

► The West African Protected Areas Newsletter



“La lettre des aires protégées en Afrique de l’Ouest”

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All the pictures illustrating this APAO newsletter have been taken by Ulf Liedèn and are available in the Niger birds Database (see page 9). Many thanks to him...

Within the framework of its studies (see www.papaco.org) on the management modes of protected areas in West Africa, Papaco, in collaboration with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (Bonn), has conducted a “legal and institutional evaluation for the setting up of required conditions to improve protected areas management in West Africa”. Three countries were concerned by this preliminary study (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana). The aim was to analyze and propose solutions for sustainable management of biodiversity, through the modernization and strengthening of national valid legislations on protected areas in the region. The analysis of the three countries’ legal and institutional framework enabled to highlight the gaps and difficulties in implementing protected areas law, as well as the main strengths. It also enabled to make recommendations aiming at strengthening the existing legal framework and adapting it to new contexts of PA management. The main results of this study are presented in this letter...

This study has been financed by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM). The full report can be downloaded at www.papaco.org (see page publications).

Legal and institutional evaluation for the setting up of conditions to improve PAs management in West Africa

Introduction

Law plays an important role in protected areas management. Indeed, it is through a solid legal and institutional framework that we can hope to set up rational and effective management as well as equitable development of these conservation territories. The role of this framework is preventive and repressive at the same time. This framework, as well as the institutions in charge

of implementing it, sets up a favourable environment to lay the foundation of adequate management.

Some of the major problems of the protected areas system in West Africa are the weakness of the relevant institutions, the lack of skilled staff and financial resources, obsolete laws and the absence of effective law enforcement mechanisms. Both at the national and regional levels, some efforts exist to reverse the current trend of protected areas integrity degradation; but it is notably important that the States equip themselves with adequate legal and institutional instruments. Today, this framework is also necessary for the States to meet their international commitments. Assessing the existence of this framework will allow, on the one hand, detecting the gaps and legal vacuums, and on the other hand, measuring the capacities of protected areas management institutions.

General synthesis of the analysis of the three countries’ legal framework

Generally speaking, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana have a satisfying legal and institutional framework.

In Burkina Faso, the Law n°006/97/ADP of 31 January 1997 on the Forest Code sets out the different wildlife protection areas that exist on the national territory and gives a definition for each of them. According to article 76, each of these areas is a part of the national territory that is classified and allocated to “the protection of wildlife and its habitats”. The Forest Code specifies that other types of protected areas can be created notably “in accordance with the international conventions duly ratified by Burkina Faso”.

In Côte d’Ivoire, the adoption of the Law n°2002-102 has equipped the country with a specific instrument on PAs and showed the country’s will to fill in the existing gaps of the PA’ structural framework and start a policy of specific protected areas management. The Law n°2002-102 of 11 February 2002, related to the creation, management and



financing of national parks and natural reserves presents, in its article 5, the various types of protected areas that can be created. « *In view of preserving natural environments and promoting wildlife enhancement, national parks, integral natural reserves, partial natural reserves, voluntary natural reserves and peripheral areas can be created in compliance with the law* ». The Law n°2002-102 recognizes the possibility to classify aquatic environments as protected areas, but it does not give the details of the specific protection of such an environment. This vacuum may explain the inexistence of marine protected areas in Côte d'Ivoire.

In Ghana, the 1994 « Forest and Wildlife Policy » gives the main lines of the various objectives of biodiversity conservation. This policy is an answer towards the conservation and the sustainable development of the country's wildlife resources. In Ghana, there is not a unique legal instrument for the conservation of natural resources, but protected areas are governed by various texts, including:

- the « Wild Animals Preservation Act » : it exists since 1961 and aims at protecting wildlife through the conservation of a representative sample of Ghana's ecosystems. It regulates the use and exploitation of wildlife and authorizes the government to establish PAs
- the « Wildlife Reserve Regulation » : it is a subsidiary legislation to the Wild Animals Preservation Act, passed in 1971; and
- the « Wildlife Conservation Regulation » : also subsidiary to the Wild Animals Preservation Act, and passed in 1971.

