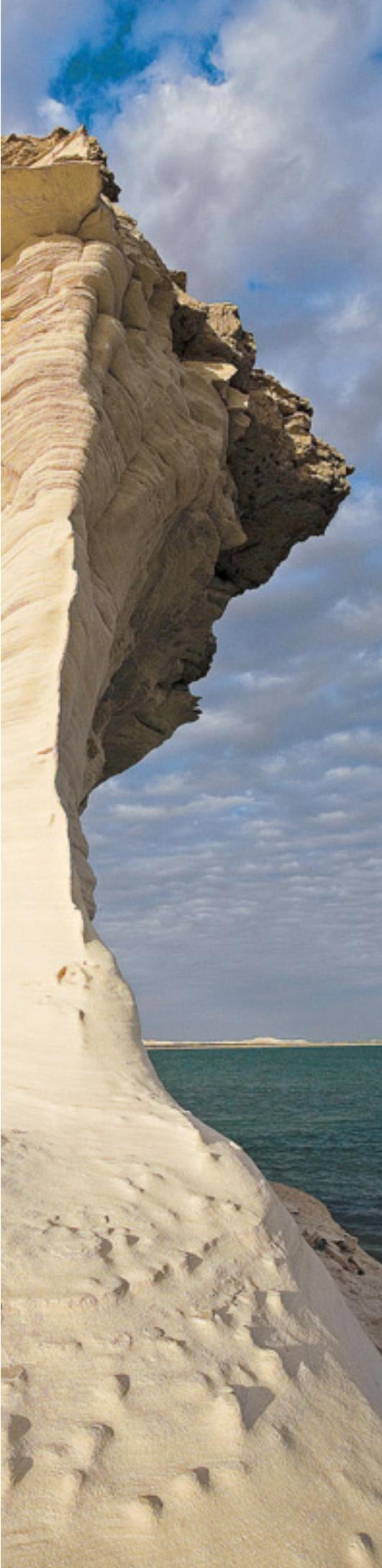




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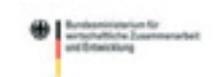
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CLIMATE: CHRONICLE OF A FOREWARNED CATAclySM

Ibrahim Thiaw – Regional Director, IUCN West Africa

No more burrying one's head in the sand: nobody can pretend anymore ignoring the risks that our planet is running in the face of the multiple ecologic challenges which are accumulating.

As far as environmentalists were the only ones to vigorously denounce the ecologic scandal, scepticism and doubt prevailed, their shouts of alarm on the dangers of climate change were considered as inflated. Then progressively, well-advised politicians, having understood the importance of the environmental stakes rallied the appeals of researchers: the chorus, thereby, becoming louder, more powerful and stronger. Today, economists, who have also joined in, demonstrate, with supportive figures, the disastrous consequences that climate change will have on world growth in the medium term.

Besides the chronicle of a forewarned cataclysm, we equally register an unfair retribution. Indeed, today, in Africa, variability and climate change phenomena have also taken as dramatic as recurrent turns. Specialists are unanimous: while Africa contributes the less to the emission of greenhouse gases, it is the continent which will suffer the most from climate change. Droughts, floods, degradation of soils, decrease of agriculture yields are some of the consequences that the continent is severely living through. Several reliable studies demonstrate

the correlation between rainfall and economic development: years of poor repetitive rainfalls have led to the noticeable decreases in the economic growth of several African countries.

Another risk, maybe, is the spectre of a brother-will-turn-on-brother world. Population movements related to climate change are a factor of violent incidents between neighbouring tribes or groups in Africa; groups which used to live peacefully. It is the case in Darfur, but also in Somalia, with regards to the exploitation of the available natural resources. In West Africa, Tuareg conflicts as well as other conflicts which are less under the spotlight of the media but are as deadly as others such as between farmers and livestock herdsman, are accounted in this register. On the other hand, some people think that three African countries out of four are in an «instable» area where the decrease of rainfalls might lead to a strong decrease of the level of river waters.

At the global level, the forecasts of specialists indicate that the raise of the sea level might lead to the disappearance of several towns, that is to say thousands of houses and jobs. Up to 200 million people could be affected and become ecological refugees. The highly regarded Sir Nicholas Stern, a former senior economist at the World Bank, came to the conclusion, in a study conducted on the account of the British Government, that climate change can lead to a downfall of 20% of the global economic production. 7,500 billions of dollars: that is what climate warming might cost to the global economy, *that is to say, more than both world wars which devastated the XXth century*, some voices say.



Thus, more than ever, the future of the sustainability of our environment is in the agenda. Considering the worldwide realisation of the climate change phenomena and their consequences on the world, one can only hope that all Governments, even those who persist in refusing to join the Kyoto Protocol, will finally face the fact: for preserving the future of present and coming generations, the time to act is now.

In this regard, in 2006, the IUCN office in West Africa (IUCN-BRAO), as per its mission and vision, has strengthened several initiatives which enhance the conservation of our natural resources: improved management of ecosystems and protected areas; alternatives to mass-consumed products drawn from nature (the *Allanblackia* in lieu of palm oil, for instance); the involvement of parliamentary authorities in the preservation of biodiversity; valuing traditional techniques for poverty alleviation... Considering the multitude of initiatives taken throughout the world – by IUCN and others -, hope is permitted, in the middle, however, of a mountain of uncertainties.



ALLANBLACKIA, A PROMISING BRIDGE BETWEEN POVERTY REDUCTION AND FOREST CONSERVATION IN GHANA

*By Samuel Kofi Nyame - Coordinator Allanblackia Project, IUCN-Ghana,
et Martin Nganje - Acacia Programme Coordinator, IUCN West Africa*

A novel non timber forest product with a potential for increased industrial transformation and global use

Ghana's rainforests are home to Allanblackia trees, a hitherto unknown species whose seeds, after extraction from pods, can be crushed to produce oil. Oil from the species may be used as a substitute for palm oil to produce commercial products such as margarine and soaps.

Ghana is the first country from where Allanblackia seeds are being processed. The business started in 2002 as a unique public-private partnership (PPP) involving the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Unilever – a global multinational company, the World Agro-Forestry Centre (ICRAF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and a number of governmental agencies, civil society organisations in Africa and Ghana, and local communities; all in a bid to take action on global trade and environment related commitments. The partnership initiated the project titled: “Allanblackia: Standard setting and sustainable supply chain management”. The primary goal of the partnership is to ensure success of the novelty project from seed collection by local com-

munities through processing to marketing, by investigating and promoting aspects related to its social acceptability, environmental sustainability and financial viability.

It was launched in Ghana in March 2005 with an initial duration of three years. It essentially investigates the socio-economic, ecological and species related impacts of the commercialization of Allanblackia with the intention of providing instruments that will ensure sustainable harvesting as well as the equitable sharing of benefits among stakeholders. The project is funded by SECO and implemented by IUCN through its members i.e., the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) and the Institute of Cultural Affairs Ghana (ICA-Ghana) and partners i.e., Technoserve, Unilever and SNV. This implementation approach by IUCN, seeks to strengthen and develop the capacity of its members and partners.

Concretely, the project pursues three overall goals:

- 1) To develop guidelines expected to direct activities in all parts of the Allanblackia supply chain,
- 2) To ensure that the supply chain is managed in a sustainable way, and
- 3) To ascertain that local actors in Ghana have the capacity eventually to take over the supply chain.

The development objective of the project is to promote sustainable development and trade in Allanblackia oil as a contribution towards national



economic development by diversifying income sources to improve the livelihood of poor rural communities and foster sustainable biodiversity conservation and management in Ghana. The specific objective of the project is to promote instruments i.e., “Best Practice Guidelines,” that will ensure sustainable harvesting of Allanblackia as well as equitable sharing of benefits among stakeholders especially rural poor communities whose primary role is the collection and selling of Allanblackia seeds.

Allanblackia and forest biodiversity conservation

The Allanblackia tree is common in the wild and frequently used as shade on cocoa farms. However, hybrid cocoa that thrives without shade is increasingly replacing the traditional varieties leading to shade trees being removed from farms. Such a threat is in check as this project and another initiative in Ghana by Conservation International i.e., “*Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity in Cocoa Production Landscapes in West Africa*” promotes Allanblackia as one of its target species thereby saving a large number of the trees whose marketable seeds will further provide the motivation for it to be left on farms. Moreover the increasing interest to plant Allanblackia seedlings on existing cocoa farms is an indication of the willingness by communities to improve their landscape, forest and biodiversity conservation and generate additional income to improve their welfare.

