

► The West African Protected Areas Newsletter



« La Lettre des Aires Protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest »
Papaco's news

N°38
January 2011



Edito

By **Geoffroy Mauvais**, Papaco coordinator

Here is the 38th APAO newsletter. Maybe it's time for a little introspection... Papaco is not yet a legend, but has already got a story...

The first APAO newsletter was issued in October 2007. It was dealing with Guinea Bissau reserves, equity in parks' management, world heritage sites etc... Few photos, a little bit of news from our partners, definitely nothing exceptional: the tone was set, the model drafted, simple, modest, a kind soft green colour, a quite rough presentation... in short, something homemade, a sort of bric-a-brac! It was obviously the beginning of a big adventure for the IUCN protected areas programme. At that time, we were only two here, Aurelie and I, and people predicted that the newsletter would disappear quickly, that we would get tired very soon and have nothing new to write about...

That was more than three years ago. Since then, without missing any issue, you have received the newsletter in your mailbox, sometimes unfortunately in your spams (!). Eleven letters per year (with a break in August), except in December 2009 when, this was our Christmas gift, we proposed two editions: one, fascinating, on community-based protected areas, another one, wonderful, with your own pictures of Nature...

Three years of news, provided by you and for you. Diverse, unequal, serious or light, skimmed through or detailed, sometimes polemical, often very rich, always committed. The newsletter has progressively become a tool, an information channel of course, a work support also, a means through which we meet at last. Every month, the newsletter is sent to more than 1200 readers who distribute it in turn... and there is much feedback. Let us spare you the many and encouraging compliments received for each issue. We can also forget critics: only two! One of the critics was on the newsletter dedicated to elephants, the other one on the presentation of our study on big game hunting. In both cases, both dealing with sensitive subjects, the remarks came from IUCN commissions... You will find on page 2 the list of our special issues of the APAO newsletter which can be downloaded at www.papaco.org.

Papaco has grown over the past years. Today, we are nine, shortly ten full-time or part-time staff (see page 2). A small, dynamic and motivated team who tries to learn every day. It is not enough to do all the work, but we are making progress. Born thanks to the support of the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), this programme relies now on about ten technical or

financial partners (some of which are mentioned in this newsletter). We thank them for their support and confidence. This enabled us to increase the number of protected areas networks' or individual sites' evaluations (page 2). Lots of thematic studies have been done (page 3), others are in progress or starting (impact of mining sector on conservation for example...). We are developing our training offers (page 4), now in partnership with the Senghor University of Alexandria which is a direct operator for the Francophonie organization. The small projects we are monitoring in the field have been multiplied, enabling us to stay in touch with protected areas management realities in the region (page 5). Also keeping in mind the many subjects we wanted to add to our agenda such as equity, sustainable funding or local PA management and conservation by communities, etc. (page 5).

In June 2008, we launched the papaco.org website; we improved it in January 2010 (page 6); now, it is our main communication tool, and it is also available in English since last September. You will find there the details of some outcomes presented in this newsletter. You will also find our experts' database, our discussion forums, job offers, news from partners, etc. It is still under development and will certainly be transformed this year again...

2011, let's talk about it. It will be a year full of new events for Papaco. The arrival of a new programme coordinator in March who will progressively take over the reins (page 2): certainly the opportunity for changes, new initiatives, but in a spirit of continuation I hope. The (expected!) launching of new programmes on adaptation to climate changes, on local communities, on transboundary protected areas, on experience sharing and tutorship for parks' managers... As for me, I hope to be able to keep contributing to Papaco and developing collaboration with the other IUCN programmes on protected areas, starting with the Eastern and Southern African one in Nairobi. And also with the global programme which has recently recruited its new director. Also strengthening regional partnerships with our friends of WCPA (page 6) or other key partners such as MAVA, FIBA, UNESCO...

Improve our relationships on the field with local NGOs, administrations, researchers, private sector, etc., make more people work together, for more protected areas conserved and more positive results... isn't it after all the sense of a Union?

As usual, all the Papaco team wishes you to enjoy reading the APAO newsletter!

