ANNUAL REPORT 2010

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL AFRICA

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

ACRONYMS

- **AICAD** – *African Institute for Capacity Development*
- **AMCEN** - *African Ministerial Conference on the Environment*
- **AWF** - *African Wildlife Foundation*
- **BIOMAC** - *West African Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Network*
- **CITES** - *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species*
- **CBD** - *Convention on Biodiversity*
- **CBO** - *Community Based Organization*
- **FIBA** - *International Foundation of Banc d'Arguin*
- **FLA** - *Functional Landscape Approach*
- **IND** - *Inner Niger Delta*
- **IUCN** - *International Union for Conservation of Nature*
- **IWRM** - *Integrated Water Resource Management*
- **KWA** - *Kenya Wetlands Alliance*
- **KWSTI** - *Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute*
- **MPA** - *Marine Protected Area*
- **NBA** - *Niger Basin Authority*
- **NGO** - *Non Governmental Organization*
- **OPIDIN** - *An Inner Niger Delta flood prediction tool*
- **PRCM** - *West African Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Program*
- **RAMCEA** - *Ramsar Center For Eastern Africa*
- **UNFCCC** - *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*
- **UWEC** - *Uganda Wildlife Education Center*
- **WIA** - *Wetlands International Africa*
- **WWF** - *World Wide Fund for Nature*

OUR 2010 PUBLICATIONS

Photo courtesy of fotoalia

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TRADITIONAL ELEPHANT MIGRATION ROUTES FAVOURED THE KIMANA WETLANDS.

WIA is addressing increasing human - wildlife conflict over water in the Kimana wetlands of southern Kenya.

CONTENTS

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL AFRICA IS COMMITTED TO PRESERVING OCEAN BIODIVERSITY.

The Humpback whales are found in all oceans all over the world, including Africa.

Photo courtesy of fotoalia

AN INTRODUCTION TO WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL AFRICA

Wetlands International is an independent, not-for-profit, global conservation organization working in over 100 countries. Wetlands International Africa (WIA) is the African branch of the global organization.

WIA is present in Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Kenya with its regional secretariat in Dakar, Senegal. However, our programs extend across the continent focusing on both coastal and inland wetlands.

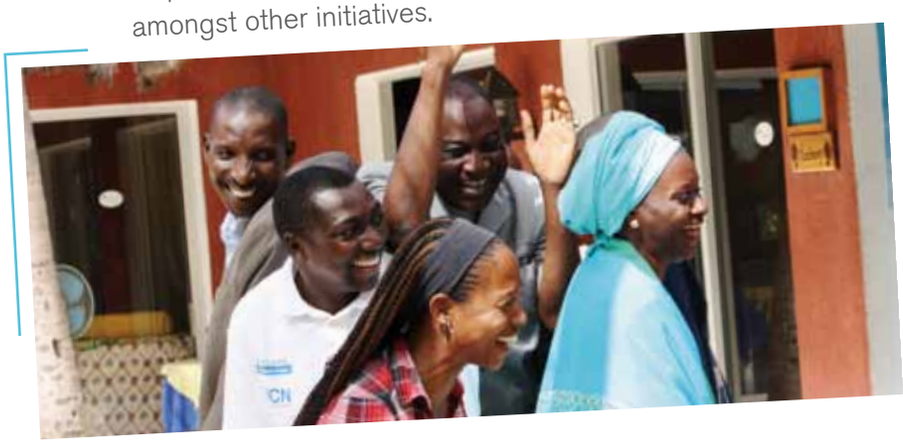
Africa's wetland ecosystems are estimated to cover more than 131 million hectares. They deliver a wide range of ecosystem services that contribute to human well-being such as nutrition, water supply and purification, climate and flood regulation, coastal protection, feeding and nesting sites, recreational opportunities and increasingly, tourism.

Communities, particularly those living near wetlands, are highly dependent on wetland services and are directly harmed by their degradation. For example, Cameroonian communities in Waza-Logone's large floodplains and swamps depend on it entirely for their subsistence and income. In Cape Verde, fishery products account for 63% of the country's exports.

Despite their importance, human activities and the changing climate are degrading wetlands faster than any other ecosystem. Agricultural development has reduced the Mfolozi swamp in South Africa to 43% of its original size; while oil spillage, gas flaring, uncontrolled exploitation of forest resources, over-fishing and poorly planned infrastructure development are posing a serious threat to the Niger delta. Furthermore, climate change is expected to exacerbate wetland loss and cut wetlands' natural capacity to mitigate negative environmental impacts.

Wetlands International Africa encourages strategic practical and policy interventions that improve management of wetland ecosystems.
Wetlands International Africa is involved in:

- restoring West Africa's mangroves and coastal biodiversity,
- promoting integrated water management in Mali's Inner Niger Delta.
- strengthening community livelihoods in Kenya's Kimana wetlands at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro,
- mitigating climate change by halting erosion in Malawi's seasonal wetlands.
- monitoring and protecting migratory water birds, manatees, dolphins and other endangered species all over the continent, amongst other initiatives.

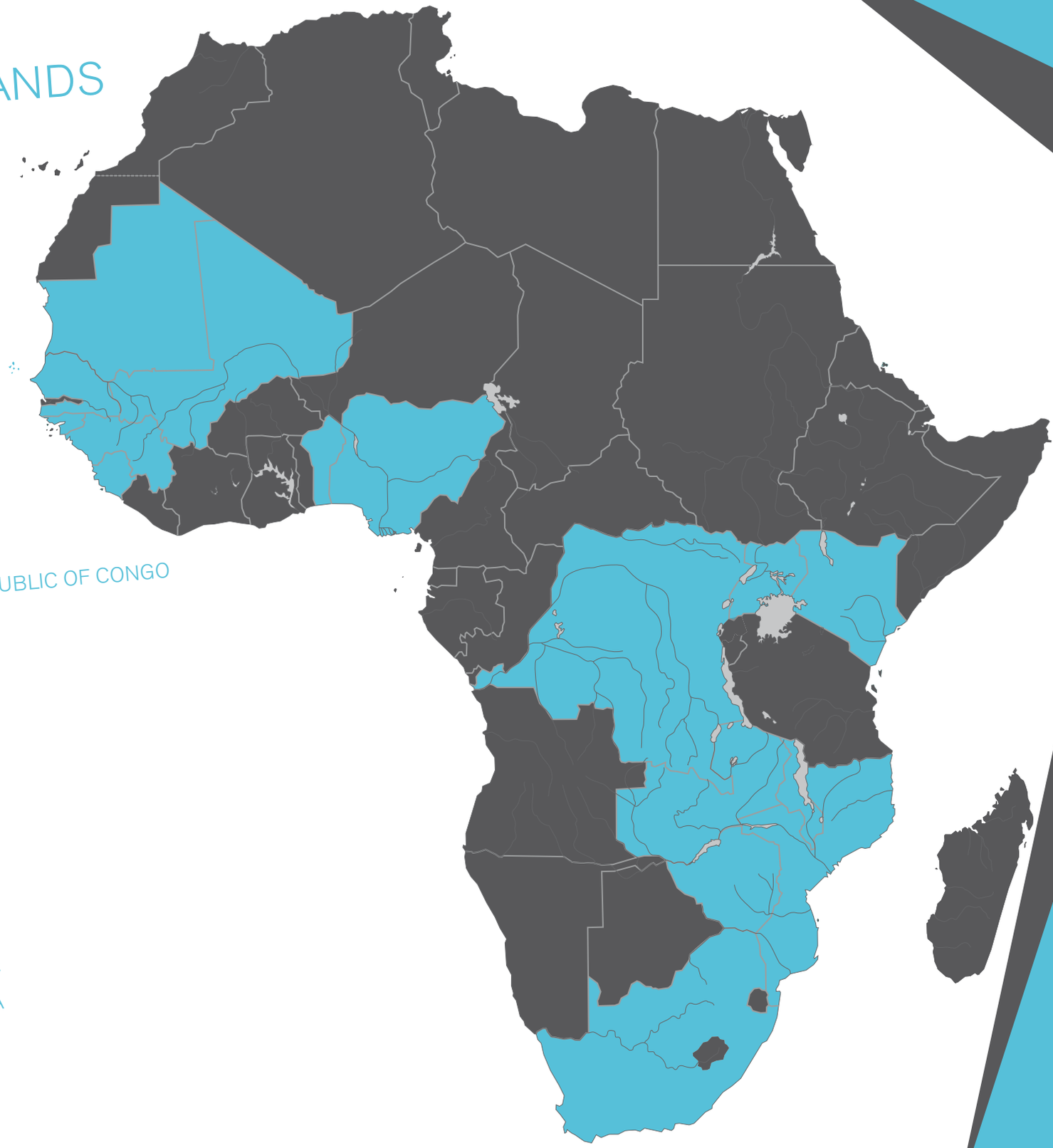


WIA staff at a past work retreat.

Wetlands International Africa works through partnerships to safeguard Africa's water resources. We are supported by contributions from an extensive specialist expert network, hundreds of volunteers, as well as conservation institutions and governments.

