



UNU-INRA Sparkle

Volume 5, Issue 1

Enhancing Capacity for Managing Africa's Natural Resources

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Local Approaches in Cross Border Natural Resource Governance in Africa



Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile. Photo: The East African News

Managing natural resources in cross-border regions usually poses challenges for many African countries. This is often due to the differences in the constitutional mandates of countries that share borders and the growing concern over territorial integrity, national sovereignty and security.

In a presentation at the TANA Regional Multi-Stakeholder Pre-Forum, held on 16th -17th March, 2017 at Arusha in Tanzania on the theme “*RECs as a Platform for Regional Cooperation in Natural Resource Governance in Africa*”, Dr. Dorothé Yong Njé, Green Economy Research Fellow at UNU-INRA, identified three approaches to cross border natural resources management. These approaches, she

indicated, are centralisation, decentralisation and co-management. In her presentation on the topic “*Local Approaches in Cross Border Natural Resource Governance*”, Dr. Njé observed that the first approach that some African countries adopt in managing cross border natural resources is the use of state agencies, who control and monitor borderland activities. The second approach, she noted, involves public participation in borderland natural resources management, where civil society organizations and the private sector are encouraged to support local government authorities to manage resources across borders. The third approach, she stated, is often a joint management effort by Governments and resource users, adding that this approach is a combination of the first two approaches.

Highlighting the advantages and the disadvantages of the three approaches, Dr Njé emphasised the need to promote the co-management approach since this often stimulates inclusive natural resources management and growth.



Dr. Dorothé Yong Njé, third from right on the front row, in a group photograph with other participants of the forum

In addition, Dr. Njé underscored the need for more efforts in the area of border demarcation for a successful implementation of any of the approaches. She emphasised the importance of capacity development at all levels, development and implementation of border-related policies as well as collaboration and coordination between different actors in countries that share borders. This, she noted, will help promote efficient cross-border governance of natural resources in Africa.

GCIC Team Calls on Minister of Environment



Prof. Frimpong Boateng, Minister, MESTI, (third in middle from right), Mr. Michael Ehst (GCIC Task Team Leader) on Prof. Frimpong Boateng's right, and Dr Elias T. Ayuk, Director, UNU-INRA (extreme right). The others are members of MESTI and the GCIC team.

A team from the Ghana Climate Innovation Centre (GCIC), led by Mr. Michael Ehst, the GCIC Task Team Leader and Dr. Elias T. Ayuk, Director of UNU-INRA, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, in Accra, on 15th March, 2017. The aim of the visit was to brief the Minister on the progress of the GCIC project and to use the opportunity to seek further collaboration with MESTI.

Prof. Frimpong Boateng expressed excitement about many aspects of the project, including the opportunity to attract more women and participants from peri-

urban areas for business incubation at the climate innovation center at Ashesi University College, Ghana.

The GCIC project seeks to provide financing, mentoring, training and business advisory services to support emerging entrepreneurs and new ventures involved in developing locally appropriate solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation in Ghana. The project is being implemented by Ashesi University College (Ghana), SNV, Ernst & Young, and UNU-INRA. UNU-INRA is leading the policy component of the project. The project is supported by the World Bank, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the Netherlands Government.

Practical Component of UNU-INRA GIS Training Commended



Some participants collecting data in the field for analysis

Participants at UNU-INRA's just ended training programme on Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing, held from 13th to 17th March, 2017, in Accra, expressed satisfaction, especially with the practical component of the training. The participants, in their evaluation reports, rated the practical sessions, which involved data collection in the field with modern Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment and analysis, very high.

The GIS and Remote Sensing training aims to enhance the capacity of natural resources managers, researchers and students in GIS and remote sensing applications. The training is organized by UNU-INRA quarterly to equip participants with concepts, functional skills, methods and techniques needed for prescribing location specific solutions in addressing resource management challenges facing Africa.

The participants of the training were taken through theoretical background to GIS and hands-on applications in collecting natural resources related data using GPS and Satellite imagery tools. The data

collected was processed with ArcGIS, Envi and Erdas Imagine into maps suitable for decision making.