Despite an important battery of texts on protected areas, it comes out, in these three countries, that **it is difficult to effectively implement the legal frameworks on the ground**. This ineffectiveness of the norms could be explained by many reasons:

- Very often, implementation texts are not provided for PA laws, like for example in Côte d'Ivoire where one notices the absence of an implementation decree setting up the procedures for gazetting and de-gazetting parks and reserves.
- The lack of sensitization as well as lawyers and PAs' staff poor education in environmental law.

In order to improve the environmental law's efficacy, and therefore the efficacy of regulations on PAs, mechanisms should be established in the law to better involve judges and public officers and associate them to the process of development of environmental texts and to decision-making mechanisms. In order to build their capacities in this field, training sessions in environmental law or workshops on protected areas law could be organized for judges and other public officers.

It is important to underline that in some francophone West African countries, most PAs have been established before

the independences by colonizers. We should also notice that today, some of these PAs are so degraded that the question is raised whether it is still necessary to maintain them in the system of PAs. In the same line of thinking, some surrounding parts of "official" PAs have developed important flora or fauna that should be protected, by integrating them in the PA system if possible. On this basis, particular emphasis should be put to provide support to the States and enable them update these PA establishment texts and adapt them to the current context of conservation.

Regarding the institutional framework on Pas, it seems to be clearly defined in the three countries, as institutions have been set up to specifically take care of PAs. It is generally a central structure which defines the policies and strategies related to the conservation of natural resources: *Direction Générale de la Conservation de la Nature (DGCN)* in Burkina Faso, *Direction de la protection de la Nature (DPN)* in Côte d'Ivoire, or Forestry Commission in Ghana. It can also be a structure mainly in charge of PAs' management: *l'Office National des Aires Protégées (OFINAP)* in Burkina Faso, *l'Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves* in Côte d'Ivoire and Wildlife Division in Ghana.

However, it should be underlined that today, only Côte d'Ivoire has an institution in charge of facilitating the long-term financing of the conservation of protected areas, that is, the *Fondation pour les Parcs et Réserves de Côte d'Ivoire*. Such a mechanism of sustainable PA financing is lacking in Burkina and Ghana; if effectively set up, it would enable to provide regular funds to develop projects and programmes for the conservation of national parks and reserves and build capacities in PAs' management.



The insufficiency of good governance practices in PAs management also appears as one of the major weaknesses. These three countries have « traditional » PA governance mechanisms falling to the State first. In Côte d'Ivoire, we notice the will to extend PA management to other

actors. This resulted in the setting up of land management contracts allowing the involvement of bordering populations in the management of parks or reserves. In Burkina Faso, although there is not a particular statute recognizing community PAs, we are now observing that non-state stakeholders are involved in natural resources management and that PAs can be managed by communities, or other actors, who have been issued a concession for management. It is the same in Ghana with the establishment of community resources management

areas (CREMAs). They tend to actively involve local communities in the management of natural resources at the periphery of forests and protected areas, but they are still not legally recognized at the national level.

To solve this problem, it would be appropriate to promote different types of PA governance (public PAs or controlled by the State, PAs voluntarily conserved by indigenous populations, local communities, enterprises, NGOs or privates), particularly community-based management that integrates the conservation objectives of biodiversity, development and the preservation of local cultures. This approach should also envisage mechanisms for public participation/ information in the decision-making process related to land planning. Generally speaking, diversifying the modes of governance should help better control the modes of management of PAs and regulate the action of dominant stakeholders such as the State. But this is not easy the case on the ground and such evolutions require very strict and perfectly respected regulatory supervision.

In addition, despite the various efforts undertaken these last years in the region, we notice **difficulties in developing transboundary protected areas** and cooperation between the countries concerned. The study underlines that initiatives have been set up such as the agreement related to the concerted management of the W Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in which Burkina Faso is involved, or the agreement between Ghana and Burkina Faso in 2008 in order to create a common legal framework for shared natural resources management.

