

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL AFRICA



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



**Wetlands**  
INTERNATIONAL

### **Our Vision**

A world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide

### **Our Mission**

To sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity

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## I. LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

### *“Always serving people and nature”*

By making wetlands conservation and restoration its everyday mission, Wetlands International Africa works for the wise use of natural resources to improve the living conditions of communities. We are thus serving people and nature, despite the many environmental challenges faced by the continent.

We have recorded successful initiatives in the field of conservation and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems for the benefit of local communities and nature, the two targets of our action. We have built infrastructure for communities; developed coordinated mangrove management plans to support the people of the south-central Senegal in the preservation of natural resources.

Additionally, we have established a Mangrove Monitoring System in the three intervention areas for adequate and regular monitoring of the ecosystem, based on simple indicators that are accessible to all. This system will soon be online. We have further increased our presence in the Saloum Delta and also renewed contact with the natural region of Casamance where we were working in the recent past.

We are also pleased with our consolidated presence in East Africa, five years after the opening of our country office in Kenya, and our interventions in Ethiopia, Uganda and South Sudan. In this regard, we supported the development of the Ethiopian Wetland Policy. We prepared the National Wetland Management Policies for Senegal, two years ago, and earlier for Mali. We do not intend to stop here. We will extend our work in some major basins of the continent, including the basins of the River Senegal, Inner Niger Delta (Mali), Ewaso Nyiro and Tana (Kenya) to enhance the ecosystem-based approach.

In 2016, the second phase of the Partners for Resilience Program (PfR II) was launched to build and develop community resilience through the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction, Ecosystem Management and Restoration and Climate Change Adaptation in Mali, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. The same applies to the launch of the Watershed Project, which aims to promote universal access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services and integrated water resources management (IWRM) in Ghana, Mali, Kenya and Uganda.

Last but not least, the Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS)

has started to take into account wetlands management and establish a monitoring and information service for wetland ecosystems in Kenya, Mali and Senegal.

In 2017, we will start expanding our action on mangroves with a major continental program beginning with West Africa and East Africa.

We would also like to seize this opportunity to thank, encourage and pay warm tribute to all the staff of Wetlands International who strives to make these achievements.

Let us also express our profound gratitude to all our technical and financial partners who have always been by our side to enable us to «sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity» for people and nature, our *raison d'être*,

**Regional Director  
Ibrahima THIAM**



*I. Thiam*

**Chairman of the Foundation Council  
Amadou Moctar NIANG**



*Amadou Moctar Niang*

## II. OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Our ultimate goal is that wetlands are wisely used and restored for the role they play in improving human well-being and local livelihoods-conserving biodiversity, sustaining the water cycle and reducing climate change and its impacts.

In our current strategic intent (2015-2025), we set ourselves bold goals and two years on, our vision which is a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide has largely been achieved.

This report provides a quick glance at the activities, achievements, and the work we have done in 2016 in Africa Region, presented through our five streams of work namely: Healthy Wetlands Nature; Vibrant Coasts and Deltas; Blue lifelines in the desert; Replenished water sources from mountains to sea; and Peatland treasures safeguarded and restored.

### A. HEALTHY WETLANDS NATURE

Wetlands support a healthy biodiversity and deliver a full range of ecosystem services. Our vision is that species are no longer in decline; use of wetlands by stakeholders, ranging from local communities to industry, respects biodiversity; People all over the world are inspired by the natural wonders of wetlands, such as the miracle of migration of many kinds of water birds; they understand that wetlands are an essential source of life and a basis for sustainable development.

#### 1. The biodiversity conserved in Guinea-Bissau



Under the “Cacheu Mangrove Natural Park Biodiversity Conservation Project” which is funded by Turing Foundation, Wetlands International has rehabilitated mangrove ecosystems and helped correct the hydrological disturbances by the opening of abandoned rice fields dykes. This has favored the natural restoration of mangroves over an area of about 58.5 ha with a reforestation success rate of 78.6% in the park and its periphery

*Natural regeneration in Cacheu Park, Guinea-Bissau*

#### 2. The 14th Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) held in Dakar

Dakar, hosted the 14th Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC 14) from 17 to 21 October 2016. The theme was “Global Changes in Africa: Threats and Opportunities for Birds”. Wetlands International played an important role in providing technical and financial support to the organization of this meeting which brought together many scientists who came to present results of studies and research carried out for the monitoring and protection of birds.



*Mr. Abdoulaye Baldé, Senegalese Environment and Sustainable Development Minister opening the PAOC 14 in Dakar, October 2016*

The Congress attracted over 300 participants and served as an opportunity for student Inna Sané from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar to present the results of the study “the reproductive behaviour of the crowned crane in Casamance” that Wetlands International commissioned in 2014.

