

**REPORTS ON**

**MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REGIONAL PROJECT OF**

**"SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A CROSS-  
BORDER NETWORK AND PROTECTED AREAS  
IN WEST AFRICA"**

## **MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REGIONAL PROJECT OF “SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A NETWORK OF CROSS- BORDER PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA”**

In compliance with the decision of H.E the OIC Secretary General, ICDT ensures, since 2006, the follow up of the implementation of the project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas”. This project includes ten OIC Member States (Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone).

### **Reminder:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”**: Casablanca, 10-11 July 2006.

A meeting of the Project Committee was held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006 in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) at the headquarters of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

This Committee is composed of the Regional Representative of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) for Africa, the Regional Coordinator of the Project, Mr. Mohamed Sakho and SESRIC.

The aim of this meeting was to:

- Present the Activity Programme approved on the sidelines of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNWTO Committee for Africa held in Bamako (Mali) 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006;
- To discuss the support modalities to the mobilisation of needed resources for the working out of the feasibility study;
- To discuss the coordination mechanisms for the implementation of this project.

The outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between contracting parties;
  - The setting up of a Follow up Permanent Committee (ICDT, SESRIC, Regional Coordinator and the UNWTO);
  - Adoption of the draft terms of References of the Feasibility Study of the Project and submission of funding application of the project to IDB;
  - Drawing up of a programme of Planned Activities;
  - Contribution of the UNWTO for an amount of US\$ 50,000 within the framework of the financing of the feasibility study of the project whose total budget amounts to US\$ 425,000.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”**: Baku, Azerbaijan, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

In compliance with the recommendations of the First Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of **“Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”** held in Casablanca from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006, ICDT has invited the contracting parties to the project to a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the said Committee extended to 9 Member Countries, the Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB’s Representative, which took place on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006 in

Gulustan Palace on the sidelines of the 5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held at the same place from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

Upon deliberations, the meeting recommended among other the following:

- Approves the Reports of the Regional Coordinator and ICDT and the terms of reference of the Feasibility Study of the Project with four components as presented for its financing;
  - Recommends the sending within the shortest possible time of a Ministerial Delegation of Member States accompanied by the Representatives of the contracting parties to IDB to raise its awareness to the importance of this project and make it grant a substantial financial contribution to the concerned study;
  - Kindly requests H.E the OIC Secretary General to get involved in this initiative;
  - Requests the Republic of Guinea to prepare this mission in coordination with the different contracting parties and to agree within the shortest possible time on the most convenient date to carry it out.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”**: Casablanca, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for the strengthening of Economic and Commercial Cooperation, 9 OIC Member States and the UNWTO: Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra-Leone have initiated a project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas”.

To that effect, the Steering Committee held a meeting in Casablanca on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

It is worth recalling that the Steering Committee was held successively in Dakar (March 2005), Bamako (May 2006), Casablanca (July 2006), Baku (September 2006), Accra (October 2007), Carthagène De Indias (November (2007)).

The aim of this meeting was to take stock of the progress achieved in the implementation of the project and to update the Programme of planned activities for the year 2008/2009.

This meeting was attended by:

- The Republic of Guinea;
- The Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- The Republic of Mali;
- The Republic of Senegal;
- The Regional Coordinator of the Project;
- The OIC General Secretariat;
- The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO);
- The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC);

**Meeting of the Steering Committee of the “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”**: Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

On the sidelines of the 6<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, the Follow up

Committee of the Regional Project of Sustainable Tourism Development in a Cross-Border Network and Protected Areas in West Africa held its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in Meridian Hotel, Damascus (Syria).

This meeting was chaired by Mr. Nabika DIALLO, Counsellor to the OIC General Secretary, assisted by the Representatives of the ICDT, the UNWTO and the General Coordinator. During this meeting, which was attended by the representatives of the project Member States that participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> ICTM, the report of the meeting was approved and a resolution on this issue was submitted and adopted by the Conference.

The meeting commended above all the work accomplished by the Follow up Committee and the implementation of the Activity Programme 2008/2009 in compliance with the calendar that was prepared. It also approved the final choice of the Consultancy Company in charge of working out the feasibility study and requested Member States, which have not done so to set up a national coordination cell.

An awareness raising approach was made at the level of The IDB Group in order to involve it in the proceedings of the Follow up Committee and in the financing of the project during its execution phase.

**Meeting of the Steering Committee of the “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”:** Madrid, 6-7 February 2009.

The Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Mr. Allal RACHDI, participated in the meeting on the “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”, Madrid 6-7 February 2009 at the headquarters of the World Tourism Organisation in Madrid, Kingdom of Spain.

This meeting focused on the consideration of the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the Feasibility Study prepared by the Consulting Company.

During this meeting, ICDT which ensures the coordination of the project at the level of the OIC reiterated the support of the OIC to this project and informed participants of the steps taken by the OIC and the Islamic Development Bank Group to ensure the implementation of this project.

**Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”:** Casablanca, 9-10 July 2009.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for the strengthening of Economic and Commercial Cooperation, 9 OIC Member States and the UNWTO: Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra-Leone have initiated a project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas”.

To that effect, the Steering Committee held a meeting in Casablanca on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

It is worth recalling that the Steering Committee was held successively in Dakar (March 2005), Bamako (May 2006), Casablanca (July 2006), Baku (September 2006), Accra (October 2007), Carthagène De Indias (November (2007), Casablanca (24<sup>th</sup> March 2008)

and Madrid on (6<sup>th</sup> February 2009).

This meeting was attended by:

- Burkina Faso;
- The Republic of the Gambia;
- The Republic of Guinea;
- The Republic of Mali;
- The Republic of Niger;
- The Regional Coordinator of the Project;
- The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO);
- The Research Firm “Secheresse Consultants”

The steering committee approved the strategic orientations proposed by the Research Firm “Secheresse Consultants” provided that the latter takes into account the recommendations, observations and suggestions formulated during the meeting for the working out of the final strategy of the project.

**Meeting of the Steering Committee of the « Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”** in Astana.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 the Steering Committee of the « Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” met in Astana (Republic of Kazakhstan) to examine the remaining activities of the project. The Republics of Benin, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Mauritania and Burkina Faso were represented during this meeting in addition to the Ministers of Benin and Niger.

This meeting was held on the sidelines of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) which on this occasion adopted a resolution on the project. (For details on this resolution, please refer to the following document in annex).

**Meeting of the Steering Committee of the « Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”**: Madrid, 15-16 December 2009.

The follow up committee on the “Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development

in a Network of Cross-Border parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”: met in Madrid on 15-16 December 2009 at the headquarters of the UNWTO in Madrid for the examination and approval by the committee of the projects files and the costs related to them, within the framework of phase 3: Plan of actions of the feasibility study on the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross- Border parks and Protected Areas in West Africa.

**Preparatory Meetings of the Donors Conference of the Regional Project on Sustainable Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa:**

Within the framework of the financing of the project, which has reached the implementation stage, the Members of the Steering Committee of this project have agreed to organise on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011, a Donors Conference in Dakar under the chairmanship of H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal.

To that effect, the Steering Committee held successively three preparatory meetings respectively in

- ✓ Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 on the sidelines of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seven Session of the Conference of Tourism Ministers;
- ✓ Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011;
- ✓ Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

### **Donors Conference in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

In order to mobilize the funds needed to finance the Regional Project for Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, the Steering Committee of the concerned project organized under the High Patronage of His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and Current Chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), a Donors Conference at Meridien President Hotel in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 27 and 28 May, 2011.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Members of the Steering Committee of the Project have actively contributed to the success of this meeting.

On this occasion, the Feasibility Study and the portfolio of funding opportunities of the project were presented to Donors and development partners such as the Islamic Development Bank (IDB); the African Development Bank (BAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the STEP-KOICA Foundation and the AGHA GHAN Foundation.

The Delegations of the Project stakeholders, represented by the High Authorities of their respective countries, of which their supervisory Ministries have also contributed to debates and highlighted the urgent need of implementing the project for the welfare of local communities and the preservation of biodiversity.

The whole initiative was commended by donors and development partners, who promised to extend their support to the implementation of the project in order develop infrastructures, accommodation and transportation modes in the sub-region.

They also stressed the importance of a greater involvement in the Private Sector in the management of the Project and the need for a closer collaboration and better governance of this project.

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) participated actively in this meeting through the:

- Production of a documentary film, which was projected at the opening ceremony of the Conference;
- Material and technical contribution to this meeting;
- Drafting of the Report and Recommendations of the Donors Conference.

### **Meeting of the Regional Project Committee on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Cross-Border Network and Protected Areas in West Africa: 7-8 February 2012, Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco**

- The Steering Committee of the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West

Africa» met on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Casablanca (Morocco) to consider the ways and means of implementing the Project and its extension to other states of West Africa.

- This meeting, which aims at establishing a new revitalization strategy of the project, gathered the stakeholders responsible for its implementation namely, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) and the Project Regional Coordination represented by Her Excellency Mrs Baldé Hadja Mariama BAH, Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea.
- The meeting also recorded the participation of representatives of Burkina Faso, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Regional Office of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) in Rabat.
- At the end of its proceedings, the Committee adopted the report and recommendations of the meeting as well as the 2012/2013 Forward Program of Activities appended to it. The Committee invited Her Excellency the Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea, Chairperson of the meeting of the Steering Committee to kindly submit the report and related documents to her counterparts to obtain their views before the final approval of this document and preferably before 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

# REPORT OF THE REGIONAL PROJECT COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A CROSS-BORDER NETWORK AND PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA

Casablanca, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation, nine Member States of the OIC and the World Tourism Organisation: BENIN, THE GAMBIA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, SENEGAL and SIERRA LEONE, have initiated a project on "Tourism Sustainable Development in a Cross-border network and Protected Areas in West Africa.

Towards this end, the Committee in charge of the project met successively in Dakar (March 2005), Bamako (May 2006), Casablanca (July (2006), Baku (September 2006), Accra (October 2007), Carthagene DE Indias (November 2007).

The objective of this meeting was to take stock of the progress achieved and to update the programme of planned Activities for the year 2008/2009.

This meeting was attended by:

- The Republic of Guinea ;
- The Islamic Republic of Mauritania ;
- The Republic of Mali ;
- The Republic of Senegal ;
- The Regional Coordinator of the Project;
- The OIC General Secretariat ;
- The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO);
- The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC);
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

The list of participants is attached herewith (Annex 5).

## OPENING SESSION:

The opening session was chaired by Mr. Allal RACHDI, Director General of (ICDT).

