

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**A shared ambition to rise
to current conservation
challenges.**

#SharedAmbition





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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

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A new stage in the development of PRCM

PRCM, like most organisations, is evolving in a disrupted world order filled with uncertainty since the onset of the covid-19 pandemic. To survive and thrive in this new world, agility and resilience must be constantly cultivated.

Many conservation organisations, particularly those working in West Africa, face the challenge of sustainability. This situation is exacerbated by the departure of the MAVA Nature Foundation, whose funding was announced to end this year. This decision, while understandable, is a sad one given the commitment and generosity MAVA has shown for over 25 years alongside West African actors.

First and foremost, **we wish to express our gratitude to MAVA for its unprecedented commitment, its history and values that have shaped generations of dedicated players and many organisations, including PRCM.** We are happy to continue its actions.

While 2022 marks the close of MAVA, it also represents a pivotal year for PRCM as we were on all fronts to answer our calling with an increasing drive to extend our boundaries.

We have sown and joyfully reaped the rewards as evidenced by the achievements showcased in this report. **A key highlight was successfully organising the 10th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum.**

But we remain dissatisfied in the face of the numerous biodiversity and climate challenges which represent both a threat and an opportunity. Overall, biodiversity in Africa continues to decline, with steady losses of species and habitats.

Taking up these challenges and opportunities requires a collaborative effort that involves a profound collective shift in individual and shared values about Nature.

At PRCM, we are guided by one conviction: to deliver more and better for the conservation of the West African marine and coastal area in support of the well-being of its communities. Thanks to consistency and strong commitment to our mission, we have become a major organisation whose visibility and impact in current debates inspires confidence in the conservation community and among donors.

This recognition has allowed us to mobilise new partners and increase our portfolio of projects.

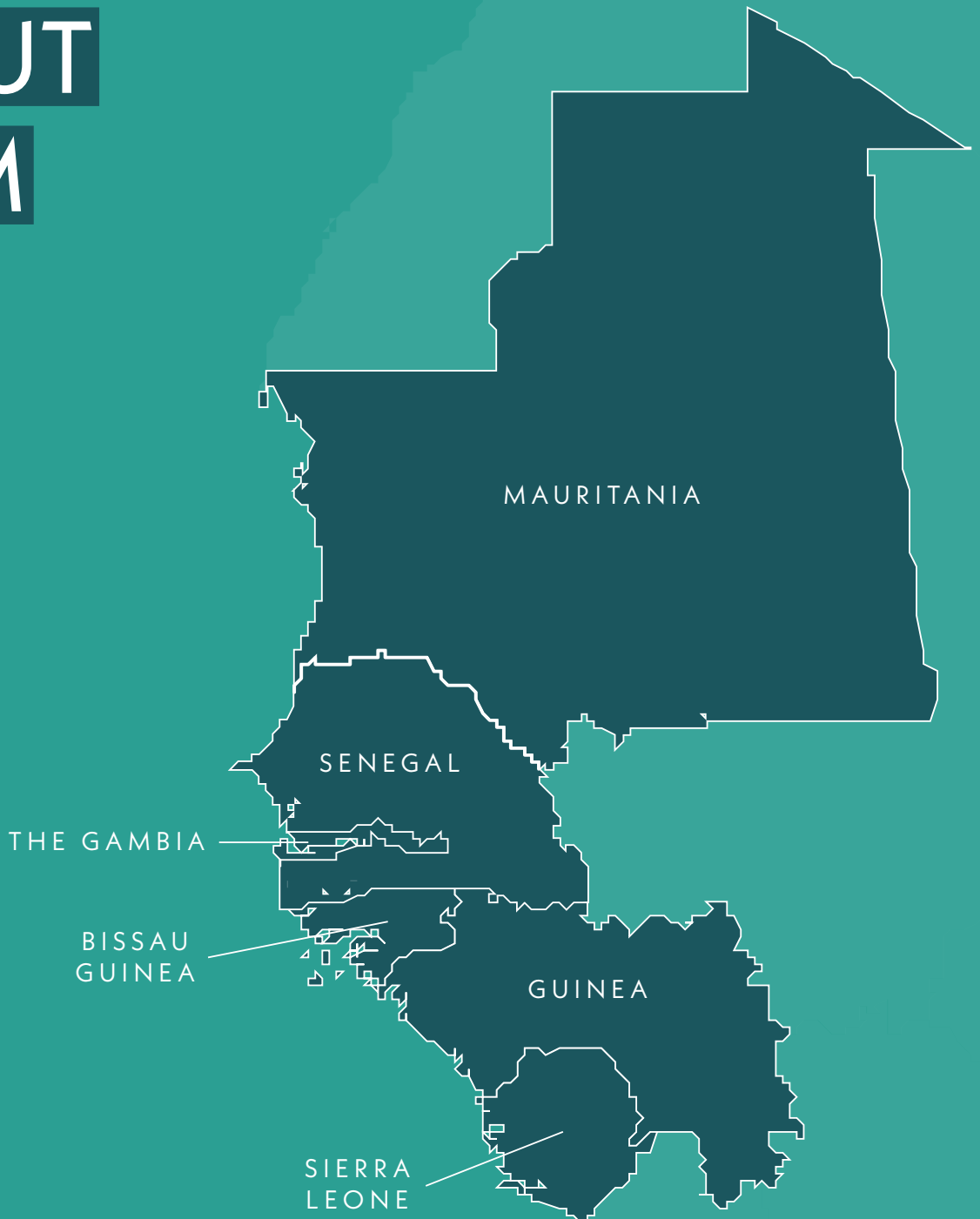
For 2023 and the years to come, new projects await us with their share of challenges. Mindful of this, we have embarked on updating our strategy for the next 10 years. We will continue our institutional development, strengthen our work processes for improved efficiency, develop and implement new projects, and much more.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their support, the partners with whom we work hand in hand, and all my colleagues whose daily commitment ensures that PRCM's high standards are maintained.

With gratitude,

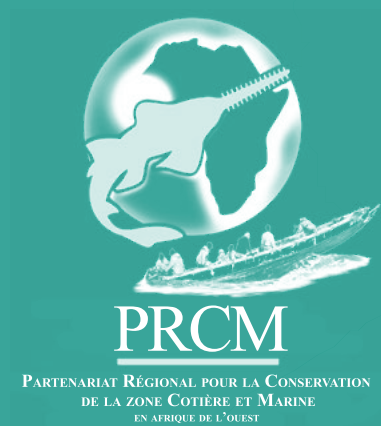
Dr Ahmed Senhoury,
Executive Director, PRCM

ABOUT PRCM



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 across seven countries: Cabo 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 area in West Africa.

Our thematic areas



Protecting vulnerable marine and coastal species and habitats



Strengthening the resilience of coastal and marine communities and ecosystems



Promoting sustainable fisheries



Reducing the impact of infrastructure and extractive operations on coastal and marine areas

SPOTLIGHT





Institutional development

Strengthening our credibility and working more closely with the actors on the ground

Since changing its status to that of an NGO, PRCM has continued its institutional change **with great satisfaction**, while maintaining the optimal functioning of its governing bodies.

In September 2022, a General Assembly was held in Bissau at the end of which the Board of Directors was renewed with members elected for a two-year mandate. The new team will diligently pursue its mission to advance the Partnership.

As interest in the Partnership continues to grow, new membership applications have been submitted and reviewed. The General Assembly unanimously approved **10 new member organisations and institutions**. To date, PRCM has 48 members.

In its expansion strategy, PRCM signed on 13 December 2022 an agreement with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to establish a new office in the country in 2023. This decision, approved by the Board of Directors, reflects the Partnership's desire to work closely with its partners on the ground to ensure that projects are properly implemented.

In the same spirit, applications for agreements for offices in Senegal, Mauritania and Guinea have been submitted.

Besides, PRCM will move in early 2023 to the Conservation House (LMC), a new headquarter office financed by the MAVA Foundation for Nature. PRCM will share the premises with other partner organisations: **BirdLife International, RAMPAO, and Wetlands International**. This new office will enable PRCM to secure its institutional anchorage in the long term, to strengthen its collaboration with partner organisations, and to open a new chapter in its development.

