

**Conseil Ouest et Centre
Africain pour la Recherche
et le Développement
Agricoles**



**West and Central African
Council for Agricultural
Research and Development**

**Environmental Management Framework
of
CORAF/WECARD**

November, 2008

Preamble

In February 2006, key CORAF/WECARD stakeholders reviewed the implementation of *CORAF/WECARD's Strategic Plan of 1999-2014* and recommended its revision; a proposal subsequently endorsed by the CORAF/WECARD General Assembly in April 2006, initiated in June 2006 and completed in May 2007. A revised *Strategic Plan 2007-2016* has been developed and is now being implemented which aims at achieving the goals of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program [CAADP], an African Union initiative endorsed by the African heads of State and Government.

CAADP's primary goal is ***Agriculture-led development that eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food insecurity, opening the way for export expansion***, supported by four main **Pillars**. FARA and its constituent SRO have been given the mandate by NEPAD to address delivery of Pillar IV, which is ***Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption***. To facilitate this FARA has developed the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity [FAAP].

The new Operational *Plan* makes a clear commitment to delivering a series of *Results* which encompass conventional research, and the use, *inter alia*, of innovation platforms, policy, capacity strengthening and knowledge management with the involvement of broad-based stakeholders; an approach termed *Integrated Agricultural Research for Development* [IAR4D]. CORAF/WECARD's strategic intentions are articulated in its *Vision* and *Mission* statements.

- **CORAF/WECARD's Vision** is for a sustainable reduction in poverty and food insecurity in West and Central Africa (WCA) through an increase in agricultural-led economic growth and sustainable improvement of key aspects of the agricultural research system.
- **CORAF/WECARD Mission** is to establish sustainable improvements to the productivity, competitiveness, and markets of the agricultural system in WCA by meeting the key demands of the sub-regional research system as expressed by target groups.

Realizing this mission requires extensive and intensive agricultural research cooperation activities. This is especially so if the Millennium targets for eradicating extreme hunger and reducing poverty by half is to be met.

Rationale for an Environmental Policy

CORAF/WECARD's *Strategic Plan (2006 -2015)* undertakes, provided certain assumptions hold, to make a ***significant and sustainable*** contribution to agricultural growth in the WCA sub-region – a sub-region comprising 22

countries. CORAF/WECARD's sub-regional activities aim at adding value to, and not replacing the work and or responsibilities of, the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of the twenty-two member countries through supporting the following activities:

- The identification of shared goals and the promotion of economies of scale and scope through collaboration, specialization and sharing of results,
- The identification of sub-regional public goods that would be under-produced in the absence of shared goals and a sub-regional mechanism and,
- Sharing of knowledge and experiences with institutional innovation for more effective integrated agricultural research for development (IAR4D), Extension and Agricultural Training and Education in West and Central Africa,
- Making efficient use of innovation spill-overs from outside sources across the sub-region rather than on a country-to-country basis.

CORAF/WECARD has a clear role in enabling and supporting the development of an Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) system characterized by institutional diversity and that generates the required scientific knowledge and information appropriate to the demands of the sector across the sub-region. These agricultural activities bear directly on the ***natural resource base – some of whose impact could be beneficial or adverse***. Environmental sustainability under intensive production systems must remain a primary focus for all projects being executed by CORAF/WECARD. All agricultural research activities of CORAF/WECARD will focus on ensuring poverty reduction, food security, provide health benefits, and the maintenance of natural resource base.

CORAF/WECARD will continue to advocate for agricultural research and productivity activities that have limited negative environmental impacts. Sub-regional and national activities that have pro-environmental sustainability issues will be encouraged by CORAF/WECARD. Some ***ex-ante- and ex-post- project implementation Environmental Impact Assessment*** (EIA) will be conducted for sub-regional projects being implemented by CORAF/WECARD. CORAF/WECARD will continue to raise awareness amongst its NARS members on the need for institutionalizing EIA, and will ensure the need for NARS in conducting EIA for all sub-regional activities they may lead.

CORAF/WECARD's Strategic objective is "..... High broad-based agricultural growth sustainably established in WCA." The OP provides details for the implementation of the Strategic Plan – these include Management and Governance structures. At the core of the OP is a program-based approach

for regional agricultural research, in which eight Programs are being implemented.