At the closure of the Congress, they called on the African Union to develop an action plan to protect migratory birds and other wide-ranging species, and urged the Senegalese Government to adequately protect the important and unique sites on the doorstep of Dakar, including Iles de la Madeleine, Technopole wetlands and the rich waters around the Cap Vert, which are vital feeding grounds for seabirds among others. This was the first time PAOC was being held in a West African French speaking country.

### 3. International Waterbirds Census (IWC)

Wetlands International Africa participated in global IWC count that was carried out on Friday, January 15, 2016 at Technopole Site, the only green lung in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, to carry out the activity alongside other partners. 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of the International Waterbirds Census and was celebrated by Wetlands International through the implementation of a series of activities and some symbolic awards to reward individuals and organizations that have been distinguished for the conservation of waterbirds.



*Different teams on site in Senegal and Kenya participating in the waterbirds census*

Furthermore, in Guinea-Bissau, local teams were trained to monitor important sites for migratory and resident birds feeding. Bird counting was carried out in the seven (7) localities benefiting from the PNTC project to provide qualitative and quantitative data on waterbirds.

In Kenya, Wetlands International, its partners and other stakeholders from all over the world shared lessons learned and their experiences in important wetlands conservation in the context of the 50th International Waterbird Census Anniversary (IWC) both for waterbirds and for sustainable livelihoods in a changing climate. A site visit was organized to observe birds in the Yala Swamp (Kisumu County), one of Kenya’s 60 important bird areas. 10 Binoculars were donated to facilitate and equip the community’s work through Nature Kenya.

All these events were co-ordinated under “Let’s make it count” Campaign which was launched in partnership with both National and International IWC partners, volunteers and governments, whose aim was raise the bar and increase the number of important wetland sites covered by the Annual Count, and ensure that the latest and most up-to-date information about water birds was available to support conservation action worldwide

#### 4. Conservation Management Strategies

A management plan of the community forest has been developed with the aim of protecting the ecosystems on the outskirts of Cacheu Mangrove Natural Park (PNTC) in Guinea-Bissau with the beginning of the implementation process. This was an inclusive programme that was aimed at encouraging inter village management of the site under the supervision of park authorities.

Where else, in Senegal, management and concerted management plans for mangroves have been developed in Abéné, Joal-Fadiouth and Foundiougne with a strong involvement of local communities

#### 5. Livelihoods developed for communities for better conservation of natural resources

Water wells infrastructures have been put in place to promote the development of gardening in Apilho, Antotinha and Campada Maria, intervention areas of the Biodiversity Conservation Project under the PNTC in Guinea-Bissau. This project has benefitted over 65 women from Apilho village and aims at increasing women's incomes and ensuring their food security through gardening.

A ten hectares community garden has been fenced and set up in the village of Albadar located in the city of Kafountine in Casamance (Senegal) benefitting more than 150 women who are actively cultivating fruits and vegetables. In order to fully satisfy this old grievance, production equipment and seedlings were also provided to them. The establishment of these Income Generating Activities is one of the essential components of the "Mangrove Conservation in Senegal" Project funded by the German Ministry of Cooperation (BMZ) which aims to increase the purchasing power of women organised in value chains.



*Apilho's Well (Guinea-Bissau) and Albadar women's garden (Senegal)*

Three watchtowers were also built in the intervention areas of the above project as an integral part of Wetlands International's conservation program, which has for years been investing in the rehabilitation of mangroves in the Saloum Delta and in Casamance. In Abéné and Joal-Fadiouth, ecotourism was improved and financial opportunities offered to communities through the mangrove ecosystem.



*Soundoung Ndingoto (Abéné) and Cap Finion Watchtowers (Joal-Fadiouth), Senegal*

## 6. Nearly 4,000 improved stoves promoted to stop mangrove pressure

In order to limit the severe pressure on mangroves, Wetlands International signed an agreement with the Renewable Energy Promotion Program (PERACOD) in 2016, funded by German Cooperation for the promotion and dissemination of low wood consumption improved stoves. A total of 3,845 improved stoves were introduced in the three intervention areas. 35.2% of households received improved stoves and it is estimated that their continued use will save mangrove wood up to 803 kg/ household / year. Nearly 5,000 people benefitted from this project



*Models of improved stoves against mangrove wood cutting*

## 7. World Wetlands Day celebrations

Local communities and media were sensitized on the importance of wetlands and on the need to retain Cacheu Park, a Ramsar site during World Wetlands Day (WWD) celebrated this year at Cacheu by Wetlands International Africa, through its office in Guinea-Bissau, on 02 February 2016. The celebration of this day has placed particular emphasis on the protection of mangrove ecosystem and biodiversity in the park and in its buffer zone within the framework of our project "Conservation of Biodiversity in the Cacheu Mangroves Natural Park" (PNTC) funded by Turing Foundation.



