



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL



WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL AFRIQUE
ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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“ CONSOLIDATING ACHIEVEMENTS ”

2014 was undoubtedly a dynamic year for Africa's regional office of Wetlands International which continues to consolidate its good achievements acquired in recent years. Many strategic actions were implemented by the organization. It has further strengthened its leadership on wetlands conservation in the world. As part of its projects and programs, key activities related to the management of wetland ecosystems and their restoration were conducted in countries like Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Kenya and most specifically other countries in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan).

Since the inception of Wetlands International in Africa in 1998, we continue to craft and impulse a sustainable management of wetlands, preservation of biodiversity, and adaptation to climate change and poverty reduction in the African continent. It's our credo and our daily endeavor. The task is certainly daunting, but we remain convinced that for a successful engagement of local communities to preserve their environment and natural resources, we must first work to improve their living conditions. In that regards, Wetlands International has developed programs to the wingspan of Ecosystem Alliance (EA), Partners for Resilience (PfR), and Arctic to Africa among others.

2014 has been a year of consolidating our achievements with many conservation and restoration activities coupled with alternative measures to support the beneficiary communities. In The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Senegal, dozens of hectares of mangroves have been replanted.

In Kenya, for example, one of our greatest achievements was the support to the development of a National Wetlands Policy and the validation of the Integrated Management Plan for Lake Naivasha.

We have also consolidated our intervention in the Ewaso Ewaso Nyiro River and Tana basin in Kenya, as well as in Niger and Senegal for an integrated approach to the management of these ecosystems.

Through these achievements, Wetlands International Africa stands to consolidate its strength as a mean to increased people and ecosystem resilience for the beneficiary populations.

Notwithstanding, our intervention in the Tana Delta and South Sudan was disrupted by instability and security factors that erupted earlier this year in the area: a situation which complicates the challenges of conservation.

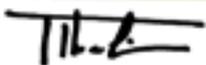
Even so, very convincing results have been achieved as a result of multiple efforts across Africa. Hence, the future is hopeful.

Through this report, we thank, encourage and pay a deserved tribute to all Wetlands International staff that made possible these achievements.

We also express our gratitude to our technical and financial partners for their support and trust and for helping us to better «save and restore wetlands for people and nature.»



Ibrahima THIAM
Regional Director



Amadou Moctar Niang
Chairman of the Foundation Council



I. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIV Dassilamè : Association Inter Villageoise de Développement de Dassilamè

AIV Ndiaël : Association Inter Villageoise du Ndiaël

A2A : From the Arctic To Africa

ACC : Adaptation au Changement Climatique Basée sur les Ecosystèmes

AMCOW : Association des Ministres Africains en Charge de l'Eau

BAD : Banque Africaine de Développement

CA : Conseil d'Administration

CCLME : Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem

CITES : Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de la faune et la flore sauvage menacées d'extinction

DPN : Direction des Parcs Nationaux

DIN : Delta Intérieur du Niger

DRR : Disaster Risk Reduction

EBA : Ecosystem Based Adaptation

FIETS : Finance Institutionnel Environnement Technologie et Social

GIRE : Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau

GIRMAC : Gestion Intégrée des Ressources Marines et Côtières

GIZC : Gestion Intégrée des Zones Côtières

GRN : Gestion des Ressources Naturelles

MEDD : Ministère de l'Environnement et du développement durable

OLAG : Office du Lac de Guiers

OMVS : Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du fleuve Sénégal

ONG : Organisation Non-Gouvernementale

PNOD : Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj

PNUE : Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement

PRCM : Programme Régional de Conservation de la zone Côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'Ouest

PRDI : Plan Régional de Développement Intégré

PREFELAG : Projet de restauration des fonctions socio-écologiques du Lac de Guiers

PfR : Partners for Resilience

RBT : Réserve de Biosphère Transfrontalière

RSAN : Réserve Spéciale d'Avifaune du Ndiaël

SIDA : Swedish International Development Agency

SCRSE : Projet de renforcement de la résilience communautaire dans la région Somalie en Ethiopie

SLBP : Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Project

TEEB : The Economy of Ecosystem and Biodiversity)

UICN : Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature

WAAME : West African Association for Marine Environment

WARA-CLIREC : Waso River Alliance for Climate Resilient Communities

WASH : Water Sanitation and Health)

ZHOMASS : Zones Humides et Oiseaux Migrateurs en Afrique au Sud du Sahara

II. PRESENTATION & MISSIONS OF WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL AFRICA

Wetlands International is the world's leading non profit organization for the conservation and restoration of wetlands, with 60 years of experience serving the people.

Wetlands International is present in Africa since 1998. It serves in the continent through its regional office in Dakar (Senegal) and its different country offices in Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, and a project office in Nigeria since 2013.



Wetlands International Africa endeavor to meet the challenges facing the world in protecting environment. This involves the management of wetlands for improving the living conditions of populations, habitat restoration and conservation of biodiversity, sustainable water management, climate change adaptation and the emergence and effectiveness of a green economy among others.

The organization is also the technical arm of some privileged partners in the field of conservation. It also plays a pioneering role and alert in preserving the environment.

Significant progress has been made in recent years by Wetlands International Africa particularly in the management of river basins (Niger Basin), the restoration of mangrove ecosystems and the creation of income-generating activities for local populations to fight against poverty.

For four years, the organization has defined and is following a comprehensive strategic roadmap covering the period 2011-2020. Wetlands International Africa has committed itself to a betterment of communities. In this dynamic and with partners, governments and researchers at regional level, our organization developed and is implementing a five-year action plan (2011-2015) which is already in a review process for the next five years.

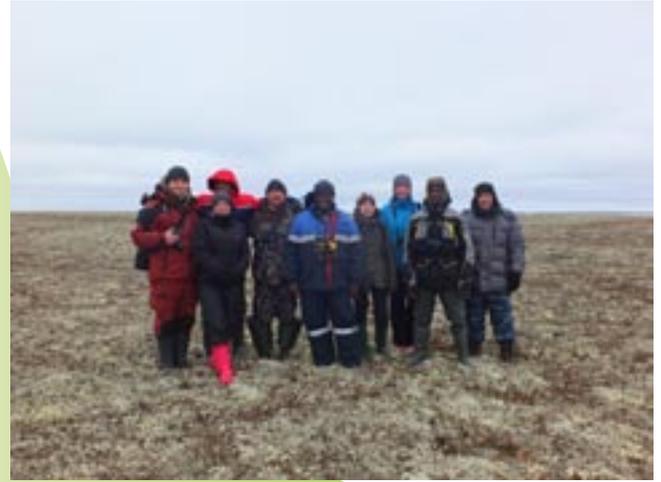
All stakeholders are convinced and agree that a good management of wetlands in the world is necessary to achieve sustainable development.



III. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2014



Exchange visit of site managers and a tripartite agreement on cooperation within the A2A project, Naryan-Mar (Russia), June 2014



After a visit by Russian partners in Senegal and Mauritania earlier this year, officials of the Diawling National Park (Mauritania) and the Djoudj National Park of Senegal, which are stakeholders of the project «From the Arctic to Africa», went to Nenetsky (Russia) to pay a return exchange visit for strengthening cooperation between stakeholders of the East Atlantic Flyway.

For a sustainable management of migratory water birds and their critical sites along the East Atlantic Flyway through international cooperation, Wetlands International has initiated and facilitated the signing of a tripartite agreement on cooperation and exchange of information between the National Park of Djoudj, Diawling National Park and the National Reserve of the State of Nenetsky (Russia).



11th Conference of Parties (COP 11), Cape Town, South Africa, March 2014

During this meeting, Wetlands International Africa and IUCN-Senegal advocated before parties for the signing of a Protocol to properly secure the Charter for the sustainable management of mangroves to the Abidjan Convention. Hence the unanimous commitment by partners that resulted in materializing the protocol which is one of the recommendations during the 7th regional and coastal marine PRCM Forum held in Dakar in November 2013.



