

Conservation of Wetlands for Ecological Integrity and Species Diversity

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Abstract: *While the cornerstone of rural West African livelihoods is biodiversity and ecosystem services obtained from the natural environment, the continued supply of ecosystem services is threatened by unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, conflicts, and climate change. The integrity of the environment must be immediately protected in light of this threat. For the creation and expansion of sustainable conservation programs, the success of environmental conservation initiatives is essential. We evaluated current and finished conservation activities in the West African sub-region using secondary literature and project reports. In favor of Southern and Eastern Africa, Western Africa is frequently disregarded in sub-Saharan African scientific studies on incentives for environmental services. To provide region-specific incentives that should guide the design of conservation programs in the area, this study addresses a vacuum in the literature by combining knowledge from conservation efforts in West Africa. According to the study, the best course of action is to implement a comprehensive sustainable development strategy that addresses all of the SDGs, including No Poverty, End Hunger, Promote Sustainable Agriculture, Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Climate Action, and Partnerships for the Goals*

Keywords: Biodiversity; Ecosystem Services; Incentives; Sustainable Development Goals