Wetlands International's Mission
«to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity».

OUR WETLANDS



- BENIN
- CAPE-VERDE
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
- GUINEA
- GUINEA-BISSAU
- KENYA
- MALI
- MALAWI
- MAURITANIA
- MOZAMBIQUE
- NIGERIA
- SENEGAL
- SIERRA LEONE
- SOUTH AFRICA
- UGANDA
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE

A WORD FROM THE AFRICA DIRECTOR

IBRAHIMA THIAM, Wetlands International - Africa Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The United Nations declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. It was to be a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives.

Wetlands like lakes, rivers, swamps and coastal zones on average contain the richest biodiversity of all ecosystems. Millions of people, animals, plants and water bird species depend on wetlands for their well-being. The International Year of Biodiversity highlighted the relevance of Wetlands International's mission to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations. Now, the United Nations has extended the Year of Biodiversity to a Decade of Biodiversity (2010 to 2020), and we look forward to working with you to meet international and continental goals for biodiversity.

Protecting and restoring the rich biodiversity of wetlands by improving our water resource management is key to Africa's development. Though gifted with 9% of the world's water resources and 11% of its population, the African continent is coping with the impacts of a changing climate, high rainfall variability, frequent droughts and floods, food and agricultural crises and multiple challenges emanating from shared water resources across national boundaries*.

Wetlands International Africa's (WIA) holistic approach to dealing with a wetland ecosystem is providing long-term solutions to these water-related challenges.

This past year, we have had a number of significant victories including: restoration of mangrove ecosystems in 6 West African Countries, collaboration with multiple stakeholders in protecting the Yawri Bay in Sierra Leone, the successful launch of a flood prediction tool (OPIDIN) in Mali, promoting community level conservation through small grants and much more.

2010 has also seen the creation of a Wetlands International Africa Foundation, a new legal entity, focusing primarily on our Africa Strategy. In addition, WIA has developed a dynamic business plan as well as a case for support that puts us in a better position for accountability to our supporters and constituents.

We encourage you to read-on as WIA's team of Wetlands professionals share with us their efforts to conserve Wetlands in Africa. We are profoundly grateful for your continued support to WIA.

Rimma Dankova, Satoru Ueda, Ashok Subramanian, Winston Yu, and Jyothsna Mody (2010). Water Resources, a Common Interest, at 271.

Photo courtesy of WIA

MAASAI WOMEN WALK TO A COMMUNITY MEETING IN KIMANA, SOUTHERN KENYA.
The green strip of land in the background is a part of the Kimana Wetland.

CARING FOR WETLANDS IN KENYA AND MALAWI

EMMA GREATRIX, Wetlands and Livelihood Program, Project Manager

A wetland can transform a community's livelihood capacities. Communities in both Kenya and Malawi are adopting sustainable wetlands policies and translating them into good practices within their context. Through enhanced inter-sectoral planning and effective community engagement, livelihoods are beginning to improve.

KIMANA WETLANDS, KENYA

2010 Achievements

The Kimana Wetlands Association is raising awareness on climate change and demonstrating how easily adoptable and low-cost measures such as spring protection and tree planting can help improve community resilience to impacts of climate change.

The Kimana community registered the Kimana Wetlands Association (KWA), an organization that shall from now onwards be responsible for championing the sustainable management of Kimana Wetlands in Kenya. Its 80 members, including women (25), youth (15) and men (40), give Kimana's residents a voice to effectively advocate for their concerns. Local and national stakeholders have now reviewed and endorsed the Kimana Integrated Wetlands Management Plan.

Factors contributing to success

First and most important was the successful partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and many local actors (CBOs, NGOs, government departments etc.) who guided the process. This strengthened the commitment to action, as each stakeholder had a clear role to play and ownership in the process.

AWF, KWA, and partners were able to share their experiences with the national level multi-stakeholder Kenya Wetlands Forum, that is advocating for the ratification of the National Wetlands Policy. During a successful demonstration visit by the Parliamentary Select Committee for Lands & Natural Resources, parliamentarians were able to see first-hand the sustainable management needs in the Kimana wetland. This has increased momentum toward finalizing the National Wetlands Policy. The Kenyan government with support from UNEP is now carrying out an inventory of Kenya's wetlands.

Good Practices

The above shows how a locally developed and endorsed plan supported by a local association can effectively manage water and wetland resources that are under a great deal of pressure.

It also demonstrates how local actions can influence national policy. Once the Kenya National Wetlands Policy is in place, KWA will have played a vital role in improving the protection and management of wetlands all over Kenya.

How to support the Kimana and Simlemba Wetlands Restoration efforts

- At local level - Take an active role in decision making, for example by becoming a member of a natural resource management committee.
- At national/international level - Get involved in wetland management initiatives; strive to get wetlands on international agendas.

Facts on wetland restoration

- Small wetland areas are important and are as much in need of our attention as lakes and vast swamps.
- Not all wetlands need to be protected areas; they can be sustainably used for their resources. Examples like Kimana and Simlemba show how wetlands are essential for livelihoods and food security.
- Wetlands and their sustainable management are key to ensuring communities' resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Governments and funding partners all need a long-term perspective towards wetlands management, especially in high-pressure areas where both humans and wildlife are competing for the same depleted water resources.

SIMLEMBA WETLANDS, MALAWI

2010 Achievements

MALEZA and partners up-scaled the Functional Landscape Approach (FLA) to a total of 8 villages in the Simlemba area of Kasungu district in Malawi. The Functional Landscape Approach sustainably uses local wetlands (dambos) without overly depleting the water supply. It is a science-based approach to training on new gardening techniques, efficient use of water resources, selection of farm sites, suitable low water-consumption crops for wetland cultivation and capacity building on product marketing.

- 2445 farmers (1400 women and 1045 men) have acquired various skills in the Functional Landscape Approach;
- Crop diversification has been introduced through seed distribution;
- 30,000 tree seedlings raised in nurseries have been planted throughout the catchment to improve water filtration and wetland protection;
- 47 hectares on the upper perimeter of the wetlands have been protected via contour ridge marking.

Factors contributing to success

After the initial pilot schemes, it is the farmers themselves who have spearheaded the up-scaling, through farmer to farmer exchange, and directly advising their neighbors. The project goes beyond training in technical methods and distributing seeds and materials, it also builds capacity of district environmental steering committees and agriculture officers to oversee wetland management on the ground. Ideally, this will ensure the approach's sustainability.

Good Practices

The health of the Simlemba wetlands has a direct impact on the well-being of the communities living there as their food, water and income source comes from the wetlands. This is therefore an important example of taking a science-based approach and gradually implementing it at community level, until it has had such a degree of success that the communities independently share experiences with their neighbors.

A MAASAI MORAN IN THE KIMANA WETLANDS, SOUTHERN KENYA.
Kimana wetlands are an important water source for the parched surrounding areas.

Photo courtesy of WIA

KIMANA WETLANDS

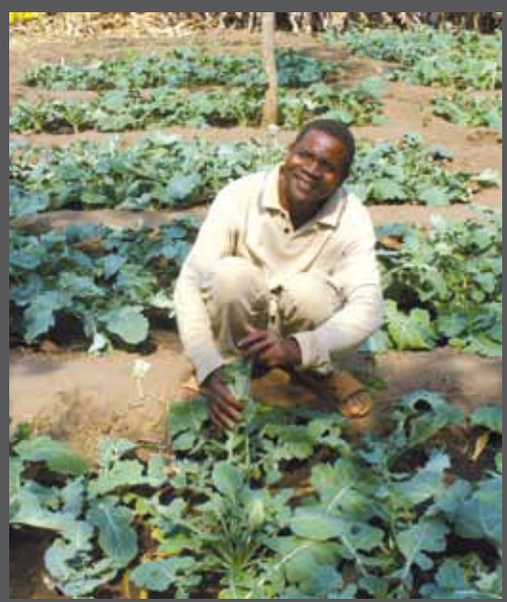
• Located in Kenya's southern Rift-Valley bordering Tanzania's Mt. Kilimanjaro, the world's 3rd highest mountain.

• It emerges from a series of mountain springs emanating from Mt. Kilimanjaro's snow caps and is essential for life in this generally arid to semi-arid area.

• A 25,120 hectare Kimana group ranch occupies most of the Kimana wetland and is collectively owned by 845 extended families of traditional Masaai pastoralists.

• A source of livelihood to thousands - including small-scale farmers who use the wetland's water for irrigation; the pastoralist community that need water and pasture for their livestock; and the tourism sector due to wildlife (including elephants) from the adjacent parks.

• Mt. Kilimanjaro's snow caps will have disappeared in less than 50 years, due to climate change, which will result in a reduction in the amount of water in the wetlands.



SIMLEMBA WETLANDS

• Locally known as dambos.

• Located in Kasungu district, 3 hours north of Malawi's capital Lilongwe.

• 25,100 hectares with a population of 23,241 in 1998.

