

**MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE
DE L'ELEVAGE, DES EAUX ET FORETS**

**DIRECTION NATIONALE
DES EAUX ET FORETS**

REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE
Travail – Justice – Solidarité

L'Accord sur la Conservation des Oiseaux d'Eaux
Migrateurs
d'Afrique -Eurasie

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A- Introduction

The Republic of Guinea, with superficial of 245.857 km², is situated in the South-West of South Africa, 10° N of the Equator. In the West, it's limited by the Atlantic Ocean, in the East by the Côte d'Ivoire, in the North by Guinea-Bissau and in the South by Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Its population is estimated at 7,6 million habitants with an average density of 29 inhabitants per km². Considered as the water tower of South Africa, Guinea shelters the source of the largest rivers of the under-area of which in particular Niger, the Senegal River, Gambia, Kaba, the koliba and korrubal etc....

B- The implementation of AEWA

The Ministry for Agriculture and forestry through the National Department of Forestry, and in collaboration with local NGOs, hunter associations and all the concerned actors for the implementation of the Agreement on the conservation African-Eurasian migratory birds (AEWA) has constituted a network of Waterbird Census in Guinea. The national committee of the wetlands directs this network.

The members of the network have to play a role in the identification of the sites on the scale of which the birds are regularly followed for the surveys, the size of the populations and the biogeographic distribution of the species. The Republic of Guinea is Member State of the Ramsar Convention and has identified 12 Ramsar sites nowadays (6 continental and 6 coastal) which are

The continental Ramsar sites are.

Le Niger Tinkisso : 400.600 ha, le Niger Niandan - Milo : 1.046.400 ha, le Niger Mafou : 1.015.450 ha, le Tinkisso : 896.000 ha, le Sankarani- Fie : 1015.200 ha, le Niger Source : 180.400 ha.

The coastal Ramsar sites are.

Ile Alcatraz : 1 ha, les Iles Tristao : 85.000 ha, le Rio Kapatchez : 20.000.ha, le Rio Pongo : 30.000 ha, les Iles Blanches : 10 ha, le Konkouré : 90 ha.

The National management of waters and forests has been financed for 3 years by the National Hunting Office (ONC) in France for survey studies of waterbirds in different coastal Ramsar sites.

C – The implementation of the Project and the identification of sites (ZICO).

Within the framework of the execution of the Regional Project "Reinforcement of Capacity for the Conservation of the Biodiversity in West Africa" financed by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) under the coordination ensured by Birdlife International with the support of Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The National Management in collaboration with Guinea Ecology has been the chosen NGO in Guinea to lead the mentioned project national wide.

The aim of the 3 years project (2002-2004) is «the realization of an additional capacity for the conservation of the biodiversity within the national organizations partners of BirdLife in Ghana and in Sierra Leone and the development of the conservation of the biodiversity in collaboration with the national organizations in Côte d'ivoire, in Liberia and in Guinea "

The long-term objective of the project is "to preserve the whole of the overall important biodiversity in the zone of the Forest of High Guinea" (FHG), whereas in the short run the objective is to manage "to reinforce the capacity of the NGO partners to ensure the conservation of the biodiversity in the Zones of Importance for the Conservation of Birds (ZICO) within the Forest of High Guinea".

The ZICO project financed by Bird Life is conducted by the National Department of Waters and Forestry in collaboration with the NGO Guinea Ecology.

The main sites of the ZICO project are:

- the National Park of Haut Niger ;
- the transborder park of Yokolobadiar

- the biosphere reserve of Ziama ;

- the biosphere reserve of Mont Nimba ;
- the forest of Diécké.

D – The aims of the ZICO project are:

- Development of implementation of the protection measures;
- Reinforcement of the institutional and technical capacities of the concerned structures

- the integrated management of the basins of high Niger (Guinea Mali Niger)

- the integrated management of the basin of Gambia dividing Guinea, Senegal and Gambia.