- After expressing his warmest welcome to participants, Mr. Allal RACHDI put special emphasis on the importance which the OIC is giving to the Tourism Sector and affirmed that he will spare no effort to make this project concrete.  
Then the Director General of ICDT conveyed his deepest thanks to HE Prof Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU for his special interest in this pioneering project, to the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Guinea, which ensures the coordination of this project, to SESRIC and the Secretary General of the UNWTO, Mr. Francesco FRANGIALLI, who is exerting endless efforts aiming at implementing this project.
- Mr Ousmane Ndiaye, the Regional Representative of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) for Africa underlined that poverty is one of the most urgent

concerns of our era and that its eradication is one of the major challenges that we have to address, furthermore as it has reached a world dimension and that the African continent is the most affected by poverty.

- ✦ The Representative of the World Tourism Organisation has pointed out that this project draws its inspiration from the messages contained in the world tourism code of ethics, which was conceived by the World Tourism Organisation and has benefited from the support of the international community upon its adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The main force of this project lies in the fact that it integrates the basic mechanisms aiming at maximising the benefits which the populations of the region could derive from it.

## **I/ PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING:**

After the opening Session, the draft agenda was adopted as follows:

- ✦ Report of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade;
- ✦ Progress report on the project;
- ✦ Report of the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the ST-EP Foundation;
- ✦ Report of the World Tourism Organisation;
- ✦ Consideration of the modalities for the launching of the feasibility study;
- ✦ Consideration of the planned programme of Activities for the year 2008/2009;
- ✦ Consideration of the draft resolution to be submitted to the 35<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference Ministers (ICFM) and to the Sixth Conference of Tourism Ministers of the OIC (ICTM);
- ✦ Date and venue of the next meeting;
- ✦ Adoption of the meeting's report.

Afterwards, participants presented reports on the agenda items concerning them.

After an exchange of views between participants, the Committee:

- ✦ Adopts the programme of planned Activities for 2008/2009 updated as attached in annex n° 1;
- ✦ Adopts the Draft Resolution to be submitted to the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the 6<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers of the OIC as attached in annex n° 2;
- ✦ Adopts the appraisal criteria of the proposals of the pre-selected research Consultancy Office. These criteria are in annex n° 3;
- ✦ Approves the list of the Consultancy offices for the call for tenders as attached in annexe n°4;
- ✦ Mandates the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) as the executing agency of the project to finalise within the shortest possible time the final choice of the consultancy office and submit a report thereupon to the Committee;
- ✦ Urges IDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) to deploy all their efforts for the implementation of this project, in particular at its execution phase;
- ✦ Mandates ICDT to approach the Arab Financial Institutions to seek their contributions to the funding of this project;
- ✦ Recommends the sending of joint awareness-raising mission to the IDB Group with a view to involving it to the implementation in this project;
- ✦ Invites the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to join its efforts

with other international and regional organisations with a view to implementing this project at its execution phase;

- Expresses its thanks to the Government of the Republic of Korea, the World Tourism Organisation and the ST-EP Foundation of UNWTO for their contributions to the financing of the feasibility study;
- Congratulates the Regional Coordinator of the Project and the Regional Representative for Africa at the World Tourism Organisation for their professional skills and their efforts aiming at further strengthening the monitoring, coordination, follow up and promotional activities of the project;
- Expresses its thanks to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for their sustained support to this project and urges them to carry on extending their assistance until the effective execution of this project.

Participants agreed to convene the next meeting in Damascus in Syria on the sidelines of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of Tourism Ministers of the OIC.

Participants extended their deepest thanks to the Director General of ICDT and his staff for their warm welcome and for the excellent arrangements that were made to ensure the best conditions for the success of this meeting.

## **REGIONAL PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A NETWORK OF CROSS-BORDER PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA**

### **Minutes of the progress briefing on the first phase of the feasibility study of the regional project on sustainable tourism development in a network of cross-border parks and protected areas in West Africa, held in Madrid, Spain, at the UNWTO Headquarters 6 February 2009**

The Steering Committee of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, expanded to include the representatives of the States party to the project, met on 6 February 2009 in Madrid, Spain, at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The list of participants is provided in Annex 1 of the present document.

The meeting was chaired by **Mr. Ousmane N'Diaye**, UNWTO Regional Representative for Africa, assisted by:

- **H.E. Nabika DIALLO**, Ambassador, Adviser to the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),
- **Mr. Allal RACHDI**, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), and
- **Mr. Mohamed SAKHO**, Regional Coordinator of the Project.

Following the adoption of the agenda of the meeting (see Annex 2) the participants took cognizance of the following:

1. The preliminary remarks of the UNWTO Regional Representative for Africa on the importance of the meeting, whose purpose, after the presentation of the results of the diagnostic assessment, was to reflect on the orientations to give to the study in order for it to meet the expectations of the Governments of the Member States and of the Development Partners involved in the Project ;
2. The communication of the Adviser to the Secretary-General of the OIC, who reaffirmed to the Member States the personal support of the Secretary-General of the OIC, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddine IHSANOGLU, who has pledged to make this project a successful model of cooperation among the member states of the OIC;
3. The presentation by the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), who recalled the results achieved in the concrete realization of this project since the 1st meeting of the Steering Committee held in Casablanca in July 2006. Furthermore, he underlined the recent commitment of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) group to provide for the material and training needs of the unit in charge of the coordination of the project in terms of the feasibility study in progress;

4. The communication of the Regional Coordinator of the project, who conveyed to the participants the regrets of H.E. Dr. Léonie KOULIBALY, Minister of Tourism, Hotels and Handicrafts of the Republic of Guinea, for having been unable to fulfil her promise to participate in this important meeting. He underlined the participation, commitment and availability of the New Guinean authorities, to take all measures, in conjunction with the Member States and the Development Partners, for the achievement of the objectives of the project. On behalf of the Member States, he thanked the UNWTO for the office and computer equipment it provided to the national focal points and to the Regional Coordination office, Lastly, he underlined the pressing need to provide budgetary support to the regional office, all the more given that the Guinean Government, despite a difficult economic and financial situation, has to date shouldered by itself the operating expenses of the aforementioned office.
5. The report of the research firm "Sécheresse Consultants" regarding phase 1 of the study pertaining to the diagnostic assessment.
6. The remarks, observations and suggestions made by the participants following this presentation.

Following a highly enriching debate, the meeting made the following observations and recommendations:

#### **I. OBSERVATIONS:**

The meeting:

- 1) Recognizes the pertinence, current relevance and the complexity of the project, the professionalism and the pragmatism of the firm in conducting the study; all of which made it possible to arrive at concrete and realistic proposals, which enjoy broad agreement among the States party to the project;
- 2) Congratulates the research firm "Sécheresse Consultants" on the quality of the study and of the documents presented and engages it to continue the studies in progress until the effective accomplishment of the mission entrusted to it by the States party to the project;
- 3) Recalls that poverty reduction through the implementation of joint programmes and projects of a "unifying" nature is today broadly shared; it is the expression of the affirmed political will of the Member States to integrate the dimension of tourism into development strategies at the national, subregional and international levels;
- 4) Notes:
  - a. The absence in the document of an in-depth study of the institutional framework of tourism of the Member States in terms of the inclusion of matters relative to ecotourism, community-based tourism and solidarity tourism in national and regional strategies, with a view to creating employment, improving income and increasing the net receipts of the States.
  - b. The lack of consideration given in the document to airport infrastructure that are nearby or situated in the surrounding areas of the protected areas (such as Tambacounda and Simenti in Senegal, Labé and Saréboïdo in Guinea), as well as to programmes and projects concerning road, airport, water and energy infrastructure that are underway in the Member States and which would have a

- certain influence on the project in the short, medium and long term.
- c. The absence in the document of the potential of the Parks and Protected Areas of Member States not covered by the study and the projects in progress, such as:
    - The Protected Area of Gourma between Mali and Burkina Faso;
    - The Biosphere Reserve of Mount Nimba and of Ziama between Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia;
    - The UNESCO project on the inclusion of the Niokolo-Badiar Cross-Border Park, situated between Senegal and Guinea, in the World Heritage in Danger list;
    - The support project of the European Union for the Diawling Park between Senegal and Mauritania;
    - The coastal and marine management project for the Biodiversity of the Cogon/Korubal/Nunez Protected Areas between Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, financed by the World Environment Fund (WEF), to the amount of five million US dollars;
    - The Regional Programme for the Integrated Development of the Fouta Djallon Massif (RPID/FDM), in Guinea, jointly financed by the World Environment Fund (WEF), which is contributing 11 million US dollars and the African Union (3.15 million US dollars);
  - d. The restriction of the scope of the survey on the inclusion of protected areas in itinerary offerings to just French tour operators; in order to market the product in the best possible conditions of profitability, it is absolutely necessary to expand the scope of the survey to include tour operators in Europe (British, Spanish, Italian, Belgian, Norwegian, Swedish, Luxembourg, Danish, etc.), Canada, the United States, Japan, China and the emerging markets of the Gulf countries (United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, etc. ), which constitute potential markets for this type of product;
  - e. The absence of synergy between the project and the ST-EP projects underway in the Member States;
  - f. The weakness of the analysis of the Product-Market pair in the study of cross-border areas:
    - ✓ Cogon/ Corubal / Nunez;
    - ✓ Kayanga / Geba / Koliba / Corubal;
    - ✓ Bafing / Falémé;
    - ✓ Niokolo / Badiar

This study should focus on the constraints to be overcome, the flagship products that can be commercialized in the short, medium and long term, and the potential markets.

- g. The non-consideration at the national and regional level of the organizational framework of the project, both in the phase of execution in the field and in the operating phase; this is a key element of the sustainability of the long-term management of the project.

## **II/ RECOMMENDATIONS:**

After the observations, the participants made the following recommendations:

### **1. TO THE RESEARCH FIRM "SÉCHERESSE CONSULTANTS"**

- Submit to the Member States the basic orientations that should serve as the basis for the preparation of the 3 (three) subregional technical meetings on Protected

Areas, scheduled as follows:

**a) 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting: Djoudj/Diawling Protected Area**

**Place:** Campement Keur Massène (Mauritania)

**Date:** 9 March 2009

**Countries concerned:** Mauritania, Senegal

**b) 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: Protected Areas:**

- Bafing/Falémé
- Cogon/Corubal/Nunez
- Gambie/Kayanga/Geba/Koliba/Corubal
- Niokolo/ Badiar
- Pinsely/Outamba-Kilimi

**Place:** To be determined after consultation by UNWTO with the Member States; Guinea has been requested to host this meeting.

**Date:** 23-24 March 2009

**Countries concerned:** Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone

**c) 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: "W" Protected Area**

**Place:** "W" Protected Area (Hôtel de la Tapoa in Niger)

**Date:** 27-28 March 2009

**Countries concerned:** Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso

All the national focal points of the project are also invited to the meeting because of the successful involvement of the local communities in the management of this park and the experiences that they could gain from it in the future management of the project.