The activities of CORAF/WECARD have continued to expand over the years, with IAR4D now being the pivot of all research for development activities. This approach ensures that all stakeholders (farming communities, research scientists, private enterprises, NGOs, extension, etc) are involved in constraint identification, research conception, design, implementation, and evaluation of research activities. The roles of CORAF/WECARD have also expanded to include agricultural extension, education and training, thus ensuring delivery of quality research. These expanded roles clearly indicate the need to track the concomitant foot-prints that may be left by CORAF/WECARD and its sub-regional partners in projects implementation.

Given the Strategic Plan and Operational Plan's commitment to sustainable agricultural productivity, CORAF/WECARD therefore needs to clearly articulate environmental safeguards that will guide the implementation of its eight Programs. This is expected to guide against the various negative impacts to the natural environment and to vulnerable communities in the sub-region.

The structural elements indicated below constitute the Environmental Management Framework of CORAF/WECARD, and as such, will have to be observed by all CORAF/WECARD programmes and/or activities implemented by CORAF/WECARD and/or its partners.

The following are the elements of the CORAF/WECARD Environmental Management Framework (EMF):

- i) **Negative list** – list of activities, or characteristics of activities, that cannot be supported
- ii) **Policies** – minimum environmental management policies and standards to be incorporated, based on World Bank safeguard policy requirements.
- iii) **Processes and responsibilities** – description of the processes to be followed in implementing the EMF, and assignment of responsibilities for these processes;
- iv) **Capacity building** – training and technical assistance that will be provided to build capacity so that EMF responsibilities may be successfully fulfilled;
- v) **Monitoring** measures that will be taken to monitor, report and strengthen implementation of the EMF.

I. Negative List

The following activities, or activities with the following characteristics, cannot be financed by the CORAF/WECARD:

- activities inside protected areas or other critical natural habitats;
- activities requiring involuntary resettlement;
- dams more than ten meters in height;
- activities involving logging in natural forests, or processing of timber other than from plantations;
- activities that would damage physical cultural property.

II. Policies

The policies described below are applied to all activities supported by CORAF/WECARD:

1. Environmental Assessment of Construction and Civil Works

If CORAF/WECARD resources are to be used to finance construction or civil works, an Environmental Assessment (EA) must be produced in compliance with both World Bank OP 4.01 and any applicable national legislation. This includes compliance with the requirements of OP 4.01 for consultation and the disclosure of information.

2. Resettlement

CORAF/WECARD resources cannot be used for any activity that would require involuntary resettlement. If land or property is to be acquired, it must be on the basis of a willing buyer/willing seller, and must be documented as such

3. Natural Habitats

CORAF/WECARD resources cannot be used for activities that involve a significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats.

In applying this policy, the following definitions apply:

- **Significant conversion** is the elimination or severe diminution of the integrity of a critical or other natural habitat caused by a major, long-term change in land or water use. Significant conversion may include, for example, land clearing; replacement of natural vegetation (e.g., by crops or tree plantations); permanent flooding (e.g., by a reservoir); drainage, dredging, filling, or channelization of wetlands;
- **Degradation** is a modification that substantially reduces the habitat's ability to maintain viable populations of its native species;
- **Critical natural habitats** are:

- existing protected areas and areas officially proposed by governments as protected areas (e.g., reserves that meet the criteria of the World Conservation Union [IUCN] classifications), areas initially recognized as protected by traditional local communities (e.g., sacred groves), and sites that maintain conditions vital for the viability of these protected areas; or
- sites identified on supplementary lists prepared by an authoritative source. Such sites may include areas recognized by traditional local communities; areas with known high suitability for bio-diversity conservation; and sites that are critical for rare, vulnerable, migratory, or endangered species. Listings are based on systematic evaluations of such factors as species richness; the degree of endemism, rarity, and vulnerability of component species; representativeness; and integrity of ecosystem processes.

4. Forests

CORAF/WECARD resources cannot be used for activities that involve significant conversion or degradation of forest areas that qualify as critical natural habitats, or for activities associated with forest plantations that involve any conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats.