At the invitation of President of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall, the two Dutch experts conducted a scoping mission on the breach from St. Louis to find a lasting solution to this environmental problem.

A team of Dutch experts brainstorming on the breach of St Louis in Wetlands International Africa office in Dakar, November 2014.

At the end of the meeting, several recommendations were made including the need to sensitize authorities on the effective implementation of the existing policies and legal measures for the conservation of biodiversity in the seven CCLME member countries. For example, governments are invited to develop and implement management plans for shared resources of fisheries; promote widespread, strategic Environmental rating at regional level.



3rd Meeting of the Work Group on Biodiversity, Habitat and Water Quality in Casablanca CCLME Region (Morocco), 23-25 September 2014 (Source CCLME)



During this meeting initiated by Wetlands International, it was decided to develop a new site management plan with a view of adapting it to the current situation of the Special Reserve avifauna of Ndiael (RSAN). The document will be approved in 2015 to serve as a new roadmap for managing the reserve in the next five (05) years

Mid-term evaluation of the "contribution to the supply of water in Ndiael" project and brainstorming on the new Management Plan, 17th and 18th June 2014, Ross- Béthio (northern Senegal)



Wetlands International has been a key player in organizing the scientific forum on the theme «Wetlands and agriculture: cultivating the partnership». The event was under the auspices of the National Parks Directorate (DPN).

Celebrating the 18th World Wetlands Day at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Dakar (Senegal), 3rd February 2014.



In accordance with its primary objective, this training has strengthened the capacity of local stakeholders for the promotion and implementation of the ecosystem approach through the Niger Delta Development Plan in Nigeria.

Training on the ecosystem approach in the SLBP project, Port Harcourt (Nigeria) , 19 November 2014



The Integrated Management Plan for the Lake Naivasha which planning and development process started since 2010 was finally launched with the support of Wetlands International à the Kenya Training Institute for Wildlife in Naivasha. All major stakeholders at the site level were involved in the process.

Launch of the Integrated Management Plan of Lake Naivasha (Kenya), April 28, 2014



Opening of the 5th African Water Week, Dakar (Senegal), 26-31 May 2014, Ms. Aminata Touré, Prime Minister of Senegal, talking to Pape Mawade Wade, Program Coordinator Wetlands International Africa.

As a member of the Scientific as well as the National Organizing Committee, Wetlands International has played an important role in the progress and success of the 5th African Water Week which is an initiative of the Association of African Ministers in Charge of Water (AMCOW). In addition to the communication on water supply in Ndiael, Wetlands participated in the funding the event and provided the English translation of all 20 papers presented at the side event organized by the Senegal Group.



Mobilization campaign in defence of the lands in Ndiael, Téméye, (Senegal), 10 April 2014

This peaceful demonstration organized by the group of 37 villages in the Ndiael was to protest against the various threats that Senhuile agriculture business project, implemented since 2012 in the area, puts on their livestock activities and their life and existence conditions. Together with the local people, Wetlands International has been advocating with other civil society organizations to defend the integrity of the RSN and the interest of local communities.

As it is done every year, Wetlands International Africa actively participated in the annual count of water birds in Senegal. In addition to its financial contribution at national level, a team from the organization visited, this year, the National Park of Djoudj (PNOD) in order to technically support the countdown exercise.



Annual waterbirds count, Senegal, January 15th, 2014



Launch of the Integrated Coastal Zone Project (ICZM) in Saint- Louis, Senegal, January 18th 2014

The ICZM project, implemented by the consortium Enda Energy and Wetlands International, was officially launched in Guet Ndar in St. Louis. It covers the cities of Mbour, Joal-Fadiouth and Cayar. All these areas are affected by the impressive phenomenon of coastal erosion. The project is an institutional based support and development of advocacy mechanisms to support the ICZM process.

IV. MAJOR INTERVENTION AND KEY PROJECTS

A. CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is at the heart of Wetlands International interventions. From Senegal to Mali via Nigeria and Kenya, several actions have been carried out in favour of communities to help them develop resilience to the phenomenon.

1. Ecosystem approach and adaptation to climate change

a. Wetlands International has trained the new local government representatives of northern and central Senegal

As part of the Ecosystem Alliance Program, Wetlands International organized in November 2014 a series of training sessions for the new councillors of Ndiayène Pendao and Ndièbène Gandiole (St. Louis) in the north of Senegal and later in Toubacouta and Fatick in west and central Senegal. The trainings helped to share understanding to the ecosystem approach, adaptation to climate change for their integration in future local government Investment Plans (CIP).



Newly elected councillors of Gandiole, St. Louis Region, during training

The ecosystem approach is a «strategy for integrated management of water, land and biological resources, promoting their fair conservation and sustainable use» as a participatory and holistic approach that involves all users and beneficiaries of ecosystems ecosystem services.

The project developed by Wetlands International and Senegal's Civil Forum launched the environment conservation process of setting up community nurseries in all participating municipalities.



Training session for municipal councillors of Ndiayène Pendao in the Region of Saint-Louis, Senegal.

The problem of erosion, in all its forms (wind and water) was discussed and studied with proposed solutions.

In Ndiayène Pendao for instance, this phenomenon causes siltation of rivers and roads and can be curbed by techniques of conservation of land and soil: Soil Protection and Restoration (DRS) and Conservation of Water and Soil (CES).



An intercity integrated management planning between Toubacouta and Karang is on the pipeline. It will be extended to municipalities of Sokone (the oldest in the area) and Diossong, and if possible, to all other municipalities that have mangroves areas. The purpose is to establish a platform for the protection of the mangrove ecosystem in the district of Foundiougne.

The Mayor of Toubacouta city in Fatick receiving his certificate from a female councillor

b. Nigeria / For the development of the Niger Delta

• Local stakeholders trained on ecosystem approach by Wetlands International

The Project on Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity (SLBP) in the Niger Delta, in Nigeria, is an initiative of Wetlands International, Shell and the International Partnership for wetlands. The SLBP is implemented by the regional office of Wetlands International Africa with funding from Shell International and the Netherlands.



Training session on the ecosystem approach in Port Harcourt, Nigeria

A training workshop on «ecosystem approach» was held on November 19th, 2014 in Port Harcourt in Rivers State, Nigeria. Organized by Wetlands International as part of its project on Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity (SLBP) in the Niger Delta, the main objective of the meeting was to strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders for the promotion and use of ecosystem approach in the development plans of the Niger Delta. It was especially meant to highlight the best lessons and good practices from the first stage of this project for use at higher levels of the state and the community.

The Project on Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity (SLBP) in the Niger Delta, seeks to show how the restoration and conservation of wetland ecosystems can effectively influence the improvement of livelihoods of local communities. It is meant to extend the understanding and to serve as a catalyst to the integration of services provided by wetlands in sustainable development and the inclusion of ecosystem considerations into decision making in order to mobilize support for an ecosystem-based approach in the development of the Niger Delta.

This approach is particularly important in as much as the SLBP will also strengthen civil society in the implementation and promotion of ecosystem approaches to better help in working out sustainable strategies with the government and investors in oil and gas. This is to create an enabling environment through good policies and good practices.

• Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and needs assessment in the Nigeria Niger Delta.

The SLBP validated the results of the needs assessment of NGOs in the Niger Delta in Nigeria especially deltas and rivers in the state of Bayelsa, for the promotion and implementation of an ecosystem approach to development.

It situated the results of the evaluation of interactions and monitoring capacity of CSOs in the implementation and promotion of the ecosystem approach.

Finally, the possibilities of the ecosystem-based approach have been explored to further strengthen the capacity of selected CSOs. Of these, 20 have worked with Wetlands International in the promotion and implementation of an ecosystem-based approach in the Niger Delta in Nigeria

c. Kenya / 2nd edition of the Camel Caravan of on adaptation to climate change

It was another opportunity to spread out this advocacy strategy as a pillar of the objectives of the Partnership for Resilience (PFR). The event was organized around the pastoral communities in the counties of Laikipia, Isiolo and Samburu. The two major ethnic groups, the Borana and Samburu which depend essentially on the ecosystem of the Ewaso Ng'iro River for their survival and livelihood, were involved. The theme this year was 'The conservation of Ewaso Ng'iro for peace and «.The large advocacy on Ewaso Ng'iro Conservation and Peace was launched after conflicts erupted in the recent past, on the sharing of resources of the ecosystem of Ewaso Ng'iro River. The Camel caravan promoted peace that yielded over the past two years by renewing and strengthening cooperation and solidarity between communities throughout the event. The other important aspect of this caravan was



Camel caravan in the Ewaso River, Kenya, August 2014

advocating for girls' rights, including the right to education and stopping female genital mutilation (FGM). Thus, a group of girls walked with caravan Ewaso Nyiro Bas from Merti until Archers station to broadcast this message.

A memorandum was presented to the governors of Laikipia, Samburu and Isiolo with a strong message on the protection of livelihoods of communities who are depending from Ewaso Ng'iro River. One concrete result is the pledge by the Governor of Isiolo, in front of the country's media, that from now on, he will he never condone any action in his county that could lead to potential adverse effects on Ewaso Ng'iro river. Moreover, he made a firm promise that communities will now be fully involved in all future activities related to the Ewaso River. He also expressed his desire to turn the Camel Caravan campaign into an annual event for the conservation of Ewaso Ng'iro River and its ecosystems. This marks a resounding victory for environmental protection and human rights in this part of Kenya.

• **The Alliance for communities resilience to climate change in the River Waso, (WARA -CLIREC).**

Funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through ACT (a local NGO), the project aims to reduce the effects of climate change on local communities by helping them to develop resilience. It permitted the assessment of climate vulnerability situation of five communities which established that Basa, Biliko, Gafarsa, Iresaboru and Korbesa, still have ecosystems in good condition although some are significantly degraded. It was also found that the Bio-right approach is viable for all communities.

The project also helped to achieve participatory action planning for the climate in which each member of the five communities was actively involved. The project plans to help them develop their resilience.

Some activities were conducted in accordance with the action plan on the management of invasive species grazing areas to create shallow wells and to improve access to pasture, the river and grass lands in the dry season. In both communities, the small-scale irrigation for food security was supported with the opening of irrigation canals and piping of water from the river to the remote farms in the grass zone. In one of these villages, a solar-powered pump was installed to transport the water to the farms. In return for this support, communities have committed to plant nurseries tree in their farms. Some of these nurseries will become fruit trees.

• **Promote the participation of non-state actors**

Sixty non-state actors in the Ewaso Ng'iro low delta river were trained in advocacy for climate and water governance in the county of Isiolo. It was to specifically strengthen the capacity of partner organizations and user groups on adaptation based on ecosystems. A similar activity on advocacy and lobbying for climate water governance was held in Isiolo County. This was combined with capacity building on development and organizational management for user groups and network organizations.



Community round table in Kenya

These activities have raised a great need for skills acquirement in the management of ecosystems and water management structures, fundraising and advocacy.

Finally, the Alliance for ecosystems made a plea to actively involve communities in the global water governance. Roundtables, forums were held in each of the concerned five community villages, to discuss issues on the adaptation of people to climate change and water governance, advocacy and lobbying. This activity is a prelude to the Waso River Stakeholder Dialogue which is a consultation scheduled for February 2015 and will involve Isiolo county officials and elected representatives.

2. Evaluation of ecosystem goods and services in the Senegal River Basin

a. Wetlands International and the High Commission of OMVS working towards a fruitful partnership

Evaluation of ecosystem goods and services of wetlands across the Senegal River basin remains a major concern for Wetlands International and the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS). They are decisively committed to tackle these issues by planning a study born of a partnership agreement signed between the two organizations since July 2012 and tacitly renewable.



Mr. Kabiné Komara, the High Commissioner of OMVS and Ibrahima Thiam, the Regional Director of Wetlands International in discussion at OMVS Headquarters, Dakar (Senegal), 22, May 2014



Staff of Wetlands International Africa in OMVS headquarters

The proposed study will also address a situation analysis supplemented by surveys, evaluation and analysis of risks and opportunities for the maintenance of ecosystem services, mapping and economic assessment of certain wetlands among others. The effective beginning of this study is in the year 2015 and will outline a quick inventory of wetlands in the four OMVS member states.

c. KENYA / Economic valuation of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Tana Basin

TEEB covers all the Tana River basin and will serve as a roadmap for future development plans in this area, taking into account the value of ecosystem services. The data and results will soon be published in the Ecosystem Alliance program.

• Progress on national wetlands policy

The national wetlands policy was adopted by the Parliament of Kenya and the bill will soon be gazetted. The implementation of this policy will improve the management and above all, value the status of wetlands in the country.

• Tana Delta Ramsar Classified site



Tana River, Kenya

The Tana Delta site was officially classified Ramsar site late January 2014. It is the sixth Ramsar site in Kenya. This classification was the key event of the World Wetlands Day 2014 in the country.

• Scientific analysis of the effects of climate change on the Tana River

A major national conference on the situation Tana River was held in the eponymous county with the financial support of Wetlands International. During the said meeting, experts made a thorough review of scientific studies on the effects of climate change on natural resources and human activities as reflected in the conference theme: "The impact of climate change on natural resources and human activities in the county of Tana River, Kenya". This conference was the first of its kind in the country. It is planned to repeat it in each county

All these 3 above activities were funded by the Dutch government through the Ecosystem Alliance Program

B. MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION OF DEGRADED ECOSYSTEMS

In several countries of the African continent, ecosystems are being degraded for years. Thus, Wetlands International Africa and its partners have initiated rehabilitation projects that are being implemented. It is the case in The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal. These activities are linked to the restoration of mangrove areas and the recovery of saline lands.

1. Management and Mangrove Conservation

a. Mangrove reforestation in Gambia and Guinea-Bissau

Reforestation operations were effected from 1st to 10th September 2014 in The Gambia and Guinea. These activities are part of the final year of the Project Demo No5 CCLME. On an overall target of 100 ha set by the country, 40.5 ha were planted in Gambia. Awareness and mobilizing people and training on mangrove reforestation techniques were important prerequisites carried out to ensure the success of the reforestation initiatives.



Degraded mangrove forest (left) and Reforestation by population of Jorrens in The Gambia (right)

In The Gambia, apart from the two pilot villages of Sandeng and Bondali Tenda, new areas have been chosen to continue the project. It's Jorrens, Jiffarong and Bondali sites. Each of them has been reforested.

In Guinea-Bissau, the replanting took place in Antotinha and Campada Maria.



Richard Dacosta, the project manager receiving a gift from populations of Antotinha, in recognition of the work done by the CCLME in Guinea-Bissau

b. Kenya / The mangrove conservation with Kipini Project

With funding from the Foundation Tejcheve through the Kipini project, the assessment of the level of degradation of Kipini mangrove forest was conducted in association with the identification of potential sites for reforestation. This evaluation was performed in close collaboration with members of the local community, commonly known as «champions of the mangroves».

As part of the strategy of conservation of this Kipini forest and under the leadership of local communities in the Watamu area, the «champions of the mangroves» were introduced to several types of income-generating activities, all related to the conservation of mangroves. The activities that have been preferred for a start range from beekeeping and shrimp farming for improving livelihoods.

c. Nigeria / Training on ecological methods of mangrove restoration

The objective was to introduce participants to mangrove ecosystems, to provide an overview of the biodiversity of the mangrove, for the management of mangrove and restoration techniques.

