

Plan d'action Zones Humides et Oiseaux Côtiers - PAZHOC

Newsletter # 3

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PNBA: Partial count of birds carried out as every year

The International Waterbird Census (IWC) is a traditional exercise that ornithologists across the world have been doing since 1967 to assess the annual numbers of wintering birds. 2019 is therefore the 52nd year of the IWC. The Banc d'Arguin National Park (as a site of international importance for migratory birds) seized the opportunity of this event to launch, on Sunday 20th January 2019, its annual count to be completed in five days.

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«The Banc d'Arguin National Park launched this Sunday, January 20, 2019 its annual counting operation.»



The first record of an invasive mussel species in West Africa arriving from the Bijagós archipelago, Guinea-Bissau

During a recent field mission to the Bijagós archipelago*, in January 2018, a team from the University of Lisbon, described the first record of the Asian date mussel (*Arcuatula senhousia*) for the whole West Africa. A single individual was collected during benthos sampling at the northern mudflats of Bubaque island. This bivalve originates from the north-western Pacific, from Siberia to Singapore, including Japan. It was accidentally introduced in several regions (...)
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«The archipelago is the second most important gathering of wintering shorebirds in Africa.»

Status of birds in the Bijagos

The Bijagós archipelago is a group of 88 islands and islets located off the coast of Guinea-Bissau and presents a relatively important diversity of habitats, sustaining high levels of biodiversity. It is the second most important gathering of wintering shorebirds in Africa and is part of the 10 critical sites selected by Birdlife International for colonial waterbird species, namely Royal Terns and Caspian Terns. For its exceptional value, it has been recognized as a Biosphere Reserve, an Important Bird Area and a Ramsar Site.
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DIOE Project: Training workshop on the coordination of national networks for waterbird count and data collection

As part of the MAVA-funded capacity building project for waterbird conservation and monitoring along the West Africa coastline (DIOE), Wetlands International Africa organised, from 19 to 21 November 2018, a training session on the coordination of national networks for waterbird census and data collection in Ndangane Sambou, in collaboration with NATAGORA, a Belgian NGO.
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Electric protection installed around nesting sites of lesser and greater flamingos in Aftout Es Sahli (Mauritania)

An electric fence of 1,650 m has been set up to protect flamingos' nesting sites in the Aftout Es Saheli region in the lower delta of the Senegal River. It is made of insulation girders every 3 m, hardwood stakes every 100 m, three tiers of overlaid nets and a solar panel with an integrated battery. A number of traps have also been installed to catch those predators that interfere with flamingos' nesting. The lesser flamingo (*hoeniconaias minor*) remains the flagship species for which there are only five regular nesting sites across the world.
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Integrated management of Saloum Delta biodiversity (GIBIOD).

As part of the “Integrated Saloum Delta Biodiversity Management” project of the Senegal Directorate of National Parks, financed by the MAVA Foundation for Nature, the Nature-Communautés-Développement (NCD) Association organised a number of educative and training activities for civil society players on the significance of wetlands and priority sites, as well as awareness-raising campaigns through social networks and media (at country and site level).

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Guinea-Bissau: Bantambour, towards a development and management plan for the second largest colony of royal terns in West Africa

The ODZH Association and its partners, including IBAP and the Coastal Planning Office, hosted a series of meetings and workshops for communities living on the Jeta island and surrounding areas, under the seabird and shorebird project coordinated by BirdLife and funded by the MAVA Foundation. The purpose of these gatherings was to raise the awareness of local communities and authorities on the importance and need to protect the Bantambour small island (Norther end of the Jeta island), which is home to the second largest colony of royal terns in West Africa (with about 25,000 breeding pairs counted in 2015).

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«A strategic plan for a better coordination and synergies of ecosystem conservation actions in the Saloum Delta.»

A strategic plan now available for the Saloum « Mangrove Platform »

The various active players of the « Mangrove Platform » gathered on 6-7 November 2018 in Ndangane Sambou in the rural commune of Filma to develop a six-year strategic plan aimed at better coordinating and synergising actions for the conservation of ecosystems in the Saloum Delta.

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The population of seabirds has sharply declined by 70% between 1950 and 2010

“The competition between seabirds and fishermen is at the expense of the former”. Such is the main outcome of a study published at the end of December 2018 in the specialized journal “Current Biology”. According to scientists, global fishery catches in competition with seabirds have increased by 10%, while the food consumption of seabirds has fallen by 19% from 1970 to 1989 and from 1990 to 2010.

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Waders of the Bijagos, Guinea-Bissau: connecting nonbreeding conditions in the tropics with breeding conditions in the arctic

The seasonality of the Earth ensures that in the North large expanses of land become available for use by demanding organisms like birds during the northern summer. Shorebirds are specialized seasonal migrants which capitalize on the temporary summer resources to breed and on the more seasonally stable wetland resources in temperate and tropical zones to survive the rest of the year. By way of the shorebirds feeding on the intertidal mudflats, the Bijagos are connected with both Iceland (by way of whimbrels) and north central Siberia.

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«Guinea-Bissau was rewarded with a bronze prize for implementing the Clearing-House Mechanism.»

Guinea Bissau rewarded with bronze prize at COP 14 for implementing CHM

At the fourteenth session of the Conference of Parties (COP 14), which took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 17th to 29th November 2018, Guinea-Bissau was rewarded with a bronze prize for implementing the Clearing-House Mechanism.

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Agenda :

- Meeting of the Steering Committee of the plan of action on wetlands and coastal birds (PAZHOC): 5-6 February 2019, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau.
- Meeting of the Steering Committee of the project for reducing the impact of infrastructures on coastal ecosystems in West Africa (PRISE): 7-9 March 2019 in Boa Vista, Cabo-Verde.



Principal implementing partners



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