And of course, a very good and happy new year...



it is now possible to register to the **Master's degree on Protected Areas Management** launched by IUCN-Papaco and the University of Alexandria (Egypt). The course will start in **September 2011** (for 2 years). Registration can be made on-line until the 24th February on: www.usenghor-francophonie.org



From left to right and top to bottom:
Idrissa, Bora, Edith, Gabrielle, Geoffroy, Lacina...
Béatrice, Youssouph ans Patrick

A small team dedicated to conservation

From now on, Papaco staff is made of nine people, ten soon (comprising six different nationalities). A small team composed, in addition to the coordinator, of:

- Full-time programme managers; all of them participate in the programme, however each takes a lead role on a particular field: **Béatrice Chataigner** (management effectiveness), **Bora Masumbuko** (climate changes), **Gabrielle Couaillac** (Small Projects on the ground), **Lacina Koné** (support to environmental NGOs), **Youssouph Diédhiou** (World Heritage issues).
- Part-time administrative support: **Edith Sawadogo** (administrative assistant and translator), **Idrissa Sery** (accountancy)
- And an external support for the papaco.org website: **Patrick Bakala**

A deputy coordinator has been recently recruited to reinforce our team in March 2011...

N°	Date	Themes
2	Nov 2007	PA management effectiveness assessment
6	March 2008	Marine protected areas
8	May 2008	Protected areas training course
10	July 2008	Conservation funding
12	Oct 2008	Equity
13	Nov 2008	Local initiatives
14	Dec 2008	Local institutions
16	Feb 2009	Mining
17	March 2009	A new Master on PA
20	June 2009	Poems on nature
23	Oct 2009	Professional training on PA management
25	Dec 2009	Community based PA
26	Dec 2009	Your pictures
28	Feb 2010	Sahelian PA
30	Apr 2010	Forest conservation in central Africa
32	June 2010	Elephant conservation
33	July 2010	Big game hunting and conservation
34	Sept 2010	Payment for ecosystem services
35	Oct 2010	Ecotourism
36	Nov 2010	Local NGO and conservation (1)
37	Dec 2010	Local NGO and conservation (2)

The APAO newsletter : our monthly link with you...

There have been 37 editions of the APAO newsletter until now. Some of them present actualities or general information linked to PAs management, but some others are focused on a specific topic and try to give a more comprehensive analysis of the subject. More than 20 letters have been dedicated to a specific topic and you can find the list opposite.

All previous numbers of the APAO newsletter are available on www.papaco.org

Many evaluations are now available



These assessment are essentially on national protected areas systems (**Bissau Guinea, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana, DRC, Guinea, Chad, Burundi and Togo**) or networks (**World Heritage sites, RAMSAR sites, Marine Protected Areas**).

Many sites were also subject to a particular attention during rapid or thorough assessments, including the World Heritage sites (Niokolo, Djoudj, Comoé, W, Taï, Banc d'Arguin...) where the management effectiveness tool "**Enhancing our Heritage**" is implemented (documents available on papaco.org). Built on these assessments, recommendations have been made, some of them being progressively implemented in the field...



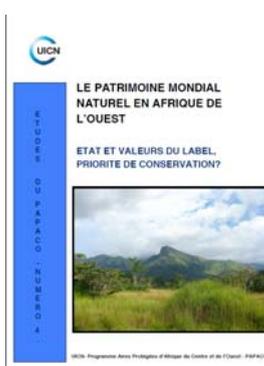
Several thematic studies...

Many subjects have been dealt with during the past two years, among which the following studies:

West Africa Community areas: how do they contribute to conservation?

A field survey of 23 community protected areas distributed in nine countries of the sub-region, including one English-speaking (Ghana), gives us information on this form of governance. These sites create a particular space where men try to live in balance with nature. Therefore, it is necessary to set up new modes of management, respectful of the rights of users, which give an important role to protected areas' bordering populations whenever possible... These territories meet many challenges in realizing related objectives of conservation, social development and culture preservation...

values. These sites are characterized by a shortage of human and financial resources, combined with high pressures and threats that seriously jeopardize their future. Five of them are inscribed on the list of UNESCO endangered sites. This study shows that it is imperative to implement a management system that will help improve the effectiveness of conservation actions. Recommendations are made to the World Heritage Committee, the State Parties concerned and also advisory organizations...



