

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

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 01
REPORTING PERIOD: April – December 2007
Report Prepared by: Gabin Agblonon; Abba Mahmoudou; Abdou Malam Issa

Country	Niger
Project Title	Community-based management of natural resources Namga-Kokorou
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: 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

An agreement defining the conditions and the legal framework for the collaboration between the three main partners (Ministry of Environment in Niger, Wetlands International Africa and WWF Niger) involved in the project implementation is discussed and agreed in its terms by the third parties. The document will be signed before end of the year.

Both project team's composition and its working process are discussed and agreed. The team members from the government structure will officially be appointed as soon as the agreement will be signed. The main stakeholders on site (local communities and government representatives) were visited and sensitized about the project and the other preparations underway for the effective next start of the activities on the field.

However the project is still in a start up phase with respect to the implementation of the activities. This is due to the long time that is taken to deal with the agreement issue. The activities will really start after the official signature of the agreement and the first funds transfer to the site.

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 on the project is finalized and now is in signature process
2	Composition of the project team on site and its main working process were discussed and agreed
3	Agreement made with parties for procurement of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - computers for project coordinator (at Ministry) and the site coordinator (at Téra) - motorcycles for two site animators - two cameras - a canoe and some fishing accessories - a second hand vehicle for the coordination travels and other field trips - other necessary equipments will be purchased on a joint proposal by the project coordinator and the project manager.

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	Changes in the Ministry DFPP have impeded start-up			

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	The project coordinator and other site personnel from the Environment Ministry's side in Niger are all identified. However the formal appointment can only happen once the agreement between partners is signed and activated	Accelerate the process for the agreement signature and then the official appointment of the other project team members already identified	By end December.	ME/LCD; WWF Niger & WIAP
Finance & administration				
Logistics & operations				
Reporting & communication				
Coordination with project partners	Delay in the effective start of the activities due to the long time taken by implementing partners to discuss and have agreement on the terms of collaboration convention.	Secure an amendment and later postpone 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	

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	No, the SC is not yet formally established. But it circulated between a restricted number of persons who are following discussions and other arrangements in this start-up phase.
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	Idem as above
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	

The persons below are following the discussions about administrative issues and other necessary tasks during this start-up period:

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Abdoulaye Ndiaye	WIAP	ablaywet@orange.sn	+221 338206478
Abdou Malam Issa	Environment ministry (Niger)	malam_ia@yahoo.fr	+227 96870825
Aboubacar Awaiss	WWF Niger	awaiss_wwf@yahoo.fr	+227 20350097
Abba Mahmoudou	Project Manager	abam_fa@yahoo.fr	+227 20350097
Gabin Agblonon	WIAP	chougab@gmail.com	+221 338206478

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 A community-owned management plan and based on sound technical data					
Activity 1.1 <i>Elaboration of the community-based management plan</i>	Within the first 18 months	0%		Delay in project's start-up phase. / Re-scheduling of the activity	Project team
Activity 1.2 <i>Contribute to wetlands monitoring for Namga-Kokorou</i>	Over the all project duration	0%		Delay in project's start-up phase. / Re-scheduling of the activity	Project team
Outcome 2 Local Councils committed to and capable of implementing management plan					
Activity 2.1 <i>Enhance capacity of local government structures for natural resource management</i>	Within the last 18 months of the project	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 2.2 <i>Develop legislation and structures for its implementation</i>	Within the last 18 months	0%	Not planned for this period		
Outcome 3 Better understanding of wetland values and wise use practices at local level (local communities and Local Councils)					
Activity 3.1 <i>Identify the training needs and elaborate a training programme</i>	Within the first 6 months	0%		Delay in project's start-up phase. / Re-scheduling of the activity	Project team
Activity 3.2 <i>Execute/implement the training programme</i>	Over the last 18 months of the project	0%	Not planned for this period		
Activity 3.3 <i>Develop a Communications Strategy for Namga-Kokorou</i>	Within the first 12 months	0%		Delay in project's start-up phase. / Re-scheduling of the activity	Project team
Activity 3.4 <i>implement the Communications Strategy</i>	Over the last 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.					
Outcome 4 Financial support for initial implementation of the management plan mobilized.					
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 12 months	0%	Not planned for this period		

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 (CFA 26,031,514)
 Total expenditure this reporting period: \$US 3 536 (CFA 1 581 605)
 Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): \$US 51,250
 Balance (if applicable): \$US 50 214

Date of the next request for funds: 01/01/2008

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	41 000		41 000	10 250	0	10 250
Equipments	32 000		32 000	30 000	0	30 000
Subcontracts	15 000		15 000	0	0	0
Workshops and training	58 000		58 000	5 500	0	5 500
Travel and operations	33 000	227	32 773	4 000	227	3 773
Executing agency support overheads	16 000	3 309	12 691	4 000	3 309	691
Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	5 000		5 000	0	0	0
Miscellaneous and contingency	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	200 000	3 536	196 464	53 750	3 536	50 214

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		
WWF Niger (Freshwater Programme West Africa)		70 000	70 000		
totals		150,000	150,000		
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 Namga-Kokorou critical site for migratory waterbirds					
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>	Any formal management plan exist for the sites		<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	Community-based plan is available	Demonstration project progress reports	No formal management plan for the sites		The plan is achievable & realistic. Monitoring protocols are

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of	Risks and assumptions
and based on sound technical data	Evidence of appropriate consultative process International standard biodiversity data available in national database (University of Niamey)	Supporting documentation. IWC or Ramsar database			appropriate; database is effective and compatible with other datasets.
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		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		Training is appropriate and local conditions favorable for trainees to put skills to practice; trainees remain in area.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of	Risks and assumptions
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		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 Namga-Kokorou 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	02
# of Volunteers involved in this project	01
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	01
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- Elaboration of the community-based management plan			X	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 programme			X			
3.2- Execute/implement the training programme				X	X	X
3.3- Develop a Communications Strategy for Namga-Kokorou			X	X		
3.4- implement the Communications Strategy					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

The updated overall project workplan above is based on the general outline of planned activities revised taking 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	Kick-off meeting with mains partners in the implementation country – Visits to the local government and local authorities on the sites	WWF Office - Niger	16 th to 20 th July 2007	WI Dakar	Direction Forêt Pêche et Pisciculture	10 persons	Mission report	French	24 th July.

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)