



Regional conference about
**“Best practices, acquired during the project financed by Germany
for the SALW NatCom Côte d’Ivoire”**
of the SALW NatCom’s from the 15 ECOWAS member states:
From the 18th to the 21st of April, 2016
At Hotel Niablé Résidence, Abidjan– Deux Plateaux, Côte d’Ivoire

REPORT

Financed by GIZ

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I. SHORT CONTEXT REMINDER

The National Commission to fight against the illicit proliferation and circulation of small arms and light weapons (ComNat-ALPC-CI) has benefited of the support of the German cooperation by GIZ.

In regard of the end of the project "Support to the ComNat ALPC – CI" the 30th of June 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany organized by GIZ in partnership with the ComNat ALPC – CI, a regional conference with two participants from every NatCom of ECOWAS-region to transfer to them the best practices acquired during the work of the project in Côte d'Ivoire from November 2011 to June 2016.

This conference had been held from the 18th to the 21st of April 2016 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, at Hotel Niablé in Abidjan, Cocody 8ème tranche.

II. PLANIFIED OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

II.1 General Objective

Sharing of best practices and working out of recommendations between the different SALW NatCom and the organisations of civil society to reinforce SALW control in the ECOWAS sub-region.

II.2 Specific objectives:

The regional conference intended to

- Share of possible cooperation models, especially between neighbouring countries to establish trans-border cooperation frameworks,
- Intensify the fight against illegal SALW by reinforcing the capacities of NatCom in every area of intervention and
- Identify the best practices, applicable in every country of the ECOWAS sub-region.

III. EXECUTION OF THE WORKSHOP

III.1. The participants

The conference has been attended by sixty (60) participants from 65 persons announced. The presence figure turned around 92%.

Participants came from the following structures:

- 14 NatCom delegates from the ECOWAS-sub region
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany
- ECOWAS (Abuja, Abidjan)
- UNOCD
- UNREC
- GIZ, head-quarter, Eschborn/Germany
- GIZ, project ECOWAS Abuja
- GIZ Abidjan
- UNMAS

- BICC
- G5 Sahel
- UNDP
- CNS
- MEMIS
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Côte d'Ivoire
- Ministry of African integration and Ivoirians in foreign countries
- SALW NatCom Côte d'Ivoire
- RASALAO/WAANSA regional and Côte d'Ivoire
- Representatives of Civil Society

III.2 First day

3.2.1. Opening ceremony

The Chairman of the ComNat-ALPC, Prefect hors grade, KOUADIO Yao, gave thanks to all participants and especially the delegates, who came a long way from their respective countries to attend that conference. He affirmed that this type of regional conferences contributes to realize the national action plan, especially to the axis of capacity building, cooperation and collaboration. For the chairman of the ComNat-ALPC the exchange of best practices and experiences contributes to a better control of SALW and an efficient response in view of all the new challenges due to the illicit commerce of SALW and the new danger terrorism.

Following the Chairman of the ComNat-ALPC, the Director of the GIZ office in Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Michael DREYER, thanked all the participants of this conference, too. He underlined, that the partnership between ComNat ALPC and the project of the GIZ is part of the mandate of GIZ, intervening in Côte d'Ivoire in the field of protecting the bio-diversity, the improvement of agricultural value chains, support to the Police and to Governance of mineral resources. For Dr. DREYER controlling SALW is a very important factor to diminish tensions to improve social stability and an economic and social development of Côte d'Ivoire. The Director of the GIZ Office emphasized the strategies for communal security, because there is a recrudescence of crises between communities with armed violence, in the moment in the region of Bouna.

The Ambassador of the federal Republic of Germany in Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Claus Bernard AUER, underlined the very good cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and Germany, especially in the field of security and development. The recommendations of this regional conference have to serve to more efficiency in collecting arms, especially those which are circulating into the communities in Côte d'Ivoire.