- Give priority to a sub-committee approach regarding the Protected Areas rather than a national approach, in light of the differences observed in the level of involvement of the communities, the planning and management of the Parks, as well as to specific innovations concerning the tourism products to be proposed;
- Place emphasis in terms of regional synergy on the domains that it would be of greatest interest to place under regional responsibility, such as:
  - ✓ The zoning of the parks;
  - ✓ Communication, promotion, marketing;
  - ✓ Capacity building (guide services, management personnel, event organization, environmental organization, accommodation, food services, leisure activities);
  - ✓ The classification of accommodation establishments, the application of standards for construction, operation and eco-labels for quality tourism offerings;
  - ✓ Regulation, legislation, for harmonizing the statuses, management modes, principles of development planning, operation and management, etc.
- Include hunting tourism, community-based tourism, solidarity tourism, mountain tourism, sport fishing, etc., in the study.

**2) TO THE MEMBER STATES:**

- Communicate, by 20 February 2009 at the latest, to the research firm, with copy to the UNWTO Regional Representative for Africa and to the Regional Coordinator of the Project, their remarks and suggestions so that these can be taken into account in the final document;

- Organize, in connection with the stakeholders and the media (print media, radio, television), seminars, conferences, awareness-raising workshops regarding the project, targeted at decision makers, administrations in charge of tourism and the environment, academic circles, operators and funding institutions;
- Participate on 15-19 April 2009, in the forum on tourism development in Islamic countries, to be held in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), at the invitation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC);
- Proceed with the official delivery of the office and computer equipment to the national focal points and facilitate the operation of such equipment.

### **3) TO THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR:**

Submit, with copy to the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), requests to the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and to the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, for technical, material and budgetary support to the regional coordination unit of the project.

### **III/ The participants, having taken cognizance of the positive developments of the project:**

- Thanked the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for providing supplementary office and computer equipment to the national focal points and to the regional coordination office of the project;
- Thanked the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for its commitment to provide for the material and training needs of the personnel of the regional coordination unit and to fund the execution of certain components of the project that meet their financing criteria upon the completion of the feasibility study underway;
- Expressed their deep gratitude to the Republic of Guinea and to the Regional Coordinator of the project for the positive results achieved in the reinforcement of the coordination and follow-up of the project;
- Noted with satisfaction the quality contribution of the ICDT and of SESRIC to the coordination and follow-up of the project at the OIC level, and expressed in this regard their deep gratitude to the Secretary-General of the OIC;
- Thanked, especially, the UNWTO Regional Representative for Africa and the UNWTO Deputy Secretary-General, for their generous hospitality, the excellent working conditions provided and their quality contributions to the success of the different stages of the project;
- Recommended the inclusion of Burkina Faso in the group of beneficiary countries of the project. This country shares the W Park with Benin and Niger, it hosts the headquarters of ECOPAS, and has been visited in a field mission by the team of the research firm;
- Recommended that the place and date of the next meeting be set by common agreement, after consultation among the parties concerned.

Done in Madrid, 6 February 2009.

# **REGIONAL PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A NETWORK OF CROSS- BORDER PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee on Phase II (Strategies) of the Project of the Feasibility Study**

**Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco - July 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The Steering Committee of "Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and protected Areas in West Africa", extended to representatives of the States/Parties to the project, met on July 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Casablanca (Morocco), at the invitation of the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

The list of participants appears in Annex 1 of this document.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Allal Rachdi, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, assisted by:

- Mr Ousmane N'DIAYE, Regional Representative of the WTO for Africa
- Mr. Mohamed SAKHO, Regional Coordinator of the Project.

### **I/ OPENING CEREMONY:**

- In his welcoming speech, the Director General of ICDT, on behalf of the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), His Excellency Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and on behalf of the Centre, thanked the Member States' representatives, the representative of the WTO for Africa, the Regional Project Coordinator and experts of the Office Study "Sécheresse Consultants" for taking part in this important meeting.

Then, he highlighted the efforts deployed by the OIC in order to enhance cooperation between its Member States in the field of tourism through the regular organization of the Conference of the Tourism Ministers of the OIC and of Tourism Fairs. He then reiterated the interest shown both by the Secretary General of the OIC and the Centre for this Regional project. He has also given notice of the availability of the institutions of the OIC, notably, the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) to go beyond providing support to particularly the regional coordination unit, so as to discuss the possibility of financing the project, once the feasibility study is completed.

- In his turn, Mr. Ousmane Ndiaye, the Regional Representative of the WTO for Africa, on behalf of the Interim Secretary General of the WTO, His Excellency Dr. Taleb Rifai, thanked the Director General of ICDT for organizing this meeting and welcomed participants. Then, he recalled the Observations and recommendations of the Steering Committee issued at the last meeting held in Madrid in February 2009. The Regional Representative of the WTO for Africa finally added that it was essential to take into account all these observations and recommendations as well as those issued at the meetings of Keur Macene (Mauritania), Conakry (Guinea) and in Tapoa (Niger) for the working of the final document supposed to reflect the concerns of States/Parties about the project.

- Then, the Regional Coordinator of the project, Mr. Mohamed SAKHO, thanked in his speech the Director General of ICDT for organizing such a meeting and appealed to the wisdom of all participants to meet the expectations of the States/Parties to the project as well as those of the development partners. In his speech, the Regional Coordinator pointed out that the "Regional Sustainable Tourism Development in a network of cross-border parks and protected areas in West Africa" project is presented as a model for both the member states of the WTO and the OIC. He concluded by thanking Their Excellencies Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of OIC and Dr. Taleb Rifai, Interim Secretary General of the WTO for their full support to this project.

## **II/ PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING:**

After the opening ceremony, the Committee adopted the agenda (see Annex 2). Thereafter, the experts of the Office Study "Sécheresse Consultants", Mr Jean SECHERESSE and Rémy POLIWA, presented the results of the three sub-regional technical meetings, together with the proposed strategies to be implemented. They also emphasized, during the presentation of Phase 1 "Diagnostic", the inclusion of the observations and recommendations issued in Madrid in February 2009 in the study.

After this presentation, the Steering Committee made comments, observations and suggestions which it submitted to the Office Study "Sécheresse Consultants".

After a very rewarding discussion, the Steering Committee approved the strategic directions proposed by the office Study "Sécheresse Consultants, and urged them to take into account the amendments, comments and suggestions mentioned below which were made during the meeting while preparing the final draft strategy.

### **COMMENTS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE:**

1. The not taking into account of ecotourism and sustainable development in the institutional framework of Ministries in charge of tourism in the States/parties of the project.
2. The non involvement of the key stakeholders in the project
3. The lack of monitoring/evaluation programmes in the activities, as an essential element of the planning process and project management
4. The non-inclusion in the headline dealing with "Equipment" of the aspects relating to the planning and management of Protected Areas
5. The low priority given to the socio-cultural dimension as a means of upgrading the tourism product, with respect to the "flagship" products existing in this field in different Member States
6. SWOT analysis of the institutional framework of the Republic of Guinea, the Gambia and Sierra Leone do not exist in the document
7. The lack of clarity on the effective involvement of local communities in the project, particularly through the enhancement of the protected areas' eco tourism potential. The strategies for this involvement contribute to the sustainable development of local communities and the strengthening of the identity and personality of the West African destinations
8. Poor integration of the Training and Research Institutions (Universities, Research Centers on Biodiversity and Ecotourism) in the strategies for the development of the Protected Areas.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Further to comments, the meeting formulated the following recommendations:

### **1. Office study "Sécheresse Consultants"**

- Update Phase 1 of the study relating to diagnosis
- Complete and prioritize the recommendations resulting from the synthetic approach of the SWOT analysis of the protected areas, focusing particularly on:
  - ▲ The establishment of a program of involvement of key stakeholders, namely local communities, curators, tour operators, travel agencies, dealers and users of protected areas (NGOs, universities, research centres)
  - ▲ Steering and evaluation of the protected actions
  - ▲ The planning and management tools (impact of the study on activities, code of conduct for users, management tools, etc.)
  - ▲ The socio-cultural dimension through the elements of cultural heritage, handicrafts as well as the aspects related to hunting tourism, mountain tourism, agro-tourism, etc.
- Refine the proposed strategies, a sine qua none condition for the removal of bottlenecks to the tourism of these protected areas
- Communicate to the States/Parties to the project the timeline of the third phase of the study and the proposed forms / actions for evaluation.

At the end of deliberations, the priority activities below were selected by the Steering Committee.

### **A. BIODIVERSITY ISSUES:**

- a.1. Inventory, planning and resource management;
- a.2. Protection and regulation;
- a.3. The establishment of adequate, sustainable and innovative funding;
- a.4. Involvement of local communities and other stakeholders;
- a.5. Capacity building of various stakeholders;
- a.6. Communication and adequate cross-border facilities;
- a.7. Protection of endangered species and the reintroduction of new ones.

### **B. INVOLVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR:**

- b.1. Communication channels and welcome infrastructures;
- b.2. Energy production in various forms (solar program for decentralized rural electrification, grid connection to the Inter State);
- b.3. Provision and management of water;
- b.4. Radio telephone;
- b.5. Health and safety covers;
- b.6. Tourism facilities (visas, transportation security and travel, red tape);
- b.7. Prioritization of energy choices and improving roads.

### **C. PRIVATE INVESTMENT:**

- c.1. Standardization of regulatory, tax and land laws;
- c.2. Definition of tourism zones;

- c.3. Differentiation of non-market services and merchants;
- c.4. Standards and environmental labeling;
- c.5. Institutional investment and training (business plan; involvement of sub-regional organizations);
- c.6. Establishment of a framework for dialogue between the public and the private sector;
- c.7. Establishment of a code of specific investment on cross-border protected areas.

#### ***D. INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS:***

- d.1. Establishment of "home parks and gateways";
- d.2. Location of directional and animation signage and media achievement ;
- d.3. Use of diverse and appropriate modes of transport;
- d.4. Setting up of an animation pole craft.

#### ***E. POVERTY REDUCTION:***

- e.1. Establishment of micro credit;
- e.2. Organization and support of local communities in the context of the establishment of micro enterprises;
- e.3. Exploitation of existing funding mechanisms and / or innovative and sustainable support for local communities in their activities;
- e.4. Setting up mechanisms for the conservation and valorisation of local products;
- e.5. Promotion of activities with a strong and intensive labor;
- e.6. Fighting against illiteracy;
- e.7. Promoting partnership with NGOs and foreign EIG.

