

FINAL WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions arising from the workshop hosted by I.I.A.M. in Maputo, 18 June 2009, on the Darwin Initiative project "Monitoring and Managing Biodiversity Loss in South-east Africa's Montane Ecosystems".

Summary produced by workshop moderator, Dr Lidia Brito.

1. We will establish a National Programme for the Conservation of Montane Ecosystems, Coastal Forests and other habitats.
2. The establishment of technical partnerships based on transference of knowledge and capacity allows us to obtain internationally-recognised results. It gives us a greater potential to influence national plans for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. It is necessary to identify and establish national and international partnerships when we develop biodiversity conservation programmes.
3. When establishing initiatives for conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, it is important to encourage and stimulate the implementation of trans-frontier programmes in order to mobilise and attract international support and investment.
4. At national level we should rethink conservation policy so as to establish a legal basis that recognises areas for biodiversity conservation. The definition of a conservation area should consider biodiversity as a whole, and also recognise smaller areas. We need to look at plants, insects, birds, small vertebrates, habitats and other characteristics that make these areas not only interesting scientifically but also valued for the development of eco-tourism.
5. It is important that local communities are actively involved in sustainable use practices and management if biodiversity conservation is to succeed. The importance of the media in communicating scientific knowledge for community development is recognised.
6. The importance of the involvement of national herbaria, museums, botanic gardens and zoos, as well as other institutions, in the collection, documentation and distribution of information on natural resources and their utilisation is recognised. These institutions have an important role in the implementation and running of a National Database on Biodiversity, in the training of national scientists, and in improving their ability/skills to undertake studies in conservation and biodiversity.
7. Tourism is important as an instrument of valuing these conservation areas for the development of local communities.

The workshop also emphasized/ enhanced the following conclusions:

- i) The fascination of these mountains, and the importance of the biodiversity that these ecosystems incorporate, shows the need for further studies as there are more areas to be “discovered”.
- ii) Mozambique can produce work of high quality and scientific results that are also of global interest.
- iii) It is necessary to ensure that this work does not stop here. The partnerships need to continue and scientific expeditions must continue. The challenge is with Mozambique!

Final points from the Minister of Science and Technology:

1. Thank you for the work done and for the summary presented above by the moderator.
2. The presence of members of the Council of Ministers at this workshop demonstrates the commitment that the Government of Mozambique gives to research. Special attention is given to human resources development and the improvement of research skills. Hence the Researcher’s Statute covering career development has been approved.
3. Research results should have a major impact on development. Each researcher has a duty to keep in mind how their "product" can help the economy and improve the lives of local communities.
4. More support and effort should be given to conduct biodiversity surveys, taking into account that smaller species are also important.
5. Partnerships should help the National Programme on Montane, Coastal Forests and Other Ecosystems and ensure that conservation of biodiversity is effective. This programme should be implemented through projects that will be monitored and overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Environmental Coordination and the Ministry of Tourism.
6. The Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM) will be the institute coordinating this work.