



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



RESSOURCE  
PROJECT

SWM Sahelian Wetlands Site

# newsletter

Issue 3 - January to June 2019

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## WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that I am sharing the third RESSOURCE\* Project newsletter, which now follows the new Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme design and layout. This newsletter aims to keep you up to date on our progress and activities.

In the Sahel Region of Africa, both migratory and resident waterbirds provide a valuable source of food and income for local communities. However, due to a variety of factors, the area covered by the main Sahelian Wetlands is shrinking. Habitat change and hunting impact waterbird populations and it is estimated that between 1960 and 2000 their numbers dropped by 40%.

The RESSOURCE Project seeks to maintain the ecosystem services that the Sahelian Wetlands provide to communities by developing innovative approaches to sustainably manage and monitor waterbirds and their habitats.

The RESSOURCE Project is co-financed by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the European Union, is coordinated by FAO and is being implemented by technical partners in five participating countries.

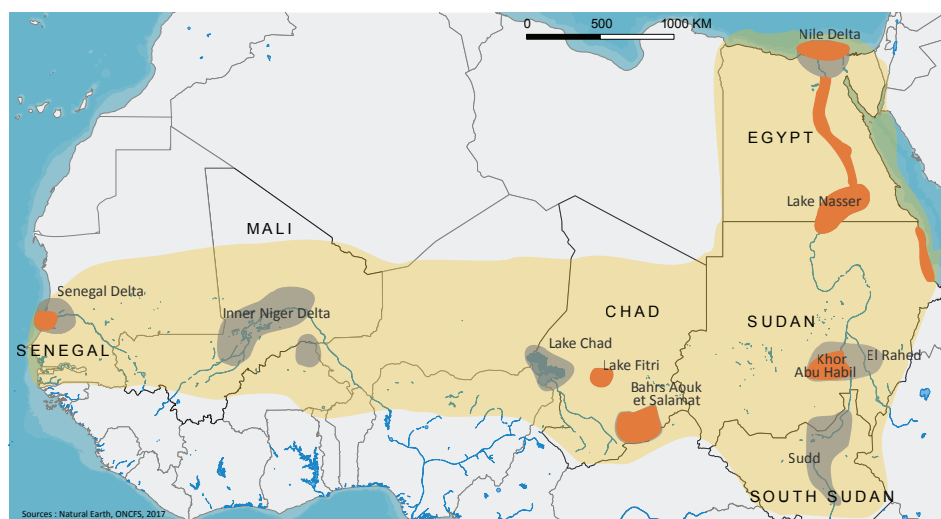
Bruno Portier  
RESSOURCE Project Coordinator

\*"Strengthening expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa on birds and their rational use for communities and their environment"

Supported by



# HIGHLIGHTS



## LEGEND

- Geographical region of interest
- Main Sahelian wetlands
- RESSOURCE Project activities

The RESSOURCE Project works closely with national authorities and local wildlife institutions. We would like to thank them and express our gratitude for their involvement and continued support!

## Egypt - Lake Nasser, Nile Valley and Delta

Representatives from the nature conservation sector (Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, EEAA) have been trained in carrying out surveys on the socio-economic importance of waterbirds.

## Mali - Inner Niger Delta

Training was provided in the use of KoBoCollect, a mobile data collection tool, to survey staff who are monitoring the "bird markets" in Youwarou, Mopti, Djenné and Bamako through to June 2019.

## Senegal - Senegal Delta

The Trois Marigots Community Reserve received considerable support in drafting the Reserve's participatory management plan and in the process of designating the site as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

## Sudan - Red Sea Coast and Khor Abu Habil wetlands

The focus is on building national expertise in monitoring waterbird populations, and in December 2018, managers from the General Administration for Wildlife Conservation, the Sudanese Wildlife Society and several universities were trained in monitoring techniques.

## Chad - Bahr Aouk et Salamat Ramsar Site and Lake Chad Basin

Aerial counts of waterbirds in Lake Fitri, Zakouma National Park and part of the Bahr Aouk et Salamat Ramsar Site were completed. An exploratory mission to assess the feasibility of ground-based counts in the Logone floodplain and the Toupouri depressions took place in April 2019.

## SPECIAL FOCUS - CAPACITY-BUILDING

"National and local capacity-building and the creation of a sustainable RESSOURCE community, which brings together institutions, NGOs, ornithologists and those involved in hunting, are at the heart of the project," explains Dr Sébastien Le Bel, researcher at the CIRAD.

