation, both working on the ground in Africa in the countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Mali, and also across the African-Eurasian flyway. A key feature was to identify shortcomings of existing approaches in relation to the project's objectives and will develop recommendations for the current project.

The most focus was given to the Ethiopian and Mali teams who will implement Climate Resilient Flyway projects in the Lake Abijatta-Shalla-Ziway catchment of Ethiopia and the Inner Niger Delta, Mali. The teams shared their lessons learned based on their experiences in wetland conservation and improving and restoring livelihoods in those countries. Action plans for Ethiopia and Mali were developed to prioritise implementation.

This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

Workshop Day 1 – Presentations

Presentations by partners

All presentations can be found on the project Dropbox

BirdLife International – Edward Perry

In the CRF project, BirdLife International will help deliver improved data on birds and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas to the Critical Site Network Tool 2.0 in order to improve the functionality. They will also provide technical expertise on the analyses of hydrological data and climate change modelling. BirdLife will also provide guidance on policy and planning for ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), including supporting integrated assessment of ecosystem services and human vulnerability.

Edward Perry, Global Climate Change Policy Coordinator of BirdLife International, gave a presentation to conceptualise several concepts: what do we mean with climate change adaptation (CCA) and EbA, and why birds can be a flagship for the wellbeing of wetland landscapes and the communities that depend on them. Some of the solutions to help species adapt to these impacts include: climate-smart conservation, conserving key sites (existing and new), enhancing connectivity and delivering targeted interventions.

AEWA Secretariat – Sergey Dereliev

The CSN Tool 2.0 aims to support Africa Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Range States and conservation organisations in planning and implementing the AEWA agreement, including its Resolution 5.3 and 5.13 on climate change adaptation, and to support multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and funding agencies in priority-setting in relation to CCA and biodiversity conservation.

Outputs II and III of the CRF project will be used to produce the AEWA Conservation Guidelines and to establish the curriculum for the training workshops for the Francophone and Anglophone Range States in Mali and Ethiopia respectively.

Sergey Dereliev, Technical Officer at AEWA, gave a short introduction to AEWA's work and spoke on waterbird conservation in light of AEWA's Action Plan, which specifies activities under six headings: Species conservation, Habitat conservation, Management of human activities, Research and monitoring, Education and information, and Implementation.

Mali Department of Forests and Water + Wetlands International Mali – Mohamed Gareyane

The Directorate is responsible for wildlife management issues in Mali. It has national, regional and local level structures to perform its duties. In the CRF project the Directorate will be responsible for embedding the project's results into national policies. Furthermore, its local services will also work on the regional policy integration and field activities.

Wetlands International Mali, together with the Directorate, gave a situation analysis of the Critical Sites in the Inner Niger Delta. The current state of affairs and trends in biodiversity, land use, water use and infrastructure, population, livelihoods and climate change were explained. More than a million people are depending on natural resources in the Inner Niger Delta. Most of the population in this region exists of farmers, fishermen and pastoralists. Because of

declining inundations of the seasonal wetlands and a fast-growing population, the carrying capacity of the region has been exceeded due to intensive exploitation, which also affects the bird populations in the IND.

The ecosystems and the economy of IND depend on the flood regime, so reduction of the flood regime will have a tremendous negative impact. For a sustainable future of the IND, it is necessary to better coordinate all sectors and their impact on water.

Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) - Kahsay Gebretensae/Mihret Ewnetu

EWCA provided an elaborate situation analysis of the Critical Sites in the Lake Abijatta-Shalla-Ziway catchment, Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia. As an organisation EWCA is responsible for the management of the Lake Abijatta-Shalla National Park. Under this project it will step up its engagement with the relevant authorities to ensure that sufficient water reaches Lake Abijatta. It will also carry out activities within the park to reduce illegal logging and implement ecosystem restoration activities within the park.

Land use (Agriculture, tourism, fishing and grazing) water use (for industries, small scale and large scale irrigation schemes, soda ash project, drinking water supply) and population growth are the biggest threats to Lake Abijatta-Shala-Ziway.

Due to increased water abstraction in the Meki and Katar Rivers leading into Lake Ziway and from Lake Ziway and the Bulbulla River connecting it to Lake Abijatta ,water levels are dropping significantly. Currently there is no proper land use system in place on the whole catchment and there are conflicting interests among different sectors.

