



Annual report

2024

Regional Partnership for the Conservation of
the Coastal and Marine Zone in West Africa

We are infinitely grateful to the financial partners
who support our mission.

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Acronyms

GPS	Fisheries Governance in Senegal
PREMAC	Marine and Coastal Environment Research Program
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
RESILAO	Resilience of African Coastlines
FOMACO	Marine and Coastal Forum
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
CNT	National Transitional Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
PND	Diawling National Park
UNOC	United Nations Ocean Conference
WACA	West Africa Coastal Areas Program
WMBD	World Migratory Bird Day
INIPO	National Institute for Fisheries and Oceanographic Research
MCO	Mangroves for Climate and Oceans
CERES	Regional Center for Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety
WWD	World Wetlands Day

Interview with PRCM Executive Director

How did PRCM get through 2024, and what were the main challenges it had to face?

Ahmed SENHOURY (AS) : The year 2024 was a pivotal year for PRCM, marked by important challenges and strategic issues. Our main priority has been to consolidate and sustain PRCM, a work that we have been actively carrying out since MAVA's withdrawal. We are pleased to see that our efforts are beginning to bear fruit.

This success is reflected in the increased confidence shown in us by our technical and financial partners. To maintain this credibility, we have strengthened our governance tools to make them more effective and professional.

In addition, with the arrival of new donors who are working with PRCM for the first time, we had to learn to adapt to their requirements.

At the same time, we have launched new projects in the countries. Despite sometimes unstable political contexts, we have been able to remain committed and continue our actions.

What concrete actions have you implemented to meet the challenges encountered, and how do your initiatives contribute to your success today?

AS : To meet the challenges encountered, we have embarked on a multi-pronged approach to strengthen our effectiveness and impact.

At the institutional level, we conducted an in-depth organizational audit to identify our needs and areas for improvement to better meet the challenges of the coming years. This diagnosis, carried out with the support of an international firm, made it possible to draw up strategic recommendations, leading to the development of an ambitious operational plan, the implementation of which will begin in 2025.

Then, we stepped up our resource mobilization efforts by developing a solid business plan. This will allow us to identify new technical and financial partners, establish strategic collaborations and guarantee a solid basis for the deployment of our projects over the long term. In addition, to support this growth dynamic, we have recruited new talent within our administrative and technical teams, particularly in the countries where we have strengthened our presence.

Our main priority has been to consolidate and perpetuate the PRCM, a task we've been actively pursuing since MAVA withdrew.

On the other hand, we have also made the strategic choice to strengthen the presence of our team in our new offices in Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. This expansion aims to facilitate the implementation of our actions on the ground, to consolidate our local roots and to promote closer collaboration with our partners. Thanks to these new locations, we now have dedicated teams, capable of ensuring effective monitoring of projects in the field.

In 2024, PRCM organised the 11th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum, which is now an unmissable event. Could you share some thoughts on the organization and impact of this major event for conservation in West Africa?

AS : The 11th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum was held in Guinea-Bissau and has once again established itself as an unmissable event for the sector's stakeholders. Its growing success is reflected in a regular and constantly increasing participation, reinforced by the involvement of actors from various backgrounds and fields of conservation.

The 2024 edition was distinguished by the presence of senior political figures, including the President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and his Prime Minister. In addition, the event is attracting a growing number of funders, as evidenced by the organization of a round table specifically dedicated to them, illustrating their growing interest in the themes addressed.

Another highlight of this edition was the significant improvement in the quality of the technical sessions, which enriched the debates and brought new strategic perspectives, thus contributing to strengthening the impact of the Forum.

What are the priority objectives of PRCM for the year 2025, and how do they fit into your long-term strategic vision?

AS : The mission of PRCM is to ensure a healthy and productive marine and coastal environment for the well-being of West African communities. In 2025, we will continue to focus our actions on this direction, which is why we have revised our 2024-2034 strategy to better respond to emerging challenges. Among our new priorities, we will include new themes such as the High Seas.

We will also launch major advocacy campaigns to influence public policies on major issues such as fisheries governance, coastal resilience and species protection. Our collaboration with parliamentarians will play a key role, and we will focus on strengthening their network.

In parallel, we will continue to develop and strengthen our ongoing initiatives, including Blue Bijagós, «Swimming in Dangerous Waters», Sea Turtle Monitoring, West African Coastal Resilience Project, Fisheries Governance and Mangroves, while setting up new projects.

PRCM's mission is to ensure a healthy and productive marine and coastal environment for the well-being of West African communities. In 2025, we will continue to focus our actions in this direction

We will also continue to strengthen the Partnership by implementing its action plan and strengthening our presence on the ground. Another priority will be to energize the service of the members of PRCM to make it a real space for exchange and collaboration.

Finally, we will focus on the visibility of PRCM by actively participating in major international events such as the UNOC to be held in Nice, France and the IUCN World Congress to be held in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, in order to better carry our commitment and actions on the world stage.

Dr Ahmed Senhoury
Executive Director, PRCM



About PRCM



AREA OF INTERVENTION

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



VISION

Working towards a healthy and productive marine and coastal environment for the well-being of West African people.



MISSIONS

- ☛ Serve as a platform that federates coastal and marine conservation initiatives;
- ☛ Networking members and technical and scientific expertise;
- ☛ Serve as a framework for consultation between the different categories of actors;
- ☛ Be a resource center to capitalize on members' experiences and make useful information available;
- ☛ To be an effective actor for the implementation of field projects combining both the need for nature conservation and the search for the well-being of coastal communities.

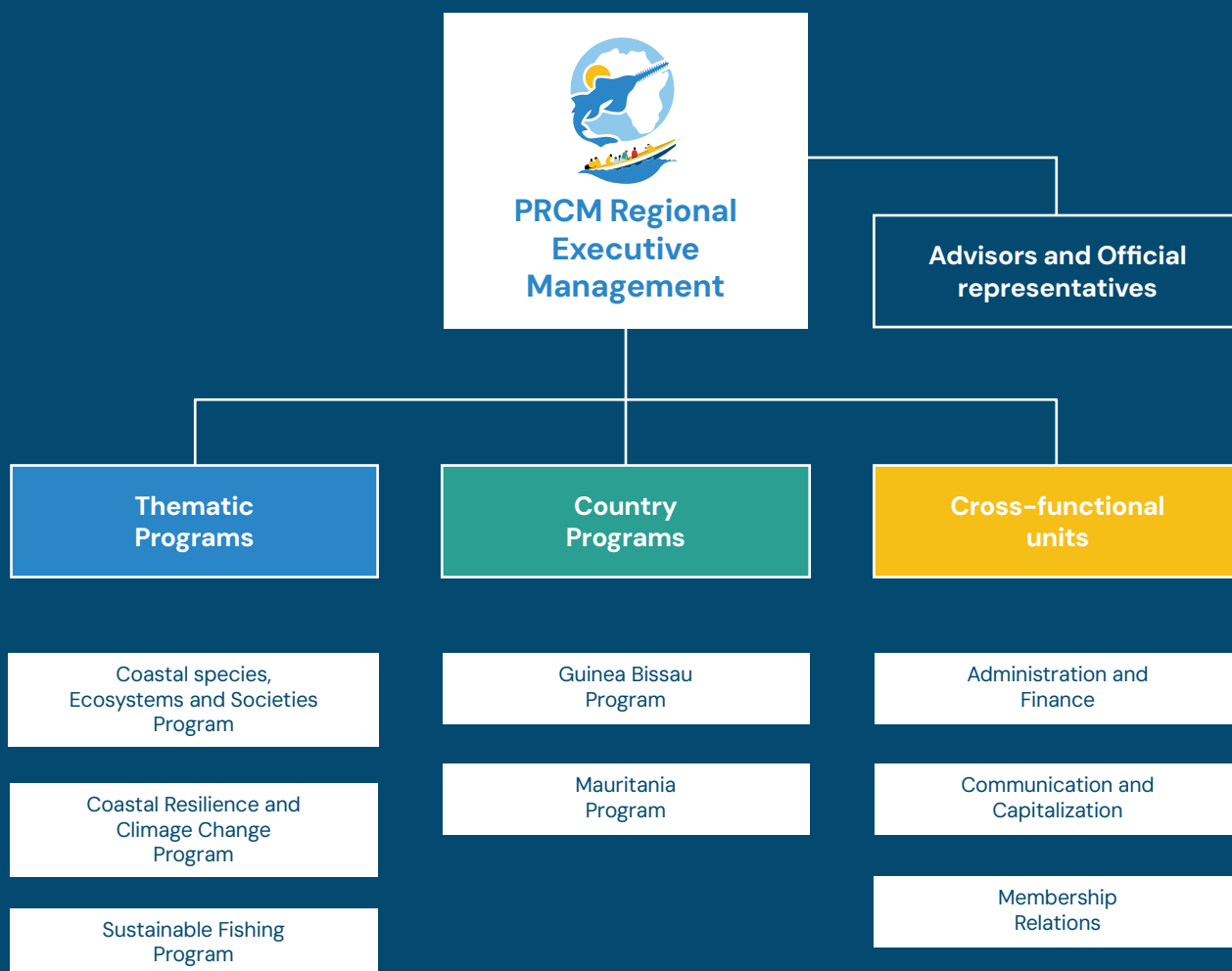



GOVERNANCE

The governance of PRCM is composed of the following bodies:

