

FINAL EVALUATION

**WA5 - REDUCTION OF THE IMPACTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
ON COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS IN WEST AFRICA (PRISE)  
2017-2022**

03.10.2022

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The West African coastal area is home to several sensitive ecosystems that provide a variety of ecosystem services. Despite their importance, they remain threatened by infrastructure development and unplanned urbanisation. Faced with this problem, the project for Reduction of the impacts of Infrastructure on Coastal Ecosystems in West Africa Action Plan (PRISE) was initiated in five countries: : Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Republic of Guinea and Senegal.

The PRISE project primarily targets seagrass beds, mangroves, and sea turtle nursery grounds. It focusses on five strategies: Improving knowledge and tools; Advocacy and Raising Awareness; Improving the legal framework; Supporting the application of tools and knowledge; Strengthening the partnership. It is implemented by multi-party teams (civil society organizations (CSOs), universities, State institutions, NGOs, APPEL<sup>1</sup>, and media outlets).

## OBJECTIVES:

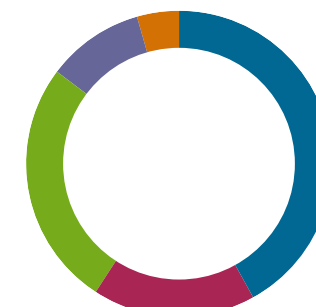
- Developing and/or updating planning and management tools, taking into account sensitive coastal sites in the target countries.
- Strengthening the capacities of technical services and professional executives to reduce the impacts of infrastructures in sensitive coastal ecosystems.
- Reinforcing CSO capacities to play a watchdog and warning role in environmental management of coastal infrastructure.
- Developing and/or updating legislative and regulatory texts relating to coastal infrastructure constructions and their impacts on sensitive sites.
- Supporting the application of tools and knowledge at priority sites.
- Strengthening the partnership between national and regional stakeholders.

## BUDGET ENGAGED

€ 4,972,500

## BUDGET PAR STRATEGIE

- Improving knowledge and tools 29%
- Raising advocacy and Awareness 12%
- Improving the legal framework 18%
- Supporting the application of tools and knowledge 7%
- Strengthening the partnership 3%



## THE PARTNERSHIP



<sup>1</sup> Regional network of parliamentarians and local elected officials for the protection of the environment and nature.

**STRATEGY 5: STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP**

**OUTCOME 5.1:** The regional partnership is well strengthened for better coordination, communication and governance to address the impacts of infrastructure.

**OUTCOME 5.2:** The partnership shares experiences, knowledge and best practices in environmental management of infrastructure.

**OUTCOME 5.3:** New sources of funding support sub-regional initiatives to consolidate the partnership beyond 2022.

**STRATEGY 1: IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS**

**OUTCOME 1.1:** Environmental planning and management tools take into account sensitive coastal ecosystems.

**OUTCOME 1.2:** The main existing or planned coastal infrastructures likely to impact sensitive ecosystems are known in the target countries.

**OUTCOME 1.3:** Good environmental practices for the protection of key ecosystems are capitalized and made available to national stakeholders

**OUTCOME 1.4:** Coastal areas of biological interest which are sensitive and vulnerable to infrastructure development are identified and are subject to specific protection measures.

**OUTCOME 1.5:** National technical services and professional staff have the capacity to implement good practices

**STRATEGY 2: ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH**

**OUTCOME 2.1:** Civil Society Organisations have the capacity to participate in reducing the impacts of infrastructure and are committed to protecting sensitive coastal ecosystems (Watchdog).

**OUTCOME 2.2:** The capacity of local communities around the sites is strengthened to address the challenges of reducing the impacts of infrastructure, and they are committed to participating in the protection of sensitive coastal ecosystems.

**OUTCOME 2.3:** The private sector understands the need to protect ecosystems and is committed to minimizing the impacts of infrastructure on the coastal zone.

**OUTCOME 2.4:** National networks of parliamentarians understand the need to protect sensitive coastal ecosystems and are committed to reducing the impacts of infrastructure.

**OUTCOME 2.5:** State institutions (national agencies, ministries, and planners) are equipped to better engage stakeholders (CSOs, communities, private sector) in a dialogue to protect sensitive coastal ecosystems from infrastructure impacts.

**STRATEGY 4: SUPPORT THE APPLICATION OF TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE AT THE SITE LEVEL**

**OUTCOME 4.1:** Coastal ecosystems are well considered/integrated into development plans.

**OUTCOME 4.2:** Environmental assessments are integrated into the infrastructure planning and development process, and new infrastructure projects are subject to environmental review.

