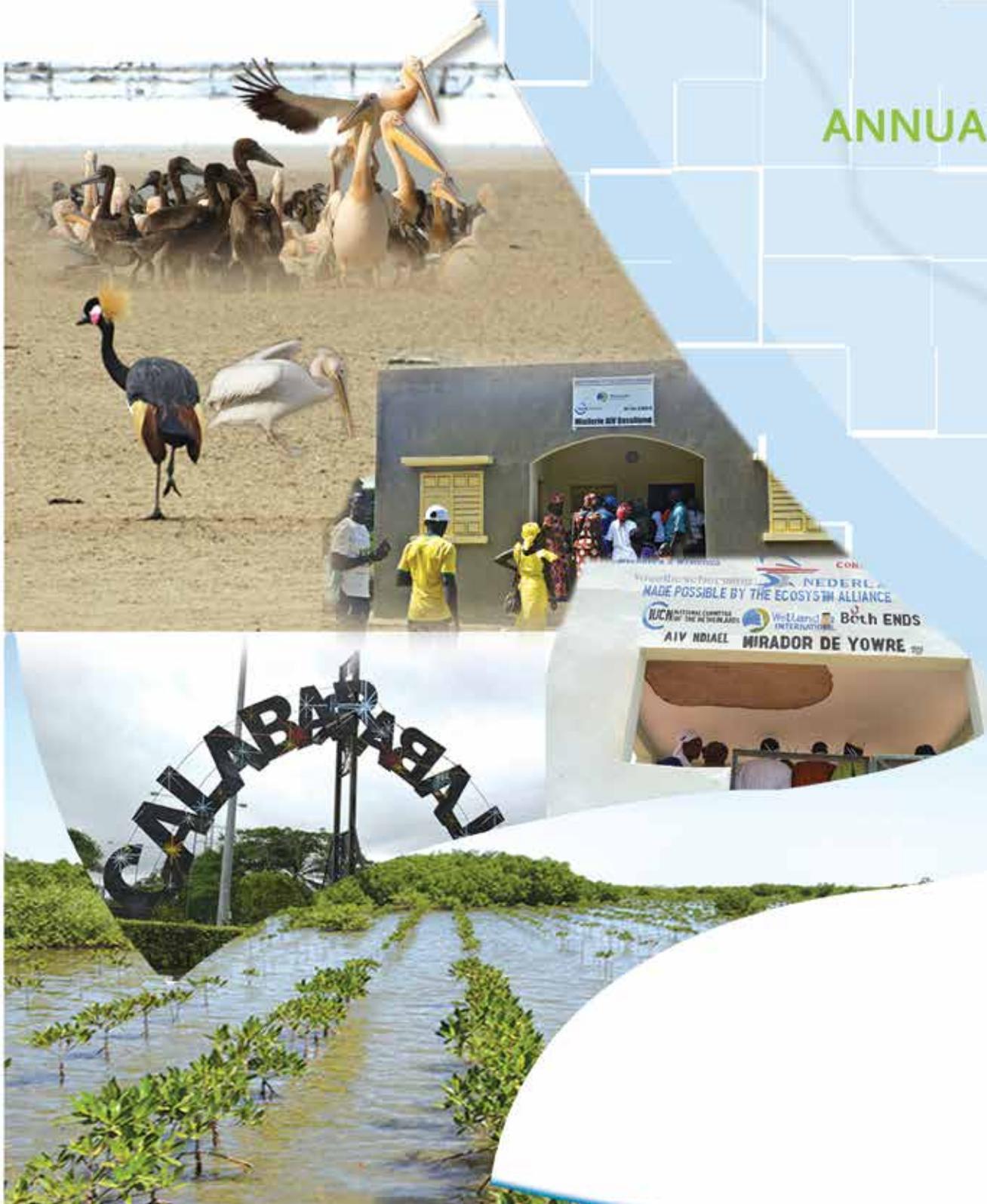


ANNUAL REPORT 2015





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“Resounding Success”

Wetlands International has continuously recorded major successes and tremendous recognition in the conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems, which are worth noting. This year, was undoubtedly one of the most prosperous years since 1998 when the Regional Africa Office began its operations.

Our first milestone came from the Head of State of Senegal, President Macky Sall when he unreservedly validated the National Policy on Wetlands Management (PNZH) during the National Conference on Sustainable Development (CNDD), which was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in July 2015. This process began in 2013 when the Government via the National Parks Department (DPN) appointed us to conduct PNZH. This policy validation by the highest institution of the country was the last act of the process set to help Senegal finally have a tool for the management of its wetlands. This recognition and true consecration of Wetlands International actions, by the Senegalese Government ensured that an expert base was well established.

Another milestone was the annual meeting of coordination and planning of the organization’s head offices held in Toubacouta, central west Senegal. This strategic meeting laid the foundation for future interventions in the Saloum Delta. Moreover, the commencement of the Integrated Management Water Resources Programme in Mali commonly called “BAM-GIRE” this year, was a great success, with its main objective set to create the right conditions to ensure “a living Niger Basin, where the livelihoods and biodiversity were secured in a changing environment”.

Significant achievements have been made in several countries in the year 2015 giving Wetlands International immense fulfillment to its beneficiaries through our various interventions in Africa. In Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal, dozens of hectares of mangroves have been replanted in degraded areas: In Mali, significant efforts have been made in climate change adaptation and management of degraded ecosystems; In Senegal, Niger and Kenya (Tana and Ewaso Nyiro Rivers) we have strengthened our interventions in the River basins for a better ecosystem approach.

Wetlands International has been working in Africa for 17 years now and has actively been involved in; sustainable wetlands management, conservation of biodiversity, climate change adaptation and poverty reduction in its continental project areas. Through this roadmap the organization has clearly defined its guideline into achieving the global mission. The mission is certainly far from being an easy thing, but we believe that it would be illusory to encourage local communities to preserve their environment and natural resources without helping them improve their living conditions. In this regard, Wetlands International works with the local communities in the implementation of projects and programs such as Partners for Resilience (PfR), Ecosystem Alliance (EA), From the Arctic to Africa (A2A), the project of the “Conservation of mangroves in Senegal” (BMZ) and so on.

Wetlands International wishes to acknowledge, thank, encourage and pay tribute to all its staff who has tirelessly and actively been involved in the above achievements. Lastly we express our sincere gratitude to all our technical and financial partners, donors and stakeholders who have invested and supported us “ *safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature*”, We look forward to better and more fulfilling 2016 even as we appreciate the new challenges it offers.



Ibrahima THIAM
Regional Director




Amadou Moctar NIANG
Chairman of the Foundation Council



I. ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

A2A: From the Arctic To Africa

ADB: African Development Bank

ACC: Climate Change Adaptation

AIV Dassilamé: Association Inter Villageoise de Développement de Dassilamé

AIV Ndiaël: Association Inter Villageoise du Ndiaël

AEWA: Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie

BMZ : Ministère Allemand de la Coopération Economique et du Développement

CCLME: Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem

CNDD : Conférence Nationale sur le Développement Durable

DGIS : Direction Générale pour la Coopération Internationale du Ministère Néerlandais des Affaires Etrangères

DIN: Delta Intérieur du Niger

DPN: Direction des Parcs Nationaux

DRR: Disaster Risk Reduction

EBA: Ecosystem Based Adaptation

GIRE: Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau

ISE : Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement

IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature

JMZH : Journée Mondiale des Zones Humides

JNJ : Jege Ni Jaba (Projet de renforcement des chaînes de valeur agricole pour la sécurité alimentaire)

MEDD: Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable

MOP: Meeting of Parties

NEMA: National Authority for the Environment Management of Kenya

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

OLAG: Office du Lac de Guiers

OMVS: Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du fleuve Sénégal

PND: Diawling National Park

PNOD: Djoudj Bird National Park

PRCM: Regional Partnership for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Zone in West Africa

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

PfR: Partners for Resilience

RBT: Réserve de Biosphère Transfrontière

RSAN: Réserve Spéciale d'Avifaune du Ndiaël

SIDA: Swedish International Development Agency

SCRSE: Strengthening Community Resilience in Somali Region of Ethiopia

SLBP: Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Project

TEEB: The Economy of Ecosystem and Biodiversity

ULCP : Unité Locale de Coordination du Projet

WARA-CLIREC: Waso River Alliance for Climate Resilient Communities

WASH: Water Sanitation and Health

WRUA: Water Resources Users Association

ZH: Zones Humides

II. WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL AFRICA MANDATE



*Wetlands international Africa Regional Office,
Zone B, Dakar, Senegal*

Wetlands International is the only global not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands. The organization is headquartered in the Netherlands and has been working to protect wetlands with 60 years of experience serving the people.

