

WOW
WINGS OVER WETLANDS
The UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 02
REPORTING PERIOD: January - May 2008
Report Prepared by: Abba Mahmoudou, Abdou Malam Issa, Gabin Agblonon

Country	Niger
Project Title	Community-based management of natural resources Namga-Kokorou Complex
Project ref. number	G 6
Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Wetlands International, Africa Programme
Total amount of funds under this agreement	USD 200,000
Expected project duration	24 months
Date of signature of the agreement	27 th March 2007
Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Name: Abdoulaye Ndiaye Title: Capacity Development Manager / WOW Project, West & Central Africa Regional Center Focal point e-mail: ablaywet@orange.sn / site web: www.wetlands.org Tel: +221 33 869 16 81 Fax: +221 33 825 12 92

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1. Executive Summary

During this reporting period, the project's local team staffing process was completed with the formal appointment of the Project Coordinator and the Site Coordinator by Niger Ministry of environment and the recruitment of the site animators for workshop and awareness activities in the field.

After a long discussion period, the tripartite operational agreement between Wetlands International, Africa office, the Ministry of Environment in Niger (ME/LCD) and The World Wild Fund (WWF-Niger) on project implementation modalities was finalized and then signed in February 2008. This was followed by the opening of the project's bank account in Niger and the funds transfer for the essential purchases and the first operations in the field.

The process of the procurement of the main project equipment agreed during the start-up meetings was set off and led to the purchasing of the project vehicle, the motorcycles for animator's moving in the site, a desktop at the site coordination centre, etc.

At 21st and 22nd of April in Tera, the project Steering Committee held his first meeting which was associated to the official launching of the project's activities in the field. The workshop organized in Tera for the purpose was attended by the entire local governmental authorities, by resource persons from technical structures and the active NGOs in the territorial department.

At the international level, the participation in the global WOW team meeting held in The Netherlands in January 2008 was successful and provided an opportunity for gaining a better understanding of the overall project and establish contacts with other demonstration projects teams representing six staff members from West Africa and around 24 other from the other centers.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

This section highlights most important project achievements in the reporting period.

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Signature of the tripartite agreement between Wetlands International, WWF-Niger and the Niger Ministry of Environment for the project implementation
2	Formal appointment of the project coordinator and the Site coordinator by the Ministry according to the project local management structure as well as the recruitment the site animators
3	Procurement of the essential project equipments following the indicative list agreed during the previous period. (Vehicle, motorcycles mainly)
4	Constitution of the project Steering Committee following by its first meeting in the field with
5	Official launch of project activities in the field with a strong participation of the beneficiaries, communities' leaders, governmental authorities as well as NGOs and other technical resource persons in activity in the project area.

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Reduction of the actual project duration from 24 to 18 months.	Revision of project global work plan and implementation of most important activities by June 2009	June 2009	Local team, Wetland
2	Long process and delay in fund disbursement from the project local account due to the frequent absences of the signatories (Director of the Environment Department at the Ministry and the WWF coordinator)	Make sure that the Project Coordinator (Ministry level) and the Project Manager (WWF level) become co-signatories of the project's bank account	End of June 2008	Project local team
	The long administrative process between the Ministry and WWF office delay the interventions in the field and then on the planned activities.	Conciliation meeting between implementing structures and the project's responsible for a consensus or a delegation to the Project Coordinator.	28 th May 2008	ME/LCD; WWF-Niger

2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants				
Finance & administration	Long process and delay in fund disbursement from the project local account due to the frequent absences of the signatories (Director of the Environment Department at the Ministry and the WWF coordinator)	Make sure that the Project Coordinator (Ministry level) and the Project Manager (WWF level) become co-signatories of the project's bank account	End of June 2008	Project local team
Logistics & operations	The long administrative process between the Ministry and WWF office delay the interventions in the field and then on the planned activities.	Conciliation meeting between implementing structures and the project's responsible for a consensus or a delegation to the Project Coordinator.	28 th May 2008	ME/LCD; WWF-Niger
Reporting & communication				
Coordination with project partners				
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)				
Other				

2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	21 st – 22 nd April 2008
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	NOVEMBER 2008
QUESTIONS	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	Not entire document, but some parts mainly the project budget and the next work plan
The work plan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	Yes. The Steering Committee made amendments on the semi-annual work plan and budget and formulated some recommendations.
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	Yes

Updated list of SC Members (Chairperson first):