*Advocacy at PNTC and field visit in Bulol Island, Guinea-Bissau, during WWD*

## 8. Wetlands satellite observation Service

Funded by the European Union's (EU) Horizon 2020 research and innovation program, the Wetlands Satellite Observation (SWOS) is a 3-year project that was launched in February 2016. The Project intends to complement MAES and support consideration of wetlands management in key policy contexts as well as to develop a monitoring and information service on wetland ecosystems. So far Wetlands International has progressively led the collection of the questionnaires through its linked third party in three African countries, namely Senegal, Mali and Kenya. The results of the User Requirements Questionnaires were analysed and incorporated in the User Requirements Report. This collection was led by Wetlands International. For Kenya, the User requirement questioner was duly filled based on the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)'s and Wetlands International Kenya works and needs in regard to the SWOS service.



## B. VIBRANT COAST AND DELTAS

Coasts and Deltas provide rich habitats for nature and are important centres of economic growth. For example, they serve as a nursery for fish, provide water for agriculture, create soils, protect people against the havoc of storms and floods, store an enormous amount of carbon and provide wood and medicinal plants. It contains a large number of plants and animals. More importantly, these wetlands are the basis of a prosperous economy in cities and rural areas, providing wealth. Our vision is that people safeguard and nurture mangroves and other wetlands in the deltas and along coasts for resilient coastal landscapes and the protection of their unique biodiversity.

### 1. Oyster farming

Garlands and oyster farms have been set up in mangroves, for oyster culture; abiotic data (pH, salinity, temperature and sunshine) relating to ecological parameters of the environment as well as biological data on oysters (height and weight among others) are regularly collected for monitoring.

Beneficiaries were better trained on production and marketing of fresh oysters. A survey of oyster sector has been carried out because there is great potential in the area for the sale of fresh oysters offering greater added value. A business plan was developed for the promotion of the sector as a local company to contribute to the development of the area. All the sites were georeferenced by Wetlands International as part of the project "Promoting oyster farming as a sustainable community enterprise in the Sine Saloum Delta, Senegal", financed by a small grant from Thewaterloofoundation and implemented by Inter Village Association of Dassilamé (AIV).



*Laying garlands for raising oysters in the Saloum Delta, Sénégal*

## 2. A honey factory built

To boost the production of honey, which is an old tradition in the Saloum island areas, a new honey house was built and equipped with latest generation equipment offered to the municipality of Djirnda. The facility was officially opened on April 16, 2016 to the joy of many including 65 women already working in the honey value chain. This facility will increase bee keeping and the production of honey a primary livelihood in the area, thanks to the infrastructure which brings on board a socio-economic impact for the municipality.



*Honey Unit equipped in Djirnda in the Saloum Islands, Senegal*

## 3. Mangrove Monitoring System

The system has been built on simple, accessible ecosystem monitoring indicators that integrate the interactions between environments, resources, and forms of economic resource exploitation. An inventory of mangrove conservation and rehabilitation actions was carried out and an analysis of the ecological and socio-economic performance and efficiency of the management system done, among others. Moreover, a roadmap and an ecosystem tracking chronogram were developed in Foundiougne, Abéné and Joal-Fadiouth.



*Mangrove monitoring system*

#### 4. Mangroves rehabilitation and water plans cleaned for the development of economic activities



**Cleaning of Okpare Waterway in Nigeria**

Through the implementation of Bio-rights, Wetlands International has strongly mobilized and involved members of the Ijala Ikeren community in Nigeria in ecosystem conservation and restoration activities, including planting on 0,18 hectares (1780.75 m<sup>2</sup>) of more than 4,000 propagules of different varieties ranging from: *Rhizophora racemosa* to *Rhizophora harisonii* via *Rhizophora mangle* and *Avicennia africana*. This is expected to contribute to restoration of degraded ecosystems in the intervention areas.

The implementation of Bio-rights approach required an effective management of environmental and social issues. Obi-Ayagha community requested the clearing of section of Okpare Creek in exchange for involvement in the Sustainable Livelihoods Biodiversity Project (SLBP). As a result, invasive plants were removed over a total of 2.5 kilometres of selected creek sections. This has provided increase fishing activity and facilitated navigation along the creek.

#### 5. Support to universities and communities for research and monitoring

Wetlands International has supported the research and training of staff and students of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology of the University of Science and Technology of the River State (RSUST) in Port Harcourt (Nigeria). The organisation plans on bringing the communities of Abobiri and Opume to take ownership of the project by participating in the monitoring and follow-up activities of the conservation area and management of the wood nurseries planted in the areas given by the communities.



The material offered consists of a desktop equipped with mapping software and a set of satellite imagery and survey data on ecosystem services and three (3) canoes, an outboard motor and some accessories (working uniforms, fire extinguishers, care boxes etc.). It is in recognition of their valuable contribution to the Sustainable Livelihoods Biodiversity Project (SLBP) in the Niger Delta in Nigeria funded by Shell International.