The training course (14th to 16th May 2014) was well attended and participants made a field trip. New knowledge has been acquired. It motivated participants in their quest for knowledge of the value of mangroves and efforts in the mangrove restoration program.

d. Senegal. / Reforestation of mangroves and training actors

More than 13 ha of mangrove were planted in St. Louis in the Nature Community Reserve (RNC) of Gandon, 12 ha were replanted in Sokone while conducting the training of actors in Sokone early August. This activity preceded the 2014 reforestation campaign. In total, 113 hectares of mangrove land have been replanted and protected. These operations are related to MFS II program - Ecosystem Alliance

e. Course on "Mangrove School" in West Africa

Wetlands International and ISE sign MoU

Wetlands International Africa and the Institute of Environmental Sciences (ISE) of the University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar, Senegal, signed on April 23rd, 2014 a memorandum of understanding and cooperation. This partnership is part of the future implementation of the course deemed "Mangrove School", an innovative concept of Wetlands International in partnership with Canada's United Nations University to contribute to the development of skills development in the area of mangroves in the sub-region.



Prof. Serigne Amadou Ndiaye, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Techniques UCAD and Mr Ibrahima Thiam, the Regional Director of Wetlands International Africa signing the MoU attended by Professor Bienvenu Sambou, Director of the ISE

This signed MoU is a milestone step taken by the two institutions in running the next course on mangrove resource in West Africa. The University will therefore put its experience and expertise in the service of "Mangrove School".

f. Sustainable mangrove management in Africa

Great move in Abidjan towards the development of a Protocol to the Abidjan Convention by African experts

For a concerted and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems of the Atlantic coast mainly the regions of West, Central and Southern Africa, selected African experts have begun the implementation process of an Additional Protocol to the Convention Abidjan. The first meeting of the African group of experts dedicated to this initiative, held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 25 to 27 November 2014 concluded to a total of seventeen (17) recommendations including:

- Quantification of the goods and services of mangroves (study sponsor)
- The promotion of environmental assessments (hydrocarbons projects)
- Intensification of mangrove reforestation efforts,
- taking greater account of mangroves in creating sites and reserves of marine and coastal protected areas,



African Experts Group for the sustainable management of mangroves, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (Source: EL H Ballé Seye / IUCN Senegal)

- Taking action to preserve and mitigate degradation patterns of mangroves
- Inventory of all laws and regulations on mangroves in each State Party,
- Promotion of the principle of integrated management of mangrove ecosystems
- Feasibility studies on blue carbon and other innovative funding mechanisms

After the meeting, a roadmap has been set for the conduct of the process with the aim of finalizing the draft Protocol, latest March 2015, for approval by the next Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2015 in The Gambia. The designated institutions for its implementation are the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention and Wetlands International together with IUCN whose work and experience have also been magnified by the panel of African experts.

2. Income Generating Activities such as additional measures against the pressure on mangroves

In its strategy against deforestation of mangroves in the sub-region, Wetlands International has devoted efforts to reducing human pressure on this resource. One chosen option by the organization to achieve its objective is acting to strengthen the livelihoods of dependent people and communities living in mangrove areas. In this regards, many development initiatives and other activities for strengthening income generation have been done to benefit targeted local populations in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and The Gambia.

a. Senegal / Smoking fish, gardening, beekeeping and oyster

In the villages of Thialane and Diamniadio in Saloum Islands, improved ovens have been made for smoking fish in partnership with Enda-Energy as part of MFS II - Ecosystem Alliance program. Through this initiative, it's another step to stem the phenomenon of cutting mangrove for firewood used by people for smoking their fish. Indeed, the improved stove reduces the consumption of wood while improving the working conditions.



Visit of the Ecosystem Alliance team in Saloum Islands in February 2014. An improved oven at polishing stage (left) for smoking fish in Thialane

Supported by Wetlands International in Dassilamè Serere, the Inter villagers Committee set up a large vegetable garden of more than 10 ha mainly run by local women in order to strengthen their livelihoods.

Activities related to beekeeping, mangrove replanting and oyster farming have also started. Hundred (100) hives and over 35,000 meters of garlands are installed in Toubacouta.

Experience exchange visits have been done back and forth between the localities of Dassilamè Serere and Gandiole in the area of St. Louis between March and May 2014 including oyster farming techniques to strengthen the economic power of women.



Dassilamé women's vegetable garden



Hives for mangrove beekeeping

b. Guinea-Bissau / Horticultural equipment for local communities.

Thanks to the project Demo No5 Large Marine Ecosystem Canary Current (CCLME) implemented jointly with IUCN, Wetlands International Africa has given a rice husker to the people of Cubampor Felupe village. This valuable equipment will help to alleviate the hardship opposed to the beneficiaries who travel dozens of kilometres only to dissect their rice crops which is the basis of their feeding.

In addition to this action, the project has enabled the digging of well for irrigation and gardening materials as well as fencing equipments to protect the vegetable field of the project community garden in the village of Campada Maria. At the same time, support has been provided for the identification and demarcation of another vegetable garden in Antotinha. It's an area of almost one hectare that requires at least 4 wells to cover its correct irrigation needs. The site is dedicated to the development of sales gardening activities that have already started.

The objective of all these Wetlands International supported actions in Demo No5 Large Marine Ecosystem Canary Current (CCLME) is to work towards the conservation of mangroves in the intervention areas through the development of such parallel activities that should contribute to lower human pressure on mangrove ecosystems in the country.



Rice huller for Cubompor Felup

Wetlands International Africa provides management and technical support to associations of women who run these activities. Wetlands further helps in the facilitation and monitoring of the financial resources generated by these operations.



Guinea-Bissau National Coordinator of Wetlands International, presenting equipment to the beneficiaries

c. Senegal / The project «Promotion of cashew for sustainable management of mangroves» in Sokone launched

Sokone City Hall in the Fatick region (centre west of Senegal) hosted on 12th and 13th June 2014, the launch of «The cashew development project for sustainable management of mangroves» in Sokone area. Funded by the Program Ecosystem Alliance MFS II, the project aims to promote quality products from cashew and rehabilitate degraded mangrove areas in this part of the Saloum Delta.

The said project aims to enhance the chain value of cashew, which has become an important ecosystem in the area. But above all, it will help to rehabilitate degraded mangrove areas in Sokone and its hinterland.

Wetlands International together with IUCN Netherlands and Both Ends want to achieve the creation of a cashew products label "made in Djuingui" while beneficiaries protect mangrove.



Launching of the project «Promotion of cashew for sustainable management of mangroves in Sokone» in June 2014 in the Sokone City Hall



Participants in the launch of «Promotion of cashew for sustainable management of mangroves» in Sokone, June 2014 in the City Hall

This initiative targets direct actors involved in the cashew chain value which consists of producers and processors (women's groups), riparian populations of mangrove areas, technical services and the City Council. These actors in the cashew sector have now been trained by Wetlands International in the techniques of monitoring, protection and reforestation of mangrove. In return, they will set up the Association of Friends of the mangrove and set up a protection for 50 ha and reforest 10 other ha of mangrove.