General NEBOUT, diplomatic counsellor in the Ministry of Interior and Security, representing the Minister of Interior and Security, Mr. Hamed BAKAYOKO, expressed his gratitude, that a similar conference has been organized in Côte d'Ivoire, marking the engagement of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in security politics, especially in the control of SALW. The diplomatic counsellor addressed a warm welcome to Côte d'Ivoire to every delegate and emphasized the special attention of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire because of the exchange of best practices in fighting against illegal SALW. For him it is necessary, that

ECOWAS member states activities have to be based on solidarity, cooperation and efficient work together to produce results in this fight.

The participants of this conference have to understand, that the governments will only give more support to the NatCom's, if these structures will appear as essential organizations in the security system by the quality of their recommendations and the efficiency of their daily work in collecting information and controlling SALW.

Following this, he opened in the name of the minister of Interior and security the work of the regional conference.

3.2.2 The resultants realized by the project GIZ ComNat

- First presentation: Organization and functioning of the ComNat-ALPC.
- The chairman of the ComNat ALPC, the prefect hors grade, KOUADIO, Yao, presented four tables, containing the institutional frame, the functioning, the missions and the mode of implementation of activities by the ComNat ALPC. Following the chairman of the ComNat ALPC, the basic document for the creation of the ComNat ALPC is the ECOWAS-convention from 2006. In 2009 a decree has been taken by the Government, which indicated non-permanent members of an inter-ministerial committee and permanent members, which are composed as follows: 16 functionaries and 18 agents, engaged on the basis of a private contract with the Government. Besides the Executive secretariat, there are to sub-commissions: security operations and sensitisation-communication. The ComNat ALPC elaborates every three years a triennial plan of national actions, which was a proposal of the study about the proliferation of SALW. This document is linked to the Governmental plan of national development (PND¹ 2016-2020) and to the work plan of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire (PTG).
 - Second presentation: Resultants obtained during the three phases of the project « Appui à la ComNat ALPC ».
- Mr. Anzian KOUADJA, Executive secretary of the ComNat ALPC made a presentation about the resultants of the project, executed by GIZ in favour of the ComNat ALPC. He underlined, that the project has been negotiated by the ComNat ALPC and the German federal Government, who financed this project in taking the GIZ. The activities of the project were based on the National action plan and are part of the Security sector reform.
- The ComNat ALPC benefited of technical and financial resources for the principal axes of her national action plan, especially: capacity building in the aim to professionalize the ComNat, reinforcement of physical stockpile management (PSSM), reduction of armed violence, legal and regulation reform, communication, sensitization, cooperation and assistance to research and development.
- These are someone of the resultants obtained by this project and really best practices: organizational analysis, installation of a first prototype of decentralized commission, marking of legal armes, creating electronic registers of legal weapons, reinforcement of a work group about PSSM, production and overhanding of 2200 brochures about types and description of weapons for the defence and security

¹ PND : plan national de développement et PTG : plan de travail gouvernemental

forces, purchase of two marking machines, training for three officers in the production firm of the marking machines (COUTH) in Spain, purchase of locking elements from the German firm ARMATIX linked with specialized training, reinforcement of the creation of an observatory on armed violence, trainings for 30 attorneys and attorney generals, 30 diplomats and 30 officers of the Police, Gendarmerie and Armed Forces about the ECOWAS-convention and the instruments to control SALW and finally the creation of a documentary centre into the ComNat ALPC.

- Debate:
 - The discussion shows, that the instruments and methods developed, contributed to the sustainability of the results obtained, especially in the field of sensitization and coordination.
 - The implication of the Defence and security forces accelerated the marking of armes and the realization of the electronic network in the interior of Police, Gendarmerie and Army.
 - The remaining challenges are to establish the national network, to continue with the marking process and to create a sub-regional data-base.
 - The other NatCom could be assisted by duplicating the different management tools, for instance the model of the annual working plan (PTA) and the strategy for resources mobilization to obtain robust resultants.
 - The weakness of legislation and the non-harmonization of laws could block an efficient fight against SALW.
 - The big number of non-governmental persons detaining SALW contributes at a risk of real traffic.
 - In the field of sensitization and communal disarmament the implication of communal leaders and of women, too, are important factors to obtain pertinent resultants.

