



Environmental Management

The Management Committee of the Dindéfelo Community Reserve raises awareness on environmental conservation in the region



The new **Dindéfelo Community Reserve** Management Committee took over from the preceding team last August. Balla Diallo was named the new director and Karim Sow, his second-in-command. They both have important backgrounds in tourism and the environment. A new working position was introduced into this Committee: the *relais*, who represents the Reserve in each and every village, and guarantees more effective connection between the people and the managing organization. After basic training and being updated with regard to functions and goals, this renewed Committee started a tour of the 12 villages making up the Reserve, in order to raise awareness of environmental matters, as well as introduce the new Committee and review the regulations for managing natural resources written in the Local Convention.

Even though every *chef du village* knows about the environmental regulations, there are still many people who are not aware of this information. The director explains: "We talked about the imperative need to stop the extensive practice of setting intentional fires as well as the intense felling of trees. We also remarked on the importance of chimpanzees and other animals for their high biological, tourist and symbolic value in the area." One of the main objectives of the Management Committee is to disseminate the importance of protecting and conserving the environment, trying to minimize both the extraction of resources and the impact on the flora and fauna. "The common feeling after these awareness sessions was positive and people appreciated the attention received, as well as the possibility of

giving their opinion to the Committee", concludes Balla Diallo.

The local people, at the same time, asked for the promotion of projects that benefit the community. Although the inhabitants of the Reserve understand the importance of environmental preservation, they also need alternatives if they are asked to stop taking what they need from the area they live. As a consequence, one of the

most important challenges for this new Management Committee is to present and execute initiatives that directly impact the well-being of the local people; for this, they need funding. The new managers (*relais*, ecoguards, ecoguides and the executive committee) are now in charge of supervising the relationship between the people and the ecosystem in the Reserve, a matter of vital importance for everyone.



Educating and Raising Awareness

A summer camp on conservation for girls and boys in Dindéfélo

The Summer Camp held in September 2016 in Dindéfélo was a complete success. 60 girls and boys aged between 8 and 14 from the communes of Dindéfélo, Dakateli -in Senegal- and Sabé -in Guinea- enjoyed an intense experience including educational and environmental activities under the slogan *Playing and Learning to protect Nature*.



The support of **Olesa de Montserrat Council** (Catalonia), along with that of the **Jane Goodall Institute** in Spain, was fundamental in making this project a reality. One

of the main purposes of this summer camp was to demonstrate to both the authorities and general public in all the three communes, how important school education is in preventing children, especially girls, from abandoning school too early.

The camp, particularly addressed at girls and boys who do not go to school, as well as members of fa-

félo Community Reserve, the Dindéfélo Council and the Senegalese Red Cross. Always accompanied by a member of the Red Cross, who coordinated the Summer Camp activities, boys and girls danced, sang, did handicrafts, visited the Dindéfélo waterfall, and shared some of the activities with the ecoguards -members of the reserve's Management Committee.

ASKING FOR MORE

Baba Kaba Diakhite, the president of the Red Cross in Dindéfélo, argues that activities like this Summer Camp have a huge impact on the local people, as they improve their understanding of the need for harmonious development while protecting nature and managing natural resources. "Kids learn that the reserve brings benefits to the community and they start understanding that nature conservation is a matter that directly affects their lives", assures Baba Kaba Diakhite.

The Camp, as Baba Kaba Diakhite explains, helped the young participants get to know more about the



environment where they live. That is why he hopes to be able to repeat this Camp on future occasions. Moreover, he guarantees that all the children would also be happy with this idea: "On the first day of the summer camp many kids were crying when they got there because they did not know what they would find. On the last day they were also crying, but this time it was because they did not want to go back home".

Among the achievements of the camp, it is important to highlight the positive impact it had on



the local microeconomy, as many institutions benefited from the activity: the Villageois (Dindéfélo's community camp where the participants stayed),

the Red Cross, the cooks, the suppliers, the local salespeople, and so on. They all wish to repeat the summer camp experience next year.



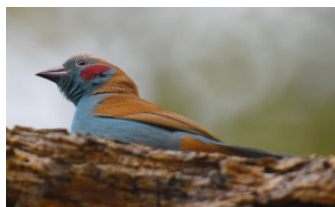
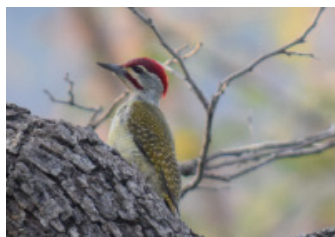
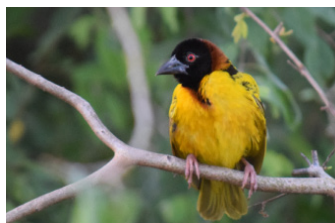
Ornithology

Training courses for guides and new ecotourism and ornithological routes in the Dindéfelo Community Reserve

After contacts between the **Jane Goodall Institute** (JGI) in Spain and **Fondo Emberiza** (FE), last October, Ignacio Yufra and Juan Carlos Alberro, ornithologists at FE, came to Senegal and gave specific training courses to the tourist guides in the Dindéfelo Community Natural Reserve (RNCD). FE is a non-profit organisation that supports conservation projects on biodiversity and natural resources, especially in areas of ornithological importance. Carlos Abdoul Lo, a professional ornithologist from Senegal who works for this organisation and is also an expert on native species, played an important role in establishing networks and generating interest among the guides. This is a new opportunity for the guides, who are now starting to learn so that they can become specialists themselves and be capable of offering new experiences

to tourists in the Reserve. Additionally, this collaboration with FE will promote the biological potential of the Reserve area, where more than 200 bird species have been spotted, at a time when the international community is starting to look at this corner of Senegal.

Fondo Emberiza also donated materials including binoculars, vests and t-shirts, guides to the birds of Senegal, and numerous notebooks with guidelines for correctly identifying the different birds. The objective of this collaboration is to start opening new ecotourism routes in the Dindéfelo Community Reserve considering the possibilities of the area, as there is a rich diversity of unique species in Senegal such as the Narina trogon (*Apaloderma narina*) and green turaco (*Tauraco persa*), as well as many others. This is why **Birding Senegal**, a Spanish travel agency dedicated to bird-

*Uraeginthus bengalus**Campethera punctuligera**Ploceus cucullatus**Oxylophus levillantii*

watching, has included the Reserve in its list of routes.

In 2011, the JGI in Senegal made an exhaustive count of the species in the Reserve, aiming to develop a complete ornithological inventory. At that time, 221 species were identified and, thanks to this work, **Birdlife International**,

the most important organisation for bird conservation around the globe, declared the Reserve an **Important Bird Area** on June the 10th, 2012. The JGI is continuously working on improving this database.

Taking the above into account, it is evident that this is

going to be a new social and economic boost for the Reserve. The training courses given by FE are a great impetus for the development of an ecotourism product specializing in birdlife observation that will be highly valuable in the future of the Reserve.

Did you know that...?

... out of all the species in the reserve, 6 can be found in the IUCN's (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) Red List of Endangered Species?

... the **yellow-billed Oxpecker** (*Buphagus africanus*) stands on the back of wild and domestic herbivores, like buffalos, elephants and cattle, looking for ticks and other parasites to eat? They use their rigid tail as a stand for balancing their weight.

... females in the weaver bird family, like the **Village Weaver** (*Ploceus cucullatus*), choose their male partner depending on the nest he has built?

... birds in the cuckoo family, like the **Levaillant's Cuckoo** (*Oxylophus levillantii*) that can be found in the RNCD, lay their eggs in the nests of other species? When they hatch, the cuckoo chicks kill the babies of the species that built the nest; the adults then feed and raise them believing they are their own offspring.



Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), a **critically endangered** species according to IUCN

Community Nature Reserve Dindéfelo

A project from the Commune de Dindéfelo in collaboration with the Jane Goodall Institute in Senegal



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