Wetlands International presence in Africa was established in 1998, and serves in the continent through its Regional Office in Dakar (Senegal) and its different country offices in Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, and in Nigeria since 2013.

Wetlands International Africa endeavors to meet the challenges facing the world by protecting the environment communities, habitat restoration and conservation of biodiversity, sustainable water management, climate change adaptation, emergence and effectiveness of a green economy among others.

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

Wetlands International Africa continues to work closely with its partners and stakeholders, and is committed to the betterment of local communities. This year, the organization rolled out a comprehensive strategic roadmap covering the period 2015-2020 which provides a significant contribution to sustainable development for people and nature amid challenges of climate change.

III. 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Political validation of the National Wetlands Management Policy (PNZH) by the Head of State of Senegal

Prepared by Wetlands International Africa, (PNZH) was officially approved by the President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Macky Sall, on July 24, 2015, in Dakar, during the first edition of the National Conference on Sustainable Development (CNDD) under the auspices of the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD). The document had previously been approved by the technical segment during the World Wetlands Day (WWD) held on the 2nd February 2015 and was organized by Wetlands International Africa and National Parks Department (DPN).



Mr. Macky Sall, Senegal's Head of State, validating the PNZH at the closure of the 1st Edition of the CNDD

2. Annual Meeting for Wetlands International Heads of Offices

The Africa Regional Office hosted the annual coordination meeting of all Wetlands International heads offices from the 14th to 17th September 2015 in Toubacouta, Fatick Region (Central West), Senegal. This strategic meeting defined a road map for the teams and allowed the top brass of the organization to see firsthand achievements. Our guidance notably in the Saloum Delta in terms of intervention was declined.



Heads of offices in Dassilamé Mangroves sites, Fatick Region, September 2015

3. 8th Regional Marine and Coastal PRCM Forum, Praia, November 2015

The Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International, Mrs. Jane Madgwick, shared her views and insight based on the forum's theme as she called for an integrated ecosystem approach in the management of wetlands in the world. Moderating the forum was Mr. Ibrahima Thiam,



Mrs. Jane Madgwick, CEO of Wetlands International and Mr. Ibrahima Thiam, Africa Regional Director (speaking) during the 8th Forum of the PRCM themed «Impacts of climate change on coastal and marine areas», held on November 02, 2015, in Praia, Cape Verde.

4. 2015 AEWA Awards for conservation of waterbirds

The Inter-Villager Association (AIV) of Ndiaël and Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye, associate-expert at Wetlands International, won the 2015 Awards of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). They received the awards on the 6th Meeting of the Parties (MOP-6), November 9, 2015 held in Bonn, Germany.



Mr. Amadou Sow and Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye receiving the 2015 AEWA Award at the MOP6 held in Bonn, Germany, from 9 to 14 November 2015 (Source : Bernd de Bruijn, Vogelbescherming NL)

5. 2nd Meeting of the Panel of Experts Africans.



The Panel of African experts on mangroves in conclave from 27 to 30 July 2015 in Calabar, capital of Cross River State in southeastern Nigeria.

The State of Calabar, Southeast of Nigeria, hosted the 2nd Panel Meeting of African Experts on sustainable mangrove management which worked on the additional protocol to the Abidjan Convention from 28th to 30th July 2015. A big step was taken in the preparation of the document which will be used as a tool in the rational management of the mangrove ecosystem in the continent.

6. Conclave for the development of a Regional Program on Sustainable Management of Mangrove



Participants during the workshop for the development of the Mangrove Regional Programme in Dakar, Senegal

As part of the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Zone in West Africa (PRCM), Wetlands International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have met in Dakar, Senegal, on the 05 and 6th October 2015, various stakeholders involved in the conservation. The objective was to focus on the development of a regional program on sustainable and concerted management of mangroves on the Atlantic coast of Africa in partnership with the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention

7. Launching of BAMGIRE Program in Sélingué, Mali, November 12, 2015



The Governor of Sikasso with the representatives of the Netherlands Embassy and Wetlands International leaders at the launching of BAMGIRE in November 2015

The new Program on Integrated Water Resources Management in Mali and Guinea-Conakry (BAM-GIRE) was launched on November 12, 2015 at Sélingué in the southeast of Mali. It is for the period 2015-2019.

8. Launching of the Biodiversity Conservation Project in the Mangroves Natural Park of Cacheu (PNTC), Guinea-Bissau, October 12, 2015.



Mr. Ibrahima Thiam, Regional Director Wetlands International Africa, at the technical meeting with partners during the official launching of the Biodiversity Conservation Project in the Mangroves Natural Park of Cacheu (PNTC), Guinea-Bissau.

Wetlands International Africa through its office in Guinea-Bissau has launched the new draft Biodiversity Conservation Project in the Mangroves Natural Park of the Cacheu (PNTC) in Guinea-Bissau. This is in collaboration with the park authorities and local communities; and the objective is to work for the conservation of the park, the protection of the mangrove ecosystem and biodiversity in the park and its buffer zone.

9. Wetlands International Africa and the Foundiougne District Council sign partnership agreement for the Mangrove Platform



MM. Moustapha Mbaye, Foundiougne District Council Chairman and Papa Mawade Wade, Wetlands International Africa's Programmes Coordinator signing the partnership agreement between the two institutions.

Initiated by Wetlands International Africa and through its financial support, Foundiougne District Council has set up a mangrove platform. The two institutions materialized this collaboration by signing a partnership convention on December 3, 2015 in the premises of the District Council. The objective is to harmonize and unite all interventions in the Saloum Delta for sustainable management of mangroves.

10. Mission Study on Carbon Sequestration in The Gambia

Wetlands International has commissioned a study that assessed the "Feasibility Blue Carbon Projects for Gambia" in the context of monitoring the closing CCLME project. The result of this study showed a significant amount of carbon stocks in the area of Bintang Bolong (see study). Reforestation of the degraded areas of mangroves, avoided deforestation, and sustainable forest management of mangroves could easily increase eight times the carbon stocks in the project area.



Mr. James Kairo, Kenyan expert, in discussions with the village leaders of Joreng, the Gambia, in March 2015 and the staff of Gambian technical services accompanied with young people of Sandeng during the Study on mangrove carbon sequestration.

11. Inauguration of Bélel Mbaye opening-track in Ndiaël, St. Louis, May 12, 2015

The Bélel Mbaye 9 kilometers road stretch that was constructed for 50 million CFA, has enabled the population of the Ndiaël Special Avifauna Reserve to easy access especially during the raining season. This community was funded and implemented by Wetlands International, IUCN Netherlands and Both Ends with the project "Rewetting Ndiaël"



Inauguration of Bélel Mbaye new road in Northern Sénégal

12. Inauguration of the Honey Unit of Dassilamé Sérère, Fatick Region, May 18, 2015



Dassilamé New building opened in Mai 2015 for beneficiaries who express their happiness

The inauguration of this infrastructure built within the MFS II-EA is a component of the conservation programme of Wetlands International whose aim is to restore mangroves in the Saloum Delta.

13. Inauguration of the women's cashew transformation unit and producers' storage of Sokone, Fatick, May, 18, 2015.

These two infrastructures have helped to consolidate the cashew chain that provides substantial benefits to the communities of Niombato. The projects aimed to bring producers and processors of cashew to mangrove reforestation and reduce the pressure on the species.



Mr. Ibrahima Thiam, Regional Director of Wetlands International, cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the storage units and cashew processing in Sokone, Fatick Region.

IV. MAJOR INTERVENTION AND KEY PROJECTS

A. CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change has been at the center of the discussions at the Conference of Parties (COP21) held in Paris, from 30th November to 11th December 2015. An agreement was reached to save humanity from global warming. In Africa, Wetlands International has been conducting actions for local communities to help them tackle this current phenomenon.

1. Ecosystem approach and climate change adaptation

a. Journalists set up the « Friends of Mangrove Journalists Association » and a « Network on Climate Change » with the support of Wetlands International Senegal.

Media professionals, Fatick and Kaolack (center) and St. Louis (Northern Senegal), set up the Friends of Mangrove Journalists Association (AJAM) and the Journalists Network on Climate Change (RJ2C) on April 2015. These developments came as a result of a media training session on Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Approach held by Wetlands International as an activity within the MFS II Ecosystem Alliance Program. These two structures have been set up to develop more awareness and participation on issues related to climate change and mangrove ecosystem protection.

Presidents, MM. Ngor Sarr and Ousseynou Diop, have expressed their commitment to work towards protecting the environment through the conservation of natural resources. They pledged to focus on raising more awareness and media practitioners' participation on issues related to climate change and the conservation and management of the mangrove resource for the well-being of the local communities. An action plan and a roadmap have since been developed by both AJAM and RJ2C.