- The cooperation between Guinée, la Guinée Bissau, Sénégal for the observation of Migratory Waterbirds on the level of the shared wetlands

The sites are:

- National Parc Badiar, surface area: 38.200 ha
- the classified Diécké Forest with a surface area of 59.000 ha
- Delta of Konkouré, surface: 90.000 ha (site Ramsar Mangrove)

- Nacional Parc du Haut Niger surface 208.800 ha;
- Nimba-site ZICO biosphere reserve; surface 145.200 ha
- Classified Forest of Ziama, surface 116.170 ha
- Konkouré surface 90.000 ha
- Delta Kapatchez surface 20.000 ha (site Ramsar)
- Iles Blanche surface 10 ha (site Ramsar)
- Iles Tristao surface 85.000 ha (site Ramsar)

E - The legal and institutional Framework

- Law L/97/038/AN of 09 December 1997 adopting and promulgating the Code of the protection of wild fauna and regulation of hunting
- Law L/99/013/AN of 22 June 1999 adopting and promulgating the forest Code

These various legislative texts define:

- the protection of wild fauna in wetlands;
- Introduction of the environmental education in the Ramsar sites;
- Installation of a national network for the observation of waterbird population
- Management of wetlands by national Ramsar committee;
- Regulation of game bird hunting;
- fines in case of poaching of waterbirds or infringement of the law regarding wetlands and protected areas
- The prohibition of fire weapons and lead shot in

F –Management of hunting activities in wetlands

In Guinea we do not have a hunting guide thus practically hunting for the water birds is not practiced. But on the other hand we have accidental catches of birds by the fishermen in the nets. We also organize information meetings in military quarters of the country and in the various wetland areas on the prohibition of weapons, the use of the poisoned baits, the suppression of the use of the lead shot.

Workshop on the sensibilisation of the population and hunter associations on the conservation of waterbirds and the use of lead shot, nets and shot gun are organized and

financed by the National Forest Fond which is an institution supporting the actions of the National Direction of Water and Forest.

Currently we are in the process to create marine protected areas in the sites from the Alcatraz Islands and the Tristao Islands which are potential sites of conservation of the water birds

The creation of the marine protected area financed by the World Bank in the framework of the project of integrated management of natural littoral resources and of the protection of biodiversity (PGIRN), the regional conservation programme of marine areas (PRCM) and the Guinean Government will enable us to preserve well all the marine species in the Tristao islands and the Alkatraz islands which will be from now on protected areas in the Republic of Guinea.

The regional program for the conservation of marine areas (PRCM) which launches the creation process of marine protected areas in 6 countries (Guinée, Guinée-Bissau, Sénégal, Gambia, Cap Vert and la Sierra Leone).

The island of Alcatraz also known as Bird island was precisely classified in 1992 as Ramsar site because of the presence of the most important colony of *Sula leucogaster* or Brown Bobby in West Africa which is an endemic species.

G - Future actions:

- To continue the studies and the surveys of the birds within the framework of AEWa;
- To ensure the ecological follow-up of the waterbird species;
- Knowledge and identification of habitats;
- To continue to identify the species who need an action plan;
- To continue the identification of the Ramsar sites in other natural areas of the country;
- Support and reinforcement of the local partners on the rational and sustainable use of the resources;
- To support conservation measurements of species;
- To increase the NGOs and local associations in favor of bird conservation and develop an implementation plans for ecotourism in these zones

H - Research

- The identification of migratory waterbird flyways
- The recognition of the various nesting sites of the birds;
- Research on the population dynamics of water birds in the wetlands;
- Ecological follow-up of species

I - Education and Information

- The responsibility of local populations
- The introduction of the environmental education programme in the different sites (program to teach in the primary schools and colleges)
- Film productions (video, CD Rom) about the protection and the management of waterbirds;
- Reinforcement of the capacities of the populations, the agents and employees of Water and Forestry Commission;
- Improvement of the various formation programs
- The organization of study trips in the other countries.

J - Final Comments

Our foreign partners often finance the conservation of wetland and the follow up of waterbirds.

Wetlands International and ONC supported Guinea to launch training programs for employees concerning the research of waterbirds and the identification of wetlands. Several censuses were carried out in Guinea; the last took place in December 2004.

These activities can help Guinea to develop action plans for species conservation in Ramsar sites.

A great number of birds called sea birds using the mangrove forests as feeding, reproduction and shelter zone.

All these Ramsar sites are zones in which migratory birds hibernate, coming from Asia, Europe, America and Africa during November , December, January and February of each year.

Waterbirds listed in the annexe.

ANNEXES

List of some species of waterbirds observed in Guinea: