

News from Boundou

Newsletter of the Boundou Community Nature Reserve



Written by the CORENA – Association of the Boundou CNR

Editorial

by Bacary Gassama, President of the rural Council of Toumboura

The Boundou CNR wish you a happy new year 2011. We take this opportunity to thank for your attention, since we receive a lot of encouragements after each number of this little and unpretentious newsletter ... which encourages us to pursue our efforts, while so much remains to build !

For us, this year is a new step for our project. In 2010, we set up the vigilance committees. Today, the eco-guards are selected, and an active field survey has to be organized. This is the most important work to reduce the human pressures on our natural resources, and I encourage all the young people engaged as eco-guards to do their job as seriously as is possible.

But all of us, as much as the farmers, have another challenge to take up this year. From Toumboura, along the river Falémé, I can see each day as transhumance is getting more intense how our principal activity is becoming harder. The loss of grasslands, the tree cutting, diseases... we need to react and the execution of the pastoral plan is becoming one of our main priorities.

Looking for the baboons...



Gisela Fickenscher, student at the German Primate Center (Göttingen, Germany), surprised more than one person during her trip in the Boundou CNR, from 17 to 22 December. For her thesis on Guinea baboon (*Papio papio*) population genetics, she was searching for baboons faeces from different sites in the region in order to compare with her analyses on populations from the Niokolo Koba National Park.

The Boundou CNR sheltering many baboon groups, we could not miss this opportunity to contribute a little to a scientific study.... Simply by collecting faeces of these primates !

Because one of the goals of the CNR is also to promote research and to permit data collection in this area so little studied today.

That's why the Boundou reserve will soon welcome several Masters students, working on different subjects : Elsa Jullien, student at the University Joseph Fourier of Grenoble, will work the next 6 months on the conservation of the red-fronted gazelle (*Gazella rufifrons*), while 2 students from the Institute of Environmental Sciences of Dakar are coming soon to carry out the vegetation mapping and the inventory of the flora.

Eco-guards for the survey of the reserve

Since the meeting of the vigilance committees of the CNR last November, the survey of the reserve is being organized. Indeed, 4 permanent eco-guards and 4 reserves have been selected for each of the 4 sectors. A total of 32 eco-guards who will be trained soon by the Water and Forests services.

In the first stage, the 16 permanent eco-guards will be equipped with bicycles, cell phones and uniforms, which will enable them to do patrols in the reserve with more effectiveness. Depending on the first results, the reserves will be gradually integrated into the team.

Their motivation is strong but this is necessary : illegal tree cuttings, poaching and bush fires are frequent in the area, and fighting against these pressures is the biggest struggle for the protection of the Boundou CNR.



Oumar Sao, permanent eco-guard of Koussan, observing the carcass of a porcupine poached at Mania Dala.

The CNR in numbers

333 The number of volunteers to breed cocks and guinea fowls

87 The number of Kenyan hives set up in the villages of the CNR

16 The number of permanent eco-guards of the CNR

In the villages ...

RC OF TOUMBOURA

- Start of the sinking of 2 water hand-pumps at Toumboura and Sansanding (*UEMOA*)
- Start of the process of carrying out a solar drilling at Didé (*UEMOA*)

RC OF KOUSSAN

- Signing of the contract with the Co-Development for the drilling of Koussan

Soon...



22nd January

Meeting of the Co-Codec of Boundou (teachers of the Boundou CNR), Koussan

1-8th March

Mission of french teachers from the association Borée (Net of schools and teachers from Boundou) and of 2 wildlife artists in the schools of the reserve

Associative life, a serious training !

Trade associations, associations, management committees, vigilance committees... so many structures created in the reserve, and which are a key step to organize and start up activities. But if creating these structures is one thing, to make them working is something else... and it is not easy for each member to know their role and their responsibilities.

Coordinator of the local plan for the development of the reserve, the Regional Agency for Development (ARD) of Tambacounda supports these actors each day by a strong field presence. Last month, a training course in associative life was organized for the beekeepers of the CNR, followed by the statutory general meeting of the trade association of the poultry farmers of the reserve. A very useful help to ensure the durability of each action.



Mamadou Fadé (ARD) and the executive board of the GIE Limbam Boundou, during the training course « Associative life » from 23th to 25th Decembre 2010 at Koussan.

Cocks and Guinea fowls, « Cisse ni Kamo »

From 20 to 29 November 2010, a mission of the Natural Regional Park of Millevaches in Limousin (France) has enabled the start of a new action of development in the CNR.

To create small breeding units of guinea fowls and improve traditional poultry farming by crossing with cocks from Limousin, was the idea presented by Jean-Marie Roche, president of the development council for the rural area of Millevaches, to the farmers of the CNR. A first action which marks the beginning of the partnership of the Park of Millevaches in the Boundou CNR, with the financial support of the Region of Limousin and Europe, and the assistance of the ARD of Tambacounda.

Like beekeeping, this simple and concrete action, meaningful for farmers, has already attracted a lot of volunteers. In addition to the creation of a new source of income, this action will enable the fight against poaching and improve the protein intake in the family diet.

Actually, volunteers are still grouped together in a trade association called « **Bamtaare Cissé ni Kamo** », meaning « Development (*in pulaar*) of cocks and guinea fowls (*in diakhanke*). A mixed name showing that this activity concerns all of them !



Domestic guinea fowl in a farming unit at Didé Gassama (head office of the trade association).



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.



PNNK

Parc National du Niokolo Koba

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