• In the past, Simlemba's communities turned to farming in the dambos only in times of drought. As water becomes scarcer and droughts more frequent, due in part to changing rainfall patterns, a greater number of Malawi's farmers are turning to wetland production throughout the year.

• The assortment of maize, vegetables and fruits the wetlands produce all year round supply nourishment to other parts of the country experiencing drought.

• Without careful management, the wetland's water resources could quickly become depleted, causing long-term food insecurity.

A FISHERMAN AND HIS DAUGHTER IN MOPTI, INNER NIGER DELTA IN MALI.
The Mopti region consists of farmers, fishermen and pastoralists who rely on the annual flooding between July and February for their livelihoods.

Photo courtesy of WIA

WISE WETLANDS MANAGEMENT IN THE INNER NIGER DELTA

BAKARY KONE, WIA Mali, National Coordinator

WIA in Mali is working towards building a shared vision of sustainable development for poverty reduction in the Inner Niger Delta (IND).

2010's Triumphs

WIA Mali is proud of its active participation in the regional dialogue platforms on large infrastructure management along West Africa's rivers. The large-scale restructuring of river flows is having serious food security impacts on downstream communities. Thanks to our wise wetlands management approach, the ecosystem services that the IND provides are now a key consideration in national development policy.

These policy inputs on wise wetlands management in dam planning continued at an international level at the Stockholm Water Week and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), where WIA lobbied for a mix of soft and hard engineering solutions for effective climate change adaptation. A study on the potentially disastrous impacts of climate change on the IND, 'Will the Inner Niger Delta shrivel up?' was also used to lobby at the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) - Conference of the Parties in Japan.

In addition, WIA Mali was involved in a successful campaign to have the Inner Niger Delta Sustainable Development Program reviewed. Providing a common vision for all IND activities in Mali, the IND Sustainable Development Program shall coordinate, guide and streamline the numerous water needs around the delta. The impact of infrastructure development on the IND's biodiversity as well as the important role of civil society is now acknowledged in the Program.

WIA Mali has established itself as a key partner of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and is now regularly invited to NBA decision making processes, where plans for rice farming and extensive irrigation are an increasing threat to water and food security of surrounding communities. The close relationship was consolidated by co-organizing a week-long training session on decision making in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). Further to that, the Regional Coordination of Niger Basin Users has produced a 5 year strategic action plan addressing civil society involvement in decision making on development and management of the Niger basin's large infrastructure. Finally, WIA Mali has produced a large amount of data on the IND including: hydrological, ecological, socioeconomic, water quality and information on waterborne diseases.

At the local level in Mali

Nine municipal local development plans now include Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). WIA Mali has also been working to revive flooded forests destroyed by past droughts, maintain fish ponds among the flooded grasses, extend the new practice of cultivating bourgou*, and encourage kitchen gardens planted by women groups. Six women groups were supported in their Bio-Rights micro-credit activities, with 5 of the reforested sections assessed as successful and now enclosed by protective fences.

*Bourgou is a key plant fodder eaten by humans in drought and nutritious for cattle, fish and birds.

OPIDIN- SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MEETS COMMUNITIES' NEED FOR INFORMATION

WIA Mali successfully launched the OPIDIN (Outil de Prediction des Inondations dans Le Delta Interieur Du Niger), a predictive tool that forecasts the high and low periods of flooding within the Inner Niger Delta. In the region between Diafarabé and Akka villages in Mali, the OPIDIN can accurately describe the flooding and de-flooding processes including: the peak flood level, when this peak will be reached, which areas shall experience this peak, and at what time the flooding will have declined to a certain level.

In 2010, the highest flood level was predicted to be 521 cm on 24th November and turned out to be 506 cm on 1st December, showing an acceptable level of accuracy since the predictions were within a one week and 23cm range.

The OPIDIN's ability to predict peaks and lows of floods is revolutionizing life for central Inner Niger Delta communities. Fishermen can now decide the number of boats and fish-nets to buy for the high fishing season; farmers can accurately identify where and when to plant their rice, maize and millet; and pastoralists can now choose the best times to steer their flocks across the overflowing rivers and into the now fertile pastureland. In addition, there are many ecological benefits when IND communities sustainably use their resources.

WIA Mali developed the OPIDIN in alliance with the Royal Haskoning and Altenburg and Wymenga Ecological Consultants. WIA Mali continues to build government and local partner capacity to adopt the OPIDIN for annual flood prediction. With the successful testing of the OPIDIN in the central Inner Niger Delta, WIA Mali hopes to extend its use to the northern and southern regions of the delta.

MALI's INNER NIGER DELTA

• Part of the 4,200 km long Niger river, which flows through 9 countries (Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast , Cameroon and Chad) before discharging into the Atlantic Ocean;

• Covers over 4,119,450 ha, runs for 400km from southwest to northeast in central Mali;

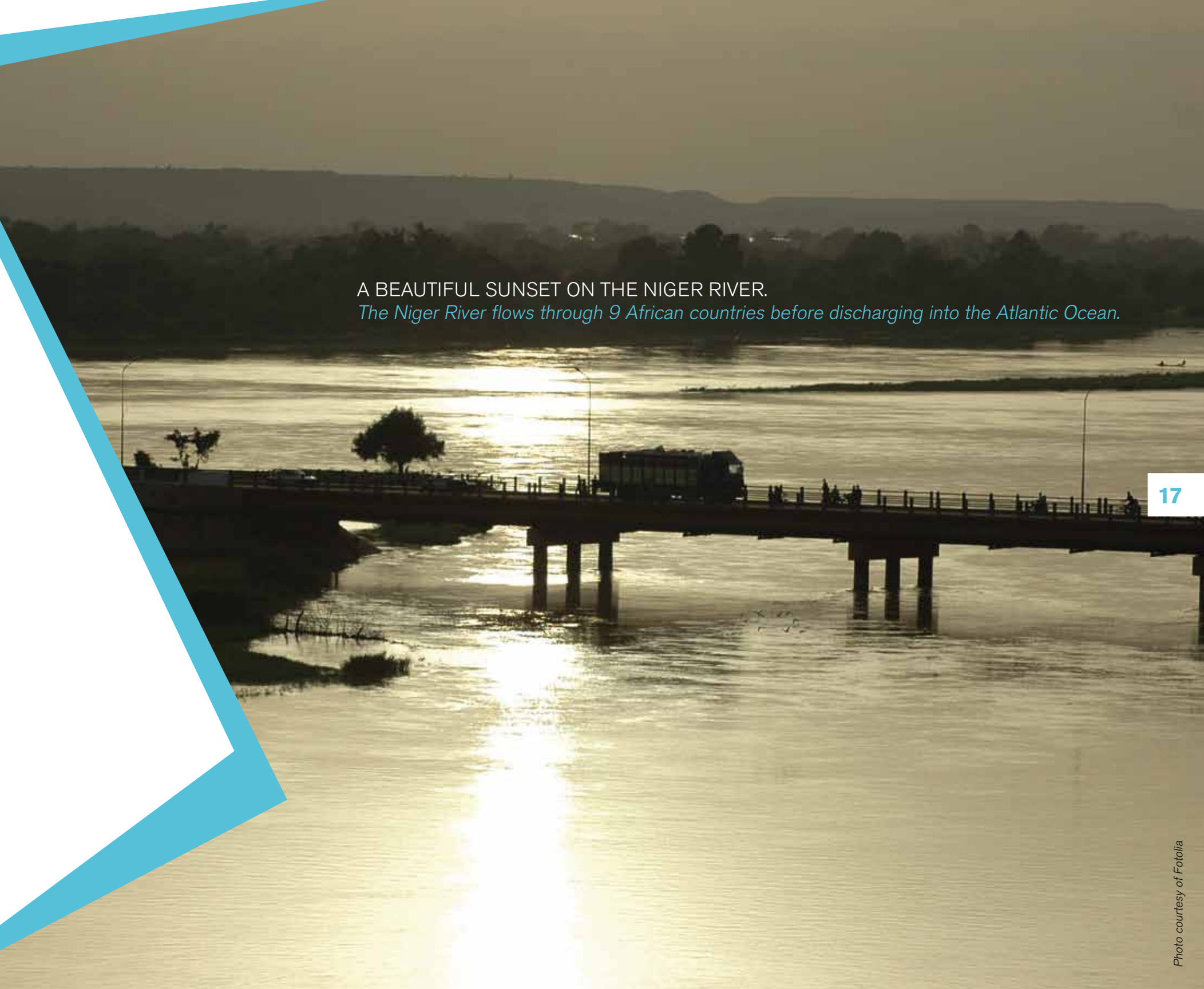
• Larger than Belgium, the Inner Niger Delta is Africa's second-largest floodplain and one of its most unique wetlands;

• From March to June, the IND is hot and dry with temperatures rising to over 40°C ; From July to February, the IND is flooded when the Niger River bursts its banks naturally irrigating the land and providing a breeding ground for endangered Sahelian species found only in this unique wetlands;

• Consists of flood plains, lakes, river branches and small pockets of flood forest;

• Directly supports the livelihoods of more than 1.5 million people;

• Home to nearly 4 million water birds and a large range of water dependent plants and animal species.