Northern Journalists and Central Sénégal in a training on Climate change in April 2015 at Saint-Louis and Foundiougne.

b. Waso River Alliance for Climate Resilient Communities (WARA-CLIREC)

Funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the project objective was to reduce the effects of climate change on local communities and build the resilience of communities' livelihoods in Isiolo County, Kenya through ecosystem based adaptation approaches. User groups were organized and equipped with skills that would help them in a position to influence the chosen policy and other advocacy initiatives. Policy dialogues were done through community focus group discussions and the Waso stakeholders at the county level.

2. Evaluation of the ecosystem services

a. Capacity building on ecosystem assessment in Kenya

Wetlands International Kenya has trained actors at national and local levels and drew their attention to the importance to be given to this issue in the decision-making process for the Tana Basin. Such empowerment has a good understanding of the importance of the ecosystem assessment and its use in decision making.

b. Economic valuation of ecosystem services of Lake R’Kiz in Mauritania

Wetlands International Regional Office in Dakar, after conducting a pilot study to characterize some parts of the Senegal River basin such as Lake R’Kiz, Lake de Guiers and Podor floodplains, did a study on economic valuation of some ecosystem services of Lake R’Kiz in Mauritania.

This study was validated by experts from Universities, National Parks, Technical Departments, Local Authorities and OMVS’s experts during a workshop organized by Wetlands International for its Strategic Plan Intervention on the Senegal River Delta.

Provisioning and Cultural Ecosystem Services of Lake R’Kiz

Wetlands provide various services that people benefit. They can be intermediate goods which enter into the production of other goods and services or final goods that directly contribute to the satisfaction of consumer demand.

These provisioning, regulating, and self-maintenance ecosystems services generate non value, although they do not go through an organized market.

The field survey covered 416 households in six villages around the lake along Lavouaja near the junction with Senegal River. These rural areas are Gaani, Douze-Douze, Gouelit, Keke 1 and 2 and Madina Salam.

Finally, people attribute a significant economic value to the ecosystem of the lake through the services related to agriculture, fisheries, livestock, drinking water and culture. However, it is also noted a general downward trend of revenues from these activities and the contribution of these activities in all the household income.

Public mechanisms for participatory and sustainable management of the ecosystem are then to be planned for the 2025 overall vision of the Senegal River Regulatory Authority and its tributaries, such as declined in the different phases of Senegal River Master Plan for Water Development and Management (SDAGE).

c. Climate change vulnerability in Kenya and in Uganda

The Climate change vulnerability assessment in the Tana Delta (Kipini) was funded by MFS II Ecosystem Alliance. The communities received information and knowledge that assisted them to adapt to the changing climate. Thus, with the PfR Project in Uganda, beneficiaries were encouraged to engage on climate change ecosystem based adaptation activities for the pastoral communities: i.e. the case of Nakapiripirit.

3. Valuation of ecosystem goods and services for populations

a. Bioright approach for ecosystem conservation in Kenya.

This is an incentive based approach designed for ecosystem conservation, which was accepted by the communities and adopted in the project for livelihood support projects and ecosystem restoration.

The implementation of the project also depended on the understanding of communities about the concept of ecosystems and ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA). The communities were therefore trained on climate change and the principles and practices of EBA, the success of this project is mainly attributable to community efforts and how they embraced it.

With the support of the Partners for Resilience (PfR) project in Kenya, 510 solar lamps have been distributed to ten schools that in return have planted over 3000 trees with each school planting at least 300 trees. This bioright approach is one activity that has attracted many people because of the sensitization, training of the local communities and several events in which the importance of trees was shared with the general public and the school environmental clubs.



Environmental education in Kenyan schools

4. Bio-Right as an accompanying measure for protection of ecosystems

a. Adoption of Bio-Right as a sustainable initiative in the Niger Delta

Funded by Shell International, Wetlands International Africa and Nigeria Offices supported communities in the Niger Delta in the fight against poverty and the preservation of their ecosystems using the Bioright system. The local communities actively participated in the conservation and restoration of the environment and in exchange refrained from unsustainable practices.



Rebate checks by Wetlands International to villages of Abobiri, Obiayagha and Opume, Nigeria, in June 2015

Conservation actions through Biorights have economic and environmental benefits not only for local people but also globally. For instance, reforestation of mangroves can increase fish stocks locally while storing carbon that contributes to limiting climate change globally.

In June 2015, Wetlands International disbursed funds to 25 recipients in Obiayagha community in Ughelli South through the Micro Finance Bank of Wetlands in Warri in Delta State on financing of the Sustainable Livelihoods and biodiversity Project (SLBP). Micro-credits were converted into definitive payments dice for conservation services and / or restoration were successful at the end of the activities. Also to improve their livelihoods and safeguard the environment, Wetlands International Project Office in Nigeria funded 14 beneficiaries in Abobiri community through the Micro Finance Bank of Ecuador in Yenagoa in the Bayelsa State and 21 beneficiaries in Opume community.

b. The Bourgouculture and reforestation species in Mali

Through the PfR project and adopting the bioright approach, Wetlands International developed a bourgoutiere of 15 ha and 8 ha respectively in the villages of Gourao-Bozo and Saba, and *nilotica acacia* reforestation of 2 ha in the village of Débaré-Tioka.



Biodiversity of the Inner Niger Delta in Mali

c. Livestock and beehives for better environmental protection in Kenya

The rapid ecosystem profiling exercise was participatory and enabled communities to identify habitat types, their status and threats and the services and goods the communities get from the environment. The immediate benefit was that the zoned grazing areas provided fodder to feed more animals than before and were also used as water reservoirs during prolonged dry seasons. The zoning also resulted in the rejuvenation of natural trees whose roots and leaves would be used



Beekeeping process in Kenya within Kipini Mangrove Project

for medicinal treatments. Acacia and Neem trees were selected because they are drought resistant. As an incentive, the communities were given 200 beehives and 90 goats in 2014, 75 kgs of honey with a value of up to 720,000 Kenya shillings were harvested and sold to one company as well as different individuals. The bioright approach presents a viable option to promote climate change adaptation based on ecosystems through microcredit.

d. The development of gardening in 7 villages in Mali



Under the PfR project, 7 gardens were developed and are being operated by 1,038 women. The total production of shallot is estimated to be 74 942, 2 kg which is equivalent to 50.000 FCFA, and has consequently improved their living standards.

Okra crop in a garden & watering shallot in a PfR intervention site in Mali

e. Extension and promotion of composting techniques for the benefit of small holders in Mali



This project contributed to the improvement of soil fertility and the fight against wind and water erosion in 80 farmers' fields through the adoption of mulching and production of organic manure

Compost pit for a garden in Mali

f. Promotion of water governance policies in Kenya

Among the achievements of Waso River Alliance for Climate Resilient Communities (WARA-CLIREC) was to bring together all the key stakeholders in water governance in Isiolo county and initiate a dialogue on policy development and county programming that would not only mainstream climate change in water governance but also target support for community initiatives that enhance resilience and reduce climate disaster risks. The platform created by Waso river stakeholders' dialogues can be exploited in the future for policy advocacy.



Channel filled with water after the restoration work in Kenya

5. Ecosystem approach in the management of wetlands

a. 8th Forum of the PRCM: Wetlands International's Advocacy for a consideration of climate change in the conservation of wetlands

The 8th edition of the marine and coastal Regional Forum of the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Zone in West Africa (PRCM) in Praia, Cape Verde (2 to 5 November 2015), was the occasion for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Wetlands International, Mrs. Jane Madgwick, to reflect on "wetlands and climate change" at the panel on the theme "the impacts of climate change on coastal and marine areas".



Mrs. Jane Madgwick, Wetlands International's CEO at the podium of the 8th PRCM Forum in Praia, November 2, 2015

In her introductory communication, Mrs. Madgwick strongly emphasized the need for an ecosystem approach holistically taking into account the issues upstream and downstream coastal and marine areas. Wetlands International's CEO calls for a consideration of climate change in the conservation and management of wetlands. She believes that a fruitful partnership between the different stakeholders, including policy makers and the private sector is essential, before insisting on the urgent need to develop knowledge and build capacity of different actors.

An open discussion about the cultural dimension of climate change and the need for reliable scientific data to guide policy makers' decisions followed.

The panel was attended by Mrs. Jane Madgwick, the CEO of Wetlands International, Professor Salif Diop of Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) in Dakar and Issemou Mr. Ould Abdelkader, former MP and former Minister of Mauritania.

B. MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION OF DEGRADED ECOSYSTEM

In much areas of the continent, ecosystems are degraded by several factors both natural and human. However, each year Wetlands International Africa is embarked on restoration activities of degraded ecosystems.

a. annual mangrove reforestation in Senegal

In the three project areas and as in previous years a total of 140 hectares of mangrove forest was replanted this year with the support and assistance of local groups, community associations and organizations in charge of the environment under the coordination of Local Units and Project Coordination (ULCP). Regular monitoring activities are carried out and reforested sites mapped to assess the restored areas. A 95% recovery rate is noted for reforestation. As part of the monitoring system to develop, a comprehensive mapping of reforested areas by the project since 2012 would be done in 2016 to assess the contribution of reforestation on ecosystem conservation.



A strong involvement of local people especially women for whom 80% of economic activity are based on the use of mangrove resources, has been noted.

Reforestation of mangroves in Abéné, Foundiougne and Joal

b. Empowering communities to Kipini for the restoration and management of mangroves in Kenya

As part of the rehabilitation of degraded mangrove area, 2,700 mangroves have been restored with to the financial support of the TEJCHEVE and Ecosystem Alliance Foundation.

Reforestation activities have been done with education and awareness campaigns, strengthening capacities for community governance, conservation and restoration of mangroves. Similarly was the introduction of livelihoods and beekeeping as an income generating activity.

Also, an important step was taken in building relationships between different stakeholders. It was also important to involve the county governments, local governments and administration in the implementation of activities because it contributes to durability and provides ongoing support to the project.

c. Nursery set up to limit the pressure on resources in Nigeria

Under the Sustainable Livelihoods and Biodiversity Project (SLBP) in Nigeria funded by Shell International, raising of timber seedlings in nurseries in Abobiri, Opume and Obi- Ayagha communities was set up to limit the pressure on mangroves. 6300 compounds plants of *Terminalia superba*, *Terminalia ivorensis* and *Nauclea diderrichii* among other species and 17482 plant propagules of *Avicennia germinans* and *Rhizophora racemosa* for the Asarama community.



Community nurseries of timber and mangroves in Nigeria

d. Nurseries set up in Senegal to limit the impact of wood cutting

Community nurseries were also installed in the cities of Toubacouta, Ndiayéne Pendao and Ndiébéne Gandiole in the Fatick region, of in the Saint-Louis region of Senegal by the Ecosystem Alliance program



Community nurseries in Toubacouta, Senegal, visited here by Mrs. Jane Madgwick, Mr. Ibrahima Thiam in company of Mr. Pape Seydou Ndianko, Mayor of the city.

e. Sustainable mangrove conservation in Sénégal

Funded by BMZ Germany and executed by WWF then by Wetlands International Africa within the mangrove project, the development process has started and the implementation of a Mangrove Monitoring System in the three project areas based on simple indicators and accessible by people was launched. The field work for the system development and support to the implementation will begin in February 2016.

This tracking system is a certain contribution to the sustainable conservation of mangroves and monitoring of its dynamics by communities and partners.

f. Valuation of mangrove resources and promotion of income-generating activities in Sénégal



Garland installation for oyster farming in the 3 intervention areas

A 5-day exchange visit was organized to Dassilamé Sérère in August 2015 for a capacity building of 22 women's group stakeholders from Abéné, Joal and Foundiougne. They have been trained in techniques of garlands construction and development of oyster farming. After the training, the project has supported the installation of garlands for the sustained production of oyster in Abéné, Djirnda, Joal and Moundé. Also in the development of income generating activities, the project has supported the installation of a village nursery for the development of horticulture and fruit growing in the village of Albadar in Abéné for the benefit of the federation groups of the area in order to reduce the pressure on mangroves.

For the development of ecotourism, a 3-day training was organized in December 2015 in Joal for eco-guides and local stakeholders to introduce the concept and encourage its development around the management of mangroves.

g. Simple management plans of mangrove developed and implemented in Senegal



To strengthen the conservation of mangroves by communities, local management committees were set up in each zone and simple management plans are developed and implemented now with the technical support of the Water and Forestry Department and the Department of Protected Marine Areas.

Also, equipment for surveillance was given to local committees to strengthen surveillance and control of resources. It is composed of a traditional canoe of 12 seats and a 15HP outboard motor for the management committees of Abéné, Joal-Fadiouth and Foundiougne, 50 life jackets, 12 GPS and 03 photo camera set.

One of the three shells offered to MPA management committees of Abéné, Joal and Foundiougne

h. Wetlands International and the Foundiougne District Council sign a partnership agreement for the management of RBDS, Sénégal



Signing convention ceremony at the Foundiougne District Council, Sénégal

As part of the Mangrove Platform introduced in March by the District Council of this area with the technical and financial support of Wetlands International, the two institutions have signed on, December 4, 2015 a Partnership Agreement for a better management of the Biosphere Reserve of the Saloum Delta (RBDS).

This is part of this territorial approach to participatory and inclusive management of mangroves. It is a first step towards a consultation of stakeholders and a prospective sharing of participatory management of mangroves initiatives. The Platform will be an orientation for interventions and harmonization in the environment sector for sustainable development. It will serve as a catalyst and will enable the Chairman of the Council to have a roadmap and seek funding. The aim is not only to reforest mangrove areas, but also to rehabilitate them and to think about everything related to the resource including fishing, oyster farming, beekeeping mangrove among other services offered by these ecosystems. This platform thus is a gateway for all stakeholders wishing to help the Foundiougne department to enable it to take advantage of the enormous potential of the area to the delight of the decentralized institution.

With this agreement, the department has established with support from Wetlands International a short, medium and long term action plan called "Departmental Development Fund" that will be implemented by the District Council to raise funds for the implementation of the plan.

Moreover, the council and Wetlands International Africa will strive to seek funding for projects and programs (resource development) for the conservation of ecosystems and for local communities.

i. Wetlands International and IUCN work on a Regional Programme for Sustainable Management of Mangroves in Africa

Under the financial support of the Mava Foundation within the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Zone in West Africa (PRCM), Wetlands International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), have worked on the 5th and 6th October 2015 in Dakar on the development of a Regional Program on Sustainable and Concerted Management of Mangroves on the East Atlantic coast of Africa, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention.

The objective of the Dakar meeting was to build consensus around a regional conservation program, sustainable management and monitoring of mangroves and obtain the commitment of key partners. Sustainable and concerted management of mangroves in Africa remains a major concern for the PRCM and its founding organizations.

During this workshop, the importance of the mangrove ecosystem in ecological and socio-economic field for our states and communities was recalled through for instance food security and the contribution of mangroves to mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

After holding this workshop to develop the Regional Program on Sustainable and Concerted Management of Mangroves in Africa, a roadmap has been defined and reflection continues for fundraising.

j. The Head of State approves the PNZH developed by Wetlands International Africa



The nation of Senegal now has its own National Policy on Wetlands Management (PNZH). The policy document was developed by Wetlands International Africa, and was approved on Friday, July 24, 2015 by the President of Senegal. President Macky Sall chaired the high-level segment which closed the first National Conference on Sustainable Development (CNDD) on the theme " Sustainable Cities and Territories " which also recommends the translation of PNZH into national Law. The expertise of Wetlands International is once again recognized and magnified at the highest level.

By validating fully this important promoting sustainable development tool, the CNDD recommends translating the PNZH into national Law, also is the selection of two to three eco-geographic areas as pilot sites and encouraging technical and financial partners to support implementation.

The National Policy on Wetland Management aims to ensure consistency between the different policies for production and conservation, to contribute to a sustainable use of these areas. This is in reverse to the conversion of wetlands to the quasi sole purpose of agricultural production, mining, tourism development, residential areas etc, at the expense of conservation activities of these highly vulnerable areas. In the current context of loss of wetlands, PNZH is a strategic tool that is part of a long-term vision, in accordance with the guidelines of economic and social development set by Senegal Emergent Plan (PSE). The vision of the PNZH is defined as: " By 2025, the wetland ecosystems and resources associated with them, are preserved, viable and sustainably used to provide goods and services needed for the fight against poverty at local and national levels and contribute to the conservation of global biological diversity ".

The cost of implementation is estimated at eight billion, five hundred ninety-three million CFA francs (8, 593 billion CFA francs) for a period of 5 years (2016-2020).

This validation of the National Policy on Wetland Management closes the development process started way back in October 2013 by Wetlands International Africa following a speech launch by the National Parks Department. Wetlands International Africa expertise is also being highly recognized by the keystone institutions of the Republic of Senegal.

k. Support to the designation of Tana Delta as a Ramsar site in Kenya

As part of the Ecosystem Alliance Program, a significant support was provided to the National Authority of the Environment Management (NEMA) for the development of the National Policy Wetlands for the conservation and management of wetlands. This status gives the Delta proper protection necessary for the conservation of this vital ecosystem that has high biodiversity and great ecological importance.

The strategy and action plan of the national policy set out to unfold the activities over the next 10 years (2015-2025) to ensure conservation and management of wetlands in Kenya.

l. Conservation and management of wetlands in Uganda

Under Water, Sanitation and Health Project (WASH) in Uganda, funded by MFS-II Ecosystem Alliance, the capacity of communities living in wetlands in Kiyagaa-ra Parish and in the Middle Mpanga Subcatchment, have been strengthened on the conservation and management of wetlands. Guidelines were given and bye laws adopted to monitor and enforce the good management of wetlands.

m. The RAMCEA Centre defines its operating rules for good management of wetlands



Training on wetlands in rural area in Uganda

The Governing Council of the Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA) has marked another important milestone in November 10, 2015 by approving, adopting and signing the rules and regulations governing all Ramsar Centre Operations for Eastern Africa. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Regional Director for Africa Mr. Rasamoelina Rakotomamonjy and international organization partners operating in the Eastern African region such as Wetlands International, BirdLife International and IUCN.

During this board meeting attended by the heads of administrative authorities from the Republic of Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the RAMCEA medium term work plan for 2016 were also approved.

n. Agro forestry and deductions of water, an added value for the communities in Kenya

Through bioright approach, agro forestry has been promoted by the provision of 300 fruit trees of different species, potatoes and rice seeds in Basa, Iresaboru and Biliqo for riparian areas protection.

The amenities of dams in Isiolo County have allowed a significant reduction in death rate of animals, especially use conflicts in the dry season, the availability of sufficient water for livestock and domestic use.

o. Wetlands International and National Park of Langue de Barbarie celebrate the World Migratory Birds Days in Sénégal.

Senegal celebrated the World Migratory Bird's Day on 9th and 10th May 2015 under the theme "*Energy make it bird friendly*".

Funded by the Arcadia Foundation, it was an opportunity for Wetlands International, as part of the project "From the Arctic to Africa" in partnership with the Langue de Barbie National Park and St Louis Gandiole Primary School in Northern Senegal, to strengthen human sensitivity in protecting birds as well as involve the communities in raising an awareness-campaign to pay particular attention to the many different species of birds. Migratory birds are facing threats as a result of habitat loss brought about by human activity, where to meet the pressing energy demands, wetlands on which birds depend are drained.

The Langue De Barbie National Park and the young elementary students in the area were not randomly targeted during the international days dedicated to the Migratory Birds. Wetlands international remains convinced that it is through a joint Co-operation with their partners and the people living within the threatened wetland areas that will lead to the awareness of the conservation measures of the migratory birds. In the transition to use more environmentally friendly methods to protect life on earth, the best audience would be the children, who in a few years will lead to the development of their countries.



WMBD celebrations in the Langue de Barbarie National Park of Sénégal, 9-10 May 2015

The opportunities and existing threats to the PNLB were presented and the communities of Gandiolais urged to invest more in their actions of protection and conservation of the species living in the park.

p. . Launching of the Biodiversity Conservation Project in the Mangroves Natural Park of Cacheu, Guinea-Bissau



Technical Meeting with partners at PNTC, Guinea-Bissau, October 12, 2015

Funded by Turing Foundation, the project's objective was to preserve and restore the Mangroves Natural Park of Cacheu (PNTC) in Guinea-Bissau and its precious biodiversity and wealth of resources that the park and its surroundings offer to local communities. This project, was launched on October 12, 2015, in Cacheu, through a technical workshop with partners. The project works with local communities and park authorities to preserve the site, protect the mangrove habitats and the biodiversity in the park and in its surroundings.

During the workshop, the results of assessment of the ecology and hydrology in mangrove systems and the periphery of PNTC were confirmed and validated, and conservation measures within the project defined.

2.Habitat Restoration

Wetlands International funded habitat restoration actions in the Community Nature Reserve (RNC) of Tocc Tocc, 6th Ramsar site in northern Senegal and the Diawling National Park (PND) in Mauritania.

a. 10 ha of typha removed in the RNC Tocc Tocc, Senegal



In the Tocc Tocc reserve, the objective was to restore the bio-ecological conditions at the bowl, important bird area in the Senegal River Delta, but partly colonized by discarded fishing nets and by invasive aquatic plants which are most apparent cattail (*Typha australis*) and Nianthie (*Cerathophyllum demersal*). Consequently there has been removal of typha on a 9.5 hectares in compensation of Nianthie (*Cerathophyllum*) and removal of abandoned nets on a 5 hectares piece of land.

Open flood area of typha and nianthie in Tocc Tocc Reserve on nearly 10 ha

b. 50 ha removed in Diawling National Park, Mauritania



Always under the guidance of "From The Arctic To Africa" project (A2A) space recovery interventions and habitats were conducted on about 50 ha in the park.

Restoration actions have clutter streams and facilitate the free movement of fish and water to the delight of water birds and crocodiles.

Presence of birds and water lilies after the widening the scope of works in Diawling

c. Monitoring of tree plantations as resources of mitigation in Mali

The plants *Zizyphus mauritiana* (improved variety) and *Acacia nilotica* were planted in seven (7) out of the twelve (12) villages of the project area. Monitoring was conducted through visits and interactions. Women participation was strongly noticed during the planting exercise. In assessing the success rate and mortality of plantations established, the following were considered, namely; the phytosanitary situation, the interviews (foot release of plants), the contribution of organic fertilizer as well as the periodicity of time watering. The survival rate was around an average of 60% in seven (7) sites. In seven (7) villages in the project intervention area, a combined total of 2,838 plants of *Zizyphus mauritiana* and *Acacia nilotica* (improved variety) were planted with an average success rate estimated at 60%.

d. Dune Fixation in Senegal and Mali

In Senegal, the same exercise was also conducted by the technical services in the St. Louis Region accompanied by Wetlands International in its Ecosystem Alliance program and this has involved more than 53.5 ha (equivalent to 21, 2 km) of dune fixation. Dune fixation in nearby villages of Savoigne, Ndiol Maure1, Ndiol Maure2 and Gantour 1 and 2 was to stop the threat of sand storm which is a common phenomenon across some towns in the St. Louis area.

Sand dunes fixed in northern Sénégal



In Mali, an estimated area of 2,300 m² was in restored the village of Sobé and 1, 255 m² restored in Sambéri village.



Sand dunes fixed at Sobé in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali

e. Spatial Noga Channel in Mali

With a length of 2km 104 m, work on the Noga channel which began will allow flooding and restoration of ecosystem services in 5 ponds and plains by flushing their main supply channel. The plains in question have an area of about 5,000 ha which benefits more Noga villages, where the PfR operates in five (5) other villages that will benefit from this site. The channel will contribute to local development of 5 villages through the promotion of agricultural and forestry-pastoral activities.



Ecosystems restored after the dredging of Noga channel, central north of Mali

C. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Several biodiversity conservation actions have been undertaken by various offices of Wetlands International Africa country this year.

1. Species Conservation

a. Conservation of waterbirds / Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye and AIV Ndiaël honored in Bonn

Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye and Inter-Villager Association (AIV) of Ndiaël, all from Senegal, received the prestigious 2015 award of conservation of waterbirds African-Eurasian migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) on Monday, November 9, 2015 in Bonn, Germany, on the occasion of the 6th Meeting of Parties. They were rewarded for their efforts in the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Senegal and Africa.

This award was presented for the first time at the 4th session of the Meeting of Parties in 2008 in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Prizes were for winners whose distinguished contribution were towards the conservation, research and monitoring of migratory waterbirds, as well as assistance development of AEWA. Through the dedication of partners and collaborators, Wetlands International also sees the recognition of his efforts and actions.

The AEWA Secretariat has taken advantage of the 6th Meeting of Parties (November 9 to 14, 2015) to recognize and reward the countless efforts done by the winners of this year in the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Senegal and in Africa.



Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye and Mr. Amadou Sow (right) during the MOP 6 in Bonn, Germany (@: Bernd de Bruijn / Vogelbescherming Netherlands)

As for the AIV Ndiaël she invested her years in ecological and ornithological monitoring and restoration of wetlands for the benefit of local communities and 32 of the Ndiaël Special Reserve avifauna in (North Senegal) are attributed to her work.

Inter-Villager Ndiaël Association was created in 2004 and counts 800 affiliates. Its aim is to enable local communities in the area, estimated at 9,000 inhabitants to work on biodiversity rehabilitation activities for the wildlife of the reserve.

