

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

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 2
REPORTING PERIOD: January – Mai 08
Report Prepared by: Mahmoud Chihaoui; Gabin Agblonon

Country	Mauritania
Project Title	Developing ornithological ecotourism in the Banc d'Arguin National Park
Project ref. number	G 5
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

The successful candidate identified as the Project Manager took up his post in February 2008 after participation at the global team meeting held in Wageningen at end of January 2008.

The recruitment and/or appointment of the others local team members were facilitated and completed with support of the project manager. The procurement of the project materials continued with purchasing of additional essential office materials.

During the period, effort was devoted on the selection of the trainees. The process was restarted and based on new criteria, some evaluation missions were held to finalise this selection with collaboration from PNBA staff. The process is actually in its last stage and the final decision on the 20 candidates (out from the 79 received) to be retained will be taken before end of June 2008.

The project initial workshop held early in May was an opportunity to organise a successful press release (national and private channels) on the initiative and to communicate about its objectives and its importance. This also constituted a moment which enabled to put and sensitize together a large delegation of representatives from Mauritanian government and other international organizations or potential donors like World Bank, AFD, etc.

The first project Steering Committee meeting after the effective implementation in the site was held in April at Nouakchott. During this meeting, some amendments were approved about the project running modalities as well as some budgets changes.

At international level the project participated in the WOW global meeting in Wageningen and as for the other project, this was the opportunity to establish contact with other project team members and get more comprehension on the project global approach.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

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

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Finalisation of the recruitment and effective installation of the Project manager at site level.
2	Recruitment of the teacher for the French training program development and implementation; Appointment of an accountant for the project financial management at the site level.
3	Restarting of the trainees' selection process and evaluation missions for initial identification of 27 persons through the potential candidates.
4	Holding of the initial workshop including the official launch and presentation of the project to others International Organization Partners in the PNBA, to other International donors and to the Mauritanian governmental authorities
5	Participation in the consultants' selection process and contribution in the PNBA's ecotourism strategy evaluation.
6	First Project Steering Committee meeting in April 2008

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Devaluation of USD: GEF budget is much less and therefore restricts the implementation of some activities	Budget revision and increase MAVAs contribution (as much as possible) in some budget lines.	Done	PM & Steering Committee (SC)
2	Ecoguides trainees selection: Large number of candidates' motivation is linked to the living stipend during the training; difficulties in finding of candidates with the required level of enthusiasm	Develop and implement a strategy (methodological process and criteria) to ensure the selection of the most relevant candidates	Underway, June 2008	Project Manager (PM)
3	The project budget has planned contribution from GTZ and IPADE when in reality these parties have not contributed	Try to find additional funds by approaching others donors present in Mauritania (bilateral and multilateral cooperation)	November 2008	CP/PM
4	The rehabilitated training centre is not yet at the required educational standards.	Negotiation with PNBA's authorities for further rehabilitation works.	Process started	PM

2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	Ecoguides trainees selection: Large number of candidates' motivation is linked to the living stipend during the training; difficulties in finding of candidates with a harmonious level	Develop and implement a strategy (methodological process and criteria) to ensure the selection of the most relevant candidates	Underway, June 2008	Project Manager (PM)
Finance & administration	Devaluation of USD: GEF budget is much less and therefore restricts the implementation of some activities	Budget revision and increase MAVAs contribution (as much as possible) in some budget lines.	Done	PM & Steering Committee (SC)
Logistics & operations	Necessity to hire a driver	Recruit a driver	ASAP	PNBA / WI / FIBA
Reporting & communication	Although it is frequent, communication with WIAO remains limited. The feeling of belonging to an institution (WIAO) and a project (WOW) is below of expectations	Establish a weekly skype communication. More development in the exchanges between WIAO and Mauritania project team and also between other sub-regional WOW demo projects team (Niger & Senegal/The Gambia)	ASAP	WIAO
Coordination with project partners	The rehabilitated training centre is not yet at the required educational standards.	Negotiation with PNBA's authorities for further rehabilitation works.	Process started	PM
	The project budget has planned contribution from GTZ and IPADE when in reality these parties will not	Try to find additional funds by approaching others donors present in Mauritania (bilateral and multilateral cooperation)	November 2008	CP / PM
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc)	Security context in Mauritania resulted in a significant decrease in tourists number; phenomenon which also passed on the Banc d'Arguin.	Communication about securing visits in PNBA.	ASAP	All the partners
Other				