A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET ON THE NIGER RIVER.
The Niger River flows through 9 African countries before discharging into the Atlantic Ocean.

Photo courtesy of Fotolia

CREATING A MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) IN YAWRI BAY, SIERRA LEONE

MAMADOU NIANE, Project Manager and SHEIKH SOWA, Sierra Leone Project Coordinator

In 2010, Yawri Bay was selected as the first site for a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Sierra Leone. With sea turtles, key migratory water birds, manatees, a variety of fish species, mangroves and unique flora and fauna, Yawri Bay's biodiversity is vital to marine and coastal resources.

To start-up the MPA development process, WIA brought together all the relevant stakeholders. These include: the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Institute of Marine Biology and Oceanography, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Environmental Protection Agency, Conservation Society for Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone Association Fisheries Union, Sierra Leone Amalgamated Association Fisheries Union. Together, these government and civil society institutions selected the first MPA site and then agreed upon the steps needed to fully operationalize it. The process of creating the MPA has involved several steps.

STEP ONE

Creating a steering committee and task force made up of the above institutions;

STEP TWO

Using baseline studies to assess the area's hydrology, ecology, socio-economic, governance, fish stock and terrestrial conditions to map out the needed protection of the bay. In addition, a needs assessment was successfully conducted for livelihood and capacity building needs, and a communication plan developed.

STEP THREE

Building awareness amongst the community on the importance of sustainably exploiting their environmental resources while providing them with alternative small-scale livelihood skills to reduce pressure on the coastal resources. These include: encouraging production by providing rice mills, ovens for fish processing, clearing of water ways to facilitate goods transportation, training in animal husbandry, providing micro-credit for women groups while building capacities to better manage the above activities.

STEP FOUR

Setting up a community management start-up team that will help implement the MPA, develop a management plan and support the legal process that shall lead to Parliament's approval of the MPA.

Yawri Bay's stakeholders realize the opportunities that effective and participatory management of a marine protected area provide. By initiating better management of these natural resources and providing alternative livelihood sources, WIA is working at slowing down the current trend of over exploitation.

SIERRA LEONEAN FISHERMEN REPAIR THEIR NETS.

To reduce the pressure on Sierra Leone's fisheries, WIA is building capacities for alternative small-scale activities.

Photo courtesy of WIA

Mohammed Albert Tarawallie - MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - Constituency 59 (Magburaka-Tonkolili area)

AN EXCHANGE VISIT LINKING YAWRI BAY (SIERRA LEONE) AND JOAL (SENEGAL)

Thirteen Sierra Leonean delegates visited the Joal MPA in Senegal. Authorities from the fishery and forestry departments, parliamentarians, civil society and fishermen of Yawri Bay observed and experienced first-hand the functioning of the Joal MPA. The seven-day exchange visit is part of a process establishing at least two marine protected areas within Sierra Leone, beginning with Yawri Bay. Hon. Tarawallie, a Sierra Leonean Member of Parliament for constituency 59 shares his experiences.

What are the advantages of making Yawri Bay a Marine Protected Area (MPA)?

Conservation, protection and restoration of fisheries, biodiversity and natural resources for the sustainable use of the local communities.

Responsible exploitation of resources

Positive impact on social-economic activities of the people and country at large

Practice a participatory model of governance and shared power in management of resources

What are the possible challenges you face in establishing an MPA?

It is anticipated that some community members shall be reluctant towards an MPA. At the beginning, the closed fishing time shall mean a reduction in daily income, but the expected increase in number and size of fish shall have a longer-term positive impact. There are also challenges related to changing the culture of the fishing community. Already some conflict has been experienced by one of our steering committee members. James Koroma (a Yawri Bay fisherman) took a beating from his fellow fishermen for fervently speaking against the use of monofilament nets that capture juvenile fish.

Is Yawri Bay ready for an MPA?

Champions of the MPA have begun raising awareness from Tombo to Shenge. Preparatory studies have been done. We are now very ready to establish an MPA.

What role shall you individually play in establishing a Yawri Bay MPA?

I am the focal point of shared power and participatory governance initiatives in Sierra Leone, which shall bring key perspectives in implementation of an MPA

I shall also be encouraging creation of laws that aid the successful management of an MPA;

Collaborating with partners in ensuring all stakeholders are involved in the MPA

5 years after establishing the MPA, what change would you like to see in Yawri bay?

Yawri Bay MPA shall lead to the socio-economic development of the tourism, fishery and exports sectors of Sierra Leone.

There shall be greater harmonization of laws sub-regionally because resources don't have boundaries. Any pollution of waters in the neighboring countries means destruction of our fisheries too.

COMMUNITIES LIVING BY THE OCEAN BENEFIT DIRECTLY FROM HEALTHY WETLANDS.

Young boys in Senegal's Saloum Delta sing and dance.

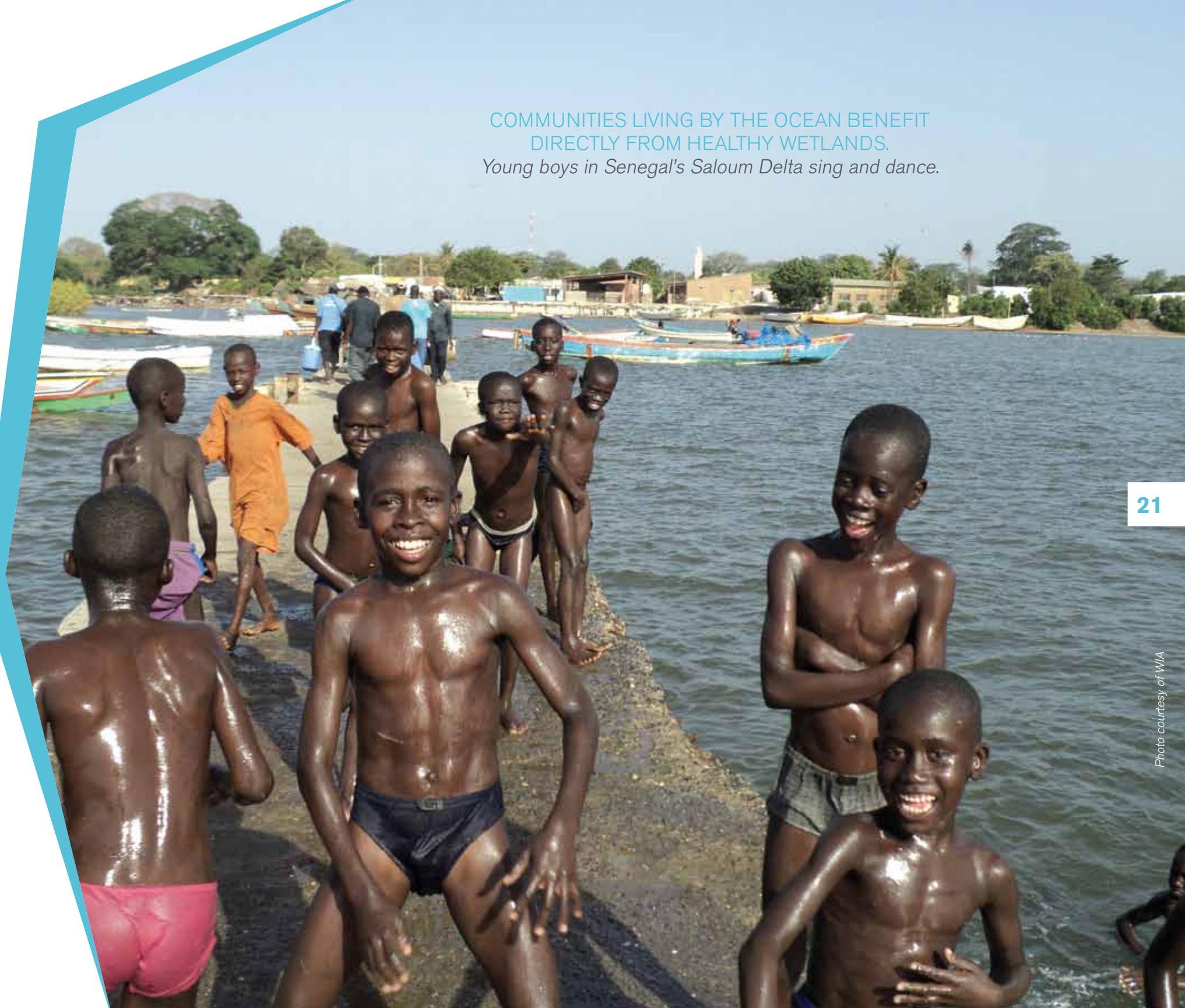


Photo courtesy of WIA

TRADITIONAL FISHING BOATS IN CUSSANA, GUINEA BISSAU.
WIA is working with local communities to restore rice fields destroyed by climate change.