Year after year, our development policy is shaped by methods blending flexibility, adaptability, and a continuing quest for innovative solutions. We continue to devote our efforts to value creation by improving the efficiency of our operations, increasing our scale, and growing our project portfolio. This is the result of a strong belief in our mission and a highly committed staff.



Mobilising financial partnerships

Raising funds to pursue our objective

A new chapter begins for PRCM as funding from **MAVA**, our long-standing partner, ends this year. The last funds MAVA provided allowed us to develop the 3rd phase of the projects PAZHOC (migratory birds) and COBIA (oil & gaz), with respectively 930,000 euros and 300,000 euros for a 3-year period each. An additional financial contribution was made for the implementation of phase 3 of the “Small Pelagic Species” project.

From an early stage, we realised the need to diversify our income streams to ensure our sustainability. Our fundraising strategy has yielded results that enable us to pursue our mission and support our partners.

At the end of 2022, PRCM signed a 4-year funding agreement of 4 million euros with the **Hans Wilsdorf Foundation** for the implementation of phase 2 of the “*Sea Turtle Survival*” project in Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Cabo Verde, Republic of Guinea and Sierra Leone.

To continue its institutional development, PRCM has also received significant support from this Foundation amounting to 1.25 million euros for a period of 5 years.

PRCM also concluded a 4-year funding agreement with the **DOB Ecology Foundation** to implement phase 2 of the “*Mangrove Conservation in Guinea*” project for an amount of 1.2 million euros.

In 2022, PRCM signed a 5-year funding agreement of 2.6 million euros with the **French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)** for the implementation of a major project on the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems. The World Bank is currently negotiating with UEMOA to co-finance this project under WACA for 2.5 million US dollars.

PRCM has also secured 4.5 million euro funding from the **Blue Action Fund** for an ambitious project to improve management of the Marine Protected Areas in the Bijagos Archipelago in Guinea-Bissau. This project will start in June 2023 for a period of 5 years.

We are currently negotiating with other donors for funding. These negotiations concern the Research Programme on Marine and Coastal Areas in Senegal (PREMAC) with **BP** amounting 370 000 dollars and the support project for the development of an additional protocol for MPAs under the Abidjan Convention for an amount of 120 000 euros. The East Atlantic Flyway project financed under the IKI initiative and for which PRCM has renewed its commitment should be developed in 2023 and will allocate 600 000 euros to PRCM.

Main activities and key results

In 2022, PRCM coordinated and steered the implementation ambitious regional and national projects and action plans:



Sea Turtle Survival Project

Since the start of the regional project “*Sea Turtle Survival in West Africa*” (STM) in 2020, a total of 15 field projects have been implemented in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, and Mauritania. We have made significant progress in building knowledge of turtle populations and in our connection with relevant countries. In Mauritania, research teams involving the native Imraguen fishermen with sailing boats captured and tagged green turtles, highlighting the role of the Banc d’Arguin National Park as a globally important feeding ground for this species.

In Senegal, we conducted a sea turtle research project with the experts of Institute of Applied Psychology (ISPA,) which helped us to evaluate the number of sea turtles living in the Saloum Delta and to measure its significance from a regional perspective. It emerged that the Saloum Delta is among the most important areas for sea turtles in Africa.

In Guinea-Bissau, we held the first ever West Africa symposium on sea turtles at IBAP headquarters. With participants from the 7 countries where PRCM operates and 4 European countries, the symposium focused on sharing technical and scientific information relevant to the region with a particular emphasis on research projects and surveillance programmes.