In these three countries, it would be interesting to **harmonize the legal systems of transboundary protected areas in a regional perspective** (for example the harmonization of the sanctions applied in case of illegal behaviour, or the harmonization of the interdiction or tolerance regarding certain activities) and also take into account the various custom laws on transboundary natural resources management with the State law. It would also be interesting to envisage the elaboration and implementation of transboundary agreements with neighbouring countries for concerted transboundary resources management. Such agreements or conventions should also take into account legal instruments as well as international policies that directly or indirectly deal with transboundary PAs (for example the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, Convention on Migrating Species...). These conventions should also provide for common management structures, a common financial structure, rules for the management of shared area's bordering protected areas (notably through connecting elements such as corridors or buffer zones), mechanisms for involving local communities/ collectivities in the management (and, in general, all the actors concerned), institutional cooperation mechanisms, very close collaboration mechanisms between countries for surveillance, the enforcement of the agreement and the evaluation of activities in the transboundary PA...

In addition, whereas terrestrial protected areas are well represented in each country and benefit from a legal basis

recognized nationwide, we note the absence of specific regulation on marine protected areas in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. However, in their legal system, these two countries have clauses –section 91 of the 2002 *Fisheries Act* in Ghana and the 2002 law in Côte d'Ivoire refers to the possibility to create MPAs- that will help them fill in the gap and extend the conservation of natural resources to the marine environment. Therefore, the efforts should be focused on these two countries in order to create instruments for the protection of marine biodiversity such as MPAs and adopt a relevant regulatory text. Then, it would be interesting to conduct a study which will aim at identifying and designing marine areas that enable the conservation of ecosystems and marine and coastal habitats. Such a study would allow:

- identifying the characteristics of marine ecosystems that present special environmental challenges and require protection;
- identifying the connection requirements between marine areas, and between marine areas and terrestrial areas;
- identifying the terrestrial areas, or other marine areas which protection could have effects on ecosystems and marine habitats and which require a joint protection regime;
- analyzing the possible mechanisms of participatory governance that could be applied.

In Côte d'Ivoire for example, the Ehotilés islands National Park is composed of different islands which marine part do not benefit from a protection regime up to date. This could constitute a first reference and a starting point for the study on the creation of marine protected areas in this country.

In the end, it is essential that Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana equip themselves with a **coherent and not split legal framework**. Very often, the texts related to PAs are scattered and it would therefore be necessary to review them in order to have certain coherence likely to eliminate any divergence and contradiction between each legislation. Setting up such a framework would also enable to fill in various gaps, like for instance setting up diversified governance mechanisms and taking into account both Marine PAs and Transboundary PAs. Therefore, this appears like a challenge to be taken up not only for these three countries, but also for the region as a whole.

Strengths and weaknesses of the legal and institutional frameworks identified in the three countries

Strengths

Burkina Faso

- There is a normative framework for the conservation of PAs with its extended network of PAs (77), and a satisfying legal framework in terms of PA conservation, composed of conventional, legislative and regulatory texts; but the environmental law and the norms on conservation remain ineffective.

Côte d'Ivoire

- The legal framework of parks and reserves has been improved by the 2002 Law and includes elements on the strengthening or creation of (i) a special public establishment, (ii) a parks and reserves foundation, (iii) police power and penal dissuasive and repressive arrangements, and allows (iv) the institution of the scientific council, (v) the delegation of parks exploitation concession.
- Since the adoption of the 2002 law, national parks and integral natural reserves which used to be in the State's private domain have now entered the State's public domain.

Ghana

- Regional agreements exist with the neighboring countries to develop the network of PAs: Ghana and Togo agreement on Kyabobo/ Fazao-Malfakassa trans-border Park, Burkina Faso and Ghana cooperation on shared natural resources and corridors, Ivory Coast and Ghana cooperation about transfrontier conservation
- The role of local communities and indigenous knowledge in the conservation of forest and wildlife resources is acknowledged within the Forest and Wildlife Policy and the Collaborative Community-Based Wildlife Management Policy, which introduced the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) concept and strategy.