- 📌 The Board of Directors defines the policy of our mission, its strategy and oversees its implementation.
- 📌 The General Assembly is the deliberative body. It brings together all active and associate members.
- 📌 The Executive Directorate is the management, animation and coordination body. It is made up of a team of employees.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





FOMACO 2024

An exceptional edition



The 11th edition of the Regional Coastal and Marine Forum (FOMACO), organized by PRCM, was held in Bissau from 23 to 26 April 2024. The event once again delivered on its promise by bringing together conservation stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to reflect on the future of the West African coastline under the theme: «*Conservation, Resilience and Sustainable Development of the West African Coastline in the Face of Global Change*».

More than 400 participants from Africa and beyond took part in the exchanges, enriched by 31 parallel sessions, 11 technical workshops and 3 plenaries, with extensive media coverage by more than 35 media outlets and the publication of more than 100 articles.

A highlight of this edition was the presence of the President of Guinea-Bissau, His Excellency Umaro Sissoco Embaló, who, in his inaugural speech, praised the initiative and congratulated the organizers for the quality of the forum.

**Over 400
participants from
Africa and beyond
took part in the
discussions**

The Forum also provided the framework for the organization of three major special events, bringing together experts, decision-makers and partners committed to the preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Among the highlights was the donors' roundtable, which mobilized technical and financial partners on the challenges and opportunities related to conservation in West Africa. This exchange fostered an in-depth reflection on sustainable financing mechanisms and possible synergies between the different actors.

A special day dedicated to carbon was also organised, highlighting the importance of the framework for international climate negotiations and its implications for the region. This session provided a better understanding of the challenges of financing blue carbon initiatives, a key solution for the preservation of marine ecosystems and the fight against climate change.

Finally, a leaders' conference on the opportunities and challenges of conserving the West African marine and coastal area brought together policymakers, scientists and civil society representatives. It made it possible to identify priority levers for action and to strengthen the collective commitment to sustainable management of biodiversity for the benefit of local communities.

Finally, the Forum resulted in the adoption of the [Bissau Declaration](#), a strong commitment by regional stakeholders to the conservation and sustainable development of the West African coast.

[▶ Relive the highlights of the Forum](#)

The next edition will take place in 2026 in Mauritania.



Institutional development



Strengthening the governance of PRCM

PRCM's intervention strategy is based on a clear vision and precise objectives, which are expanded each year to meet the challenges of marine and coastal conservation in West Africa. In 2024, this strategy was updated, resulting in a new strategic framework for the period 2024–2032. This framework updates PRCM's intervention themes and redefines its priorities in order to increase its impact in the region.

To ensure the effective implementation of this strategy, PRCM has developed a business plan to identify financing needs for the period 2024–2032. The document also proposes concrete ways to mobilize the necessary financial resources, strengthen the financial sustainability of the Partnership and close the funding gaps.

In line with this approach, PRCM's fundraising strategy has been revised in order to better align with the new challenges of the program and to exploit the opportunities identified in the business plan. This update aims to diversify the sources of funding and to guarantee an effective mobilization of the funds essential for the implementation of the actions of PRCM.

Similarly, PRCM's intervention policy is supported by functional governance bodies, as evidenced by the regular holding of meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly, which ensure rigorous monitoring of actions and collective decision-making.

The thirteenth meeting of the Board of Directors, held on November 4, 2024 in Banjul, Gambia, illustrated this dynamic. It addressed key strategic and organizational aspects, including business status, fundraising, organizational development, and long-term planning.

This update aims to diversify the sources of funding and to guarantee an effective mobilization of the funds essential for the implementation of the actions of PRCM

Organizational Development

In 2024, PRCM launched an organizational development process with an international firm, following an audit earlier this year. Five priority areas have been identified: finance, project management, human resources, communication and member services. These efforts have strengthened the structure and effectiveness of PRCM.

An action plan for the organizational development of PRCM was drawn up in order to address the deficiencies identified in the audit. The implementation of this action plan started mid-2024 and will result, among other things, in the acquisition of new management tools such as ERP, the development of new skills, the training of staff in essential areas to ensure sustainable growth of PRCM and better performance.

An action plan for the organizational development of PRCM was drawn up in order to address the deficiencies identified in the audit

MOBILIZATION OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

As part of the revitalization of technical partnerships, PRCM led a task force throughout 2024 to support the preparation of the 6th edition of the International Congress on Protected Areas (IMPAC6) scheduled to take place in Dakar in 2027. This task force has undertaken several advocacy actions for better management of IMPAC6 both in Senegal's national agenda and in the global conservation agenda. A roadmap for the preparation of this congress was developed and several congress funding opportunities were identified.

In this context, the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des îles was able to mobilize significant funding from Canadian cooperation to support IMPAC6. The task force plans to organize the first meeting of the IMPAC6 International Steering Committee in early 2025.


PRCM had the honor of organizing several meetings with its financial partners. In this context, it is worth mentioning that large delegation from Oceans 5 led by its Executive Director

visited PRCM, which made it possible to identify important areas of collaboration.

The Director of PRCM visited the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation in Geneva in September 2024. This visit allowed PRCM to present its business plan to the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation and to a group of donors brought together for this occasion by this strategic partner of PRCM.

Several fundraising efforts have borne fruit, with funding agreements being finalized and new projects launched in 2024.


These projects include:



Project name


WACA ResIP 2

The regional «*citizen mobilization and multi-stakeholder dialogue*» component of the second phase of the WACA project, scheduled to run from 2024 to 2027, has been entrusted to the PRCM.



Funding


\$2.5 million



Project name


Bijagos Biosphere

The project to strengthen conservation of the Bijagos Biosphere Reserve funded by the Rainforest Trust Foundation.



Funding

\$1.8 million



Project name


Jeta-Peixe-Cacheu Biosphere

The Jeta-Peixe-Cacheu biosphere reserve project in Guinea Bissau, funded by Oceans 5.



Funding


EUR 2.6 million



Project name

Banc d'Arguin

Banc d'Arguin plastic waste management project financed by the Canary Islands Cooperation.



Funding

EUR 55,000

Focus on conservation actions in 2024





Coastal species, ecosystems and societies

The coastal zones of West Africa are home to exceptional biological wealth, with a wide diversity of species and ecosystems that play an essential role in maintaining ecological balances, food security and the livelihoods of local communities. In response to growing pressures (overexploitation, pollution, erosion, urbanization, climate change), PRCM and its partners aim to protect endangered species, restore natural environments and support local initiatives for sustainable management.

SEA TURTLE SURVIVAL

A regional and multi-stakeholder alliance for biodiversity



Despite significant advances in conservation and awareness, sea turtles continue to face many threats natural habitats

As part of its Sea Turtle Survival (STM) program, PRCM is actively pursuing its efforts to protect these emblematic species of marine biodiversity in West Africa. Despite significant advances in conservation and awareness, sea turtles continue to face many threats, such as plastic pollution, incidental capture in fishing gear, and destruction of their natural habitats.

The year 2024 nevertheless marked an important milestone for PRCM and its partners, with promising results testifying to the effectiveness of the collaborative actions implemented at the regional level to ensure the sustainable preservation of these species.

Actions carried out

In 2024, the project has made significant progress:

- **At the regional level,** a significant increase in the number of sea turtle nests has been recorded, with nearly 217,128 nests observed and monitored by field actors from the various organizations involved in the project. This represents a 39% increase compared to 2023, when 132,709 nests were counted.
- **Community involvement:** A Homestay program, supporting 25 women from the islands of Santiago and Maio, has been set up to welcome tourists and volunteers. Similarly, four ecoguides have been trained to strengthen local ecotourism.
- **Active participation:** 839 people contributed directly to the project in Cape Verde, and 116 volunteers participated in the project's actions in Guinea-Bissau.
- **Regional awareness-raising:** More than 6,840 people were sensitized (+16% compared to 2023) through campaigns on turtle protection and the fight against marine pollution.
- **Scientific production:** Research activities continue in Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau, with three scientific papers on sea turtles published in 2024. This will deepen the understanding and protection of the nesting and feeding areas of these turtles in both countries.
- **Strategic partnerships:** The 3rd National Conference on the Ocean Decade in Cape Verde, which brought together about 200 participants, provided an opportunity to discuss the links between marine conservation and sustainable development. The 11th PRCM Forum in Bissau facilitated the sharing of experiences on regional initiatives, including the fight against plastic pollution.



