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Acronyms

CIPA: Investigation and Applied Research Center
CRODT: Oceanographic Research Center of Dakar Thiaroye
CSRP/SRFC: Sub regional Fishery Commission
DACMP: Department of Community Marine Protected Areas
GPPE: Parliamentary Group for Environment Protection in Mauritania
IBAP: Institute for biodiversity and protected areas
IMBO: Institute Marine Biology and Oceanography of Sierra Leone
IMROP: Mauritanian Institute of Oceanographic Research and Fisheries
PAHZOC: Action plan for coastal wetlands and seabirds in West Africa
PIMFAO: Small initiatives project and financial mechanisms in West Africa
PNBA: Banc d'Arguin National Park
PND: Diawling National Park
PRCM: Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone
PREMAC: Research Program on Marine and Coastal Areas
PRISE: Regional project for the reduction of impacts of coastal infrastructure on ecosystems in West Africa
RAMPAO: Network of West African Marine Protected Areas
REPES: Parliamentary Network for Environment Protection in Senegal
STM: Sea Turtle Survival
UNESCO: UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WIACO: Wetlands International Africa
The year 2021 has been a year of great challenges for PRCM, both in terms of implementing activities and pursuing institutional development towards greater autonomy and mobilization of financial resources.

As the global health crisis seems to come an end, we must accelerate our efforts and strengthen our ambition by associating our network of partners with a single objective: to remain effective.

We have reviewed some of our working methods and procedures, strengthened our team, developed new projects, and concluded some strategic partnerships, against the backdrop of MAVA’s departure. These are all signs of vitality that demonstrate the dynamic nature of PRCM.

Within 10 years, we have gone from a coalition of stakeholders to a major organization in the field of conservation in West Africa. This long journey has not always been smooth. At times, it has been fraught with major challenges that required resilience to remain steadfast. Nevertheless, we have learned a lot and grown by keeping our ambition unchanged.

It is this ever-growing determination and faith in our mission that has led us to change our legal status. Actually, through an order issued on 17 June 2021 under the number 020206/MINT/DGAT/DPONG/DAPI, the Senegalese Minister of Home Affairs granted PRCM the status of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). This new status is the result of a long process in which PRCM successfully fulfilled certain requirements. This is a major step forward from an institutional point of view and a step that will allow PRCM to continue its commitments beyond MAVA, its main donor.

Today, donors, NGOs, and policymakers perceive PRCM as a reliable partner in the region. We intend to continue and maintain this credibility.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to acknowledge these efforts and this commitment, and express our deep appreciation to all our donors.

Dr Ahmed Senhoury,
PRCM Executive Director
General overview

Field of intervention

The Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa (PRCM) is a coalition of actors working on West African coastal issues. PRCM is active in seven countries: Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone.
Vision

A healthy and productive marine and coastal environment for the well-being of West African populations.

Mission

Promote the conservation of the marine and coastal zone in West Africa.

INTERVENTION THEMES

- Strengthening the resilience of coastal and marine communities and ecosystems
- Promoting sustainable fisheries
- Reducing the impact of extractive infrastructure on coastal and marine areas
- Conserving vulnerable marine and coastal species and habitats

PRCM GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Partnership brings together more than 80 organizations. It is governed by a General Assembly, a Board of Directors and an Executive Board.

The diversity and complementarity of its competent and dedicated team is a major asset. This is what enables PRCM to pursue its mission smoothly and maintain an optimal mode of operation.

To adapt to its growth, PRCM has undertaken appropriate action to amend its organizational chart. The new organizational chart is as follows:

- An Executive Director;
- A Program Coordinator for Integrated Management and Coastal Resilience;
- A Program Coordinator for Coastal Species, Ecosystems and Societies;
- A Program Coordinator for Sustainable Fisheries Management;
- An Administrative and Financial Manager;
- Several project coordinators;
- A Communication and Capitalization Manager;
- An accountant;
- A Program Assistant in charge of services to members.
Strengthening of PRCM staff

In order to be more operational, PRCM has submitted requests for headquarters agreements which will allow it to have representation in some of the countries in its intervention zone, notably Mauritania, Guinea and Guinea Bissau.

A favorable opinion has been obtained for Guinea and Mauritania. The process is ongoing in Guinea Bissau.

Similarly, PRCM has updated its Human Resources Management (HRM) policy manual. The updated version of this manual completes the arsenal of PRCM’s regulatory texts that ensure compliance with the statutes and its evolution.