#### ***F. MARKETING AND PROMOTION:***

- f.1. Diversification of target markets: in addition to the French market, to promote the product on the Scandinavian, German, Spanish, Italian, British, Asian, American markets and the Arab markets, particularly, the Gulf's emerging economies (Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Brunei).
- f.2. Development of reliable, consistent and competitive eco tourism and cultural products;
- f.3. Upgrading of other potential products, taking into account the customers' watersheds;
- f.4. Use of new information technologies and communication (NTIC) in partnership with the National Tourist Offices, Embassies and the sub-regional professional organizations;
- f.5. Establishment of a steering system and evaluation for protected areas;
- f.6. Establishment of a system for collecting and analyzing statistical data;
- f.7. Investment promotion;
- f.8. Organization of a unique label joint participation of protected areas in tourism fairs and events at the regional and international levels;
- f.9. Enhancement of the image of protected areas.

#### ***G. LEGAL FRAMEWORK:***

- g.1. Maintenance and strengthening of the existing organization, including:
  - A steering committee;

- A strong regional coordination of protected areas;
- National Coordination and Steering cells to be revitalized;
- Operational National focal points;

g.2. In the medium term, to promote:

- The establishment of an international foundation for cross-border protected areas of West Africa;
- The creation of a permanent coordination in each cross-border protected area.

### **1. For Member States:**

- Technical validation of Sheets / Actions prepared by the project's national focal points by 15 August 2009;
- Conveying by the national focal points of specific forms of the project to the WTO, the regional coordination of the project and the office study "Sécheresse consultants" so as they would be taken into account in developing the final strategy of the project;
- Participation, on the sidelines of the international tourism fair in Madrid (FITUR) in January 2010, in a platform for exchanges and meetings focusing on tourism investment in Africa under the auspices of FITUR and the World Tourism Organization (WTO) to promote partnership between African and Spanish operators.
- Conveying to the WTO the documents relating to the receipt and delivery of office equipment and computer support for national focal points and the coordination Regional Office of the project.

### **III / FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The participants, acknowledging respect for the timetable of the project:

- Confirm the holding of a sensitizing seminar joining all stakeholders of the Project as well as potential donors, on the sidelines of the 1st Exhibition of Construction and Property to be held in Dakar from 11 to 14 March 2010 in accordance with the 2008-2009 work programme approved by Member States at the Sixth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers of OIC Member States held in Damascus (Syria) from 29 June to 02 July 2008;
- Ask the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), to kindly request the Secretary General of OIC, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, to send a letter to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Senegal, Maître Abdoulaye Wade, Chairman of the OIC, in order to place the seminar under his auspices;
- Urge the Director General of ICDT to invite them to take part in the 3rd "OIC TOURISM EXPO" scheduled to be held from 10 to 13 December 2010 in Cairo in Egypt;
- Invite the Office Study "Sécheresse Consultants", within the context of the working out of the final drafting of the project strategy, to take into account comments and suggestions made during this meeting, as well as those made at the return of the Phase 1 of the study and the sub-regional technical meetings and urge the office study to be persistent, until the mission which it was endowed with, is completed and whose outcome is the submission of a finalized, budgeted and bankable project;

- Thank the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the entire staff of his institution for their generous hospitality and the excellent working conditions.
- Express their deep gratitude to the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), HE Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization, HE Dr. Taleb Rifai, for the full support they bring to this Sub-regional cooperation model;
- Invite members of the Steering Committee to hold the next meeting at WTO headquarters in Madrid (Spain) in November 2009, in order to validate the final survey of the Project, Sheets/Actions, as well as the investment program for the implementation of the Project.

Done in Casablanca on 10 July 2009

# REPORT ON

## THE 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON THE “REGIONAL PROJECT ON THE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A NETWORK OF CROSS-BORDER PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA”

Madrid, 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Frédéric PIERRET, Executive Director at the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Steering Committee of the “Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” met at UNWTO headquarters in Madrid, on December 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for the examination and validation of project proposals and related costs within the framework of the “Phase 3: Plan d’Actions” of the feasibility study on the “Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”.

❖ **This meeting was attended by:**

- The Representatives of Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Niger;
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), represented by Mrs. Kadiatou DIALLO, Expert in charge of Trade Promotion;
- The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for the Islamic Countries (SESRIC), represented by Mr. Moner MURTAJA;
- The UNWTO Representatives including Mr. Frédéric PIERRET, Executive Director and Mr. Ousmane NDIAYE, Regional Representative of the UNWTO for Africa;
- The Representative of the UNWTO STEP Foundation, Mrs. Dho YOUNG-SHIM;
- The Regional Coordinator of the Project, Mr. Mohamed SAKHO;
- The Research Firm « Secheresse Consultants ».

The list of participants and the draft agenda of this meeting are attached hereto.

After the welcome addresses of Mr. Frédéric PIERRET and Mr. Ousmane NDIAYE at the Opening Ceremony, the Experts of the Research Firm “Sécheresse Consultants” presented a working paper entitled “Phase 3: Plan d’Actions” which proposes several projects, as well as related costs, to be implemented for the development of West African Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas. These projects are presented gathered in accordance with the eight following strategic directions:

- ❖ Strategic direction 1: Biodiversity Issues;
- ❖ Strategic direction 2: Involvement of the Public Sector;
- ❖ Strategic direction 3: Involvement of the Private Sector;
- ❖ Strategic direction 4: Innovative Products;
- ❖ Strategic direction 5: Activity generating revenues/Poverty Reduction;
- ❖ Strategic direction 6: Marketing and Promotion;

- Strategic direction 7: Legal Framework;
- Strategic direction 8: Ecotourism in watersheds.

The Experts indicated that the amount of investments to realize on these Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas would reach around 45,678,742 Euros. They also proposed a planning of realization of these investments.

After the presentation of the Experts of the Research Firm “Sécheresse Consultants”, the participants made remarks notably concerning the importance of:

- ✓ Involving the other concerned Ministries in this project, mainly the Ministry in charge of Environment. To this end, the Steering Committee has urged the national focal points to contact their counterparts (i.e. Ministries in charge of Civil Engineering, Health and Energy) to ensure their support and implication for the realization of this project;
- ✓ Joining forces with Regional Institutions for the mobilization of Ministerial Authorities of concerned countries for a better harmonization of legislations and procedures;
- ✓ Reviewing the titles and contents of the Strategic Directions, in particular the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> where public and private actions have not been accurately delimited;
- ✓ Re-evaluating the exact costs of the projects presented during the meeting;
- ✓ Selecting a specialized Office to conduct the study related to the 8<sup>th</sup> Strategic direction: Ecotourism in watersheds;
- ✓ Establishing, in a short term period, a cross border Foundation for the management of West African Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas and the protection of their interests;
- ✓ Selecting a specialized agency for the creation and the management of the Website of West African Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas.

At the end of the meeting, participants expressed their satisfaction as to the quality of the study of the Research Firm « Sécheresse Consultants » as well as at the different remarks made by delegations which has allowed to identify all relevant projects to be realized on concerned Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas for their development and the reduction of poverty within the local communities.

The Representative of the UNWTO STEP Foundation also congratulated all participants for their valuable efforts and contribution to the success of this project and ended by repeating her support to this project.

At the closing session, participants agreed upon the following:

1. All remarks and observations related to the working paper “Phase 3: Plan d’Actions” should be sent to the Research Firm “Sécheresse Consultant” before end of January 2010 to enable the Experts to finalize the study before the holding of the Seminar with the financial Institutions in Dakar;
2. The organization of a joint mission composed of the Director General of ICDT, the Regional Representative of the WTO for Africa and the Regional Coordinator of the Project to raise financial Institutions awareness, notably those located in the Gulf, and invite them to participate to the Seminar to be held in Dakar. The participants request the support of OIC for this mission;

3. The holding of the Seminar with the financial Institutions at the end of March 2010, in Dakar. To this end, the participants ask the Director General of ICDT to invite the General Secretary of OIC, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, to address a letter to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Senegal, Maître Abdoulaye WADE, Chairman of the OIC, in order to place the Seminar under his auspices;
4. The presence of the General Secretary of OIC as well as the presence of the General Secretary of the WTO at the Seminar of Dakar is highly requested for its success;
5. The importance of the participation of the Ministers of Tourism of all concerned countries to this Seminar.

**18<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD  
TOURISM ORGANIZATION (UNWTO)  
ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN**

*Resolution's Draft on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of  
Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa*

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

**Having taken cognizance** of the Report of the Secretary-General on the activities carried out during the period 2008-2009, within the framework of the follow-up to this Project,

**Recalling resolution A/RES/525 (XVII)** whereby it approved:

- The proposals aimed at strengthening the coordination and follow-up activities of the project with the establishment of a subregional technical office and of national task forces in the Member States;
- The programme of activities 2008-2009, that was submitted to it by the Steering Committee of the Project.

**Appreciating** the quality of the partnership between the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the ST-EP Foundation and the Member States, as well as the numerous shows of support for this exemplary initiative of international cooperation, forming part of the commitment of the United Nations system in favour of poverty reduction,

- 1. Welcomes** the activities conducted by the UNWTO and OIC Secretariats, the Regional Coordination of the project and the Member States, as part of the follow-up of the project and the ongoing execution of the feasibility study;
- 2. Notes with satisfaction** that the programme of activities 2008-2009, approved by the General Assembly at its 17<sup>th</sup> session has been carried out in accordance with the established timetable;
- 3. Thanks** the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Niger for hosting in March 2009, the subregional technical meetings on the strategies of the feasibility study of the project (PHASE II), in Keur-Macene, Conakry, and La Tapoa, respectively;
- 4. Thanks** the UNWTO Secretariat for having generously provided the national focal points and the Regional Coordination Office with supplementary office equipment to facilitate the coordination and follow-up of the activities of the project;
- 5. Approves** the programme of activities 2009-2010 attached herewith;
- 6. Requests** the Governments of the Member States of the project, the Secretary-General of the UNWTO and the Secretary-General of the OIC, to take the necessary measures to provide the Regional Coordination Office of the project with the institutional and administrative support that would allow it to fully and successfully carry out its mission;

7. **Urges** funding institutions, bilateral and multilateral development assistance bodies, enterprises and institutions of the private sector, as well as the Governments to contribute support in different forms to this initiative and **invites** them to participate in the briefing meeting on the feasibility study and the awareness-raising seminar for funding agencies regarding the financing of the project scheduled on 10 to 14 March 2010 in Dakar, Senegal, and **asks** the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to encourage them to do so.
8. **Expresses** its profound thanks to the Secretary-General of the UNWTO and to the Secretary-General of the OIC for their support and their active contribution in favour of the sustainable growth of tourism in Africa and the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in the developing countries.

**REPORT**  
**Preparatory Meeting of the Donors Conference for the Financing  
of the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network  
of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa**

27-28 January 2011, Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco

The Steering Committee of the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" met on 27 and 28 January 2011 at the Headquarters of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) in Casablanca (Morocco) . This technical meeting was devoted to the preparations of the Donors Conference for the Financing of the project, to be held on 27 and 28 May 2011 in Dakar - Republic of Senegal.