+39%

number of sea
turtle nests
compared to
2023



+04

ecoguides
trained to boost
ecotourism in
Cabo Verde



955

active participations,
(839 in Cabo Verde and
116 in Guinea-Bissau)



6,840

people sensitized
to turtle
protection



03

scientific papers on
sea turtles published
in 2024



200

participants at a
conference on marine
conservation

Impacts

- **Ecological progress:** Turtle nests observed have increased by 49% compared to 2023. Cape Verde has passed laws banning single-use plastics as early as 2025.
- **Regional cooperation:** Exchanges of experiences between countries have improved monitoring and surveillance methods, leading to more effective actions.

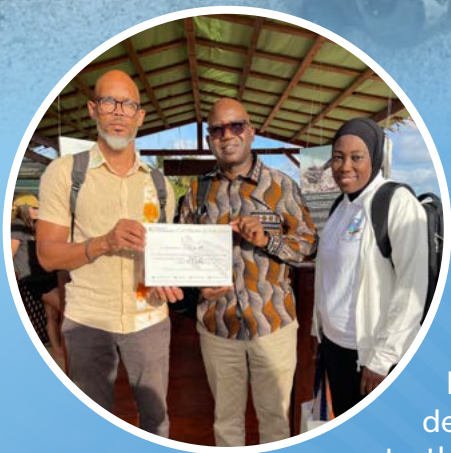
Challenges and prospects

The withdrawal of RAMP AO has delayed activities in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Gambia; PRCM now plans to work directly with six marine protected areas (MPAs). The low participation of Cape Verde's Directorate-General for the Environment, combined with high emigration, has complicated beach monitoring efforts. Drones have partially compensated for these limitations.

As a way forward, the project is focused on developing solutions to limit bycatch in the MPAs of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Gambia, while promoting alternatives to unsustainable fishing practices. They also include strengthening scientific collaborations and advocacy for marine conservation.

In addition, special attention will be paid to the integration of women and youth in conservation initiatives, including through innovative training tools such as online MOOC training courses on the biology and conservation of sea turtles, and seminars.

As a way forward, the project is focused on developing solutions to limit bycatch in the MPAs of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Gambia



PRCM ADOPTS A NEST: A STEP TOWARD TURTLES' FUTURE

During our latest Steering Committee meeting for the STM project (Marine Turtle Monitoring in West Africa), held from November 14 to 16, 2024, in Sal, Cabo Verde, we experienced a deeply moving moment: we symbolically adopted a loggerhead sea turtle nest.

This wonderful initiative was led by our partner, Project Biodiversity! Their efforts give these baby turtles a chance to hatch by protecting them from the many threats facing marine turtles—poaching, pollution, beach degradation, and more.

On December 17, 2024, our nest hatched, bringing 46 baby turtles into the world! They were then released, bravely crawling toward the ocean, facing the waves with determination as they embarked on their great Atlantic adventure.

This symbolic act reflects our deep commitment to protecting these iconic creatures of marine biodiversity.

Through the STM project, which we coordinate, we work hand in hand with NGOs, researchers, government agencies, and international partners. Together, we join forces to ensure that sea turtles can continue to swim freely and safely in our oceans.

Thank you to all our partners for their dedication, passion, and incredible work.

BLUE BIJAGÓS

Towards a better management and conservation of the Bijagós archipelago



The project aims to increase the marine protected area in the Bolama-Bijagós archipelago, with the creation of two new MPAs

The Blue Bijagós project, funded by the Blue Action Fund, is being carried out in the Bijagós archipelago in southwestern Guinea-Bissau. It is a marine area classified as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 1996. It currently has three MPAs: Orango, João Vieira-Poilão and Urok.

The project aims to increase the marine protected area in the Bolama-Bijagós archipelago, with the creation of two new MPAs: Unhocomo-Unhocomozinho and the so-called “Connectivity Corridor” which is the sea area between between the existing. Blue Bijagós will also increase the efficiency of the management of the biosphere reserve and improve the livelihoods of communities.

The project is coordinated by PRCM and implemented through a consortium formed by ODZH, the BioGuiné Foundation, Palmeirinha, Tiniguena, GRID-Arendal and IBAP.

Achievements and advancements

In 2024, a socio-economic study was carried out to define some key indicators of the project. At the same time, a study on fisheries is underway, the results of which are extremely important for the knowledge of fisheries dynamics and for the zoning and fishing rules of the new MPAs. Focus groups have been set up on the islands to foster community involvement and consensus around the creation of new MPAs.

Improving MPA management will be based on reciprocal commitments with local communities: continuation of illegal practices, but also training and investment in sustainable fisheries, boats, etc. New income-generating activities are developed; Women and young people are key target groups.

In 2024, 6 literacy centers for women and young people were opened.

20 motorcycle tricycles have been distributed to women’s groups to facilitate the evacuation of their horticultural products and transporting the sick to clinics.

7 horticultural perimeters (1 ha each) have been rehabilitated/ created, for the benefit of 428 female horticulturists. The fences and irrigation wells have been rehabilitated or constructed. 408 horticulturists received seeds of at least six vegetable species.

10 solar kits were distributed to young entrepreneurs trained in their use and maintenance. Finally, a call for projects has been launched to finance small socio-economic initiatives in the Bolama-Bijagós archipelago.

As part of the World Wetlands Day celebrations, the project has formed 6-island friends clubs, each bringing together 20 students (girls and boys), selected by their teachers to promote biodiversity conservation. Each member received a school kit on this occasion.

23 cinema-debate sessions made it possible to raise awareness among 2,000 people about the island biodiversity, including young people, fishermen and women. Radio spots were also broadcast on the conservation of mollusks, sharks, rays, sea turtles and migratory birds.



06

literacy centers for women and young people were opened



20

tricycles for transporting horticultural produce transporting the sick



07

1ha horticultural perimeters rehabilitated for 428 women horticulturists



408

horticulturists received seeds of at least six vegetable species



10

solar kits distributed to young entrepreneurs.



20

students trained to promote biodiversity conservation

Blue Bijagós supported the Bijagós Archipelago's candidacy for UNESCO World Heritage with the funding of the UNESCO submission mission to France, as well as the technical evaluation of IUCN experts in November 2024. The nomination file is currently under review by the IUCN World Heritage Committee. The latter praised the quality of the information provided. However, additional information was requested. These elements are currently being processed and will soon be transmitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in order to be integrated into the proposal.

Challenges and prospects

Despite the significant progress of the project, some major challenges remain. Transportation remains a challenge for this project, which is located in an island environment where communities are spread across several islands. The coordination of the interventions of the different partners and other projects carried out on the islands is also a challenge due to the geographical and spatial discontinuity. The weak presence of the State also impacts the development of the project's activities.

However, the next steps of the project include the strengthening of administrative and financial capacities through the recruitment of additional staff. A new project to support the current project will also be launched: *«Protection and sustainable management of the Bijagós archipelago»* funded by Rainforest Trust.

Despite the significant progress of the project, some major challenges remain

SWIMMING IN DANGEROUS WATERS



This project aims to provide information on the ecology and critical habitats of rays and sharks for priority conservation measures

The «*Swimming in dangerous waters*» project in the Bijagós archipelago is funded by the Shark Conservation Fund and started in 2024. It aims to provide information on the ecology and critical habitats of rays and sharks for priority conservation measures, to influence fisheries policies through tools and events, to strengthen national capacities in elasmobranch research and marine protected area management, and to raise awareness in Guinea-Bissau society about their value, vulnerability and the need to strengthen their conservation.

Flagship actions and activities for 2024

In 2024, several activities were carried out in the first year of the project in the field of research. First, data was collected from 800 landings of artisanal canoes in the port of Bissau. This programme, carried out in collaboration with the National Fisheries Institute of Guinea-Bissau (INIPO), has strengthened local research capacity and expertise in sharks.

Then, a national database on shark and ray landings was developed, accompanied by a dashboard.

Finally, five critically endangered *Glaucostegus cemiculus* guitar rays were captured and tagged with Argos-type satellite transmitters.

