

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

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 01
REPORTING PERIOD: April – November 2007
Report Prepared by: Gabin Agblonon, Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Antonio Araujo.

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: e-mail: ablaywet@orange.sn / site web: www.wetlands.org Tel: +221 33 820 64 78 Fax: +221 33 820 64 79

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1. Executive Summary

A Convention defining the conditions and the legal framework for collaboration between the three main partners (PNBA, WI, FIBA) involved in the project implementation has been fully discussed and signed. A recruitment process was undertaken for the hiring of a project manager. A candidate has been identified and agreement already made with him on the contract defining his work conditions. He is expected to take the position early January 2008.

The project is still in a start-up phase concerning the implementation of the main activities. However, some activities like the rehabilitation of the training center (Mamghar) have already started and are at a good stage. Also, other preparatory tasks such as trainee's selection were already undertaken under PNBA's supervision and will be performed as soon as the project manager will be in place.

Purchasing of some project's equipments in the framework of the FIBA's co-financing is also underway and will be completed in December.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

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

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Convention establishing the framework and the conditions of collaboration between the three main partners (PNBA, WI, FIBA) on the project is agreed and signed
2	The project Manager is identified and will start in January 2008
3	Rehabilitation of Mamghar center started and first works done on trainee's selection
4	Procurement of essential equipment started with (car, binoculars, ...)

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Long delay in the effective start of the project activities	Amendment on the project's official end date	As soon as possible	PCU
2	international payments are expensive for the WIAP due to the high costs of currency exchanges in Senegal	Set-up foreign currency bank account	ASAP	WIAP
3				

2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES Description of issues affecting project performance during the reporting period	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of decisions / actions to be taken	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	Delay in the recruitment of the project manager in Mauritania	This is now at its final stages. However the duration of the project should be amended to reflect this delay		
Finance & administration	Anticipated issues related to operational funds transfer to the project site	Set-up a foreign currency bank account Set-up efficient financial arrangements for fund transfer between WIAP and PNBA	End December 2007	WIAP WIAP/PNBA
Logistics & operations				
Reporting & communication	WIAP team is liaising effectively with the WOW Project Coordination Unit.			
Coordination with project partners	Delay in the effective start of the activities due to long time took by executing partners to discuss and then sign their collaboration agreement	Secure an amendment to reflect this delay by postponing the official project end date		
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	
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	At an initial working meeting in Mauritania with the project team on the site upon the project manager will start in January 2008.
QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	The report was circulated for amendments within the majors persons who are acting as SC members for the moment
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	Actual SC members discuss, when necessary, on the project issues mainly by phone and email

The following persons are acting as SC Members for this moment (project start up):

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Dr Sidi Ould Moine	Chairperson	directeur.pnba@mauritania.mr	+222 5258542
Abdoulaye Ndiaye	WI	ablaywet@orange.sn	+221 338206478
Antonio Araujo	FIBA	antonioaraujo-pnba@mauritania.mr	+222 5293268

3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

As the project still is in a start-up phase, the progress elements provided in this table below are based on a general outline of planned activities from the project proposal (revised project document).

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE <i>(NB: after beginning of the project)</i>	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	PROGRESS Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions / Actions to be taken	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..					
Activity 1.1 <i>Contribute to the development of an ornithological ecotourism strategy for the park.</i>	Within the first 12 months	0%		Delay in project's start-up phase. / Re-scheduling of the activity	Project team
Activity 1.2 <i>Identify key sites for waterbirds and associated aspects of tourism potential</i>	Within the first 12 months	0%		Delay in project's start-up phase. / Re-scheduling of the activity	Project team
Activity 1.3 <i>Contribute to the development of tourism guidelines for the park, based on carrying capacity.</i>	Within the first 12 months	0%	Not planned for this period		

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE <i>(NB: after beginning of the project)</i>	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	PROGRESS Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions / Actions to be taken	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↗ increased with respect to prior report; (–) unchanged; ↘ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
Activity 1.4 <i>Support the implementation of the park's ecotourism strategy</i>	Over the last 18 months of the project	0%	Not planned for the period		
Outcome 2 Increased international reputation / awareness of park.					
Activity 2.1 <i>Contribute to the design an Ornithological Communications Strategy</i>	Within the last 12 months of the project	0%	Not planned for this period		
Activity 2.2 <i>Develop selected EPA materials</i>	Within 18 months	0%	Not planned for this period		
Outcome 3 Enhanced local (PNBA staff, communities and training facilities) capacity to provide ecotourism services.					
Activity 3.1 <i>Establish and implement a project training programme for park staff & Imraguen</i>	Over the project duration	0%	Preliminary works for trainee's selection started. Need to be performed	Delay in project's start-up phase. / Re-scheduling of the activity	Project team