In addition, PRCM has strengthened its staffing, with the recruitment of a project coordinator to supervise three new projects on fisheries management, two of which are in Senegal and the other in Guinea. We have also hired an assistant in charge of technical and scientific coordination and assigned her the mission to coordinate the PREMAC project – Research Program on Marine and Coastal Environment in Senegal.
Strategic partnerships and fundraising

The impact of PRCM would certainly have gone unnoticed had it not been for the generosity and unwavering support of donors and funding partners that trust us and allow us to continue our efforts to conserve the West African coastal zone. Their commitment and passion are a true source of inspiration.

Thus, PRCM has doubled its efforts to raise the funds necessary to finance its activities. Several new partnerships have been concluded with partners such as the Ocean 5 Foundation, Oak Foundation, Blue Fund, BP and the French Fund for the Marine Environment (FFEM).

The Ocean 5 Foundation has provided funding for two projects on «Fisheries Governance» in Senegal and Guinea to the tune of one million US dollars each for three years, while the Oak Foundation is funding the participatory monitoring project in Senegal, with half a million US dollars for three years.

PRCM has also secured a financing agreement with the French Fund for the Marine Environment (FFEM) for a project on the resilience of West African coastal ecosystems for a duration of five years and an amount of 2.6 million euros.

Moreover, PRCM signed in 2021 a contract for the implementation of the first year of a Research Program on the Marine and Coastal Environment of Senegal (PRÉMAC), a program financed by the BP Company to the tune of 350,000 US dollars per year for a period of five years.

These new partnerships are in addition to other funding programs underway through contracts with PRCM’s strategic partners including the MAVA Foundation and the DOB Foundation, which will continue through 2022.
Main achievements in 2021

Overall, despite an unusual context, PRCM managed during the year 2021 to maintain a satisfactory rate of execution on all its projects.

Sustainable management of critical stocks and coastal sites for small pelagics

As part of the implementation of Phase II of the «Sustainable management of critical stocks and coastal sites for small pelagics» Project, we have secured some major results that contribute to the promotion of transparency in fisheries management.

One of the key results is the adherence of Mauritania to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI) through the publication of two reports in May 2020 and April 2021. PRCM provided assistance during the entire process up to and including the validation of these reports. As a result, Mauritania became the first country in West Africa and in the Arab world to join this international initiative.
Other advocacy actions for transparency in fisheries governance are underway in other countries, noticeably in Cape Verde, Senegal and Guinea.

It also worth noting that PRCM has developed a Fisheries Transparency Index at the level of the countries in its intervention zone. This catalytic tool will help encourage and commit stakeholders in general and decision-makers in particular to take appropriate measures.

In addition, PRCM has developed an excellent compendium of information on the status of exploited stocks, surpluses and fishing opportunities available to foreign fleets, that was disseminated it in April 2021.

In terms of capacity building, we have organized some national workshops to provide adequate tools to fishing professionals. These workshops provided an occasion to present and popularize the Practical Guide on the negotiation of fisheries agreements.

In addition, PRCM has demonstrated very good collaboration with its indirect partners, as part of the annual work program and budget (AWPB), namely NAAFQ, ANAPA, FNIPA, CONIPAS and WADAF. Some note-worthy outcomes have resulted from the activities that they have implemented, such as the organization of several national advocacy and sensitization workshops and the production of capitalization documents.

Finally, in synergy with the Network of West Africa Marine Protected Areas (RAMPACO) and the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), awareness-raising activities were held during the World Ocean and Fisheries Days on 8 June and 21 November 2021 respectively, along with the production and realization of TV programs, and the publication of a joint study on the critical sites of small pelagic species.

**Fisheries governance**

With regard to projects on «Fisheries Governance», several advocacy activities have taken place. One of them is the support to the national network of Local Artisanal Fishing Councils (CLPA) in Senegal for the drafting of advocacy documents for the implementation of fisheries monitoring campaigns.

In addition, on the sidelines of the World Fisheries Day celebrated on 21 November 2021 in Dakar, a luncheon was held with the press with the aim of increasing awareness of the media and the public, regarding the impacts of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) on governance efforts.

In Guinea, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries, PRCM has organized a national workshop to sensitize institutional stakeholders and decision makers in the fisheries sector on the impacts of IUU fishing. Similarly, the process of revising the legal and regulatory texts related to transparency has been initiated in order to harmonize it with international transparency standards.
In order to improve the knowledge on legalities of fisheries governance and international maritime law, a training was given to 24 jurists and technical staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEM) of Guinea.

**PRISE Project - Reducing the impacts of coastal infrastructure on ecosystems in West Africa**

As part of the PRISE Project, some advocacy and awareness-raising activities have been organized with civil society actors and parliamentarians. These activities were mainly focused on the organization of training workshops, sensitization to negotiations for sustainability and public debates on the issue of infrastructure, and the establishment of monitoring and alert frameworks in the various sensitive sites by civil society actors.

