

Presentation given at the Katoomba XV Meeting entitled

Integrated Solutions: Water, Biodiversity and Terrestrial Carbon in West Africa

October 6-10, 2009

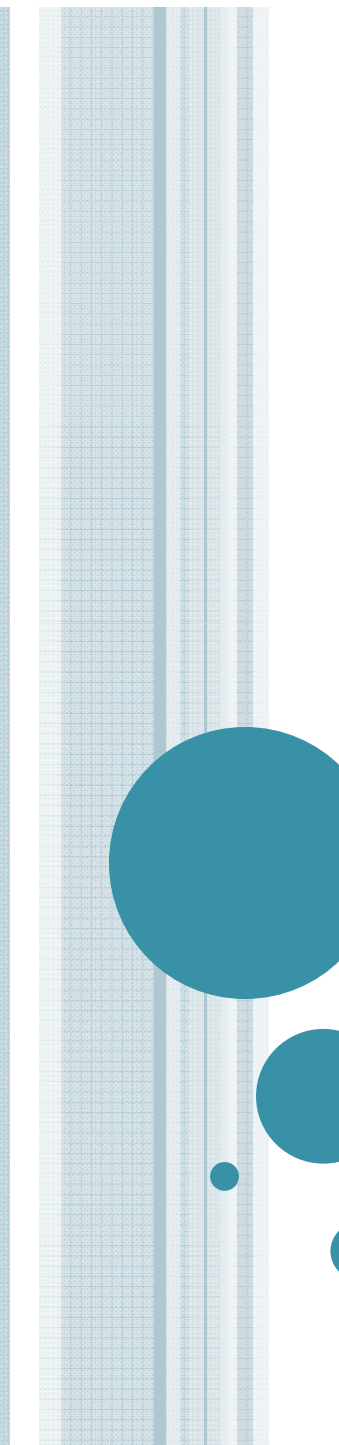
Accra, Ghana

Hosted by:

The Katoomba Group, Forest Trends,
and the Nature Conservation Research Center



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POTENTIAL MARINE AND COASTAL PES OPTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF GHANA'S WEST COAST CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

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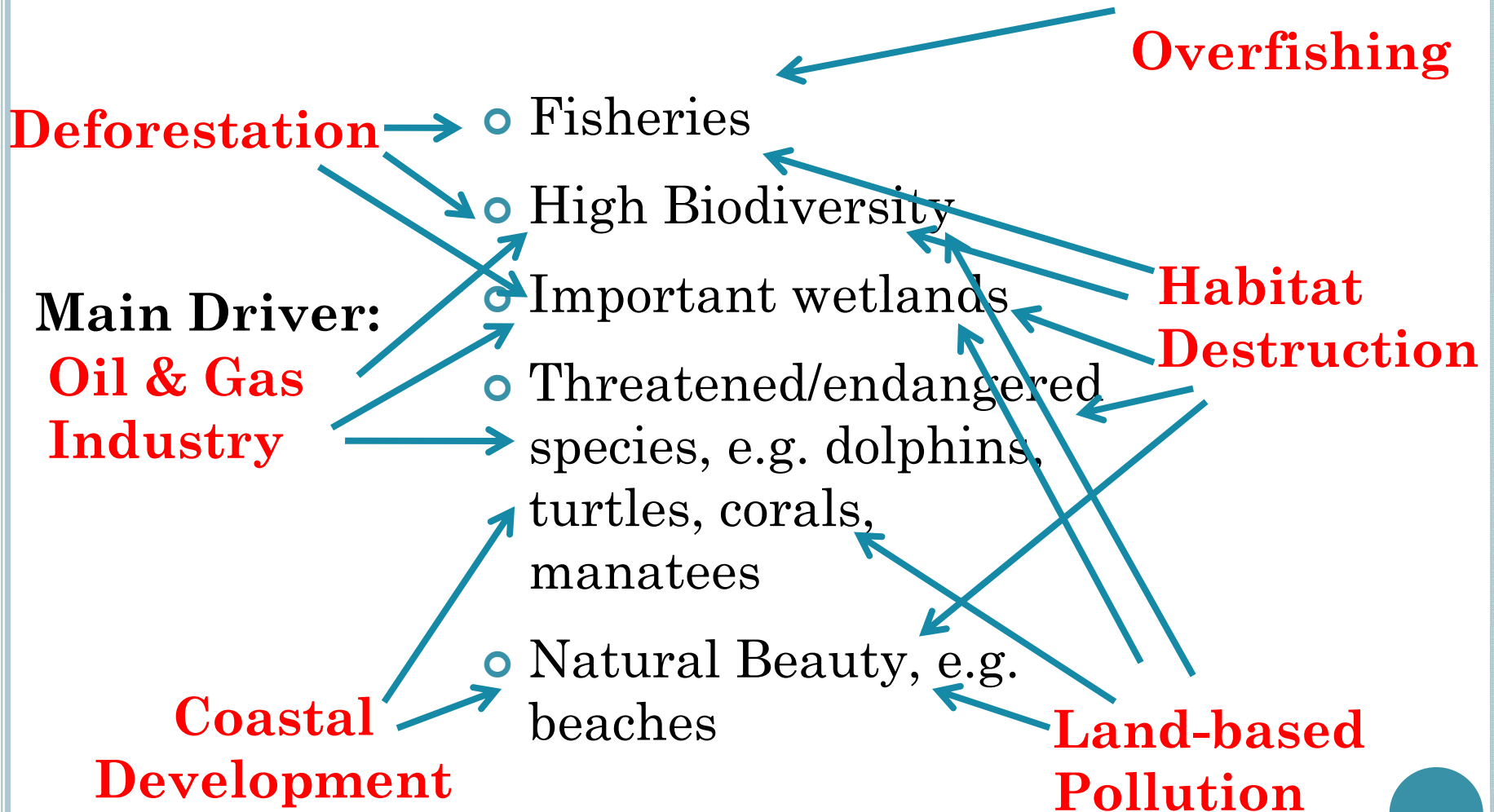
WEST COAST MARINE RESOURCES