**Mr. Ibrahima Thiam, Wetlands International Africa Regional Director delivering a Canoe and working equipments to the Communities of Abobiri and Opume, Nigeria**

## 6 . Environmental Impact Assessments of the Oil and Gas Sector in the Niger Delta



*Representative of the Environment Federal Ministry delivering his speech*

The implementation of Sustainable Livelihoods Biodiversity Project (SLBP) in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria required comprehensive consideration of environmental and social issues for their efficient management. To this, Wetlands International commissioned an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that identified gaps in regulations and regulatory processes before suggesting improvement measures, especially the integration of Niger Delta Wetland values in sectoral policies.

A stakeholder roundtable was also held in Abuja to validate the findings of the study with the official stamp of the Environment Federal Ministry of Nigeria.

## 8. An Advocacy Platform for Wetland Ecosystems



*Members of the SLBP Advisory Group in the Saloum Delta in December 2016*

One of the main results of Sustainable Livelihoods Biodiversity Project (SLBP) in Nigeria was to set up an Advocacy Platform for Wetland Ecosystems (WEAP). As part of its activities, IEC materials were distributed and civic education materials developed on the values of wetland ecosystems and community development.

The interactive session of the Platform with members of the local communities focus on the proper functioning and development of the revolving credit set up for the beneficiary communities. One of the main recommendations of the 3rd Meeting of the SLBP Advisory Group held in Toubacouta, Senegal, in December 2016, called for the reconversion of loans recovered into community-managed renewable funds to support the conservation and sustainable use management of wetland ecosystems and livelihood projects. In addition, there is a formal agreement between Wetlands International and the ministries, ministry and agencies to ensure greater government ownership and participation.

## C. BLUE LIFELINES IN THE DESERT

In the arid Sahel region of Africa, wetlands have for a long time served as a source of life for local people and wildlife. However, they are narrowing more and more. They are threatened by a changing climate, rapid population growth and increasing competition for water. How can people and nature survive in the Sahara Desert? Our vision is to safeguard and restore these fresh water flows; enable and decentralise institutions and communities to take action to sustain the flooding and natural resources of the Sahelian wetlands, so that livelihoods, biodiversity and the economy can adapt to a changing environment.

### 1. Influencing development by defining the environmental flow of Upper Niger and the Inner Niger Delta.



*Experts meeting in Bamako on water issues*

A scientific committee was held in Bamako in June 2016, to work on the environmental flow of Upper Niger and the Inner Niger Delta. The committee focus on wetland ecosystems induced by “flood pulsations” and on methods for characterizing their water regime requirements. This work was carried out in collaboration with teacher-researchers from several universities and institutes in Africa, America and Europe, with hydrological experts from sub-regional basin organizations, national technical representatives of civil society. The meeting also created an opportunity for sharing experiences and expertise on issues related to hydrological, ecological and socio-economic functioning of the Niger River in general, Upper Niger and the Inner Delta in particular, under the BAM-GIRE project funded by the Dutch Embassy in Mali. The ecological and socio-economic data from Upper Niger and the Inner Niger Delta have already been compiled and will be published online and shared with all stakeholders in the development of the first version of the Upper Niger Observatory and the Inner Niger Delta.

### 2. A new flood model of the Inner Niger Delta developed.

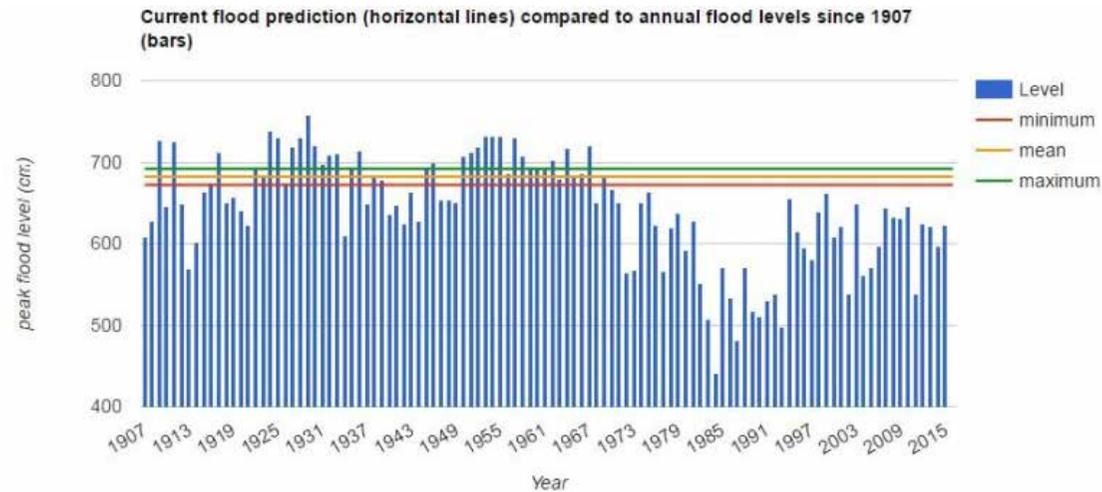
A new flood model has been developed for the Inner Niger Delta. This model incorporates 5 development elements: (i) the extension of the flood zone, (ii) increased data mobilization (200 satellite images instead of 24 initials), (iii) consideration of higher flood levels, (iv) a greater number of hydrological stations and (v) the distinction between “flooding” and “flooding due to rain”.



