



Partenariat Régional pour la Conservation
de la zone côtière et Marine
en Afrique de l'Ouest

Terms of Reference consultancy:

Socio-economic baseline study for the *Blue Bijagós* project, Guinea-Bissau

1. Background project

The Bolama Bijagós Biosphere Reserve (or ‘Bijagós’) is an archipelago of 88 islands located off Guinea-Bissau’s coast. It includes three marine protected areas (MPAs): **Orango** Islands National Park, **João Vieira e Poilão** Marine National Park, and **Urok** Community MPA. The Biosphere Reserve was recognised by UNESCO in 1996. The Institute of Biological Diversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) currently manages the reserve and included MPAs on behalf of the government. The reserve is a key Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) and Ramsar site and is known for its incredibly rich biodiversity, diversity of critical habitats and species and high biological productivity.

Bijagós is vital to both Guinea-Bissau’s and the region’s economies yet faces several challenges, such as overfishing and poverty, with the majority of people living below the poverty line. Bijagós has a farmer-gatherer economy based on cashew production, rice farming, subsistence fishing, shellfish collection and non-timber forest products. A large proportion of its people (80%) live on the coast and are deeply bonded with their environment through their cultural heritage. Traditionally, their use of marine resources has followed strict rules supporting the sustainable use of natural resources. However, external influences from, for example, migrant fishers exploiting resources illegally without following traditional rules, have upset the balance in recent decades. Despite the ban on shark and ray fishing, these fish are still being caught in large numbers.

The *Blue Bijagós* project aims to integrate the protection of sharks and rays into fishery policies, fishing practices, and the zoning and management of the MPAs. It will also create two new MPAs, **Unhocomo-Unhocomozinho**, and a ‘**connectivity corridor**’ between

the existing MPAs. MPA management will be enhanced by a ‘blue planning’ approach as well as reciprocal commitments with local communities, such as the enhanced monitoring and prosecution of illegal practices. A strong emphasis will be placed on youth and gender equity, including exchange visits between women from different islands and activities such as provision of training aimed at increasing female and youth representation in MPA management. Women will be supported to collect shellfish in a more profitable and sustainable way, and new income generating activities such as ecotourism and

vegetable gardening will be developed.

This 5-year project is supported by the Blue Action Fund. Start date: 1 June 2023.

The project is led by PRCM; it is supported by a strong consortium of environmental and social partner organisations: Tiniguena, BioGuinea Foundation, GRID-Arendal, ODZH, Palmeirinha, and IBAP.

2. Purpose of the socio-economic baseline study:

In the project's logframe, goals and targets for the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the Bijagós local communities have been defined. A preliminary assessment of baseline conditions among the affected Indigenous People and Local Communities was made during the ESMS assessment in November 2022.

But for some goals, the baseline situation is not known yet.

The purpose of this assignment is to get baseline data on 4 subjects for which the baselines are currently missing:

- customary rights of project affected communities/groups
- average income of women
- the basic necessities of households (as indicator to measure poverty)
- attitude of households in the project area towards protection of marine biodiversity.

The baseline data should be collected on all 3 existing MPAs, on the islands around the Connectivity Corridor, and on the island of Unhocomo (where a new MPA will be created)

The 4 subjects for which baselines must be defined will now be explained in more detail (a-d), including the research questions to be answered.

a. Customary rights of project affected communities/groups

At project conception, 3 groups were identified that will be most affected by the project:

Estimated potential degree of affectedness	Total number of communities/villages	Population size
High	<i>Illegal migrant fishermen do not stay in MPAs, they set up illegal camps outside.</i>	700-850 illegal fishermen (number varies per season)
Medium	<i>Resident fishermen who cooperate with illegal fishermen will be negatively affected by the new rules and effective maritime surveillance. However, these same fishermen should benefit from mitigation measures intended to compensate for negative impacts. The project also ensures that resident fishermen have exclusive access rights</i>	100-150 resident fishermen cooperation with illegal fishermen
Low	<i>22 villages. Women collecting shellfish who now will have to respect stricter collection rules will also benefit from mitigation measures intended to compensate for the negative impacts of these stricter rules, and from innovations in their sector and new income generating activities (horticulture, beekeeping, solar salt production, etc.)</i>	300-400 women collecting shellfish

These 3 most affected groups clearly have customary rights. But there also might be other groups living on/close to the MPAs, connectivity corridor and new AMP and that have customary rights for using the natural resources in these areas.

The study should give detailed information on the *customary rights of all groups* that will be *affected by the project*.

Questions that must be answered in this baseline study are:

- Which communities/groups that will be affected by the project
- What are the customary rights of each of these groups?
- Which claims different groups may have to the targeted sea area/land and the natural resources therein?
- Who should be consulted and give or withhold consent to certain project activities.
- What are the governance arrangements regarding access rights (formal, informal)

b. On income of women

The project has the ambition to improve livelihoods (with increased employment opportunities and income esp. for women and youth) in the target communities.