Weaknesses

Burkina Faso

- Insufficient and/or inadequate human, technical and financial means that explain the difficulty to implement the texts in the field.
- The State often encourages PA colonization through the implementation of socioeconomic infrastructures.
- Weakness of PA surveillance/ no regular controls
- Ignorance of laws related to the environment

Côte d'Ivoire

- Magistrates are not enough educated/ aware of the special arrangements for the implementation of penal sanctions.
- There are no marine protected areas despite the fact that the marine aspect be integrated in the global definition of a PA according to the Law n°2002-102
- Absence of an implementation decree setting the procedures for gazetting or de-gazetting parks and reserves
- Absence of a regulatory text setting the composition, attribution and functioning of the parks and reserves Scientific Council; therefore, the Scientific Council is not operational.

Ghana

- Transboundary cooperation is not recognized by the Ghanaian legislation. However, Ghana has signed regional agreements with the neighboring countries to develop the network of PAs

Some recommendations made for each country

Burkina Faso

- Strengthen the institutional coordination for PAs' protection, as well as the human and material means for surveillance
- Set up a sustainable funding mechanism for PAs by creating a foundation if possible
- Ensure the effective transfer of capacities and resources to territorial collectivities in terms of forest resources
- Delimit PAs so as to prevent encroachment of these areas
- Apply repression (to complement sensitization) in case of violation of the environmental rule resulting from notorious incivism
- Show greater firmness in the implementation of texts by public officers, by notably encouraging these officers to better master the law
- Raise populations' awareness through information, education and communication on the benefits of PAs sustainable management
- Promote sustainable modes of resources management and exploitation.



Côte d'Ivoire

- Issue the decrees provided for by the Law n°2002-102, necessary to complete the PAs legal framework: specify the conditions to gazette parks and reserves; specify the statute and skills of forestry officers working in PAs in a decree providing for the legal statute of officers;
- Issue a decree related to PAs community management in order to clarify the outlines of such management and extend this possibility beyond the only bordering areas;

- Complete the PA legal framework by taking much specifically into account marine protected areas and facilitate their establishment;
- Take into account in the PAs legal framework, the traditional rules and sanctions for protecting natural resources that are, in some cases, notably in rural environment, better adapted than modern rules;
- Update the 1995 Forest Code by notably extending the PA statute to classified forests in order to enable covering more globally forests and strengthening their protection;
- Update the text related to hunting so as to enable laying a clear legal framework regarding hunting modalities and assuring effective protection of game;
- Sensitize judges to the existence of a specific law on PAs, and populations to the existence of PAs, to legislation and the sustainable use of resources in order to reduce damages in these areas;
- Provide training to parks' staff on PAs legislation to improve their knowledge of forbidden behaviours within these areas, as well as the proceedings in case of infringement;
- Develop human resources for surveillance;
- Restore tourist infrastructures to enable to restart the activity and generate economic benefits for bordering populations.

Ghana

- Harmonize and consolidate PA legislation, for instance by reviewing and updating existing PA related legislation, or adopting a new comprehensive law on PA, or on biodiversity conservation with a specific and extensive section on PA
- Promote different types of governance, in particular by broadening local communities' participation
- Provide for a formal legal protection of marine PA (MPA): the consolidated PAs legislation should recognize the possibility of creating MPAs and transboundary MPAs
- Define CREMAs within the PAs legislation and give it a legal basis. PAs legislation should enable communities to create CREMA in different kinds of PAs and should also provide incentives for the local communities directly committed in conservation and mechanisms of benefits sharing
- Develop other instruments for public participation in natural resources management within PAs legislation.
- Develop a legal framework to connectivity instruments within PAs, such as corridors and buffer zones, for instance by including them within PAs legislation
- Harmonize and consolidate PAs legislation considering the IUCN PAs management categories.

At the regional level

- Look for the coherence of the texts both at the internal and sub-regional levels;
- Undertake a concerted management of transboundary resources with the countries concerned and implement transboundary management technical mechanisms;
- Issue a decree specifying the legal regime of transboundary PAs and harmonize it regionally.



