



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**RESSOURCE  
PROJECT**

SWM Sahelian Wetlands Site

# newsletter

Issue 9 - January to June 2022

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## WELCOME

We are now on the last leg of the journey: the current funding of RESSOURCE Project activities is coming to an end.

Our objective is, of course, to continue this collective adventure devoted to the conservation of waterbirds and the preservation of the ecosystem services of the large Sahelian wetlands for the benefit of the rural communities who live there. In particular, we are focusing on food security and local development by implementing innovative approaches to the monitoring and sustainable management of waterbirds and their habitats. We are therefore actively working with donors, technical partners and beneficiary countries to set up a second phase.

The latest key achievements are the finalization of the water lily experimentation in Senegal, the provision of support to the Sudanese administration for the Ramsar designation of the Inner Delta of Khor Abu Habil and, of course, the development of a training course that is free and open to all, i.e. the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), *Identifier et dénombrer les oiseaux d'eau d'Afrique du Nord et du Sahel – Comment et dans quels buts?* (Identifying and counting waterbirds in North Africa and the Sahel – How and for what purposes?). The course will be hosted on the platform of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-Papaco, which we hope will be launched by the end of 2022.

We hope you will appreciate the detailed information provided in this newsletter. Follow us on our [webpage](#) for the most recent information.

Bruno Portier  
RESSOURCE\* Project Coordinator

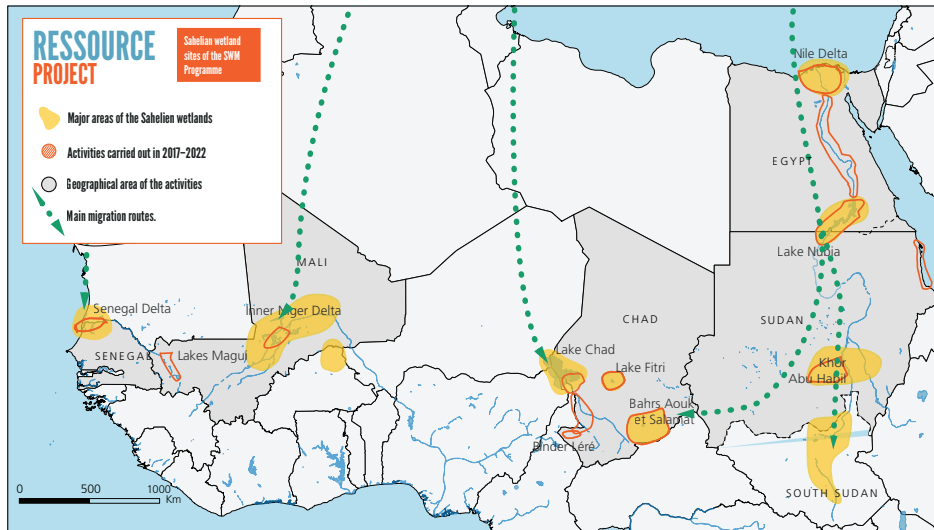
\* "Strengthening expertise in Sub-Saharan Africa on birds and their rational use for communities and their environment"

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# HIGHLIGHTS



Source: Natural Earth 2019 modified to comply with UN map 4045, 2018

## Egypt - Ramsar sites of Lake Burullus, Lake Bardawil, Lake Qarun Protected Area and Wadi El Rayan Protected Area

The mapping of relevant legislation, as well as the evaluation of the transposition into national law of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) were completed and submitted to the Government.

## Mali - Inner Niger Delta

As part of the RESSOURCE Project MOOC, Ms Fatoumata Adbourazack Djibrilla, from the National Directorate of Water and Forests explains her role as Focal Point of the Ramsar Convention in Mali, regarding all subjects related to wetlands. Over the past three years, the RESSOURCE Project has contributed to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Mali through several activities, specifically the counting of waterbirds in Lake Magui and the training of local staff.

## Senegal - Senegal River Delta

From 11 to 14 January 2022, officers from the National Parks Department (DPN) participated in a training workshop on counting and identifying waterbirds. From 15 to 17 January 2022, the counting of waterbirds was performed, with the support of the project, in all the wetlands of the Senegal River Delta. To this end, more than 100 copies were distributed of the Petit guide de détermination et de dénombrement des oiseaux d'eau (Small Guide to Identifying and Counting Waterbirds).

## Sudan - Red Sea coast and upper Nile Valley

In March 2022, a mission was conducted to support the Sudanese wildlife administration in designating the inner delta of Khor Abu Habil (IDKAH) as a Ramsar site. The Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) was completed jointly after extensive stakeholder consultations, including the final map showing the agreed boundaries of the future IDKAH. The request for IDKAH to be designated as a Wetland of International Importance was formally submitted to the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention in April.

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

The RESSOURCE Project contributed to the reform of Law No. 14/PR/2008 of 10 June 2008 providing regulations for forests, wildlife and fishing. The mapping of relevant legislation, as well as the assessment of the transposition into domestic law of the Ramsar Convention and AEWA were finalized. The Government validated the results of the legal analyses as well as the recommendations made.