Ultimately, this initiative in the area of Sokone will help a better management of the cashew plantations and bring economic benefits with a direct impact in the local economy. Besides, a technical agroforestry response plan will be prepared for Sokone and its periphery.

d. Mali / Bio right in PfR intervention villages

- Bio-right activities were launched in three villages where the PfR project intervenes:
- Gourao-Bozo, city of Deboye for peri Bourgoculture of 15 Ha against a loan of FCFA 2,000,000 to the CAMEC savings bank of Youwarou;
- Debare-Tioka, city of Deboye for the reforestation on 2 ha against a loan of 1,000 000 FCFA to CAMEC savings bank of Youwarou;
- Saba in the city of Dialloubé for Bourgoculture in the 8 Ha pond of sabacouma against a loan of FCFA 1,000 000 to the CAMEC savings bank of Mopti.
- The monitoring revealed that the Bourgo is in good progress.

e. Nigeria / The bio-Right approach in service for environmental protection and livelihood of communities

Bio-rights is an innovative funding mechanism for reconciling the fight against poverty and environmental conservation. By providing microcredits for sustainable development, the approach enables local communities to refrain from unsustainable practices and to actively participate in environmental conservation and restoration

In Nigeria, it is an approach that aims to provide microcredit schemes to women who are engaged in woodcutting based activities. Bio Rights is a way to turn them towards other income-generating activities.



Meeting with the community of Asarama, Nigeria during the introduction of Bio-Rights

Based on the successful experience in Mali, Wetlands International intends to repeat the success and best practice in Nigeria through the innovative approach of the bio-right response. Thus, in the project Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity (SLBP) and during the second half of the year, several actions were carried out in partnership with the Living Earth Foundation & Nigerian Conservation Foundation and to pose concrete acts as a prerequisite for the success of such an initiative in the country and most specifically in the project area.

In this vein, community leaders, the public administration authorities and State governments have been sensitized on the concept and approach of Bio-Right. The other step was to select the beneficiaries of the initiative and support them in setting up groups. After a re-evaluation of the sustainable livelihoods of the established groups and the designation of the areas of intervention, the activities to be implemented have been validated with the participation of different actors.

f. Kenya / Importance of bio-right on populations

The investigation on the applicability of Bio-Rights and profiling of ecosystems, helped to know that the Bio-right approach was viable for all five communities around the Waso River. Funding is available from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through ACT, a local NGO. The Alliance project of Waso River for Climate Resilient Communities (WARA-CLIREC) seeks to determine the state of local ecosystems associated with the Waso River and its riparian areas. This approach is also related to the assessment of climate vulnerability for the local communities.

3. Rehabilitation of degraded land

a. Senegal / Recovery of saline land in the Sine Saloum area

Under the MFS II Ecosystem Alliance Program, Wetlands International is pursuing its strategy of recovery and valuing of saline land in the Fatick region of west central Senegal. The organization and its partners (the Regional Council of Fatick), organized a reforestation campaign from the 2nd to 04th September 2014, in the village of Ndof, Municipality of Loul Sessène. This operation helped to reforest nearly 2.67 hectares with 3,000 eucalyptus seedlings planted.



Eucalyptus plantation in the village of Ndof (Fatick region) in the centre west of Senegal

Through reforestation, 150 hectares of saline land in the forest areas of the region were recovered to mitigate the consequences of overexploitation of forest resources and climate change.

b. A new management plan for the Special Avifauna Reserve of Ndiael (RSAN), Senegal

As part of MFS II Ecosystem Alliance programs and Living on the Edge (LOTE), in partnership with Actenburg Wynenga (A & W), a Dutch consulting firm, IUCN Netherlands and Both Ends, Wetlands International initiated the updating the Special Reserve avifauna management plan of Ndiael (RSAN) for the period 2015-2020. Implemented through activities of the project «Contribution to the restoration of Ndiael», this update of the management plan witnessed the active participation of the coordination unit of the reserve and the Inter-Villager Association (AIV) of Ndiael on 17th and 18th June 2014 in Ross-Béthio (northern Senegal).

This exercise is part of the process of setting up the necessary prerequisites for a good success of the rehabilitation of Ndiael basin by rewetting it. The new developed panning document will be validated in 2015 and will be the new roadmap for the management of Ndiael (Ramsar Site) over the next 5 years.



Participants in the Workshop on a new Management Plan for the Ndiael RSAN

c.Planting trees for fixing dunes proves efficient against desertification of land in Mali

As they face the threats of silting by their community, local populations of Deboye, with support from Wetlands International, successfully experimented the stabilizing of sand dunes with the plantation of *Euphorbia balsamifera*. These actions under the Partners for Resilience (PfR) helped put a halt to the advance of sand dunes towards houses and fields.



Sand dunes fixed by spurge in the region of Mopti, Mali

The biological fixation of sand dune in three communities / villages has helped to stabilize the dunes heading to houses, schools ... with *Euphorbia balsamifera*.

Scheduled to last at the end of the project, late 2015, this endeavour and protection techniques appeared to bear great interest among populations. They have already succeeded in securing 1255, 25m² and a surface land of 1174, 7m² respectively in the areas of Sambéri and Sobé.

d. Rehabilitation of Canal Koronsowal for the livelihoods of people of Noga in Mali



Canal Noga, Mopti Region, Mali

The cleaning and widening of Koronsowal 2104 m long channel which maintenance work has begun in Noga, will help to flood and restore ecosystem services in 5 ponds and adjoining plains. With a total area of around 5000 ha, these wetlands provide sources of livelihoods for six (6) other villages in the area in addition to Noga. With the work in progress, Wetlands International, through the PfR program, makes true a dream that was so dear to the inhabitants of Noga village and its surroundings, estimated at nearly 10,000 souls.

C. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

1. SPECIES AND MIGRATORY FLYWAYS

a. For international cooperation on the conservation of migratory birds along the East Atlantic Flyway

« *Water birds - Connecting Wetlands and People* », the center piece of Wetlands International Programme on migratory routes has been materialized with the signing of a cooperation agreement protocol and exchange of information program between Russian actors their Mauritanian and Senegalese partners.

Under the «Arctic to Africa» project funded by the Arcadia Foundation, Wetlands International has facilitated and supported the discussions and exchanges between the different stakeholders namely the State of Nenetsky in Russia (through the direction of the State Reserve), Mauritania (through Diawling Park) and Senegal (with the National Parks Directorate).



The Russian delegation in the National Park of Djoudj, Senegal, February 2014

The resolve of cooperation between the various parties involved, the process of formalization of this cooperation between breeding and wintering sites for migratory birds has resulted in a series of two exchange visits between the partners.

A first visit in February 2014, enabled the Russian partners of Nenetsky to stay in Senegal and conduct initial discussions on the ground with the Senegalese and Mauritanian officials of Djoudj and Diawling parks which are the most important sites concentrating migratory birds in West Africa during the winter period.

A second visit in June 2014, allowed therefore the Senegalese and Mauritanian officials to stay in Russia (State of Nenetsky) to finalize discussions and sign the protocol document.

This initiative is well contributing to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the AEWA Resolution 5.20 on twinning between sites along the East Atlantic Flyway. The agreement lays a particular emphasis on supporting protocol for identifying the needs of site managers, promotion of joint activities of research, communication and awareness, the implementation of international conventions and more exchange of technical information between sites.



Return visit of the Africa A2A team in June, 2014 in Russia, Nenetsky

b. Towards a strategic conservation plan on the Senegal River delta

As part of its actions for the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their habitats along the East Atlantic Flyway, Wetlands International initiated since 2013, the development of a strategic conservation plan on the Senegal River Delta area in West Africa. Through project activities of «From the Arctic to Africa» project, the development of the plan will ultimately enable to define strategic measures for the period 2015-2025, to be implemented to sustain the ties between Delta area of the Senegal River and migratory birds.



High table during the consultation workshop and modeling of the strategic plan on the Senegal River Delta in Saint-Louis (Senegal)

The year 2014 has witnessed one of the most significant progresses through the holding in August, of the consultation workshop and conceptualization of the plan held in St Louis in Senegal. Actors from the region who took part in this meeting were parks and reserve managers of the target area, representatives of institutions and regional public services, national and international NGOs, community associations, planning structures, local authorities, academics, etc. from Senegal and Mauritania.