Also, a study which deals with **the analysis of the modes of management of ten protected areas in Guinea** and brings clarification on the relevance of the selection of these protected areas which will constitute the national network. It highlights the weakness of the current conservation objectives set for each area, and for the network as a whole and makes proposals for improvement...

A study on **the role and place of ecotourism in West Africa** that analyzes the current situation of ecotourism in protected areas and proposes a management strategy in line with the objectives of international conventions and sustainable development.

Another study makes an uncompromising **assessment of the current modes of management of Mali protected areas**, and proposes ways to remedy when it is still possible. It is an important work document for those who want to think the future of conservation over in this country, and they will draw subjects to fuel the debates and decisions.

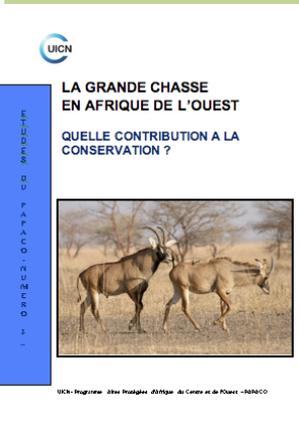


As far as climate change is concerned, two studies have been conducted: the first one gives the **current state of research and understanding of the links between climate change, protected areas and communities**, and the second one on **the state of political instruments and institutional capacities to understand the links between climate change and protected areas**.

To end, in early 2011 will be issued a study on the **economic value of protected areas' uses in the region** and another one on **the state of legislative and statutory instruments for protected areas' management**, based on a comparison of the situations in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Other studies will follow in 2011, such as one of **potential impacts of mining activities on protected areas in West Africa...**

Big game hunting in West Africa: how does it contribute to conservation?

Today, big game hunting covers very large areas in Sub-Saharan Africa (about 1.4 million sq km), and therefore, it is an important component of the rural landscapes organization of many countries. This study aims at clarifying the role of big game hunting in West Africa and analyzing the relevance of this mode of management according to the



criteria of conservation, socio-economic development and good governance...

Sahelo-saharan large protected areas: how do they contribute to conservation?

West Africa large protected areas which are located in dry areas generally have very large surface areas (1 500 000 ha minimum each) with a very low density of population. These protected areas are characterized by common concerns and constraints: they share the will to conserve or reintroduce Saharan species, conserve original (or nearly original) ecosystems, but also the importance of poaching, the decrease of natural resources, pastoral pressure, increasing forest exploitation, increasing human pressure, etc. This study analyzes the contribution of these large biodiversity conservation areas and when needed proposes evolutions which will improve it as efficiently as possible...

World Heritage in West Africa: state and values of the label, and conservation priorities?

There are nine World Heritage sites in the region, located in five countries: Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Niger. Most of these natural properties are not yet equipped with an appropriate management system which enables to conserve their outstanding universal





Trainings sessions for PA managers and partners...

1) An eight-week University Diploma (first course to be held from 31st January to 26th March 2011)

The “practical building and reinforcement of capacities for protected areas management” is a priority for the parks conservation in most of Africa. Planning, monitoring and evaluation tools, consultation methodologies and legal or technical norms are not often well known by most of protected areas’ managers. Therefore, the aim of this training, organized by Papaco and the **Senghor University of Alexandria** (Egypt), is to give protected areas’ managers (and their partners) main tools and specific technical skills to improve their modes of management and make their action sustainable. The themes identified are the following ones:

- 1) General context of conservation, PA definition, management categories, management effectiveness and monitoring and evaluation, GAP analysis, international conventions...
- 2) Management, development and business plans, principle of sustainable conservation funding, projects’ development and management, fundraising...
- 3) Practical knowledge of ecology for terrestrial or marine PAs’ management and conservation efficiency...
- 4) Participatory approaches, territorial dynamics, management of environmental conflicts and arbitration, local consultation, principles of GIS...
- 5) Ecological and technical monitoring of wildlife, surveys, interpretation of research results...
- 6) Protected areas management techniques, enhancement of results, ecotourism and other valorization issues...
- 7) Environmental laws applied to protected areas...
- 8) Emerging topics, climate, equity and final control of knowledge...

