

Securing the Firewall and Connecting the Unconnected: Frontline Defenders Across West Africa
Renforcer le Pare-feu et Rapprocher les Déconnectés : Défenseurs de Base en Afrique de l'Ouest

WORKING AGENDA

Additional speakers and adjustments to the schedule may be made prior to the conference

Day 1: Monday, 29 March		
Time	Agenda Item	Moderator/Facilitator
35 mins	<p>Opening Ceremony: Welcome statement: Dr. Michel Yoboue – Chair Steering Committee MRU CSO Platform</p> <p>Opening Remarks- Madam Medina Wisseh Secretary General/ Mano River Union Secretariat</p> <p>Opening Remarks- Mark Malloch-Brown President/ The Open Society Foundation</p> <p>Solidarity statement: West African Defenders Network</p> <p>Solidarity statement: African Defenders Network</p> <p>Keynote and Opening of conference – Hon. Jean- Claude Kassi Brou President, ECOWAS Commission</p>	Radiatu Haja Sheriff-Kahnplaye & Hope Metcalf
40 mins	<p>Connecting the Unconnected Defenders- Opening Remarks, Current Trending Issues and Focus of the Mandate- Prof. Mary Lawlor/UNSR Human Rights Defenders</p> <p>Voices from the Foxholes and Trenches -Presentation by Frontline Grassroots Defenders through Experience Sharing</p> <p>Guinea- Mamadou Bah representing Sangaredi community Sierra Leone- Sierra Leone: Kumba King representing Kono Nigeria- Everest’s Nicholas representing AGAH community Ivory Coast- Adou Kouame, Chief of Similimi Village Niger- Mikahilou Moussa, a frontline community land rights defender Mali- Tiémoko Souleymane Sangare Ghana- Gyeatuo Kyenkyenku, an assemblyman and a community leader from the Akyem Saaman Liberia- Abraham Kamara, a community leader and a land rights defender from Margibi County</p>	Lori Maddox and Francis Colee

	<p><i>Reflections and closing Remarks</i> - Prof. Mary Lawlor/UNSR Human Rights Defenders</p>	
	<p>Presentation: West African Defenders Baseline Assessment -Tania Bernath Consultant/Baseline Assessment Survey Q & A: Participants</p>	Carole Excell
20 mins	<p>Presentation: - The Protection Ecosystem Map and Co-designing the Community Based Protection Protocol for Human Rights Defenders- Dan Williamson -Open Briefings</p> <p>The Frontline Grass Roots Defenders Observatory and Rapid Response Secured Communication Platform –Nathan Freitas- Guardian Project</p> <p>Q & A: Participants</p>	
35 mins	<p>Motherhood-Demography at Risk Confronting Big Business and Powers- Case Studies of the Struggles of Frontline Grassroots Women Human Rights Defenders Across West Africa</p> <p>Sierra Leone – Aminata K. Fabba – SOCFIN OIL PALM- representing Sahn Malen Chiefdom</p> <p>Zainab Kamara representing Bombali- Addax/Sunbird Bioenergy Company</p> <p>Chairperson for the Affected Landowners/Users Association in Bombali District</p> <p>Liberia- Bea Mountain- All that Glitters is Not Gold- Elizabeth P Fahnbulleh of Darblo Clan, Cape Mount</p> <p>Liberia- Sime Darby- Massa Toure- Divesting Without FPIC</p> <p>Guinea – Confronting the Bauxite – (Madam Cheick Fantama Dea Camara)</p> <p>Nigeria- Aggah Communities</p> <p>Q&A</p>	Radiatu Haja Sheriff-Kahnplaye and Kristin Barendredgt-Ludwig
30 mins	<p>The Sahel- Forgotten Wastelands, the Plague of the Climate Crisis and the Forgotten Defenders Case Studies from: Nigeria- We Too Are Defenders- Herders and Farmers – Chima</p>	