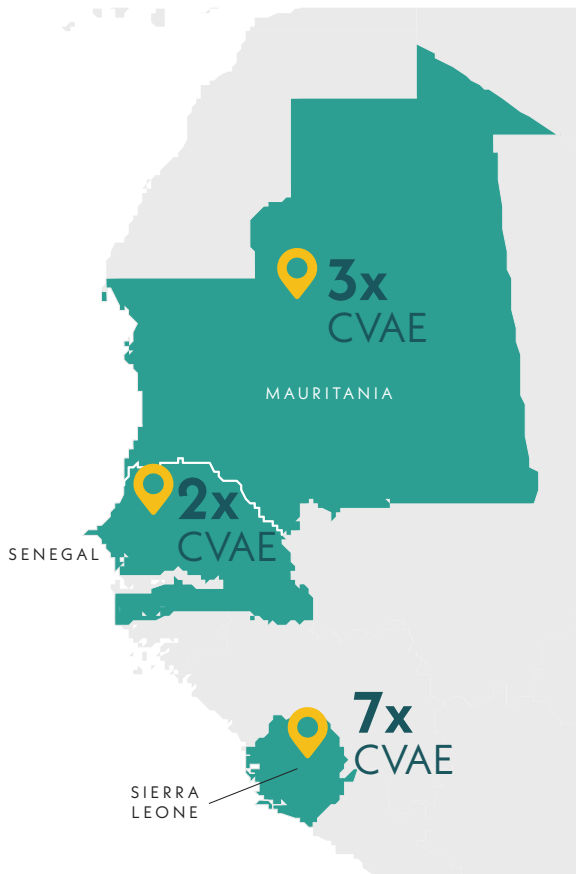


Reducing the Impact of Oil and Gas Operations - COBIA

The COBIA initiative aims to improve the management of environmental risks related to the offshore oil and gas industry in four West African countries: Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. In 2022, COBIA managed to strengthen the collaboration between stakeholders and mobilise them through an innovative, participative, inclusive and interactive approach. To prevent potential risks from offshore oil and gas activities, 11 Environmental Watch and Warning Committees (EWCs) have been set up in the 4 countries that provide “*citizen oversight*” in areas where operations are impacted and act as relays for authorities when incidents occur.

The infographic below shows the number and location of these committees:

- ✦ In Kayar and Saint-Louis in Senegal, 1 CVAE;
- ✦ In Sierra Leone, 7 CVAE;
- ✦ In Mauritania, 3 CVAE.

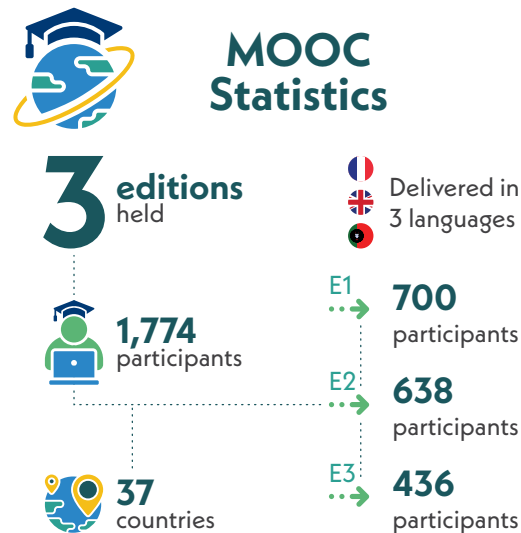


Similarly, we have developed the POLMAR-TERRE Plan in Senegal, an innovation enabling us to deal with marine pollution caused by accidental oil spills in the coastal area. The Mauritania POLMAR Plan has been updated and the development of the Guinea-Bissau POLMAR Plan is underway.

To strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to advocate on environmental management issues related to oil and gas operations, we have produced a practical guide on how to develop and implement effective strategies. The guide is available in English, French and Portuguese.

We also continued our mission of strengthening the capacities of West African stakeholders through the launch of the **3rd edition of the MOOC** (Massive Open Online Course) on the environmental management of oil and gas activities in West Africa. This MOOC, that was offered in three languages (**French, English** and **Portuguese**), was followed by 600 people.

The infographic below presents a snapshot of the statistics since the 1st edition:



Senegal	Niger	Congo	Saint Lucia
Mauritania	Nigeria	Switzerland	Liberia
Guinée-Bissau	Tunisia	Germany	Libya
Côte d'Ivoire	France	Algeria	Madagascar
Guinea	DR Congo	Spain	Macao
Cameroon	Morocco	UK	Portugal
Mali	Mozambique	The Gambia	Qatar
Benin	Brazil	Italy	Sierra Leone
Ghana	Canada	Comoros	Uganda
Cabo-Verde			

The three editions of this MOOCs created a substantial pool of resource persons on the issues of environmental management in oil and gas operations.