For a sustainable future Lake Abijatta-Shala-Ziway, a Government Legal and Institutional Framework for the conservation and development of the Rift Valley Lakes Basin is needed and stakeholders must collaborate at all levels in the country.

Rubicon Foundation - Szabolcs Nagy

Modelling of the impact of climate change to wetland landscapes and waterbirds in the African Eurasian Flyway: defining priorities for action

Szabolcs Nagy, the Conservation Director of the Rubicon Foundation, has worked earlier both for BirdLife International and Wetlands International. He has led the development of the Critical Site Network Tool under the Wings Over Wetlands: African-Eurasian Flyway Project, and has experience with waterbird monitoring and modelling their distribution.

Szabolcs will lead on WP I, i.e. assessment of vulnerability of Critical Sites and waterbird populations to climate change, and will also contribute to WP IV. i.e. sharing experience and advocating the results of the project.

In his presentation he explained hydrological modelling and species distribution modelling that will be the basis for output 1. Models so far have focused on breeding distribution and not on staging and non-breeding areas. They have been based on climate data, while climate is often just a proxy for other ecological factors (e.g. water). Occurrence and numbers of waterbirds are driven also by hydrological changes on the catchment and sea-level rise. With these new models the vulnerability of Critical Sites and vulnerability of waterbird populations to climate change will be assessed through which we can identify priority sites for climate change adaptation measures.

Wetlands International Kenya – Frank van Weert

Integrating ecosystem values in the development debate: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity of the Tana Basin.

Frank van Weert shared experiences of the approach used in the TEEB in Kenya's Tana Basin.

The Tana Delta consists of an impressive variety of freshwater, floodplain, estuarine and coastal areas with extensive mangroves, intertidal areas and pristine beaches, forming a large and very productive coastal ecosystem. As a result, it was recently designated as Kenya's 6th Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. The Tana Delta is rich in nature, supporting several highly threatened species of animals and plants.

The Tana Delta has been the focus of a number of agricultural development projects which have been controversial. These include sugarcane farming, irrigation, and aquaculture projects such as prawn and biofuel farming. Upstream hydrological changes such as damming and water diversions for irrigation and urban domestic water use create threats to the delta ecosystem. Oil and gas exploration are polluting and degrading the delta.

Together with the local communities, Wetlands International gathered information on the functions and values of the ecosystem to inform all stakeholders, from the national government to local communities, on land use practices that take into account the environment and shape local, regional and national policy.

HoA-REC&N - Adane Kebede

HoA-REC&N facilitates, strengthens and advocates initiatives related to environmental conservation and natural resource management. In the CRF project, HoA-REC&N will be responsible for community-based climate change adaptation measures in the Lake Abijatta catchment around Lake Ziway.

Adane Kebede gave a presentation on the assessing of ecosystem services and impact of climate change and socio economic factors (Environmental Service and Climate Change Analyses Programme (ESACCAP)). This project aims to sustain growth and create greater resilience to climate shocks through strengthened institutional capacity of the Ethiopian government, private sector and civil society to effectively respond to the Climate Resilient Green Economy Agenda. The project tried to do so through the establishment of two institutions: the Environmental and Climate Services Institute (ECSI), and the Ethiopian Panel on Climate Change (EPCC). The ECSI is responsible for conducting sustainable environmental impact analyses, environmental monitoring, auditing and reporting by certifying institutions meeting international requirements and standards to ensure the social and environmental safety of the development activities. A Disaster Risk, Environment and Climate services database system was established to better facilitate information management, sharing and networking.

The EPCC will try to establish a database system to validate and to verify climate research to create synergy among policymakers, development sectors and scientific communities. EPCC is currently working on strengthening its networks and securing sustainable funding to produce assessment reports.