*Inner Niger Delta and its floods*

### 3. Flood Prediction Tool in the Inner Niger Delta (OPIDIN) relooked

The actors' interest (humanitarian NGOs, International Hydrological Monitoring Organizations, administrative authorities, international press, etc.) for the Flood Prediction Tool in the Inner Niger Delta (OPIDIN) has increased significantly thanks to the production in time of information on the importance of the 2016 flood. According to the statistics of attendance, the number of users in Mali rose from 205 to 592 in 2016 with a maximum of 612 visitors per month in September 2016 for only 172 Visitors in September 2015.



### 4. Investments along the mapped Ewaso Nyiro

In order to make a comprehensive investment mapping and analysis along the Ewaso Ng'iro Basin for an online database on the Kenyan context, Wetlands international Kenya mapped the investments (planned and in progress) in infrastructure related to water. The same applies to private sector operations in the Ewaso Ng'iro and Tana River basins in Kenya (PfR II focus regions in East Africa). An on-line digital map has been developed and will be continuously updated to preserve its usefulness.



*Mapping along River Ewaso-Nyiro at archers post, Isiolo*

## 5. Climate change adaptation.

To address the issue of climate change adaptation, Wetlands International Africa has conserved and rehabilitated affected wetlands in the region:

- ❖ 10 ha of the gold mining site of Farabacoura in the rural municipality of Tagandougou rehabilitated ;
- ❖ 10 ha of Aliamounou forest as head of source of a tributary of Milo River (Kankan / Guinea) restored ;
- ❖ 100 ha of bourgoutiere in the rural municipalities of Youwarou and Déboye regenerated ;
- ❖ 2 ha of gardens for the 130 women of Banankoni village (Kankan / Guinea) set up for their development through BAM-GIRE program.



*Aliamounou forest in Guinea rehabilitated*

## 6. The 2016 World Disaster Report launched in Dakar



*Fred Pearce at the presentation of the 2016 World Disasters Report in Dakar, Senegal*

The 2016 World Disasters Report was officially launched on 13 October 2016 in a ceremony organised by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Senegal. According to the report entitled "Resilience: saving lives today, investing for tomorrow", the priority is to invest in solutions and partnerships that build resilience over the long term. Fred Pearce, who represented Wetlands International at the event made a statement on the importance of Sahel wetlands and advocated for the use of wetlands in disaster risk reduction around the world.

## 7. Integrated Risk Management



*Herding along the drying Ewaso Nyiro River in Kenya*

Wetlands International in partnership with Cordaid, Red Cross, Climate Centre and Netherlands Red Cross, is implementing a 5year (2016-2020) Partners for Resilience Strategic Partnership (SP) Programme. This second phase of PfR is to build and strengthen community resilience by integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Ecosystem Management and Restoration (EMR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) – referred to as Integrated Risk Management (IRM). PfR II is being implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, South Sudan and Uganda and aims to strengthen civil society on its capacity to lobby, advocate and promote the application of integrated risk management to strengthen and protect the livelihoods of vulnerable communities.

## 8. Sendai Framework in Africa.



*High Level Meeting on DRR in Mauritius in November 2016*

In November 2016, the 6th Session of the African Regional Platform and the 5th High-level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction were held in Mauritius. The level of achievement of the four (4) priorities of Sendai Framework was evaluated during these meetings. These priorities were to (i) understand the risk (and strengthen the risk culture), (ii) strengthen disaster risk governance to manage risk, (iii) invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience and strengthen preparedness for an effective response; and (iv) better rebuild in rehabilitation, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

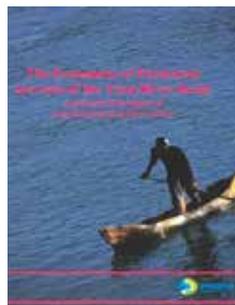
Wetlands International organized a side event on “Partnership for ending drought-related emergencies: climate change adaptation and focus on the ecosystem”. The meeting resulted in the adoption of: (1) the Action Program for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 in Africa; and (2) the Mauritius Declaration on the implementation of Sendai Framework in Africa following the Mauritius Meeting.

## D. REPLENISHED WATER SOURCES FROM MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA

From mountains to the sea, extensive peatlands, streams, marshes and lakes, mid-reach floodplains and lakes are all key wetland types that ensure the safety of water security and reduce the risk of disasters. Water risks to society, including shortages, droughts and floods, are increasing throughout the world. We work for wetland conservation and restoration, which is a cost-effective investment strategy to increase water security. We work in the headwaters of some major river basins, downstream to deltas in order to conserve and restore wetlands and reduce water risks. Our vision is to conserve and restore wetlands to reduce water risks in the landscapes.