Ndiaël is a Ramsar site and is in the central hub of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of the Senegal River Delta. It has been classified as a critical site at the Montreux Record.

A delegation of Wetlands International and Vogelbescherming Nederland (BirdLife partner in the Netherlands) that have supported for years the work of the AIV Ndiaël, attended the award ceremony at the 6th triennial Meeting of Parties in Bonn.

D. INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM)

a. . The BAM-GIRE Programme launched by Wetlands International in Sélingué in Mali

This Programme on Integrated Water Resources Management commonly called “BAM-GIRE” was launched in November 2015 and is funded by the Kingdom of Netherlands, through its Embassy in Mali for the period 2015-2019. The project aims to ensure “a better living Niger Basin, where the livelihoods and biodiversity are secured in a changing environment”.



Launching of BAMGIRE Programme, November 12, Sélingué, Mali

Its area of operation covers the Upper Niger and the Inner Niger Delta, two portions of the Niger River basin in Mali and Guinea Conakry.

It also has over 50 partners, from national departments, central services, development offices and laboratories in Mali and Guinea Conakry, supporting its Implementation.

The BAM-GIRE has among other objectives:

- The establishment of an Observatory on the Upper Niger Basin and the Inner Delta which will be operational In 2016 and inform 10 of the 28 indicators identified by specific actors.
- Institutionalization and development of the “ OPIDIN ” tool which autonomous operation can now be provided by Wetlands International and the National Water Department.

b. Basin approach and Bio Right for hygiene and sanitation in Mali

Within the WASH Alliance which is funded by the Dutch Cooperation (DGIS) the partnership between Wetlands International Mali and the national NGOs allowed the adoption approaches of Watershed and Bio-Right. The NGOs Conseils Appui pour l’Education à la Base (CAEB) et Association d’Entraide au Développement (AED) mobilized 115 participants including 80 women in the application of the approaches especially at the sub basins Doumba Sirakorola and Garalo Yinnindiugou.

The NGOs Association for the Promotion of Habitat and Housing (ALPHALOG) and Association for Research-Action on Women and Development (ARAFD) applied the bioright approach in areas of Moutoukoula and Tere.

c. Camel campaign for a preservation of the Ewaso Nyiro River in Kenya

Initiated by the Partners for Resilience (PfR) programme in Kenya, pastoral communities from Isiolo, Laikipia and Samburu Counties participated in a 5-day , 250 km trek along the Ewaso Nyiro River to raise awareness on the importance of conservation of this wetland, whose role is vital to the local communities.



Caravan of camels for the preservation of Ewaso Nyiro ecosystems and community meetings in Sericho on the big dam of Isiolo in Kenya

Dubbed the Camel Caravan, this initiative provided a unique platform to engage different stakeholders including the local government representatives, and also lobby the national and county governments to reconsider the negative environmental and social impacts of the Isiolo mega dam construction that if constructed, would deprive the vulnerable communities living downstream of the Ewaso Nyiro River access to water, energy and their economic independence.

d. Wetland delineation and development of a water bill



Through the Partners for Resilience project, over 150 people (63 women and 87 men) benefited from this project. Farmers identified the high water mark and ensured that they erected flood barriers as mitigation measures about 2Km at 600ms from the river banks. This ensured that the farms were safe from the flood waters flowing from the Ewaso River creating a buffer zone during the dry seasons and protecting the wetlands ecosystem and their biodiversity.

This bill was funded by the PfR project and seeks to regulate the abstraction of water and also protect the water catchment areas so as to facilitate the normal flows of the river. The bill incorporates issues related to Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem Management and Restoration, and undertaking of ongoing inventory on wetlands and other water resources.

Fish farming in Isiolo, an eastern region of Kenya

E. FOCUS ON BAM-GIRE PROJECT

The BAM-GIRE is a five year project (2015-2019) funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Mali, that aims to support the implementation of Sustainable Development and the Upper Niger Delta Program Inner Niger and Building Programme on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Mali.

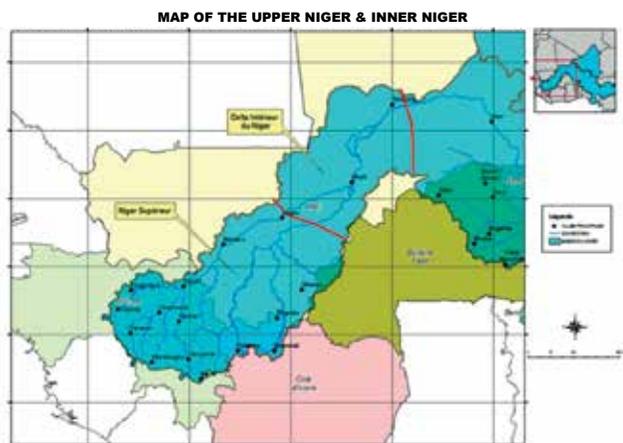
The project's goal is to promote "A Upper Niger (Guinean and Malian part) and a living Inner Niger Delta where livelihoods and biodiversity are secured in a changing environment".

BAM-GIRE's focuses on the Government, decentralized institutions and community activities to maintain the regime of the Upper Niger flows and those of the flooding and the Inner Niger Delta natural resources so that the livelihoods, biodiversity and the economy adapts to the changing environment.

By 2019, the Government of Mali, the decentralized institutions and communities should be better informed in decision making from the knowledge gained on the environment and natural resources of the Upper Niger and Delta .

Thus, an «Observatory» (for the Upper Niger, and Delta) will be created online for the dissemination of key information on monitoring. This is a complementary observation to that of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) with specific indicators that meet the users of Mali and Guinea, in line with the open access information sources whose development is participatory, involving key players in the Mali, Guinea and the NBA whose institutional base will be based in government institutions in Mali and Guinea.

Also, ecosystem services (benefits) provided by the Upper Niger and Delta are mapped and evaluated. The focus will be on:



- Provisional services: food production (rice, fish, livestock, etc.), wood, water for domestic and industrial use, transport, medicinal plants
- Cultural services: tourism and eco-tourism (values that support the preservation of ecological and historical culture).
- Regulating services: monitoring water quality and control of water-related diseases
- Service landscapes and / or habitats: (gallery forests, floodplain forests, bourgoutières permanent or temporary lakes, etc.).

The BAMGIRE vision by 2019 is to improve water sharing and manage safe flooding regime for food security and ecological integrity in the Guinean and Malian part of the Upper Niger and Inner Niger Delta.

The thresholds for the hydrological regime required to maintain the Upper Niger and the Inner Niger Delta living tributary flooding (food security and ecological) have also been defined. In other developments, the 2019 ambitious project design and implementation of adaptation plans for climate change will provide a community-based use / sustainable restoration of natural resources and biodiversity conservation. Hot spot livelihoods and biodiversity will be identified and mapped and conservation priorities and restoration / improvement will be defined. These are areas of high socio-economic values and / or ecological identify and map in the Upper Niger and the Inner Niger Delta.

The identification and mapping of these areas will enable their inclusion in the strategic planning of programs and use of resources of the two sub-basins and define the conservation and restoration measures. The development and implementation of the master plan for the Upper Niger and Delta will be participatory and will cover the duration of the project. It will also define the different agro-ecological and / or socio-economic and / or socio-cultural zones with various appropriate vocations.

F. CAPACITY BUILDING

a. Communications & Advocacy on IWRM and planning reinforced to the SCOs of Mali and Guinea Conakry



Wetlands International Mali has, with the support of the National Water Partnership of Mali, enhanced knowledge for more than 50 civil society organizations from Mali and Guinea (women's organizations, youth, NGOs and the National Commission of Users' and-Using Water Resources of the Niger basin) in communication and advocacy in the context of integrated planning and management of water resources of the Upper Niger and the Inner Niger Delta.

Participants taking a group photo during the CSO training held from 21 to 23 October 2015 in Sevare, Mali

b. Training session on Ecosystem Approach and Climate Change Adaptation for Foundiougne local elected officials in Senegal, 25 to 27 November 2015



Wetlands International has strengthened the capacity of local elected officials of the department of Foundiougne in Senegal, on "Ecosystem Approach and Adaptation to Climate Change" with the support of MFS-II Ecosystem Alliance Program which was cofunded by IUCN Netherlands and Both Ends. The main objective was to the local officials gain a better understanding of these issues, discuss about the Mangrove platform and also to disseminate the study on mapping of actors and interventions in the Saloum Delta

Foundiougne local elected officials during the training in Senegal, 25-27 November 2015

c. Training Session on Economic Evaluation of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)

This important session was organised to build the capacity of stakeholders on the economic assessments and values for ecosystem and biodiversity for stakeholders in the intervention areas of Ecosystem Alliance Program in Kenya.



Preetika Bhandari of Wetlands International Kenya shares the TEEB findings with stakeholders in the Tana Delta

d. CSOs better equipped in biodiversity conservation in Kenya

With funding from the Critical Ecosystems Partnership, Project Capacity Development of Civil Society Organizations in the mountains of southern Sudan on Imatong in the management and conservation of biodiversity has strengthened the capacity of CSOs and mentoring sessions have helped to increase their knowledge on biodiversity conservation. Already, beneficiaries were able to use this knowledge to develop concepts.



Training session for CSO in South Sudan

e. Exchange visit between communities

The exchange visit enabled the PFR community beneficiaries to take advantage of the experience involving localities with the Inner Niger Delta Management Programme (PADIN) in Mali. The goal of exchanges visits was the draft *“Risk Reduction of Disasters / Climate Change Adaptation / Management and Restoration of Ecosystems (RRD / ACC / GRE ”* in the Inner Niger Delta (DIN), funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands, held in Bambarawel (Fakala Municipality in Djenne) on march 2015. The visit comes in line in the connecting and learning component (linking and learning).

The 50 peasants of the villages of Dianweli and Simina (Konna Municipality), Saba, Noga and Abdramane (Dialloubé Municipality) used this opportunity to share the experiences of gardening and dike protection construction at Bambarawel



Exchange visit between communities in Bambarawel village February, 18, 2015

G. TESTIMONIALS THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR STAKEHOLDER'S AND BENEFICIARIES

a. Senegal / Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Laureate AEWAW 2015

“Wetlands International has empowered me“



“Wetlands International has been a second family to me because through them. I have learned a lot. This is where I sharpened my skills, enhanced my knowledge and grew my love for birds. Previously I worked as the warden of the Djoudj Bird National Park (PNOD) in the early 90s where I learned my ornithologist training was, I am grateful to Wetlands International for their guidance and continued support. The organization has empowered me”. Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye speaking after his return from Bonn where he received the 2015 AEWAW award.

Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye, handing his Award to Mr. Ibrahima Thiam, Regional Director of Wetlands International Africa

b. Senegal / Amadou Sow, AIV Ndiaël winner of 2015 AEWAW Award

“This award is a challenge and a motivation for us “



Amadou Sow, president of AIV Ndiaël showcasing their 2015 AEWAW Award to Mr. Ibrahima Thiam, Regional Director of Wetlands International and Papa Mawade Wade, Programme Coordinator

“This international recognition is a great motivation to the work I do. It is like priesthood for us. This award presents a great challenge, we no longer have the right to give up, or fail. We have to strive to excel because the best is yet to come. We are very happy as we were awarded during the 2015 AEWAW held in Bonn, Germany. This Award came to us as a surprise though we expected a distinction at the national level as was the case in 2011 when we won an award from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal”. We wish to thank our partners mainly Wetlands International and AW with whom we worked together in the Program MFS II Ecosystem Alliance in the Ndiaël reserve. Through their support, we achieved colossal effort which brought us this award.

We plan to work harder on the new challenges that Ndiaël presents. With funding from Wetlands International and Living on the Earth (LOTE), we will be able to achieve more and even earn more recognition. Whoever goes to Ndiaël will witness the big difference between the past and the present, a great change is notable on the site following the intervention of the international organisations and our communities “.

“Going forward for us as AIV is reaching out to partners such as Wetlands International and others to help us revitalize the Ndiaël Special Avifauna Reserve (RSAN). The rewetting will have a huge socio-economic impact in over 32 villages.

“With Wetlands International and AW we had a lot. With Wetlands International, we made possible what we never materialized with a partner. The 2015 AEWAW Award was a surprise for us. We expected a distinction at national level as in 2011 when we won an award from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal”

c. Mr. Guedj Diouf, Deputy Prefect of Ndiaye, St. Louis Region

“ This track is a boon to communities “



The opening up of Bélel Mbaye track built under the Ecosystem Alliance project has had a positive effects on the socio-economic life of this area. We certainly could not drive the development of this area without this gem and so I urge you to make good use of it “ said Mr. Guedj Diouf.

Mr. Guedj Diouf, the Chief of Ndiaye Sub district addressing the Ndiäël Communities

d. Feedback from the Students of Port Harcourt University, Nigeria on the TEEB training



“This TEEB training has strengthened our capabilities and helped us to be competent environmental biologists. Moreover, it has equipped us with immense knowledge on the economics of the environment as well as positively impacts the lives of my fellow Nigerians “.

A debriefing session with the Head of Wetlands International Office in Port Harcourt

H. WHO ARE THEY?

a. Portrait of Mr. Amadou Sow, president of AIV Ndiaël

The Imam and the buff village head of the ecological monitoring and ornithological

Meet the 60 year old, Mr. Amadou Sow the President of the Inter Villager Association (AIV) of Ndiaël, also known as “Mama” by the members of his community who inspires respect and admiration as he is a powerful symbol and a reference in the crusade for the preservation and conservation of the ecosystem of its locality. The AIV which gathers 32 villages in the Ndiaël Special Avifauna Reserve and its outskirts last November 2015 received the 2015 AEWA Award in Bonn, Germany for its efforts in the rewetting of this Ramsar site listed on the Montreux Record since 1990.



**Mr. Amadou Sow,
president of AIV Ndiaël,
Sénégal**

At the beginning nothing yet presaged the course of this only son of a father who personally chooses to initiate the knowledge and assimilation of the Koran rather than learn the French language from the school.

Born in October 25, 1955, he received a full hearing of the Koran and Arabic and specialized in the Islamic law, Sharia. He became Imam and was confirmed head of his village in 1999, in addition to his status as judge (judicial authority in Islam) in his locality.

Several decades later, this man who is now the president of AIV Ndiaël is fully aware of the huge task of restoring the Ndiaël Special Avifauna Reserve (RSAN). He has gone through many challenges in his time in the fields as well as continually learning and gaining immense knowledge on the same. This has been an opportunity for Mr. Sow to realize an old promise that his father, then great marabout and village elder of Raynabé 1 had made to his friend Woula Ndiaye, former head of Ross Béthio district. «*Amadou Sow is currently in the process of learning French, after he sharpened his knowledge of the Koran and Arabic.*»

Self-taught, Mr. Amadou Sow or Mama as he is affectionately known in his area, is sensitive to local prejudices that at times might deride his desire of an old man determined to be educated in French. He avoids the evening classes in the town of Ross Béthio where he is well known and chooses to register as an auditor for consideration by the end of elementary education certificate (CFEE)

“*not to be the laughing stock people,*” he chuckles.

At 59 years, Mr. Amadou Sow participated in the 2014 Middle Elementary Course with other candidates who were as young as his grandson and obtained his Elementary Education Certificate (CFEE), the first elementary school diploma recognized by the academic system of Sénégal.

He proudly relishes and shows his Elementary Education Certificate, to everyone. And when you ask him if he will try the diploma for end of secondary school (BFEM), Amadou Sow replied stoically, «*It depends on the intellectual forces that my age will give to me.*»

A passionate of ICT



Mr. Amadou Sow, ecological and ornithological monitoring in the heart of Ndiaël, Sénégal

An enthusiast of Information Technologies and Communication, Amadou Sow walks proudly with his laptop. He is versant with Microsoft Word, uses digital Excel spreadsheet and knows how to update its accounting records.

Moreover, Mr. Sow always walks in the Ndiaël Reserve with his GPS device geolocation which he learned how to use after a training with the technicians from Wetlands International Africa Regional Office. As an Imam and village chief judge he actively participates in ecological and ornithological monitoring in the reserve for which he has committed all his strength and energy.

It is these efforts that were rewarded with the 2015 prestigious Award of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) which in turn has dedicated it to institutions that won this year by the AIV Ndiaël. He is a happy President after he received the award on behalf of the Inter Villager Association (AIV) of Ndiaël in Germany during the 6th Triennial Meeting of the Parties (MOP6). A consecration for this man who becomes the symbol of ongoing revitalization programs in Ndiaël. Nothing in the area passes without his involvement and that of his organization which is known worldwide.

b. Portrait of Abdoulaye Ndiaye

A Colonel of national parks dedicated for the conservation of migratory birds

Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye has been Senegal's national parks warden until his retirement last year, February 2015. The sixty years old is a native of Matam



Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye, in Senegalese traditional outfit

in northern Senegal and has a passion for birds. It is rightly so that he was awarded by the 2015 Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds (AEWA) price for the conservation of waterbirds.

