

Community Integrated Management Of Migratory Species (West African Manatee And Sea Turtles) And Their Habitat In The Coastal Region In Benin

Josea Sagbo DOSSOU BODJRENOU

Nature Tropical NGO

Mr Josea S. DOSSOU BODJRENOU is a Naturalist - veterinarian and working for more than twenty years in the conservation of migratory species, communities' management of Ecosystems, audiovisual for the conservation of nature and the promotion of Ecotourism in the wetlands and whale watching in Benin.

Contact address: ntongmu@yahoo.com, info@naturetropicale.org



Geographic and demographic information

	Country	Benin
	Province	Ouémé, Littoral, Atlantique, Mono
	District	Oueme and Mono Valley
	Size of geographical area	9 462 km ²
	Number of indirect beneficiaries	4 297 250 persons (Men: 2,062,680 persons) (Women: 2,234,570 persons)
	Dominant ethnicity	Wémé, Fon, Goun Mina, Pedah

	Size of project area	3 460 km ² (91,600 ha)
	Number of direct beneficiaries	2 623 458 persons (Men: 1,227,778 persons) (Women: 1,395,679 persons)
	Geographic coordinates (longitude and latitude)	RAMSAR Site 1017; East Complex 6°21'48"N - 6°57'N, 20°2'E - 2°45'E; RAMSAR site 1018: West Complex, 47,500 ha at 6°16'48"N - 6°57'N, 1°40'E - 2°20'E
	Dominant ethnicity	Wémé, Fon, Goun Mina, Pedah

Ecosystem Types

X	Forest		Grassland	X	Agricultural	X	In-land water
X	Coastal		Dryland		Mountain	X	Urban/peri-urban

Important species in the site

English common name (Local name)	Scientific name	Description
West African manatee	<i>Trichechus senegalensis</i>	Present in the rivers in RAMSA site 1017 and 1018 and are threatened when there are migrated
Olive ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	Common on all the beaches from August to November. There are captured by fishermen, their eggs are collected by the communities
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Same like Olive ridley
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Captured by fishermen but don't lay eggs in Benin beaches.
Hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Same like Green sea turtle



General introduction

The geographical area covered by the project is located in the coastal region, the RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018, including the municipalities of Sèmè, Cotonou, Abomey, Ouidah and Grand Popo. It extends about 125 km from the Benin-Togo border in the West (at Hillacondji) and the Benin-Nigeria border in the East (at Sèmè - Kraké). All this region are habitat for marine turtles. For the migration corridor of the West African manatee, the project concerns communities in the Ouémé Valley. In general, these ecosystems and their resources are threatened for various reasons such as the population explosion and its direct pressure on natural resources, and the lack of basic education and transfer of knowledge from one generation to another coupled with ignorance of the need for sustainable management of resources. Species that live in unprotected ecosystems are victim of intensive and illegal poaching by fishermen, coastal and wetlands residents.

The general objective is to contribute to sustainable resources management by improving the livelihoods of poor communities through integrated and participatory management. The specific objectives are to: Raise awareness among local communities and authorities; Strengthen the capacities of the communities including the young; Preserve and restore ecosystems; Encourage effective mitigation to climate change; Develop alternative activities generating benefits to local communities; Improve governance in natural resource management and synergy actions between actors. Activities include: Organization of awareness campaigns; Capacity building for stakeholders (local authorities, Eco-guards); Eco-mapping and participatory videos in different ecosystems or key sites; Organization of the training of young leaders "Seed for the Future"; Development of alternative livelihood activities generating benefits to local communities (ecotourism, sustainable energy); Organization of advocacy and lobbying for enforcement of laws on flora and fauna; Monitoring of natural resources (marine turtles, West African manatee); Development of useful partnerships; Production and distribution of audiovisual documentaries on nature, environment and biodiversity.



Oueme valley



Babies of marine turtle release on the beach in Grand-Popo

IPSI-7 Working Group B

Contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets' Strategic Goal B

		Breakdown Target	How did you measure the outcome?	Result
Strategic Goal B	TARGET 5	The rate of loss of forests is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero		
		The loss of all habitats is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero		
		Degradation and fragmentation are significantly reduced		
	TARGET 6	All fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches		
		Recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species		
	TARGET 7	Fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems	Relation between the fisheries and the capture of threatened species such as marine turtles, African manatee and their vulnerable ecosystems	The traditional technics of fishing have adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems. The implementation of the laws and regulation are follow
		The impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits, i.e. overfishing avoided	Number of awareness sessions and communities dialogue on the implementation of the regulation on fishing	In the flooding period, all stakeholders are active to avoid overfishing in the coastal area and in the wetland
	TARGET 8	Areas under agriculture are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity	Through awareness and communication	Areas under agriculture in the wetlands are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity
		Areas under aquaculture are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity		
		Areas under forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity		
TARGET 9	Pollutants (of all types) have been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity	Monitoring of the pollutants use in the wetlands for agriculture and for fishing	The communities are aware to reduce the use of pollutants for agriculture and fishing to the levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity	
	Pollution from excess nutrients has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity			
TARGET 10	Invasive alien species identified and prioritized	Invasive alien species like Jacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) have impact of navigation and communities activities	Community management of this invasive alien are undertaken	
	Pathways identified and prioritized			
	Priority species controlled or eradicated			
	Introduction and establishment of IAS prevented			
TARGET 11	Multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning			
	Multiple anthropogenic pressures on other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning			

Relations to other Aichi Biodiversity Target & SDGs

Please indicate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets other than the targets your working group focuses and SDGs that your activities contribute to if any. Use “●” and “■” to indicate the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the targets.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	●	■	■	●	●	■	■	■	●
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
●	●	■	●	■	●	●	●	■	■

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

■	■		●	■	■			
■	●	●	■	●	●	●	■	

Any difficulties you found during your assessment

Poor enforcement of regulations; low technical capacity and weak governance and policy in natural resource management, lack of basic education and knowledge transfer from one generation to the next, coupled with ignorance of the need for sustainable resource management are a serious threat to resources and monitoring activities.

Key messages for the CBD in planning for the post-2020 Targets

IPSI should be continued for post-2020 target and evolved into a new phase to consolidate the potential capacity of existing members to scale up the work to conserve and revitalize SEPLS around the world. Especially some focus have to be address to African’ countries.

Living in harmony with nature must enter the collective consciousness. So all stakeholders must work for the sustainable management of nature and its resources by actively working for the enforcement of both international and national regulations.