2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	10 th April 2008
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	July 2008

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	YES
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	YES
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	YES

Updated list of SC Members (list the SC Chairperson first):

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Sidi Mohamed O. Moine	Chairperson Director PNBA	directeur.pnba@mauritania.m r	+222 5258542
Abdoulaye Ndiaye	Wetlands International	ablayewet@orange.sn	+221 8691681
Antonio Araujo	Conseiller Technique FIBA au PNBA	antonioaraujo- pnba@mauritania.mr	+222 6491378
Mahmoud Chihaoui	Project manager (Secretary of the Steering Committee Meetings)	mahmoud.chihaoui@yahoo.fr	+222 4405041

3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

OUTCOMES & ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS	PROGRESS	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (–) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
Outcome 1 Improved management strategy, services and products for bird tourism					
<i>Activity 1.1 Contribute to the development of an ornithological ecotourism strategy for the park.</i>	October 2009	IP 05% (0%) ↑	Contribution in the evaluation of the existing ecotourism strategy in the park.	Depends on the progress in the ecotourism strategy evaluation	Consultants, PNBA
<i>Activity 1.2 Identify key sites for waterbirds and associated aspects of tourism potential</i>	August 2008	IP 30% (0%) ↑	Literature review		
<i>Activity 1.3 Contribute to the development of tourism guidelines for the park, based on carrying capacity.</i>	July 2009	IP 25% (0%) ↑	Participation in the consultants recruitment and contribution in the PNBA's ecotourism strategy evaluation process actually underway		
<i>Activity 1.4 Support the implementation of the park's ecotourism strategy</i>	June 09	NA			
Outcome 2 Increased international reputation / awareness of park.					
<i>Activity 2.1 Contribute to the design an Ornithological Communications Strategy</i>	June 2009	NA			
<i>Activity 2.2 Develop selected EPA materials</i>	December 2008	IP 20% (0%) ↑	Collaboration in the production of a tourist guide for the park.		

Outcome 3 Enhanced local (PNBA staff, communities and training facilities) capacity to provide ecotourism services.					
<i>Activity 3.1 Establish and implement a project training programme for park staff & Imraguen</i>	December 2009	IP 15% (0%) ⓘ	French teacher recruited, French training programs realised and curricula identified		
<i>Activity 3.2 Design and operate an Exchange Programme</i>	June 2009	NA			
<i>Activity 3.3 Improve park interpretation system</i>	June 2009	NA			
<i>Activity 3.4 Establish a training centre</i>		Completed		The training room is not restored to standards. Negotiation with PNBA to conduct additional works	PNBA

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:	200 000 USD
Funds advanced by UNOPS to date:	58 750 USD
Opening balance this reporting period:	56 816 USD
Total expenditure this reporting period:	18 843 USD
Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule):	37 350 USD
Balance (if applicable):	37 972 USD

Certified by Projects Managers: In field: Mahmoud Chihaoui / SRS office: Gabin Agblonon

General Category of Expenditure	Total budget (Revised version)	Total expenditure to date	Total budget balance	Opening balance this period	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period	Balance at end of reporting period
Personnel	84 000	12 661	71 339	15 000	15 000	12661	2 339
Equipments	12 500	2 271	10 229	12 500	12 500	2 271	10 229
Subcontracts	2 500	0	2 500	2 500	2 500	0	2 500
Workshops and training	61 000	0	61 000	16 750	16 750	0	16 750
Travel and operations	18 000	2 214	15 786	7 000	7 000	2 214	4 786
Executing agency support overheads	16 000	2 619	13 381	2 066	4 000	685	1 381
Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	5 000	0	5 000	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous and contingency	1 000	1 013	-13	1 000	1 000	1 013	-13
Total	200 000	20 777	179 223	56 816	58 750	18 843	37 972

NB: This report above is based on the changes made in the original and approved by the PCU in June 2008

4.2 Status of co-financing

Please report on the status of funds received by other donors and partners as co-financing for this project using the following table.