Allanblackia provides a unique opportunity to use a native tree species with environmental and economic benefits to restore degraded forest landscapes in Ghana. It should be mentioned that Ghana like many tropical countries, experienced a period of shortage of exotic species plantations resulting in negative consequences for local biodiversity and livelihoods. The thick and hard bark of the Allanblackia tree makes it relatively resistant against forest fires. The species is consequently



valued by communities in the semi-deciduous forest landscapes for its capacity to reduce the risk of fires. Also, *Allanblackia* casts only a minimal shade with its narrow crown and is relatively difficult to eliminate as it sprouts easily. Smallholder involvement in *Allanblackia* planting can help enhance the integrity of forest landscapes even as incorporating the species into farming systems will contribute to improved landscape connectivity. In order to maximize the beneficial effects on the environment, a mixture of tree species including *Allanblackia* will be planted along roadsides, in fallow lands, degraded forests, steep plots and cleared riverbanks.

The use of *Allanblackia* in forest landscape restoration while being beneficial may generate risks to biodiversity if not well managed. Risks include the possibility of over-harvesting seed sources with negative impacts on the regeneration of the species, transforming *Allanblackia* into a plantation tree contrary to the objectives of the current project, and the possibility of habitat disturbance by seed collectors a phenomenon unfavourable for wildlife conservation. These risks can be minimised by promoting legislation that favours the sustainable use of *Allanblackia* along with other natural resources, enhances livelihood security and forest governance, promotes species which are dependent on *Allanblackia* fruits and seeds e.g. brush-tailed porcupine, assessing impacts on other species before introducing the tree into new areas for restoration purposes, promoting natural and artificial *Allanblackia* regeneration to compensate for the eventual decline of other species resulting from loss of seed input into the ecosystem, and ensuring that the use of *Allanblackia* does not eradicate the local gene pool of species on the landscape.

Allanblackia and livelihood enhancement

The *Allanblackia* project is a careful blend of the resources, expertise and interests of public, private and community organisations to pursue a commercial and developmental agenda that is beneficial to all parties based on respect, trust, commit-

ment and a strong orientation towards the future. *Allanblackia* seeds are already bringing additional income to rural poor communities. Poor families which were unable to meet certain basic needs currently feel relieved as they are able to provide some of such needs with revenue from the sale of *Allanblackia* seeds. A healthy mature tree produces as much as 40 kg of seeds, which after processing, yields about 12 kg of oil for which the small-scale farmer will earn US\$4.00. More trees mean more income.

In conclusion, the *Allanblackia* tree is now combining the attributes of forestry with the productive characteristics of agriculture. Using the species in agrarian systems provides an opportunity to improve incomes at the small farm scale as well as check environmental degradation through the aerial cover it provides on the farm and landscape scales.



TOWARDS A WEST AFRICA DIALOGUE ON FORESTS

By Martin Nganje - Acacia programme Coordinator, IUCN West Africa

A dynamic regional framework with adapted packages of tested and approved approaches and processes on how forests can effectively contribute to the generation of wealth and the alleviation of poverty in West Africa.

The West Africa dry and moist forest ecosystem is located between the equator and the 8th parallel in an area referred as Africa's land of sunshine. According to recent FAO and ITTO statistics, the ecosystem covered an area of 1,299,310 km² in 2005 in sixteen countries¹ with a population of 260 million inhabitants. The role of this ecosystem on the welfare of West African States and communities, and its importance on global environmental processes cannot be underestimated. Recent information from the above sources has revealed that domestic energy consumption alone, accounted for the extraction of 172,225,000 m³ of wood from this ecosystem in 2005. Also, contrary to the cataclysmic scenario predicted by some writers, West Africa's forest and woodland sector continued to contribute significantly to the Gross National Product (GNP) of countries of the sub-region, ranking between 2nd and 5th in its contribution to their foreign exchange earnings.

Côte d'Ivoire alone, netted USD 311,292,000 US dollars from timber sales in 2004 even as the sector accounted for up to 313,000 contracted and paid employees at the sub-regional scale in 2000. At the biodiversity level, the ecosystem is renowned for its species dynamism. It hosts the most behaviourally evolved group of chimpanzees in their natural setting on our planet, and includes flagships such as the West African Giraffe, the Pygmy Hippo, the West African Manatee, and the forest and savannah Elephants. The level of endemism attained by mammals, vertebrates, birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants of this ecosystem has been rated by experts as exceptional even as it continues to turn up new species. For example, after the discovery of *Hyperolius nienokouensis*, a species of frog new to science in 1997, two new species, one of a frog and another of a snake turned up between the forests of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia in 2001.

Why a dialogue on forests?

The inevitable link between forest degradation and accentuating poverty

Poverty has been described as the greatest threat to political stability, social cohesion and environmental health. Nowhere is this statement better verified than in West Africa, where the wealth of virtually all States and the livelihood of communities depend on the sub-region's degrading natural and especially its forest resources. West Africa consequently registers the most frequent civil conflicts in Africa with eight of the sub-region's sixteen countries rated among the poorest on earth. This forest

¹ Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Nigeria, Togo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Niger and Cape Verde.



resource dependency has been recognised by governments of the sub-region manifested by their signing and ratifying United Nations' conventions with specifications on forest biodiversity, such as; the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Humid Areas, and the Convention on Desertification. Most countries of the sub-region have also conceived forest policies and programmes and promulgated forest laws currently at different stages of execution. Notwithstanding this progress, numerous problems persist: the value of forest products needs to be better appraised and exploited, expertise in forest governance needs to be improved, forest policies better coordinated, results of international forestry meetings better exploited, isolated and sporadic interventions better coordinated through participatory planning at national and regional levels, and the impacts of intensive and commercial undertakings on forest environments better assessed. As a result, the contribution of forests to wealth creation and to the economy of the countries of the sub-region remains relatively low, poorly accounted for and generally undervalued.

It is within this back-drop that IUCN is facilitating the development of a West Africa dialogue on forests in consultation with the Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS, the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA), the Permanent Inter-state Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations Organisation (FAO), the International Institute for Research in Agro-Forestry (ICRAF), the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Wide Fund for nature (WWF), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa



(NESDA) and others. The objective of the dialogue process is to use documented and adapted experiences within and out of the region to identify and appropriately package processes that will improve the efficiency of forests in alleviating poverty in West Africa.

During the dialogue proposal meeting organised by IUCN in Ouagadougou in July 2006, it was agreed that on-going institutional integration processes advocated by ECOWAS and UEMOA should be accompanied by harmonised and coordinated forest management taking account of all ecological zones, from the dry forests of the Sahel to the moist forests of the Gulf of Guinea, and to embrace novel approaches such as: local culture, research results and a regional dimension to forestry training.

Way forward

Guided by equity, transparency and accountability, the forest dialogue process is essentially a vehicle in which ideas are refined, juxtapositioned initiatives are ordered, controversies are harmonised and capacity enhanced using the process of comparative advantage.

Experiences from similar regional frameworks shared during the dialogue proposal meeting revealed how national government agencies responsible for forests and wildlife, forest research centres, universities, protected area agencies, civil society organisations and others have benefited through networks initiated and facilitated by such dialogue processes to share experiences and achieve synergy. The road-map proposed for advancing the West Africa dialogue on forests includes amongst others: the development and presentation of advocacy documents in support of the process in an upcoming West Africa environmental policy conference to be organised by ECOWAS and UEMOA before the end of 2006, and the invitation of principal partners and stakeholder representatives for a more comprehensive planning session of the dialogue process to take place between December 2006 and January 2007.

The forest dialogue process is under refinement by IUCN and partners and will necessarily take account the following:

- Policies, including economic policies the objectives of which may be contradictory to forest policy orientations.
- Results from field projects, forest research and research results of related sectors, and cultural aspects of forest management in the development of forest policies.
- Support for good forest governance with the aim of instituting an attitude and culture of good management, transparency and accountability.
- Support of institutional capacity development at all levels such as through organised experience sharing forums and networking.
- Support to effective management of protected areas and community forests using processes such as networks of experts, network of protected area agencies and related programmes.
- Promotion of strong partnerships and networks through a trust-building programme.
- Harmonisation of approaches for settling displaced persons in forest areas in collaboration with the United Nations agencies responsible for this aspect.





A REGIONAL EVALUATION PROCESS ON THE EFFICIENCY OF PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA COMING SOON:

By Geoffroy Mauvais – Programme Officer for Protected Areas, IUCN West Africa

The efficiency of protected areas is today a concept placed at the top of the international conservation agenda.

These last years have witnessed an increase in the surface areas dedicated to nature preservation on land and, more and more, on sea. The increase in the resources allocated in order for protected areas to get within reach of the objectives outlined in international forums like the Convention on Biologic Diversity has also been privileged. The emphasis now lies on evaluating and monitoring the impacts that these territories have had with these additional resources, as their impacts are the most relevant evidence for assessing their actual efficiency (see box 1).

