

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

WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 6
REPORTING PERIOD: December 09 – March 2010
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
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: andiaye@wetlands.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 most of the expected activities were done.

Since the last report on this activity, all of the additional specific training modules were implemented coupled with practical exercises designed to enable the trainees to have better understanding of the field and techniques. In total, TEN (10) training modules were completed. The trainees' practical and theoretical knowledge was assessed.

For the other project activities, the strategy for specific ornithological ecotourism in the Pnba was validated and incorporated in the PNBA's Management plan's logical framework;

The key sites for waterbirds and associated aspects of tourism potential were identified and fact sheets for each of these key sites were elaborated. Some guidelines were defined for the sites based on the PNBA's Laws. Later in May and as additional outputs, a tourist map including the recommendations will be developed.

The Ecotourism's communication strategy was led during March 2010 and the final report is actually provided to the PNBA who now have to put in place the necessary means for the implementation.

Related to the development of EPA materials and the improvement of the park interpretation system, two bird watching towers (hides) was built, and some sensitization panels are under completion.

An exchange visit to Djoudj National park was organized last February and was opportunity to new trained ecoguards to visit they Senegalese homologues who have a lot of experiences in leading of ecotourism activities.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

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

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Elaboration of the Ornithological ecotourism's communication strategy for Banc d'Arguin National Park
2	End of the delivering of the specific technical training modules (9 in total) to the trainees, coupled with more than 10 days of field experiences.
3	Evaluation of the trainees
4	Organization of an exchange visit to Djoudj National Park, in Senegal.
5	Completion of the fact sheets on proposed Key sites for waterbirds within the Pnba
6	Building of 2 hides for birds observation at Mamghar

A. Executive Summary

Almost the entire 06 months period after signature of the agreement for the project funding was dedicated to staffing and settlement of administrative arrangement between the implementation partners (Wetlands International Africa, Fonds International du Banc d'Arguin –FIBA, and the National Park of Banc d'Arguin – PNBA). This first stage of the project implementation was completed with the procurement of materials and equipment for the running of the project activities as well as for the ecoguides' activities.

The main outcomes which were pursued for the PNBA under this project can be classified into three categories as follows:

1- The improvement of the management strategy, services and products for bird tourism within the park. The activities conducted for this issue covered the participation and the support in the development of PNBA's management and infrastructures development plan with the ecotourism action plan. The identification of the key sites (important to waterbirds and with high tourism potential) within the park and their classification under a directory was another activity under this objective with a concrete participation into the ecotourism activities in the field.

2- Increasing of international reputation/awareness of the park. This expectation was addressed through the elaboration of an ornithological communications strategy for the park and some initiatives towards the improvement of the park's interpretation system.

3- The enhancement of local capacity to provide ecotourism services. At this point the main activity was the training of a group of 16 persons (including 5 women) coming from local Imraguen communities in conducting ecotourism activities and in tourist guiding within the park. This main activity was completed by exchange visits for the trainees as well as the installation of some bird watching infrastructure in the park.

B. Key project achievements

This section highlights important project achievements.

#	Key Project Achievements	Dates
1	Participation and support to the elaboration and adoption of the PNBA's 2010-2014 Management and Infrastructure Development Plan including the ecotourism strategy and action plan.	Oct 09
2	Elaboration of booklet outlining the main birds species in PNBA for both the tourist information and the training needs of the ecoguides trainees.	Dec 08
3	Elaboration of the Ornithological ecotourism's communication strategy for Banc d'Arguin National Park	March 10
4	Identification of the key sites for waterbirds and tourism within the Park (PNBA) and realization of fact sheets on them with some tourism guidelines for their utilization.	Feb. 10
5	Selection and setting up of a group of 18 ecoguides trainees coming from local Imraguen communities and park staff	July 08
6	Development and implementation of a French training program for the ecoguides trainees group.	Nov 08 to May 09
7	Development of courses curricula addressing ecotourism activities and delivering of specific training modules (10) to the ecoguides trainees coupled with practical exercises in the field.	May 09 to Feb 10
8	Two exchange visits respectively to Bamboung and to Djoudj (Senegal) for key local population representatives and for the trained ecoguides group.	Oct 08 & Feb.10