Photo courtesy of WIA

MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

RICHARD DACOSTA, Project Associate and JOAOZINHO SA, WIA Guinea Bissau National Director

Cussana, Cussentche and Cacafal communities depend on their coast's natural resources for their livelihood. WIA Guinea-Bissau innovatively worked with the communities to restore both rice fields and mangrove forest as well as generate data on climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION RESEARCH

There was not much baseline data for the region. Therefore, 3 major studies were carried out:

- A map showing the changes in the landscape of the area over time, focusing on the rice fields that have now been lost to mud which increases the potential for floods.
- A climate analysis demonstrating the evolution of precipitation patterns and other climate factors.
- A hydrological study identifying the amount of water entering the area and its impact on sedimentation.

- The analysis shows that 98% (485ha) of the arable land studied can be restored. Communities can now select the most productive rice fields to rehabilitate and plan for two harvests in a year.

- The 3 major studies are documented in a report discussing the impact of climate change and the innovative ways in communities are adapting themselves to these changes.

- The report has led to the setting up of a national climate change committee which will oversee the National Action Plan for climate change Adaptation.

REPLANTING MANGROVES

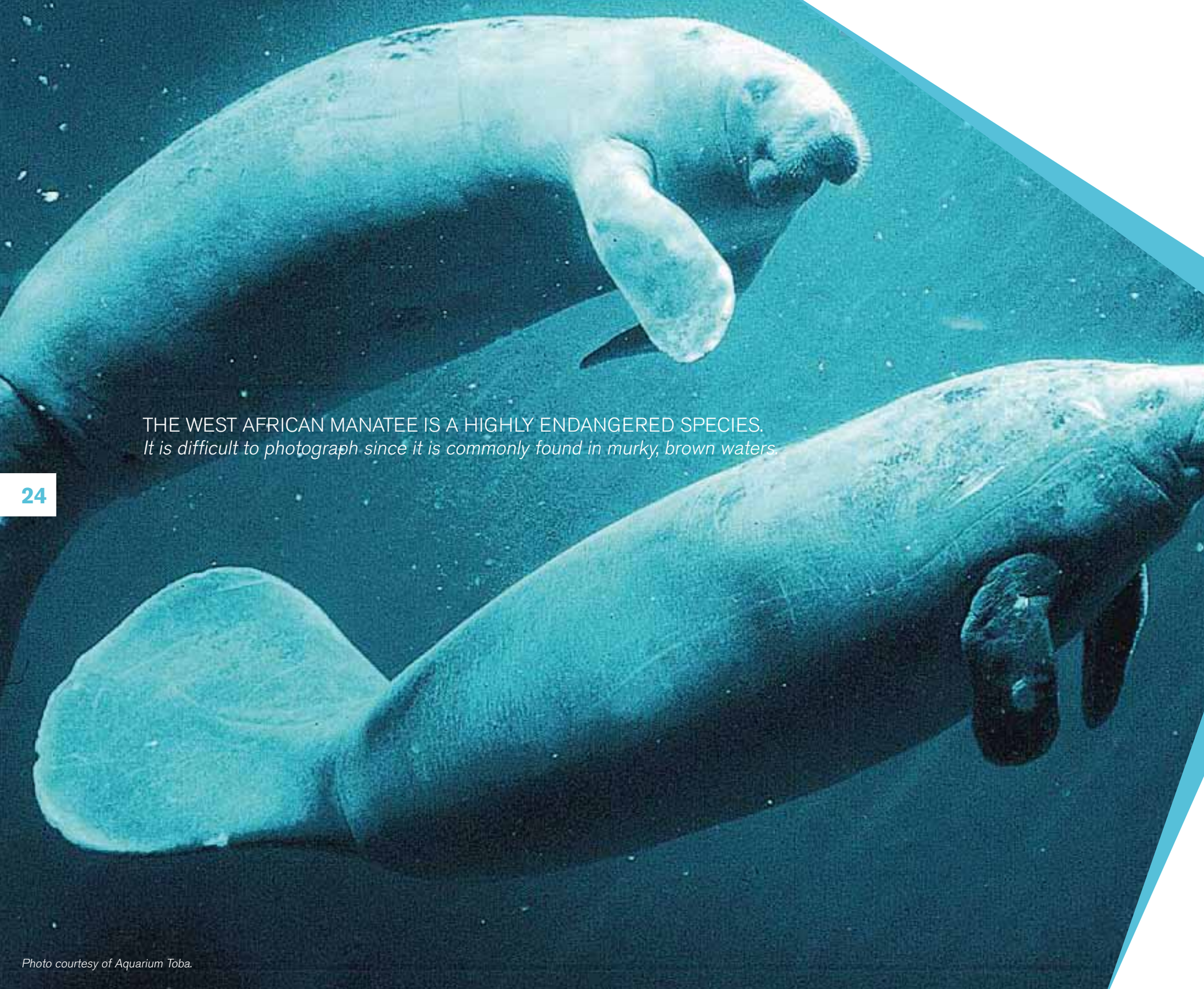
Reforestation of the coastline allows the ecosystem to recover its natural properties and continue to host its rich biodiversity. Mangroves are important ecosystems for coastal protection, for fisheries and for carbon sequestration, and are vital for the livelihoods of coastal communities. WIA Guinea-Bissau supported the planting of over than 1100 mangrove plants. WIA also helped setup a Youth Association that will care for the replanted mangroves.

RESTORATION OF RICE FIELDS

WIA Guinea-Bissau supported local communities in re-opening the main 1000m x 9m channel, which has improved the control of water flooding the rice fields during high tides. This has drained away sediment blocking the channels and stopped the salt leaching of the rice fields. It also naturally eliminated invasive grasses and reduced uncontrolled flooding in the rest of the village.

COMMUNITY FISH-SMOKING OVENS

Smoking fish is an age-old food preservation technique in Guinea-Bissau. Local fishing communities use wood cut from mangroves to smoke their fish. With WIA's introduction of improved fish-smoking stoves, smoking fish takes 1 instead of 3 days. The stoves also use one-sixth of the wood fuel previously required to smoke fish, leading to a reduction in cut mangroves. The work is also less hazardous to health and has eliminated fire hazards that were previously quite common.



THE WEST AFRICAN MANATEE IS A HIGHLY ENDANGERED SPECIES.
It is difficult to photograph since it is commonly found in murky, brown waters.

Photo courtesy of Aquarium Toba.

PROTECTING THE WEST AFRICAN MANATEE

MOMAR SOW, Manatee Project Associate

West African Manatees are an endangered species. In the past two years, at least 350 manatees have been hunted and killed in Sierra Leone alone.

Humans are the sole predator of the West African Manatee, hunted for consumption. Its fat has medicinal value while its skin makes leather ropes. Manatees are often entrapped in fishing nets as they migrate along the river. Other times they are killed as they accidentally wander into, feed on and destroy rice fields.

Manatees are found where fresh water mixes with salty ocean water and are a vital indicator of healthy wetlands and contribute to balancing aquatic plant life. There have been indicators that manatees in a wetland leads to greater fish quantities; however this hypothesis has not been established. It is important to keep manatees alive as we continue to study them and their link to biodiversity.

2010 Successes

- Most manatee hunters will not openly admit to killing them thus making it difficult to halt the hunting. However, with repeated information and awareness efforts the communities have begun to see the advantages of the species. Several manatee hunters have been identified and trained in alternative income generating activities. This has resulted widespread awareness and commitment of local authorities and communities to monitor and protect the manatee.

- The Matam Dam gates have been modified and its barrier grills removed thus reducing the cases of manatee death Nawel river canals. Before the modification, several manatee families had been trapped in the dam's barrier gates as they migrated along the Senegal River. In 2010, no manatees have been found stranded in the dam's canals.

- A network for the monitoring of manatees along the West African coast is now in place, providing much needed data on manatee distribution and trends to the region's manatee experts. This information is vital in more effective manatee protection. It will also be used to get the manatee onto the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) list.

Factors contributing to success

- Building a network with key partners and institutions, including the government, local communities, local authorities, NGO partners and opinion leaders.
- Building a positive relationship of trust with communities through face to face meetings.
- Organizing meetings near the sites where manatees had been killed allows the affected communities to actively participate.
- Using the media to raise awareness on the value of the manatee while putting pressure on manatee hunters to stop the hunting.
- Working closely with private institutions such as SAED, the company operating the dam.

THE MANATEE

- Scientific name is Trichechus senegalensis
- There are 4 Sirenian (mermaid-like) species: 3 manatees and 1 dugong. As the least studied of these species, the West African manatee is the «forgotten» species.
- An aquatic mammal that feeds in streams, lagoons and rivers and contributes to the regulation of the aquatic plant life in these waterways.
- Source of many myths and legends and the subject of some hunting rituals.
- Can grow up to 3 meters and weigh 500 kilograms.
- Found along West Africa - as far north as Mauritania, as far south as Angola and as far east as Chad.
- It migrates, depending on the season, between rivers and waterways to feed and reproduce.
- Migration depends on water levels as well as salinity, though the manatee prefers waters that are calm (mid to low level zones of rivers, lakes, lagoons, flood plains and low coastal zones) and cold.