In May 2022 we participated in the MSGBC Basin Summit, a high-level event dedicated to exploring energy opportunities in Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea (MSGBC), held at the King Fahd Palace Hotel in Dakar. We took this opportunity to inform stakeholders on our commitment to increase awareness and reduce the impact of offshore oil and gas operations on marine and coastal biodiversity.



Reducing the Impact of Coastal Infrastructure (PRISE)

Infrastructural development and uncontrolled urbanisation pose serious threats to the vulnerable ecosystems of the West African coastal area.

To address this, the Regional Project for Reducing the Impacts of Coastal Infrastructure on Ecosystems in West Africa (PRISE) was initiated in five countries: Senegal, Mauritania, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea. PRISE targets seagrass beds, mangroves, and marine turtle nesting beaches. It is implemented by multi-stakeholder teams (CSOs, universities, state institutions, NGOs, media). PRISE has led to (i) the establishment of watch and warning committees in the various target countries, which has made it possible to denounce unsustainable practices in vulnerable areas, (ii) the development of land use plans, and (iii) the production of good practice guides on vulnerable coastal ecosystems.

In 2022, PRISE supported the environmental impact assessments of the construction of the Ndiago port in Mauritania and of the road linking this port to the national road N°1.



Sustainable management of Small Pelagic Species

As part of the implementation of phase 2 of the project “Sustainable Management of Stocks and Critical Coastal Sites for Small Pelagic Species”, remarkable results were achieved in the promotion of transparency in fisheries management.

One of the key results is the launch of the membership process of Cabo Verde to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) as well as the preparation of Guinea's application for FiTI. PRCM supported the FiTI processes in these two countries. Mauritania's application process was also pursued through the production of a third FiTI report. Other advocacy actions for transparency in fisheries management are ongoing in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau.

In Mauritania and Senegal PRCM implemented the Fisheries Transparency Index that it developed in previous years. This catalyst will serve to encourage and engage stakeholders, in particular decision-makers, to take appropriate actions.

In terms of capacity building, national workshops were organised to equip fishing. These workshops were an opportunity to present and popularise the PRCM **“Practical Guide for negotiating fishing agreements”**.

PRCM, in line with the fruitful collaboration with its partners in the project, i.e., NAAFO, ANAPA, FNPA, CONIPAS and WADAF, also organised several awareness-raising activities and advocacy workshops that strengthened the capacities of the fishing stakeholders and raised their awareness on the challenges of small pelagic species management.



Mangrove conservation in Guinea

In Guinea, since 2017 we have been implementing the mangrove conservation project on the Tristao Islands. We mobilized stakeholders on the ground in reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, rehabilitation of mangrove rice fields as well as through the promotion of tools that reduce the consumption of mangrove wood as a source of energy and participatory surveillance. In 2022 123 ha of new mangroves were planted, and 24,74 ha were restored through natural regeneration.

Support to the communities of Tristao continued by managing 284.67 ha rice perimeters and the provision of pipes for better water management of the rice ponds. The community benefited from 80 improved stoves for women's fish-smoking groups and palm oil producers. The installation of 200 improved stoves for household cooking has reduced the pressure on mangrove wood, while easing women's workload. Equipment and materials were granted to groups of solar salt producers, market gardeners and

beekeepers and assistance in marketing their products was given through exchange visits.

Regarding the governance of this marine protected area, teachers and students from five elementary schools in Tristao were educated on environmental issues with the integration of a training curriculum in their programme.

In 2023, we intend to continue these efforts by duplicating successful experiences in the neighbouring MPA Kapatchez, further empower the Tristao women producer groups and intensify surveillance.



Fisheries Governance in Senegal

The “*Fisheries Governance in Senegal-GPS*” project that fights illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU) in Senegal is funded by the Ocean 5 Foundation. The project started in 2021. In 2022, we focused our actions on disseminating the concept of transparency in fishing among political authorities, government officials, and civil society organisations. The challenge is to have Senegal adhere to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI).

An equally significant output was the implementation of an information system to document the results of the fight against IUU fishing. We procured computer equipment and launched the official website of the **Directorate for the Protection and Surveillance of Fisheries (DPSP)**. The DASE application has also been developed, to document results of the fight against IUU fishing in the artisanal segment.



Improving Participatory Surveillance in Senegal Project (ASPS)

The “*Improving Participatory Surveillance in Senegal-ASPS*” project, funded by the Oak Foundation, comes as an addition to the above Fishery Governance project. Its objective is to combat harmful fishing practices in the Senegalese territorial sea by effectively and sustainably improving the capacities of the Local Artisanal Fisheries Council (CLPAs) and the participatory surveillance squads so they can contribute under the highest security conditions.

In seven pilot sites in Senegal (Saint-Louis, Lompoul, Fass Boye, Djiffer, Niodior, Cap Skirring and Kafountine), the project has trained the community surveillance squads in monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, in safety at sea and first aid. We also provided them with safety navigation equipment and funding to strengthen and facilitate patrols at sea and on land.

Advocacy activities were also conducted to encourage the adoption of regulations related to fisheries guard status and the transfer of 60% of artisanal fishing license fees to CLPAs.



Fisheries Governance in Guinea

For the Fisheries Governance project in Guinea several advocacy and capacity building activities were carried out, including:

- A workshop on the use of new technologies in fisheries monitoring;
- Providing computer equipment to the Ministry of Fisheries;
- Assisting the Department of Fisheries in the launch of its website;
- Developing fisheries management plans for 2022 and 2023;
- Workshops to inform stakeholders in the fisheries sector about the laws and regulations on transparency and the fight against IUU fishing.



Reducing the by-catch of birds and sea turtles in industrial fisheries in West Africa

In the “Reducing birds and sea turtles by-catch in industrial fisheries in West Africa” project, we conducted awareness campaigns for decision-makers, with significant impact. By-catch is now considered a major threat to marine wildlife and countries have started to update their legislation accordingly. Sea turtle by-catch provisions have been strengthened in various fisheries legislations that include recommended measures to reduce interactions with industrial fisheries.

In collaboration with the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP) we drafted and submitted an additional protocol to the Convention on Minimum Access Conditions to Fishery Resources addressing

the by-catch of birds and sea turtles. This protocol is in the process of being adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the CSRP. It is one of our key achievements in this project.



Small-scale Initiatives and Financial mechanisms for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in West Africa Project

To support sustainable financing mechanisms, PRCM conducted two studies on possibilities to introduce “green taxes” in Guinea Bissau and Senegal, to finance their protected areas

We also promoted the Regional Conservation Trust Fund project, at our Forum and at the African Parks Congress (APAC).



2023 - 2027 Strategy

Enhancing the excellence of our core business and increasing our efficiency

At its General Assembly held in Bissau in September 2022, PRCM evaluated and updated its strategy by incorporating new trends and emerging issues. The 2023-2027 strategy seeks to realign PRCM's work by focusing on the areas where we can be most effective:

- Conservation of vulnerable marine and coastal species and ecosystems;
- Sustainable fisheries;
- Reducing the impact of infrastructure and extractive industries on coastal and marine areas;
- Strengthening the resilience of coastal and marine communities and ecosystems to climate change;
- Combating ocean plastic pollution.

In all these areas, PRCM will continue its collaboration with civil society whose role is critical. The PRCM civil society “college” will be expanded and further structured.

To achieve sustainable results, the updated PRCM strategy integrates 3 intervention pillars:

- **Knowledge sharing:** PRCM provides added value to its partners by striving to share knowledge with decision-makers and local stakeholders;
- **Awareness raising:** PRCM works to raise the awareness of actors, decision-makers and consumers on the importance of sustainable and transparent management of resources;
- **Policy and lobbying:** PRCM's expertise in supporting policy makers is essential to improve legislation, increase the protection of critical areas for the sustainability of resources in the region, and increase the transparency of fishing agreements.