Workshop Day 1 – Break out session

Creating the optimal mix of assessments needed to integrate waterbird conservation and resilient livelihoods in well managed wetland landscapes

Mali

Information needs:

- State of the site/Biodiversity
- Socio economic conditions
- Institutional and political
- Threats
- Underlying causes

Information need	Existing	Gaps
State of the site/Biodiversity	- Important Bird Areas Information - Protected areas of inventories - International Waterbird Count census reports - Flood plains - Forest information - Land use maps - Existing EIA's and SEA's - Sustainable development	- BAMGIRE - Local assessments - Critical ecosystem process e.g. Bourgou grasses - Information on different data
Socio-economic conditions	- Population census (human & cattle) - Spatial built infrastructure maps - Fisheries stats (type and quantity) - Spatial area and distribution of agriculture (crop type) - Health information	- BAMGIRE - Vulnerability (human and LLH assessments) - Water use (agriculture, domestic and livestock) - Effects of developments/ investments e.g. Fomi dam
Threats Agriculture Overfishing Deforestation Illegal hunting	- Climate change models - Meta services data - Water level data (flood variations) - Market surveys	- Impact of development at national scale country - Understanding of climate change effects on migration - Effects of climate change on ecosystem services - Effects on waterbird numbers - Check data from different sources (BAMGIRE) - Observatory

Of the gaps identified, the following emerged as top priorities;

- Vulnerability (human and LLH assessments)
- Understanding of climate change effects on migration
- Effects of climate change on ecosystem services
- Effects on waterbird numbers
- BAMGIRE
- Critical ecosystem processes e.g. Bourgou grasses

Ethiopia

Wetland landscape problems identified:

Problems identified	Negative effects
Climate change Population pressure Lack of implementation of policies Lack of alternative livelihoods Lack of integrated approach Expansion of large scale agriculture Deforestation Weak environment auditing + enforcement Water use small scale farming Water overuse by mining Overuse of water by agriculture Sand extraction Charcoal making Salt extraction Livestock encroachment	Drought Siltation Flooding Size of lakes Water quality Habitat degradation Water allocation Overexploitation of water Erosion of traditional system Disease outbreak

Most urgent problems that need to be addressed:

- Overexploitation of water + other natural resources
- Water quality degradation due to pollution includes agrochemical
- Allocation of water
- Lack of integrated approach (governance)
- Lack of implementation/enforcement of policies and laws
- Habitat degradation
- Climate change
- Siltation

To address these problems and come to the right measures to be implemented and convince the right stakeholders, the following information/data emerged as top priorities:

Existing	Gaps
- Land use changes impact on water quality + quantity - Effect of water → Eco-health → Biodiversity + waterbirds	- Gathering basic data on wider catchment + updating of CRF existing information - Effect of climate Change on water availability - Stakeholder power mapping - Rift Valley basin Master Plan is developed - Policy implementation gap analysis – use existing fora, led by government.

Workshop Day 2 - Presentations

Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society - Bruktawit Abdu

The EWNHS is an independent membership-based organisation in Ethiopia. It has led the identification of Important Bird Areas in Ethiopia, which forms the basis of the Critical Sites for AEWA. In the CRF project they are responsible for the assessment of the contribution of Critical Sites to climate change adaptation and identifying areas for wetland restoration. They will also develop a network of Site Support Groups (SSG) and train them in bird monitoring, flyway conservation and climate change adaptation issues.

Bruktawit Abdu presented on forests and food & Abijatta site support groups: successes and lessons learned of improving both conservation and agricultural practices in Ethiopia. She discussed the root causes to degradation (population pressure – poverty, Charcoal – Acacia, Rangeland degradation, agriculture, soil erosion, sand extraction, soda ash, irrigation) and actions undertaken through the SSG's such as how breeding cattle, water tanks, area enclosures, and soil conservation structures can improve livelihoods and restore habitat.

Wetlands International Mali – Mori Diallo

Planting trees to eat fish: successes and lessons learned of improving both conservation and agricultural practices in Mali.

Mori elaborated on some of the success stories of biodiversity conservation of Wetland International Mali. The main drivers of the successes were: good knowledge of stakeholders involved, close collaboration with municipalities, awareness raising and the bio-rights approach.

Some of the bigger challenges are the illegal hunting of birds, and when in need of food security the government often prioritises agriculture management above the environment. Wetlands International Mali tries to emphasise that each activity undertaken in the Inner Niger Delta should consider water scarcity. Furthermore the youth and women, who are the most active persons in natural resource exploitation are too often left outside of the decision making bodies.