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance
MAVA (FIBA)	\$US 142 500 (€ 109 916)		\$ 142 500	\$ 71 250 (€ 54 808)	\$ 71 250
PNBA		\$US 88 000	\$ 88 000	\$ 40 000	\$ 48 000
IPADE	\$US 11 000	\$US 18 500	\$ 29 500		\$ 29 500
GTZ		\$US 10 000	\$ 10 000		\$ 10 000
WI Dakar		\$US 10 000	\$10 000	\$ 4 277	\$ 5 723
			totals	\$ 115 477	\$ 164 945
list any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
			totals		

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
Development Objective					
Conservation and sustainable use of Banc d'Arguin NP critical site for migratory waterbirds					
Immediate Objective					
Increase in equitable biodiversity friendly tourism	<p>Increase in park revenues from tourism</p> <p>Community members engaged in providing services to visitors</p>	<p>Balance of figures from park tourism revenues</p> <p>Project report outcomes</p>	<p>About eight thousands euro (€8 000)</p> <p>--</p>		<p>Tourism revenues are used directly for the park management and not for other purposes. Mauritania will remain open to tourism. Fisheries / other impacts do not disrupt the park's ecological integrity.</p>
Outcomes					
Outcome 1. Improved management strategy, services and products for bird tourism.	<p>Feedback from visitors (visitor satisfaction)</p> <p>Average stay of visitors</p>	<p>PNBA reports</p> <p>Demonstration project progress reports</p>	<p>Average</p> <p>Two (02) days</p>	<p>Not enough information</p> <p>Unchanged</p>	<p>Tourism revenues are retained in/for the park. Tourism operations in the park will serve as additional surveillance. Imraguen will be fully involved in the project.</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of May 2008	Risks and assumptions
Outcome 2. Increased international reputation / awareness of park.	PNBA featured in itineraries of at least 5 reputable international ecotourism operators.	Travel operator websites / collateral media	Three (3) travel operators	No changes yet	EPA materials should be appropriate and distributed widely. Press coverage should be well targeted. Mauritania as a country needs to remain open to international tourism and partners. Website should be regularly updated. Park facilities must provide good visitor security.
	Increases in the number of ornithological visits.	PNBA reports and tourism records	About 50 a year	No changes yet	
	New partners and donors for park support.	Demonstration project progress reports			
Outcome 3. Enhanced local (PNBA staff, communities and training facilities) capacity to provide ecotourism services.	At least 4 staff & 16 Imraguen directly involved in guiding visitors by project end.	PNBA reports and tourism records Demonstration project progress reports	About 10 training sessions (providing services, cooking, hygiene)	Unchanged	Trained staff and villagers are fully occupied with ecotourism. New facilities must be environmentally appropriate, attractive for tourists and maintained.
	New park training facilities being used regularly.	Physical park facilities & infrastructures			

5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Banc d'Arguin National Park ?	YES
Date of first PAMETT:	3 February 2007
PAMETT performed by:	Sidi Ould Moine and Antonio Araujo

5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	04
# of Government Staff involved in this project	10
# of Volunteers involved in this project	-
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	1
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	75
# of people involved in project workshops	25
# of people trained under this project	
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	5
# of TV/radio program featuring the project and/or related issues	3
# of publications produced under this project	
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	More than 200 000

6. Key Lessons Learned

The selection of ecoguards is a very complicated process. We must take care about ethnic and socioeconomic issues: we must:

- Choose the right persons from each village (fishermen, good level in speaking French, etc.),
- Find solutions for having men and women in the same time,

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

ACTIVITY	2008		2009	
	S1	S2	S3	S4
1.1- Develop an ornithological ecotourism strategy for park	X	X		
1.2- Identify the keys potential sites for the ecotourism	X	X		
1.3- Develop tourism guidelines for the park		X		
1.4- Implement the ecotourism strategy		X	X	X
2.1- Design an ornithological communications strategy			X	X
2.2- Develop EPA materials		X	X	
3.1- Establish and implement a training program	X	X	X	X
3.2- Design and operate an exchange program		X	X	
3.3- Improve park interpretation system	X	X	X	
3.4- Training center upgrade	X	X	X	X

