



**Capacity building of
DJOTCHETCHENGLAR, local association in
Dapak, Jeta Island
Guinea-Bissau
funded by WSFI
Final Report**



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Introduction

In October 2017, ODZH was contacted by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat to present a proposal for a conservation project that linked migratory waterbirds. It was developed and presented as a capacity building project of the DJOTCHETCHENGLAR association in Dapak-Jeta. After its presentation, it was accepted by the secretariat mentioned above and continued at the signing of the contract between the parties. Soon the first payment of the amount of 4,500 Euros was made corresponding to 90% of the total budget of 5,000 Euros, equivalent amount of 3,325,000 FCFA.

Activities carried out

Due to the holidays at the end of 2017 construction work was delayed and began in January 2018. The delivery of the work to the local community was made on March 12, 2018. During construction three missions were carried out for the Dapak-Jeta.

The first took place on January 6, 7 and 8, 2018 (see photos below), and the objective was to deliver materials for the construction of the centre to the community and to begin work. It also aimed to sensitize the two fishing communities established in Bote - in front of the nesting of terns and seagulls. The members of this first mission were vice-president of l'ODZH (Joãozinho Sá) and its executive director (Francisco Gomes Wambar).





The second mission was carried out on 16 and 17 February 2018 by the Executive Director of ODZH and the objective was to sensitise the local community about the importance of the centre and to monitor the progress of the works, i.e. to verify the construction status of the centre with regard to the contract with the Wadden Sea Secretariat (see photos of the centre below).



The third mission took already place on 11, 12 and 13 March 2018. This was intended to make delivery to the Environmental Education and Communication Center Dâpak the local association, sensitize the fishermen of the two boat camps and also carry out lectures at the basic school of Bote (see photos below and on the cover and in the annex). Associated with these activities, a visit was made to the president of the Caió Fishermen's Association on 12 March, one hour before boarding in Jeta, in the port of Caió. On the way home, a conference was also held with students from the 7th grade at Caió Secondary School on 13 March 2018, from 10:00 to 11:30. This initiative comes after the realization that a number of fishermen living in Caió pass by the Bank of Dapak during their fishing trips.



It has to be stated that for the first mission of Jeta, the ODZH used the Wetlands International car as a logistical means to the port of Caio, where construction materials (such as cement bags, zinc, iron, wood and others) from this center was kept. Later the material was embarked in a pirogue and landed next to the place indicated by the community to do the construction of this center. Already the second and third missions have been used by public transport to reach the port of Caió. In both missions transport was hired as logistics means to reach Dapak and return to Caió. And in summary, the aim of this final report is to provide a synthesis of the results obtained during the implementation of the project entitled: Strengthening DJOTCHETCHENGLAR Association Dâpak-Jeta.

This was justified by the ecological importance of the region and the need to strengthen the capacity for action in the conservation of the colony of nesting terns, gulls, one of the most important sites in West Africa and the world today, making it essential to involve various stakeholders in their conservation and protection. The methodology applied in this work and discussion groups required here to work with specific groups, as it is a membership site: camping fishermen in small communities, boat surroundings and chair fishermen in the fall, dinghy students primary school and high school in Caió.

Results obtained

Environmental education and communication centre built in Dapak, the local community sensitised and more involved in environmental conservation and the nesting site, including mudflats, which are important for shorebirds, pelicans and other waterbirds. DJOTCHETCHENGLAR has strengthened the capacity for action in Dâpak through the construction of the center, which has already become a point of reference for the community and for visitors, fishermen and conduct fishing activities in the area. And over 80 fishermen sensitized on the conservation of the nesting site in the coastal zone of our wetlands region; informed of the existence and importance of the center built with support of Wadden Sea Secretariat, which will serve for activities in the field of environmental education in the region.

Students, teachers of basic school of Bote sensitized to the conservation of wetlands, the importance of the area for the reproduction of terns, and gulls in Africa and the world by the two palaver made in the primary school of Bote and the high school of Caió and finally, the sea as a resource of primary choice for their livelihoods and their development.

Final considerations

The implementation of this project has not only strengthened the capacity of the local association DJOTCHETCHENGLAR through the field of environmental conservation, but has also allowed a great interaction between ODZH and the local community as well as with the fishermen of the Dapak Bank. A new environmental education programme between the local association, ODZH and different educational institutions in the region and other countries, which can serve as a mechanism to disseminate its enormous potential in terms of ecotourism and actions, and in increasing the visibility of conservation actors in this area of the country.

Acknowledgements

Through this ODZH report thanks the Wadden Sea Secretariat for trusting the organization to invite it to submit a proposal for a modest project that has a great contribution to the preservation of the regional environment, global and local development. The request came at a time when the organization had virtually nothing. Today, the realization of this project increases our visibility and our responsibility towards our partners. On the other hand, there is an increase in the level of trust in the fullness of our members.

It has made possible and will also allow greater interaction with different fishing communities and educational institutions for which the centre will serve as a base to support environmental education activities in the region. In a modest way, we address our thanks to Wetlands International and Coastal Office Planning who supports us with the car, printing, technicians in our environmental education and communication activities in Guinea Bissau, therefore, our gratitude.



Appendix : Photos of the palaver sessions and meetings

Two palaver sessions at the Bote school



Meeting with two groups of fishermen



A chat session with high school students from Caió