**STRATEGY 3: IMPROVE THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

**OUTCOME 3.1:** The legal framework of each country is updated.

**OUTCOME 3.2:** Relevant conventions, protocols and guidelines at the regional level are adopted at the national level.

**THREAT**

Mitigation of impacts of new and existing coastal infrastructure

**STRESS**

Mitigation of beach degradation (loss, lights), changing hydraulic regimes and coastal erosion Scope

**SCOPE: COASTAL PRIORITY SITES FROM OTHER OAPS IN GB, MU, SE, CV, GUN**

Sea turtle nesting areas

Mangroves

Seagrass beds

**OUTCOME:** By 2022, infrastructure development on key marine turtle nesting sites, mangroves and seagrass beds is regulated and sustainable

## 2. PROGRESS AND ACTIVITIES

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OAP implementation has made significant progress, thanks to an innovative, participatory, inclusive, and interactive approach with stakeholders.

Monitoring and alert committees established in the target countries are now able to early warnings on unsustainable practices in sensitive areas.

The creation of a Coastal Zone Management Plan for Boavista Island makes this island the region's first to equip itself with management instruments within the country's planning system. This plan also constituted a new approach to defining priorities; notably the integration of a CSO in the monitoring committee.

The establishment of the Marine Spatial Planning process in Senegal provides a planning, development, and management tool that is both holistic and specific to marine areas. It will also serve as a unifying and synergising framework as various stakeholders intervene in marine and coastal spaces.

### STRATEGY 1: IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS

This strategy aims to develop and/or update tools for coastal zone planning and management. It also aims to strengthen stakeholder capacities in terms of infrastructure impact on sensitive coastal ecosystems via:

- Developing and harmonising coastal ecosystem planning and management tools.
- Reinforcing physical measures for protected area conservation.
- Developing training content and capacity development.
- Increasing knowledge and production of good practice guides on sensitive coastal ecosystems.

### STRATEGY 2: ADVOCACY AND RAISING AWARENESS

This strategy aims to raise awareness and improve training for CSOs, local communities, and public and private institutions and reduce infrastructure impacts on sensitive coastal ecosystems (SCEs) in the target countries via:

- Raising stakeholder awareness, education, and training on SCE protection.
- Mobilizing networks of parliamentarians and local elected officials to protect SCEs.
- Revitalising local CSOs.
- Establishing monitoring and warning systems.

### STRATEGY 3: IMPROVING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This strategy aims to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks governing infrastructure installations and SCE protection via:

- Ratifying additional protocols (Abidjan Convention) at national level.<sup>2</sup>
- Elaborating and/or updating laws to provide better protection for SCEs.
- Garnering support from State services to adopt new directives on environmental assessments.

### STRATEGY 4: SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION OF TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This strategy aims to implement physical measures for protecting SCEs and conducting environmental assessments and audits of infrastructure in and/or around sensitive sites via:

- Integrating environmental assessments into development plans.
- Developing information materials to capitalise on case studies.
- Disseminating recommendations for planning and monitoring studies.
- Increasing implementation of updated legal texts.

### STRATEGY 5: STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP

This strategy aims to strengthen collaboration and synergies between stakeholders in different countries while mobilising resources via:

- Holding national and regional meetings.
- Creating exchange visits for sharing experiences.
- Formalising partnership agreements between member countries.
- Developing version 3 of the OAP.

## KEY LESSONS

The primary lessons from this experience relate to tool development and stakeholder engagement:

1. The set up of the partnership framework has allowed reinforced synergy of actions between actors and continuity of the exchange dynamics.
2. The strong will to collaborate has been an essential lever for overcoming linguistic and administrative obstacles at the sub-regional level (MOOC), and at the national level (POOC-M) in Cabo Verde.
3. Administrative constraints and instability in public institutions are important elements to consider in planning to avoid delays in the implementation of activities.
4. The new contractual procedure adopted with public institutions (tripartite contract) has caused delays in the effective start of the OAP's activities.
5. Differences in approaches as well as administrative and financial procedures between CSOs, NGOs, and public institutions have been sources of dysfunction in the implementation of activities.
6. Adaptive management has been an effective way to ensure the implementation of activities (pooling of financial resources, restructuring of work plans, etc.) and to overcome restrictions linked to COVID 19.

<sup>2</sup> Convention d'Abidjan



### 3. RESULTS AND IMPACTS

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The implementation of the PRISE project has facilitated significant results at several levels.

In terms of coastal space planning and management, tools have been implemented that take into account the coastal ecosystems in the various target countries. These include the plan for development and integrated management of the coastal zone and the sea adjacent to Boavista Island (Cabo Verde), environmental assessments (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Republic of Guinea and Senegal) and environmental guidelines and audits, as well as sectorial guides.

On the regulatory level, legal texts have been delivered and decrees signed to optimise the rational use of space within the context of ecosystem conservation. These include an orientation law for planning and sustainable development of territories in Senegal<sup>3</sup>, and orders relating to POOC-M<sup>4</sup> in Cabo Verde.