What can you do to protect the manatee?

- Support WIA's efforts to include the manatee in the CITES convention.
- Encourage your leaders to support policies that protect the manatee.
- Whenever you spot a manatee trapped in fishing nets or rice fields, do not kill it. Instead immediately call a wildlife or fishery officer.

ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD FOR MANATEE HUNTERS

Manatee hunters are often traditionally skilled with tools and training passed on from generation to generation. Through continuous discussion and awareness raising several manatee hunters have now put down their tools. WIA is providing these former hunters with alternative income generating skills.

In Senegal, WIA has trained former hunters as Eco-guides, tour guides with basic ecological monitoring skills. They can use their knowledge of the river, its bird varieties and biodiversity in providing information to tourists that visit the area. It also allows them to continue to raise the awareness of the communities on the importance of protecting the endangered manatee.

In Mbankam village in Niumi, Gambia, a former manatee hunter turned manatee protector is now actively supporting the local Wildlife department in the monitoring of manatees. WIA has also provided the local community with a small 15HP engine boat. With the boat provided, the manatee hunters are fishing, carrying out tour guides, monitoring manatees and other species while also sensitizing the communities about the age-old values of the manatee.

In Fogbo, Sierra Leone, hunters in one of the hotspots have created an association to halt the hunting of manatees.

DRY CAKED SOIL INCREASES THE POTENTIAL OF FLOODING.
WIA continues to amplify the voices of vulnerable communities neighbouring wetlands.

Photo courtesy of WIA

MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

ABDOULAYE NDIAYE, Capacity Building Manager

Every winter millions of migratory birds fly through a network of Africa's coastal and inland wetlands. They breed, nest, feed, and shelter their young during their breeding cycles.

Migratory birds are important indicators of environmental quality. For example an increase in birds in a given region can indicate its biological richness. Evidence of a declining bird population in a region may point to another problem present in the habitat, erhaps disappearing food sources or preferred nesting sites.

In the past year, WIA partnered with Birdlife international to build strong African NGO-Government partnerships working on bird conservation. They have built the capacities of these networks to monitor and manage key bird sites. These strengthened networks are now producing new integrated research vital to conserving migratory bird species.

2010 Achievements

- The Annual mid-January water bird census took place with the collaboration of WIA water bird coordinators in over 30 African countries including Benin, Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Gambia; Central African Republic, Kenya and Senegal and many others.
- There is improved bird site management amongst local communities and several wildlife personnel and volunteers have been trained in water bird monitoring and wetland management.
- A strong regional network of critical bird sites is in place and key national stakeholders are now involved in census activities
- Funding for bird surveys in a few West African countries has been secured and these governments are now implementing hunting quotas and developing species action plans.

- 50% of the King royal stern colony breeds on the “Bird island” in Senegal’s Saloum Delta.
- 75% of the global population of the lesser flamingos hatches on Tanzania’s Lake Natron each year.

BIRDS FLYING AWAY IN NAMGA WETLAND IN NAMGA-KOKOROU NIGER.
Wetlands are important breeding sights for birds wintering on the continent.

Photo courtesy of WIA

BUTTERFLIES ARE AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF BIODIVERSITY.
They pollinate millions of wetland plants each year.

Photo courtesy of Fotolia

BIOMAC: EMPOWERING PARTNERSHIPS IN CONSERVATION

MARIAMA DIA, BIOMAC Project Associate

BIOMAC, West Africa's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Network, coordinates the sub-region's species and habitats conservation efforts in marine and coastal ecosystems. Working under the PRCM program (Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Program for West Africa), it covers Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

BIOMAC 2010's successes include:

- A Disaster Rapid response plan that shall operationalize an environmental monitoring system along the coasts of Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone is now available. West Africa's coast is richly bio-diverse but its habitat is now greatly threatened. Cases of marine mammals marooned at the coast, oil spillage that leads to wide-spread pollution as well as destruction of mangroves. A rapid response environmental disaster plan that outlines the necessary steps for the protecting the coast is crucial.

- A gap analysis has identified 7 vital species (water birds, hippos, sawfish, aquatic mammals, green and loggerhead turtles, crustaceans) and 10 habitats (including coral reef, estuaries, mood flats, and sacred sites) that have been forgotten in the region's conservation efforts. BIOMAC is using this analysis to promote synergies in research and conservation actions plans around these species and habitats.

- An online biodiversity resource center is now fully functional and available to all stakeholders. You can use the beta version of the web portal at *http://biomacnetwork.org*. With a common online resource centre for biodiversity, various conservation partners across the region can now exchange information and learn from one another's good practices. It also facilitates better prioritization of future projects.

BIOMAC INFORMATION PORTAL

Visit BIOMAC's resourceful web portal at http://biomacnetwork.org.

BIO-RIGHTS - COMMUNITY MICRO-FINANCE FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION

FATIMA SOW, Communication and Media Coordinator and BAKARY KONE, WIA Mali, National Coordinator

The Approach

Bio-Rights is a financial mechanism that provides micro-credit to local communities in return for their engagement in wetland conservation. This approach to community based natural resource management supports sustainable socio-economic activities by restoring the ecosystems and conserving the biodiversity upon which communities depend for their livelihoods. This increases and diversifys livelihood revenue sources.

Bio-Rights works by providing financial stimulus that allows communities to restore their own ecosystems. For example, a women's group may replant and care for a certain number of trees, entitling them to funds which they use to start a vegetable garden. Alternatively, a village might actively conserve and restore the natural wetland vegetation in its surroundings for which they receive funds to dig a much-needed well. Communities value their surroundings and the resources that wetlands provide, but often face challenges in prioritizing their restoration and protection given immediate socio-economic needs and lack of concrete alternatives. The Bio-Rights approach succeeds in providing an opportunity to care for their environment while simultaneously responding to crucial livelihoods needs.

Bio-Rights - A Good Practice

Wetlands International Africa (WIA) has successfully pioneered the Bio-Rights approach within the Inner Niger Delta for over 5 years. Working in partnership with local authorities, micro-credit institutions (Camec and Kondo Jigima) and NGOs (Care International and Amprode Sahel), WIA has supported 9 IND communities to improve their livelihoods while addressing the growing problem of wetland degradation.

Below is a description of the Bio-Rights process for the Bozo, Bamana and Sofora women's groups:

STEP ONE

WIA joined forces with several national micro-credit institutions (including Camec, Kondo Jigima and Amprode Sahel) that charge low-interest rates and are present throughout the Inner Niger Delta. The mayor, councilors and other government officials were trained on how to integrate Bio-Rights into local community development plans. Public meetings were held to build the understanding of participating communities. In addition, the Ministry of Environment's Water and Forestry departments lent their support. Involving all stakeholders from the start of the process ensured a common understanding and joint objectives.

STEP TWO

Having worked with community leaders to identify the recipient women's groups, WIA mentored the groups in the Bio-Rights concept of repaying micro-credit at a low rate of interest over a period of time. WIA then worked with the women's groups to gain their legal status as community based organizations, officially recognized by the Government. WIA helped the groups to determine how much capital they would need to start small businesses. In turn, they also identified the possible environmental services they could provide, ensuring coherence with local community development plans.

STEP THREE

Once the women's groups had selected activities, WIA deposited the funds with one of the agreed micro-credit institutions. The women's groups signed membership and agreement contracts, which gave them access to funding.

During the first Bio-Rights cycle, Bozo, Bamana and Sofora women's' groups each received 1525, 763 and 5336 respectively. The women's groups used the micro-credit to grow cereal and vegetable gardens, process fish products for sale, and raise poultry among other economic activities. In return for the micro-credit, they planted community tree lots and restored bougoutieres (a local wetland consisting of grass that provides both fodder for cattle and an important habitat for fish-breeding and water birds).

STEP FOUR

WIA monitored the progress of their activities throughout the repayment period, at the end of which the micro-credit institution and the women's group leaders evaluated their conservation efforts. If there was more than a 75% success rate, the women's groups kept the capital of the funds borrowed from and repaid to the micro-credit institution to support future socio-economic activities. For example, one 200 member women's group received 5336 through the Kondo Jigima micro-credit institution. In return, they planted one hectare of land with Tamarus, Mangifera and Acacia trees, successfully caring for the saplings and the ecosystem over time. Their efforts to conserve and restore their ecosystem earned them the right to keep the full amount of the credit awarded to them. In these cases, many of the women's groups choose to entrust the funds to the micro-credit institution for use as future micro-credit or revolving fund capital.

ADVANTAGES OF BIO-RIGHTS

Bio-Rights:

- Is sustainable - in most cases, the women's groups continue to access micro-credit financing without a need to inject new funding.
- Reduces poverty and improves peoples' living conditions by increasing and diversifying income.
- Supports community initiatives for local natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.
- Raises awareness of local actors on the interrelations between their socio-economic activities and management of their natural resources.
- Requires no re-capitalization and its operating costs are low.

A MEMBER OF A WOMEN'S GROUP CARES FOR A TREE IN EXCHANGE FOR MICRO-CREDIT ASSISTANCE.
At least 10 women's groups in Kakagnan, Mali have benefitted from the Bio-rights initiative

Photo courtesy of WIA

MANGROVE REPLANTING IN SENEGAL'S SALOUM DELTA.
Mangroves greatly reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

Photo courtesy of WIA

SEED FUNDING
PROMOTING COMMUNITY LEVEL CONSERVATION IN AFRICA

GABIN AGBLONON, Project Associate

What is Seed Funding?

Seed funds are small grants of maximum 25,000 Euro with the potential to transform the environmental conservation efforts of grassroots organizations. Seed funds aim to stimulate partnerships between community conservation projects and external funding opportunities. They support national or regional level development projects, partnerships and collaborative initiatives to successfully obtain donor funding.

How is WIA promoting community level conservation?

The WIA seed funds enabled grassroots community organizations across Africa to access funding that will:

- Strengthen inter-sectoral partnerships and joint wetlands conservation efforts between development organizations, public or private sector structures and civil society organizations;
- Develop ideas and project concepts that assess political implications of wetlands conservation at a local or regional level;
- Enable access to donor funding that will promote conservation;
- Test ideas and innovative approaches to integrating management of wetlands and poverty reduction for the benefit of the ecosystem and local populations.

In the past year, WIA provided seed funding to 12 different organizations including:

- Benin - ECOECOLO
- Kenya – Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI)
- Kenya - Noomayianat Community Development Organization (NCDO)
- Kenya –Eastern Africa Environmental Network (EAEN)
- Malawi – Malawi Enterprise Association (MALEZA)
- Mali - CAMEC Nationale
- Senegal – Cabinet FORAC
- Sénégal - Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE)
- Uganda - Community Development and Conservation Agency (CODECA)
- Uganda - Joint Ethnobotanical Research and Advocacy (JERA)
- Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique - African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)

For more information on seed-funding achievements visit - http:/afrique.wetlands.org.

Cayar Municipality Environmental Management and Development Plan

- Cayar – coastal town, 50 km north of Dakar, Senegal.
- Population - 15,000
- Livelihoods - at least 80% derived from fishing and small-scale agriculture.
- Total fish catch landing in 2008 - 50,000 metric tons commercially valued at 12 million.
- Major threats - Uncontrolled urbanization causing pressure on water, land, fishery, agricultural and forest resources.
- WIA provided seed funding to the local municipality in collaboration with Cabinet FORAC. As a result, the community of Cayar and its municipal council has adopted a 6 year Cayar Municipality Environmental Management and Development Plan. Already, Cayar's deputy mayor has successfully used the plan to mobilize state funding for road construction, a slaughterhouse and a marketing fair amongst others with a total of 2mllion allocated for the next 6 years.

BUILDING AFRICAN CAPACITIES IN WETLANDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

ABDOULAYE NDIAYE, Capacity Building Manager

WIA set out to offer our partners with basic knowledge and hands-on skills on ecosystem and community based approaches to climate change adaptation. Through this, WIA has begun to build a network of wetlands professionals in Africa.

2010 Achievements

Seven training modules have been reviewed and updated in the areas of: Wetlands and ecosystem based adaptation; Vulnerability and strategic environmental impact assessment; Integration of ecosystems into infrastructure for climate change adaptation; Community based adaptation approaches; Disaster risk reduction and Innovative financing for adaptation to climate change.
The content curriculum was developed in partnership with World Wildlife Fund-US, Conservation International and the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

WIA successfully carried out regional training-of-trainers sessions for selected wetlands practitioners. These trainers have then been able to equip fellow practitioners, policymakers and journalists at the regional, national and local level with the skills necessary to ensure that ecosystem based climate change adaptation is considered in their day to day work and in all development plans and programs.

Good practices contributing to success

• Training-of-trainers has led to national and community level dissemination of wetlands knowledge and skills across the continent while guaranteeing course-ownership and thus sustainability of the training modules.

• The trainings supported the development of individual and group work plans following up relevant wetlands themes, such as in Nigeria where groups developed a framework to mainstream ecosystem, climate change and community based adaptation into the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action. The cross learning dialogue for West Africa's agricultural journalists network also resulted in individual commitments while the RAMCEA wetlands centre was technically supported in the creation of its regional capacity building plan.

• Training centers', such as African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD), have fully integrated wetlands modules into their course programme and work is ongoing to help Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC) and Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI) finalize the process as well.

TRAINING STATISTICS

121 people were trained in national courses that took place in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria. These included 27 trainers, 57 practitioners, 20 policy makers and at least 17 journalists from across Africa. The training courses were carried out in partnership with the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) in Nairobi, Kenya and the Centre for African Wetlands in Accra, Ghana.

In addition, 18 decision makers trained on wetlands management in partnership with the Niger Basin Authority; 28 civil society representatives from the Niger Basin region trained on infrastructure and advocacy; 32 community-level partners trained in IWRM and wetlands management; 12 Kimana wetlands association members trained in Wetlands management; 145 Malawian farmers trained in wetland management and the FLA, including sessions on wood-lot management and climate change.

PARTICIPANTS AT A CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION TRAINING SESSION IN NAIROBI, KENYA.
Wetlands practitioners provide much needed information and perspectives on climate change within our wetland ecosystems.

Photo courtesy of WIA

Photo courtesy of WIA

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON A FIELD TRIP DURING THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE IN KAMPALA, UGANDA.
WIA is committed to building policy makers' capacities to address wetland challenges.

POLICIES THAT PROTECT WETLANDS

PAPA MAWADE WADE, Regional Policy Advisor

In 2010, WIA's policy team focused on influencing local, national and regional as well as international policies on wetland management, biodiversity and climate change.

2010 achievements

International

- 15th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun, Mexico - Secured a tentative board agreement for a 2011 Social Exclusion Analyses review; Recognition of wetlands management principles and Adoption of the community based climate change adaptation tool;
- Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) - Successfully Integrated freshwater perspectives into the 2011-2021 targets.
- Stockholm Water Week– Provided inputs on wetlands, health and decision making on river basin infrastructures, drawing examples from the Inner Niger Delta.
- African Ministers Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) Bamako, Mali - Recognition of ecosystem-based adaptation in the Bamako Declaration, described by UNEP as 'the continent's new road map for sustainable development and basis for strengthening the common negotiating position on climate change and biological diversity.'
- Africa Water Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Lobbied for an integrated approach to water resource management within Water, Sanitation and Health infrastructure.
- PRCM (West African Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Program) in Noaukchott, Mauritania - A sub-regional charter on sustainable mangrove management and a West African Ministerial declaration on mangroves and climate change.

Local

- Inner Niger Delta, Mali - A review of the Sustainable development program that now includes integrated water resource management, sustainable wetlands management and biodiversity conservation perspectives: Development of a civil society 2011-2015 Malian Strategic Advocacy Action plan;
- Guinea-Bissau – The approval of legal statutes that govern the national climate change committee.

MANGROVE CHARTER: SIX WEST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS COMMIT TO MANGROVE CONSERVATION

On June 30th 2010, six West African governments signed a charter committing them to the protection of the sub-region's mangroves. Mauritania's Minister of Environment presided over the Charter signing ceremony alongside his peers, the Gambian and Guinea-Bissau Ministers of Environment as well as Senegal, Guinea and Sierra Leonean Ministerial representatives. The Mangrove Charter features country-specific action plans with detailed activities to be undertaken to restore the mangrove ecosystem in the coming years.

The signing is a breakthrough realized after three years of continued lobbying by PRCM environmental organizations that include Wetlands International and IUCN. The 3 year West African Mangrove Initiative (IMAO) aims to identify ways and means to mitigate mangrove degradation. IMAO's projects also tackle reforestation, improved income for communities as well as organization of wide consultations for concerted and sustainable management.

We hope that these positive results bring an end to the deforestation of mangroves along the coast. WIA applauds this huge effort to harmonize national policies and looks forward to large-scale restoration, conservation and wise use of resources in these six African nations.

FINANCIALS IN THOUSAND EUROS - Summary of Income and Expenditures

INCOME
Actual 2010
3,264 €

Actual 2009
2,028 €

Project Income
Actual 2010
2,620 €

Actual 2009
1,741 €

Institutional Income
Actual 2010
490 €

Actual 2009
246 €

Other Income
Actual 2010
154 €

Actual 2009
41 €

EXPENDITURES
Actual 2010
3,264 €

Actual 2009
2,028 €

Project Costs
Actual 2010
2,057 €

Actual 2009
1,253 €

Institutional Costs
Actual 2010
527 €

Actual 2009
276 €

Account receivables
Actual 2010
208 €

Actual 2009
146 €

Provisions
Actual 2010
172 €

Actual 2009
299 €

Cash and Bank
Actual 2010
300 €

Actual 2009
54 €

LIST OF 2010 PROJECTS

IMAO

West African Mangrove Initiative

Donors

MAVA Foundation

Freshwater Biodiversity

Ecosystem based approaches to management of Africa's water resources

Donors

European Union and IUCN

WOW

Wings Over Wetlands

Donors

GEF UNEP, German Govenment, AEWA, RAMSAR, European Commission, National Wildlife Office, France, Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden, Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, France, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape - BUWAL

PRCM

Establishing Marine protected areas in Sierra Leone.
Conserving West Africa's Manatees and, BIOMAC - supporting partnerships amongst environmental organizations along West Africa's coast.