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE <i>(NB: after beginning of the project)</i>	STATUS % completed to date (and in parenthesis: % in prior progress report)	PROGRESS Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions / Actions to be taken	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Legend: (IP) In progress; (C) Completed; ↑ increased with respect to prior report; (–) unchanged; ↓ revised downwards; (NA) Not scheduled for current reporting period.					
Activity 3.2 <i>Design and operate an Exchange Programme</i>	Within the last 12 months of the project	0%	Not planned for this period		
Activity 3.3 <i>Improve park interpretation system</i>	Within the first 18 months	0%		Delay in project's start-up phase. / Re-scheduling of the activity	Project team
Activity 3.4 <i>Establish a training centre</i>	Over the project duration		Rehabilitation of some Manghar centre infrastructures underway and purchasing of first new equipments	Delay in the process of equipments purchasing / Speed these operations in order to put major equipments in place before January 2008	PNBA, FIBA, WIAP

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 58,750 (CFA 28,453,050)
 Total expenditure this reporting period: \$US 1,934 (CFA 865,300)
 Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): \$US 49,750
 Balance (if applicable): \$US 56 816

Date of the next request for funds: 01/01/08

Certified by SRS WoW Project Manager: Gabin Agblonon

General Category of Expenditure	Total budget (a)	Total expenditure to date (b)	Total budget balance (a-b)	Last payment received (c)	Expenditure in reporting period (d) <i>(NB: 1\$=447.33999 CFA)</i>	Balance at end of reporting period (c-d)
Personnel	60 000		60 000	15 000		15 000
Equipments	15 000		15 000	15 000		15 000
Subcontracts	6 000		6 000	0		0
Workshops and training	67 000		67 000	16 750		16 750
Travel and operations	27 000		27 000	7 000		7 000
Executing agency support overheads	16 000	1 934	14 066	4 000	1 934	2 066
Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	5 000		5 000	0		0
Miscellaneous and contingency	4 000		4 000	1 000		1 000
Total	200 000	1 934	198 066	58 750	1 934	56 816

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
MAVA (FIBA)	\$US 142 500 (€ 109 916)		\$ 142 500	\$ 71 250 (€ 54 808)	\$ 107 248
PNBA		\$US 88 000	\$ 88 000		\$ 88,000
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		\$ 10 000
Totals	\$153,500	\$126,500	\$ 280,000	\$ 71,250	\$ 208,750
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	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	<p>Feedback from visitors (visitor satisfaction)</p>	<p>PNBA reports</p>	<p>Average</p>		<p>Tourism revenues are retained in/for the park. Tourism</p>

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of	Risks and assumptions
strategy, services and products for bird tourism.	Average stay of visitors	Demonstration project progress reports	Two (02) days		operations in the park will serve as additional surveillance. Imraguen will be fully involved in the project.
Outcome 2. Increased international reputation / awareness of park.	<p>PNBA featured in itineraries of at least 5 reputable international ecotourism operators.</p> <p>Increases in the number of ornithological visits.</p> <p>New partners and donors for park support.</p>	<p>Travel operator websites / collateral media</p> <p>PNBA reports and tourism records</p> <p>Demonstration project progress reports</p>	<p>Three (3) travel operators</p> <p>About 50 a year</p>		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.
Outcome 3. Enhanced local (PNBA staff, communities and training facilities) capacity to provide ecotourism services.	<p>At least 4 staff & 16 Imraguen directly involved in guiding visitors by project end.</p> <p>New park training facilities being used regularly.</p>	<p>PNBA reports and tourism records</p> <p>Demonstration project progress reports</p> <p>Physical park facilities & infrastructures</p>			Trained staff and villagers are fully occupied with ecotourism. New facilities must be environmentally appropriate, attractive for tourists and maintained.

5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the PNBA protected area?	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	03
# of Government Staff involved in this project	03
# of Volunteers involved in this project	
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	?
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	-
# of people involved in project workshops	-
# of people trained under this project	-
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	-
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	-
# of publications produced under this project	-
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	-

6. Key Lessons Learned

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

ACTIVITY	YEAR 2007		YEAR 2008		YEAR 2009	
		S2	S1	S2	S1	S2
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

The updated overall project workplan above is based on the general outline of planned activities revised to take into account the actual delay in the project start-up phase.

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	Interview for Project Manager recruitment and finalization of the collaboration agreement	PNBA-Mauritania	18 th to 21 st September 2007	WI	PNBA	04	Minutes	French	20 th Sept.

b) Printed Materials

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

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.		
2.		
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)