A former soldier he has solid military training and the reserve position gladly opened him the doors to the National Parks Department that he

integrated in October 1984. As a good soldier, his love for achieving a job well done and his dedication to work, made Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye, a man with a rich, varied career and exceptional experience. He became a Wildlife expert specializing on themes related to Botany, Zoology, Biology and Veterinary with a focus in Ornithology, he was warden of the National Park of the Madeleine Islands, Dakar (1987-1989), the National Park of Lower Casamance in Oussouye (1989-1990) and the Djoudj Bird National Park (1991-1998) where he took "the virus of love for waterbirds" he likes to recall. In 1998, he joined Wetlands International where he worked for 15 years before becoming an associate expert for two years now.

Colonel or Ablaye as he is affectionately known at Wetlands International Africa Office is a man of the seraglio who has worked in over 30 countries in Africa and gladly shares his hard earned expertise in the construction of the wetlands edifice conservation and monitoring of birds.

An expert of wetlands

Courteous and very open, Alupar, Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye is a man who likes to joke and make his colleagues laugh at his many stories. He holds a Certificate of Planning and Management of Wetlands (PGZH) in Lelystad (Netherlands) and has previously lectured in the Department of Geography at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Sénégal teaching Master students on issues related to wetlands and waterbirds and also at Ouagadougou University, Burkina Faso also teaching Master students on managing wetlands. The winner of the 2015 AEWA also coined his upper teaching talents in Uganda and Kenya in the field of wetlands management plans and Wetlands and Poverty Reduction as well as in Climate Change Adaptation.



Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye, on mission in the Diawling, Mauritania, June 2015

In addition, colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye obtained his «Post-Graduate Certificate in Land Use Planning» in 1994 from Zshortaw EHR Lepzig in (Germany) on the Planning and Rural Development with a focus on conflict resolution and development of buffer zones around protected areas.

Internationally, he was a member of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar convention from 1993 to 1996 and in 2013; he became the Coordinator of the Technical Support Unit for the AEWA African Initiative for Africa.

Colonel is a family man, who highly regards his family and gladly pays tribute to his late parents for the guidance they offered when he was growing and more so for an opportunity to learn he also attributes his success to the immense love and support from his children through this journey he was speaking at the 2015 AEWA Award which he was the first African to have won He is very grateful to Wetlands International, the Government of Senegal and the General Mouhamadou Keita, former Chief of Staff of the Senegalese Armed Forces for their support and opportunity to excel.

V. COMMUNICATION

a. Capacity building for the Media professionals

Training sessions for communication professionals in Senegal were organized to better equip them on topical themes such as Ecosystem Approach and Climate Change Adaptation.

In Mali, a Communication and Advocacy training for the actors of Civil Society Organisations of Guinea and Mali was held on issues of planning and water resources management.

The Africa regional office based in Dakar, Sénégal developed a media plan for the production of radio programs to help sensitize the local communities on issues related to water and land management and, recovery of saline land and degraded mangroves ecosystem restoration.



Sign boards made during Ecosystem Alliance Program's capitalization in May 2015 in Sénégal

Also, several communication tools have been produced over time within the MFS II-Ecosystem Alliance Program some among them a Documentary film capitalization made in the regions of St. Louis and Fatick, intervention areas of the program in Sénégal.



Sign boards installed in the Tocc Tocc Reserve in Sénégal

In 2013 a Communication Plan was developed as part of the Ecosystem Alliance and has been pursued until the end of the program at the end of the year.

The update of the Communication Plan of BMZ Mangrove Project initiated by WWF has been updated by the Communications Officer and Media Coordinator, Wetlands International as its implementation continues through the various intervention project sites. In this sense a capitalization document of the achievements will be released in 2016 at the end of the project in connection with the various partners and local media.

Moreover, in Kenya, an advocacy documentary on threatened wetlands along the northern part of the country was produced in the PfR project.

b. Website and presence in social media

The website (www.wetlands.org/africa) is now more attractive and the number of visitors continually increases. In 2016 a new button will be created to make the pages more interactive with the new design. Below are our Facebook page account ([wia.wetlandsafrica](https://www.facebook.com/wia.wetlandsafrica)), Twitter account ([@wiaafrica](https://twitter.com/wiaafrica)) and Youtube ([wiaafrica](https://www.youtube.com/wiaafrica)) Notably is the Facebook (Wetlands International Kenya) and twitter ([@wetlandsIntke](https://twitter.com/wetlandsIntke)) accounts which have tremendously grown in the past year.

VI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

All amount in thousand €
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2015

	2015	2014
INCOME	3 253	2 934
Project Income	2 677	2 322
Institutionnel Income	551	490
Other Income	25	123
EXPENDITURES	3 253	2 934
Project Cost	2 549	1 898
Institutional Cost	577	530
Account Receivables	16	250
Provisions		
Cash and Bank	143	257

DONORS LIST

ARCADIA FOUNDATION
 BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL
 BMZ
 DGIS/DEUTCH NETHERLANDS
 EMBASSY OF NETHERLANDS IN MALI
 MAVA FOUNDATION
 PRCM
 SHELL NIGERIA
 SENEGALESE STATE
 TETRA TECH
 TURING FOUNDATION
 UAPB
 UNEP



VII. OUTLOOK

Wetlands International will embark on new challenges in 2016 which will be a busy year.

The Africa Regional Office will start next year with other partners the Project of Satellite-based Wetlands Observation Service (SWOS).

In collaboration with partners, governments and researchers at all levels, the Organization will develop and implement a new five-year plan (2016-2020). In addition, the Strategic Intent (2015-2025) that has been defined and which is the roadmap of the organization at the global level for the next decade.

In Mali, the second phase of PfR program which aims to reduce the impact of natural disasters on the livelihoods of vulnerable communities and ultimately enable people to be more resilient to the vagaries of climate change, will start in 2016.

Wetlands International will reinforce its place at the sub regional and regional level together with some partners in the hosting of the 14th Pan - African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) in October 2016 in Dakar, Senegal. This activity will be held for the first time in a francophone country in West Africa.

VIII. TEAM WETLANDS

AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE / SENEGAL



Gabin Agblonon
Project Manager



Omar Ba
Gardener



Aissatou B. Badiane
Programme Assistant



Ramatoulaye Diatta
Cleaner



Abdou A. Diédhiou
Project Manager



Salimata D. Diop
Finance Officer



Ndofféne Diouf
Guard



Ndéye Fatou Guéye
Finance Associate



Yakhya Guèye
Jr Project Manager



Fatou Mb. Guenoune
Regional Administrator



Sory M. Ndiaye
Cleaner



Assitou Ndinga
Project Coordinator



Fatou Ndior
Cooker



Inna Sané
Programme Assistant



Ousmane Sané
Driver



Kéwé Senghor
Cleaner



Frédéric Tendeng
Communication Assistant



Ibrahima Thiam
Regional Director



Pape D. Thiare
Communications & Media Coordinator



Papa M. WADE
Programme Manager



Momar Wade
Driver

KENYA NATIONAL OFFICE



Leonard Akwany
Programme Associate



Preetika Bandheri
Programme Associate



Julie Mulonga
Programme Manager



Annette Odoyo
Programme Assistant



Judith Otindo
Finance Associate

INTERNATIONAL AFRICA

MALI NATIONAL OFFICE



Adama Coulibaly
Guard



Aliou Diallo
Driver



Mori Diallo
Team Leader



Mamadou L. Diawara
GIS & NRM



Ibrahima S. Fofana
Field Coordinator



Abdouramane G. Djibo
Hydrologue



Mohamed Gareyane
Programme Coordinator



Bakary Koné
National Coordinator



Malick Koné
Driver



Sériba Konaré
Technical Advisor



Bassirou Maiga
Guard



Ibrahima A Maiga
Communication Officer
& Advocacy



Boubacar B. Péliaba
Finance & Admin Assistant



Ansama Sagara
Guard



Assitan Sangaré
Finance Associate



Boubacar N. Sissoko
Finance & Admin Assistant



Aly Tapily
Guard

NIGERIA NATIONAL OFFICE



Imabin Avoh
Driver



Elizabeth Odetola
Logistics & Project
Associate



Michael A Uwagbae
Project Manager

GUINEA-BISSAU NATIONAL OFFICE



Abdoulaye Ndiaye
Technical Associate



Joaozinho Sa
National
Coordinator



Mario Sa
Driver

ETHIOPIA PROJECT OFFICE



**Yitbarek T.
Weldesemaet**
Project Coordinator



Rewetting Ndiaël during the running season



Habitat of Ndiaël communities in northern Sénégal



Simina's hill in the north-central of Mali



Women and livestock in a trough in Ethiopia



«We safeguard and restore Wetlands for people and nature»