Participants of the St. Louis workshop organized by A2A in August 2014

This workshop, through a participatory approach helped to analyze, discuss and make choices based on key elements in the architecture and the content of the strategic conservation plan. Eight key conservation elements were selected to focus efforts on the target area both in terms of the biodiversity of migratory birds as their habitats. The final strategic document is scheduled for 2015.

c. A watchtower in the Ndiael to monitor the site and the avifauna



The watch tower of Yowré in the Reserve of Ndiael

Created as part of the activities of MFS II programs - EA and Living on the Edge (LOTE), the watchtower of Yowré (in the Special Reserve of Birds in Ndiael - RSAN) was set up in view of the forthcoming supply of water in the reserve of which Wetlands International and IUCN Netherlands partners, Both Ends and A & W contributed in close collaboration with the Inter-Villager Association (AIV) of Ndiael. This infrastructure is also one of the basic elements needed for the promotion of ecotourism that AIV intends to develop in the area with several projects already planned by local people.



Ndiael women at the inauguration of the watchtower of Yowré in February 2014 and staff of Wetlands International

d. "Crowned Crane Conservation in West Africa": Follow up of the reproductive behavior of *Balearica pavonina pavonina* in Upper Casamance, Senegal.

In order to update existing data on black crowned cranes, a vulnerable species listed since 2010 on the red list of IUCN, the project «Conservation of crowned crane in West Africa» has commissioned a research study on the ecology of the species and the threats on this bird in this southern region of Senegal. Funded by the Zoological Society (Tiller) / Chester Zoo and Mava Foundation and executed by Wetlands International and BirdLife Africa, the ultimate goal of this project is to provide the basis for developing an Action plan the conservation of the species and its habitat in the West African sub-region.

The crowned crane is subservient specie to wetlands. In Casamance, its main feeding areas are rainwater flooded rice fields. It rests on the tannes and small baobabs. The *Balearica pavonina pavonina* sub specie crowned crane is present in western sub-Saharan Africa, from Senegal to Chad. However, in recent years, its survival is threatened by so many biotic and abiotic factors. Therefore, the mission was to study the ecology of this specie, specifically its reproductive behavior in Upper Casamance, Senegal.

• Nesting species

In Casamance, the isolated islets of rivers constitute most of the crowned crane nesting site, in bushes of *Sporobolus robustus*. The species nests on the ground by generally building a large nest whose diameter can vary between 50 cm and 1 m, height of the nest between 7 and 15 cm. The pair makes the nest or rehabilitates an old one. In the same bush however, one can find 2-3 old nests of the same pair, and one of those old nests may be renewed for nesting needs.



A crowned crane in its habitat

Its territory can extend over 500 m² or even 1 km². The crane is closely linked to its territory. During the breeding season, as well as period of raising the chicks until they fledge and during the harvest time in Casamance between November and January, black crowned cranes permanently go to rice fields often causing them damage. Notwithstanding, Casamance people in the area remain powerless before these damages because of the sanctity of the species (see below).



The technician (left) and one intern (right) tracking nests

In addition, discussions with local communities have revealed the importance of this specie in the eyes of Casamance.

• A Sacred species in Casamance

in Diola country of Casamance, there are long-standing relations, a sacred bond, between the crowned crane and local communities.

Cranes, attend the rice fields of Casamance for a long time. They would be responsible for the mastery of



of scholarly rice practiced by ethnic Diola and soil fertility, according to the village elders visited. They also announce good harvests by their presence and abundance in rice fields in early rainy season (between May and June). The cranes also announce the bad news in the villages, the messages they transmit being decrypted by some families who consider them as their alter-ego. The crowned crane is therefore considered in Diola environment as a supernatural representation sacred species.

Surveys of resource persons of the villages visited

A management plan for the species protection

The main recommendation after field surveys conducted in Casamance within the Project “conservation of crowned crane in West Africa” suggests defining and implementing specific management plan for an improved protection status of the black crowned crane. It is also important to make a significant mangrove reforestation, tackle the growing salinization of Marigot Baila across the Casamance River, launch an awareness campaign and environmental education, but above all, implement a continuous monitoring mechanism of the crowned crane habitat. This is an absolute necessity for the simple reason that the crowned crane habitat that is mainly consisting of mangrove is highly degraded.

Other numerous threats to the specie comprise the progressive salinization of the Senegal River which leads to an alteration of soils, the shrinking mangrove vegetation and the reduction of breeding sites of the crowned crane.

However, there is hope for a better protection of the black crowned crane in Casamance where its sacred attributes is an asset to its survival.



One view of dried mangrove, a habitat of the crane

2. Restoration of Habitats

Through the A2A project, Wetlands International has participated in funding some rehabilitation works in certain areas of the National Park of Djoudj (PNOD). At least 3,000 hectares have been cleaned to consolidate and expand the areas that were muck out in 2013. In addition to the removal of invasive aquatic plants, some channels and ponds were also cleaned for a better flow of water in the park and for the opening new channels for visitors as a mean to take advantage of the tourism potential of Djoudj.



Recovered space after restoration of habitats - named after the retired Colonel Diop

D. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

a. Africa meets in Dakar (Senegal) to reflect on the problems of water during the 5th African Water Week

Organised by the Council of African Ministers in charge of Water (AMCOW), the 5th African Water Week (May 26 to 31, 2014), was a high platform to discuss the nagging issue of access to water and sanitation in the African continent. The 2014 edition took place in a particular context. Africa is just a year before the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, water is still a scarce commodity for 300 million people in Africa.

While opening the session, the Prime Minister of Senegal called on all African States to think of more effective policies for a wiser use of this precious liquid as its acute deficit becomes worrisome in Africa.



Ms. Aminata Touré, Prime Minister of Senegal flanked by Mrs. Sarah Reng Qchekpe Nigerian Acting President of the Council of African Ministers in charge of Water (AMCOW) visiting the stand of Wetlands International and other structures of Senegal Group

Important decisions have concluded the 5th African Water Week held in Dakar. One of such is the commitment of the Council of African Ministers of Water to position "Safety of water and sanitation for African growth" as a strategic objective of the AMCOW until 2015. The other commitment is in relation with African States to tackle the persistent and permanent water infrastructure deficit in Africa, particularly in prioritizing the implementation of water projects as a mean to back up sustainable water use for agriculture, food security, growth and management of wastewater and pollution among others.

The meeting ended with the general Assembly of AMCOW that chooses Senegal's to chair the Council of Ministers until the 6th African Water Week in 2016.

b.5th African Water Week in Dakar - AfriWaterCOP group working on water security for all in Africa

Ecosystems such as wetlands and forests provide many benefits to companies. However, they are not often taken into account in planning and water resource management.

The enforcement of environmental and social solutions to ensure water security for all in Africa, was key in the communications and parallel discussions upon initiative of AfriWaterCOP (Community of Practice) during the 5th African Week Water.

• Importance of natural infrastructure

The first presentation focused on the issue of water in Africa and the role of natural infrastructure (wetlands). Through this communication, Mr. Richard Dacosta of Wetlands International explained the role of water in Africa and the challenges of African countries for sustainable management of this resource as opposed to the effects of extreme natural disasters (floods and drought).



Richard Dacosta, Project manager at Wetlands International Africa Office in Dakar, Senegal

He then addressed the role of natural infrastructure as a reservoir for many basic human needs (water, food, leisure, etc.).

Particular emphasis was laid on the importance of ecosystems that he describes as genuine natural infrastructure if they are well maintained to enable people to increase their resilience to extreme events, while providing a reservoir for flood waters.

Recommendations were made that efforts be refocused on the management of production/valuation and storage interface, on a consideration of the economic valuation ecosystem approach (TEEB) for more natural economic infrastructure, and to a smart mix between Infrastructure and Natural Structuring investment (dams with or without restraint).