The project has achieved some results in the field of education and communication:

- Organization of a kick-off workshop bringing together all stakeholders.
- Development of a communication strategy in collaboration with the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP), in synergy with local initiatives.
- Organization of a conference with the Portuguese-speaking University of Bissau, INIPO, IBAP and ODZH for students in Marine Sciences.
- Broadcasting of information spots on 5 local and national radio stations, as well as on social networks.
- Production of 2,250 illustrated notebooks for the schoolchildren of the archipelago.
- Creation of an environmental education brochure on the Bijagós for teachers, students, journalists and parliamentarians.

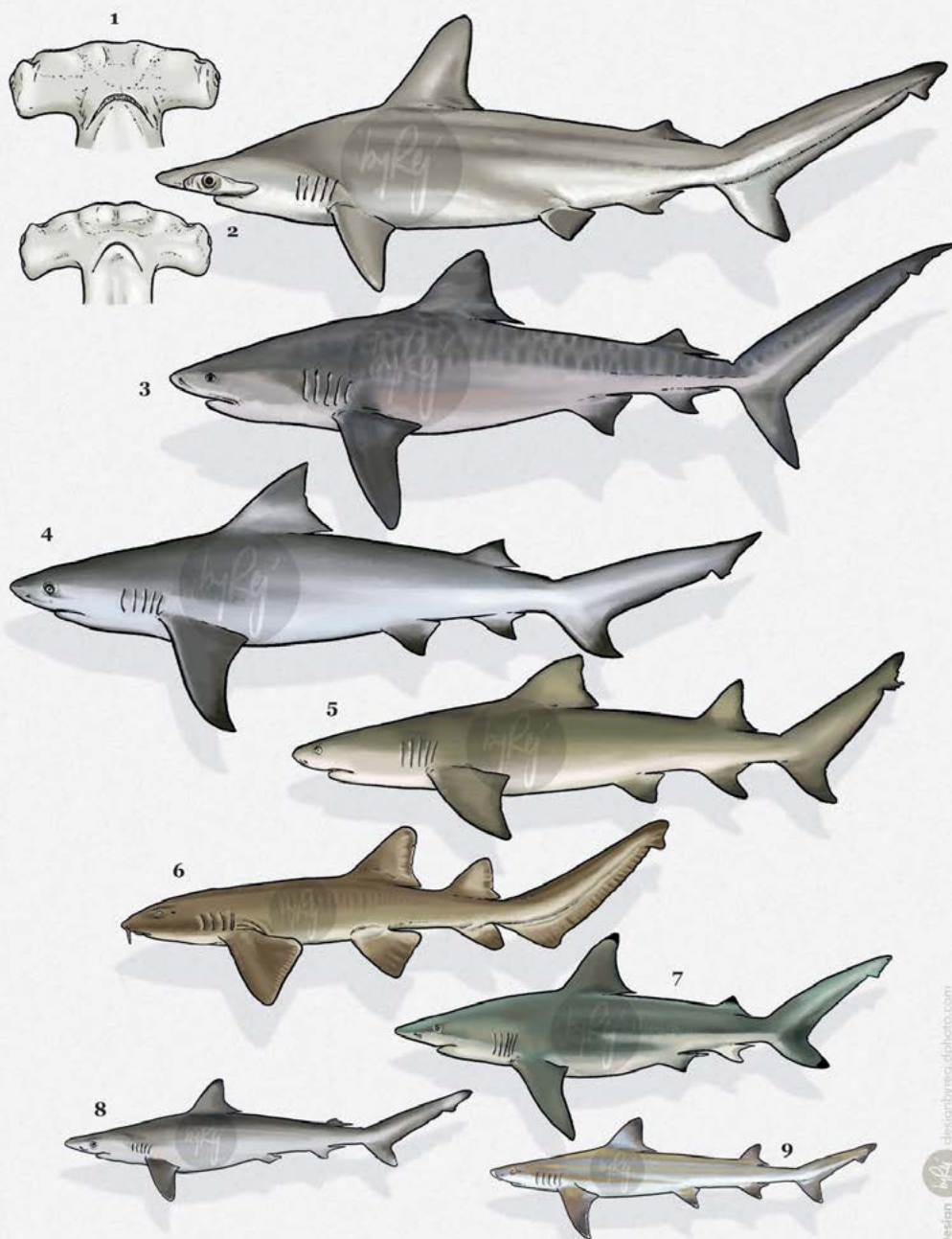
Despite the ban on catching rays and sharks enshrined in the fisheries code, landings remain high

Challenges and prospects

Despite the ban on catching rays and sharks enshrined in the fisheries code, landings remain high, with fishermen claiming incidental catches. This trend is accentuated by the Asian market's demand for fins. Given this dual reality, the conservation of elasmobranchs is a long-term issue. The risks of disappearance of critically endangered species, such as sawfish (probably already extinct from West African waters) are real.

To address these structural challenges, the project focuses on conservation opportunities within the archipelago's marine protected areas, in collaboration with IBAP.

It also produces scientific data and knowledge tools to influence the fisheries sector and raise awareness of the value and vulnerability of rays and sharks. It also intends to provide the necessary support for the updating and implementation of the national strategy for the conservation of rays and sharks in Guinea Bissau.



1. Tubarão-martelo-recortado *Sphyrna lewini*
2. Tubarão-martelo-gigante *Sphyrna mokarran*
3. Tubarão-tigre *Galeocerdo cuvier*
4. Tubarão-buldogue *Carcharhinus leucas*
5. Tubarão-limão *Negaprion brevirostris*

6. Tubarão-dormedor *Ginglymostoma cirratum*
7. Tubarão-de-pontas-negras *Carcharhinus limbatus*
8. Tubarão-bicudo *Rhizoprionodon acutus*
9. Tubarão doninha *Paragaleus pectoralis*

MANGROVES FOR CLIMATE AND OCEANS

Restore, protect, support communities!



The project's main objective is to create ecological conditions conducive to the growth and natural regeneration of mangroves

PRCM coordinates the «*Mangroves for Climate and Oceans*» (MCO) project which is funded by ICONIQ and JCF and which aims to restore and protect mangrove ecosystems in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal through an integrated approach to sustainable development.

Its main objective is to create ecological conditions conducive to the growth and natural regeneration of mangroves, while supporting coastal communities through income-generating activities (IGAs) adapted to their needs.

The project also strengthens the capacities of local actors and populations in the sustainable management of resources and works to promote public policies that promote the conservation of these critical ecosystems.

Main activities

In 2024, PRCM and its partners have made significant progress in mangrove restoration.

In Guinea, in the Konkouré delta, a reforestation campaign took place from July to September, aligned with the rainy season. Awareness-raising and training activities were carried out with reforestation groups, accompanied by the provision of materials and equipment.

In Guinea Bissau, in the Catio area, efforts have focused on mangrove restoration, improved beekeeping and rice production, with the construction of a honey production center and associated training.

In Senegal, in Joal, an exchange visit made it possible to share experiences between partner countries. In Joal, oyster production in the mangroves is an important IGA. Rhizophora and Avicennia mangrove planting campaigns have been carried out with strong community involvement, including the installation of nurseries and reforestation operations.

In Mauritania, in the Diawling National Park, a nursery for Avicennia germens has been built in Bouhajra. The planting and harvesting of propagules have been delayed by flooding, while suitable sites for beekeeping and oyster farming have been identified. In addition, socio-economic activities such as market gardening and tanning with women's groups have been launched.

In 2024, PRCM and its partners have made significant progress in mangrove restoration

Results

In 2024, the results of the MCO project are encouraging, with 218 hectares of mangroves restored across all covered sites in Mauritania, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

- **Guinea:** 36.2 ha of mangroves reforested, and 50 people trained.
- **Guinea Bissau:** 62.6 ha restored involving 200 people. Sharp increase in rice production (225 tons) and 60 beehives (honey production) installed. Horticultural and commercial infrastructures have been developed.

- **Senegal (Joal):** 50 ha reforested (20 ha of *Rhizophora*, 30 ha of *Avicennia*), 150,000 seeds sown, 1,900 people mobilized. The seeding of 14 tons of arches, producing 206 tons in 8 months, impacting 2,000 women.
- **Mauritania (PND):** 300 kg of seeds sown, and 32 ha restored. Beekeeping and oyster farming projects are in preparation.

Observed impacts

- 1,900 young people and women paid 2,000 FCFA/day as part of the project's activities.
- Women's income multiplied thanks to the seeding of oysters in Joal (63,050 FCFA/week against 12,000 FCFA previously).
- In Guinea Bissau, 100 women beneficiaries of horticultural fields; improvement of their mobility through the acquisition of motorcycles.

Challenges and prospects

The MCO project faces several major challenges, including giving back to nature the abandoned rice fields and support the growing of mangroves on these fields, a crucial step for ecological restoration.