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9	A group of 16 trained ecoguides from local communities and including 5 women well-able to conduct ecotourism activities (ornithological specifically) and to guide tourists in the park.	March 10
10	Realization and installation of two birds watching hides in the park around Mamghar centre.	Jan. 10
11	Rehabilitation of some facilities in Mamghar centre for the training issues.	Project duration
12	Procurement of field equipment (uniforms, binoculars, etc.) for the trained ecoguides.	Nov. 08 & March 10

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Unfavourable country political and security condition for tourism			
2				
3				

2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants				
Finance & administration	Planned funds contribution from IPADE is not available.	Continue in the search for additional funds and strength the project budget by approaching other additional donors.	Till the end of project.	- Project Manager, - WIA.
Logistics & operations				
Reporting & communication				
Coordination with project partners	Delay in reaction from colleagues at PNBA on some strategic issues and proposals	Try to initiate a work meeting.	Whenever necessary	Project Manager
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc)	Political and the security context in Mauritania is causing a significant decrease in tourists number in the country and therefore in the Banc d'Arguin National Park.	Communication about securing visits in the Park.	As soon as Possible.	All the partners
Other				

2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	24th September 2009
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	No, the last meeting is held before report compilation
The workplan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	Not yet. Final report
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	Yes, through communications with each of the members.

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

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Mohamadou Youssouf DIAGANA	Chairperson Director PNBA	mayoussouf@hotmail.com	+222 5258542
Abdoulaye Ndiaye (Representative of WIA Regional Director)	Wetlands International	ablayewet@orange.sn andiaye@wetlands.sn	+221 8691681
Antonio Araújo (Representative of FIBA Director)	Conseiller Technique FIBA au PNBA	antonioaraujo-pnba@mauritania.mr araujo@lafiba.org	+222 6491378
Mahmoud Chihaoui ¹	Project manager (Secretary of the Steering Committee Meetings)	mahmoud.chihaoui@yahoo.fr mahmoud_c@yahoo.fr	+222 4405041 +222 3074979

¹ Mahmoud Chihaoui is just the Secretary of the Steering Committee.

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>	March 2010	(C)	The document of the specific ornithological ecotourism strategy is incorporated in the logical framework of the PNBA Management Plan.		
<i>Activity 1.2 Identify key sites for waterbirds and associated aspects of tourism potential</i>	March 2010	(C)	The fact sheet for each key site was done. Later in May, compilation of the information and the mapping of these key sites will follow as additional tasks in order to consolidate the output.		
<i>Activity 1.3 Contribute to the development of tourism guidelines for the park, based on carrying capacity.</i>	May 2010	IP 90% (65%) ⬆	Some of the guidelines for the sites were done based on the PNBA's Laws. Later in May and as additional a tourist map including the recommendations will be developed.		
<i>Activity 1.4 Support the implementation of the park's ecotourism strategy</i>	Until the end of the project	(C)			
Outcome 2 Increased international reputation / awareness of park.					
<i>Activity 2.1 Contribute to the design an Ornithological Communications Strategy</i>	March 2010	(C)	The ornithological communication strategy is available for implementation.		

OUTCOMES & ACTIVITIES	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS	PROGRESS	ISSUES & PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
<i>Activity 2.2 Develop selected EPA materials</i>	May 2010	IP 80% (55%) ⓘ	- Realization of the 2 sensitization panels dedicated to children schools within the Park is under development. - An additional product (teaching manual) based on the training module delivered will be developed and completed later in June 2010.		
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>	March 2010	(C)	- All of the technical training modules are completed - Field exercise on guiding as well as practical activities on communication.		
<i>Activity 3.2 Design and operate an Exchange Programme</i>	February 2010	(C)	Visit Djoudj National Park (Senegal)		
<i>Activity 3.3 Improve park interpretation system</i>	March 2009	(C)	Realization of the two (2) birds watching Towers (hides)		
<i>Activity 3.4 Establish a training centre</i>	June 2009	(C)			

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:	188 000 USD
Opening balance this reporting period:	28 567 USD
Total expenditure this reporting period:	38 992 USD
Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule):	12 000 USD
Balance (if applicable):	- 10 425 USD

