

Plan d'action Zones Humides et Oiseaux Côtiers - PAZHOC

Newsletter # 2

PRCM side event

Ramsar COP 13 in Dubai: PRCM set out the debate on the current status of biodiversity in West Africa coastal wetlands



Sunday 28th October. The PRCM invited stakeholders present at the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) to the Ramsar Convention to an exchange of views on the trend in bird populations and biodiversity in the Banc d'Arguin National Park in Mauritania, Bijagos Archipelago (Guinea Bissau), Senegal River Delta as well as in the Sine-Saloum region. The event was organised jointly with the Directorate of Protected Areas and the Coastline of Mauritania (DAPL), the Directorate of National Parks of Senegal (DPN) and the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas of Guinea Bissau (IBAP).

After recalling the background, the Director of the PRCM, Dr. Ahmed Senhoury, reviewed those initiatives underway dealing with such issues. Examples include the Regional plan of action on wetlands and coastal birds in West Africa, funded in the tune of 6.5 million by the MAVA Foundation, the objective of which is mainly to assist a coalition of stakeholders for the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds living there.

Dr. Senhoury's intervention was followed by those of Mr. Mohamed El Hacem Khouna, Director of Protected Areas of Mauritania, Mr. Joaozinho SA, Director of Coastal Planning in Guinea Bissau, and Mr. Ibrahima Gueye, Head of Division at the Ministry of Environment of Senegal, who all addressed the status of target sites in their respective countries, some of which are listed as "Ramsar sites", "Biosphere reserves" or "World heritage sites".



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« The quality of communication will depend on the information that will be forwarded by the stakeholders of the plan of action. »



They highlighted that these sites undergo human pressure in spite of their significance for biodiversity, and that the number of birds has been perceived to be steadily declining for decades.

This trend is largely attributable to weak management and monitoring capacities as well as to the reduction of available areas and nesting sites, as a result of rising water levels. A number of solutions were proffered by participants and speakers during the discussions, among which the development of region-wide strategies to struggle against the erosion of nesting sites, joint actions to protect migration corridors or capacity development for stakeholders on warning and intervention methods in the event of accidental pollution or other disasters.

Status of birds in Africa!

The second edition is available...

Friday 28th September. During a meeting in Belgium, BirdLife International launched the second edition of the report on the Status of West Africa Birds (SWAB). The SWAB report is a general document that looks into the situation of birds in Africa, the challenges confronting them and the actions initiated to protect them by reviewing data and documents on the key trends and evolutions in bird populations. The full report is now available in French on our website.



«The Grande Niaye area in Pikine-Guédiawaye, home to a technology hub, has been listed as a «protected wetland» by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal»

The "Grande Niaye" home to a technology hub listed as « protected wetland »

The Grande Niaye area in Pikine-Guédiawaye, home to a technology hub, has been listed as a “protected wetland” by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal. The communiqué issued by the Ministry explained that with such a measure “The area is now officially included on the list of protected sites established by the Ramsar International Convention in 1971”.

“This is why the Grande Niaye’s dependencies will now be located in a community biodiversity natural reserve,

in relation to surrounding local governments”. This decision is a reward for the significant efforts that have been made over the years by not only civil society stakeholders but also the departments in charge of this dossier at the Ministry of Environment. It should be reminded that during a recent press conference, the PRCM was supportive of the celebration of the World Wetland Day on this site, as part of the advocacy undertaken by Senegalese actors for the site to be listed.

«Raso Lark (Alauda razae) is one of the rarest birds in the world and its present status is Critically Endangered.»

A new beginning for the Raso Lark in Cabo Verde

Raso Lark (*Alauda razae*) is one of the rarest birds in the world and its present status is “Critically Endangered”. The species has been progressively confined to the Raso Islet in Cabo Verde and became extinct in the neighbouring islands mainly because of the human introduction of invasive predators.