Among the prospects, it is envisaged to promote the results of the project at regional and international forums and events, while working to scale up income-generating activities. This will help reduce the economic pressure on mangrove ecosystems and provide local communities with sustainable alternatives for their livelihoods.

Similarly, improving partnerships between research institutions and local NGOs remains a key issue to strengthen the effectiveness of interventions and ensure sustainable management of mangroves.



181

hectares restored between Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Mauritania



+4,150

people involved or impacted in re-greening the coastline



225

tonnes of rice harvested in Guinea-Bissau



206

tons of arches produced with 14 tons of seed in Senegal



60

hives installed for honey production in Guinea-Bissau



300

kilograms of seeds sown in Mauritania and beekeeping and oyster farming projects

MANGROVE CONSERVATION IN TRISTAO AND KAPATCHEZ IN GUINEA



This project aims to restore 1,100 ha of mangrove swamps through planting and natural regeneration, to strengthen the sustainable management of ecosystems with the involvement of local communities

In 2023, a second four-year phase of the integrated mangrove management project in the Tristao and Kapatchez community reserves (Guinea) was launched, funded by DOB Ecology. This project aims to restore 1,100 ha of mangrove swamps through planting and natural regeneration, to strengthen the sustainable management of ecosystems with the involvement of local communities, especially women, and to improve the monitoring system of the two reserves.

Results

With the project's support, several initiatives have been implemented to restore ecosystems, strengthen community livelihoods, and improve environmental monitoring. The main achievements in 2024 are:

- **Reforestation and ecosystem restoration**

- 126.5 ha of mangroves reforested.
- 245.5 ha of mangroves restored with assisted natural regeneration.
- 86.65 ha of abandoned agricultural rice fields restored.
- 420 volunteers involved, including rice farmers, fish smokers, youth, students and local authorities.

- **Support for income-generating activities**

- Creation and support of 12 cooperatives bringing together 141 people in various sectors: palm oil, solar salt farming, fish smoking, beekeeping.
- Training of members in entrepreneurship and provision of work kits to promote their autonomy.

- **Equipment and infrastructure**

- Granting of 3 mechanical presses for the production of palm oil and 3 tricycle motors to cooperatives in Kapatchez.
- Construction of a storage-shop for the women solar salt farmers of Tristao.
- Distribution of improved stoves for fish smoking and cooking, and Kenyan beehives for honey production to several households in Kapatchez.

- **Strengthening environmental monitoring**

- Installation of the first monitoring watchtower in Tristao to improve the monitoring of protected areas.

Impacts

Beyond the economic benefits generated, the project strengthens the awareness of communities and their involvement in the sustainable management of their coastal landscapes. Once considered an inevitable natural phenomenon, the disappearance of mangroves is now better understood, and communities are adopting new practices of restoring abandoned rice fields to preserve their coastal landscapes.



+126

hectares of mangrove reforested and 245.5 ha planted to assisted natural regeneration



+86

hectares of abandoned rice fields restored



420

volunteers involved, including rice growers, women, young people and local authorities



12

cooperatives with 141 members in various sectors



03

tricycles and 3 mechanical presses for palm oil production



Installation of the first monitoring watchtower in Tristao to improve the monitoring of protected areas

Challenges and prospects

The organization of women into cooperatives by sector, their equipment and their training in entrepreneurship stimulate the local economy but remain a challenge in a context marked by a high illiteracy rate in rural areas. The technical and financial autonomy of newly created cooperatives will require reinforced and prolonged support.

In line with the results obtained, the project will continue its actions around three axes:

- Ecological restoration, through the reforestation of mangroves and the rehabilitation of abandoned rice fields.
- The promotion of sustainable activities, reducing the consumption of firewood and supporting income-generating activities with a low ecological footprint, with a focus on training women.
- Strengthening environmental monitoring, consolidating the system of protection of the Tristao and Kapatchez community reserves.



RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON THE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN SENEGAL



The PREMAC contributes to the development of more operational and effective solutions

The Marine and Coastal Environment Research Program (PREMAC), funded by bp, contributes to the development of more operational and effective solutions through the support and strengthening of scientific research actors and institutions in Senegal in four priority areas: i) the vulnerability and resilience of marine and coastal areas to climate change; (ii) the status and dynamics of marine and coastal biodiversity; iii) the nature and risks of pollution related to offshore oil and gas activities and iv) the uses and governance of marine and coastal areas.

Actions undertaken in 2024 and the results obtained

At the end of 2024, PRCM organized a closing workshop that capitalized on the main results of 3 research projects funded under PREMAC. It has been clearly demonstrated that the 3 projects EREBIS, EREPCO1 and RIVES have made it possible to acquire essential knowledge on biodiversity,

the exploitation of fisheries resources, marine pollution and ocean dynamics. Their contributions will enable better management and preservation of Senegal's marine and coastal ecosystems. The main results obtained are as follows:

EREBIS PROJECT (IMPLEMENTED BY CRODT)

- **Marine and coastal biodiversity:** Inventory of fisheries, benthic, planktonic, macro-algal resources, sea turtles, mammals and aquatic birds on the Grande Côte du Sénégal.
- **Fisheries Resources:** Assessment of the exploitation of 11 stocks of economic interest.
- **Marine pollution:** Reference state of pollution on the Grande Côte.
- **Mapping:** Location of biodiversity hotspots and pelagic and demersal fish species.

PROJECT EREPCO1 (BY CERES-LOCUTOX)

- **Microalgae:** Cultivation techniques of *N. palea*, *N. longissima* and *Cymbella* sp.
- **Bioindication:** Studies on *Grandidierella* sp. and *N. palea* for the assessment of marine pollution.
- **Environmental standards:** Determination of PNECs for water and marine sediments (potassium dichromate and zinc).

RIVES PROJECT (BY LPAO)

- **Hydrodynamics and climate:** Analysis of the current and future functioning of the marine environment in the face of climate change.
- **Climate simulations:** High-resolution data generation and modeling.
- **Environmental risks:** Identification of areas exposed to extreme events and anticipation of the movement of oil slicks in the event of a leak.

WEST AFRICAN COASTAL WETLANDS AND WATERBIRDS ACTION PLAN



The PAZHOC aims to ensure the sustainable management of priority wetlands to preserve coastal waterbird populations along the East Atlantic Flyway

The West African Coastal Wetlands and Waterbirds Action Plan (PAZHOC) aims to ensure the sustainable management of priority wetlands to preserve coastal waterbird populations along the East Atlantic Flyway. To achieve this, it combines on-the-ground conservation efforts with strengthened partnerships between local and international stakeholders.

Implemented in Mauritania, Senegal, and Guinea-Bissau, the plan covers key sites such as the Banc d'Arguin National Park, the Lower Senegal River Delta, the Saloum Delta, and the Bijagós Archipelago.

Key actions undertaken in 2024

In 2024, several major initiatives were carried out, including waterbird censuses, international awareness campaigns, and participation in regional events.

The international waterbird census, conducted on January 27–28, covered priority sites in Mauritania, Senegal, and Guinea-Bissau (Banc d’Arguin, Lower Senegal River Delta, Saloum Delta, and Bijagós Archipelago).

The World Wetlands Day (WWD) and World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) were marked by awareness-raising activities, engaging local communities, site managers, and regional partners. PAZHOC’s partner NGOs (NCD, Nature Mauritania, ODZH, and Pameirinha) also led environmental education initiatives in schools.

Additionally, a side event on the sustainable conservation of wetlands and coastal waterbirds was organized during the 10th Regional Coastal and Marine Forum in Bissau (April 25, 2024). This event brought together representatives from PNBA, WIACO, BirdLife, NCD, IBAB, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, BIRDEYES, and WWT, fostering knowledge exchange and enhanced collaboration.

Results and impacts

In 2024, assessments were conducted to evaluate waterbird populations, their trends, and the threats to their habitats in priority sites.

In Senegal, a total of 549,316 waterbirds, spanning 155 species, were recorded. Simultaneously, awareness campaigns were conducted as part of World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day, and multiple schools benefited from environmental education programs.

Challenges and prospects

The main challenge for PAZHOC lies in securing long-term funding. The remaining funds, inherited from MAVA (which ceased operations in late 2022), will be fully depleted by the end of 2025, with no extension planned.

However, a promising opportunity arises with the launch, in 2025, of the project «*Climate Resilience of Critical Sites for Migratory Birds and Populations along the East Atlantic Flyway*,» funded by IKI. This initiative, aligned with PAZHOC’s objectives, will operate on the same sites and with the same partners, ensuring the continuity of ongoing conservation efforts.



549,316

waterbirds, spanning 155 species, were recorded in Senegal in 2024

The main challenge for PAZHOC lies in securing long-term funding

A photograph of two women sitting on a patterned surface, possibly a rug or bed. The woman on the left is wearing a grey headscarf with large yellow and orange floral patterns and a matching grey dress with large yellow and orange floral patterns. She is resting her chin on her hand. The woman on the right is wearing a teal headscarf with a black and white checkered pattern and a teal dress with a black and white checkered pattern. They are both looking towards the right. The background is a textured, light-colored wall. The bottom half of the image has a blue wavy pattern overlay.

Strengthening the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems

Coastal communities are at the heart of the PRCM's actions, as their involvement is essential to the sustainability of ecosystems and natural resources. Through participatory and inclusive approaches, PRCM worked throughout 2024 to enhance local communities' capacities, diversify their livelihoods, promote sustainable practices and foster more equitable governance.

RESILIENCE OF THE WEST AFRICAN COASTLINE



The RESILAO project aims to strengthen the resilience of coastal ecosystems

The West African Coastal Resilience Project (RESILAO) aims to strengthen the resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities to threats such as rapid urbanization, coastal infrastructure, tourism and extractive activities.

RESILAO concerns six countries: Cape Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea Conakry, Guinea-Bissau and Gambia, and aims to finance 40 initiatives to the amount of 150,000 Euros, through calls for projects. RESILAO is financed by the Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial (FFEM) and the World Bank through the WACA program for a period of 5 years.

In 2024, the first generation of projects was launched, focusing on the enhancement of local value chains, the conservation of biodiversity, the management of protected areas and the fight against pollution and the translocation of emblematic marine species.



Completed activities

In Guinea, several notable actions have been carried out, including the reforestation of mangroves, the strengthening of technical capacities for income-generating activities such as beekeeping, salt farming and rice-fish farming, as well as the evaluation of the effectiveness of the management of the Mélékoré estuary, accompanied by an inventory of its biodiversity and the identification of sustainable value chains.

In Senegal, actions have mainly focused on MPA Cayar, with the cleaning of the seabed, the immersion of 500 artificial reefs, bioecological monitoring and monitoring at sea. In Palmarin, the rehabilitation of 100 salt granaries, the identification of environmental risks around the salt farming activity and support for the Cooperative of Women Salt Producers were among the key initiatives.

In Cabo Verde, progress has been made in the analysis of the effectiveness of protected areas, particularly for MPA Brava, the technical and operational strengthening of the «*Guardians of the Sea*» programme, as well as in the management of fishing efforts and the establishment of economic activities for the benefit of women on the island of Santiago.

In Mauritania, actions at the Banc d'Arguin National Park have focused on the analysis of samples and the planting of *Sesuvium* to protect areas exposed to mercury, as well as the establishment of the technical and operational system for the translocation of monk seals.

Key results and impacts

The results obtained in 2024 are encouraging. In Guinea, 37.6 ha have been reforested into mangroves and forests, and the first harvests of honey and salt have been recorded. In Senegal, 6 ha of casuarina trees have been reforested in Cayar, and progress has been made in restoring groundfish breeding areas. The Palmarin Salt Farmers' Cooperative also managed to develop its own business identity and produced 4,200 tons of salt.



500

submerged artificial reefs and 100 salt barns rehabilitated in Senegal




+37

hectares of mangrove and forest reforested in Guinea and 6 ha of filaos reforested in Senegal

In Cabo Verde, progress has been made in fisheries management and the conversion of women sea salt producers towards sustainable solar salt production and other sustainable income-generating activities.

In Mauritania, although projects are still in the preparation and testing phase, actions are progressing promisingly.

At the regional level, an  [interactive platform](#) was launched to support the capitalization of projects, and a capitalization report was shared, offering detailed analyses on environmental calls for projects conducted in West Africa.

Although it is premature to measure concrete impacts after only one year of implementation, the first actions have already shown positive effects. Reforestation, the fixation of dunes and the protection of casuarina tree areas could have lasting impacts on the rehabilitation of the coastline and the development of the market gardening sector. The increase in the production of salt and fishery and agroecological products, as well as the improvement in the management of protected areas, also testify to the first promising results.

Challenges and prospects

Several challenges were encountered during this first year. Stakeholder involvement, availability of local resources needed for implementation of actions and timeliness were barriers.

Budget adjustments have been necessary for some projects, and there is still work to be done to ensure ownership of the results and tools developed, such as the capitalization platform, avoid any overlap with the second-generation projects that will start in 2025, and successful scaling.

As a perspective, from 2025, the RESILAO project will enter a key phase with the completion of the first generation of projects. The objective will be to assess the results achieved and to draw lessons learned both from the project selection process and from their implementation in the field.



4,200

tonnes of salt
produced by the
Palmarin salt growers'
cooperative in Senegal

Although it is premature to measure concrete impacts after only one year of implementation, the first actions have already shown positive effects

This capitalization will be used to guide the second generation of RESILAO calls for projects and to strengthen synergies with the WACA project, in particular through the deployment of small grants within the component implemented by PRCM.



ECOSYSTEM-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE ADAPTATION

An integrated regional approach to adaptation and resilience



In 2024, PRCM continued its efforts to preserve biodiversity and adapt to climate change

In 2024, PRCM continued its efforts to preserve biodiversity and adapt to climate change through its contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Ecosystem Adaptation Solutions (SEDAD) project, which is positioned as a strategic response to the challenges faced by local populations in Gambia, Senegal and Mauritania. SEDAD is implemented by the Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles school and funded by Global Affairs Canada.

In collaboration with national institutions such as the Directorate of Community Marine Protected Areas of Senegal, the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management in The Gambia, the Banc d'Arguin National Park in Mauritania and the Centre de Suivi Écologique du Sénégal, this project focuses on two essential pillars: nature-based solutions and inclusive governance.

Achievements and advancements

The year 2024 marked the launch of a pilot action programme focused on nature-based solutions. Following a brainstorming workshop with stakeholders, specific action plans were developed for each country of intervention of the project. These plans have guided concrete initiatives, such as the reforestation of mangroves in priority areas such as Jokadu and Niumi Parks in The Gambia and Ufoyaal Kassa-Bandial MPA in Senegal.



Similarly, a [regional visit](#) organized to the Saint-Louis MPA in Senegal gave rise to a strengthening of the participants' knowledge on the fundamental principles of nature-based solutions and to discover concrete solutions such as the [typhavelles technique](#) which is very effective against coastal erosion. More than 50 women and youth from local communities participated and pledged to promote ecological practices in their communities at the end of the visit.

The SEDAD Project also facilitated the participation of about fifty actors from the sub-region in the PRCM Forum, as well as the organization of several events during the Forum, including a side event, a technical workshop and a round table, thus offering spaces for exchange and reflection on the key issues of marine and coastal conservation.

Finally, in collaboration with the University of Nouakchott and the Mauritanian Institute of Oceanographic Research and Fisheries (IMROP), a study on the characterization of microplastics has been launched in the Banc d'Arguin National Park. This initiative will contribute to a better understanding of the impact of plastic pollution on local ecosystems.

Challenges and prospects

Despite these advances, several challenges remain, including integrating nature-based solutions into national and regional policies, strengthening partnerships for increased regional cooperation, and scaling up advocacy for inclusive governance and DFS as tools for climate adaptation.

To address this, next steps will include capitalizing on traditional knowledge to enrich nature-based solutions actions, establishing a leadership agenda for women and youth with a focus on participatory governance, and organizing a symposium on nature-based solutions to encourage regional and international dialogue.

Despite these advances, several challenges remain, including integrating nature-based solutions into national and regional policies

CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WACA RESILIENCE INVESTMENT PROJECT 2 (RESIP 2)

Coastal resilience in West Africa



PRCM engages with several actors to provide technical assistance to strengthen multi-stakeholder coordination and mobilization for coastal resilience

With World Bank funding from the WACA program, PRCM engages with several actors to provide technical assistance to strengthen multi-stakeholder coordination and mobilization for coastal resilience.

Achievements and advancements

In 2024, PRCM took a new step by renewing and expanding the [APPEL network](#) (Alliance of Parliamentarians and Local Elected Officials for the Protection of the Environment of the West African Littoral Countries), thus opening up to parliamentarians from all the countries covered by WACA. At the same time, a strengthening of the network of national Civil Society Organizations has been carried out in order to consolidate their role in environmental governance and the protection of coastal ecosystems.

These initiatives aim to federate and involve key actors in marine and coastal conservation, facilitating the exchange of experiences, the pooling of resources and the development of concerted strategies to address common environmental challenges. Thanks to this dynamic, PRCM actively contributes to the construction of a collective and sustainable approach for the preservation of the West African coast.

