



# Creation of a Community-managed Biodiversity Park in the Saloum Delta of Senegal

**Voré Gana Seck**  
**Director**  
**GREEN Senegal**  
*for People, Land, Ocean*

In line with the Biodiversity Convention, GREEN Senegal has embarked on a mission to preserve the marine and coastal biodiversity of Senegal ...and special the Saloum Delta, classified as National Park in 1976.

The Saloum Delta has **three ecosystems**:

- ❖ a continental area, rich in forests, limited in its lower part by mangroves and salt flats;
- ❖ an amphibious, comprising of three main groups of islands bordered by a dense network of channels surrounded by mangroves, and
- ❖ a maritime domain.

# Rationale for the Creation of the Biodiversity Park F



The North Delta plays the role of:

- ❖ nursery for fish species,
- ❖ breeding area and wintering water for large and medium wildlife birds, and
- ❖ Bushland

...**but it is threatened by:**

- ❖ fishing that is still free in Senegal and without specific rules outside of protected areas,
- ❖ shrimp fishing disregarding the biological rest and using illegal and unsustainable practices
- ❖ excessive cutting of mangrove wood
- ❖



# Geographic location

The Park F:

- ❖ in a delta of over 300,000 Ha
- ❖ an area of 22 217 Ha in the Saloum River in Senegal



- ❖ Degradation of natural habitats due to anthropogenic and climatic factors
- ❖ depletion or extinction of certain animal and plant species
- ❖ disruption of the ecosystems resulted in weak natural processes and low maintenance of biodiversity
- ❖ highly degraded mangrove due to years of drought and excessive cutting during the past 30-50 years.



# Biodiversity Relevance

- ❖ the presence of bushland that is home to the last great wild fauna
- ❖ 114 different fish species of fish,
- ❖ 90 bird species,
- ❖ at least 3 dolphin species,
- ❖ many species of turtoises, manatees , Nile crocodiles , otters
- ❖ a strong population of spotted hyenas, jackals, wild ungulates including bushbuck, red monkeys, guinea fowl and partridges, etc
- ❖ the presence of several mudflats waders, cormorants, pelicans, larideae (gulls, terns and gulls) of herons and egrets, flamingos, etc.



# Economic and Social Relevance

- ❖ Area relatively virgin with very small human population
- ❖ Livelihoods depends on pastoralism and fishing activities
- ❖ The management of Park F will involve many communities
- ❖ A wide, inclusive and consultative process will be critical to the success of this project



# Project Objectives



Main objective: to promote the protection, management and sustainable use of the biological diversity while improving communities' livelihoods

Specific objectives:

- ❖ support the process of classifying the site as Wetland of International Importance
- ❖ restore and develop 20,000 ha of degraded estuaries
- ❖ restore the degraded spawning and mangrove ecosystems
- ❖ develop the Bolongass island for conservation and ecotourism  
develop a management plan for the population of spotted hyenas
- ❖ establish biological rest and organize fishing.

# Expected Results

- ❖ creation of protected areas of international importance are created
- ❖ improved supply of ecosystem services benefitting people
- ❖ setting up of institutional mechanisms for the management of protected areas

...given the importance of the site as wintering area for migratory birds, dormitories and breeding grounds, and nurseries for many fish species, etc.)

.... it is necessary to strengthen conservation measures

# Process and Action Plan

The action plan will include:

- ❖ area mapping
- ❖ consultations decisionmakers and grassroots organizations,
- ❖ classification of wetlands based on Ramsar
- ❖ birds counting
- ❖ publication of the law related to the classification of Park as protected area in local media and public places
- ❖ Communication strategy to ensure the buy-in of the communities and their support in the conservation of the Park
- ❖ Budget: \$200,000

(baseline study, vegetation inventory, training on conservation and land degradation, communications products including documentary, capacity building activities)

- ❖ Timeline: 18 months



# Process for Classification as Protected Area



- ❖ Action 1 :. Map the area and interact with the villages on the limits
- ❖ Action 2: Work with local administration to start the classification process. Then publish a public notice about the initiative at the headquarters of the regional and rural councils, prefectures and sub-prefecture and in newspapers, radio and television.
- ❖ Action 3: Count the birds in January or later and continue to do so every week with local populations.
- ❖ Action 4: Organize public consultation sessions in communities

# Process for Classification as Protected Area



- ❖ Action 5: Conduct inventories of fauna and flora
- ❖ Action 6: The Regional Council in collaboration with the rural communities involved, prepare the final document classifying the area as protected. The document includes technical and administrative report, the status and code of conduct and is sent to the Economic, Social and Environment Council for review through the Department of National Parks.
- ❖ Action 7: the same process is done at the regional level
- ❖ Action 8: publication of the protected area law media and in public places.

# Call for Action



GREEN Senegal is looking for technical and financial partners  
To increase the resilience of  
...the people  
.....and ecosystems

- ❖ 20 years of experience in building people and ecosystem's resilience
- ❖ Multisectoral dimensions of the work done
- ❖ Deep knowledge of the region and the people
- ❖ Previous projects on saline soil rehabilitation with two small Grants from the GEF under the supervision of UNDP – restoration of over 100 ha of saline soil now used to grow rice, sorghum and peanut
- ❖ Focus on agroBiodiversity with 10 new variety of rice discovered
- ❖ Development of a seed bank of wild rice



**Thank you**

**GREEN SENEGAL**

**Groupe de Recherche et d'Etudes Environnementales**

**Tél/Fax : (221) 33 951 68 30/ 33 825 71 20**

- ◆ E-mail : [greensenegaldk@orange.sn](mailto:greensenegaldk@orange.sn)
- ◆ Site web: [www.greensenegal.net](http://www.greensenegal.net)