### 1. The TEEB Study launched

Wetlands International Kenya launched a report on an assessment of the impact of large infrastructural interventions and water resource allocation in Tana River, dubbed “The Economics of the Ecosystem Services of the Tana River Basin”. The report was done in collaboration with Water Resources Management Authority-Tana Catchment Area (WRMA-TCA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and supported by The Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs to determine the value of the ecosystem services of the Tana River basin and their economic significance to the Kenyan economy, with a view to providing evidence for development planning and water resources allocation, so as to safeguard its hydrological, ecological and socio-economic benefits. The main objective of the study was to assess the economic value of the positive and negative externalities of different water-flows regimes, both upstream and downstream in the Tana River basin.



The TEEB report continues to raise awareness, as the team shares its research findings widely through different forum, engaging different stakeholders. This report and other materials of the study can be downloaded from our website.

***Mrs. Julie Mulonga, Program manager presenting the research findings to Dr. Joakim Harlin of UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya***

### 2. 6th African Water Week in Tanzania



***Participants at the 6th AWW at the Julius Nyerere Internatinal Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam***

Under the theme “the achievement of SDGs on water security and sanitation” and with the aim of defining a roadmap for a solution to water scarcity crisis, the 6th African Water Week (AWW) in which Wetlands International has actively participated, was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 15 to 23 July 2016. According to the meeting conclusions it is better to link water resource conservation to the role of wetlands and groundwater using the holistic landscape approach, which is essential for maintaining ecosystem resilience and protecting the environment, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure against the impacts of natural disasters and climate variability.

### 3. Development of the Wetlands Policy in Ethiopia underway

Climate Resilient Flyways project in Ethiopia is in the process of developing the Wetland Policy in Ethiopia for Ziway-Shalla sub-basin. A network has been set up to create synergy with other organizations working in the Central Rift Valley, with various stakeholders expressing their commitment to support the process. The first national meeting of the ad hoc committee was held with the involvement of 16 organizations and the establishment of various sub-committees to update the draft Wetland Policy and Strategy and Proclamation to consider the advantages and disadvantages of ratifying Ramsar Convention ratification.

### 4. Community-based resilience solutions in Uganda



*Young girls in the fields and a wetland in Uganda*

In the Karamoja region of Uganda, Wetlands International is working together with Acacia Water, Cordaid and RAIN to strengthen integrated catchment-based planning, management and development of water resources. Targeting two different catchments – Lokok and Lokere - where interventions have been coordinated at a large scale, different sectors integrated and complete catchment areas involved in the development of catchment management plans, which on implementation, will strengthen community resilience. Moreover, we have contributed towards the development of Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment reports for the two catchments, where the current major social and environmental issues; and, the potential future impacts the Catchment Management Plans should foresee and attempt to mitigate, considering the resource base, stakeholders' needs, opportunities and constraints and desired regional development directions under a wider context of autonomous change processes have been identified with the support of GIZ.

### 5. Restoration and Management of Elbayah Dam, Ethiopia



*Elbayah Dam in Ethiopia*

Elbayah artificial dam in Jigjiga, Ethiopia has been facing a series of challenges threatening its existence. As such, a sustainability plan workshop was held and a task force constituted with stakeholders composed of the Jigjiga City Council, Jigjiga University, irrigation farmers, etc to work on the regulation and management of the dam as well as oversee activities at the dam. So far the dam's buffer zone has been fenced off and reforestation activities done. On the other, Harre Dam and its potential were discussed, taking advantage of the opportunity offered by Jigjiga University to share its research experiences at Elbayah dam and to find out potential livelihood opportunities around these water facilities. The Strengthening Community Resilience in the Somalia Region of Ethiopia (SCRSE) project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

## 6. Towards Better Water Governance.



***Young boys crossing the Dopeth River,  
Lokok Catchment, Uganda***

Water issues have a bearing on all segments of society, including the economic sectors. The challenge of managing water ecosystem services in areas where water resources are either scarce or contested is daunting. Sustainability is further endangered by population growth, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, the expansion of agriculture and tourism and climate change, all which put water under increasing stress.

Given this growing pressure it is critical that this vital resource is properly managed. Wetlands International, together with its partners, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Akvo, IRC and Simavi recognise that improvements to water governance are a necessary part of the solution to these challenges. To this end, they are implementing a five-year programme (2016-2020) focusing on building the capacity of civil society to advocate for sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and integrated water resource management. Launched in 2016, Watershed will take up the challenge to meet the targets of universal access to WASH by 2030, and will advocate for effective results to ensure that water providers, governments and private sector take the responsibility to ensure sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services as well as the water resources on which they draw.

Wetlands International is implementing this programme in Ghana, Mali, Kenya and Uganda in Africa, and Bangladesh and India in South Asia.