The WACA programme played a key role in the organisation of the 11th edition of the PRCM Forum. Its support facilitated the participation of key West African stakeholders in this major event. It also provided a framework for dialogue and knowledge sharing on blue carbon (standards, methods, research and science, opportunities for biodiversity, status, policies and progress in the implementation of carbon projects, etc.). Finally, the WACA project contributed to the smooth running of the Forum by supporting logistical and communication aspects, thus strengthening its impact and success.

Challenges and prospects

The main challenge was the administrative procedures in the contracting process, which did not allow all the activities planned for the year 2024 to be carried out. In terms of prospects, several actions are planned for the main networks of PRCM: structuring and animation, capacity building, consultations and sharing of experiences, technical and financial support for local and innovative initiatives in the field of research on coastal resilience.

The main challenge was the administrative procedures in the contracting process



Promotion of sustainable fisheries

As part of this program, PRCM works alongside communities, authorities and partners to promote sustainable, equitable and resilient artisanal fishing. This commitment is reflected in the strengthening of fisheries governance, the enhancement of local knowledge, the development of stakeholders' capacities and the promotion of responsible practices, in the service of food security and the preservation of marine ecosystems.

Three projects are currently being implemented by PRCM in 2024, with the support of financial partners and in close collaboration with international technical partners and the governments of the beneficiary countries.

STRENGTHENING FISHERIES GOVERNANCE IN GUINEA



Three projects were
implemented by
PRCM during 2024

This project, which is funded by Oceans 5, is implemented by PRCM, the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of Guinea and Trygg Mat Tracking. Its objective is to strengthen fisheries governance and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It aims to improve the transparency of the sector, strengthen the legal framework, foster cooperation between institutions, optimize information systems and develop technical skills.

As part of the support for Guinea's accession to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and the Global Fishing Watch (GFW, the global fishing monitoring initiative), the activities initiated in 2023 were continued in 2024, resulting in several major results at the end of the project.

Recommendations were made for the National Council for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Economy, the FiTI national multi-stakeholder group as well as the FiTI National Secretariat. Guinea's compliance with the twelve FiTI requirements was assessed, accompanied by the development of a draft work plan to support the authorities and the FiTI national multistakeholder group, with a view to submitting a report covering all these requirements. An analysis was conducted to assess the country's ability to meet the requirements of the Global Fishing Watch initiative for the integration of national data. In addition, a MoU has been prepared between the Government of Guinea and the Global Fishing Watch initiative.


Finally, the capacities of the Guinean authorities have been strengthened, particularly on the FiTI standard and the missions of the FiTI national multi-stakeholder group.

In 2024, the project has made significant progress

Challenges and prospects

In 2024, the project has made significant progress. The Guinean Maritime Fishing Code and its implementing texts have been updated, and fisheries managers have been trained in the development of Fisheries Management Plan, including the one for 2024. In addition, the indicators assessing the impact of the sector on the national economy have been updated.

In addition, communication has been strengthened with the creation of the «*gouvpechegn*» platform, the involvement of national media and social networks, as well as the training of a group of journalists on fisheries governance and the environment. Awareness-raising activities on unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and illegal practices have been carried out, as has the improvement of data collection and dissemination systems.

Finally, media content, in particular a  [television debate](#) on fisheries governance in Guinea, was produced and broadcast in several coastal localities, particularly in Kamsar and Conakry.

Challenges and prospects

Despite these advances, the project has experienced some delays due in particular to institutional instability and administrative delays.

To ensure the continuation of the efforts undertaken, several actions are planned. First of all, the 2024 Fisheries Management Plan will be widely disseminated to public and private stakeholders. Advocacy will be carried out to guarantee the application of the new Maritime Fishing Code as soon as it is promulgated by the National Transitional Council (NTC).

Guinea's accession process to the FiTI is slowing down due to administrative constraints. Despite this, PRCM remains committed to supporting Guinea in this process and to strengthening its collaboration with Global Fishing Watch. The Guinean authorities, at the highest level, have reaffirmed their desire to accelerate the process in order to promote transparency in the fisheries sector.

At the same time, the sector's players will be equipped with tablets to facilitate the collection of statistical data. The establishment of a secure platform for the exchange of information will continue, with a particular focus on the protection of sensitive data. Finally, the assessment of the socio-economic impact of fishing activities, including IUU fishing, will be finalized, and a website will be created to promote transparency and combat illegal fishing.

Despite these advances, the project has experienced some delays

STRENGTHENING FISHERIES GOVERNANCE IN SENEGAL



The Strengthening Fisheries Governance in Senegal project aims to strengthen Senegal's capacity to combat IUU fishing

The Strengthening Fisheries Governance in Senegal project aims to strengthen Senegal's capacity to combat IUU fishing by improving governance and transparency in the sector. This project is funded by Ocean 5.

Key results in 2024

In 2024, after receiving a «yellow card» from the EU for shortcomings in fisheries management, Senegal responded by publishing the list of vessels allowed in its waters and officially announcing sanctions and fines related to IUU fishing. Of course, the project is not directly responsible for this result but has contributed to it through multiple awareness-raising, advocacy and capacity building actions.

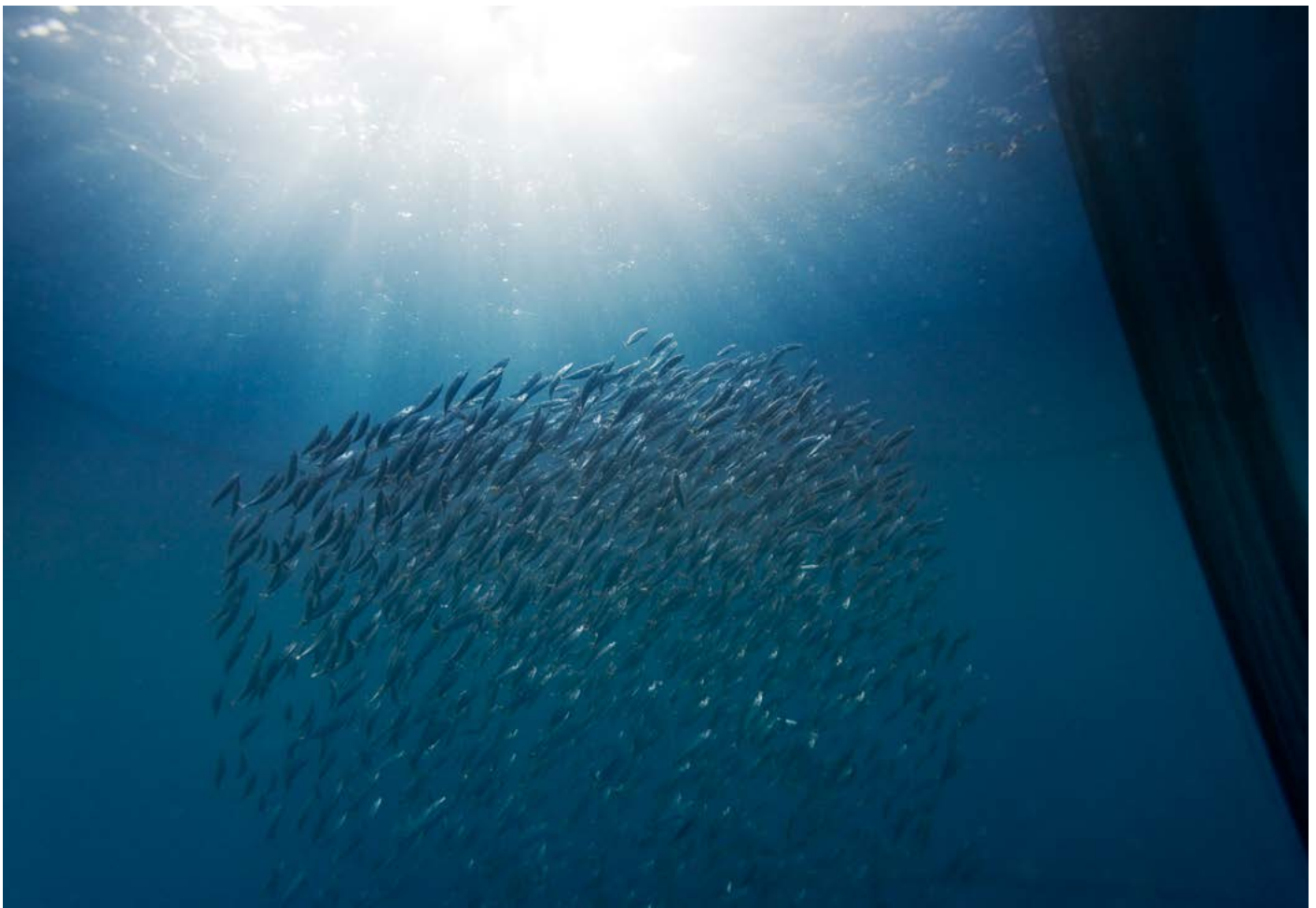
In addition, the DASE smartphone application is now functional on 14 sites, allowing fishermen to report more than 1000 observations of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities and other destructive practices

that impact their livelihoods. The Directorate of Fisheries Protection and Surveillance has recognized the project's efforts in terms of participatory monitoring and co-management.