The training associates theoretical and practical training in the field and gathers 20 to 25 young professionals. The qualifications will be recognized through a University Diploma issued by the Senghor University of Alexandria, partner of the training.

A Master’s degree in protected areas management

The Senghor University of Alexandria, Egypt, is a direct operator of the Francophonie organization. Its objective is to train executives in four main fields which are health, culture, administration-management and environment for the development of Africa. In all these areas, the Senghor University trains executives for the public sector, but also for NGOs, companies and some international institutions. Protected areas management is one of the courses presently proposed in the “Master of environment management” option. Taking into account the importance of protected areas in Africa, and in view of the usual profile of the students recruited, some of whom are already working or wishing to work in this area, the Senghor University has wished to develop its training offer through a specialty dedicated to the management of these areas, in partnership with IUCN-Papaco.



At the start of the academic year 2011 (September), a new promotion of Master will start this new training session, with a first year of “general” training (environmental stakes, English, computer course, environmental economy and laws, general ecology, projects’ management, environment management tools, environmental evaluations...) which will end up with an internship in the field for 3 months. The second year of the Master is for the specialisation in protected areas (conservation policies, forestry, decentralization, environmental education, PAs management tools, effectiveness, results enhancement...) and will end with the presentation of the internship memoire. Fifteen students will be directly supported by Papaco in 2011 and other partners are sought to offer additional scholarships...

Registration is now open on www.usenghor-francophonie.org

2) A distance training in protected areas management

In order to change the scale and allow a quicker training of more students and professionals while recruiting the best trainers wherever they are, the objective is to develop a distance training (e-learning). This will be done in partnership with different actors who have a sound knowledge of this kind of training (in the region or internationally). At the start of 2011, a study will be conducted on the needs, the current offers and existing potentialities in this area, a programme will be proposed and the partners identified in order to launch this training in 2012.



Small projects as a source of inspiration

Through the small initiatives programme (FFEM-PPI) in partnership with the **IUCN- French Committee**, or within the framework of its own projects for the improvement of protected areas management effectiveness (**APAO project**), both financed by the **French GEF**, Papaco has the opportunity to support the implementation of small-scope projects on the ground.

The objective is to increase the contribution of local stakeholders who can influence the conservation and preservation of environment, through small-size projects that they implement at their own scale. The beneficiaries are essentially environmental NGOs, professional associations, women and youth associations and their federations, etc., local communities, companies and private promoters etc. on eligible topics (such as sustainable exploitation of non-timber forest products, ecotourism, eco-certification, raising awareness on endangered species, local management of natural resources, waste management, etc.). Administrations are also supported when they propose a programme which focuses on local and practical management of a park or a reserve, etc. This is how 20 different projects have been developed during the last two years, most of which are still in progress (see the table below).

A particular attention is paid to the implementation and results of these projects: they allow a direct interaction with the actors involved, a close and progressive monitoring... and give us real-time information on partners' aspirations in the field, on what works or not at small scale, on what should be expanded or given up... From this arduous work was born, for example, a new project called "**conservation territories**", also funded by the **FGEF** and which aims at locally supporting active NGOs working with collectivities in charge of a protected area, a sacred site or an emblematic species... This project will start at the beginning of 2011 for three years in Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, Ghana and Benin.