CORAF/WECARD resources will support activities related to forest plantations only when such plantations are established on un-forested sites or lands already converted.

Forestry activities supported by CORAF/WECARD must include measures to prevent the introduction of invasive species that threaten biodiversity.

CORAF/WECARD resources may only finance activities related to industrial-scale commercial forest operations when these include support for an independent forest certification system that requires:

- compliance with relevant laws;
- recognition of and respect for any legally documented or customary land tenure and use rights as well as the rights of indigenous peoples and workers;
- measures to maintain or enhance sound and effective community relations;
- conservation of biological diversity and ecological functions;
- measures to maintain or enhance environmentally sound multiple benefits accruing from the forest;
- prevention or minimization of the adverse environmental impacts from forest use;
- effective forest management planning;

- active monitoring and assessment of relevant forest management areas; and
- the maintenance of critical forest areas and other critical natural habitats affected by the operation;
- independent, third-party assessment of forest management performance.

The forest certification system's standards must be developed with the meaningful participation of local people and communities; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations representing consumer, producer, and conservation interests; and other members of civil society, including the private sector.

CORAF/WECARD resources may only finance activities associated with forest harvesting operations by small-scale landholders or local communities when these have either:

- (i) achieved a standard of forest management, developed with the meaningful participation of locally affected communities, which is consistent with the principles and criteria of responsible forest management outlined above; or
- (ii) agreed to adhere to a time-bound phased action plan to achieve such a standard.

5. Pest Management

CORAF/WECARD resources will only support activities that require the use of pesticides when these activities include:

- the application of integrated pest management (IPM) practices, incorporating the promotion of biological and environmental control methods over chemical pesticides where possible;
- the application and promotion of pesticide management practices outlined in the guidelines of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides¹.

The following criteria apply to the selection and use of pesticides in activities financed by the CORAF/WECARD:

- they must have negligible adverse human health effects;
- they must be shown to be effective against the target species;
- they must have minimal effect on non-target species and the natural environment. The methods, timing, and frequency of pesticide application must be aimed to minimize damage to natural enemies; and,

¹ International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and use of Pesticides (Revised Version), FAO, 2002, and supporting guidelines. See <http://www.fao.org/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/a.htm>

- their use must take into account the need to prevent the development of resistance in pests.

Any pesticide financed by CORAF/WECARD must be manufactured, packaged, labeled, handled, stored, disposed of, and applied according to standards that, at a minimum, comply with the FAO's Pesticide storage and stock control manual (FAO, 1996), Revised guidelines on good labeling practice for pesticides (FAO, 1995), Guidelines for the management of small quantities of unwanted and obsolete pesticides (FAO, 1999), Guidelines on Management Options for Empty Pesticide Containers (FAO, 2008), and Guidelines on personal protection when using pesticides in hot climates (FAO, 1990).

CORAF/WECARD will not finance formulated products that fall in WHO classes IA and IB, or formulations of products in Class II, if (a) the country lacks restrictions on their distribution and use; or (b) they are likely to be used by, or be accessible to, lay personnel, farmers, or others without training, equipment, and facilities to handle, store, and apply these products properly.

CORAF/WECARD will not finance any pesticide products which contain active ingredients that are listed on Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention (on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade), unless the Country has taken explicit legal or administrative measures to consent to import and use of that active ingredient.

CORAF/WECARD will not finance any pesticide products which contain active ingredients that are listed on Annex A & B of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, unless for an acceptable purpose as defined by the Convention, or if an exemption has been obtained by the Country under this Convention.

6. Genetically Modified Organisms

CORAF/WECARD supports research in Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) only when the proposals demonstrate consistency with the national Biosafety framework in the country concerned. However, CORAF/WECARD could assist countries in the development of their Biosafety frameworks.

Proposals involving contained laboratory research must verify that the proposing institute has in place institutional guidelines for conducting recombinant DNA research and a mechanism for internal approval and monitoring and risk management of such research. These guidelines need to

be of international standard (e.g. Adapted from 'NIH guidelines for research involving recombinant DNA molecules²; or a functional equivalent).