At the local level, multi-party monitoring and an alert system have been set up by CSOs (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania) to help local communities manage the problem of infrastructure in sensitive coastal ecosystems and to create conditions for permanent dialogue.

Finally, the procedure has been initiated to draw up a development and integrated management plan for the Bijagos Archipelago and a zoning plan for the Saloum Delta.

Despite these positive results, others have not been achieved. These include:

- i. The ratification process for additional protocols to the Abidjan Convention. The protocols have been initiated by most partner countries but remain dependent on various roadblocks, such as cumbersome State administrative procedures.
- ii. Studies on Marine Areas of Ecological and Biological Importance have not been validated. As a result, their recommendations have not been integrated into development plans for priority sites.

<sup>3</sup> Law 2021-04, 12 January 2021 in Senegal.

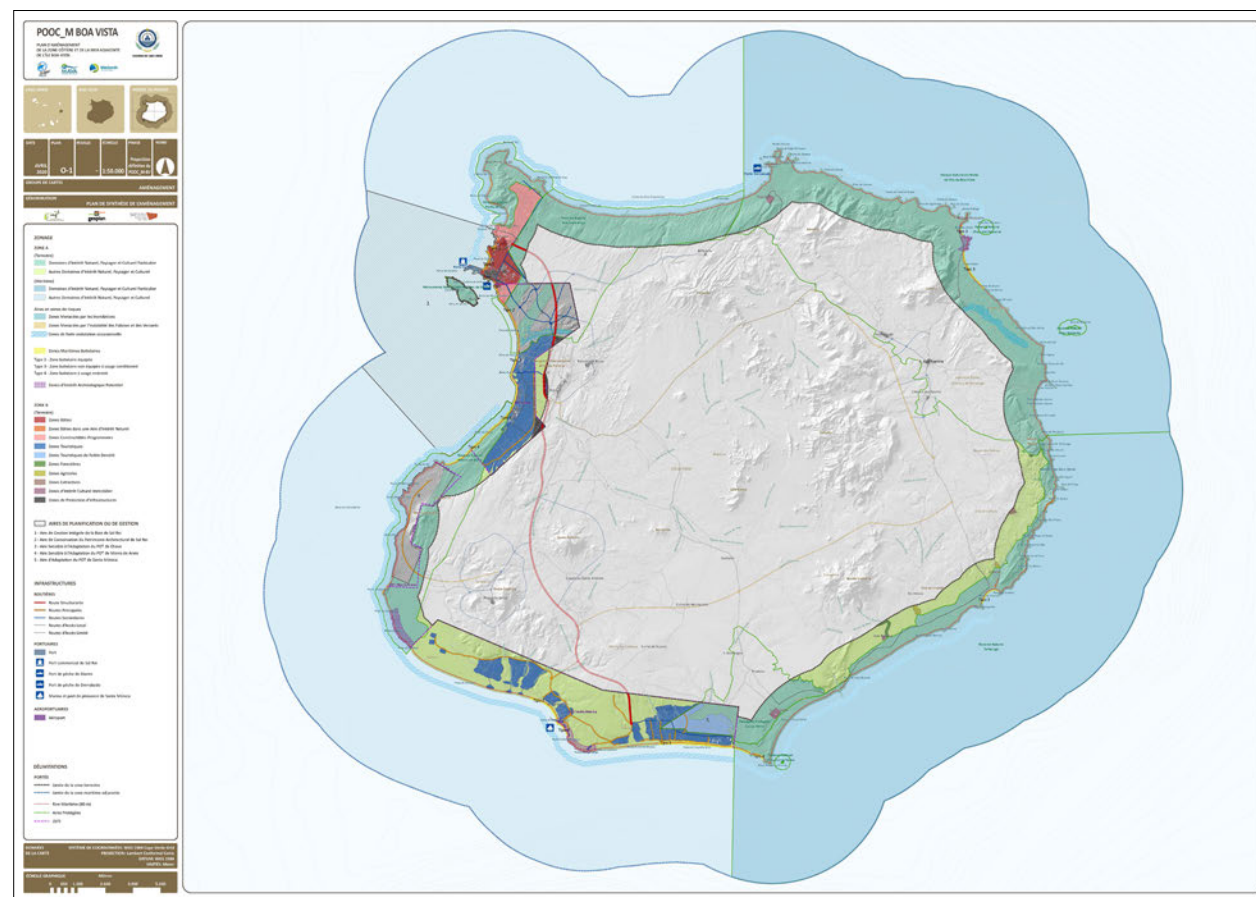
<sup>4</sup> Elaboration (n°29/20179) and publication in the Official Bulletin (n°112/2020).