Following several years of research and planning supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF), the reintroduction of Raso Larks in the island of S. Luzia was possible. With the support from MAVA, in April 2018, SPEA (BirdLife Portugal), Biosfera 1 (Cabo Verdean NGO) and DNA (Cabo Verde government) translocated more than 30 Raso Larks from the Raso Islet to the nature reserve of Santa Luzia.

Read more...

<http://mava-foundation.org/a-new-beginning-for-the-raso-lark-in-cabo-verde/>



PNBA: training on identification of piscivore birds and ways of protecting them

This is how, in the framework of the implementation of its convention with BirdLife International and Nature Mauritanie, the PNBA was able to gather from 4-7 October 2018 in Iwik about thirty participants comprising



its staff members, local representatives and ecoguides in a training session on the identification of piscivore birds, especially terns and gulls, and the ways and means to protect them.

On the margins of the training, site support groups were put in place in coastal villages of Agadir, Ten Alloul, Iwik and Tessot to act as relay belts for the conservation of target species, in order to minimise the disturbance with which these are confronted, particularly during the nesting period.

As side events, awareness-raising activities were also carried out with respect to local organisations and communities on the monitoring and application of measures aimed at protecting islands and small islands in the central and northern areas of the Banc d'Arguin Park.

Chami! Environmental, social and strategic assessment of urban developments and their impact, including on protecting and conserving PNBA as a world heritage site

Created in 2012 on the PNBA's eastern edge, the city of Chami is expected to be a place to stay for thousands of semi-nomads, livestock farmers and camel drivers travelling through the areas of Tijirit, Tasiast, Ejefiyat and N'kheila. Chami has rapidly become a gold panning site where about 4,000 people use on average 200 kg of mercury for amalgamation purposes, thereby creating toxic sludge and giving rise to a concern for the environment. This is why in July 2016, UNESCO World Heritage Committee requested Mauritania to submit an environmental, social

and strategic assessment (ESSA) of the developments made in Chami at about only 8 km from the PNBA.

The ESSA was launched in October 2018 by the PRCM in collaboration with the PNBA, the Directorate of Environmental Monitoring and other stakeholders, including civil society organisations, and will determine through a holistic approach the cumulative impact of the various developments undertaken as well as make recommendations on how to reduce this impact on the PNBA.



«In September 2018, the Nebeday Association and BirdLife International organised a three-day training session in Toubacouta for the ecoguides and ecowardens of the Saloum Delta National Park (PNDS)»

In September 2018, the Nebeday Association and BirdLife International organised a three-day training session in Toubacouta for the ecoguides and ecowardens of the Saloum Delta National Park (PNDS). The training focused on the technical aspects of how to guide tourists and the behaviour to display in this regard in order to avoid disturbing breeding colonies of terns and gulls on PNDS' Bird Island. Being home to more than half of the population of royal terns in West Africa every year, the PNDS is indeed to be preserved. The training came within the framework of the Coastal Seabirds project, which is funded by the MAVA

Foundation and involves PNDS deputy curator. The training in which participated 10 ecoguides/ecowardens from the 7 villages around the Park was structured in four parts as follows: identification of birds on the ground; regional and global significance of coastal seabirds and PNDS' Bird Island; impact of human disturbance on breeding colonies; and finally the behaviour to adopt in guiding tourists in the presence of seabirds. Finally, specific attention was paid to issues related to the development of ecotourism in this area and the approaches required to address them.



Practice session on the Bird Island (PNDS) on how to behave vis-à-vis the island and bird colonies to avoid causing disturbance during the breeding period - advice from Captain Marone (PNDS Deputy Curator) (Photograph by Nicolas Mbengue)



Simulation session on how to guide tourists when crossing the river in a dugout canoe to the Bird Island (PNDS). Here, the ecoguide, Mr. Doudou Ba, is explaining the significance of the Bird Island and species that use it as a breeding area (Photograph by Nicolas Mbengue)

Agenda :

- 3-14 December 2018: 24th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes (COP24), Katowice, Poland.
- 4-8 December 2018: 7th Meeting of Parties (MOP7) to the Agreement on the conservation of Africa-Eurasia migrating birds (AEWA), Durban- South Africa



Principal implementing partners



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