

# Advocating policy actions to secure the Fouta Djallon ecosystem

The PRESA consortium has in the past two years, been involved along with other key stakeholders in advocating for policy actions related to sustainable management of the Fouta Djallon ecosystems.

A meeting with a Fouta Djallon community. (Photo \ S Ngendakumana)

The Fouta Djallon highlands in the Republic of Guinea are the source of West Africa's most important rivers: the Senegal, Gambia, Niger and Mano rivers.

These rivers provide drinking water, irrigation and hydroelectric power to millions of people in Senegal, Mauritania, Gambia, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. They are critical for sustaining livelihood systems which are now affected by ecosystem degradation.

Policymakers across Fouta Djallon countries are interested in adopting reward schemes for environmental services. For instance, Sierra Leonean forestry authorities have highlighted the need to develop rewards-based initiatives as a strategy to better manage the country's classified forests.

PRESA partners intend to build upon these regional initiatives to lay a social foundation for the design, piloting and scaling up of transfer schemes for environmental services.

## Activities

In 2009 PRESA forged collaborative links with the Centre for Environmental studies (CÉRE) at the Conakry University. From this collaboration, a senior researcher was detailed to provide support to PRESA activities

Using protocols developed in other sites, a scoping study was undertaken with CÉRE. It included taking an inventory of rewards for environmental service mechanisms. A description of existing technologies and land uses and identification of candidate land

use options to be considered for greater promotion was integrated into the scoping study.

The study began with an engagement of public agencies through a workshop on environmental services which produced a draft report. Through this scoping study and from meetings with the Mano River Basin Authority, information on environmental service rewards has been provided to stakeholders.

The PRESA consortium has been involved alongside other key stakeholders to advocate for policy related issues for the past two years in the sub region. ICRAF scientists have participated in regional review processes where concepts in payments for environmental services were presented to a community of

specialized national services and natural resource practitioners from civil society and the private sector. The main outcome of these activities is the identification of policy constraints regarding the implementation of payments for environmental services in the Fouta Djallon sub-region of West Africa.

Two main questions emerged from high level policymakers during the debates in Guinea and Sierra Leone:

1. How do we interest communities in forest reserve conservation?
2. How do you address environmental risks such as conflicts between wildlife and humans?

## Policy constraints

After a series of meetings with grassroots communities, technocrats and policy makers, policy constraints were identified as follows:

- The regulations governing the use of forest across boundaries are not clear while the management of landscapes that transcend national borders has not been defined.
- There is cross-sectoral interference in terms of mandate, leading to overlaps and conflicting interests.
- The sub region is prone to political instability making stakeholder collaboration very difficult.

PRESA – Pro-poor Rewards for Environmental Services in Africa is working at sites in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Guinea to facilitate fair and effective agreements between stewards and beneficiaries of environmental services. Voluntary, conditional and negotiated agreements can reward poor farmers for good land use practices, while ensuring a clean and sustainable supply of environmental services for local and global communities.

This programme is implemented by the World Agroforestry Centre, with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the European Commission and the Government of Finland. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the funders.



World Agroforestry Centre  
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



IFAD  
Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



- Forest edge communities have little or no knowledge of policies affecting their use of forest and related environmental resources.
- Little or no domestication of international conventions within national policies.

## Next steps

PRESA and partners will conduct an in-depth scoping study on the needs of environmental service buyers and sellers. PRESA is completing the analysis of institutional architectures and planning a cost-benefit analysis of various rewards for environmental service options.

PRESA will strengthen dialogue and work towards implementing rewards for environmental service mechanisms in at least one location.

## Partners

- Landscape Management for Integrated Livelihoods (LAMIL) Project
- Centre d'Étude et de Recherche en Environnement (CÉRE)

## Stakeholders

- Communities living within the Fouta Djallon highlands;
- Governments where the Fouta Djallon highlands straddle borders, including the Republic of Guinea itself.

## Contact:

World Agroforestry Centre, United Nations Avenue, Gigiri  
PO Box 30677-00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 7224000, Fax: +254 20 7224001

Email: [presa@cgiar.org](mailto:presa@cgiar.org) - <http://presa.worldagroforestry.org>