• Negotiated approach to water management

Introduced by Sena Alouka representing the Young Volunteers for Environment (JVE) of Togo, this new approach is inspired from India where she was born. It combines the actors who are directly involved in the water management process and proposes an approach that needs sharing for more democratic water management according to the communicator. This approach is complementary to Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), which shortcomings were exposed by the speaker.



Alouka Sena, executive director of Young Volunteers for the Environment Togo



Side event organized by the AfriWaterCOP group, consisting of Wetlands International and other organizations of the African civil society at King Fahd Palace, Dakar

The discussions were centered on the IWRM and the negotiated approach as well as how to go about making the natural infrastructure fully fulfill their role as natural infrastructure beside the structuring investments.

c. Kenya / The integrated management plan for Lake Naivasha validated

The Integrated Management Plan for Lake Naivasha was finally approved on April 28th, 2014. This was during a colorful ceremony in Kenya's Naivasha wildlife Training Institute. The development of this document was made possible thanks to the support of Wetlands International which began the development process of the plan in 2010 through the Program «wetlands and livelihoods» in collaboration with the Wildlife Training Institute of Kenya (KWSTI). Other stakeholders such as WWF and RECONCILE rallied later in the development process which mobilized a total estimate of 5 million shillings (46,296 euros).



Launch of the Integrated Management Plan of Lake Naivasha, Kenya, 28th April 2014

The Ministry of Water, Environment and Natural Resources, urged all actors to take care of nature before it gets angry.

The lack of management skills and structures coupled with a deficit of knowledge was the cause of the degradation of Lake Naivasha, about 90 Km North West of Nairobi. Therefore this new management plan is timely as the ministry pledges support to its implementation.

Development partners including Wetlands International, WWF and RECONCILE also reiterated the importance of ensuring that the plan is implemented. They also called for the creation of a stakeholder forum for better coordination and harmonization.

d. Kenya / Economic Valuation of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: a key role in decision making

A training workshop on water and wetlands held in Nairobi from 7 to 9 July 2014 was the occasion to discuss some of the challenges facing Africa in the management of sustainable development. The meeting stressed the essential role of ecosystem assessment in decision-making.



Participants in the Nairobi TEEB workshop in July 2014, Kenya

Organized through an initiative of Wetlands International, IUCN Netherlands and Both Ends in close collaboration with Free University of Amsterdam, the University of Nairobi and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this workshop brought together 25 participants to share knowledge on different techniques and assessment strategies to be used to convince policy makers about the value of wetlands.

At the end the workshop, participants said the training has strengthened their understanding and appreciation of the economic valuation of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB) as a tool for decision making and consultation on water and wetland management, among other results.

E. FOCUS ON THE PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE (PfR) IN MALI

As part of the Partnership Program for Resilience (PfR) set up with the Dutch Red Cross, Care International Mali, Cordaid, the Centre on Climate of the Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations and Malian defense Environment, Wetlands International is pursuing its intervention in Mali for the past 4 years. Through this program, the organization advocates for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction through the management and restoration of ecosystems.

The target is to reduce the impact of natural disasters on the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and ultimately to ensure that communities are more resilient to the vagaries of climate change. The program also works to influence the institutional framework at regional, national and international level on approaches to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) / the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) / by Environmental Resources Management (GRE).

Similar to other eight countries where it operates, the PfR program In Mali has implemented an integrated approach that aims to fight against drought and floods. Three (3) major pillars are underlying the action of PfR Mali: poverty reduction, capacity building of stakeholders and advocacy.

The PfR intervenes in 20 villages in Mopti region and is involved in the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and recovery of some plant species, fixing dunes, digging dikes to increase agricultural productivity and improve women's income.

All along the year 2014, many achievements have been made in the Mopti region in the North and center of Mali to the delight of the estimated 27,896 beneficiaries. This includes three (03) rural districts (Konna, and Borondougou Dialloubée) in the area of Mopti and two (02) rural districts (Deboye and Youwarou) in the area of Youwarou in Mopti region (northern Mali).

The field activities are as follow :

- Construction of small tanks to improve the supply of drinking water,
- Diversification of livelihoods as a strategy for subsistence during drought
- Reforestation of unstable slopes such as the sand dunes
- Early warning and early action before disasters (droughts and floods)
- Establishment of gauges in all villages to enable farmers to better take into account the parameters of rain in their behavior and agricultural activities
- Improved seeds that are more resistant to drought and more productive for the local producers
- Training and coaching in agriculture
- Increase yields and incomes of local producers.
- Creating vegetable garden perimeters of (01) ha in each village to support women in improving their agricultural productivity and sustain their purchasing power
- The recovery of saline land unfit for cultivation and making it available to the local population



- The establishment of a credit revolving fund with 6 Million CFA francs for the benefit of women's groups.
- The PfR program has also developed climate change assessment tools in the areas of intervention as well as some environmental aspects such as changes affecting the watersheds.
- The implementation of these actions and their practical results were made possible thanks to a joint work by several organizations and structures
- International organizations: Wetlands International, Netherlands Red Cross, Care International Mali, Cordaid, the Centre on Climate of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
- Malian organizations to protect environment: the Groupe de Recherches et d'Applications Techniques (GRAT), the Malian Association for the Protection and Development of the Environment in the Sahel (AMPRODE / Sahel), the Organization for Integrated Development in the Sahel (ODI / Sahel);
- Government Structures like Mali Weather Office, Water and Forestry, Agriculture, decentralized structures (Regional Directorate of Water) and the committee for prevention and disaster management.



A vegetable garden for PfR local communities of Mali



Partial view of Simina village dike protection (by Wetlands International and Care Mali)

F. CAPACITY BUILDING

As it is done every year, Wetlands International Africa continues to implement its roadmap in terms of capacity building and organized training sessions for partners and beneficiaries of its projects and support them in active participation in international meetings and fora.



Training on mangrove reforestation techniques, September 3, 2014, Sao Domingos, Guinea-Bissau

As another move to strengthen reforestation activities, Wetlands International continues to build the capacities of beneficiary populations in mangrove reforestation techniques.

The Project on sustainable livelihood and biodiversity (SLBP) adopted a participatory approach that has helped communities in designing their plan. There was a detailed diagnosis of the community, analysis of strengths and weaknesses, community vision and community resource mapping session.



Training session in Obiayagha community, Nigeria, on the SLBP project Operational Plan



Training workshop on techniques to control some harmful invasive aquatic plants, 18th December 2014, Mali

On December 18th, 2014, the training workshop on techniques to control invasive aquatic plants in the Inner Niger Delta was held in the conference room of the Regional Council of Mopti. It brought together representatives of local authorities, technical services; partner NGOs for the implementation of the Resilience Project, members of the platform of stakeholders in climate change and local communities.

Regional Workshop for the improvement of quality Waterbird data counts for Francophone countries by AEWA in partnership with Wetlands International and other partners



AEWA Regional workshop on counting birds from 9 to 13 December 2014 in Dakar, Senegal



Training in administrative and financial management for MFS II partners from 14th to 17th October 2014 in Foundiougne, Senegal.

This session aimed at strengthening the capacities of partners and beneficiaries of Ecosystem Alliance program and level the gaps noted in the implementation of the ongoing projects as well as provide accounting administration standard skills to them.

G. THEY GIVE CREDIT TO ACTIONS BY WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL AND ITS PARTNERS :

- **About the cleaning and widening the Koronsowal Noga channel in Mali**



Ibrahima Sow (left), member of the Control and Disaster Management Committee of Noga village, (Dialloubé, Mali)

“Now that the channel has been excavated, the plain you see here will get water like before and allow us to promote rice cultivation and fishing in the area as in it used to be in the past. At least, that’s our hope. Many partners came here and listened to this complaint, but none of them did anything. So we thank the PfR project. We are very happy with Wetlands International and its partners.”