This event was preceded by a restricted coordination meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 (ICDT/UNWTO/ Regional Coordinator of the Project).

This meeting was attended by:

**The following Representatives of the Project's Member States:**

Republic of Guinea (Regional Coordinator of the Project), Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Niger and Republic of Senegal.

- **The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO):**
  - Director of the Regional Programme of the UNWTO for Africa
- **And the following OIC institutions:**
  - **The IDB Group:**
    - The IDB Regional Office in Rabat.
  - **The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)**

(The list of participants is enclosed herewith in Annex 1)

It should be noted in this respect that SESRIC has not sent any Representative to this meeting despite the invitation sent to it and to the other members of the Steering Committee.

***I/ OPENING SESSION:***

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Houcine RAHMOUNI, Counsellor to the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade.

- In his welcoming address, Mr. Houcine RAHMOUNI welcomed all participants on behalf of the Director General. Then he highlighted the efforts of the OIC to strengthen cooperation between Member States in the field of tourism through the organization of regular conferences of the Tourism Ministers of the OIC, Tourism fairs and forums. He then reaffirmed the interest of the OIC Secretary General, Dr. Pr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU in this Regional Project.

He finally expressed satisfaction at the excellent work achieved by the project steering committee and in particular, the finalization of the feasibility study and the portfolio

document of funding opportunities for submission to donors and funders to tackle the executive phase of the project in the best possible conditions.

## ***II/HOLDING OF THE MEETING***

After the opening ceremony, the Committee considered and adopted the following agenda of the meeting:

1. Report of the Regional Coordinator of the Project;
2. Review of the Portfolio of funding opportunities to be submitted to Donors;
3. Review of the list of partners / Donors and Funders to be invited to this conference;
4. Scale of distribution of the expenses of the Donors Conference;
5. Organisation of the Donors Conference in Dakar: Format (Workshop and B2Bmeetings);
6. Draft Programme of the Conference
7. Practical organization modalities (Letters of invitation, visas, transport and accommodation, press ...);
8. Setting up of an electronic platform for exchanges between the parties concerned.
9. Date and venue of the next meeting

### **1. Report of the Regional Coordinator of the Project:**

- The Regional Project Coordinator, Mr. Mohamed SAKHO, has in his speech conveyed the cordial greetings and wishes of full success to the proceedings of this meeting of HE Mrs. BALDE Hajda Mariama Bah, Minister of Hotel Business, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Republic of Guinea and reaffirmed the support and commitment of the Republic of Guinea to spare no effort in cooperation with recipient countries of the project, to make this project a living reality.

He added that this meeting marks an important turning point in the implementation of the project. In fact, with the approval and validation in December 2009 in Madrid by the committee and the project's Members States of the various reports worked out within the framework of the feasibility study of the project, he can tackle the phase of donors and funders mobilization in order to start its implementation.

He concluded his speech by expressing his deep gratitude to the Director General of ICDT for his generous hospitality and excellent working conditions to facilitate the proceedings of the meeting.

### **2. Review of the portfolio of funding opportunities to be submitted to Donors:**

- In his speech, the Regional Director of the UNWTO for Africa, Mr. Ousmane NDIAYE introduced the portfolio of funding opportunities that will be presented to donors at the donors' conference for the financing of the project to be held on 27 and 28 May, 2011 in Dakar. While recalling the different stages of its implementation, he added that the project also meets the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), particularly Goal 1 (eradicating poverty and hunger) and Goal 7 (environmental preservation) protecting and conserving biological diversity of the different parks and Protected Areas and Goal 8 (global partnership) by forging alliances and creating synergies between partners and the project stakeholders.

He stressed that the project covers 8 topics:

1. Issue of biological diversity;
2. Infrastructure needs in the public sector;
3. Facilitating private sector investment;
4. Product development;
5. Fight against poverty;
6. Marketing and promotion;
7. Legal framework and governance;
8. Study of Ecotourism in river basins.

He ended his speech with a summary of funding needs based on each subject, and hoped that the proceedings of this meeting will lead to concrete recommendations that will identify all the parameters of organizing the donors conference and thus encourage the subsequent implementation of the commitments to be made by donors and economic and financial partners of the project.

The document of the portfolio of funding opportunities to be submitted to donors was unanimously validated and adopted.

- The representative of the IDB Group, Mr. Abderrahmane EL MEDKOURI outlined the policies and procedures of his institution in the field of projects financing while affirming that the financing of tourist projects are not included among the priority axes of IDB.

He added that upon the invitation of the OIC, IDB has been associated to this process since its initiation.

He then outlined that the Portfolio of Funding opportunities highlights the issues of sub-regional development and fight against poverty that could raise the interest of IDB and its windows in compliance of the applied guidelines.

### **3. Review of the list of partners /donors / Funders to be invited to this conference:**

Participants reviewed a preliminary list of donors, and agreed that its dissemination shall be made with restrictiveness. They proposed to complement it by classifying the partners, donors and funders in several categories including:

- Multilateral donors
- Bilateral donors;
- Private Donors:
  - Insurances and Banks;
  - Foundations;
  - Oil and Gas Companies;
  - Industrial groups;
  - Mines Groups;
  - Airlines;
  - Agro-food Groups;
  - Public Works and Civil Engineering Groups;
  - Hotel Business and Tours Operators;
  - Telecom Enterprises;
  - Miscellaneous.

ICDT committed itself to finalise the list of donors in consultation with the UNWTO before 5 February, 2011 in order to start sending invitations.

#### **4. Scale of Distribution of the expenses of the donors conference:**

Participants completed a Scale of distribution of the expenses of the Donors Conference in accordance with Annex 2.

#### **5. Organization of the Donors Conference in Dakar: Format (Workshop and B2B meetings):**

During this Conference workshops and B2B meetings gathering the focal points of the project's Member Countries as well as partners, donors and funders will be organized in order to discuss the modalities of participation in the project funding.

A Coordination meeting of the Members of the Steering Committee and Focal Points will be organised on 26 May 2011 for this purpose.

#### **6. Draft Conference Program:**

Participants adopted the draft conference program as contained in (Annex 3)

#### **7. Practical organization modalities (Letters of invitation, visas, transport and accommodation, press ...):**

Invitation letters to donors will be co-signed by their Excellencies the OIC Secretary General and the UNWTO Secretary General coupled with a participation form and the Portfolio of Funding opportunities containing a CD on the project feasibility Study. These letters should be sent before **February 16, 2011**.

Besides, it was agreed that the Minister of Handicrafts, Tourism and Relations with the Private Sector and the Informal Sector of the Republic of Senegal will invite his counterparts of the Project Member States to participate in this conference. The UNWTO will provide to the Senegalese side, the document of the portfolio of funding opportunities to be enclosed to the invitation letters.

Participants suggested that HE the President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman of the OIC send letters of invitation to the following personalities:

- HE the President of the Republic of Guinea, whose country ensures the Project Coordination;
- H.E. the OIC Secretary General;
- H.E. the UNWTO Secretary General;
- H.E. the President of the IDB Group
- HE the President of the World Bank;
- HE the Director of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency)
- H.E. the President of the ST-EP Foundation;
- H.E. the President of the Commission of the ECOWAS;
- H.E. the President of the Commission of the WAEMU;
- H.E. the President of the African Development Bank (ADB).

The representatives of the recipient countries, the UNWTO and ICDT expressed the wish that the support of IDB be examined, notably through the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Special Programme for Development in Africa (SPDA),

Participants suggested that:

- The letter of invitation of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Senegal,

addressed to HE the President of the IDB Group, reflects the priority characteristic of this project for Member States and the importance of its themes in social -economic and regional development.

- Their Excellencies. Prof. Dr. Ekmelddin. Ihsanoglu, and Dr. Taleb Rifai, respectively Secretary General of OIC and the UNWTO, pay a visit to HE Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali, President of the IDB Group, for the support of his institution that will enable the effective implementation of this project and the participation of his institution in the proceedings of the Dakar conference.

#### **8. Setting up of an electronic exchange platform between the parties concerned:**

ICDT and the UNWTO and the Republic of Senegal (International Fair of Tourism, Cultural Industries and Crafts Arts: TICAA) have decided to create an electronic link in their respective sites for better dissemination of information about the project and the donors conference.

#### **Besides, participants agreed on the following:**

- Participants requested Member States to provide to ICDT as much as possible documentation to make a documentary film. ICDT will consider the possibility of making a documentary film on Cross-Border Parks and protected areas on this basis and on the basis of the documentation that will be provided by the “Cabinet Sécheresse consultants” via the UNWTO. To that effect, letters should be addressed by the ICDT to the Ministries of Tourism and / or of the Environment Members of the project to provide the necessary documentation. Once this documentary film is prepared, it will be sent to Member states for comments and remarks.
- To recommend to the recipient States of the project to provide to the Conference their regulations in the field of investments and business climate.
- Notwithstanding the measures and modalities of invitations above mentioned, ICDT and the UNWTO will take charge of dispatching invitations to donors and funders.

#### **9. Date and venue of the next meeting:**

Participants agreed to organize in the first half of April 2011 in Dakar, an evaluation meeting of the preparatory work of the Conference with the participation of ICDT, UNWTO, the Regional Coordinator, and the Republic of Senegal. This meeting will be followed by a Press Conference organized by the Minister of Handicrafts, Tourism and the relations with the Private Sector and Informal Sector of the Republic of Senegal, the Director General of ICDT and the Executive Director of the UNWTO.

**REPORT OF  
THE DONORS CONFERENCE FOR THE FUNDING OF THE  
"REGIONAL PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM  
DEVELOPMENT IN A NETWORK OF CROSS BORDER PARKS AND  
PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA"**

27-28 May 2011  
Dakar - Republic of Senegal

In order to mobilize the funds needed to finance **the Regional Project for Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa**, the Steering Committee of the concerned project organized under the High Patronage of His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and Current Chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), a Conference of Donors at Meridien President Hotel in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 27 and 28 May, 2011.

This conference was preceded by the holding of a coordination meeting of the Steering Committee in the presence of focal points and managers of parks and protected areas on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2011.

**This meeting was attended by:**

Representatives of the recipient States of the project namely: the Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Mali, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Sierra Leone;

It is worth noting in this regard that the Delegations of Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone were represented by their Supervising Ministries.