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Elhadji Ibrahim Aoussouk	Secrétaire Général du Gouvernorat de Tillabéri		
Hamadou Mamoudou	Directeur Général de l'Environnement des Eaux et Forêts (Ministère de l'environnement et de la Lutte contre la Désertification-ME/LCD Niger)	dgeef@intnet.ne	+ 227 9656 2360
Abdoulaye Ndiaye	Wetlands International	ablaywet@orange.sn	+221 33 869 1681
Aboubacar Awaiss	Coordinator WWF Niger	awaiss_wwf@yahoo.fr	+227 2035 0097
Abdou Malam Issa	Directeur de la Faune et de la Chasse (ME/LCDNiger) – Project Coordinator	malam_ia@yahoo.fr	+227 9687 0825
Issoufou Omarou Magagi	Directeur Départemental de l'Environnement de Tera.		+ 227 9688 3272
Abba Mahmoudou	Project Manager (Secretariat to the Steering Committee meetings)	abam_fa@yahoo.fr	+227 2035 0097

3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS	PROGRESS	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
<p>Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (–) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.</p>					
<p>Outcome 1 A community-owned management plan and based on sound technical data</p>					
Activity 1.1 <i>Elaboration of the community-based management plan</i>	December 2008	IP 10% (0%) ↑	Started in April 2008, discussions were made on the strategy to deal with the activity After agree to hire consultant for the business the project team start with the elaboration of the consultants' ToRs, still underway for early July		
Activity 1.2 <i>Contribute to wetlands monitoring for Namga-Kokorou</i>	Over the all project duration	IP 05% (0%) ↑	From contacts with the University of Niamey, two PhD students at the end of the cycle are available to develop, within their thesis, suitable tools for wetlands monitoring in the project zone. They will also study, based on the current MedWet system, opportunities to develop a database system that are consistent with the NBA needs on the subject. Planning underway to finalize discussions and make work start the around mid of July.		
<p>Outcome 2 Local Councils committed to and capable of implementing management plan.</p>					
Activity 2.1 <i>Enhance capacity of local government structures for natural resource management</i>	Over the all project duration	NA 0% (–)	Activity planned to start next period (July 2008) by a conciliation and awareness meeting with local government structures (administrative and technical) responsible associated to the active NGOs in the area.		
Activity 2.2 <i>Develop legislation and structures for its implementation</i>	Within the last 12 months	05% (0%) ↑	First rough draft under development.		

ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS	PROGRESS	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
<p>Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ⬆ increased with respect to prior report; (–) unchanged; ⬇ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.</p>					
<p>Outcome 3 Better understanding of wetland values and wise use practices at local level (local communities and Local Councils)</p>					
Activity 3.1 <i>Identify the training needs and elaborate a training program</i>	August 2008	IP 20% (0%) ⬆	Meeting (awareness and information) with all local communities' leaders facilitated by site animators. An opportunity to sensitize on the importance of the common management in the site and the project objectives in this sense. Same meeting planned for local authorities and the active NGOs in the complex.		
Activity 3.2 <i>Execute/implement the training program</i>	Over the last 18 months of the project	NA 0% (–)	Planned to start in the coming period		
Activity 3.3 <i>Develop a Communications Strategy for Namga-Kokorou</i>	December 2008	IP 10% (0%) ⬆	Identification and initial discussions with the existing local radio channel in the zone. Exploration of opportunities to develop small radio broadcast, films with them. Terms of Reference for consultants to be hire for this activity under development for July.		
Activity 3.4 <i>implement the Communications Strategy</i>	Over the last 12 months	NA 0% (NA)	Planned to start in first semester 2009		
<p>Outcome 4 Financial support for initial implementation of the management plan mobilized.</p>					
Activity 4.1 <i>Develop proposals to implement key elements of the MP to maintain the physical attributes of Namga-Kokorou and restore site integrity</i>	Over the last 15 months	IP 05% (0%) ⬆	Some fundraising discussion started with institutions like PNUD office in Niger who is willing to fund some initiatives in the frame work of the implementation of the management plan.		

4. Funds Disbursement

4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds

Report on the status of GEF Funds managed under this Agreement with UNOPS.

Total Budget approved for the provision of technical services:	\$US 200,000
Funds advanced by UNOPS to date:	\$US 53,750
Total expenditure this reporting period:	\$US 35 653
Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule):	\$US 74 750
Balance (if applicable):	\$US 14 561

Certified by Projects Managers: Site level: Abba Mahmoudou; SRS office: Gabin Agblonon

General Category of Expenditure	Total budget (a)	Total expenditure to date (b)	Total budget balance (a-b)	Opening balance this period (c)	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period (d)	Balance at end of reporting period (c-d)
Personnel	41 000	3 717	37 283	10 250	10 250	3 717	6 533
Equipments	32 000	21 155	10 845	30 000	30 000	21 155	8 845
Subcontracts	22 200		22 200	0	0	0	0
Workshops and training	50 800	5 063	45 737	5 500	5 500	5 063	437
Travel and operations	33 000	5 945	27 055	3 773	4 000	5 718	- 1 945
Executing agency support overheads	16 000	3 309	12 691	691	4 000	0	691
Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	5 000	0	5 000	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous and contingency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	200 000	39 189	160 811	50 214	53 750	35 653	14 561

4.2 Status of co-financing

Other funds received from other donors and partners as co-financing during the period.

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance
ME/LCD – DGEE (DFPP)		80 000	80 000	4 000	76 000
WWF Niger (Freshwater Programme West Africa)		70 000	70 000	4 900	65 100
Total				8 900	141 100
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
Total					

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	Risks and assumptions
Immediate Objective					
Community-owned sustainable use planning process demonstrated.	<p>Management plan endorsed by local councils</p> <p>Signs of replication efforts locally and nation-wide</p> <p>Evidence that donors / government willing to support the implementation of the management plan</p>	<p>Management Plan</p> <p>Documentation on the participatory process</p> <p>Demonstration project progress reports</p>	No formal management plan exist for the sites	<p>Process of development for the management plan has started</p> <p>From contacts and discussions initiated some donors like PNUD office in Niger already expressed their interest to fund some initiatives.</p>	<p>Overall project is managed successfully and in genuine cooperation with local communities. DFPP (project executor) status remains positive in government structures.</p> <p>Wide community support for project objectives.</p>
Outcomes					
Outcome 1. A community-owned management plan and based on sound technical data	<p>Community-based plan is available</p> <p>Evidence of appropriate consultative process</p>	<p>Demonstration project progress reports</p> <p>Supporting documentation.</p>	No formal management plan for the sites	Process of development for the management plan has started	The plan is achievable & realistic. Monitoring protocols are appropriate; database is effective and compatible with other datasets.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	Risks and assumptions
	International standard biodiversity data available in national database (University of Niamey)	IWC or Ramsar database		No changes.	
Outcome 2. Local Councils committed to and capable of implementing management plan	Local decree(s) / decision(s) First steps taken to implement management plan by Council members	Demonstration project progress reports Supporting documentation	Some local traditional frameworks and single-handed actions related to fixation of dunes	No changes for moment	Any administrative & legal obstacles are overcome successfully. Plan receives support of local chiefs and district officers.
Outcome 3. Better understanding of wetland values and wise use practices at local level (local communities and Local Councils)	Awareness levels will be assessed by an initial needs analysis and post activity assessment survey.	Results of initial training needs assessment Results of before and after awareness surveys	Initial needs analysis not yet done	Assessment in its initial steps with the sensitization process of the project's stakeholders. Local populations well informed about	Training is appropriate and local conditions favorable for trainees to put skills to practice; trainees remain in area.
Outcome 4. Financial support for initial implementation of the management plan mobilized.	Evidence that donors / government willing to support the implementation of the management plan	Demonstration project progress reports and supporting documentation	Any management plan/No proposals	No changes at the moment. Funding promises from some donors.	Community-based plan is effectively ready to be implemented. Donors are interested in supporting MP implementation.

5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Lake Burdur protected area?	YES
Date of first PAMETT:	October 2007
PAMETT performed by:	Abba Mahmoudou & Abdou Issa Malam

5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	04
# of Government Staff involved in this project	06
# of Volunteers involved in this project	
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	01
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	60 000
# of people involved in project workshops	40
# of people trained under this project	20
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	-
# of TV/radio program featuring the project and/or related issues	2
# of publications produced under this project	-
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	150-200

6. Key Lessons Learned

It noted a real motivation from local populations as well as from local communities and governmental authorities who showed their interest and entire support to the project. This strong mobilization of the stakeholders is necessary and will greatly facilitate the next steps especially in the field.

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

This project updated workplan below take into account the activities revision made during the period for the coming semesters. The most activities are forwarded as much as possible to complete the most important activities at end of 2009.