## CASE STUDY 1: POOC-M DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE COASTAL ZONE AND THE SEA ADJACENT TO BOAVISTA ISLAND (CABO VERDE)

POOC-M applies to the strip of territory located 3 nautical miles from the marine area and 1,500 m from the land area. It was developed thanks to the commitment of State institutions, NGOs, and civil society to regulate the management and planning of the coast and the adjacent sea. Within this area, it imposes regulations for the use of the coastal zone (land and sea), and infrastructure establishment for ecosystem conservation and biodiversity.

Furthermore, it has harmonised existing planning tools and ordered the revision of some development plans for the island. There are already on-the-ground applications, including project approval support and licensing authorisation for new infrastructure.

The success and acceptance of this plan inspired the development of 4 new POOC-M<sup>5</sup>, with funding from MAVA and the World Bank.



Zoning Map of the Coastal Zone and Adjacent Sea of Boa Vista Island: It illustrates the zoning and use regulations that must occur in the coastal zone of Boa Vista, allowing the proper planning and management of this area, as well as the preservation and conservation of the ecosystems that coexist there.

<sup>5</sup> Maio Island (source: Ministerial Order no.37/2020 of August 13 and Marine Turtle Survival Project by WIACO, PRCM and MAVA) and Sao Vicente Island (source: Ministerial Order no.38/2020 of August 13); Santiago Island (source: Ministerial Order no.37/2019 of October 28).

## CASE STUDY 2: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MONITORING AND ALERT SYSTEMS

Civil society organizations (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania) have set up multi-party monitoring and alert systems. These systems help manage the problem of infrastructure in sensitive coastal ecosystems and provide conditions for permanent dialogue, limiting conflicts between local communities, politicians, and investors.

The systems also facilitate good environmental management practices sharing, good collaboration and synergies between stakeholders. This helps avoid duplication of coastal ecosystem conservation projects.

Finally, they will ensure sustainability of progress through the synergies they embody by including all stakeholders.



Defining the watch and warning framework in Fimela in the Saloum Delta in Senegal in May 2021



## KEY IMPACTS

The project utilised an inclusive and participatory approach towards development and implementation of planning, management, and regulatory tools. This made it possible to establish a framework for exchange and partnership between civil society, stakeholders, government institutions, the private sector, and national and sub-regional universities.

In addition, political commitment and support were key to achieving the project's objectives, and to improving the legislative and regulatory framework.

Furthermore, cumbersome administrative procedures and the inadequacy of financial resources for scheduled activities inhibited efficient implementation of work plans and, consequently, affected the achievement of certain results.

Among the main lessons learned, we can cite:

1. Dialogue and networking between stakeholders (civil society, State, private sector, media, and universities) and a participatory approach have enabled mutual enrichment among stakeholders, particularly for the development of POOC-M and MOOC.
2. Political commitment and support were decisive in achieving the project's objectives, particularly for passing laws (example: adoption of the orientation law for the sustainable territorial development, unlike the bill concerning Senegal's coast).
3. Tripartite contracts have been problematic for the achievement of objectives, due to delays in signing and disagreements between State institutions.
4. Inadequacy of financial resources for planned activities led to reorganisations, the results of which do not appear in the capitalisation of project achievements (score card).
5. Considering lengthy administrative procedures is a critical condition of activity planning and implementation.

## 4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT

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The project's good practices will be replicated to improve the decision-making process for sensitive coastal ecosystems conservation projects. Baseline data will be capitalised on, and recommendations implemented. Boavista Island's POOC-M, for example, makes contributions that strengthen Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) laws as well as providing some important points to support the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

In terms of legislation, it is important to continue influencing legislative and regulatory processes already under way. The SEAs and other tools like the geo-portal constitute solid bases for future planning and will guide the installation of new infrastructure.

Stakeholder mobilisation (CSOs, parliamentarians, media, protected area managers' network) for ecosystem conservation will facilitate the development of joint initiatives on mobilising resources and implementing actions.

Stakeholders' technical, material, and financial capacities will be strengthened, facilitating continued lobbying and more effective advocacy for monitoring and guiding infrastructure projects.

Going forward, the partnership will focus on increasing the resilience of sensitive coastal ecosystems to climate change, including via nature-based solutions. Implementation will also be extended to Gambia.

*“The partnership has been an effective way to achieve great things.”*

Mamadou Diawara, NGO Guinée Ecologie/ Guinea

*“Territorial planning and environmental protection are two sides of the same coin that must always be in dialogue to make development sustainable.”*

Baba Dramé, Direction of Environment and Classified Establishments (DEEC)/Senegal.



OAS partners (national institutions, CSOs, research institutions, international NGOs, regional organizations) gathered for the final evaluation in Saly, Senegal, October 2022