Box 1 : Management Efficiency, a priority target for conservation

IUCN's World Commission for Protected areas (WCPA) makes a certain number of statements on the status of protected areas in the world:

- Capacities to manage protected areas are weak in several countries, and must be improved

- Democratisation of communities, which includes the decentralisation and the accountability of the authority over protected areas, gives the opportunity to local authorities, indigenous peoples and local communities to be more directly involved. Several governance models are emerging, of which we must make the most of
- Policy and strategic decision-makers like the managers of protected areas often make choices based on inaccurate information. More often than not, they are still making decisions alone, without learning from current and past best practices.

Hence, the World Park Congress (Durban 2003) has set up a list of 15 priority objectives to achieve, especially the following:

- objective 3: the management of protected areas is reviewed in such a way that they contribute to poverty alleviation and does not make it worse, at any rate
- objective 6 : all protected areas have an efficient management system set up
- objective 7: capacities for effective management exist in all protected areas
- objective 8: all protected areas are managed in the respect of the rights of local populations
- and objective 13: all countries have set up efficient governance systems for protected areas.



The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has made the management of protected areas one of its key priorities, and more particularly outlines the need to:

- develop and implement, for all Sub-Saharan African countries, a management system for protected areas meeting the environmental and socio-economic needs of each one of them,
- creating a database related to all protected areas on the continent which will be based in Africa, in order to support the activities identified by African countries as priorities (on the basis of existing databases like BDMAP)
- reinforcing the management of biodiversity on the continent through perfected trainings, the development of policies and institutions and a planning system,
- setting up and supporting a network of scientists, practitioners of protected areas, experts, by formulating policies as a forum for exchanging ideas, experiences and influencing policies.

At last, the Work Programme on protected areas, adopted by the Convention on Biologic Diversity, during its 6th Conference of Parties (in Kuala Lumpur, in 2004), foresees four principal axes of work which explicitly make reference to the implementation of the evaluation of protected area management systems to assess the progresses achieved and allow monitoring.

There is a worldwide method for evaluating the efficiency of the protected areas (see box 2) set up during the last ten years by various influential stakeholders in the field of conservation (WWF, World Bank, UNESCO ...) under the coordination of the Global Commission for Protected Areas of the IUCN. This shared methodology allows for the comparison of results obtained during evaluations, whatever the specific method used according to the sites and settings.

Box 2 : Efficiency and protected areas

“Evaluation of efficiency“ is to be understood as a way of:

- a) Measuring the *performance* of a protected area and its outskirts (or a system of protected areas) in relation to its *raison d'être*
 - b) Taking appropriate and progressive decisions pertaining to that performance, and bringing the context of the protected area to evolve
 - c) Improving goal-reaching, subsequently
 - d) Being accountable to all partners (including local partners) on the management of protected areas
- 1) The performance of the protected area (or system of protected areas) is concerned with its results and impacts, which include its traditional duties of conservation, environmental education, recreational and so forth, but equally its cultural, social and economic responsibilities.
 - 2) The setting is the implementation framework for the management of the protected area (or system of protected areas). It is not rigidly set and should evolve at the pace of knowledge and in line with the vocation of protected areas.
 - 3) The objectives are the same as those identified in the process leading to the designation of the protected area as such and planning targets, etc.. They depend on the means and inputs that the territory is benefiting from. But beside this, they include all the duties earlier mentioned which managers do not necessarily take into account.
 - 4) The evaluation allows one to measure the benefits (or costs) resulting from the management of a protected area and to make a comparison with the efforts undertaken in that direction by the manager, by donors, by the people... This measuring is also the basis for the identification of any additional means required.



On the basis of this method, BRAO is currently developing an effective system for evaluating the efficiency of the protected areas in West Africa (see box 3) as a way of contributing to the improvement of the governance method of natural resources in general, and their contribution to the relevant communities, in particular.

This system relies on the establishment of a series of “peer” reviews, that is, conducted by multidisciplinary volunteering evaluators from the sub-region. They will be performed in countries willing to engage in that process and would concern all the categories in protected areas: categories I to VI of the IUCN. A steering group has been set up to work at including that approach into the prospect of global capacity building (at the level of the sites, of the systems, of the evaluators ...). This pool will validate the evaluations and will identify innovative solutions to address possible shortcomings, and then will watch over their implementation. It will consider ahead the thinking for certifying protected areas in the longer run.



In the short term, BRAO will help: put in place tools, methods and resource persons for the evaluation and monitoring of the efficiency evaluations of protected areas in West Africa; sensitise all decision-makers on the need to adopt this approach; and train managers of protected areas in the use of this new approach.

In the medium term, the efficiency audits of a representative number of protected areas of the sub-region will be conducted, and it will disseminate the results and related recommendations, while offering the possibility of implementing the first innovative actions deemed relevant.

Finally, in the long term, it is BRAO’s ambition to help initiate a framework for issuing a label or authenticating a representative number of protected areas of the sub-region as per each IUCN category, on the basis of the monitoring/evaluation that will be developed; and to facilitate the dissemination of best practices out of these territories (and from their outskirts). These protected areas should serve as model and pilot areas for all the others, and represent budding innovation centres aimed at improving management methods (including a participatory approach).

The aim is finally to create a virtuous circle allowing the best protected areas to be recognized as such, to disseminate their experiences, to benefit from them and to progress even more, and to incite others to engage in reforms that will eventually allow them to claim that recognition; improving protected areas, as years go by...

Box 3 : BRAO’s programme for evaluating protected areas

The four main objectives of the programme developed by BRAO are as follows :

- 1) **DEVELOPING SKILLS:** It is a question of progressively putting in place tools and capacities to measure the efficiency of the management of protected areas in West Africa, and thereby helping improve their management methods
- 2) **EVALUATING A SAMPLE OF PROTECTED AREAS:** BRAO will implement targeted evaluations (and ensure monitoring, later on) of the efficiency of pilot protected areas that could serve as examples for the whole sub-region
- 3) **PROMOTING CHANGE:** the evaluation will provide a situation analysis and ways of making things better. BRAO will then provide a medium for developing these enticing and innovative solutions in the region.
- 4) **SHARING EXPERIENCES:** on the basis of these actions, it will be a matter of organizing networks, communicating and disseminating the results of the evaluations and ensuring that the examples developed are taken into account by all the stakeholders in protected areas.

In 2006, efforts were especially made in the way of reinforcing CMAP (adherence of new members, internal communication, updating of databases on the protected areas) and the first training session of expert-evaluators through workshops organized in Ouagadougou (May) and in Nairobi (November). A global programme of evaluation of the efficiency of the management of the protected areas has been proposed to various donors.



THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS OF SENEGAL TAKES SHAPE

By Matar DIOUF - Programme Coordinator, IUCN-Senegal

After analysing the situation of protected areas, the experts gathered at the World Park Congress (Durban 2003), have estimated that the ability of these sites to preserve biodiversity and the environmental, social and economic services were threatened by various factors of change at local, national and global levels. They had therefore recommended the formulation of national strategies for the management of protected areas.

In Senegal, the creation of protected areas started since the colonial period with the introduction of classified forests, followed by the creation of national parks and reserves in the 1970's and, more recently, with the decentralization the concept of community protected areas was born.

Public authorities' efforts in the area of ecosystem conservation have allowed Senegal to dispose of a network of seven national parks and reserves and of 200 classified forests. Except for the creation of the community reserves, the creation of all other protected areas were accompanied by tension between governmental authorities and populations living in these sites. According to the perception of technicians and lawmakers who were then in charge of the creation of the protected areas, no human activity was permitted in these sites meant for being sanctuaries for the conservation of biodiversity.

The authorities, who were ambitioning to create a network of protected areas in various eco-geographic areas of Senegal, started a process of displacement of villages located in the targeted sites. These displacements met with a strong opposition of the populations involved and with a resistance to

the government project. In spite of that opposition, the decrees creating the protected areas have been signed.

Today, the persisting view that these protected areas are State owned property and the lack of adequate resources have allowed for abuses which are partly the cause of the advanced degradation of these sites. The 2, 519, 000 ha theoretically covered by classified forests are seriously damaged to such an extent that some of them have almost become barren areas.

The management of these protected areas, in their socio-economic and eco-geographic context, requires the setting of a framework of planning and of a strategy of intervention integrating all the dimensions conditioning their conservation. Without these reference frameworks for the various stakeholders, confusions and conflicts of interest could affect the conservation of these sites.

Senegal government with the support of IUCN took advantage of the recommendations of the Congress in Durban to initiate a process for the formulation of a national strategy for the management of protected areas.

