

News from Boundou

Newsletter of the Boundou Community Nature Reserve

Written by the CORENA – Association of the Boundou CNR



Editorial

by Mamadou Sidibe, Conservateur du Parc National du Niokolo Koba

Well 2012 is already here, and it's time for the Boundou CNR to review the 3 years of operation. In addition, continuing with conservation matters (training of rangers, scientific studies ...) and local development (beekeeping, poultry ...) the year 2011 was marked by a significant restructuring of the management team of the RNC : the creation of a mixed group of Boundou and the restructuring of CORENA, with the aim of sustaining the project and adding value to local communities.

As a technical partner, we will continue to give our support with all our energy and conviction, including supporting the assignment soon, of a parks' agent as manager of the Boundou CNR, under the responsibility of the Regional Council of Tambacounda. The latter has as its mission the implementation of the plan to preserve the reserve recently approved by the competent technical services, at a workshop held in Tambacounda, last 4th of November.

I cannot leave without wishing you all a happy new year 2012 and the Boundou CNR a long and beautiful life !

The Big Game... the return?

Footprint of a lion at the south of the CNR, near the village of Ndiarendi. November 2011.



It was during the Inventory of Vegetation mission, southwest of the Reserve, that this footprint was photographed. According to Mamadou Sow, ranger of Ndiarendi, several lions are present in the area these days. Good news, because in recent years, there had been few large carnivores still present in the RNC of Boundou.

Today, the continued presence in the field of ecoguards and the occasional science missions allow the observation of traces of some mammals considered very rare in the area : two aardvarks to the side of Ndiarendi, a Reedbuck and a Leopard to the side of Sansanding, a Caracal in the north, and many Red-fronted gazelles in the south...

Over time this important information, will indicate whether the big game is regaining the territory of the reserve. This wish, expressed by people in the Monitoring Committees at the head of the CNR, however, cuts both ways : if the presence of large animals evokes a time when the forest was beautiful and strong, it is also a source of potential conflict with the local population living on agriculture and livestock.

In order to address this particular issue, a study on the Falémé hippopotamus, endangered species (IUCN status 'vulnerable') will be scheduled in 2012.

Mapping and Inventory

In 2011, a partnership with the Institute of the Environment (ISE) of Dakar has helped initiate habitat mapping and inventory of vegetation in the CNR. For example, two students of the ISE at Master 2 level, Laurice Faye and François Gomis were able to start this ambitious study.

Based on the mapping done by Laurice, François has inventoried 37 "grids" in four areas of the reserve, with a total area of 600 ha. They worked like ants and were supported by all the ecoguards of the CNR. An opportunity for them to get to know their territory well and to deepen their botanical knowledge ... even for some to master the Latin name of plants!

This first study, scientifically significant, will be released in early 2012 and will provide valuable information for the management of the reserve.



François and the ecoguards of Koussan & Didé during the inventory

The CNR in numbers

110 The number of species of trees and shrubs listed in the RNC

24 The number of Guinea Fowl that were hatched by a breeder from Toumboura

2 The number of Aardvarks observed in November!

A new organisation for CORENA

Whilst the Joint group Boundou, composed of four rural communities and the Tambacounda Regional Council, is being formed, CORENA, RNC the Conservation area of Boundou, has also been restructured to place local groups at the heart of the management of the reserve.



Following the Extraordinary General Meeting of December 5, 2011, the Statute of CORENA has been modified to set up a new board of directors comprised solely of local authorities, and an Executive Board comprising of technical services and partners. Thus, a new office was elected: the new President of CORENA is Saïdou Kane (PCR Sinthiou FISS), the Vice-President Daouda Sow (Dougué PCR), the Treasurer Alassane Diallo (Koussan PCR), and the Executive Secretary Hubert Ndeye (General Secretary of the Region).

Photo : the Presidents of Rural Councils of the RNC and the Regional Council of Tambacounda, in a study tour in the Marine Protected Area of Keur Bamboung

In the villages ...

CR OF DOUGUE

- Signing the contract for drilling the well in Talibadjji

Partner : PAISD

CR OF KOUSSAN

- Start of the drilling at Koussan and the ongoing construction of the Community Hotel.

Partners : PAISD et PNDL

CR OF TOUMBOURA

- In Toumboura: Start of the work constructing the Community Hotel.

Partner : PNDL

2012 : Objective « support funds »

Since 2009 with beekeeping, and since 2010 with the raising of guinea fowl and the improvement of poultry, experiments in generating activities (IGA) are increasing in the CNR. The creation of a support fund for IGA, a project initiated by the NRP Millevaches in Limousin (see letter of Boundou No. 7) is now a priority for the development of these activities. By a system of microcredit, it will allow producers to strengthen their existing capacities, and new candidate members of the GIE CNR to start.

Thus, this fund will be set up soon after a mission to produce the procedures manual for the beneficiary population, followed by the creation of management bodies and approval of the administrative manual.

We should mention that alongside the NRP Millevaches and ARD a new partner manifested in the last Monitoring Committee meeting to take part in this project :

This is the **GRDR** - Research Group and achievements for Rural Development - headquartered in Bakel, and who are in favour of the process fund created to give support.

Amadou Diallo of Koussan, President of the GIE Bamtaare Sisse ni Kamo, holding a rooster hatched from eggs from the Limousin NRP Millevaches, imported in May 2011



Soon...



December 2011 - January 2012

Technical studies by the PAPIL (Program to support the local small-scale irrigation) for the renovation of dams in Koussan and Belly, and the creation of a new dam at Talibadjji.



Boundou Community Nature Reserve

A project of the rural communities of Dougué, Koussan, Sinthiou Fissa and Toumboura, and of the Group of communal interests of Bakel.

In the framework of the partnership ISÈRE-TAMBACOUNDA, with the support of the ARD, the technical departments, projects and programs of the Region, and the support of the FFEM, the AFD and the CF-UICN.



Parc National du Niokolo Koba



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