Challenges and prospects

The project has encountered a major hurdle with the suspension of Senegal's status as a country engaged in the FiTI, due to the failure to meet the deadlines set by the International Council of the FiTI. PRCM and its partners are continuing their efforts to convince the government to renew its commitment.

In perspective, an audit of the Senegalese flag and the revision of the Fisheries Code are planned. Both actions offer opportunities to advance the fight against IUU fishing. Despite operational constraints, stakeholders remain mobilized to strengthen participatory monitoring and consolidate this approach.



STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATORY MONITORING TO COMBAT ILLEGAL FISHING PRACTICES IN SENEGAL'S TERRITORIAL SEAS



In 2024, the second year of implementation of the project has allowed several advances

Launched in 2022, this project, which is funded by Oak Foundation, is implemented by PRCM in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructure of Senegal, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) and the Local Artisanal Fisheries Councils (CLPA). Its objective is to fight against illegal industrial fishing by strengthening participatory surveillance of coastal areas.

Results

In 2024, the second year of implementation of the project has allowed several advances. The methodology for improving the performance of the participatory monitoring pilot units has been refined through training, the acquisition of equipment and the optimization of their organization.

At the same time, the «DASE app» technological solution and surveillance equipment have been deployed in four areas vulnerable to IUU fishing and incursions by industrial vessels, thus offering tangible evidence in case of violations.

Capacity building for stakeholders was also a priority. Users and administrators have been trained in the management of the official fisheries monitoring website surveillance-peches.gouv.sn, and a user guide and a web application have been developed to facilitate access to information. Parliamentarians and local officials were sensitized on IUU fishing and the importance of transparency, enabling them to act more effectively in the process of Senegal's accession to international standards. Similarly, captains and fishermen have benefited from training on fire prevention and management on board artisanal canoes.

The media coverage of the project's activities has helped to raise public awareness of IUU fishing and transparency, with publications in national and international media as well as programmes on local radios. Finally, the project helped to highlight the need for greater transparency in their respective fisheries sectors to promote partnerships and investments in the fisheries sector.

Challenges and prospects

To ensure the sustainability of participatory monitoring activities, additional measures have been put in place. The evaluation of the performance of the areas where the DASE app is operational revealed insufficient monitoring of IUU fishing cases reported by fishermen and local authorities, leading to a certain lack of motivation. To address this, the project is mobilizing the relevant investigating and sanctioning authorities to identify appropriate actions, such as training sessions planned in the third year of the project. To date, exchanges have taken place with the regional judicial authorities of Casamance and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.

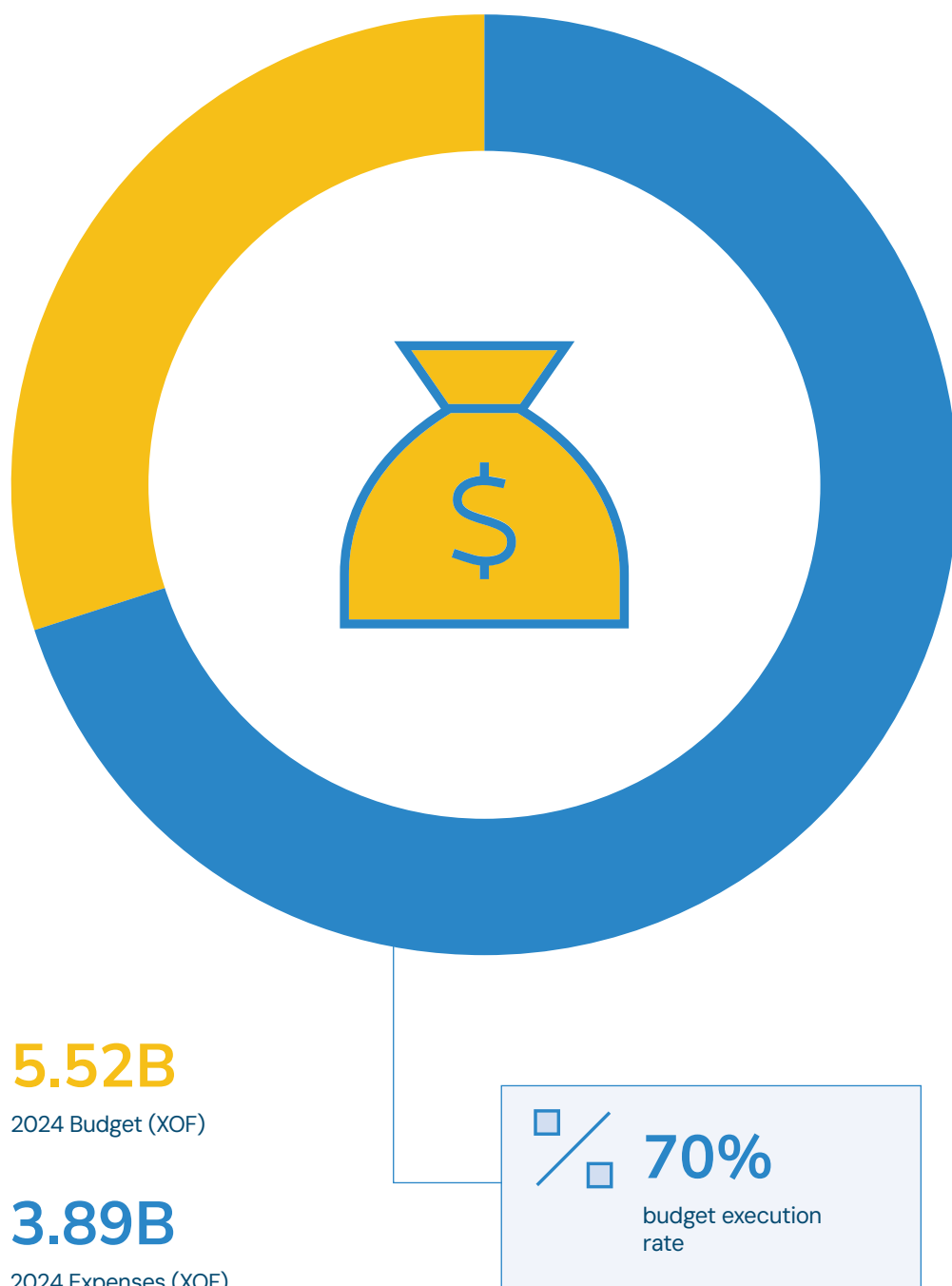
To ensure the sustainability of participatory monitoring activities, additional measures have been put in place

Financial reports



In 2024, PRCM's operating budget amounted to **5,525,117,753 F CFA**. Actual expenditure for the year amounted to **3,891,343,094 F CFA**, a 70% implementation rate.

This level of execution reflects the efforts made to ensure efficient management of available resources, in line with the year's operational priorities.



Conclusion



In 2024, we took a major step forward by consolidating our actions despite a sometimes unstable context. The challenges encountered have been met with determination, allowing significant progress to be made for conservation in West Africa. Our projects have generated concrete results, strengthening the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, the sustainable management of natural resources and the improvement of the living conditions of local communities.

The 2024 edition of the PRCM Forum confirmed the central role of PRCM as an essential platform for regional conservation. This event fostered a vital dialogue between political, scientific and community actors, resulting in strengthened commitments to coastal protection. The participation of high-level personalities and the adoption of the [Bissau Declaration](#) reflect the growing interest in the preservation of coastal and marine ecosystems in the face of the challenges of climate change and anthropogenic pressures.

For 2025, we intend to continue this momentum by developing new initiatives and strengthening synergies between conservation stakeholders. The integration of new themes, such as the governance of the High Seas, will enrich our actions and respond to emerging challenges. Advocacy, resource mobilization and local capacity building will remain at the heart of our priorities to ensure sustainable impact.

Through these efforts, we will continue to play a leading role in preserving the West African coastline for the benefit of local communities and future generations.

We thank all our partners and donors for their support in realizing our objectives, their trust and friendship.

For 2025, we intend to continue this momentum by developing new initiatives and strengthening synergies between conservation stakeholders



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