The Delegation of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) led by His Excellency the Secretary General Mr. Taleb RIFAI;

- The OIC delegation led by Mr. Cheikh Oumar SOW, Director General of Economic Affairs and Representative of His Excellency Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of OIC;
- The Delegation of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) led by Mr. Houcine RAHMOUNI, Adviser to the Director General;
- The Delegation of the Republic of Guinea, Regional Coordinator of the Project, led by HE Elhadji OUSMANE BAH, Minister of State in charge of Public Works and Transports representing H.E the President of the Republic of Guinea, Professor Alpha CONDE. It included the Minister of Hotel Trade, Tourism and Handicrafts and the Delegated Minister for Environment;
- Mrs. Dho YOUNG-SHIM, Representative of KOICA and the STEP Foundation;
- Mr. Abdel Wahab CHERIF, Representative of the Regional Office of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Dakar;

- Mr. Savas Alpay, Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC);
- Representatives of the following Organizations and Institutions: the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB)/African Development Bank (ADB)/French Cooperation Programme/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Aga Khan Foundation STEP-KOICA/Foundation.

(The list of conference participants is attached in annex)

### *I/ OPENING SESSION/*

The opening session was chaired by H.E Mr. Souleymane Ndéné NDIAYE, Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal, Representative of HE Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and Current Chairman of the OIC.

The welcoming address was delivered by H.E Mr. Thierno LO - Minister of Handicrafts, Tourism and Relations with the Private Sector and the Informal Sector of the Republic of Senegal. On this occasion, HE the Minister said that the international bodies and national governments are increasingly recognizing the role that tourism plays in reducing poverty. The project, he said will enable the ten Member States, project stakeholders to pool their efforts to strengthen their socio-economic and environmental advantages and derive most benefit from their enormous potential of ecotourism. He also stressed that this project will surely achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the 2015 deadline, particularly Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), the Objective 2 (Sustainable Management and Conservation of the environment) and Goal 3 (Develop a global partnership for development). H.E has also recalled the main objective of the Donors Conference, namely the presentation of the Funding opportunities Portfolio to donors and investors so as to guarantee the funding commitments of proposed activities. Finally, HE thanked the OIC, the STEP Foundation, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and WTO for their technical and financial support to the project and finally H.E invited partners, donors and funders to support this project on which the countries concerned set much hope.

After the welcoming speech, a documentary film produced by ICDT on the Cross border Parks and protected areas of West Africa (CPA) was presented to participants. It gave a vivid and realistic idea of the current state of the concerned Parks and Protected Areas and the challenges and opportunities expected from the Conference.

Then, the Representative of KOICA and the STEP Foundation, Mrs. Dho Young-Shim called for the continuation of this project in an aggressive and resolute manner until the phase of its implementation. She also recalled the forthcoming General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in the Republic of Korea and at the same time proposed to organize a meeting of Ministers of the recipient countries of the project. Within this framework she added that she would be ready to support strongly this project at the level of her country for its funding.

H.E Cheikh Oumar SOW - Director of Economic Affairs at the OIC conveyed the message of H.E Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, Secretary General of the OIC, in which he expressed his deep thanks to the President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E Maître Abdoulaye WADE for his constant support to programs and activities aiming at

consolidating growth and development in OIC Member States. He also commended the efforts of H.E. Taleb RIFAI for his dedication to the implementation of the project and the financing of the project feasibility study by the Korean Agency for Cooperation (KOICA). Furthermore, H.E. has cited the initiation by the OIC of various programs to promote free trade in goods and services as well as the creation of several investment funds including the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (FSID) which since 2007 has disbursed 605 million U.S. dollars for various projects to reduce poverty in 28 OIC Member States. Then, HE informed participants of the measures taken at the 7th Ministerial Tourism Conference held in Tehran in November 2010 with proposals for the creation of the Award Prize of the tourism city and the OIC Excellence Label Award for handicrafts to allow tourism to regain its leading role, as driving force of socio-economic development among the OIC Member States. Finally, he urged regional and international partners to contribute to the execution of the project.

Then H.E. Dr. Taleb RIFAI - Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), recalled in his speech that during the 16th Session of the General Assembly of WTO held in December 2005 in Dakar, H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, who chaired the opening ceremony of the meeting stated that the "Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" is a priority for his country as well as for other States parties to the project. Then, HE described the trends in the tourism sector in 2010 and outlined the prospects for 2011. In this context, he cited the performances achieved by the African continent. Tourism is an essential development factor he said and for Africa in particular, it is a fact given its countless eco-tourism resources. H.E. also announced the creation in 2003 by his organization of a special program for sustainable tourism development for the benefit of the African continent. Finally, he urged donors and partners to provide valuable support to this project on which the peoples of the States parties to this project are pinning all their hopes.

Finally, H.E. Maître Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye, Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal, took the floor expressing the regrets of His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and Current Chairman of OIC, for not being able to attend the Conference in view of other commitments. He then conveyed his deep thanks to the Secretary General of the WTO, the Representative of the Secretary General of OIC and Mrs. Dho Young-Shim-Representative of the STEP Foundation and the Korean Cooperation (KOICA) and the other participants for their presence at this important meeting. This project, he said, will contribute to reducing poverty by strengthening the socio-economic and environmental advantages in the ten respective states and the emergence of a vast regional tourism market. After expressing great satisfaction at the choice of his country to organise this conference, he presented the history of the project and underlined that it has been initiated at the right time given the current evils of climate change and the various crises, which occurred in recent years weakening populations and threatening natural resources which are increasingly scarce. Faced with this situation, he said, the international community has attempted to provide solutions through the organization of several summit meetings. At the level of the African continent, he cited the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of which HE Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal is one of the originators as well as the Programme of the Great Green Wall which both of them, provide appropriate responses in Africa. At the sub-regional level, he stressed the

importance of the Additional Act to the Treaty of WAEMU devoted to adopting a common policy of Tourism. He then reaffirmed the hope recipient States are pinning on the success of this project which, in addition to the tourism sector, will develop several other sectors. Moreover, the recent United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) held in May 2011 in Istanbul, he added, has served as a platform to stress the highly important role of tourism in LDCs. Therefore, HE invited all public and private partners to support this project in all its implementation phases. Finally, H.E congratulated the Members of the Steering Committee, the Consultant and the Focal Points of recipient countries for the quality and exhaustiveness of the study and also for the appropriateness of selected measures.

## ***II/ PROCEEDINGS:***

The Conference was marked by the following presentations:

### **Session 2: Introduction to the Conference**

Moderator: Mr. Mohamed SAKHO, Regional Coordinator of the Project

In this section, Mr. Sakho Mohamed, Regional Coordinator of the Project outlined the history of this project by recalling the key stages of its implementation, including its genesis in March 2005 during the conference of Tourism Ministers as well as its institutional anchoring on the occasion of the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the UNWTO in November-December 2005.

#### **✓ Presentation of the regional project by Frédéric PIERRET, Executive Director of the WTO**

In his speech, the Executive Director of the WTO stated that this project is the first of its kind because it is the result of an initiative taken by 10 States of West Africa.

He especially emphasized the importance for African countries and particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to develop the tourism sector owing to their eco-tourism resources. To that effect, he added that the impact of tourism promotion is likely to encourage the States parties to the project to develop the means of transport, improve the quality of accommodation and strengthen the capacities of actors working in this sector.

In his opinion, the portfolio of project financing opportunities as developed facilitates the intervention of donors because it has targeted components and allows them to invest in this project according to their focus and / or skills.

In conclusion, Mr. PIERRET opened three topics of reflection, namely:

- 1. All contributions will be useful regardless of the nature or level of commitment. The most important being the mobilizing nature of the project;**
- 2. Beyond the sources of public funding, the project should later focus on private investment. For this purpose, new management methods should be devised in order to attract private partners and involve them in park management. The example of Southern Africa can fuel the reflection;**
- 3. To involve in project governance the ministries concerned, the OIC and the WTO.**

According to Mr. PIERRET, in order to implement the plan of action, , it is necessary to imagine flexible, efficient and effective running based on existing sub-regional

structures such as the WAEMU.

### **Presentation of the Feasibility Study and the portfolio of funding opportunities:**

- ✓ Through a document entitled "Funding Opportunities", Mr. Jean Sécheresse, Representative of the Research Firm «Secheresse Consultants», presented the project, described the current precarious situation of CPA of West Africa and underlined the ways and means to develop the eight components of the plan of action for the implementation of the project and enable later its tourism exploitation.

### **Session 3: Mobilization of support and funding means required for the implementation of the project**

#### **- Presentations of donors, technical and financial partners**

**Moderator: Mr. Houcine Rahmouni, Adviser to the Director General of ICdT**

During the introductory phase of this session, Mr. Houcine Rahmouni, Moderator of the session, stressed the urgency of pooling together resources and policies to redress the very precarious situation of the infrastructure of the regional project, federator of cross border parks and protected areas concerned and to breathe a new life and restore hope to local people and communities living in and around these parks and protected areas with a view to promoting tourism in the medium and long term and ensure sustainable development of this ecosystem. He also added that all ingredients are at present combined (Feasibility Study and Funding Opportunities Portfolio) to succeed in this important project for the socio-economic development of the region and it is now up to donors and development partners to transform the hopes of local people into reality.

He then invited. H.E Mrs. BALDE Hadja Mariama BAH, the Minister of Hotel Trade, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Republic of Guinea, Regional Coordinator of the project to deliver her speech.

After expressing the condolences on her own behalf and on behalf of recipient countries to Mrs. Tourism Minister of Niger upon the death of her husband, H.E put emphasis in her speech on the following:

- Her appreciation of cooperation between Member States participating in the project and the work done so far by the Steering Committee;
- The precarious state of CPAs in West Africa and the importance of providing solutions to local people living around and whose incomes are less than 1 U.S. dollar per day;
- The socio-economic benefit of this project for the development of the sub-region especially for poverty reduction.

Finally, H.E Mrs. the Minister of Hotel Trade, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Republic of Guinea, Regional Coordinator of the project, expressed her full support to this project.

Then Mr. Rahmouni asked donors and development partners to give their views and comments on the project. Accordingly, the following representatives took the floor:

#### **The Representative of the African Development Bank (ADB)**

In her speech she stressed the following:

### **1. With respect to the project:**

- Quality of the Study;
- Integrated and regional approach;
- The innovative project;
- The multi-sectoral nature of the project and its extension to medium term.

### **2. With respect to ADB:**

- In several areas and sectors the project is in phase with the strategy of the ADB;
- Its regional and innovative nature implies a financing through additional funding and some cost-sharing in relation to regional projects. Indeed, there is a cost-sharing mechanism for regional projects in ADB;
- Identification of specific areas of intervention by the Department of Agriculture and Environment of the ADB, which already implies a firm commitment;
- The project in other areas can be discussed in Tunis at the level of several other departments of ADB, which involves commitment promises;
- Clear commitment of the ADB in strengthening the infrastructure of water and energy.