- **About the dike created in Simina in Mali**

“ Every year, we were subject to the trauma of floods that used to destroy all our houses because of the water erosion. If it rains, we cannot sleep at closed point, but now we feel relieved ”



Amadou Traore, village chief of Simina (Konna town in northern Mali)



Youssouph Traoré, a member of the Control and Disaster Management Committee noted that the idea of people fleeing the village was raised few years ago”. This was the reason why we challenged the municipal authorities Konna to get partners to come to our rescue hence the intervention of Care Mali and Wetlands International” he said.

Youssouph Traoré of Simina, a member of the Control and Disaster Management Committee of Simina

- **About strengthening the capacities of actors in the economic evaluation of ecosystems and biodiversity**

“The training on economic valuation of ecosystems and biodiversity has opened our eyes and mind by making invisible ecosystem services provided by water and wetland resources more visible in terms of economy and Accounting ”

Ben OPA of Kenya National Environment Management Authority.

- **About the recovery of Ndial basin in collaboration with the AIV of the area through the SFF program 2 - EA in Senegal**



“ This project is very important for us. Ndial was a very rich biodiversity and native people of the land never tried rural exodus because we used to have all the resources to live peacefully in this area. With the ongoing water restoration project, the African Development Bank (ADB) will implement at a larger scale what we have done with Wetlands International despite our scanty resources ”

Amadou Sow, chairman AIV Ndial

- **About blocking sand dunes against the advance of the desert.**



“ Looking at the sand dunes, one would think of Massif des Iforas (Algerian desert). But now, we have kilometers of euphorbia to fix the sand. If it wasn't the intervention of Wetlands International, we would need to invent something of the like. This experience should be multiplied all over the sites that have been affected by the desertification phenomenon in the country ”.

Ms. Tata Touré Diarra, of the Ong ODI Sahel, a partner of Wetlands International Mali

- **About support in terms of building management capacities for members of the local partner organizations”**



“ In my capacity as a treasurer of AIV Dassilamè, I was an empty canary, but through this training, I can now say that the canary is half full if not full. I am well equipped in organization management and structure as I also acquired skills on budget estimate and management ”.

Ms. Gnima Diouf, Treasurer of AIV Dassilamè

- **About the exchange visits between communities for the improvement of oyster production techniques**



Ms. Wade Ndéye (purple), working oysters

“ I used to lose one bowl of my production every day, the equivalent of 25 kilograms of oysters that I harvest from Doune Baba DIEYE channel, my home village. So its 25 kilos of oyster rotting in my hands causing net losses estimated at 50,000 CFA francs per day. Sometimes I had to sell my oyster at 2000 FCFA a kg ”

Thanks to Ecosystem Alliance, Mrs. Ndeye Wade and her oyster production friends from the village of Gandiole (northern Senegal), benefited knowledge and skills training on best practices and oyster production, hygiene, conservation and storage from the oyster women's producers of the Inter Village Association (AIV) of

Dassilamè. They can now produce a lot of oysters and consequently increase their income and uplift the living conditions of their families.

V. COMMUNICATION

Communication activities have been carried out in relation with projects of the regional office.

a. Fred Pearce in Africa for the international component of MFS II



Fred Pearce, an eminent British writer and journalist who is specialized in environmental issues paid a visit to Senegal and Mali in May 2014. His stay in West Africa made him see firsthand achievements of MFS II Ecosystem Alliance Program as he brought inputs to the global communication of Wetlands International.

Fred Pearce in Doune Baba DIEYE in Gandiole (northern Senegal).

b. Setting communication tools

A capitalization documentary film for the CCLME project in the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau was produced 3 years after the implementation process in both countries.



Nelson Gomez Dias, Head of IUCN Guinea-Bissau program, Alfredo Simao da Silva, Director General IBAP, Guinea-Bissau, B. Nget Sambou, Director of Water and Forestry in The Gambia and Alhagie Fatty, Village Chief of Bondali Tenda (Gambia) being interviewed for the CCLME film.



Other communication tools (Policy Brief, Leaflets, Polos ...) were made for the project in October 2014 and shared to local communities and partners.

Joaozinho SA, Coordinator Wetlands International in Guinea-Bissau, handing over communication tools in the village of Campada Maria

Website and social media

The website (www.wetlands.org/africa) has become more attractive and the number of visitors has increased significantly. It's the same for the Facebook page (wia.wetlandsafrica) and the twitter account ([@wiaafrica](https://twitter.com/wiaafrica)).

VI. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ALL AMOUNT IN THOUSAND € SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2014

	2014	2013
INCOME	2934	2754
Project income	2322	2094
Institutional income	490	491
Other income	123	170
EXPENDITURES	2934	2754
Project Income	2322	2094
Institutional Cost	530	530
Account Receivables	250	394
Provisions		
Cash & Bank	257	210

DONORS LIST

Birdlife

Chester Zoo

DGIS / Deutch Pays Bas

Senegalese State

Arcadia Foundation

Mava Foundation

ONCF

PRCM

UNEP

UAPB

Shell Nigeria



VII. WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

REGIONAL OFFICE SENEGAL



Gabin Agblonon
Project Manager



Omar Ba
Gardener



Aïssatou Bouna Badiane
Programme Assistant



Richard Dacosta
Project Manager



Ramatoulaye Diatta
Cleaner



Salimata Diallo Diop
Financial Associate



Ndeye Fatou Gueye
Administrative Assistant



Yakhya Gueye
Technical Associate



Fatou Mbengue Guenoune
Regional Administrator



Assitou Ndinga
Project Coordinator



Fatou Ndior
Cooker



Ousmane Sané
Driver



Ibrahima Thiam
Regional Director



Pape Diomaye Thiaré
Communications & Media
Coordinator



Frédéric Tendeng
Communication Assistant



Pape Mawade Wade
Programmes
Coordinator



Momar Wade
Driver

KENYA OFFICE



Leonard Akwany
Programme Associate



Benedict Angano
Driver



Preetika Bhanderi
Programme Associate



Julie Mulonga
Programme Manager



Wendo Hausner
Climate Resilience Officer



Annette Odoyo
Programme Assistant



Judith Otindo
Financial Associate

AFRICA TEAM

MALI OFFICE



*Aliou Diallo
Driver Sévaré*



*Mori Diallo
Projet Manager*



*Fatoumata Doumbia
Office Assistant*



*Ibrahima Sadio Fofana
Field Coordinator*



*Sériba Konaré
Technical Adviser*



*Bakary Koné
National Coordinator*



*Malick Koné
Driver Bamako*



*Assitan Sangharé
Financial Associate*



*Bintou Sidibé
Assistant
Accountant*

NIGERIA PROJECT OFFICE



*Essien Bassey
Driver*



*Elizabeth Odetola
Logistics
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*Michael A Uwagbae
Project Manager*

GUINEE BISSAU OFFICE



*Joazinho Sa
National Coordinator*

VIII. PROSPECTS

The year 2015 is promising for Wetlands International Africa.

The organization continues to play an important role alongside its partners such as the Abidjan Convention in the development of the Additional Protocol to the Abidjan Convention for the sustainable management of mangroves in Africa.

Wetlands International has set up a multi-platform to bring together the various mangrove actors in the regions of Fatick and Saint Louis.

The advocacy process continues to influence local community's policies through environmental education, and the support for the implementation of the IWRM framework for Ndiabel.

As part of a partnership with the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), the Regional Office of Wetlands International in Africa is about to carry an economic assessment of designated wetlands of the Senegal River basin. This project targets four (04) OMVS member countries that are Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

In addition, the office of Mali will start a major program on the Integrated Management of Water Resources (BAMGIRE) in the Inner Niger Delta.

Furthermore, a five year action plan has been developed by Wetlands International Africa for the period 2015-2020





Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL

Conserve and Restore Wetlands,
their Resources and Biodiversity