EVENTS





The Regional Coastal and Marine Forum

The favoured space for dialogue between conservation actors and partners in West Africa

The 10th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum was held from 29 March to 1 April 2022 in Saly, Senegal. The theme was *“The health of the oceans, a challenge for the sustainable development of West African coastal countries”*. During this week there was an exceptional exchange between actors working in the field of conservation. With more than 450 participants, the event brought together national and intergovernmental institutions, scientific institutions, universities, national and international NGOs, socio-professional organisations, the private sector (fisheries, tourism, oil and gas) and technical and financial partners, to jointly reflect and decide on the future of our oceans.

We had plenary sessions, including two leaders' conferences, five technical workshops and 27 side events, a *“Talking projects”* session and film screenings, with some 50 rich and varied presentations.

The Forum yielded strong recommendations documented in the **Saly Declaration**. These recommendations, produced in a participatory manner, demonstrate once again the yearning for change of all parties in the face of threats and new phenomena such as climate change, but also rapid expansion of extractive industries, overfishing, marine pollution, rampant industrialisation and depletion of ecosystems.

The PRCM Forum has once again confirmed its relevance in meeting the needs of stakeholders for exchange and dialogue on coastal and marine conservation issues.

All resources and communications are available on the Forum website.

All eyes are now on the 11th edition of the Forum to be held in Bissau and for which preparations will soon begin.

The APAC World Congress

2022 was a year in which PRCM raised its profile regionally and internationally by participating in major forums including the IUCN African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) held in Kigali, Rwanda.

This is the first ever continent-wide gathering of African leaders, citizens, and interest groups to discuss the role of protected areas in nature conservation, safeguarding

Africa's iconic wildlife, providing vital ecosystem services, promoting sustainable development while preserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions.

PRCM hosted 4 side events at the stand MAVA provided to West African actors.

We also encourage and supported the participation of several local organisations in this major event.

Participation in the Wadden Sea Forum

PRCM was invited to participate in the 14th Trilateral Government Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea held in Wilhelmshaven, Germany from 28 November to 1 December 2022. At this forum, the Executive Director of PRCM gave a speech on behalf of conservation actors in West Africa, highlighting the

opportunities for cooperation between the North and West African areas of the East Atlantic Flyway. PRCM signed the Declaration of Support for the common flyway vision of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative in the presence of the Ministers of the 3 EU countries: Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands







COMMUNICATION

PRCM Social networks statistics

 Facebook : **98,471**

 Twitter : **2,233**

 Instagram : **3,434**

 LinkedIn : **747**

 Youtube : **448**



Explain and enhance understanding

Communication plays a central role at PRCM, enabling us to bring our partners together to achieve common goals. In 2022, we have worked relentlessly not only to increase the visibility of our projects but also to explain our mission and facilitate understanding by using appropriate channels, multiplying and adapting our messages, and measuring impact. This educational endeavour is at the heart of our communication approach.

We are also constantly looking for emerging trends to rethink our relationship with diverse audiences (members, partners, governments, donors, civil society, media, etc.) to avoid communication that could lead to misunderstanding.

This is why, wherever relevant, we prioritize actions on the ground such as awareness raising events.

We have developed tools that help us to stay in touch with our target groups.

The PRCM website, our main showcase, has been redesigned to provide an optimal browsing experience. We work hard to update the content regularly.

Similarly, the PRCM newsletter, whose publication frequency has evolved, provides exclusive news about our activities and those of our partners. It is distributed to our large network with consistently positive feedback on its content.

We are very active on social media. Our community is steadily growing. We regularly share up-to-date content on all our platforms, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#), where we have more than 105,296 subscribers.

We also work on knowledge production through studies, reports, books, etc. All our publications are available on our [WebGis](#), a wealth of information.

We continue to deepen our collaboration with the media by building a pool of journalists specialised in the thematic areas we support. To this end, we have supported the establishment of a coastal radio station in Guinea, which will be launched soon.

In terms of outlook, we plan to implement several high value-added concepts aimed at achieving real behaviour change. We will also launch large-scale communication campaigns on both our flagship themes and lesser-known themes.