III.3. Second Day

3.3.1 Best practices and the field of physical stockpile management

In the plenary, Burkina Faso, Mali and Ghana presented consecutively their activities and best practices realized by their NatCom's in the field of physical stockpile management. The most important resultants are:

- Burkina: In despite of multiple efforts, Burkina Faso is confronted by the question of good management of SALW and ammunitions. The Commission (CNPAL) proceeded as in Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2015 to the identification of 42 stockpiles sites in being assisted by the NGO MAG. At the end of this evaluation, the CNPAL organised a training of 55 armorers and responsible persons of these sites, proceeded to the destruction of obsolete and illegally detained armes, purchased to marking machines with the assistance of UNODC and RECSA and proceeded to the rehabilitation of stockpile sites of the Defence and Security Forces following the technical intervention plan in being assisted by focal points. There are numerous remaining challenges, especially the construction of a national centre to stock arms, seized after infractions, the creation of an observatory of armed violence and of a central data base, introducing IT for the deliverance of permits and the management of artisanal arms.
- Mali: The NatCom has been created by presidential decree No. 96-304 and is attached at the Presidency. She is directed by a female chairperson, des-

ignated by a presidential decree as well, who has the position of a presidential technical counsellor. The best practices realized by the NatCom until today have permitted a harmonized management of stockpiles, for instance every entity of the national guards is managing his arms and ammunition stocks in respect as much as possible the measures of physical security of arms and ammunitions (in designating a qualified person, in maintaining the building, which is equipped with locks and fire extinguishers and where is a continuous guard respecting all the procedures). UNMAS assisted the NatCom technically and financially in designating regional focal points, in organizing the training of departmental trainers in tracing, marking (following the International Tracing Instrument - ITT) and ISACS (International Small Arms Control Standards), in elaborating a guide for the utilization of the database of illicit arms and ammunitions, created by UNPOL-MINUSMA. The remaining challenges are to elaborate a national standardized procedure, based on the international instruments as IATG, ISACS for an efficient management of stocks, the construction, the renovation and the equipment of all armouries and physical stockpile sites for the Malian army.

- Ghana: the process of marking arms started in July 2013, but has been suspended in August 2014 because of lack of funds. Until that moment, 18 of the 24 military garrisons in the region of Accra have marked 12.000 arms, representing around 80% of the national stock. In 2013 applying the PSSM standards an inspection of the national stocks of the Police, army garrisons, prisons and customs has been organized. The evaluation showed, that the armorers needed capacity building measures on stockpile management, that physical registrars and informative data in the garrisons were not disposable, that there is a necessity to reinforce the role of the NatCom, especially for the import procedures and for the detention of SALW and for the reinforcement of knowledge of international standards for the garrisons and the other stockpile sites.
- Debate:
 - For a good strategy of physical stockpile management it is necessary to elaborate procedure guides respecting the ISACS and IATG standards.
 - Marking arms has to contribute putting in place national and sub-regional data bases.
 - It is necessary to create a linkage between the national data bases and the Interpol “i arms” network.
 - Before starting a PSSM project it is evident to proceed first to a systematic evaluation of arms and ammunition stocks.
 - Reinforce the role of NatCom’s to evaluate and inspect arms and ammunition stockpile sites.
 - Adopt a strategy for efficient control of artisanal arms.
- Working groups :
 - The first part of the two working groups (English and French) has been held to identify best practices, applicable in the sub-region for the subject “management of stockpiles”. They have been organized to identify risks, challenges, difficulties and chances to elaborate recommendations for a good and robust management of stockpiles in the ECOWAS-region.
 - The conclusions of these working groups are presented in the annexes 1.1. (French) and 1.2 (English).