Donors

Netherlands Embassy in Senegal and Spanish Embassy in Senegal

Wetlands and Livelihoods Program (WLP)

Bringing wetlands, livelihood and environment issues into policy and practice through inter-sectoral planning and effective and sustainable measures on the ground.

Donors

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)

WETWIN

Enhancing the role of wetlands in integrated water resource management for twinned river basins in the EU, Africa and South America in support of EU water initiatives.

Donors

European Union

REDDIN

Donors

Swedish Embassy in Mali and IUCN

Strengthening coastal wetland initiatives in the framework of PRCM

Strengthening WI to develop and implement partnership initiatives in the framework of PRCM.

Donors

MAVA Foundation

MEET **OUR** BOARD

SENEGAL - *Amadou Moctar Niang - CHAIR*

Moctar Niang brings with him decades of experience in the environmental sector. Previously he was for 15 years the General Manager of the Ecological Monitoring Centre (CSE) dedicated to ecological data observation in Senegal. He has also been National Director of the Soil Conservation and Reforestation Agency, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research (ISRA), and Project Director for the Reforestation Project of Senegal.

Mr. Niang studied Forest Engineering and Environmental Studies. He holds a management degree from CESAG.

SIERRA LEONE - *Haddijatou Jallow*

Haddijatou Jallow is the Executive Chairperson of the Sierra Leone Environment Protection Agency (SLEPA). She previously held various key positions with the Sierra Leone Defense Office and the Department of State for Justice in The Gambia.

Madame Jallow specializes in Environmental Law (LLM, George Washington University, Washington) and International Law and Diplomacy (M.I.L.D, University of Lagos, Nigeria).

She has also authored two Human Rights publications.

SENEGAL - *Ibrahima Thiam*

Ibrahima Thiam is the Africa Director of Wetlands International. Previously, Ibrahima served as regional director for the program of Oxfam America in West Africa and as a program manager at World Vision International. He also worked as a consultant and has founded a consulting company to serve nonprofit organizations.

Ibrahima Thiam holds a Master's degree in rural economics and planning from the Russian Friendship University and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

UNITED KINGDOM - *Jane Madgwick*

Jane Madgwick has been the CEO of Wetlands International since 2004. Madame Madgwick's position in Wetlands International follows seven years working on freshwater and wetlands for WWF in Europe, Australia and globally plus ten years as Conservation Director of a multiple use wetland in the UK. Earlier she was an ecological researcher working in Somalia, Belize, Yemen and Australia.

She graduated with a BSc in Human and Environmental Biology from York University and an MSc in Conservation from the University College of London.

TANZANIA - *Professor Andrew Barde Gidamis*

Prof Gidamis has been the CEO of the African Institute for Capacity and Development (AICAD), based in Jomo Kenyatta University in Kenya, for the past 7 years.

He holds a Ph.D. in Agriculture (Biotechnology) from Kyoto University, Japan, a M.Sc. (Food Science), University of Reading, UK and a B.Sc. (Agriculture),majoring in Food Science and Technology from Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania.

FRANCE - *Thierry Senechal*

Thierry Senechal is the Policy Manager and Partnership Director at the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). He is an economist and public administration specialist by training with particular expertise in public financial management and strategic planning for public organizations.

Thierry Senechal holds degrees from Columbia University (B.A., Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa), Harvard University (M.P.A.) and MIT (M.B.A.).

WHO **IS** WHO IN **THE** WETLANDS **TEAM**

NAME	FUNCTION
AFRICA HEADQUATERS	
Ibrahima Thiam	Regional Director
Abdoulaye Ndiaye	Capacity Building Manager
Assitou Ndinga	Project Manager
Emma Greatrix	Project Manager
Fatima Haby Sow	Communication and Media Coordinator
Fatou Mbengue Guenoune	Regional Administrator
Mamadou Niane	Project Manager
Papa Mawade Wade	Policy Advisor
Ruthpearl Wanjiru Ng'ang'a	Communications and Campaigns Officer
Gabin Agblonon	Project Associate
Mariama Dia	Project Associate
Momar Sow	Project Associate
Nicole Richardson	Project Development Associate
Richard Dacosta	Project Associate
Salimata Diallo Diop	Finance Associate
Abdoulaye Gaye Diop	Finance Associate
Maïmouna Tall	Executive Assistant
Aissatou Badiane	Administrative Assistant
Sira Diatta	IT Assistant
Ousmane Sane	Driver / Messenger
Momar Wade	Driver / Messenger
Ramatoulaye Diatta	Office Support
Souleymane Diagana	Office Support
Fatou Ndior	Chef
SIERRA LEONE	
Sheikh Sowa	Project Coordinator
Lynette E. H. John	Project officer
Yatta H. Kamara	Project officer
Thomas O. Turay	Community Liason officer
Mohamed Conteh	Community Liason officer

NAME	FUNCTION
MALI	
Bakary Koné	National Coordinator
Idrissa Maiga	Deputy Coordinator
Almoustaphe Maiga	Project Manager
Mori Diallo	Project Assistant
Karamoko Sanogo	Hydrological Officer
Madame Traoré	Finance Officer
Assitan Sangare	Finance Officer
Togola, Fatoumata Doumbia	Secretary
Mamane Diallo	Driver / Messenger
Ongoiba Hamédine	Guard
GUINEA-BISSAU	
Joãozinho Sá	National Director
Hamilton Monteiro	Technical Officer
Jose Valdemiro Rodigues	Project Officer
Inocencia da Silva	Accountant
Mario Sa	Driver
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Oliver Nasirwa	Sub-Regional Waterbird Officer

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Photography courtesy of the Wetlands International Africa Image Bank and Fotolia.

http://africa.wetlands.org - wetlands@orange.sn


WIA Office lunches


Laurinda and Innoncia


Middle, Fatima Sow and Abdoulaye Diop


Ibrahima Thiam

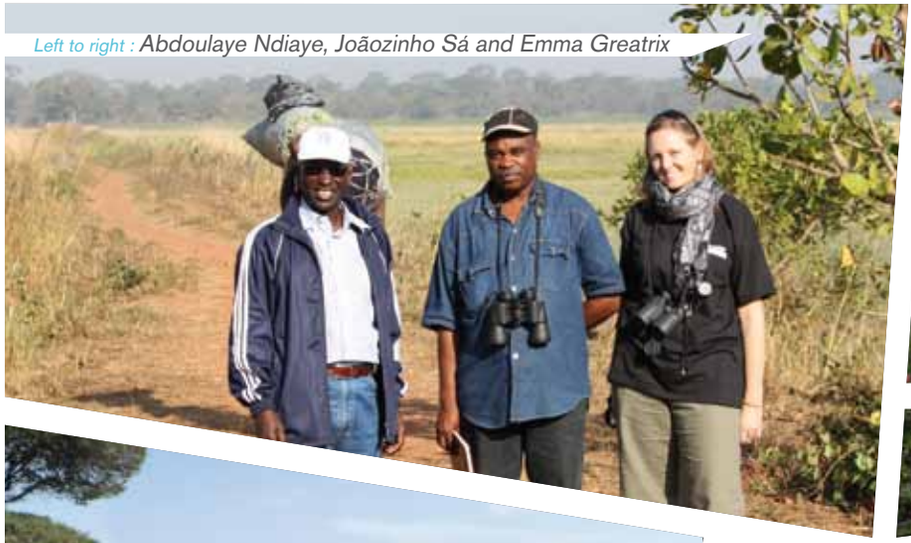

Left to right : Aissatou Badiane, Ndeye Fatou Gueye and Salimata Diallo Diop

Karamoko Sanogo, Idrissa Maiga and Mori Diallo


Fatou Guenoune and Assitan Traore


Left to right : Abdoulaye Diop, Sane and Momar Wade


Bakary Koné



Left to right : Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Joãozinho Sá and Emma Greatrix

WIA Strategic Review Workshop in Naivasha, Kenya

Wetlands practioners at a Training Workshop

Sierra Leoeneans on an exchange visit to the Joal Marine Protected Area in Senegal.

Momar Sow and Mariama Dia

Ramatoulaye, Souleymane and Fatou

Richard Dacosta and Gabin Agblonon

Fatima Sow at a community meeting in Mali

Yatta Kamara and Lynette John

Left to right : Ibrahima Thiam, Ruthpearl Ng'ang'a and Mamadou Niane

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