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

General Category of Expenditure	Total budget	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	95 534	-11 534	-4 859	16 000	11 674	-16 533
Equipments	12 500	3 782	8 718	8 718	0	0	8 718
Subcontracts	2 500	15 283	-12 783	-1 082	0	11 701	-12 783
Workshops and training	61 000	50 021	10 979	14 535	14 200	8 556	5 979
Travel and operations	18 000	11 326	6 674	5 454	5 000	-220	5 674
Executing agency support overheads	16 000	18 493	-2 493	1 056	2 000	3 799	-2 743
Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	5 000	3 724	1 276	4 758		3 482	1 276
Miscellaneous and contingency	1 000	1 013	-13	-13	0	0	-13
Total	200 000	199 175	825	28 567	37 200	38 992	-10 425

NB: Please see detailed financial report in the excel sheet accompanying this technical report for more information

4.3 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	\$US 142 500 (€ 109 916)	\$ 0
PNBA		\$US 88 000	\$ 88 000	\$ 64 000	\$ 24 000
IPADE	\$US 11 000	\$US 18 500	\$ 29 500		\$ 29 500
GTZ		\$US 10 000	\$ 10 000	€ 6000 (\$ 7 885) ¹	\$ 2 115
WI Dakar		\$US 10 000	\$10 000	\$ 10 000	\$ 0
Totals			\$ 280 000	\$ 224 385	\$ 55 615
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
Totals					

¹ Change Rate (€/USD) = 1.314102: Average value on November-December 2008.

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Logical framework

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance ¹	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of March 2010	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>Few camps managed by local community members</p>	<p>The project team is working with Pnba to be sure to have necessary data to monitor the evolution of the first one. However, note that the project's effect on these indicators can really be assessed only in 2010 and after.</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>Less information. Working with Pnba to have data at due time. Impact from project on this indicator could be effective only in 2010 and after.</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>

¹ The indicators with (*) are ones which could be assessed only in 2010 or after to be sure to have the project impact on them.

Intervention Logic	Indicators of performance ¹	Means of Verification	Baseline Situation	Status as of March 2010	Risks and assumptions
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>	<p>Draft ToRs for an assessment of the ornithological tourism in the PNBA is elaborated. The strategy remains to promote the Park by inviting Tour Operators for a visit during next tourism season in April-May 2010, with financial support from GTZ.</p> <p>Working with Pnba to be sure to have accurate data. Effect expected for 2010 and after</p> <p>No new donors through the project at moment.</p>	<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.</p>
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>	<p>About 10 training sessions</p>	<p>Specific technical training modules, seven (9) in total, were delivered to nineteen trainees who thus are being capacitated to handle the ecoguide's job in the Park</p> <p>Some furniture (chairs & tables) were purchased.</p>	<p>Trained staff and villagers are fully occupied with ecotourism. New facilities must be environmentally appropriate, attractive for tourists and maintained.</p>

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	More than 500
# of people involved in project workshops	25
# 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	
# of publications produced under this project	
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	More than 200 000

6. Key Lessons Learned

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
- ✓ 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.										
2.										
3.										
4.										
5.										
6.										
7.										
8.										
9.										

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.	Press release (TV, Radio, written press) during the on the official launch of the training sessions	November 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.							
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 (MRO)	Price in US\$	Present Condition	Description of Use
WoW/Maur/Mat/001	Desk	17/02/2008	185 000	680	GOOD	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/003	Lap Top	27/02/2008	310 000	1 139	GOOD	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/004	Printer	27/02/2008	50 000	184	GOOD	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/007	Digital Camera	31/03/2008	105 000	386	GOOD	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/008	Sattelite phone "thuraya"	31/03/2008	140 000	514	GOOD	Team use
WoW/Maur/Mat/002	Safe	13/05/2008	45 000	165	GOOD	Cash keeping
WoW/Maur/Mat/009	Headset	June 2008	4 500	17	Mic. broken	PM's use
WoW/Maur/Mat/010	Uniforms & shoes	Nov. 2008	369 000	1 356	GOOD	For trainees