Study financed by French Gef

More information on www.papaco.org

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Are you responsible for managing a natural World Heritage Site? Would your organisation benefit from having better business planning skills? If the answer to the questions above is yes, then this is your opportunity to take part in a fully funded, training programme with business planning experts from Shell. Follow the link:

http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/our_work/corporate/shell/whs_intro/

Which strategies to mobilize actors for sustainable reforestation within and outside Protected Areas in Benin?

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Introduction

Since 1985, the “Tree National Days” and reforestation campaigns have been established to fight against the increasing degradation of the plant cover in Benin, a country which has low forest potentialities. Despite all the efforts that have been made for two decades, an analysis of the benefits shows that the objectives are still far from been achieved. The reforestation activities undertaken or in progress suffer from a lack of coherence and monitoring regarding both their setting up and their management by the various groups of stakeholders.

Indeed, they still have to develop and implement a mechanism to monitor and ensure the sustainability of actions by taking into account the various socioeconomic, political and environmental constraints. One of the main reasons identified during the national reforestation workshop held in 2010 is the lack of commitment and mobilisation of the actors somehow involved in reforestation. By reforestation, we mean any operation that consists in restoring or creating wooded areas through natural or artificial means and for various aims related to the various functions of the forest. This concept takes into account the efforts for local reforestation, creation of state-owned, municipal, community-based or individual plantations, for improvement of forests management, reforestation, etc.

This article analyzes the mobilization strategies of Benin experienced stakeholders and then proposes new strategies that take into account the many lessons learned.

1- Which mobilization strategies exist in Benin?

Talking about mobilization strategies requires understanding what mobilization means: it designates here the coordination of group members' activities in order to change a situation in a way that is favourable to them, according to their values and motivations. It is therefore an association of capacities and energies in order to achieve a positive outcome. For this, the actors should first develop a common vision, *by sharing the same targets and interests* and then, firmly oppose to rival groups, which supposes strong internal solidarity and *awareness of the stakes of their actions and their purpose*. Therefore, mobilizing actors requires first that they involve themselves in decision-making, which implies being actively involved in identifying stakes, formulating, implementing and monitoring policies, strategies and activities jointly defined. So, mobilizing actors for reforestation activities requires that the actors concerned be clearly identified and that objectives be shared and accepted by all.

In general, the existing mobilization strategies can be gathered in four categories:

1.1- SENSITIZATION ACTIONS TOWARDS POPULATIONS

Sensitization actions are a national strategy to arouse people interest for reforestation. This strategy goes through village and technical forums and through the media. It is a cross-strategy for all the existing strategies, and it mostly brought some actors to involve in reforestation actions without necessarily financial and material incentive. Two components results from this strategy:

- The strategy of no incentive for stakeholders

In this strategy are included actors' personal initiatives resulting from the impact of sensitization campaigns conducted nationwide. Indeed, at all levels, actors wilfully involve in reforestation activities. This keen interest is due to the increasing awareness of wood value and has been boosted by the activation of many fields such as teak export and species of economic value (shea, cashew, etc.). The plantations established are considered as private property and therefore benefit from all the possible care.

- The initiatives based on particular centres of interest

It is about mobilizing groups or particular actors for reforestation activities on the basis of particular centres of interest. Actually, it is usual to see traditional healers establish gardens of medicinal plants to protect specific species. This strategy is sustainable because it is considered as a personal, private or community benefit that should be enhanced and capitalized.

1.2- TECHNICAL, MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO POTENTIAL PLANTERS

In the previous strategy, sensitization has deliberately brought certain actors to invest in reforestation; but financial and material support can be an incentive for other groups of actors. There are two main components under this strategy:

- The strategy of total incentive for stakeholders

This mobilization strategy consists in contractually mobilizing actors in the reforestation process. It is used by many organizations and projects.

This mobilization strategy enables to get plantations of fairly representative surface areas and to facilitate the multiannual monitoring of these installations during the whole phase of the project and in the long

term for sustainable institutions such as ONAB (Benin). In the case of ONAB, reforestation was seen as saving for the population. It has contributed to improve living conditions and implement many supporting actions such as the construction of schools, health centres, conference rooms, water towers, etc. and to construct tracks for farming products' trading.