COUNTRY	Structure	Small project
CHAD	Ilod Dari and Goumadji	Setting up a sustainable natural resources management system at the periphery of Sena Oura National Park
BURKINA FASO	Department of Waters and Forests	Management of human-elephants conflicts in West Burkina
CHAD	Ilod fianga lakeside area	Support to the preservation of Fianga lakeside area natural resources
GUINEA BISSAU	IBAP	Surveys and monitoring of Cacheu and Cantanhez national parks' mammals
MALI	Donko NGO	Conservation and enhancement of Nienendougou reserve natural resources
BURKINA FASO	NEW TREE	Creation of 10 village forests and the promotion of money-making activities
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	OIPR	Training of the Ivorian parks and reserves office's agents for the rehabilitation of Comoé national park
MAURITANIA	DAPL	Analysis of the legislative context and proposals for the improvement of community-based management- raising populations' awareness
BENIN	CIDEV	Strengthening Agonvè ecosystems sustainable management
TOGO	ENPRO	Installation of a waste composting unit at Lomé
GHANA	Ghana Wildlife Society	Conservation of Amansury estuary and forest mangrove
MAURITANIA	IUCN-Mauritania	Conservation of Guelb el Richat
BURKINA FASO	OFINAP	Rehabilitation and management of the Deux Balé national park
TOGO	AE2D	Enhancing the biodiversity of Alibi community forest
SENEGAL	Fatick region	Participatory management of local forest
LIBERIA	VOSIED	Strengthening the conservation of Wonegizi forest biodiversity through a participatory management
SENEGAL	Department of national parks	Support to the rehabilitation of Niokolo Koba national park
BENIN	Pendjari AVIGREF Union	Hot pepper, source of income for the reduction of human-elephant conflicts
BURKINA FASO	FAUDEB Association	Strengthening and development of Boumoana village hunting area
NIGER	ASGN	Conservation of Niger giraffes and community-based development
NIGER	CERNK/SCF	Strengthening red neck ostrich population in captivity at Kellé
SENEGAL	ENDA tiers monde	Promoting agro-ecological techniques face to climate change
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	CSRT	Conservation and gazetting of the Tanoé reserve
SENEGAL	Tambacounda ARD	Support to the conservation of the Boundou community reserve



Cross-disciplinary themes to think over...

On some sites (notably IUCN management categories V and VI), and in a certain context, conservation cannot be achieved sustainably without the real and deep support of the nearest populations and without managing to get their culture, knowledge and interests contribute to the protection of the environment.

This is why local populations, their representatives, local conservation actors... have to be known and recognized: they should be consulted on the decisions that will affect their interests and be allowed to participate, if they wish and can, in the management of protected areas management. This "co-management" approach, which has become very classical now, has brought Papaco to organize with various partners such as **IUCN-Netherlands**, the **Fondation Internationale pour le Banc d'Arguin** (FIBA) or the **IUCN French Committee**, a workshop which gathered more than 30 local conservation NGOs coming from 14 countries of the region for together try and propose new ways for local conservation. A summary document of this forum is online on papaco.org, a CD is produced with all the presentations and radio reports made during the forum. An exchange network is being set up to keep capitalizing this unique experience.

However, this participatory approach in protected areas focused, at the beginning, mostly on men (more accessible and available) and paradoxically marginalized minority groups (women, young people...). Women were thus excluded from the consultation and decision-making process. The observation that women were left out has led to the financing of projects in favour of women. This is certainly justified, but such projects have shown their limits: they restrict women to marginal consumption activities, and still do not allow them to participate in decision-making most of the time. When they don't turn out to destabilizing for societies...



In this context, Papaco, in collaboration with IUCN commissions such as WCPA, has carried out various actions to better understand and explain the concept or equity. Workshops and debates in many countries (Senegal, Benin, Burkina Faso), a film widely diffused in the region (through national television networks and via a DVD), a pedagogical book prepared with the **Fondation Internationale pour le Banc d'Arguin** (FIBA)... enabled to put at managers' disposal some tools

to think over and act for more equity in protected areas management.

Another important cross-disciplinary theme in which Papaco is involved now is the sustainable funding of protected areas. To find solutions to « projects' funding », necessarily limited to a certain period, and in order to construct over the long term appropriate management modes and practices... Various ways have been explored, from the generation or local optimization of resources to the setting up of Trust Funds, a possibility explored by many development partners now including KfW in Benin and Cote d'Ivoire.



A website for all protected areas' partners

papaco.org has evolved during the year 2010 to be more functional. From now then, it is in **French** and **English**, proposes updated information always accessible in three "clicks". It presents IUCN regional programme and Papaco' work and team, but its main purpose is to provide a maximum of practical information for the region protected areas' managers and partners.

Database, important publications, training or job offers, thematic analyses, discussion forums, experts' repertory...so many tools appreciated par Internet users...

► The APAO's newsletter ◀

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