Imarisha Naivasha - Kamau Mbogo

The Naivasha Success story: Government, NGOs and knowledge institutes working together; reasons for success, lessons learned

Kamau Mbogo, the CEO of Imarisha Naivasha, explained that there are diverse environmental and development challenges around Lake Naivasha in Kenya: unsustainable use of water resources, pollution, encroachment, mushrooming of informal settlement. The Imarisha Lake Naivasha Management Board was created in 2011 to develop a programme "Imarisha Naivasha Programme" to coordinate the activities of various players engaged in the conservation of the lake and its catchment, and also develop, adapt and execute a trust to receive financial resources to finance the implementation of programmes.

Activities within the Imarisha Naivasha programme are based on the five-year Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP), whose four expected outcomes are;

- Lake Naivasha and its riparian zone are protected and managed according to "wise use" principles and demonstrating measureable ecosystem restoration and resilience,

- Land use and management in the catchment contribute to sustainable development and climate change resilience,
- Improve the capacity of water resource institutions and mechanisms to regulate water use, improve community access to clean water and sewerage,
- Imarisha Naivasha recognised and functioning effectively as the coordinating institution for Lake Naivasha Basin restoration, wise use and sustainable development.

Successes were shown in achievements such as seven major tree nurseries established in the basin, supporting of planting of over 2.5 million tree seedlings and influencing the Government of Kenya in tree planting in the basin, enhanced bee-keeping in Eburru and Aberdare (procured 150 Langstrogh beehives) which resulted in alternative income sources to communities.

Kamau Mbogo explained the main drivers of success were:

- Stakeholder recognition of risk and opportunities,
- Stewardship, strengthened stakeholders engagement
- Consultation and strong partnerships and networks
- Integrated/watershed /landscape management approach management,
- Management frameworks in place

Wetlands International - Mohamed Gareyane & Frank van Weert

BAMGIRE project: Towards an observatory for a healthy Inner Niger Delta in Mali

The BAMGIRE project (started in 2015) is an implementation project to the Inner Niger Delta Sustainable Development Programme, and to the Programme for Strengthening Integrated River Basin Management in Mali, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It has close synergies with the CRF project. The goal of the project is that government, decentralised institutions and community actions sustain the flooding regime and natural resources of the Upper Niger Basin so that livelihoods, biodiversity and the economy can adapt to a changing environment.

Frank and Mohamed gave a presentation on what BAMGIRE has achieved so far, and what they plan to achieve in the upcoming few years. They mainly focused on the observatory of Upper Niger and IND. Two main objectives here are: By 2019, the observatory has allowed technical administrations, policy makers, civil society and local stakeholders to monitor the implementation of major policies for strategic and sustainable development of the two sub-basins. And by 2019, the major development policies (water, wetlands policy, etc.) are well orientated and rehabilitated in accordance with the knowledge developed by the observatory.

28 indicators in the region have been identified to feed into the Observatory's knowledge base. Indicators include biodiversity indicators such as waterbirds, fish and invasive vegetation. Wetlands International will work together with the Niger Basin Authority to share data about indicators and mobilise technical services of Mali and Guinea to monitor these specific indicators.

Mott Macdonald – Eliot Taylor

Shire River Basin Management Programme

The Shire River Basin is Malawi's single most important water resource, supporting the country's key economic sectors including food production, transport, energy, tourism, agriculture and fisheries. The aim of the programme is to increase sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits of the basin by effectively and collaboratively planning, developing and managing its natural resources.

The programme is made up of three components – Shire basin planning, catchment management and water related infrastructure – and the Mott MacDonald led consortium is responsible for the catchment management component.

The three sub-components are:

- Facilitating development of institutional capacity in catchment management planning and undertaking participatory catchment management planning work at several scales (whole catchment, sub-catchment and village-level catchment);
- Facilitating and overseeing actual physical rehabilitation of catchments, and;
- Supporting (identification and development of) alternative rural livelihoods with the aim of improving the economic standing of communities and thereby reducing their direct reliance on natural resources and in doing so also improving catchment management.

Nature Kenya – Paul Muoria

Introduction to Yala swamp and its Ecosystem Services

The Yala swamp is an important source of livelihood to the communities in the area. It provides goods (e.g. food, fuel, livestock fodder), regulating services (e.g. Climate regulation - carbon storage, Water regulation – stores water) and Cultural Services (spiritual and religious values, cultural heritage values)

The main issues threatening the area are:

- Primarily – rapid human population growth.
- Conversion for agriculture
- Habitat degradation
- Unsustainable harvesting of fish, and other products
- Pollution
- Upstream habitat degradation
- Poaching and Water bird poisoning

A Yala Swamp Ecosystem Service assessment through TESSA (The Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment) to enhance Waterbird conservation and livelihood resilience was conducted.