## 7. Communities sensitized on wise use of water and management of natural resources



***Certificate to the consortium in Ethiopia and  
AJAM members in a field visit in the Saloum Islands,  
Senegal during the capacity building***



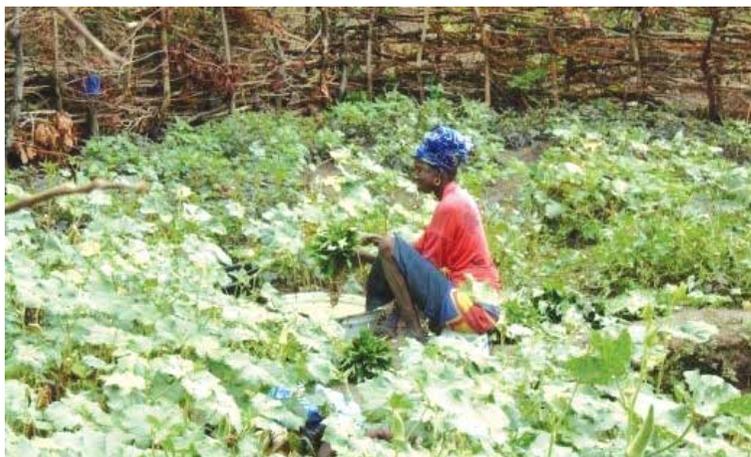
An Environmental Education Program has been developed in collaboration with partners in the framework of Protracted Crisis in the Horn of Africa- SCRSE project in Ethiopia. For our active participation and contribution to the promotion of environmental protection and sustainable development through particularly rehabilitation activities in refugee-impacted areas as well as livelihood activities performed in pastoral areas in the region, the consortium we set up, has received a Green Award certificate from the Ethiopian, Somali Regional state of Environment Protection, Forest, Mines and Energy Development Agency.

In Sénégal, members of Friends of Mangroves Journalists Association (AJAM) have also been trained on mangrove ecosystems and its key role in the socio-economic development of the Saloum Delta.

### III. THE BENEFICIARIES LENSE

Fatoumata Condé, from Banankoni village in Kankan region of Guinea

**“Our incomes have increased”**



*“It is a real pleasure for us women from Banankoni (Guinea). It is a special day of great joy because before the project we had many problems related to lack of water in the traditional wells during the dry season and the market garden area was only protected by the dead hedges. On behalf of Banankoni women we thank Wetlands International Mali for having provided us with a garden perimeter equipped with a solar system pumping. Thanks to these facilities, the production is done throughout the year and our incomes have increased greatly. We guarantee to Wetlands International Mali that we will do our best to take care of these facilities. Thank you Wetlands International Mali. May God keep us”.*

Mrs. Aida Diba, Chairwoman of G.I.E Gulloog Wé of Joal-Fadiouth in Senegal

**“Our children are doing well at school thanks to the project”**



*“We can thank Wetlands International and WWF for their insight into mangrove ecosystem importance. Our purchasing power has grown considerably. Thanks to the Mangrove Conservation project in Senegal, we have the means to pay for the schooling of our children and to better follow their studies. They do well at school. The arrival of the project was a boon for us women who work in the mangrove. We also received many capacity building sessions in reforestation techniques, setting up of Avicennia nurseries, marketing and creation and/or improvement of value chains. These training will be useful in our everyday life”.*

### Bakary Diatta, a resident of Albadar, Sénégal

***“The area has become more fishy thanks to mangrove reforestation”***



*“Mangroves degraded areas rehabilitation in our locality is more than beneficial. Thanks to reforestation operations, many mangroves degraded areas by anthropogenic and natural factors are rehabilitated. Mangroves play an invaluable ecological, social and economic role for us. We are beginning to see the fruits. Mangrove is a refuge place for fish that lay there. Today we see a lot more fish than in the past. There are people who cut mangrove wood for domestic and commercial purposes, but since we started reforestation a few years ago, there is no more abrupt cutting of the resource. We educate communities to understand what the ecosystem can do for them. What we do is for ourselves and it is our role to protect mangroves. The project will end but we want another phase. We will continue our conservation work”.*

### Mohammed Abdilaahi Warseme, Ethiopia

***“Today my small plot of land is witness how Wetlands International has changed our lives”***



52-year-old Mohammed Abdilaahi Warseme is a beneficiary of the Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Somali Region of Ethiopia (SCRSE) project. Before the inception of Project his life was depend on selling cattle and sheep products but after his engagement in the project he start on producing perennial crops such as papaya, mango and guava and he saved selling his animals for daily subsistence. *“Wetland International has provided training (both theory and practical) on seedling production and nursery management, created jobs and gave free seedlings to us”.* Today, Mohammed has replicated what he has learnt from the Nursery site to his small plot of land and he is producing papaya and Watermelon and selling to the local market (one papaya is around 3 dollar and one watermelon is 3.25 dollar in the capital city of the Somali Region which near to the nursery site). Mohammed attributes his success to the capacity building he received from the project he says. *“Today my small plot of land is witness how Wetlands international has changed our lives.”*