III.4. Third day

3.4.1. Best practices in the field of professionalization of NatCom's

- In the plenary, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo presented consecutively their activities and best practices realized by their NatCom's in the field of professionalization of NatCom's. The most important resultants are:
 - Nigeria: The NatCom of Nigeria is a presidential committee named PRESCOM and one of the last one founded, based on the ECOWAS-convention and SALW from 2006. In the midterm, it is foreseen, that this committee will be transformed in a NatCom. The PRESCOM has since the beginning a national action plan with 7 axes, for instance sensitization on illegal detention of SALW, reinforcement of the legal framework, coordination of national politics on SALW, research and development (studies...) and the creation of a SALW database. In regard of being put in place not so long ago, the PRESCOM has been concentrated on a large strategy of resource mobilization regarding ECOWAS-Commission and other partners with the aim to realize the national action plan. By this means Nigeria could obtain two projects, one from the EU in the frame of a regional SALW-project EU/ECOWAS for four countries of the Mano River Union and the other one from the German cooperation with BICC (Bonn International Conversion Center) with the aim to cover the Greater Sahel Region.
 - Senegal: The NatCom from Senegal put in place a strategy to reinforce the management of obsolete arms and ammunition stockpiles of the Defence and Security Forces, of seized or confiscated arms and stocked by court bailiffs, of management of stockpiles, transfer and destruction of these arms in an army casern. The end of donor support and the management of destruction fragments are real risks. The NatCom has opted for a hydraulic saw, which permits the destruction of thousands of different types of SALW every day. This method is viable and very robust with an important life cycle. The maintenance is easy (the crocodile saw for instance). Definitely, for a real professionalization of NatCom's the governmental will is essential and based on this prerogative the role of NatCom's can be reinforced.
 - Togo: The NatCom Togo presented in the field of professionalization her strategy to reinforce the legal framework on SALW. It has to be notified, that the text regulating fire-arms is really antique, especially the law No. 59-8 of the 6th of January 1959 dealing with arms, ammunitions and other war materials (art. 4) and the decree No. 95-011/PR of the 19th of April 1995 regulating import, detention and cession of hunting weapons and artisanal fire-arms as their ammunition (art. 20). These two text interdict import and export of fire-arms by a private person. With the assistance of ECOWAS and UNODC a draft-project of a modern law has been elaborated, which considers the prescriptions of the ECOWAS-convention on SALW, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the Fire-arms protocol and other important documents regulating arms and ammunitions. This document contains 180 articles with eleven titles. In despite of numerous trainings and pleadings, the text has not been submitted to the vote of parliamentarians, which could have been permitted the full engagement of ATT.
- Debate:

- For a real professionalization of NatCom's a high level institutional anchoring in the Government is necessary.
 - The ECOWAS member-states have to attribute a budget and the consequent human resources for the sustainability of activities.
 - The legal and regulatory frame-work has to reinforce the role of NatCom's.
 - The adoption and dissemination of management instruments of activities, as the model of planning and monitoring and evaluation (PTA, PTT...) is necessary.
- Working groups:
 - The second part of the working groups (French and English) was organized to identify best practices, applicable in the field of professionalization of NatCom's. They have been organized to identify risks, challenges, difficulties and chances to elaborate recommendations for a real professionalization of NatCom's in the ECOWAS-region.
 - The conclusions of these working groups are presented in the annexes 1.1. (French) and 1.2 (English).
 - Third presentation: The question of Gender issues, linked with SALW
 - Mrs. Michèle PEPE, Deputy Executive Chairman of the SERENTI Foundation, made a presentation about the linkage between the problem of SALW and Gender issues, as sex-specific indicators of economic power, influent positions, social status and the level of vulnerability. In the political fight against SALW proliferation and traffic, women and young people are mostly the principal victims of armed violence. That is the reason, why it is important to consider them in realizing activities of sensitization about communal security.

