

News from Boundou

Newsletter of the Boundou Community Nature Reserve

Written by the CORENA – Association of the Boundou CNR

Before the rain

Editorial

by **Baba Ba**, Head of the Regional Inspectorate for Water and Forests of Tambacounda

The Boundou CNR celebrates its first anniversary, after its conversion from a hunting zone subject to strong environmental pressures. The Regional Inspectorate for Water and Forests of Tambacounda, which has accompanied this process since the beginning within the framework of the cooperation between the Department of Isère and the region of Tambacounda, has involved all its agents and among them the Lt. Sow (Head of the division fauna), in the development of the conservation plan for the reserve.

At the last technical mission of the Regional Council in Grenoble with the ARD, I noticed the commitment of all parties in this project, north and south, in the scrupulous implementation of the plans for conservation and development of the reserve. For me, it is a real guarantee of the success and the durability of the project.

To the presidents of the rural communities of Dougué, Sinthiou Fissa, Koussan and Toumboura, and to the populations, I reassert the full support of the department for the forestry to the Boundou CNR. May this fine example encourage other collectives to manage their resources in a coordinated way.



Red-fronted gazelle

Better understanding to better protect

Following the discovery of the young « Lella » in Koussan last February (cf the 3rd newsletter of Boundou), the protection of the red-fronted gazelle (*Gazella rufifrons*) became one of the priorities of the Boundou CNR.

This species from Sahel, still present in the north of the region of Tambacounda and in the Ferlo, is nowadays seriously threatened throughout its range and populations are decreasing rapidly.

In the Boundou CNR, many signs suggest that the red-fronted gazelle is a year-round resident which makes the reserve a privileged study site to better know the gazelle and therefore to better protect it.

The CORENA will soon implement a monitoring system of the red-fronted gazelle with 2 study levels :

1. Make inventory of all the sites with observations of *Gazella rufifrons* within the region of Tambacounda.
2. Study the areas visited by *Gazella rufifrons* in the Boundou CNR, their use and interactions with the human activities.

This work in partnership with the Faunal Reserve of North Ferlo and the Experimental Station for Arid Zones (CSIC** Spain), will then be applied on a national level to establish an overall conservation strategy of this species in Senegal, or even throughout the sub-region.

** Superior Council of the scientific Research



A leopard in Anguili

During our beekeeping training at Koussan last May, we heard this surprising as well as rare news : according to the farmers of Talibadji Toucouleur, a leopard had been discovered dead in the pond of Anguili a few weeks earlier.

As this species had never been seen in the reserve during the field studies, we went to confirm this information. The leopard was indeed lying just next to the last dried-up water point of Anguili. Its body was remarkably well preserved because of the drought.

This young leopard (*Panthera pardus*) didn't have any visible wound and was perhaps dead of dehydration. The absence of water for several months and the presence of corpses of others species at the same place is in favor of this hypothesis. Anguili, even though it's an area of major ecological interest of the CNR, is still vulnerable to the vagaries of the environment.



The dead leopard found near the pond of Anguili the 23rd of May 2010.

The CNR in numbers

145 The number of species of birds recorded in the CNR since 2007

15 The number of missions of the partners since the creation of the CNR

1 year, the age of the Boundou CNR in June 2010

In the villages...

RC OF TOUMBOURA

- Opening of the exam center of Toumboura by the IDEN of Bakel
- Completion of the health center of Sansanding

RC OF DOUGUE

- Opening of the files for the invitation to tender for the hydraulic and health issues, and the purchase of a mill

RC OF KOUSSAN

- New invitation to tender for the hydraulic issues

A delegation of Tambacounda in Isère

The technical mission of Tambacounda had several objectives to meet : work on a new cooperation agreement, on the technical systems to carry on and monitor actions, discussion of the evolution of the project of the Boundou CNR. A lot of work to accomplish!

Several meetings between the actors of the South and North (institutional, technical, associations,...) were the occasion to discuss the institutional systems to reach a better coordination of actions with the involvement of all actors.

The Boundou CNR was at the heart of the discussion and proposals to improve the system of coordination of the management plan have been made : creation of a join agreement between the general council and the rural communities, appointment of a coordinator of the PLD at the ARD, involvement of the IREF... These proposals will be discussed at the next steering committee, which should be held before the end of the year. ■



« Limbam Boundou », the pure honey of Boundou

At the end of the beekeeping training of the Boundou NCR the trade association Limbam Boundou was born.

5 months after the installation of the first kenyan hives in 5 villages of the CNR, the bees had started to work well settling in the hives of Koussan, Talibadji and Gonguedji. To check what those hives really contained and at the same time carry on the training of the beekeepers in modern harvesting method, a new training course took place in May in Koussan thanks to the support of Wula Nafaa. The beekeeping union from the Dauphiné was represented by Jean-Roch Ferté. It was the occasion to discuss directly and to link traditional methods and new ones.

Beyond the pleasure of tasting the first « pure » litre of honey of the NCR, the real success of this training was the official creation of the trade association composed of all the beekeepers of the CNR, united to highlight beekeeping as a profitable activity that respects the environment !



The beekeepers of the trade association « Limbam Boundou » at the training session

Soon



August 2010

- Steering committee of CORENA in Tambacounda (date not yet chosen).
- Launching of the contest for the creation of the logo of the NCR of Boundou.

Jury: Control committee of the CNR, october 2010



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.



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