The first assessment assisted in the identification of key ecosystem services relevant to the current state and also helped to identify Lake Kanyaboli National Reserve as representative of the alternative state. The stakeholders consulted included representatives from the local community, county government and national government officials, members from NGOs, CSOs and research institutions. The Yala wetland is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and supports the livelihoods of many people who directly or indirectly depend on the ecosystem services provided in this area. The ecosystem services provided by the wetland are global climate regulation, water-related services, harvested wild goods, cultivated goods, nature-based recreation.

The alternative state was a vision of a better managed Yala wetland, with the Lake Kanyaboli National Reserve selected as the comparison site to provide representative data. Lake Kanyaboli provides important ecosystem services such as water provision, crop production, fish harvesting, wild goods, fire wood, recreational services and global climate regulation (carbon storage). The direct beneficiaries from these services are the local community - farmers, fish traders, papyrus harvesters and tour guides. The local government benefits from the revenue collection from tourism and trade. The Kenya Wildlife Service in collaboration with the Siaya and Busia county governments are currently working on enhancing the sustainable use of resources in the area in order to improve conservation practices while also looking after the socio-economic well-being of the local community.

IWC – John Musina

International Waterbird Census - From a regional initiative to the largest global biodiversity monitoring scheme

The IWC aims to estimate population size of bird species, determine population trends, monitor changes in distribution and identify key sites. Migratory waterbirds are a shared resource and a shared responsibility because no country can manage them sustainably in isolation. The IWC supports conservation and management of waterbirds at site, national and international level and uses its data for designation of Ramsar sites.

The main challenges for the successful execution of waterbird counts are the lack of funding , adequate expert bird counters , and adequate equipment e.g. binoculars, telescopes, bird guides.

For 2016 Wetlands International has launched a global campaign for the conservation of waterbirds and critical wetlands along flyways. Together with governments, companies and other partners, Wetlands International hopes to address gaps in knowledge, coverage, awareness and action.

Workshop Day 2 – Break out session

National Policies and Plan Assessment

Goal: Map policy and plans in Ethiopia and Mali that are important for wetland landscape management, and identify how we can ensure sustainable wetland management is included.

Ethiopian team on Sustainable wetlands management

Policies identified from the ones with most impact

- Investment policy
  Land use policy and master plan policy
- Water policy
- Basin Management plans
- Environmental policy
  - National Bird Strategy and Policy (NBSAP)
  - Convention for Biodiversity (CBD)
  - United Nations Compact Desertification (UNCCD)
- Conservation strategy
- Wetlands policy planned
- Forest policy and strategy
- Climate change policy
- Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE)
  - United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC)
- Tourism development policy
- Wildlife protection development and utilisation
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
  - Convention on Migratory species (CMS)
  - African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
- Energy Policy
- Agrochemical policy
- Mining Policy
- Livestock and fisheries policy

