



# MAIN BIODIVERSITY RELATED ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

ABIDJAN CONVENTION AREA

BY

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- This presentation is a brief update on the main biodiversity related activities and achievements undertaken in the Abidjan Convention area.
- These activities were mostly undertaken by the Convention partners

## ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

- Preparation of a Conservation Strategy for the West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) throughout its range for 21 countries (2006).

It was initiated by the Convention Secretariat in partnership with Wetlands International in Dakar, with the support from UNEP Regional Seas Programme and SIDA and the collaboration of PRCM (Regional Conservation Programme of Coastal and Marine Areas in West Africa).

There is a growing body of evidence documenting the decline of the West African Manatee, which has been precipitated by 3 main factors:

- Loss of habitat, resulting from both climate change and human pressures;
- Incidental capture in fishing nets;
- Traditional hunting and commercial poaching activities.

Main objectives for the conservation strategy of the West African Manatee are:

- Improve policies and legislation for its protection and strengthen their implementation;
- Improve studies on the West African Manatee and use information for its conservation management;
- Reduce pressures through the restoration and safeguarding of its habitats;
- Promote the West African Manatee and its ecological and cultural values through targeted communication, education and public awareness.



## ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

- Report on Mangroves of Western and Central Africa (2007)  
A report produced for UNEP-DEPI under UNEP Biodiversity Related Projects in Africa

This report provides a profile for 19 countries of the region from Mauritania south to Angola. It presents new information on the distribution of these habitats and highlights the importance of mangroves of west and central Africa in the regional and global context. It serves to illustrate the benefits human communities derive from the wide range of goods and services provided by mangroves, which valued at up to US\$ 900 000 per year.

There are strong concerns about the management coordination and effectiveness of protected areas with mangroves.

Four key drivers have been identified as the principal factors influencing mangrove change in West Africa:

- Population growth
- Economic and political trends
- Climate change
- Change in upstream habitats

# ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

- PRCM (Regional Conservation Programme of West Africa Coastal and Marine Area): Phase I 2004-2008

It is an initiative of IUCN, FIBA (Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin or International Foundation of Arguin Bank), WWF, Wetlands International in partnership with the Sub-Regional Commission for Fisheries. It concerns 7 countries in the Convention area (Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone)

- Support to the creation and co-management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
  - Support to the creation of MPAs, as a tool for fishery management and to protect critical habitats : 9 MPAs were created
  - Strengthening participative management capacities for good governance in the Network of MPAs in West Africa (Initiative RAMPAO)
    - A network of West Africa's MPAs was formally set up (Charter, Status, Secretariat, meetings....)
    - A regional training for the implementation of social communication plans
    - Exchange visits organized for actors and managers of MPAs
    - A socio-economic study conducted for Niimi National Park in the Gambia
    - Mapping of Mangroves for Diawling National Park in Senegal
    - Support to NGOs and Municipalities for sustainable management of coastal zone and biodiversity in Cape Verde
    - Control access to Natural resources and surveillance: training of surveillance agents and acquisition of equipments, a guidebook for surveillance agents
    - Strengthening of Participative management in Urok Islands (Bijagos Archipelago Biosphere Reserve) in Guinea Bissau.



# ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

## ➤ Conservation of Species and habitats

Activities concern major emblematic marine and coastal species, namely, sharks, marine turtles, colonial birds, manatees, monk seals and small cetaceans

### ■ Skates and Sharks

- A guidebook on identification of major shark and skate species in tropical eastern Atlantic
- National Action plan for sharks
- A sub-regional action plan for conservation and management of shark population
- A film on shark fishing in collaboration with the NGO Oceanium

### ■ Marine turtles

- A communication and public awareness programme in Joal-Fadiouth area (Senegal)
- A training on identification techniques, recognition of tracks on beaches and nets counting for 5 countries in collaboration with NGO Natura 2000
- A Regional Unit for Marine Turtles of the Atlantique Coast of Africa (URTOMA) put in place in SINEPAD premises
- An Action plan for conservation of Marine Turtles in West Africa

### ■ Water birds

- 9 training programmes for 57 technicians to monitor Bird populations
- A guidebook for otolithe identification
- A manuel of monitoring of nesting colonies

# ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

## ■ Manatee

- National reports on manatee
- Strategy for manatee conservation
- Distribution map
- 2 posters on threats and cultural value of manatee

## ■ Monk seals: half of the total world population is in Mauritania (Peninsula of Cap Blanc)

- A reserve along 6 km coastline was created
- A emergency plan implemented by the NGO CBD-Habitat, in collaboration with Mauritanian Authorities and with the support of Bonn Convention
- Public awareness activities, training for students and fishermen
- A brochure on responsible fishery
- A web site ([www.monachus.es](http://www.monachus.es))
- A seal observing network put into place

## ■ Small cetaceans

- An outline on a strategy of conservation
- A training of technicians on biology monitoring of cetaceans
- A national catalog of Mauritania cetaceans

## ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

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shery and marine environment co-management initiatives: put into  
m for resource exploitation in consultation with all stakeholders  
g of capacities for fishery agreement negotiations and fishery

[www.accordsdepeche.com](http://www.accordsdepeche.com)) on fishery agreement and fishery

management of shellfish for women in the Delta of Saloum in  
the Archipelago of Bijagos

sm

t of ecotourism reception capacity of the National Park of Arguin  
ritania

development project in the Biosphere Reserve of Saloum Delta in

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