This workshop was organized by the “Agence Béninoise pour l’Environment”, Ramsar Administrative Authority of Benin and took place from 18 to 19 December 2017 in Cotonou, Benin. Twenty-five participants attended including Ramsar National Focal Points from Benin and Togo, members of National Ramsar Committee from Benin and Togo, representatives of municipalities, representatives of local communities, wetlands experts and representatives from IUCN Central and West Africa (IUCN PACO) Program. The meeting was funded by: IUCN/PACO and Government of Benin.

Objectives of the workshop were to train the stakeholders on wetland restoration according to the Ramsar Convention guidelines; to contribute and validate guidelines for wetlands restoration in Benin; to validate the management plan for the Chenal Gbaga wetland complex in the Mono basin between Benin and Togo and to lobby a project for the management of the transboundary Site through national GEF procedures.

Participants concluded the workshop with the following recommendations:

- To draft a memorandum of understanding between Togo and Benin describing tasks to be performed by each party;
- To organize a wetland symposium for the benefit of both countries;
- To update and validate the National Wetland Management Strategy (incorporating the comprehensive wetland inventory component) for its implementation;
- To take into account the carbon storage capacity of peatlands in Benin to link wetlands conservation with climate change in Benin;
- To develop thematic wetland information fact sheets accessible to local communities and school;
- To train wetlands managers, practitioners and local communities in the use of R-METT;
- Thanks to IUCN/PACO and the Government of Benin for having invited the Ramsar Secretariat and provided the budget for this mission.

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