### **3. At the level of the management and governance of the project**

- Importance of a structure of aid coordination and donors' interventions;
- Importance of coordination between recipient countries;
- Importance of requests to be made globally to donors with a regional vision;
- Importance of coordination at the level of ECOWAS and WAEMU;
- Another stage of governance to be clarified with the private sector is the importance of the existence of a public-private platform; a call was made to the private sector to this end.

In his statement he identified the following areas:

- Sustainable management of natural resources;
- Rehabilitation of infrastructures;
- Promotion of public-private partnership;
- Promotion of SMEs;
- The impact on the economic and social development;
- Employment and decentralization.

### **Representative of the French Cooperation:**

In his speech, he highlighted the following:

- This project contributes to a better regional integration;
- The importance of the evaluation of parks and protected areas through tourism;
- The importance of synergy between all actors;
- The progressive tourism development of CPAs.

He therefore, declared that the French Cooperation might be interested in certain actions related to the project.

Finally, he raised the issue of the involvement modalities of local populations in the project.

Similarly he pointed out that the French Development Agency intervenes in the park Diawling and is developing a project in Saint Louis.

Besides, he recommended the involvement of French, European and African local collectivities.

### **Representative of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)**

In his speech, he highlighted the following:

- The importance of the unifying nature of this project for the sub region;
- The importance of good coordination of interventions to avoid work duplication.

He has also stated that some areas of the project are in harmony with the vision of the IDB Group namely:

- The public sector infrastructure;
- Poverty reduction;
- The private sector development.

He finally stressed the importance of the procedure for submission of requests to the IDB Group namely:

- The priority aspects of the project development plans of recipient countries;
- Presentation of requests through the governor of each recipient country to the IDB.

It is therefore, necessary to note the commitment of the IDB in areas developed by the project and in its effective implementation.

### **Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

He stressed in his speech that:

1. The UNDP priorities focus on:

- ✓ The fight against hunger and poverty;
- ✓ conservation and protection of biodiversity;
- ✓ the importance of tourism as a growth factor;
- ✓ the economic and social development;
- ✓ Capacity building ;
- ✓ Communications.

2. The importance of coordination in ensuring a certain synergy between interventions

3. The importance of political and strategic aspects including:

- ✓ Harmonization of regulations and policies;
- ✓ Poverty Reduction based on regional tourism;
- ✓ Importance of pooling efforts and resources.

He finally said that UNDP will contribute and accompany the project in its implementation and will plea in favour of this project at the level of other partner institutions.

### **Representative of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)**

In his speech, he made a reflection on how to improve the outcome of the Conference in relation to the project by emphasizing the following:

The OIC policy in the field of Tourism development:

- ✓ Tourism is considered as a priority sector in the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action;

- ✓ Tourism forms the subject of a Ministerial Conference which meets every 2 years;
2. Funding opportunities within the OIC and in this case within the IDB Group;
- ✓ The existence of a window within the IDB for investment guarantees;
  - ✓ The existence of a bank for the private sector;
  - ✓ The existence of a solidarity fund for development in principle with a budget of U.S. \$ 10 billion primarily for poverty reduction, of which 2 billion have been disbursed;
  - ✓ The existence of a Special Programme for African Development endowed with a budget of U.S. \$12 billion, of which \$ U.S 4 billion, were disbursed.

In other words, funds are available and there is reason to rethink the project in such a way as to develop private initiative to better promote it while avoiding the involvement the public sector in its management.

3. The successful experience in some countries like Turkey, Morocco, Malaysia and Tunisia in the field of tourism shows that the private sector has contributed significantly.

He therefore, proposed to reframe the project so that it relies much more on the private sector than on the public sector in order to better sell to the private sector while also drawing on the funding opportunities intended for this sector.

It is therefore necessary to give more space to the private sector and ensure that members change their orientation so as to concede the management of parks and protected areas to the private sector.

This idea was welcomed by the audience which recommended rather a public-private partnership in managing this project.

### **The Representative of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**

In her speech she stressed the following:

- 6 Project Member States are Members of WAEMU;
- Several areas of the project are part of the common WAEMU policy and of its regional program;
- The Union area can be very attractive in many respects;
- Several projects of the WAEMU Commission are in total harmony with the project.

She said in this respect that the WAEMU Commission could play a major role in the development of this unifying project, therefore, the interest of the WAEMU in this project is total.

She cited in particular:

- Support to protection activities;
- The harmonization of the statutes of parks;
- Capacity-building;
- The harmonization of regulations and a Common visa for the 6 Member Countries of WAEMU.

She also stressed the existence of a WAEMU-UNWTO partnership.

### **The Representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural**

## **Organization (UNESCO)**

In her speech, she depicted her institution's experience in sustainable management, through the biosphere reserves, in the Park of Serengeti and Kruger National Park.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Overall, it appears from the speeches and debates of this crucial session that the project was appreciated by the present Donors and development partners who have all expressed their commitments (not in figures) in supporting this project in its implementation phase, wholly or partially and showed a willingness to work in synergy so as to meet the concerns of governance and coordination of various stakeholders on the assumption that there is better coordination between and with recipient countries.

However, emphasis was put on the importance of involving the private sector in the management of this project in a more effective manner

✓ Presentation and answers to the questions of the Officers responsible for Parks and Focal Points

Moderator: Mr. Ousmane Ndiaye, UNWTO Regional Director for Africa

The final session was devoted to the presentations and answers of focal points, representatives of the parks and the Consultant.

On this occasion, the speakers highlighted their specific experiences and issues contained in the performance of their duties at the parks and protected areas.

At the end of the meeting the participants issued recommendations contained in the document annexed to the report entitled "Recommendations of the Conference".

Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the WTO, has renewed the commitment of WTO to contribute effectively to the success of the project and, in the same vein, emphasized its relevance given the process and content. He urged countries to as well as the Tourism Ministers of recipient countries to show more commitment at the next General Assembly of WTO in South Korea.

### **III/CLOSING SESSION:**

The Closing Ceremony was chaired by Mr Cheikh Sadibou DIA, Director of Office of H.E the Minister of Handicrafts, Tourism and Relations with the Private Sector and the Informal Sector of the Republic of Senegal.

First, the floor was given to Mr. Ousseynou DIENG Director of Studies and Tourism Planning in Senegal for the presentation of the report and for the reading and adoption of the recommendations of the Conference.

Then the following speeches were delivered by:

- The Executive Director of the WTO - Frédéric Pierret, on behalf of the organizers;
- The Head of Cabinet of the Ministry of Handicrafts and Tourism of Mali, Mr. Abdoulaye Alkadi in charge of presenting the motion of thanks to the Senegalese authorities;
- Her Excellency the Minister of Hotel Trade,, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Republic of Guinea who extended her sincere thanks to the Senegalese authorities

for their hospitality and offered gifts to the representatives of WTO, OIC , ICDT and SESRIC and to the ST-EP Foundation with a view to expressing to them the profound gratitude of the Governments of Member States for the quality of their technical and financial support and to urge them to carry on their assistance until the effective implementation of the project.

Then, the Head of the Cabinet, Mr. Cheikh Sadibou DIA, read out the statement of HE the Minister of Handicrafts, Tourism and Relations with the Private Sector and the Informal Sector of the Republic of Senegal who seized this opportunity to recall that the objectives and outcomes of this Conference, are in phase with the concerns of the international community, because the realization of this project whose cost is estimated at 46,863,527 Euros, i.e 31,000,000,000 CFA francs, will contribute to alleviating poverty, improving living conditions as well as preserving the environment and resources. He pointed out that The 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the meeting; which was devoted to the mobilization of funds needed to finance the project, has allowed the identification of real funding potentials on behalf of partners and donors and showed the need for a reframing of the project and its governance for greater involvement of private sector and other departments concerned, all under the coordination of the Ministries of Tourism. H.E then asked the donors and partners to put their commitments into a concrete shape and ensure the effective mobilization of resources for the project. Finally, H.E thanked the OIC, WTO, IDB, ADB, STEP Foundation and the French Cooperation for their support of the project.

In addition, on the sidelines of the Conference, it was agreed within the Steering Committee to consider the possibility of organizing a similar meeting with the private sector (donors, investors and private donors) in order to strengthen the implementation of this project in compliance with the recommendation of the management of cross border Parks and Protected Areas in public / private partnership while recommending to invite the recipient countries of the project to allow beforehand, state-owned concessions to that effect.

Done in Dakar, May 28, 2011



## **DONORS' CONFERENCE ON THE REGIONAL PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A NETWORK OF CROSS-BORDER PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA**

**Dakar, Senegal, 27 and 28 May 2011**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Donors' Conference for the Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa, convened in Dakar, Senegal, on 27 and 28 May 2011,

Having taken cognizance of the preliminary study that describes the condition of the sites, defines the strategic axes and proposes an action plan,

Having taken cognizance of the Portfolio of Funding Opportunities,

Having heard the introductory presentations of the project, the statements of potential funding entities and the explanations of the representatives of the governments and the parks involved,

- Lauds the quality and exhaustiveness of the preliminary study as well as the relevance of the Portfolio of Funding Opportunities;
- Expresses its unanimous support for a project whose potential is extremely rich and promising in terms of sustainable tourism development, biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, job creation and infrastructure development;
- Notes that this project holds a prominent place in the sub-regional economic integration process;
- Has taken note of the interest and proposals listed in the report annexed to the present recommendations on the part of the principal development partners (ADB, IDB, UNDP, Coopération française) and of the interested institutions (OIC, WAEMU, UNESCO);
- Invites other development partners to join this undertaking;
- Wishes this project to move forward to an operational implementation phase;
- Recommends the governance of the project to associate, around the tourism ministries and in a form to be determined, the technical ministries that are most closely concerned (in particular, those responsible for environment, transport, education, culture, handicrafts), promoters of similar initiatives, the interested funding entities and the private sector;

- Wishes the ten countries concerned to rapidly undertake a reflection regarding the place that should be accorded to the private sector in terms of investment and the management of the parks and/or some of their functions (accommodation, reception, visits, etc...), so as to develop public-private partnerships, for example, on a concession basis;
- Wishes the governments and the managers of the parks and protected areas concerned, as well as the representatives of the local communities to specify the modalities whereby the local populations are to be associated in the implementation of the project;
- Requests the governments to rapidly define cross-border management structures for each park and protected areas;
- Requests the ten governments concerned to include this project among the priorities of the development programmes they present to bilateral and multilateral funding entities;
- Requests the UNWTO, as executing agency of the project and in consultation with the ICDT, to carry out the necessary contacts with the AfDB, the IDB, Coopération française, WAEMU and the OIC in order to determine their respective commitments in the implementation of the project.

Dakar, 28 May 2011

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE  
"REGIONAL PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A  
NETWORK OF CROSS BORDER PARKS  
AND PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA"**

**7 - 8 February 2012 - Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco**

The Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" was held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) in order to consider the ways and means of implementing the Project and its extension to other West African States.

This meeting that aimed at the establishing of a new strategy for revitalizing the project has gathered the stakeholders responsible for its implementation namely, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and the Project Regional Coordination represented by Her Excellency Mrs Baldé Hadja Mariama BAH, Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea.

The meeting also recorded the participation of the Representatives of Burkina Faso, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Regional Office of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) in Rabat represented by its Regional Director, Mr. El Abdehrrahman GLAOUI.

(The list of participants is attached in Annex 1).

***I/ OPENING SESSION:***

- After the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, Her Excellency Mrs. Baldé Hadja Mariama BAH, Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea took the floor to thank His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, Secretary General of OIC and H.E Taleb RIFAI, Secretary General of UNWTO for their exemplary effort and unwavering support since the launching of this project in 2005.

Her Excellency also emphasized in her speech the importance of the concretization of commitments made by participants at the Donors Conference held in Dakar (Republic of Senegal) in May 2011 whose aim was to mobilize the financial resources necessary for the implementation of the Project. Her Excellency has also proposed to provide to this project an efficient follow up structure based on a new strategy for revitalizing and implementing the Project and a specific Activity Program.

Finally, Mrs. Minister expressed the wish to actively join in this project, the technical and financial partners namely, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Commission, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the IDB Group.

- Taking the floor, Dr. El Hassane HZAINI, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), expressed his appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Government of the

Republic of Guinea, the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the STEP Foundation for their valuable efforts and contributions to the implementation of this project.

He also stressed in his speech the importance that His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC gives to this Project, which is part of his priorities, like for the railway Dakar-Port Sudan Project, the Cotton industry Project or even the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States.

Then, the Director General of ICDT proposed the establishment of a new operational strategy to convince the donors to become more involved in the project, followed by a roadmap outlining the various steps and activities to be carried out by the stakeholders of the Project.

Finally, the Director General of ICDT invited the Committee to consider the request of other Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission and at the same time to ensure the continuity of this project. In this context, he informed the meeting that His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the OIC Secretary General will start direct contacts with the President of the ECOWAS in order to drum up support for ECOWAS participation in the project as proposed. Besides, he invited the recipient countries to incorporate it in their development plan and budgets.

- Mr. Ousmane N'Diaye, Regional Director of the UNWTO Program for Africa, took the floor, to express on behalf of HE the Secretary General of the UNWTO, Mr. Taleb RIFAI his deepest thanks to Dr. El Hassane HZAINI, Director General of ICDT and to Her Excellency Mrs. Baldé Hadja Mariama BAH, Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea - Project Coordinator Country - for their efforts aimed at implementing this Project. He also stressed in his speech the importance of defining jointly appropriate orientations to follow up the recommendations of the Dakar Conference, namely, raising funds with the help of partners that have shown on this occasion their interests to achieve this project.

- Finally Mr. Abderrahman EL GLAOUI, Regional Director of the IDB Group in Rabat took the floor to inform participants of the availability of the IDB to extend financial support to the themes related to poverty reduction within Member States. He also stressed the importance that the IDB Group gives to know-how transfer and exchange of experience and strengthening links (reverse linkage) for the benefit of the Member States of the Project.

## ***II / PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING:***

After the opening speeches, the Members of the Steering Committee examined the following items:

- Presentation of the follow up of the recommendations of Dakar Donors Conference by the stakeholders of the Project (Regional Coordinator, Focal Points, UNWTO / STEP Foundation, UNCTAD and ICDT);
- Issues related to the enlargement of the Project to Ghana, Liberia, Togo, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire;
- Organization under the auspices of the IDB and ICDT of a Donors Conference open to the exclusive participation of Arab and Islamic Financial Institutions;

- Organization under the aegis of the UNWTO and ECOWAS of a Donors Conference open exclusively to Private Sector Participation (Donors, Investors and Private Donors);
- Participation and submission of the Regional Project to the Pan African Conference on “Managing Sustainable Tourism in African National Parks and Protected Areas “, scheduled for 2012 in Arusha (Tanzania);
- Development and Adoption of a Forward Programme of activities;
- Summary of the discussions and the recommendations of the Steering Committee of the Project.

Mr. Mohammed SAKHO, the Regional Project Coordinator took the floor tackling the progress achieved in the follow up of the Donors Conference’s recommendations held in Dakar (Republic of Senegal) in May 2011.

He also highlighted the intent expressed on this occasion, by the technical and financial partners to get involved in financing the Project themes while focusing on their remarks related to the policies and procedures to be followed by the recipient states of this Project. He said that in this respect, only the Republic of Guinea has so far included this project in its National Development Plan and submitted specific funding applications.

He further informed the Committee of the outcomes of the informal meeting of the Recipient States of the Project with the Representative of the ECOWAS Commission held in Gyeongju (Republic of Korea) on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the UNWTO.

He finally proposed among others, the following actions to revitalize the Project:

- To build on the “success stories” of the Parks and Protected Areas of the Eastern and Southern African Countries;
- To consider the participation of the private sector and technical partners (ECOWAS, WAEMU, and UNCTAD) in the financing and management of Parks and Protected Areas of West Africa;
- To develop a forward program of activities covering the 2012-2013 period.

### ***III/ CLOSING SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:***

- Before the closing ceremony of the meeting, the Committee adopted this report and the recommendations and the forward program of activities 2012/2013 annexed thereto and invited Her Excellency the Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea, Chairwoman of the Steering meeting to kindly submit the report of this meeting and annexes to her counterparts in order to collect their opinions before the final approval of this document and preferably before 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

- At the end of the meeting, Her Excellency the Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea conveyed her deepest thanks to His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the OIC Secretary General for the important message he addressed to participants and for his strong commitment to ensure in synergy with the Secretariat of the ECOWAS Commission and other institutions and organisations for cooperation and assistance development, the actions pleading the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Project and to support the Regional

Coordination Unit. Her Excellency the Minister has finally congratulated the Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Dr. El Hassane HZAINÉ and all the ICDT's staff for the efforts they made to ensure the success of the meeting.

Then, Dr. El Hassane HZAINÉ took the floor to extend his deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and to Her Excellency Mrs. Baldé Hadja Mariama BAH, Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea for the high quality of her contribution to the implementation of this project and for her sustained effort in monitoring and coordinating the project and urged her to continue this mission until the effective implementation of the project

Finally, the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania took the floor on behalf of all participants, kindly requesting the Director General of ICDT to convey to His Majesty King Mohammed the VI<sup>th</sup>, May God Glorify HIM, a motion of thanks and gratitude.

At the end of the meeting, the Committee reiterated its deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and to the Moroccan people for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to participants, to Her Excellency Mrs. Baldé Hadja Mariama BAH, Minister of Hospitality, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea and the Director General and staff of ICDT.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon its proceedings, the Committee:

1. Reaffirms the need for the recipient countries to prioritize the project in their development plans and provide for an allocation of internal resources for the launching of activities identified in their national territory;
2. In order to move from the study phase to the operational phase, the Committee decides to adopt the following approach:
  - a) Preparation by the UNWTO of a typical file of project presentations;
  - b) Call for proposals from potential project owners (tourism departments, ministries in charge of park management, park managers, NGOs, private operators ...);
  - c) Presentation of projects within the steering committee for submission to donors.

Proposes in a first phase a selection of projects from the following priority themes: poverty reduction, private sector investment facilitation, public sector infrastructure requirement, biodiversity issues and product development.

3. Emphasizes the importance of transferring know-how and exchange of experience and strengthening links (reverse linkage) for the benefit of Members of the project;
4. Invites Recipient States to urgently formulate requests intended to bilateral and multilateral donors for the mobilization of additional funds besides the national effort;
5. Recommends to recipient countries to build the capacity of National Focal Points (NFPs) in order to implement this project;
6. Recommends to recipient countries to explore ways and means for a greater involvement of the private sector in the management of parks and protected areas. In

this regard, it would be appropriate to organise a training workshop on “the Managing Method of Parks and Protected Areas” in collaboration with other 48organization international institutions;

7. Decides the 48organization of the Steering Committee meetings (NFPs, Regional Coordinator, Technical and Financial Partners) twice a year;
8. Recommends to the Ministries in charge of tourism to involve closely the Ministries Responsible for the management of parks and protected areas in the proceedings and actions of the Steering Committee;
9. Decides the accession of the following States: Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo which have expressed the wish to join this initiative as members of the Steering Committee. As such, they benefit from the second phase of the initiative on which a feasibility study will be conducted.

The agenda of the Steering Committee will include two parts devoted on the one hand, to the progress of the ongoing project and to the feasibility study of the project in the newly admitted countries on the other;

10. Decides that the functions of the Chairman of the Steering Committee be ensured alternately every two years by the Ministers of Tourism of the Recipient States. With respect to the 2012-2014 periods, these functions will be ensured by the Supervising Minister in charge of Tourism of the Republic of Guinea;
11. Proposes a Managerial Capacity Building Project:
  - a) Through the involvement of training institutions including the Islamic Research and Training Institute IRTI (IDB Group), ICDT, SESRIC and UNCTAD (Program Train For Trade) in human resource training programs identified by the project at national and regional levels;
  - b) Through the support of technical and financial partners to cover the costs of training and practical training sessions identified by the Steering Committee.
12. Invites Recipient States to participate in the following meetings:
  - a) A meeting of the Steering Committee in conjunction with the Pan-African conference on Sustainable Tourism Management in Parks and Protected Areas in Africa scheduled for October 2012 in Arusha (Republic of Tanzania);
  - b) An Information and awareness-raising Meeting on the sidelines of the 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers to be held in Khartoum (Republic of Sudan) in November 2012;
  - c) A meeting of the Steering Committee on the sidelines of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the UNWTO scheduled to be held in August 2013 in Victoria Falls / Levingston in Zimbabwe and in Zambia;
13. Decides to organize a Donors Conference open to the participation of Arab and Islamic Financial Institutions and Private Sector in collaboration with the OIC, the UNWTO, the ECOWAS and WEAMU;
14. Decides to conduct an high-level awareness-raising and executive marketing program involving the OIC, the UNWTO and the Project Coordinator at the level of Donors and financial institutions like the IDB Group, the ADB Group and World

Bank;

15. Suggests the participation of the Regional Coordinator of the Project Committee to the meetings of the Sessional Committee and the Ministerial Session of the COMCEC;
16. Recommends to the ECOWAS Commission to take necessary measures for research funding and implementation of the feasibility study project in five other countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo), which will join the regional project in the second phase;
17. Invites the ECOWAS and WAEMU Commissions to formalize their wish to become members of the Steering Committee in order to confer to the project its true regional dimension.

Done in Casablanca  
on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012