	<p>Mali- We too are Defenders- Held Captive Under Stigma of Extremism (Land Rights and Livelihood)- Sangare</p> <p>Niger- We Too Are Defenders- Held Captive Under Stigma of Extremism (What Happened to Free Prior Informed Consent for the Indigenous Tuaregs)- Idrissa</p> <p>Burkina Faso- We Too Are Defenders- Held Captive Under Stigma of Extremism (Artisanal Miners)- Bande Sam</p> <p>Q&A</p>	
20 mins	<p>Presentation: Community-based Protection Protocols</p> <p>-Tania Bernath</p> <p><i>Consultant/Baseline Assessment Survey</i></p> <p>Q & A: Participants</p>	Abu Brimah and Carole Excell
3 hours max	Adjournment/Announcement	
Day 2: Tuesday 30 March		
	Introduction and recap of the previous day	Bernard Ngalin and Krista Shennum
	<p>Presentations: Securing the Firewalls and Protecting Human Rights and the Environment – A Case for an Environmental Instrument in West Africa</p> <p>Opening Remarks, Current Trending Issues and Focus of the Mandate- the Escazu Safeguards- Prof. David Boyd/UNSR Human Rights & the Environment</p> <p>Case Studies on Frontline Defenders Protecting Peoples and the Planet</p> <p>Guinea (Zoghota-Midnight Massacre and an Iron Ore Mine) Foromo</p> <p>Sierra Leone (Koidu Holdings- Murky Diamonds - 15 Customary Landholders) Abu Brimah/Joseph</p> <p>Liberia (SOCFIN – Criminalization, Corporate Capture, Small People, Small Civilization and Violence- 22 Villagers Take on Europe’s Agri Giant)- Margaret</p> <p>Ivory Coast (Similli- The Manganese Tremors- The Gods are Angry -A Village Chief and a Peasant Farmer)- Michel</p> <p>Nigeria (12 Years, Two Farmers in a David and Goliath Battle with Shell)- Chima</p>	Lalle Touré and Kristin Barendregt-ludwig

	<p><i>Reflections and Closing Remarks – How Would the Escazu Safeguards Apply? - Prof. David Boyd/UNSR Human Rights & the Environment</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>	
30 mins	<p>West African Journalist Association: Addressing the Huge Challenge of Underreporting of Reprisals and Attacks against Defenders- How the Media Sees it</p> <p>Nigeria Ghana Togo Senegal Mali</p> <p>Q&A</p>	
	<p>The Paris Principles and the West African National Human Rights Institutions – Responding to Reprisals- Promote, Monitor, Report and Protect Human Rights</p> <p>Nigeria Liberia- Rev Bartolomey Colley Benin Senegal</p>	Adélaïde Etong Etong ISHR and Lori Maddox
20 mins	<p>Presentation: Policy Recommendations - Jonathan Kaufmann/ ACA/PILIWA</p> <p>Q & A: Participants</p>	Adélaïde Etong Etong- Krista Shennum
20 mins	<p>Presentation: Next Steps, Funding and Business Plan Tania Bernath <i>Consultant/Baseline Assessment Survey</i> Q & A: Participants</p>	Kizito and John Kabia
10 mins	<p>Presentation: Draft Copy of the Conference /Webinar Communique- <i>Abu Brimah</i></p> <p>Q & A: Participants</p>	
10 mins	<p>Visualizing Potential Low Hanging Fruits and Next Steps: Hope Metcalf (Schell Center) and Francis Colee Head of Programs/Green Advocates Int'l</p>	Barrister Chima Williams, Eszter

	Adjournment/Announcement	
Day 3, Wednesday 31		
	Introduction and recap of the previous day	
25 mins	Duties and Responsibilities of the National Human Rights Institutions Four Case Studies- Responding to Reprisals, Attacks, Stigmatization and Criminalization Nigeria Liberia Niger Senegal Benin Q&A	Adélaïde Etong Etong and Bernard Ngalim
15 minutes	Plenary Session- Discussions and Assignment of Working Groups Group1- Baseline Assessment Report Group2- Community-based Protocol Group3- Policy Recommendation Group4- Next Steps, Funding and Business Plan Group5- Conference Communique Group6- Underreporting and Monitoring and Evaluations	Hope Metcalf, Peter Quaqua, Krista Shennum, and Michel Yoboue
40 mins	Breakout Session Group1 Group2 Group3 Group4 Group5 Group6	
30 mins	Groups Report Back to Plenary to be followed by Q &A with participants	
5 mins	Reading of the Communique	
10mins	Vote of Thanks, Closing Remarks and Next Steps - Michel Yoboue – Chair MRU CSO Platform	
45 minutes	Press and Media Event	Peter Quaqua Katherine Poole