7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	JULY - DECEMBRE 2008					
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1.1- Develop an ornithological ecotourism strategy for park	X	X	X	X		
1.2- Identify the keys potential sites for the ecotourism	X	X				
1.3- Develop tourism guidelines for the park	X					
1.4- Implement the ecotourism strategy	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.1- Design an ornithological communications strategy						
2.2- Develop EPA materials	X	X			X	X
3.1- Establish and implement a training program	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.2- Design and operate an exchange program				X	X	X
3.3- Improve park interpretation system			X	X	X	X
3.4- Training center upgrade	DONE					

ANNEXES

- ✓ Workshop : 1, Atelier de lancement du projet, 20 Mai 2008, Nouakchott – Tfeïla hôtel, 25 Participants, dont 3 Ministres
- ✓ Technical reports :
 - Critères de sélection et grilles de notation des candidats de la formation éco-guides
 - Rapports des missions de terrain (2)
 - Rapport d'avancement trimestriel du projet
 - Révision de programme d'action
 - PV du Comité de Pilotage
 - Rapport de présélection des candidats à la formation éco-guides
- ✓ List of media communication
 - 2 reportages aux journaux télévisés (en arabe et en français) + une interview du PM
 - 1 reportage radiophonique
 - 4 articles de presse : « le Quotidien de Nouakchott, « Echo Environnement », « Al Hawadith », « Al Khalij »
 - Une dépêche de l'Agence Mauritanienne d'Information (A.M.I.)

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
- ✓ 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	WOW global team meeting	Wageningen		PCU	PCU				
2	Other	Bilan programme 2007-2008 PNBA	Nouakchott	Mars 2008	PNBA	GTZ / PNBA	30	yes	French	March 08
3	Other	Comité de pilotage	Nouakchott (PNBA)	Avril 2008	WOW project	WOW project	03		French	10/04/08
4	Expert group meeting	Evaluation et validation ToRs campements ecotouristiques	Nouakchott (PNBA)	Mars 2008	PNBA	PNBA	8		French	April
5	Other	Mission de préselection stagiaires ecoguides	Mamghar, Rgueiba, teichott, tessot, iwik, ten Alloul, Arkeiss	1st -5th April 2008	WOW project	WOW project	4	Yes (rapport de mission)	Hasanya/french	April
6	Other	Mission evaluation stagiaires ecoguides	Mamghar, Rgueiba, teichott, tessot, iwik, ten Alloul, Arkeiss, Agadir	21st-24th April 2008	WOW project	WOW project	4	Yes (rapport de mission)	French/hasanya	April
7	Expert group meeting	Sélection experts pour evaluation strategie ecotourisme	Nouakchott	6th & 10th April 2008	PNBA	PNBA/FIBA	6	no	french	April
8	Other	Project initial workshop	Nouakchott	20th May 2008	WOW Project	WOW project	30	no	French	20 may
9	Expert group meetings	Debriefing meeting with the experts in charge of ecotourism's evaluation strategy	Nouakchott	1 st june	PNBA	PNBA/FIBA	15	Yes	french	may

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

b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.							
2.							
3.							

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.	Press release (TV, Radio, written press) during the project initial workshop	20 th May 2008
2.		
3.		

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	For Grants and Fellowships		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.	French gef project (PRCC0	Developing ecotourism in Mauritania	Mauritania	5 years	Mauritania's ecotourism officials and professionals	Mauritania	1,5 million Euros
2.							

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

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

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

No	Description	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		

Annex 2: Inventory of Non-Expendable Equipment

Internal ID	Item	Purchase Date	Original price (MRO)	Price in US\$	Present Condition	Description of Use
WoW/Maur/Mat/001	Desk + Chair	17/02/2008	185 000	680	GOOD	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/002	Laptop	27/02/2008	310 000	1 139	GOOD	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/003	Printer	27/02/2008	50 000	184	GOOD	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/004	Digital Camera	31/03/2008	105 000	386	GOOD	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/005	Sattelite phone "thuraya"	31/03/2008	140 000	514	GOOD	Team use
WoW/Maur/Mat/006	Safe	13/05/2008	45 000	165	GOOD	Cash keeping