With the support IUCN Global Commission of Protected, Senegal Office thus helped the national experts to conduct preliminary surveys and has organized a national workshop of information and in the launch of the process for the formulation of the strategy for the management of protected areas. These activities have helped in realising an analysis of the management policy of the protected areas.



Analysis and participative planning at regional level

The process has retained the region as basic area unit for the formulation of the strategy. Discussions and dialogue platforms have been put in place in each of the 11 regions of the country. These platforms are composed of various stakeholders: the technical services of the State, the organizations of the civil society involved in the management of the protected areas, the local authorities, the private and representatives of riparian populations of these sites.

They are in charge of identifying the regional stakes, of defining management options and of proposing regional strategies for protected areas. The results at regional level will be federated at national level.

Already Promising Intermediate Results

These discussions have highlighted interesting examples, the analyses of which are likely to open new ways for the management of these protected areas.

Besides the experience of the game reserve of Popoguine which has been the subject of concession between the State and the co-operative of women of riparian villages and, except for the example of the community marine area of Bamboug managed by a group of villages with the help of the NGO Oceanium, two other cases captured our attention. They are the community forest of Sambandé and the sacred forest of Laga. The first is located in the eco-geographic area of the peanuts Basin, in the central part of the country. Like most of the classified forests of that peanuts area, it was in advanced state of degradation and subjected to encroachments.



Thanks to a local convention developed by the populations of the villages in the periphery and by the rural council and approved by the technical services of water and forestry departments as well as by the administrative authorities, that forest has regenerated within a period of (5) years. It presently generates substantial income for the populations through fruit harvesting, the collection of dead-wood and of straw.

The forest of Laga is a sacred site located on one the distributaries of the old river of Saloum. The keeper of the site is one of the descendants of the family line of the Tambor. In Foundiougne area, it is the only site where mangrove swamp in good condition can be found. There is no cutting of wood in the area despite the nearness of this site to an urban centre and the changes of mentality.

All workgroups in each of the regions are at the moment identifying all practices of management of protected areas currently experimented in their zone.

Through the interventions of the projects, NGOs, and of community associations as well as of the private, several activities have been experimented to promote a good management of the protected areas.

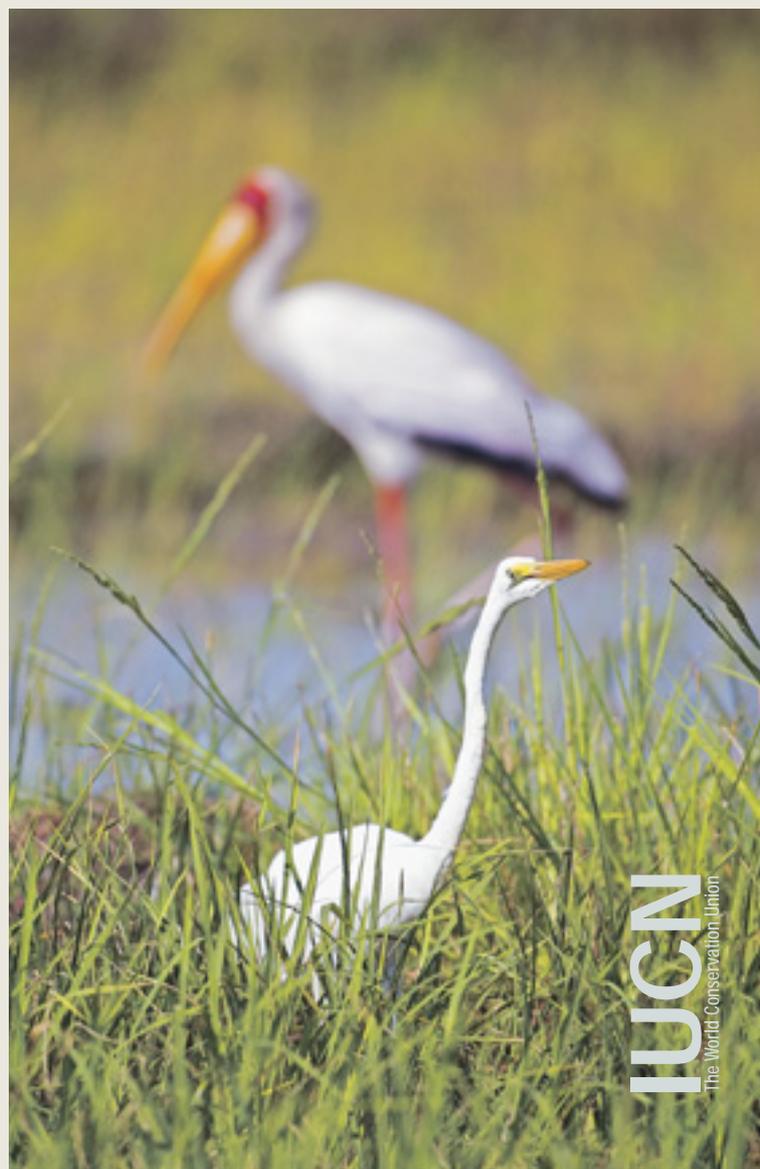
We can also mention the reserves of Bandia and of Fathala granted by the State to private agents, the developed forest of Dankou in the region of Kaolack and of Dabo in the region of Kolda. Not to be ignored also is the ongoing experience supported by USAID through « Woula Nafa » programme which means « the Forest, a treasure », in the region of Tambacounda.

Some of these experiences had conclusive results whereas others had less.

The process for the formulation of the management strategy of protected areas chose to use the approach of representative sampling in the various regions of these experiences sometimes isolated and to make a synthesis in order to share the lessons learned.

The intermediate results of the working groups have also revealed that several protected areas, particularly reserves and classified forests, are only classified on paper. They have undergone very high levels of encroachments and some of them are even totally bare. Some suggest re-qualification of these protected areas that have lost the function required for this statute.

The management strategy of these protected areas will be formulated on the basis of the results of the environmental and socio-economical diagnostic check of these sites and of the recommendations made by the working group. It will draw on the experience of management of protected areas acquired by the various actors these latter years.





INTEGRATING THE ENVIRONMENT IN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES: A CONCERN FOR SENEGALESE PARLIAMENTARIANS.

By Matar Diouf - Programme Coordinator, IUCN-Senegal

In order for parliamentarians to better play their role when adopting policies on the environment and on the management of natural resources, IUCN has facilitated, for a few years now, the creation and the operation of a network of parliamentarians for the environment within the National Assembly of Senegal. This network gathers more than 70 parliament members and covers all political parties represented at the National Assembly.

The idea of creation of the network comes from the fact that more often than not a Senegalese deputy does not have the means to follow up regularly on the technical tangles on the environment and the management of natural resources. Yet despite this situation, they are called upon to vote the laws relating to these areas, in the name of the population they represent.

In Senegal, the National assembly cannot afford To provide its members with the services of technical advisors, to help them prepare their parliamentary sessions. To vote laws, they base their opinions on the trust they put in the technicians of the technical ministries who draft proposals. Thus, members of the Parliament, even those from the opposition, don't always appropriate information to ensure their duty of control. This results in an indirect or partial control of the National Assembly of the programmes proposed by the government.

Thanks to various information sessions, training and discussions during field visits, the members of Parliament have enriched their experiences with new knowledge on the environment, and their awareness toward environmental matters is reinforced. Consequently, the Environment and Regional Development Commission that work with the network of parliamentarians, has increased its visibility and his reputation at the National Assembly, within the technical ministries and with the development partners.

The activities in which the members of Parliament who are also members of the network are involved include: the visits to see experiments of applied research on medicinal plants, visits to the Commercial Company of Cement Works of Senegal (SOCOCIM) and visits to fishing wharfs. The parliamentarians were lead by the coordinator and the chairwoman of the Commission for the Environment, Regional and Rural Development.

Accompanied by the lecturers/researchers of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Dakar, the experts of ENDA-Health and IUCN, a group of deputies who are members of the parliamentary network for the environment visited the applied experiments on medicinal plants in the sites of Keur Gouri and Mbandakhone in the region of Kaolack.



The discussions between experts, traditional practitioners and the parliamentarians emphasized that medicinal plants are the first health resorts in the area and in most rural and peri-urban areas in Senegal. Although it is relevant to public health, the use of these medicinal plants in health cares is still illegal with respect to Senegalese Law. Sensitive to the situation, the deputies undertook to introduce a bill of law, to legalise the use of medicinal plants in health care and to call upon the Ministry of Health on the issue.

The Cement Trading Company of Senegal (SOCOCIM) is a factory established in Rufisque, a town on the outskirts of Dakar, the capital of Senegal. The populations living in the vicinity of the factory and the women processing the fish at Bargny seashore complain about the pollution the factory is causing. The deputies, members of the network accompanied the Minister of the environment to tour the factory. During this visit, they drew the attention of the factory managers on the respect of the regulations provided in the Code of Environment.

The Minister of maritime economy with the members of Parliament, members of the network went to visit the fishing wharf. These visits were opportunities to inform and sensitize professional workers of this sector, on the importance of respecting the biological fallow system adopted to allow for the regeneration of the resources and to inform them of the dangers they may encounter by using fishing machines prohibited by the law regulating the fishing activity.

The network is a place of reflection and of information on the major challenges in the preservation of the national natural heritage. Environmental issues are now included in all discussions of policies and programmes at the Parliament, within the technical commissions as well as in plenary discussions. However, since then, no bill of law or specific oral questions on environment and on the management of natural resources has been recorded.

It has been clearly established that in addition to the current activities, parliament members need closer technical coaching. To that effect, the initiative, « putting in place assistant parliamentarians specialized in environmental issues » has been developed.

In October 2006, IUCN Senegal signed with the Netherlands a contract for the launch of this initiative over a period of three years. Through that initiative, IUCN will avail the National Assembly with two Assistant Parliamentarians specialized in the environment, in the framework of the network of the parliamentarians on the environment.

The assistants will provide the parliamentarians with technical, educational and organisational supports to fulfil their duties of: making available to the parliamentarians useful information for their activities, providing technical inputs and summary reports, helping the parliamentarians network connect with other networks at national and international levels, etc..





TRADITIONAL PROCESSING OF FISH BY IMRAGUEN WOMEN

By Mathieu Bernardon – Technical Advisor, Mullet Project, Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM)

A fish not yet well known and an underestimated fishing activity

In the framework of the Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa (PRCM), IUCN joined in to support the management of the flathead grey mullet, the meagre and the bluefish in Mauritania and Senegal. Simultaneously to implementing systems for monitoring the different fisheries, the project worked at enhancing the

value of flathead grey mullet-based products and by-products in Mauritania. For that reason, the project buttressed the co-operatives of Imraguen women in various ways : micro-credit, trainings, equipment, commercial promotion, with the view of restoring fish-processing activities and improving the living conditions of the women involved in those activities.

Fish processing is indeed solely the activity of women among Imraguen people. These fishermen live in the Arguin Bank national park, in Northern Mauritania. Imraguen women have since developed throughout many generations, an **original way of processing and preserving mullet** that could be considered as a part of the cultural heritage of Mauritania. This technology allows for the use of the whole mullet and its by-products, and their preservation throughout a greater part of the year in a most precarious landlocked desert environment.

With the development of the commercial fishing of selacians which is encouraged by local fishing trade, fishermen are now forced to sell fresh products, thereby causing the gradual fading away of fish processing activities by women.

The action of IUCN consisted in preserving this traditional know-how and in supporting the marketing networks of the processed products by improving the quality standards -especially health standards-, by enhancing the way they are displayed and packaged, and by granting locally-managed small credits to women's co-operatives.

Traditional Imraguen fishing activity





MULLET, NOTHING IS DISCARDED, ALL IS PROCESSED

Mullet-derived products as cooked in Imraguen villages

Tichtar:

It's a dried and non salted mullet. The mullet meat is dried in the open air, without any additive. This is the traditional way of handling mullet in the Imraguen communities. Tichtar is usually cooked together with yellow mullet. To succeed in cooking this fish, it needs to be very fresh and immediately removed of the blood after it is caught. Its head is cut off, and the rest is divided into two strips linked by the queue. Tichtar is produced only in winter, in dry and windy weather.

Khlea:

It is Tichtar pounded in mortars. To improve on its taste, it is often mixed with bottarga. For the preparation of Khlea, Imraguen women use the rest of the meat on the skeleton after removing the fillets for Tichtar.

Khlea is also cooked from various bony fish species: toumvertels, breams, croakers.

Dhin:

Fish oil prepared from the heads and the intestines of various fish species: mullets, breams, croakers, flatfish, arius gambensis.

The oily intestines and the heads are boiled in big pots containing sea water. After boiling, the oil on the surface is collected with a makeshift spoon, most often the shell of a *Cymbium* (marine shell). For each batch, the operation is repeated thrice.

Bottarga:

This is from mullet's ovaries, slightly salted, rinsed and flattened between two boards for drying. This product used to be dried in the sand. From the 1950's, Imraguen people started to use bee wax provided by SIGP, a fishing company established in Nouadhibou, to embed the bottarga with a protecting layer to ensure its conservation. The best bottarga is cooked with yellow mullet's eggs. Bream and other mullet species' eggs can also be used to make bottarga.

Guedj:

It's a fermented and dried fish. Newly introduced in the Imraguen villages, Guedj is not part of the traditional products but it is made in the south of the Park...

Thus, the processing of the same mullet allows to produce a complete piece of tichtar, khlea, dhin (oil), and bottarga for the egg-bearing female. With the use of the bones as fuel material, mainly in the process of oil extraction, one can notice that nothing is lost of this precious fish. Ultimately, the improved use of this resource enhances the output of this sector while the resource decreases through the years. This is a sector that becomes more equitable by associating women to the benefits of fishing activities.



Belief in the healing virtues of mullet-derived products is also common in Mauritanian society.

Types of mullet used in traditional therapies

- **Roasted mullet “Mechoui elhout”:** *it is used to treat bad-temperedness during dry and windy weather.*

This product is among the best dishes served to curists; it is steamed in the sand, or in a pot (steamed in its own fat).

- **Water-boiled mullet “lemlouleb”:** *Pit is used to purify the digestive apparatus*

The fresh fish is cooked with sea water. It is served during breakfast and best after dry food. *des aliments secs.*

- **The dried meat “tichtar”:** *Gives health and vigor.*

This product is eaten soaked in its own oil.

- **The fish oil “dhin”:** *It is used to treat diabetes, tuberculosis, rheumatisms and for purgative purposes. The dose of oil used depends on the illness to be treated.*

- **The mullet’s ovary « Bottarga »:** *it is used to treat bad-digestion-related diseases.*

Composition of bottarga and mullet’s oil

Bottarga and mullet’s oil conceal a lot of polyunsaturated fatty acids contained in lipids.

Polyunsaturated fatty acids play an **important role in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases for they contribute to decrease cholesterolemia and triglycerides** (Alais et Lyden. 1997).

On the other hand, these polyunsaturated fatty acids also play a predominant role in the formation of cell membranes and in the structure of nerve cells (Amiramraz et al 1998).



TRANSFERRING AND SHARING PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE TOOLS IN THE WEST AFRICAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

By Gilles Hosch - Marine Programme Coordinator, IUCN-West Africa

The RAMAO project, listed in the PRCM¹ component “Marine Protected Areas” (MPA) has entered its third year of implementation in the year 2006 and continues to bank on collective learning and mutual support among West African coastal PMA. All efforts focus on enhancing the implementation of effective mechanisms for participatory governance in the fourteen sites that are part of the network.

While *participatory governance* and its equivalents – *co-management* or *participatory management* have been proposed for many years as a more equitable and responsible administration of protected marine areas, it is also worth mentioning that the alleged managers of these sites (government administrations, civil society and key stakeholders) often lack adequate knowledge and technical capacities to develop and implement such mechanisms.

While participatory governance recommends an effective sharing of, not only, site management functions (for instance, fishing activities monitoring), but also decision making functions regarding the conservation system to adopt, it is often forgotten that sharing the decision-making power pertaining to the attribution and the exploitation of natural resources should be done : (a) among multiple parties willing to discuss and understand each other within the framework of governance mechanism that they have jointly put in place. (b) by sharing the executive power with key stakeholders and civil society that supports them. This process is often

impeded on by well-rooted stereotypes about the exclusive right retained par the State to manage natural resources.

The frontline challenges concerning this thematic are generally linked to human factors, which need to be understood in order to be best and fully taken into account in the future. Among the key stakeholders, there are less educated people in formal terms, but with good knowledge of the natural resources they depend on. However, government employees are often highly educated but much less conversant with natural resources and the anthropogenic or natural phenomena that occur to natural resources. On the other hand, proposing to key actors to share the management power and functions with States, the democratic and good governance foundations of which are not always perfect, does not arouse an immediate confidence and interest. This is also true to a situation where government bodies are asked to share their power with natural resources’ users. In order to avoid the critical point of this mistrust and to create an enabling framework for development, both banks of the river should be bridged. The RAMAO project purports to play the role of such a bridge.