As far as projects are concerned, it is usual to notice that the seedlings offered for free are neither planted, nor monitored in case they are planted. A problem is posed: the perpetuation and appropriation of the benefits of reforestation by the actors when the funding is over. In other words, the actors are no longer mobilized when the project comes to its end and worse, they destroy the benefits of reforestation.

- The strategy of partial incentive for stakeholders

This mobilization strategy consists in mobilizing the actors around reforestation activities by asking them to contribute in return. It has been adopted by the PGFTR (project) to get seedlings and by the Firewood Project for local reforestation activities. Indeed, these projects provide financial support to populations for them to get seedlings and encourage them involve in local reforestation.

This mobilization strategy enables motivated actors to get seedlings that they plant. Concerning the other actors which are the most numerous, the results is generally quite low and this shows that they have not enough internalized the necessity to commit themselves in reforestation.

1.3.- THE NATIONAL TREE DAY AND REFORESTATION CAMPAIGN INITIATIVE

Since 1985, the Republic of Benin has instituted a National Tree Day which is celebrated on 1st June every year. This day generally marks the beginning of the national reforestation campaign. The institutionalization of such a day aims at stopping the destruction of the plant cover and in the long term, at helping meet the needs of populations in forest products, pasture for animals and in various agricultural products. Since this date, the populations and the Beninese government, supported by the international community, have made many efforts to try and stop this degradation and if possible, reverse

it. Thus, reforestations have been made under many forms both in urban centres and in countryside in protected areas.

This strategy that consists in celebrating a particular day has got a fairly positive impact, even though monitoring the achievements after this specific day poses a problem to all the stakeholders.

1.4- INCENTIVES FOR THE BEST PLANTERS

Within the framework of the implementation of the national reforestation campaign, it is planned that the best planters and the best villages be provided incentives in order to encourage them to more commit themselves in reforestation activities, mainly for the maintenance of seedlings. This initiative could have got an impact if implemented. But unfortunately, the first nominees that have been selected for two years have not been rewarded even though they were informed of their being selected. This action which could have been a source of emulation could turn out to be demotivating for the actors if the situation lasts.

2- Lessons learned and proposals for new mobilization strategies

2.1- LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EXISTING MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES

Stakeholders' mobilization strategies that have been implemented so far enabled to notice that:

- Many actors more and more understand the need for reforestation and are involved without external support.
- Actors' mobilization strategies that have been implemented in Benin showed that actors are mobilized for reforestation only when they have interest in doing that.
- The land issues do not favour motivation nationwide as, according to habits and customs, the tree is considered as a way to appropriate land.
- The heavy procedures of the national budget remain inappropriate for reforestation actions which are seasonal. Actually, despite populations' keen interest in reforestation, if once or twice they don't receive the means on time, they start to be demotivated.

- There is a lack of permanent scientific and technical advisory support in order to find solutions to the constraints related to reforestation.
- Benin is not yet included in the global reforestation initiatives.
- It lacks technical guidelines that will be developed and disseminated by the forest administration in charge of reforestation. This results in a plurality of the sensitization tools developed by the stakeholders (foresters, NGOs, etc.).

2.2- MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES TO BE EXPERIENCED IN THE COMING YEARS

The strategies to be adopted will be considered at the international and national levels. However, globally, sensitization should be increased at all levels for a better internalization of the necessity to carry on reforestation actions with conviction.

At the international level, many initiatives exist as part of the three Rio Conventions. They are global initiatives that bring the youth together and motivate them for reforestation activities. It is for example the *Green Wave Initiative* and the *Plantons pour la Planète Initiative* which consist in organizing in schools and other integrating structures, a global network and benefit from specific advantages. All these initiatives exist at the Convention information sharing centre at the following address: bj.chm-cbd.net

It is important to arrange projects in order to mobilize resources with technical and financial partners to support reforestation actions nationwide.

At the national level, the idea is to develop strategies so as to reach all possible actors and get them mobilized for reforestation actions. The strategies to be developed should for example enable private sector operators to strongly involve in reforestation activities.

Adopting a participatory reforestation approach

Stakeholders' participation should be intensified at all levels. The population should be involved in all reforestation steps from seeking seeds for the tree nursery to monitoring the resulting plantations. Their point of view should be taken into account in selecting the tree species and the reforestation actions should be directed accordingly to their needs. The idea is to consider the species selected by the

populations themselves and support reforestation locally. The forest administration should also make a stocktaking of the species widely exploited as well as the new species likely to be exploited in order to direct its reforestation policy.

Involving the youth, schools and secondary schools in reforestation

- Encourage children, mainly young pupils and other target groups (army, enterprises, etc.) through environmental education and other programmes to actively participate in reforestation activities. The pedagogical animation centres (Centres d'Animation Pédagogiques, (CAP)) will be used to achieve satisfying results. Pupils will be put at the centre of any reforestation activity of their immediate environment (amusement parks, groves, shady groves, parkland);
- National initiatives such as “*one pupil, one tree*” will be developed so that every pupil will take care of its tree for the time he will stay at school and transfer the responsibility to a newcomer when he will be leaving.
- Include the reforestation concept in different educational programmes.
- Organize national competitions on reforestation
- Facilitate the establishment of local associations, green clubs, youth clubs, biology clubs in secondary schools, university scientific clubs, nature protection associations, protected areas managers, youth and community centre leaders, scouts, parent-teacher associations, trade unions, farmers...

Conforming to regulations on agriculture

Encourage farmers to plant trees on the boundaries of their farms and maintain a minimum of trees in their fields in line with the valid legislation. And create symbolic reforestation areas in order to involve public and private operators in reforestation activities.

Capacity building

The aim will be to identify the needs in capacity building as far as reforestation is concerned to avoid dissimilar and non coherent actions in terms of

species selection, production, planting and maintenance technical nature.

Mobilizing resources for reforestation nationwide

The aim will be to establish a national fund and local reforestation funds that will be fed by various sources including:

- Technical and financial partners
- The taxes collected from the exploitation of biological resources
- The contributions to the planning fund
- The donations from private sector organizations
- Municipalities' resources
- Campaigns for mobilizing funds for reforestation (telethon for instance)...

The participation and the involvement of the media in reforestation through various media such as reporting, documentaries and also the newspapers are to be reached. Without forgetting hard paper mediums including: posters, advertising leaflets, magazines etc.



A first short training on PA management fully successful!

Eight weeks of training about various dimensions of PA management and there it is: our 21 students, coming from 5 countries of West Africa, have

successfully passed their exam and obtained their University Diploma, in collaboration with the Senghor University (Egypt). The diploma was given to the students by the director of environment department of this university himself. The course was funded by US Fish and Wildlife Service and also the French GEF. Students and teachers agreed that this first attempt was a success and that we should organize another one soon. Rendez-vous is thus proposed in November for the next edition of this short training course in Ouagadougou! Read APAO newsletter not to miss the next call for candidates...



Students and some teachers on the last day

Official opening of the "Niger Bird DataBase website"

The new, bi-lingual (French and English) Niger Bird Database website, <http://www.bromus.net/nibdab>, was opened in October 2010. The site aims to promote the knowledge and conservation of the birds of Niger. Georeferenced and dated observations can be entered, analysed and shown on maps with a few clicks of the mouse and minimal typing. The site can also be used to call up site and block lists, and to find out where to look for those species that you have been wanting to see for so many years.



On 1 April 2011 the database held 36,091 records of 473 species from 156 half-degree blocks in Niger, as well as 234 photos of 135 species, all taken in Niger. Many of the species are migrants from Europe. In addition the site contains

- a checklist of the birds of Niger
- literature references and links.

In preparation:

- a section on contacting other birders in Niger
- a section showing how ringed and satellite-tracked birds have connected Niger with more than 80 other countries.
- a section on names for birds in Zjerma, Haoussa, Gourmantché etc.

The software is easily adapted for use in other countries and for other animal and plant groups.

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