Prior to the approval of proposals involving confined field trials of transgenic crops, CORAF/WECARD requires that the sections of the proposal covering risk assessment and management, description of the conduct of the field trial, and post trial monitoring measures, are subject to a third party expert review. Such third party review will also determine whether there is a risk of trans-boundary movement of any GMOs.

III. Processes and Responsibilities

All project proposals (whether solicited or unsolicited) submitted to CORAF/WECARD for funding have to undergo a review process to assess their merit in addressing the sub-regional problems and to produce regional solutions in a cost effective manner. The reviews are undertaken by CORAF/WECARD's Scientific and Technical Committee and with the expertise of external resource persons known to be specialists in the subject matter. The review reports are submitted to the CORAF/WECARD Governing Board which determines on the basis of the review recommendations whether or not to approve the funding.

Any proposed activity submitted to CORAF/WECARD for possible funding will be required to make a declaration ascertaining that none of its activities will infringe any of the provisions of this EMF. However, if it is envisaged that one or more of the provisions of this EMF will be contravened, the proponent(s) of the activity will be obliged to undertake one or more of the following before CORAF/WECARD can accept their proposal:

- If the nature and level of impact are known, propose mitigation measures that will be undertaken to minimize the environmental impact of the activity.
- If the nature and level of impact are not known, commission an independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) whose report must clearly define the scale of the environmental impact and recommend mitigation measures.
- In case of the above, the proponent(s) will meet the costs of both the EIA and mitigation measures.

Applications to CORAF/WECARD for funding of research must indicate whether any of the following activities will be financed or required in the course of implementing the proposal:

- Construction or civil works

² <http://hdl.handle.net/1805/777>

- Voluntary resettlement
- Interference with critical natural habitats
- Commercial forestry exploitation
- Pest management

Wherever any of these activities is involved, the application must clearly describe the scale and scope of the activity, and a description of what measures will be adopted to ensure compliance with the policies laid out in Section II of this EMF. Where significant potential environmental impacts may occur, the applicant should include an Environmental Impact Assessment. The proponent(s) will meet the cost of both the EIA and mitigation measures.

CORAF/WECARD through the Director of Programs will undertake the following:

- Review and clear winning proposals from partners for compliance with the EMF before they are submitted to the Board for final approval for funding
- Request proponents of non-compliant proposals to revise them accordingly
- Review EIA reports and to ensure that environmental mitigation measures recommended are of acceptable standards
- Monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures.

IV. Capacity Building

Presently, CORAF/WECARD has limited capacity to review proposals for compliance with the provisions of the EMF, and to review EIA reports to assess the quality and relevance of the recommendations arising from the reports. Similarly, most of CORAF/WECARD partners also do not have the capacity to decipher environmental impacts and to determine environmental mitigation measures.

CORAF/WECARD will, therefore, organize annual EIA capacity building activities for its Programme Managers and managers of programme support units, especially the Impact-orientation unit, to equip them with the knowledge and skills for reviewing EIA reports and for monitoring compliance with the CORAF/WECARD EMF. This activity will be part and parcel of the Secretariat's annual work plan and budget.

In addition, similar training will be organized for principal investigators of CORAF/WECARD funded projects to impart to them the knowledge and relevance of environmental considerations, and to equip them with the skills necessary to comply with the CORAF/WECARD EMF.

Suitable consultant will be contracted to provide the necessary training; and the necessary budget will be provided for annually.

V. Monitoring

CORAF/WECARD will undertake periodic reviews to monitoring for compliance with this EMF. Should there be an activity in which there are indications of serious breaches of the EMF, CORAF/WECARD will undertake a special study to determine the true extent of the breaches and to determine the way forward. In extreme instances, CORAF/WECARD reserves the right to terminate the project concerned.

CORAF/WECARD annual reports are distributed to all stakeholders, including development partners group – AfDB, CIDA, DFID, EU, IFAD, SIDA, USAID and World Bank; NARS; Ministries of Agriculture; Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, CEEAC, UEMOA and CEMAC); AU; FARA; Sub-Regional Research Organizations; the CGIAR system, and key scientists in Africa and beyond.

CORAF/WECARD commits itself to independent assessment of the adequacy and implementation of the EMF at two or three year intervals.