III.5. Fourth day

3.5.1. Best practices of synergies between NatCom's and civil society organisations (CSO)

- In the plenary, Guinea and Niger presented consecutively their activities and best practices realized by their NatCom's in the field of synergies between NatCom's and CSO. The most important resultants are:
 - Guinea: the NatCom of Guinea had organised activities creating synergy with CSO in the field of knowledge about SALW, capacity building, sensitization and realizing development micro-projects. All these activities have proven an active participation of communities to ensure their own security, the voluntarily disposal of arms and ammunition (357 arms in Guinea of 438 collected weapons for the whole project), the realization of ten development micro-projects with twelve different groups (dye works: 26 persons, growing of vegetables: 100 women and 20 men, little commerce: 33 women, production of bricks: three groups, production of soap: 20 women, agricultural equipment: 18 blacksmiths, furniture for blacksmiths: 22 young people and one rice decorticating machine. The results-bringing factors in this programme have been the implication of civil society organizations, sensitization measures, identification and the counting of development micro-projects. That is the reason why the reinforcement of the partnership between civil society and NatCom's is important.

- Niger: in Niger one third of the NatCom (CNCCAI) representative council are members from CSO (traditional chiefs, women associations, human rights organisations and WAANSA Niger). The implication of members of CSO in sensitization measures of the NatCom for the population in rural areas about illicit SALW contributed to the success of these activities. Putting in work more than 200 peace and security alert committees, animated by communal focal points, in the view of deeper implication of CSO in the management of peace, reinforced the communal security level. That is the reason why the capacities of NatCom's have to be reinforced. At the other side, the capacities of CSO, in particular of WAANSA, have to be reinforced, too. Financial resources have to be mobilized; logistics and operational resources have to be strengthened to create a platform of exchange between CSO and NatCom's in taking the reference of the regulating text of NatCom's.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

IV.1. Evaluation of work

In using an evaluation schedule, it was possible to measure four dimensions of the work done:

DOMAIN	FREQUENCY
Punctuality	98%
Participation	86%
Appropriation and level of exchange	80%
Variance of best practices	65%

IV.II. RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES

- Best practices in the field of management of stockpiles:
 1. **Cooperation:** creation of a permanent platform to exchange data and information between the NatCom's and the ECOWAS-region.
 2. **Legal frame-work, norms and standards:** reinforcement of the legal frame-work in all the ECOWAS member-states.
 3. **Mechanisms, instruments and methods:** elaborate common proceeding manuals on management of arms and ammunitions for all ECOWAS-member states, based on an evaluation of ISACS and IATG-standards.
 4. **Human resources:** reinforcement of capacities of armoury experts, revalorisation of their status and their conditions of work in the different parts of Defence and security forces in the ECOWAS-member states.
 5. **Regional aspects:** institution of a common system of border control in the ECOWAS-region.
- Best practices in the field of professionalization of NatCom's

1. **Coordination:** Harmonization and reinforcement of the institutional anchorage of NatCom's at a higher level of Government authorities following the recommendations of the ECOWAS-convention.
 2. **Human resources:** reinforcement of tactical operational capacities of NatCom's by sufficient specialised and permanent human resources.
 3. **Regional aspects:** revitalize and operationalize the platform of NatCom chairpersons.
 4. **Mechanisms, instruments and methods:** elaborate common schedules for national action plans, annual work plans and procedures of mobilization of financial resources in asking support by donors, especially the ECOWAS-commission.
 5. **Financing and resource mobilization:** institution of a biannual donor conference with NatCom's in the ECOWAS-region to identify funds and technical assistance.
- Best practices in the field of synergies between NatCom's and CSO for communal security:
 1. **Financing and resource mobilization:** develop schedules for the partnership between NatCom's and CSO
 2. **Mechanisms, instruments and methods:** put in place a mechanism of financing of CSO by donors, especially by ECOWAS
 3. **Coordination:** elaborate action plans between NatCom's and CSO in every member state.
 4. **Realization of activities:** systematic implication of CSO in sensitization/communication activities for incitation of development micro-projects and accompany voluntary disposal of arms.
 5. **Regional aspects:** harmonize standards of representation and participation of CSO, especially WAANSA/RASALAO, in the NatCom's in every ECOWAS-member state.
 6. **Transversal question:** integrate systematically gender issues in all activities to realise.

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