## Saloum Story (Senegal)/ Mangrove Restoration

### The Conservation, a question of survival in the Saloum Delta

When we arrived in Diamniadio in the Saloum Delta, Rama Diouf was waiting on the bridge at the entrance of the village for a field visit in the mangrove. In her



**Rama Diouf mangrove's defender**

forties, she has been involved in the rehabilitation and conservation of the mangrove ecosystem for almost 10 years now. Rama still remembers as if it was yesterday *"when we began the mangrove reforestation, people thought that we were crazy. Where did you see mangroves being reforested, people asked us ironically in the village. They didn't know this new method at this time"*.

The first woman in the village to be engaged in the mangroves management is convinced that the only solution is to safeguard the environment for the survival of this island zone in the context of climate change and its visible effects. Today, Rama no longer recognizes her environment. Mangrove forests are degraded due to the abusive cutting of the resource for firewood or the harvesting of oysters. Formerly very fishy area, fish is becoming increasingly scarce; rains are rare rendering the land salty and unfit for agriculture in many neighbouring villages.

Rama is still nostalgic and remembers the period when the landscape was beautiful to see, there were many trees, it rained a lot and it was not difficult for men to find fish. However, there is hope. Organizations like Wetlands International, which has been operating in the area for more than 10 years, help Rama and her community to change things positively.



**Diamniadio village and Djirnda's women seeking for sea food**

The reforestation and the mangrove beekeeping that was developed in the Djirnda city are fruitful. The mangrove ecosystem will play a key role in the local economy. Rama sees herself as future leader with the development of economic activities. Already, her commitment to the promotion of her sisters and the development of her village of Diamniadio brought her in 2015, for a one month trip in France.

Today, one thing is certain for Rama: their life is closely linked to the mangrove. *"Those who took us for madmen have understood our fight and joined us"*.

## CASAMANCE STORY TELLING/ OYSTER FARMING

### A better production expected with the oyster garlands system

On this sunny day of May, it is 01 pm when we disembark at Katak from Abéné in a canoe. Despite the 38 degrees in the shade, they are joyful women who welcome us with songs and dances in the presence of Mr. Lamine Diatta, Deputy Chief Village of Katak. The women's promoting association of Katak is led by Mariama Badji or Yama as commonly known, in her thirties. Katak is a Casamance village in Senegal at the border with The Gambia. Katak is separated from Katong, the Gambian village opposite only by the Gambia River.



**Yama Badji, Katak Women's Leader**

Oyster farming is an activity that women in the village have practiced for a long time. However, it is a new venture for the members of the group after the training session in oyster culture with the garlands system received at Dassilamé Sérère in the Saloum Delta as part of an exchange visit. Back from the training, they installed the garlands. The spat has taken. They will regularly clean and follow up. The installation of tens of meters of garlands is the work of the two districts of the village that are Katak Boudouk and Katak Karone.

Oyster culture is an invaluable contribution and an added value for women. The oyster farming by the garlands system is only in its beginnings in this locality of the green Casamance but now women are already thinking about the market. *"Our only concern is the market issue, where to sell after production?"* Yama wondered. The Gambia is the immediate neighbour of Katak, lack of transport means to convey the product is a problem.

*"We know the importance of oyster farming to the local economy because it strengthens our purchasing power. At the end of the oyster harvest, we expect a better production this year with the garland system we learned from Wetlands International. With the garlands system, the oysters are prettier and their size larger. The other biggest advantage is that mangrove is no longer cut and is therefore well preserved",* she says.

With the end of the Mangrove Conservation project in Senegal, women are more than ever engaged in the mission of rehabilitating the ecosystem. They even



hold great hope for a better future in the locality. The mangroves degraded areas will be reforested, the fish will return and oyster production will experience a boom. *"We will have money with the sale of fish and oysters"* Yama asserted with a big smile on his lips.

**Women engaged in oyster farming in Casamance, Senegal**

## IV. THE FIGURES

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES 2016 (All amount in thousand €)		
<i>Years</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>3 039</b>	<b>3 253</b>
Project Income	2 445	2 677
Institutionnel Income	556	551
Other Income	37	25
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3 039</b>	<b>3 253</b>
Project Cost	1 626	2 549
Institutional Cost	529	577
Account Receivables	292	16
Provisions	360	
Cash and Bank	231	143



## V. THANK YOU NOTE TO OUR PARTNERS & DONORS

DANKE!  
MERCII!  
THANKS!  
GRACIAS!

*Thank  
you*

## VI. CALL FOR ACTION



**We call on civil society,  
governments and private sector  
to take action for wetlands to  
help secure water for all**

**A world without wetlands is a world without water**