## SPECIAL FOCUS - INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

*"One of the RESSOURCE Project's objectives is to strengthen political and legal frameworks in order to achieve the sustainable use of Sahelian wetlands and waterbirds, in line with the Ramsar Convention and the AEWA" explained Eugenio Sartoretto, FAO Legal Officer and coordinator of the institutional and legal activities of the project.*

*"To achieve this, the RESSOURCE Project carried out analyses on the extent to which these two international legal instruments have been transposed into national legislation" he added.*

The team then developed and published online legal hubs (those of [Mali](#) and [Senegal](#) are already available) in order to provide easy access to the legal arsenal of the countries where the RESSOURCE Project operates as well as to analyses on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the AEWA. *"We hope that these legal hubs will be able to better inform all interested actors and stakeholders, and thus trigger participatory processes of legislative reform" he concluded.*

# COUNTRY STORY - SENEGAL

In the Senegal River Delta, the RESSOURCE Project is building the capacity of rural communities through the Management Oriented Monitoring System (MOMS) approach. *"The MOMS approach allows fishers and farmers in the region to document their activities and harvests in order to make good decisions for the sustainable management of the natural resources"*, explained Dr. Dimitri Samuel Adjanooun, sociologist at the Gaston Berger University, Saint Louis, Senegal.

For example, in the case of fishing, *"monitoring by using the MOMS approach makes it possible to record in a notebook the number of fish caught according to the nets used, and also to observe the state of the natural resources and ecosystem"* explained Ababacar Diop, a delta fisher. *"It also allows us to identify where the fish are concentrated. MOMS has given me a lot"* he added.

*"The data collected are then analysed, processed and then released in the form of information services in a format chosen in consultation with the communities. This aims to help them in their daily choices and to support them in the sustainable management of their natural resources, with the objective of improving their income and their quality of life"*, said Dr. Dimitri Samuel Adjanooun.



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## FACTS AND FIGURES

The RESSOURCE Project MOOC, "Identifier et dénombrer les oiseaux d'eau d'Afrique du Nord et du Sahel – Comment et dans quels buts?" (Identifying and counting waterbirds of North Africa and the Sahel – How and for what purposes?)

- will provide over **35** hours of learning divided into **six** modules;
- will include more than **35** animated sequences, **10** videos of interviews, more than **5,000** photos and videos of birds, and around **210** species identification sheets;
- will mobilize around **20** international experts.

## EVENTS CORNER

### Launching of the short film, Conservation des zones humides au sahel: l'expérience soudanaise

(Wetlands Conservation in Sahel: Sudanese experience)

21 April 2022

A short film was produced illustrating the beauty and richness of the wetlands of the IDKAH, on which hundreds of villages depend. It describes the objectives and stages in the participatory process of designating a Ramsar wetland, as implemented by the RESSOURCE Project. The film is available in [French](#), [English](#) and [Arabic](#).



### XV World Forestry Congress (WFC), Seoul (Republic of Korea)

2–6 May 2022

The poster of the RESSOURCE Project, entitled Sustainable management of migratory species: Challenge or utopia? Challenge or Utopia? was set up at the WFC (French, English). <https://wfc2021korea.org/eng/index.html>

### World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)

14 May 2022

On the occasion of the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), two publications of the RESSOURCE Project were featured in an article published by FAO in Senegal, and the project activities were shared on the social media of the partners (set #ProjetRESSOURCE (in French only) and #RESSOURCEProject).





## FROM THE FIELD



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This white pelican was found wounded, and was nursed and adopted by the inhabitants of Mingueye Boye village (Senegal)

## NEWSROOM

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

- Video *Améliorer la pêche et son suivi avec les communautés au Sénégal* ([here](#), in French only).
- *Les oiseaux d'eau dans le delta du fleuve Sénégal – Petit guide de détermination et de dénombrement* ([here](#), in French only).
- *Les espèces végétales à caractère envahissant dans le delta du fleuve Sénégal - Savoir les reconnaître et intervenir* ([here](#), in French only).
- *Désignation d'un nouveau site Ramsar au Soudan: Le delta intérieur du Khor Abu Habil, Institut de recherche de la Tour du Valat* ([here](#)).
- *Zones humides: l'OFB se mobilise à l'international* ([here](#), French only).

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

- 26–30 September 2022  
8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP8) to AEWA | AEWA ([unep-awea.org](http://unep-awea.org))
- 8 October 2022  
World Migratory Bird Day  
<https://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/>
- 5–13 November 2022  
14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) Ramsar  
<https://ramsar.org/fr/evenement/14e-session-de-la-conference-des-parties-contractantes>
- 21–25 November 2022  
Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC15)  
[www.paoc15.org](http://www.paoc15.org)

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## RESSOURCE TALKS

**Jean-Yves Mondain-Monval**,  
Engineer at the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB), and biologist specializing in counting, management and conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetlands

The main aim of the RESSOURCE Project has been to improve our knowledge in order to make progress in the sustainable use of waterbirds in the Sahel while contributing to the conservation of endangered species and their wetland habitat. It's a colossal challenge in an environment that is changing very quickly and undergoing multiple pressures (climate change, population growth and increased anthropogenic pressure on fragile sites, insecurity, etc.). Unlike some less diverse taxonomic groups in the Sahel, such as fish or mammals, waterbirds are a complex, diverse and highly mobile group. Their monitoring requires proven ornithological expertise and therefore specific training for the officers of the administrations responsible for wildlife and for all the actors involved.



We can now measure the progress made. Despite a widely unfavourable context, we achieved good results due to the highly motivated national focal points and to everyone's adaptability to the limitations faced. We have learned from each other in the field, developed new training tools, tested new monitoring methods, identified new wetlands of international importance, obtained the support of governments to better conserve them, and have found problematic areas regarding the sustainable harvesting of specific species, etc.

We are now in the middle of the road, and we must use these results and the new tools developed, meet the communities who live in and around these wetlands, share knowledge and imagine realistic solutions to better conserve these areas and these species. This will be the goal of the second phase of RESSOURCE, which I hope will be as exciting as the first.



**FIND OUT MORE**

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[www.swm-programme.info/en/ressource-project](http://www.swm-programme.info/en/ressource-project)

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