Policies identified as having more influence

Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy

Climate change policy

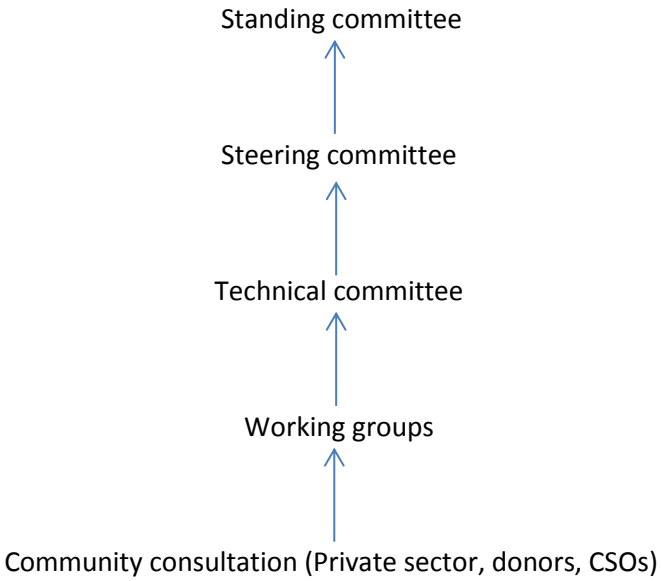
Climate change learning strategy

United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention

Policies with highest impact and can be highly influenced

Policy	Stakeholders with interest in these areas
Land use policy	Government Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources/environmental and climate change, Animal and fisheries, Investment agencies, Energy, water and irrigation, Federal and pastoral affairs, Rift Valley Lake Basin Authority, Regional Bureau, Forum (CSO's), Parliamentary standing committees, Academic and research institutes, conservation, NGOs/Donors, Ethiopia Institute of Biodiversity, private investors, horticultural association, GIZ, KFW, Horn Of Africa Regional Environmental Center and Network (HOAREC), IGAD and Netherlands embassy, community members, SSG and traditional leaders.
Conservation strategy	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Environment Forest and Cultural Conservation, EWCA, Ethiopia Institute for Biodiversity (EIB), MOA&NR, academic and research institutions, Regional Bureau, Forum, NGOs , RVLBA, community members, Site support group and traditional leaders.
Wildlife development and protection policy	Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), Oromia Forestry and Wildlife Institute (OFWE), CMS, AEWA, CITES, GIZ, Zonal and district offices, NGOs, partners and donors, Eco lodges, soda ash factory, plantations, tour operators association, professional hunters association, community representatives, SSG, Abijatta-Shalla Lakes National Park (ASLNP), RVLBA, regional land administration and environmental protection, Investment agency, academic (Hawasa and Addis Ababa University) and research institutions, parliamentary standing committees.

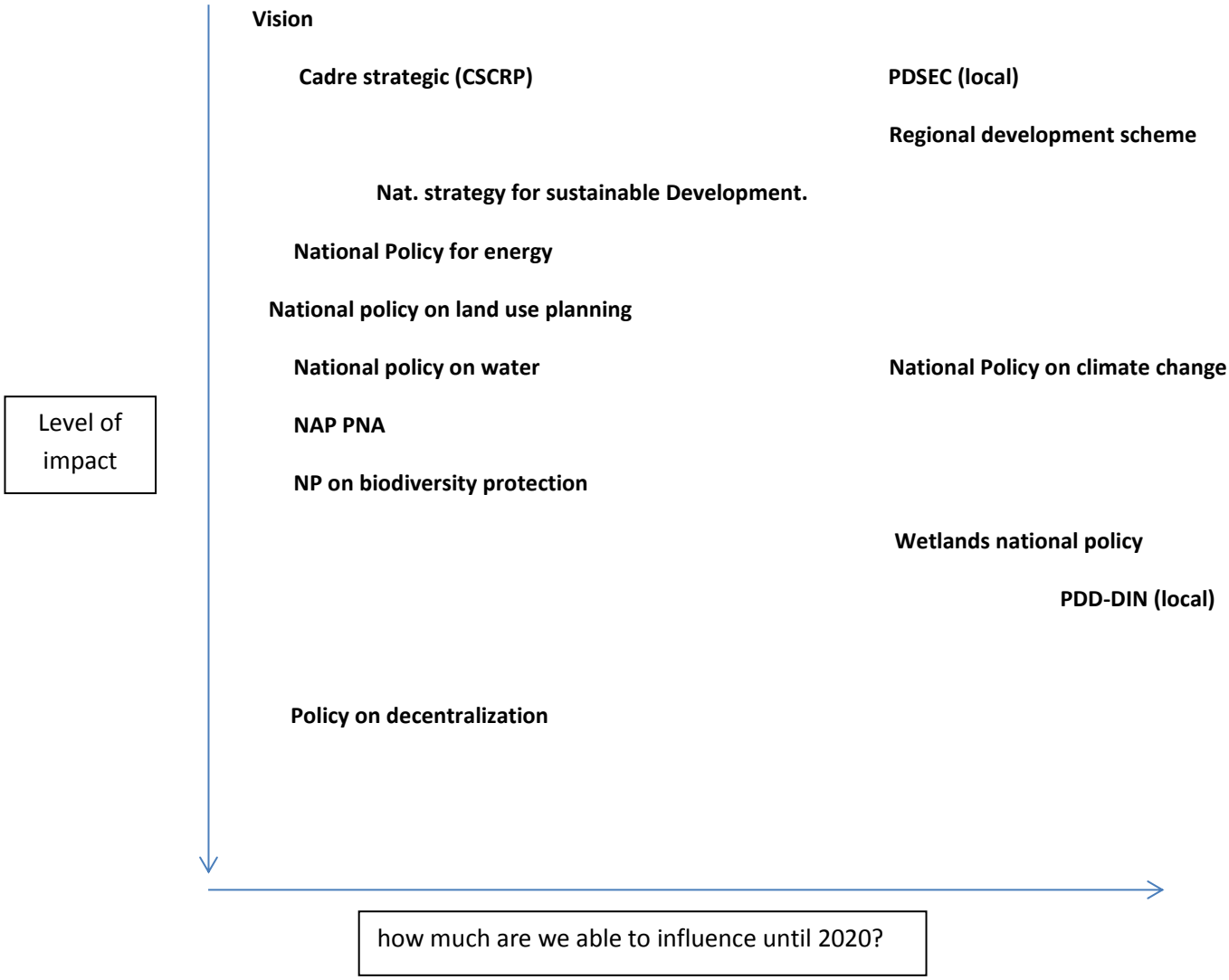
Entry points to the key influencers identified above in blue (Government and NGOs/Donors)



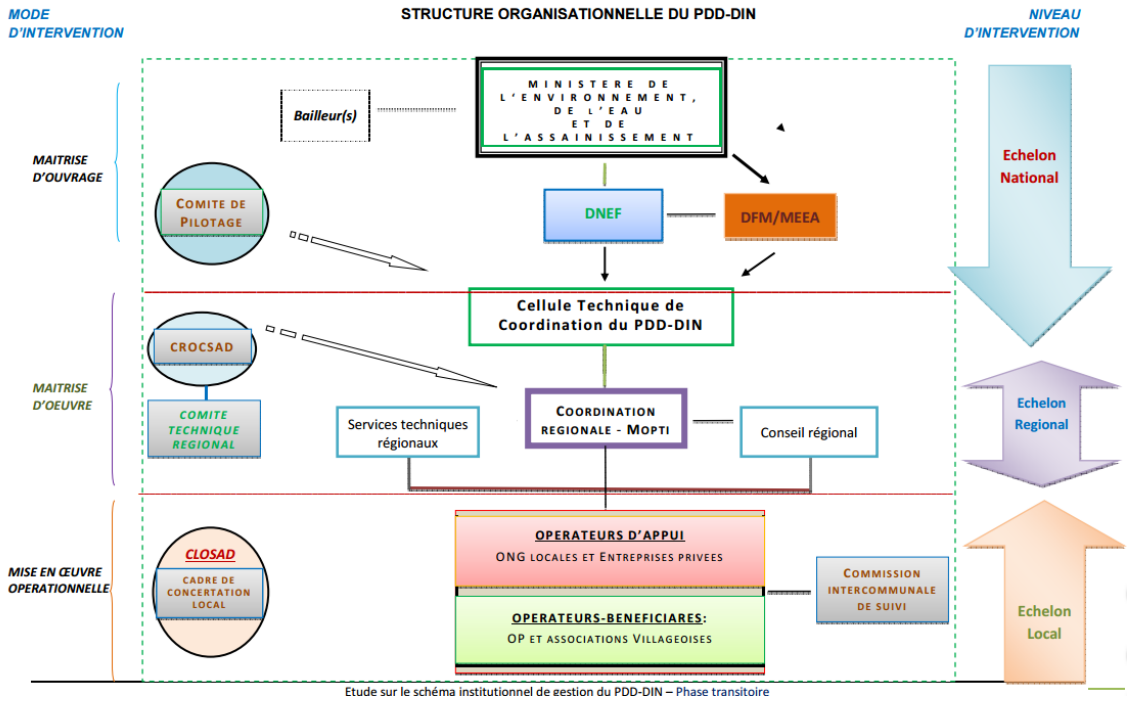
Mali team on mapping sustainable wetlands management

Participants: Edward Perry, Ward Hagemeijer, Mori Diallo, Mohamed Gareyane, Eliot Taylor, Alfousseini Semega, Souveibou Mangane

What are the most important policy and plans at local level and national level?



Malian Government structure



http://www.pdd-din.org/documentsite/RAPPORT%20ETUDE_PDD-DIN.pdf

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