Cross-section of the training participants

There were ten participants including one female, coming from different organisations and institutions such as Forestry Commission, Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, Lands Commission, Africa Humanity Academy, University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and Wilkins Engineering Ltd, all in Ghana.

JICA Supports UNU-INRA with CECAR Africa Project Items



Ms. Sayuri Shimotani, Representative of JICA Ghana, presenting the donation agreement to Prof. Emmanuel Owusu Bennoah, Former Board Member, UNU-INRA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Office in Ghana has donated some items of the project on “*Enhancing Resilience to Climate and Ecosystem Changes in Semi-Arid Africa: An Integrated Approach*” dubbed CECAR Africa project, to UNU-INRA. The items which were handed over to UNU-INRA in a brief ceremony in Accra on 22nd March, 2017 include a Toyota Fortuner 4w, a Dell Laptop Computer, An HP Colour Laser Printer, Plotter HP DesignJet, Satellite Image Rapid Eye Specification, and GIS Software Licenses.

In his remarks, Prof. Emmanuel Owusu Bennoah, a former Board Member of UNU-INRA, who received the items on behalf of the Institute, expressed profound gratitude to JICA and the CECAR Africa project team, especially to the Project Leader, Prof.

Kazuhiko Takeuchi, for the kind gesture and continued support to the Institute. He indicated that the CECAR Africa project had benefited Ghana as a country and UNU-INRA as an Institute, since the capacity of the research team that worked on the project had been enhanced.

Prof. Takeuchi on his part thanked UNU-INRA for hosting the project team and pledged his commitment for more collaboration with the Institute. The JICA representative, Ms Sayuri Shimotani, in her remarks, noted that the project had reached out to many communities in the Northern part of Ghana.

The CECAR-Africa project, which started in 2009 and ended in 2016 focused on climate and ecosystem change adaptation and resilience research. The goal of the project was to combine climate change and ecosystem change research and to build an integrated resilience enhancement strategy known as a “Ghana model”. The project received financial support from the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), which is a collaborative programme of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The project was implemented by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), UNU-INRA, and other leading adaptation and resilience research institutes in Ghana and Japan.

UNU-INWEH Students Visit Water and Sanitation Sites in Ghana



A section of the team being briefed at the Zoomlion Waste Water Treatment Plant in Accra

Students of the Water Without Borders programme, which is a joint graduate programme between the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) based in Canada and the McMaster University, Canada, paid a one week visit to key water and sanitation project sites in Ghana. The aim of the visit was to assess water

treatment and sanitation management options in Ghana.



Section of the team being briefed at the Kpong water treatment plant

The fourteen-member team, comprising four faculty members and PhD and Masters' students were hosted by UNU-INRA. The team visited the Zoomlion Waste Water Treatment Plant in Accra and the Kpong Water Treatment Plant of the Ghana Water Company.



The team interacting with some students of the University of Ghana in a Youth Focus Group Discussion

The team also interacted with some students of the University of Ghana, in various organized youth focus group discussions, where they discussed sanitation and water management issues in Ghana.

Upcoming Event

Event	Date	Location	Application
Science Reporting Workshop	26 th – 27 th April, 2017	Accra, Ghana	Closed

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About UNU-INRA

UNU-INRA enhances the capacity of African researchers to conduct research on natural resources management issues to inform policy formulation and implementation.

Although UNU-INRA is an institute of the United Nations University (UNU) system, it was an African concept developed by some committed top African scientists. Its establishment is supported by the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union (AU). On this strong political and moral support, UNU-INRA was established in 1986.

UNU-INRA appreciates the continued contributions from the Governments of Cameroon, Ghana and Zambia to its endowment fund. The Institute is also grateful to the following organisations for the funding support to carry out specific projects:



International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international



ACPC

Canada

Embrapa



Sparkle is a quarterly newsletter of UNU-INRA.

It is an acronym for Sustainability through Partnership in Africa where Resources are optimally utilized using Knowledge that is holistic, Leadership that is inclusive and Economy that is green

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