For this, the project defined the following indicator:

Indicator O.3: Average income of women in the target areas (22 villages within MPAs Urok, Orango, João-Vieira Poilão, Unhocomo).

Base value (At project start): (to be defined during inception period).

Target value (End of project): 20% increase over baseline.

The selected 22 villages are those most important for artisanal fishing and shellfish collection:

Orango: Eticoga, Ancopado, Amupa, Uite, Meneque, Ambeduco, Acanho, Uassa

João Vieira: Menegue, Bine, Inhoda, Ambeno

Urok: Chedia, Botai, Nago, Candjirba, Uada, Ancadaque, Abu

Unhocomo: Equinaï, Egara, Anaburu

Question that must be answered in this baseline study:

- What is the average income of women in the 22 target villages?
- How these women's average income can be improved?

c. On poverty/Basic Necessities

The project has the ambition to support the socioeconomic resilience in Bijagós Archipelago.

For this goal, the following Indicator has been defined in the proposal:

Indicator G.2: The livelihood conditions of 80% of the MPA population have been improved.

Base value (At project start): Average BNS¹ scores for 80% of the MPA population at project start (tbd before end of inception period).

¹ BNS = Basic Nécessites Survey <https://mande.co.uk/special-issues/the-basic-necessities-survey/>

Target value (End of project): Average BNS score for 80% of the MPA population has increased.

The Basic Necessities Survey <https://mande.co.uk/special-issues/the-basic-necessities-survey/> (BNS) is a method of measuring poverty. The BNS combines two aspects of peoples' lives: (a) their material conditions, (b) their perceptions of these material conditions. Both have consequences for the quality of their lives. Basic necessities are democratically defined as those items in a survey that 50% or more of respondents agree “*are basic necessities that everyone should be able to have, and nobody should have to go without*” Items are weighted for importance according to the percentage of respondents who say an item is a basic necessity (i.e. between 50% and 100%). Respondents’ poverty (BNS) scores are based on the sum of the weightings of the necessities they have, as a percentage of the total they could have if they had all basic necessities. The identification of a poverty line is described below.

Question that must be answered in this baseline study:

- What is the current average BNS scores for 80% of the MPA population?

d. On household attitude

The project has to ambition to increase the community support for protection of marine biodiversity.

To measure the improvement in support, the following Indicator has been defined in the proposal:

Indicator G.3: At the end of the project, households affected in project areas have a positive attitude towards protection of marine biodiversity.

Base value (At project start): Nr. households in project areas that have a positive attitude towards protection of marine biodiversity. (Nr. is to be defined during inception period).

Target value (End of project): Majority of households in project areas have a positive attitude towards protection of marine biodiversity (despite the new access restriction measures the project has implemented).

Question that must be answered in this baseline study:

- What is the number (or percentage) of households in the project area that have a positive attitude towards protection of marine biodiversity?

3. Activities and deliverables

Research activities:

1. Consultations (individual and in group meetings/workshops):
 - With stakeholders who live on the islands near the connectivity corridor.
 - with stakeholders and representatives of Project Affected People of 22 villages of the different MPAs: Orango, Urok, João Vieira e Poilão, Unhocomo.
 - with IBAP (the government institute responsible for MPA management) and INIPO and DGPA (who are respectively responsible for research and management of the fisheries sector), also in Bissau
 - with PRCM and the implementing partners of the Blue Bijagós project working in the area
2. A BNS survey
3. Writing of a report

4. Regular communication with and advise to PRCM on how to integrate the outcomes in the implementation of activities.

4. Timeline and budget

The field visit and data collection should be ready before the end of February 2024; the report should be ready by 31 March 2024.

The costs of the field visit (boat, fuel, stay on islands) will be covered by PRCM

5. Profile of consultant

The consultant(s) should have the following knowledge and experience:

- In-depth knowledge of sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa and the issues and risks at stake
- Strong experience in socio-economic studies
- Strong experience in stakeholder consultations with diverse groups
- Working/consultancy experience in West Africa
- Excellent writing (report writing in Portuguese and in French or English) and time management
- Proven track record in working confidently and constructively with a diverse international team

If the applicant is an international consultant, it is mandatory to partner with (a) local consultant(s), who will help the consultant with the field assessments and interviews.

A good gender balance in the team is stimulated.

6. Application Process

Your Expression of Interest should include:

- An explanation of how you fulfil the consultant profile criteria and your relevant skills/experience
- A brief description of how you would approach the different research tasks, with anticipated deadlines for completion
- Your planning (field work missions; survey; report writing, finalizing)
- The composition of your research team (including local consultants)
- Budget indicating:
 - Nr. of consultancy days and fee
 - Costs of the field mission: nr. and costs of consultations
 - Transport costs
 - DSA
- A CV's with 2 references

The selected consultant will be asked to develop an elaborate work plan when the work starts.

Annexes: (all to be sent to you on demand)

Blue Bijagós project documentation (approved project proposal; ESMS documents)