"The transfer of competences and responsibilities to local communities aims to reduce their dependence on international expertise when implementing wetlands management and waterbird conservation activities," adds Patrick Triplet, OMPO Officer for relations with protected area managers in Africa.

This is why the RESSOURCE Project mobilizes a regional community of experts and supports the integration of academic modules on waterbird identification and monitoring techniques in universities. Recently, the Project organized a series of workshops in Bamako (Mali) and Dakar (Senegal) on survey methods to assess waterbird consumption and commercial and subsistence hunting.

"It is through a strategic vision and the development of national and regional policies on wetland and waterbird conservation that the RESSOURCE Project's efforts and achievements will be sustained," concludes Dr Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).





# COUNTRY STORY - SENEGAL

Djoudj National Bird Park in Senegal is both a vital and fragile sanctuary for migratory waterbird populations. In particular, it is a wintering site of international importance for several Palearctic Anatidae. For instance, 100 000 Pintails and 138 000 Garganeys were counted during the census on 15 January 2019.

However, climate change, invasive aquatic plants and agricultural development threaten these wetlands. "If wintering areas are not conserved, then Western European bird populations will be threatened," explains Seydina Issa Sylla, OMPO representative in Senegal.

Therefore, for a third consecutive year, the RESSOURCE Project has supported this important bird census. Nearly 450 000 waterbirds, including over 90 species, were counted in the Senegal River Delta. "These counts are essential to monitor seasonal fluctuations and species evolution and thus to take good management decisions," he added. The results are an invaluable source of information and contribute to the International Waterbird Census (IWC) coordinated by Wetlands International.

"Migratory birds are a common heritage, a shared resource, and it is our responsibility to protect the territories they cross," concluded Assane Ndoye, Division Head, Senegal National Parks.



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## FACTS AND FIGURES

The RESSOURCE Project is a **4-year (2017-2020)** initiative that covers **5** of the **13 SWM Programme's** countries

From the **127** European bird species crossing the Sahara, **75** are in decline

About **60** species of Palearctic waterbirds winter in the main Sahelian Wetlands

The RESSOURCE Project directly contributes to **five actions** in the **AEWA** Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027

## EVENTS CORNER

### 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to AEWA

4-8 December 2018

Durban, South Africa

The RESSOURCE Project was well represented at the 7th session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). [More info](#)



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### World Migratory Bird Day

11 May 2019

On this day, the article *What migratory birds tell us about sustainability* was published [here](#).

More information on this year's theme "Protect birds: be the solution to plastic pollution" can be found [here](#)



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## FROM THE FIELD



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The RESSOURCE Project is working with the local communities in the Trois Marigots Reserve, Senegal, to designate the area as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

## NEWSROOM

Further information about the RESSOURCE Project can be found via the following links:

- Technical Support Unit (TSU) activities to the AEWA African Initiative (Tour du Valat) - Capacity-building ([click here](#))
- La FAO contribue à la Journée mondiale des oiseaux migrateurs: Entretien avec Bruno Portier ([click here](#))
- Page officielle du Projet RESSOURCE sur le site du Département des forêts de la FAO ([click here](#))

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

- European Development Days  
18-19 June 2019  
Brussels, Belgium  
<https://eudevdays.eu>
- World Food Day  
16 October 2019  
<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day>

## RESSOURCE TALKS

**Ms Constance Corbier-Barthaux**  
Head of Biodiversity projects at the French  
Global Environment Facility (FFEM)

The RESSOURCE Project is innovative in more than one way. First of all, it takes a regional approach, and addresses the challenges facing the Sahelian Wetlands in a comprehensive and multidisciplinary way.



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Secondly, thanks to the FFEM-FAO partnership, we are demonstrating that conservation and sustainable use of natural resources are compatible. Combining global environmental protection with local socio-economic development is an essential point of convergence for both our institutions.

It is also innovative, because in addition to piloting initiatives, the RESSOURCE Project sets out to improve and develop our knowledge of waterbird populations' dynamics, and how they are affected by climate change, modification of habitats and hunting.

Building on the lessons from the RESSOURCE Project, we will be able to better define public policies and institutional and legal frameworks that ensure conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. We aim to disseminate and upscale good practices in order to have a major impact on the Sahelian Wetlands and the communities that depend on them.

Finally, given the migratory nature of waterbirds, it is important to strengthen North-South and South-South transboundary collaboration. This is the approach that is being implemented by the RESSOURCE Project and its many national and international partners in the five Sahelian countries.



**FIND OUT MORE**

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