- Fisheries
- High Biodiversity
- Important wetlands
- Threatened/endangered species, e.g. dolphins, turtles, corals, manatees
- Natural Beauty, e.g. beaches



THREATS TO MARINE RESOURCES



OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

PES and other market-based mechanisms

- Coastal Tourism/Development PES
- Offshore Oil and Gas Biodiversity Offsets, Banking, and PES
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Mangrove Carbon Credits



COASTAL TOURISM/DEVELOPMENT PES

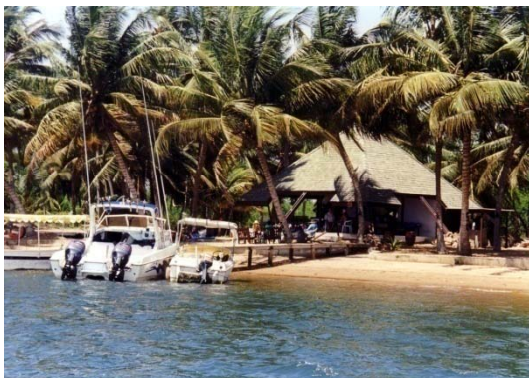
Goal: protection of coastal and natural habitats from degradation and pollution

Buyer: tourism/development sector

Seller: communities, government

Sample habitats & services:

1. barrier reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds for coastline and beach protection
2. coral reefs for recreational and tourism values



BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS, BANKING, PES

Goal: protection of coastal and marine habitats
degraded/destroyed for oil and gas extraction

Buyer: oil & gas development

Seller: communities, government

Sample habitats & services:

1. benthic habitats under pipelines and oil rigs for habitat diversity and biodiversity
2. coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves for coastal & shoreline protection of built infrastructure
3. turtles and marine mammal protection for biodiversity



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Goal: protection or restoration of fish nursery habitats and sustainable harvesting

Buyer: fishing Industry – cooperatives & conglomerates

Sellers: coastal and fishing communities, marine protected area managers

Sample habitats & services:

1. mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs for fish nursery habitat protection
2. Fisheries management for sustainable yields, e.g. via tradable fishing quotas/permits



CARBON CREDITS

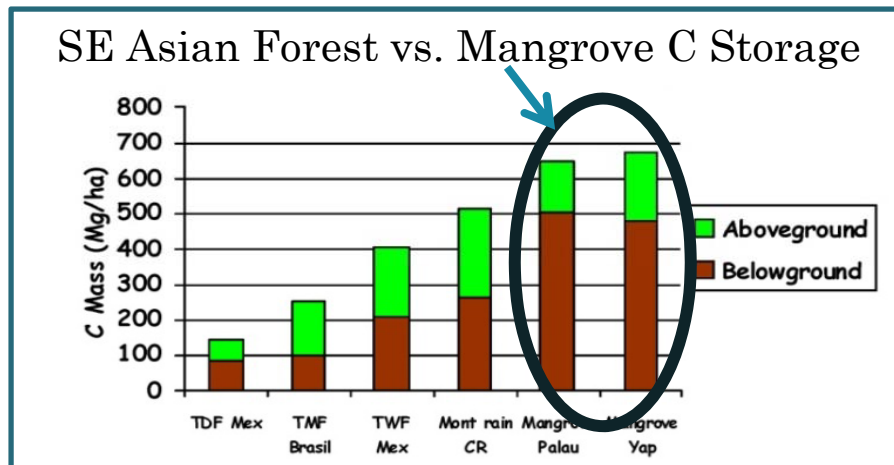
Goal: reduced deforestation of mangroves

Buyer: oil and gas developers, international carbon markets

Seller: coastal communities with mangrove tenure, municipalities, government

Sample habitats & services:

1. mangrove conservation for carbon sequestration



SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Poverty Reduction
- Improved Livelihoods
- Integrated Community Management
- Establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Sustainable Development



THE WAY FORWARD

West Coast Conservation Initiative (WCCI)

Goal: to lay the foundation for a long-term conservation effort focused on the western coastal zone of the country

Driver: targeted effort to ensure that the ecological interests of this valuable part of Ghana are **not swamped by the rush to develop the offshore oil and gas potential**



PHASE I OF WCCI

Phase 1: 18 to 24 months

To initiate a process of stakeholder engagement and WCCI planning to develop a Ghanaian consensus position for a broad landscape level conservation initiative on the Western coast of Ghana

Key Outcomes:

1. Improved communication for and among stakeholders

Sample activities: identify and engage stakeholders, baseline assessment, hold stakeholder events

2. International consortium building to support future phases

Sample activities: identify and engage potential consortium members, negotiate MOU, public awareness and media events



LONG-TERM GOALS OF WCCI

- Develop comprehensive, landscape-level plan of action
- Balance biological, social and economic interests with development interests in action plan
- Secure financial, technical and political, and institutional resources to implement action plan