Together with parliamentarians, PRCM has organized a series of activities including exchange visits between networks of parliamentarians from Mauritania (GPPE) and Senegal (REPES), a mission by the President of the Network of Parliamentarians for the Protection of the Environment in Senegal (REPES) to the National People’s Assembly of Guinea Bissau to revive the dynamics of the national network of Guinea Bissau, and a regional workshop to revitalize the network of the Alliance of Parliamentarians and Local Elected Officials for the Protection of the Environment of West African Coastal Countries (APPEL) which was attended by parliamentarians from all over the PRCM area.

Furthermore, a study on the projected impact of the construction of the Port of Ndiago on its adjacent coastline and a guide on environmental assessments have been produced.

**Sustainably managing oil and gas activities in West Africa (COBIA Project)**

With our partners in the civil society, including Green Senegal, Tiniguena, Palmeihrina, BiodiverCités and CSSL, COBIA activities mainly focused on training, awareness and advocacy on environmental issues related to oil and gas.

Through the COBIA project, 12 warning and surveillance committees have been set up with coastal communities in Sierra Leone, Senegal (Cayar and Saint Louis) and Guinea Bissau (Bolama Bijagós Region, Cacheu Region and Oio Region). National civil society partners held training sessions, and produced awareness-raising films and community radio broadcasts. In Senegal, for example, Green Senegal has set up a platform of stakeholders in Cayar, Saint Louis and Sangomar (Djiffer) to exchange and share experiences on the possible and future impacts of oil and gas exploitation.

Research partners in the different countries (IMROP, CRODT, IMBO, CIPA) have provided training for researchers
and technicians on the use of pollution monitoring tools, sampling and analysis of microcontinents (30 researchers and technicians for IMBO, 19 for IMROP, 2 for CIPA and 5 for CRODT).

At the level of the State partners, the POLMAR TERRE (LAND MARPOL) Project of Senegal has been updated and validated and the process of ratifying the additional protocols to the Abidjan Convention is well underway in Senegal, Mauritania and Guinea Bissau.

PRCM has set up a digital platform for training, awareness and advocacy on environmental issues, particularly those related to oil activities. The development of educational content on the environmental management of offshore oil and gas activities led to the launch of the first edition of the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). It was a great success with 700 participants with different profiles and nationalities.

PRCM has also organized a 4-day training session on the environmental management of oil & gas in Sierra Leone for 35 national stakeholders and a regional workshop in Mauritania on the harmonization of monitoring protocols, which led to the development of a draft protocol shared with the various partners.

Sea Turtle Survival Project (STM)

In 2021, the implementation of the Sea Turtle Survival (STM) Project advanced significantly in the 7 intervention countries of the West African sub-region, namely Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, in terms of reproduction monitoring, research, awareness and communication.

The reproduction monitoring in 2021 revealed a record number of breeding sea turtles. Nearly 250,000 sea turtle nests were counted on Cape Verdean beaches.

With regards to research, Guinea Bissau has hosted a regional symposium on sea turtles that brought together stakeholders and organizations from 7 West African countries, and representatives of research partners from 4 European countries. The emphasis during this symposium, the first of its kind in the sub-region, was on sharing relevant technical and scientific information. In addition, PRCM organized a seminar on sea turtles in July 2021 in collaboration with ISPA in Portugal and the Master Chair UNESCO-GIDEL of the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. The seminar brought together nearly 200 students from 4 academic institutions. It culminated in the development of university teaching modules on sea turtle conservation.

Finally, in terms of communication and strengthening of the partnership at the regional level, a regional film has been produced about the partnership between actors from Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Mauritania.
TRISTAO Mangrove Conservation Project

Overall, the TRISTAO Mangroves Project has significantly improved its performance. It has almost reached its objectives, and partially exceeded them, even before the end of the project.

In spite of the difficulties encountered due to the persistence of the COVID 19 pandemic, some concrete results were obtained in 2021. These include the planting of about 123 ha of new mangroves; the construction of 40 improved ovens for Economic Interest Groups (EIGs) active in fish smoking and palm oil extraction; the installation of 200 improved stoves for household cooking; the maintenance of 284.67 ha of agricultural rice fields and the rehabilitation of 24.74 ha of degraded rice fields into mangroves through natural regeneration.

In addition, support was provided to salt-producing EIGs, market gardeners and beekeepers through the supply of production inputs and assistance in marketing their products. The efforts undertaken in 2021 will continue in 2022 by capitalizing on the successful experiences and correcting the shortcomings noted, particularly in terms of capacity building for the empowerment of EIGs, the planting and restoration of new mangrove areas and the intensification of monitoring activities.