ACTIVITY	YEAR 2008		YEAR 2009	
	S1	S2	S1	S2
1.1- Elaboration of the community-based management plan	X	X		
1.2- Contribute to wetlands monitoring for Namga-Kokorou	X	X	X	X
2.1- Enhance capacity of local government structures for natural resource management		X	X	X
2.2- Develop legislation and structures for its implementation		X	X	X
3.1- Identify the training needs and elaborate a training program	X	X		
3.2- Execute/implement the training program		X	X	X
3.3- Develop a Communications Strategy for Namga-Kokorou	X	X		
3.4- implement the Communications Strategy		X	X	X
4.1- Develop proposals to implement key elements of the MP to maintain the physical attributes of Namga-Kokorou and restore site integrity		X	X	X

7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY		July – December 2008					
		July	August	September	October	November	December
1.1- Elaboration of the community-based management plan	Finalization of ToRs and selection of consultants	X					
	Consultations, workshops and elaboration of the first draft of the management plan by consultant in collaboration with project team		X	X	X	X	
	Final Management plan, validation workshop and adoption)					X	X
1.2- Contribute to wetlands monitoring for Namga-Kokorou	Discussion of the thematic and finalization of the terms and work conditions with University and the identified students.	X					
	Research, field surveys and monitoring tools development by students		X	X	X	X	X
	Namga-Kokorou wetlands monitoring			X	X	X	X
2.1- Enhance capacity of local government structures for natural resource management	Identification of training needs in terms of legislation	X	X				
	Training (students, PhD students, animators)		X			X	
2.2- Develop legislation and structures for its implementation	Development process of local code of conduct	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.1- Identify the training needs and elaborate a training program	Concerted identification of training needs (populations and project team)	X	X				
3.2- Execute/implement the training program	Elaboration of ToRs and recruitment of resource persons	X	X				
	Trainings				X		X
3.3- Develop a Communications Strategy for Namga-Kokorou	Finalization of ToRs and selection of consultants						
	Elaboration of the communication strategy in collaboration with project team.						

ANNEXES

In each report, please include the following information in the annexes:

- ✓ List of workshops (title, date, location, # of participants) held in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of technical reports produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of media communication (TV/radio/press) released in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of publications produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ Updated inventory of equipment purchased with project funds (please use the table provided – double-click on the file icon below, insert items, and the “save” the file)

Please send by email to the PCU:

- ✓ 1 photograph of the project team as a group, and passport size photo of project manager (if not already submitted)
- ✓ Photographs representing main aspects of project work, and illustrating project impact (i.e. of workshops, field research, education and awareness, ecotourism, volunteer groups. Please take pictures illustrating the impact of the project, i.e. of the situation “before”, “during” and “after” the project)
- ✓ general photographs illustrating the environment of the site
- ✓ Soft copy of technical reports produced by project
- ✓ Soft copy of workshop reports

Please keep records of (for later review/consultation by the PCU)

- ✓ Financial records (invoices, receipts) of all expenditure incurred with project funds
- ✓ Hard copy of press articles and publications produced by the project
- ✓ Copy of TV/radio programs

Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type ⁴	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1	Other	Recruitment of site animators	Tera (Niger)	19 th April 2008	WoW team	WoW team	11 persons	Selection report	French	19th April 2008
2	Other	Project official launch meeting and first Steering Committee meeting report	Tera (Niger)	21 st – 22 nd April 2008	WOW project	WOW team	30	Meeting report	French	

b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.							
2.							

⁴ Meeting types (Inter-governmental Meeting, Expert Group Meeting, Training Workshop/Seminar, Other)

⁵ Material types (Report to Inter-governmental Meeting, Technical Publication, Technical Report, Other)

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.	Media coverage during official launch workshop	21st April 2008
2.	Small radio broadcasts on the local community channel about	
3.		

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	Additional information for Grants and Fellowships ONLY		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.							
2.							

e) Other Outputs/Services (e.g. Networking, Query-response, Participation in meetings etc.)

No	Description	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		

⁶ Technical Cooperation Type (Grants and Fellowships, Advisory Services, Staff Mission, Others)

Annex 2: Inventory of Non-Expendable Equipment

Internal ID	Item	Purchase Date	Original price (CFA)	Price in US\$	Present Condition	Description of Use
WoW/Nig/Mat/001	Vehicle 4x4 - Toyota Hilux	March 2008	8 446 328	\$17 440	Good	For project activities and travels to the site
WoW/Nig/Mat/002	2 Motorcycles Jianshé	March 2008	1 709 340	\$3 529	Good	For project's animators in the field
WoW/Nig/Mat/003	2 Helmets	March 2008	90 000	\$186	Good	For project's animators in the field
WoW/Nig/Mat/004						