World Wetlands Day Celebrations in Bamako, Mali

2 February 2018

Mali

Ramsar Senior Advisor for Africa, Paul Ouédraogo, represented the Secretariat at the World Wetlands Day Celebrations in Bamako, Mali.

Caritas Swiss in Mali announced to fund 2.3 million Euros for the management of the Lake Wegnia Ramsar Site in Mali.

Caritas Swiss is starting a project around Lake Wegnia Ramsar Site in Mali. Due to several factors, the lake is slowly filling up which is reducing its retention capacity and impacting the livelihoods of the communities living around it and depending on its resources. The objective of the project is the rehabilitation and the protection of the lake. Project information:

- **Project intervention area:** Mali, Koulikoro Region, Kolokani District, Guihoyo City
- **Beneficiaries:** 3,500 people in the villages of Wégn
ia and Kono ni that borde r Lake Wégn ia imme diatel y (direc t bene ficiari es) as well as 12,00 0 peopl e aroun d the lake

• Projec t durati on: 2018- 2020
• Projec t object ive: Contri bute to balan ce the "nexu s" water - food - energ y in favor of a better resilie nce of
the communities towards the disasters risks reduction

- Budget: 2.3 Million Euro - for the first year. The budget for the 2nd and 3rd year needs to be mobilised.

World Wetlands Day public conference in Bamako, Mali

Several speeches and presentations focused on the theme of the 2018 WWD were made by various partners including: the National Ramsar Committee, Caritas Swiss, Croix Rouge, Wetlands International, local NGOs and the Ramsar National Focal Point of Mali. Franziska Bouzon, Director Caritas Swiss in Mali, announced the funding of 2.3 million Euros for the management of Lake Wegnia Ramsar Site for the first year of the project.

During the conference a public discussion took place about a government planed project to build a road along the bank of the Inner Niger Delta in Bamako. Participants expressed their concerns because the construction of the road will lead to a reduction in the area of the Niger Delta Ramsar Site which can cause floods. Ramsar Advisory
Mission to the Ramsar Site is being discussed.

Field visit of the Inner Niger Delta Ramsar Site in Bamako

The Inner Niger Delta Ramsar Site is a vast floodplain situated in the middle of sahelian landscape, rich in natural resources and featuring varied ecosystems (lakes, forest floodplains, flooded grasslands and savannah). It is the largest inland wetland in West Africa. It supports an exceptionally high number of animals and plants species and is a refuge for many migratory birds, hosting more than 350 species. Each year more than 1 million birds come from more than 80 countries to use the delta. Nearly one million people live on the resources of the delta ecosystems, by agriculture, farming, fishing, crop, navigation, tourism, etc. The Inner Niger Delta is the source of the emergence of the big empires of the 8th to 16th centuries (Ghana, Mali, Songhoy), then of the theocratic States of Sékou, Ahmadou and Elhadj Omar Tall.

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