Over the past year, RAMAO had been meeting the needs expressed par government institutions, the civil society and the key stakeholders, and owned a scheme for the implementation of participatory governance. The scheme adopted was the

¹Regional programme for the conservation of the coastal and marine area



one developed and popularized by IUCN² in its latest document *Sharing Power*. This scheme establishes a comprehensive framework for good practices and the implementation of a successful participatory governance of a protected area, focussing on the need to involve all parties in the three strata which have been previously referred to, and to set up this framework gradually, ensuring that all parties are and remain on board.

Support provided to the PMA of the RAMAO network is first and foremost based on two separate mechanisms: the first mechanism is regional support and mutual learning workshops. The second focuses on exchange trips to enable key stakeholders to compare successes (and failures) with other sites. In 2006, RAMAO organised a support and mutual learning workshop on the place of social communication at the stage called “*Preparation of the partnership*“. Eleven sites of six countries in the sub-region took part in this workshop; they were represented by key stakeholders, site supporting NGOs and government employees. Otherwise, many exchange trips were organized, including mainly the trip organized by key stakeholders of the João Vieira and Poilão and Orango PMAs who visited Urok community PMA – the three sites are located in Guinea-Bissau. Direct supports were provided to Orango communities’ PMAs to build local management capacities with regards to the impacts of hippopotamuses on crops. Finally, at the end of 2006, the socio-economic study on the populations living in the surroundings and within the Niimi National Park in Gambia, which started in 2005, was being finalized; a workshop on Action methods and Participatory Research was co-funded with local NGOs in the Sal Island in Cape Verde, in November 2006.

² IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy



RECONCILING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WATER RESOURCES CONSERVATION; EXPERIENCES FROM THE VOLTA BASIN

*By Kwame Odame-Ababio - Project Coordinator, PAGEV
and Alice Batiana - Specialist in Social Sciences, PAGEV*

Better governance of water resources, rather than mere availability, is key to resolving the growing water crisis in developing countries.

This involves reforming the existing governance structures including the socio-economic, political and administrative systems needed to develop and manage water resources. It is in this context that, from mid-2004, IUCN initiated the “Project for Improving Water Governance in the Volta Basin”, commonly known by its French acronym - PAGEV, as part of its transboundary river basin management initiatives in Africa. PAGEV is focusing more specifically on Burkina Faso and Ghana where 85% of the basin surface area is located.

The implementing agencies are; IUCN-BRAO, Directorate General of Water Resources (DGRE) of Burkina Faso and Water Resources Commission (WRC) of Ghana. The project also benefits from substantial in-kind contributions from the governments of Ghana and Burkina as well as from the West Africa Water Partnership of the Global Water Partnership (GWP/WAWP).

PAGEV is implementing a number of activities with Integrated Water Resource management (IWRM) focus in a pilot sub-basin in the Nakambé or White Volta Basin. These include:

- **Build transboundary cooperation mechanisms.**

This involves assembling a viable network of partners, both in the Burkina Faso and in Ghana. Three key institutional blocks to promote transboundary cooperation will be: policy/advocacy, organisational, and operational (Fig. 1).

At the policy level the Burkina-Ghana Joint Technical Committee on IWRM (JTC-IWRM) was revitalised to provide advisory guidance to the transboundary coordination mechanism. A working group set up by the JTC-IWRM have through stakeholder consultations and participatory processes, formulated a code of conduct for the sustainable management of the shared water resources of the basin and is ready for ratification by the two countries.

Two national stakeholders’ forums were established at the organisational and operational levels to serve as platform for community representatives to exchange experiences, engage in constructive and collective deliberation, and propose workable solutions to issues affecting their common use of the White Volta resources. The forums are also being used to promote greater interaction between communities and government officials from various levels, and for the communities to have a say in decision-making in the development of the shared water resources.

Two NGOs (one each from Burkina and Ghana) have been partnered to facilitate the horizontal linkages between stakeholders at the organisational and operational levels, as well as the vertical lin-



kages with the sub-basin coordination structure. From the membership of the two national forums and the NGOs, a joint Communities' Transboundary Committee has been established by PAGEV to add value to the conventional approach to transboundary water management.

• **Facilitating participation of local communities in transboundary water management**

With respect to this activity, the communities have been brought together to agree on common perspectives with regard to conserving the Volta water resources through the establishment of River Banks Protection and National Stakeholders' Forums. Buffer zones have been established along the river banks and have been planted with fruit trees such as mangoes and guava, to stop erosion. Woodlots have also been developed to provide alternative source of fuel wood to the communities

- *The forums are also used as platforms to disseminate information on appropriate farming techniques and to create awareness on key socio-economic issues like HIV and gender equity*
- *Women are encouraged to be actively participate in forum meetings*

Provision of tangible benefits to communities

PAGEV has included activities that will bring direct and potential benefits to the communities concerned by its action plans.

What has been learned from project implementation ?

- The power of community-level participation is evident when the outcomes of participation are clearly and directly linked to the improvement of livelihood of participating communities. The sup-



Hand-dug wells have been provided to some communities to reduce walking distance and time for women to fetch water:



Communities are being supported with water pumps to increase dry season vegetable farming, while, at the same time, planting the buffer strips with improved varieties of fruit trees to improve their earnings



A breached dam at Sakom village has been rehabilitated to provide water for dry season vegetable farming and rice cultivation and, also, to provide watering points for household animals and the wildlife.

port of NGOs are playing an important role in this task, particularly in helping marginalized community groups, such as women and the migrant farmers who have less capacity to articulate their demands, especially on land issues.

- The PAGEV's approaches to protection of the river banks have not as yet achieved its full cycle, but the strategies are being promoted into the operations of some institutions in Ghana. The Upper East Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for example has introduced buffer zones creation in their farmers' dry season cropping support programme for communities along the Volta River. High performing diesel pumps are supplied to the farmers to enable them move further away from the river banks. Similarly, as part of the Natural Resources Management component of the Community-Based Rural Development Project (CBRDP), PAGEV's strategies are being promoted in the rehabilitation of some critically degraded watersheds in Ghana.
- PAGEV has gained legitimacy through linking river banks conservation activities with direct and tangible benefits that have the potential of improving the livelihoods of the people. The challenge now is to strengthen the local transboundary structures and consolidate their links with the conventional transboundary structure for effective management of the shared water resources.





EXTENDING NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION BEYOND NATIONAL BORDERS

By Amadou Ba - Socio-economist, IUCN-Mauritania, Diawling National Park

The conservation of transboundary natural resources is not a new idea. It goes hand-in-hand with the increasing human pressure on lands and on biological and water resources, leading to a considerable decrease in the diversity of tree and animal species, including ecosystems and landscapes. This is a threat to human well-being as this biodiversity is a potential source of food, fibers, medicine and raw materials.

Drawing attention to this sad reality, IUCN Director General declared during the World Conference on Nature, held in Thailand in November 2004 that *“in the 1950’s, we said that natural resources and biodiversity were showing signs of serious degradation. Today, there is a host of conclusive evidences that confirm the assumption according to which world resources are being exploited beyond the limits of sustainability”*. Therefore, these threats to the whole biodiversity are a major challenge, as shown by the increasing number of threatened species that have been added to the red list established by IUCN at the end of the past century.

With a view to not only include all biodiversity targets and ecological processes maintained by different ecosystems, but also to guard against potential risks of change occurring at the global level, it has been deemed necessary to extend conservation efforts to vaster spaces. In addition to constructing national networks of conservation areas, it has appeared necessary to mesh networks among themselves, to better take into account the unstable, if not the migratory nature of most of the species that are not conscious of human-establi-

shed borders. This concern has given birth to the concept of transboundary natural resources conservation.

As a factor to reduce difficulties faced with by communities in the frontier zones and to promote peace, transboundary conservation is a whole new challenge on account of the need to manage the issue in zones under two or several jurisdictions.

An example has been the case of Mauritania and Senegal which have decided to jointly manage resources in the delta of the Senegal River. In this area, the conservation mechanism evolves around a transboundary Biosphere Reserve made up of a network involving different end-members, including the National Bird Reserve of Djoudi (PNOD) in Senegal and the National Park of Diawling (PND) in Mauritania, which is the major entity. The close relationship between the two national parks which have been twinned for several years is the first achievement in this approach to transboundary conservation.

Beyond this important site, transboundary cooperation is the basis for the West African Coastal and Marine Area Conservation Programme, and is carried out in several ways throughout the seven countries of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP). It contributes to establish governance mechanisms that structure the regional cooperation. For instance in the context of competition in the exploitation of fishery and coastal resource and with the experience of the Mullet conservation and management project implemented in Mauritania, management schemes per transboundary fisheries,



are being implemented in the CSRP countries through co-management mechanisms and trans-boundary traditional fishing.





RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS: THE INCREASE OF THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF WATER AND POVERTY REDUCTION

By Amadou Ba - Socio-economist, IUCN-Mauritania, Diawling National Park

In 2006, ten years after its first filling with water, the new form of water control over an important part of the year and its slow drop in level by evaporation, the flood-plain of the Mauritanian delta is active again. This can be testified not only by several biodiversity indicators but also by the return of populations in the zone (urban exodus), who can conduct usual activities. An economic and environmental assessment study carried out in 2002 and 2004 on household incomes, showed that the viability of the zone is by far better than before.

In the takhredient fisher village, adjacent to the main basin of the Diawling park, populations have resumed their activities that now last longer in the year than before. Moreover, new activities are being developed as the result of fishing period extension and the flood (dried fish marketing, vegetable gardening). Fishermen have better living standard and they invest in livestock production. Others build modern houses; 10 years before the resumption of floods, the village had a sad face, a picture of a hamlet with sheds and inhabited with only old men, women and children. The study showed that the village has larger active population with each active person having at least two activities.

For more than six years, between 1985 and 1991, the Mauritanian floodplain, due to the needs of putting in place the Diama dam with an embankment of 90 km, was completely cut off from water circuits (mainly ponds) that used to fill it with water. More than 16 000 ha of lands traditionally used by local

populations to conduct their activities (mainly fruit harvesting, fishing and livestock production) have dried.





To restore this zone after the construction of the dam, there was a need to partition the plain that has been cut off and isolated from the new water plan into three basins in order to fill it with water from the right side dike in-between the downstream and the new water plan. Thus, it is after these developments (1993 to 1996) and after a management plan was discussed and validated with the populations that the refilling with water started from 1996. There was hence the need to imitate nature by practicing artificial floods through water levels management.

Formerly, water fall used to occur quickly: the water returned swiftly in the minor bed of the river. Due to the fact that water is available again from this new Diama dam, water is now available irrespective of seasons and drop in levels.

Better recharged aquifers due to long periods of floods have enhanced drinking water availability in wells and brought about the extension of gardening activities at the edges of sand hills and at the borders of the flood basins, as well as the growth of acacia trees.

With respect of the fact that it is located near the Senegalese town of Saint-Louis (20 minutes far away by car), the Park managers have immediately realized its potentials with regard to ecotourism (avifauna diversity and landscapes, among others).



MEMBERS ACTIVITIES: MEMBERS SINGLED OUT FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF IUCN'S PROGRAMME IN WEST AFRICA

By François-Corneille Kédowidé - Omega Programme Coordinator, IUCN-West Africa

Members gathered into the IUCN Union with the view to contributing to behavioral change and to positively influencing decisions. Including both States and statutory bodies, as well as non governmental organizations, and with outstanding environmental and development experts and technicians within its commissions, IUCN is a unique force of its kind. By mobilizing energies from its members and commissions towards common objectives, IUCN stands exceptional chances to achieve its goals that can be summed up in conservation for sustainable development and/or poverty reduction. But the fact remains that capabilities are timidly explored and opportunities weakly exploited.

Members' meeting that was held in Ouagadougou from 25th to 26th January 2006 reaffirmed their will to contribute to the implementation of the 2005-2008 4-year programme. This meeting was preceded by the meeting jointly organized by the Dutch Committee of IUCN members and the IUCN's Regional Office for West Africa (23rd and 24th January 2006) which gathered members of the "Green Actors of West Africa" - GAWA network. This network includes NGOs most of which benefit from funding from the Netherlands IUCN Committee. Some of them are members of IUCN. It highlighted the way members can be involved in IUCN programmes.

Involving members in the implementation of projects and programmes

The involvement of members, for this year, is shown through several projects and programmes.

- In Nigeria, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation partners the IUCN in the implementation of the project for the management of the Komadugu Yobe Basin.
- In Ghana, it is the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORG) and the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA-Ghana) who are the partners of IUCN for the implementation of the Allanblackia project.
- In Guinea Bissau : Members actively participate in the implementation of projects and programmes by the IUCN Office and within the framework of the Regional Coastal and Marine Conservation Programme for West Africa – PRCM – several NGO and governmental agencies intervene at various levels. These include : TINIGUENA (in community protected areas), Centro de Investigaçao Pesqueira Aplicada – CIPA – in fishery reserves, Accao Para o Desenvolvimento – AD – in the Cantanez forest reserve, Centro de Estudos Ambientais e Tecnologia Apropriada do Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa - CEATA/INEP – in all that relates to biosphere reserve
- In Senegal, members, e.g. the Association Sénégalaise des Amis de la Nature – ASAN – works in close collaboration with IUCN Senegal for the implementation of its projects.

¹The members' meeting was funded by IUCN and the Dutch IUCN Committee



Regarding the number of IUCN West Africa's members

Besides the increasing involvement in IUCN projects and programmes, IUCN has seen the number of its members going upward and downward : Five members have been suspended for non payment of their membership dues, Guinea Bissau has been accepted within the IUCN family as a new member and a national member committee has been set up in Guinea Bissau. The table below describes the growth in the number of members in IUCN West Africa, from 2001 to date.

It is urgent to work towards greater involvement of members in the programmes of the IUCN in West Africa which will go through building their capacities and attracting new membership from West African States, government agencies and NGOs. Strategies for a better exploration of capacities and opportunities should be implemented concertedly if IUCN is to remain the unique institution of its kind.





DEATH OF PR. KI-ZERBO

AN OUTSTANDING HISTORIAN AND POLITICIAN, ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF CEDA, A MEMBER ORGANISATION OF IUCN

IUCN has lost an outstanding collaborator, in the name of Pr. Joseph Ki-Zerbo, President of the *Centre d'Etudes pour le Développement Africain (CEDA)* (Center of Studies for African Development), member organisation of IUCN since October 2000. He passed away at the age of 84. The areas of expertise of the *Centre d'Etudes pour le Développement Africain (CEDA)* of which he was the President; include communications, indigenous peoples, scientific research and sustainable development.

Pr. Ki-Zerbo is the author of several presentations on environment, including: *La formation des paysages agro-forestiers au Burkina Faso* (the formation of agro-forestry landscapes in Burkina Faso) ; *Quelle nature pour quelle humanité* (What nature for what mankind); *L'environnement dans la culture africaine* (Environment in African Culture); *l'éco-développement est le seul développement fiable et viable* (Eco-development is the only reliable and sustainable development), etc.

Pr. Ki-Zerbo attended the 50th anniversary of IUCN in Fontainebleau in France, from 3rd to 5th November 1998. He chaired a session on « cultural diversity versus globalisation» where the issue was to know whether the globalisation process was leading us to a culture of homogeneity. Pr. Ki-Zerbo had more than one string to his bow: historian, University teacher, writer, politician and environment protector.

In the name of the big IUCN family, Mr. Aimé Nianogo, BRAO's Regional Director a.i., called on the late professor's family to offer the sympathy of the World Conservation Union. May he rest in peace!

Reactions, testimonies and quotations

"I am very sad to hear the death of this great man of science, culture and history. Ki-Zerbo has marked Africa and the world". Ibrahim Thiaw, IUCN Acting General Director.

"Deeply "Afro-optimistic", Pr. Ki-Zerbo had always invited African people to believe in themselves. Through their works, Ki Zerbo and her spouse Jacqueline have contributed to move various causes forward in Africa and in West Africa : Democracy, education, women's rights, environment protection, etc" Aimé Nianogo, Regional Director a.i., IUCN Regional Office for West Africa.

"I remember Pr Ki-Zerbo as I met him in Fontainebleau, indeed a great man." Ursula Hiltbrunner, Global coordinator of IUCN members

"We met the Man in 1998 at the regional meeting of IUCN members in West Africa in Dakar . We have good memories of him: a good man, educated, a convinced pan-africanist, concerned with the future of our sub-region and that of Africa." Magistrate, legal counsel, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Guinea.

"Our institution, Alliance-Homme-Environnement d'Afrique (AMEA) is deeply affected by the sudden death of Pr. Ki -Zerbo and we wish to ask the Regional Director of IUCN-BRAO to offer our true sympathy to the family of the late outstanding Professor, and to the BRAO family and to global IUCN." Dominique NSOSSO – AMEA Secretary General

"I mourned Professor Ki-Zerbo as an African scholar; I did not know about this IUCN, CEFDHAC dimension. Thank you for this detail!" Julien ONKA-GUI, Former consultant for CEFDHAC Congo-Brazzaville.

"At CEDA, we are convinced that environmental issues and the protection of natural resources cannot and should not be dealt with separately, in the margin of development process. That is why the issue of environment is at the centre of the endogenous development that we are promoting." Pr. Joseph Ki-Zerbo: in CEDA's membership application letter to IUCN.



CELEBRATION OF THE 2006 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AND OF THE 2006 DESERTIFICATION CONTROL DAY IN BURKINA FASO

Ten secondary school students received prizes for their works promoting eco-citizenship

Ten students including two Senegalese received prizes on June 16, 2006 at Nobere (Burkina Faso), on the occasion of the competition organized by IUCN during the World Environment and the Desertification Control Days. The competition were on the themes “*Do not abandon dry lands*“, for the poetry and on “*The beauty of deserts*“, for the drawing. Sixty three students from 17 schools in Burkina Faso and of Senegal including 21 girls participated in the competition.

The winner in the poetry side has been Moussa RABDO of Burkina Faso with the work entitled *Cosmos of hope* and, in the drawing, Antoine DJATA of Senegal with the work entitled *the desert, pleasant life*. The cash prizes ranked from FCFA 200, 000 (1st prize) to FCFA 40, 000 (5th prize), in addition to the in-kind prizes including T-shirts and a guided tour of a natural park in Burkina Faso.

The results of the competition were proclaimed in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Living Environment, of UNDP, of the Programme of Global Environment Facility (GEF) with the NGOs, of the Interstate Comity for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), of the environmental NGO NATURAMA, of IUCN, of the populations and of the local decision makers.

The ceremony was chaired by Mr. Laurent SEDGO, the Burkinabe Minister of Environment and of Living Environment, coincided with the launching of the national reforestation campaign. Trees have been planted on the occasion.



BRAO PUBLICATIONS LIST

IN 2006

- **Managing Wetlands in Arid Regions: Lessons learned**

Edited by El Hadj M. Sene, Ibrahim Thiaw and Birguy Lamizana-Diallo, 2006, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.
86 pages

- **Energies traditionnelles au Burkina Faso**

Etudes sur le bois-énergie
Kimsé Ouédraogo, Jacques Somda, Isabelle Tapsoba, Aimé J. Nianogo
IUCN, Ambassade du Danemark, Ministère des Mines, Carrières et Energies/DGE du Burkina Faso, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Cadre de Vie/DG du Burkina Faso
188 pages – Illustrated

- **Action Plan for the Management of Elephants in the Ziama-Wenegisi transfrontier corridor Guinea-Liberia**

Compiled by Lamine Sebogo. IUCN, KFW, Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, Species Survival Commission (SSC).
27 pages

- **Les conventions locales de gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement – Légalité et cohérence en droit sénégalais**

Laurent Granier, 2006. IUCN, Droit et politique de l'environnement, No 65. 44 pages

- **The economic value of wild resources in Senegal**

A preliminary evaluation of non-timber products, game and freshwater fisheries.
IUCN-Senegal, 2006, 62 pages – Illustrated

- **Typologie et problématique environnementale des zones humides de la rive gauche du Sénégal**

Réseau National des Zones Humides du Sénégal (RENZOH)
IUCN-Senegal. 189 pages

- **Etat de la conservation des zones humides au Sénégal**

Réseau National des Zones Humides du Sénégal (RENZOH)
IUCN-Senegal. 55 pages

- **Newsletter on the Dialogue for a sustainable resource management in Niger**

Haoussa version
IUCN, DAS Netherlands Committee, Organisation Nigérienne pour l'Education Environnementale (ONEE). 23 pages

- **Newsletter on the Dialogue for a sustainable resource management in Niger**

Djerma version
IUCN, DAS Netherlands Committee, Organisation Nigérienne pour l'Education Environnementale (ONEE). 23 pages

- **Newsletter on the Dialogue for a sustainable resource management in Niger**

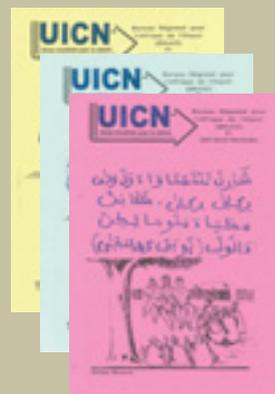
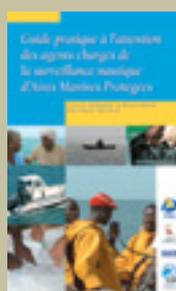
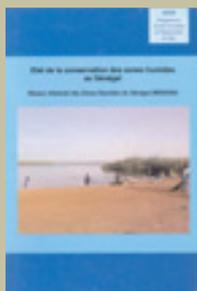
Foulfoudé version
IUCN, DAS Netherlands Committee, Organisation Nigérienne pour l'Education Environnementale (ONEE). 19 pages

- **Practical guide to the attention of agents in charge of nautical surveillance of Marine Protected Areas**

Louis Gérard d'Escrienne and António Araújo
100 pages – Illustrated, PRCM

- **Identification guide of the main shark and ray species of the Eastern tropical Atlantic, for the purpose of the fishery observers and biologists**

Bernard Seret, IRD and MNHN, PRCM
75 pp - Illustrated



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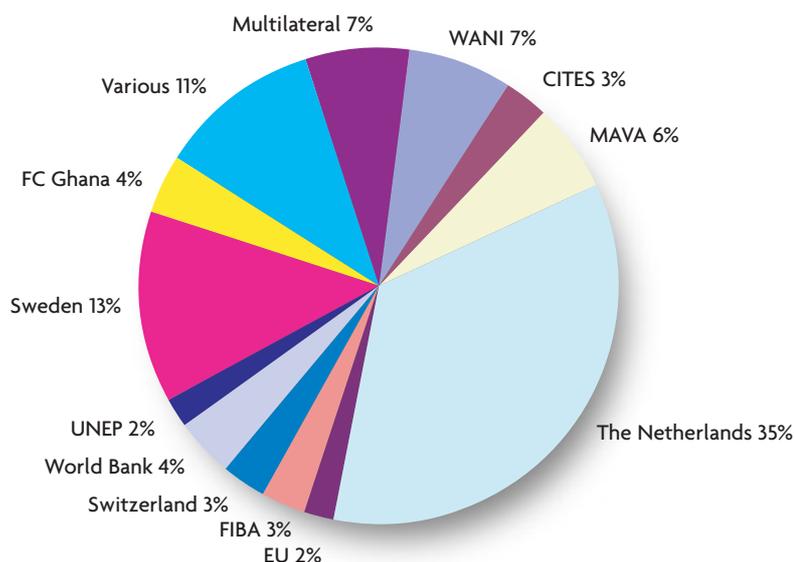
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FINANCIAL REPORT

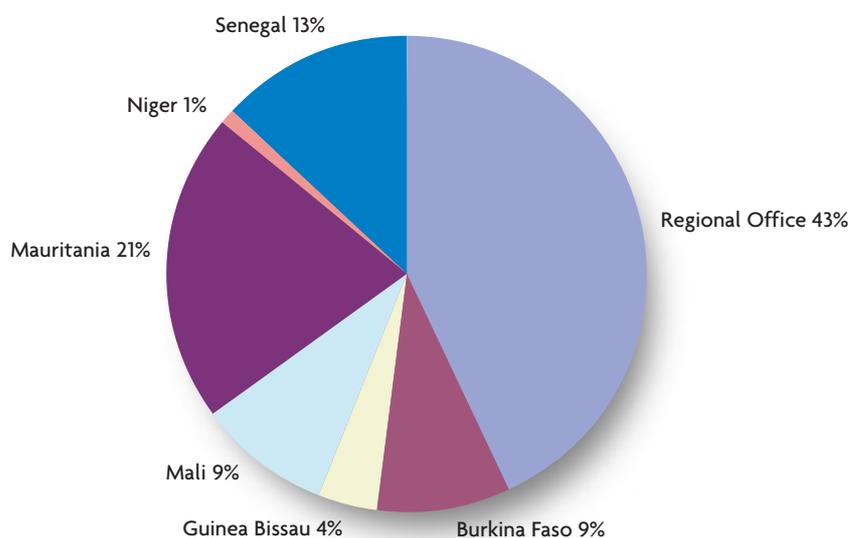
IUCN FOR 2006

Source of funds spent in 2006



The overall expenditures of the region amount to 5.15 million euros, which is down by 11% compared with the figures of last year. The most significant contribution still comes from the Netherlands while the contribution from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency has, proportionally, more than doubled.

Expenditures breakdown per office



Funds allocated to the regional office and IUCN-Senegal in the overall expenditures of the region have slightly decreased to the benefit of the offices in Burkina Faso and Mali. The Regional Office gathers projects with a regional coverage or activities concerning countries where IUCN has no office such as Ghana and Nigeria.

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