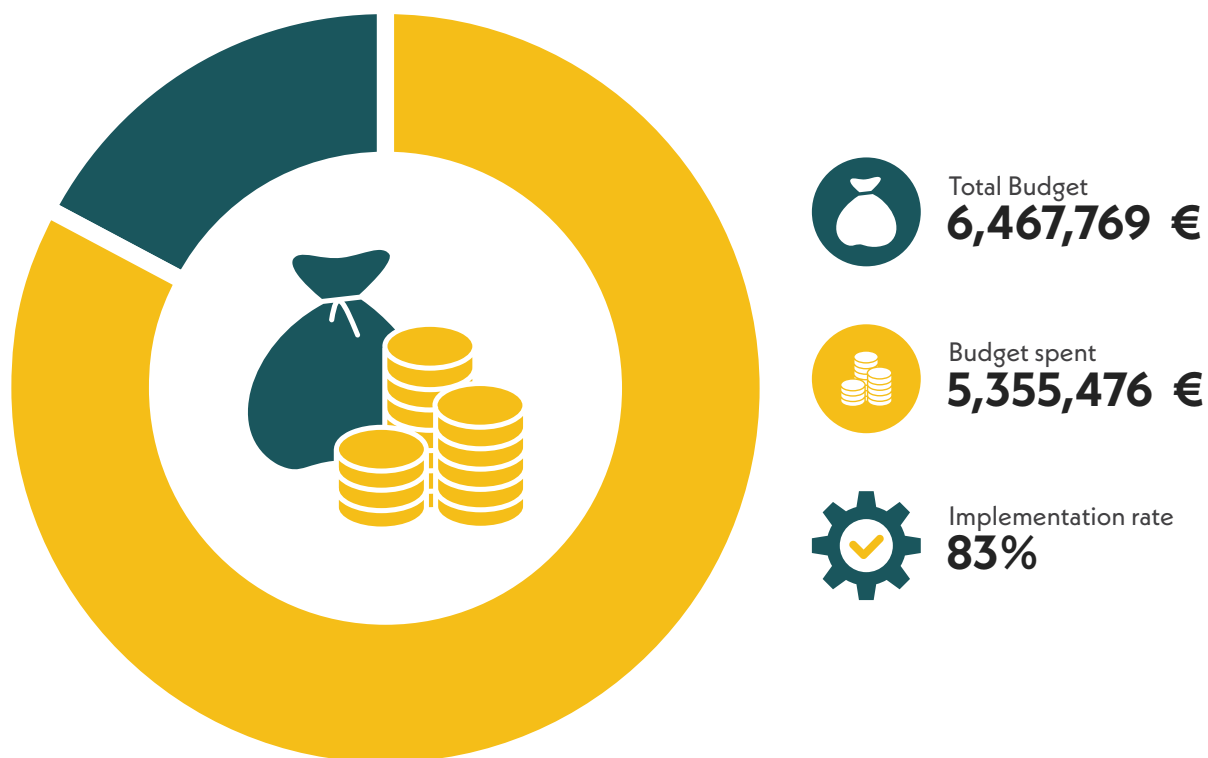
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



In 2022, the **total PRCM budget was 6,467,769 euros**. This is an increase of 13% compared to 2021.

Total expenditures amounted to **5,355,476 euros**, representing an **implementation rate of 83%**.

The infographic below shows the breakdown of our budget execution.



CONCLUSION





We express our gratitude to this Foundation by acknowledging its long-term support for the conservation of coastal and marine areas in West Africa. Dr Luc Hoffmann's vision, renewed by André Hoffmann and all the MAVA staff, has led to the creation of a plethora of national players who are taking up the torch of conservation with strengthened skills and renewed commitment. PRCM has been working in this direction and has grown stronger over time as an organisation serving a multitude of partners.

We are prepared to meet the challenges of the coming years with the strength of our collective commitment. On this journey, we will never lose sight of the importance of our vision: **a healthy and productive marine and coastal environment for the well-being of West African populations.**



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#SharedAmbition



We express our deep gratitude to the financial partners
who support our mission.