Bycatch Project - Reduction of incidental catch of turtles and sea birds

Concerning the Bycatch Project, PRCM has developed a communication strategy to raise awareness on the bycatch of turtles and seabirds in West African fisheries.

It is also important to highlight that information and sensitization workshops were held in the seven PRCM intervention countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cape Verde, Gambia and Sierra Leone).

Besides, a press release inviting West African decision-makers to strengthen regulatory measures in order to reduce the incidental catch of turtles and seabirds during fishing activities was issued on World Fisheries Day.

A side event on bycatch was organized during the World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France, in September 2021.

Finally, communication tools, including posters, were produced in three languages (French, English and Portuguese) and presented during information and awareness workshops organized in the different countries of the PRCM area.
PAZHOCS Project – Action Plan for wetlands and seabirds in West Africa

On another note, with PAZHOCS, support was provided for international seabird counts in the three project countries. Similarly, several training sessions were organized in Senegal, Mauritania and Guinea Bissau, focusing on the techniques used to identify and monitor waterbirds and colonial seabirds as well as the online management tools of RAMSAR sites, for the benefit of wetland stakeholders, among others.

In addition, PRCM supported the RAMSAR sites in Mauritania (Banc d’Arguin National Park and Diawling National Park) to update the RAMSAR descriptive sheets (FDR). The main result of this activity showed that PNBA meets the nine criteria of the RAMSAR Convention. This is unprecedented at the global level. In the same impetus, in relation with the national administrative authority of the RAMSAR Convention in Mauritania (the Department of Environment Protection and Restoration -DPREM), an inventory of potential natural sites (wetlands) to be included in the list of wetlands of international importance (RAMSAR Site) has been conducted.

Also worth noting is the establishment of a regional thematic working group on the development of sites through ecotourism in order to develop a regional advocacy document for ecotourism around the priority sites of the PAZHOCS Project. The members of this working group are representatives of the project partners, notably PNBA, PND, IBAP, ODZH, NCD and DACMP, in charge of ecotourism aspects within these organizations, supported by the regional group that includes PRCM, WIACO and BRLI.

In terms of partnership, some consultations have been initiated with the UNESCO regional office and the African World Heritage Fund to develop synergies with IBAP and to help prepare the next application for the Bijagos Archipelago to be included on the World Heritage List.
PIMFAO Project – Small pelagics and financial mechanisms in West Africa

Within the framework of the PIMFAO Project, a lobbying strategy has been adopted to increase national financial resources for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Mauritania has been identified as a pilot country to deploy this strategy.

Additionally, an international firm has been hired to conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a Conservation Trust Fund in West Africa. The final report was submitted to PRCM and its results were shared with the various stakeholders during a feedback workshop.
Communication

The performance of PRCM depends on the importance given to communication. Addressing all our audiences in an audible manner remains the essential challenge of our communication policy.

In this dynamic, the key words are mainly to mobilize, engage, federate, and get people to adhere.

It is in this spirit that we have undertaken to redesign our website, which is our flagship showcase.

In addition to accompanying the implementation of all our projects, communication has been strongly mobilized during the 10th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum in Saly, Senegal, held in late March 2022. As a prelude to the event, a campaign called #RoadToFomaco2022 was launched. All communication channels and media were mobilized for this purpose. Messages were produced and broadcasted, and video spots produced.

The event helped boost the continued growth of our social media communities. By the end of 2021, PRCM had a range of platforms with 105,352 followers distributed as follows:

- Twitter: 2,166
- Facebook: 99,053
- Instagram: 3,388
- LinkedIn: 377
- YouTube: 385
PRCM financial execution

The overall budget for Project activities and PRCM coordination in 2021 stood at €5,522,454 euros. The total amount spent was €3,322,210 euros, representing an execution rate of 60%.
Conclusion

The year 2021 will have been a decisive year for PRCM in terms of the results obtained and the projects undertaken. Continuing this dynamic is an imperative necessity at a time when a new chapter in our history is starting.

We intend to write this story in the best possible way, especially since the expectations of our partners are on the rise, hence the need to maintain our credibility and the trust we have acquired.

With the closure of MAVA scheduled for 2022, we have the opportunity to renew our sincere gratitude for this collaboration of several decades that has allowed PRCM to become what it is today.

Challenges of conservation in West Africa remain numerous but the prospects are encouraging. The kick-off preluding the preparation of the 10th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum already shows a growing interest of partners for this event. Also, the funding opportunities that are in the pipeline with FFEM, the World Bank’s WACA program, the Blue Action Fund and many others give hope that PRCM will be able to carry out its future activities under good conditions.
Our thanks go to all our donors who make our work possible: