



rampao

Réseau Régional d'aires Maritimes Protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest

ACTIVITY REPORT  
**2022-2023**



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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>BI</b>	Birdlife International
<b>CST</b>	Conseil Scientifique et Technique
<b>DEMC</b>	Dakar Ecological Monitoring Center
<b>DMP</b>	Development and Management Plan
<b>DPWM</b>	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management
<b>FAEC</b>	Fight Against Environmental Crime
<b>FRD</b>	Forest Resources Department
<b>IEC</b>	Information Education and Communication
<b>IMET</b>	Integrated Management Efficiency Tools
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>MEFR</b>	Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources
<b>MESDET</b>	Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area
<b>MPAA</b>	Mediterranean Protected Areas Network
<b>NPAA</b>	National Protected Areas Authority
<b>NWRMC</b>	National Wildlife Reserve Management Center
<b>NPD</b>	Nature Protection Department
<b>OBPAWA</b>	Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa
<b>PBPAM</b>	Program for Biodiversity and Protected Area Management
<b>RPCMCA</b>	Regional Partnership for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Areas
<b>RNMPAWA</b>	Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa
<b>RISEC</b>	Regional Information System on Environmental Crime
<b>RGV</b>	Revenue-generating Activity
<b>SRFC</b>	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
<b>STS</b>	Sea Turtle Survival
<b>WIWCA</b>	Wetlands International for West and Central Africa
<b>WAADAF</b>	West African Association for the Development of Artisanal Fishing
<b>WR</b>	Wind Rose



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## A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

### Dear RAMP AO Members,

As usual, it is with great pleasure that I present to you the 22-23 activity report of the RAMP AO secretariat. Although it is in line with our primary mission of providing services to our members (capacity building, equipment provision, assessment of management efficiency, etc.), the 22-23 period has a special character marked by the elaboration and implementation of the RAMP AO Executive Secretariat's strategic plan for organizational development.

Over and above these objectives of developing and upgrading the internal organization and operation of the Executive Secretariat, this strategic document for the period 23-27 pursues the objectives of ensuring RAMP AO's leadership and the operation of the network, its governance bodies and member support services.

I am therefore delighted that, following a series of recruitment processes presided over by the Board of Directors and supported by experts from the CST and RAMP AO's thematic task forces, a permanent executive secretariat team has been set up, made up of trade experts whose respective profiles undoubtedly meet the main technical requirements formulated by RAMP AO's MPA Managers in the exercise of their day-to-day mission.

In drawing up its communication and capitalization strategy, and the associated five-year action plan, the RAMP AO secretariat is determined to consolidate its position as the only regional network with a regional mission to promote, support the establishment, management and monitoring of MPAs. The Republic of Ivory Coast joined RAMP AO and 6 new MPAs were created, continuing the momentum of RAMP AO's regional expansion.

On an international scale, the announcement that the 6th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 6) will be held on the African continent, in Dakar, Senegal, crowns the work of the RAMP AO network. Scheduled for 2027, IMPAC 6 offers the African continent an opportunity to build a forward-looking vision of the place and possible contributions of MPAs, in a context of rapid socio-economic development and climate change.

Happy reading!

**Marie Suzanna TRAORÉ**  
Executive Secretary of RAMP AO



## OUR VISION

*Vision: “a coherent network of marine protected areas in West Africa, managed by strong institutions, in a participatory manner, that value natural and cultural diversity to contribute to the sustainable development of the region”.*

## OUR MISSION

*The mission of the West African Marine Protected Areas (RAMPAO) is to ensure, on a West African regional scale, the maintenance of a coherent set of critical habitats necessary for the dynamic functioning of ecological processes essential to the regeneration of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity at the service of societies.*

# General information on RAMPAO

## 1. Who we are

RAMPAO is a network of Members composed of 3 colleges: the college of States, the college of MPA Managers and the college of Local Communities. It works for the governance and effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the West African region, providing its members with the knowledge and tools needed to conserve marine and coastal biodiversity. Created in 2007, the RAMPAO network is unique in having a regional mandate to promote, support the implementation and accompany the management and monitoring of MPAs. It currently has some fifty MPA members from the coastal countries of West Africa. The network comprises National Parks, Nature Reserves, Marine Protected Areas, Community Marine Protected Areas, Wetlands, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Autonomous and Community Heritage Areas. RAMPAO has the status of a regional organization and is officially recognized by the environmental and/or fisheries departments of the member states.

## 2. Our objectives

RAMPAO was born of a common desire expressed by the States and the various conservation stakeholders, in the face of the numerous pressures and threats weighing on the marine and coastal ecosystems of the West African region.

The aim of this regional initiative is to ensure:

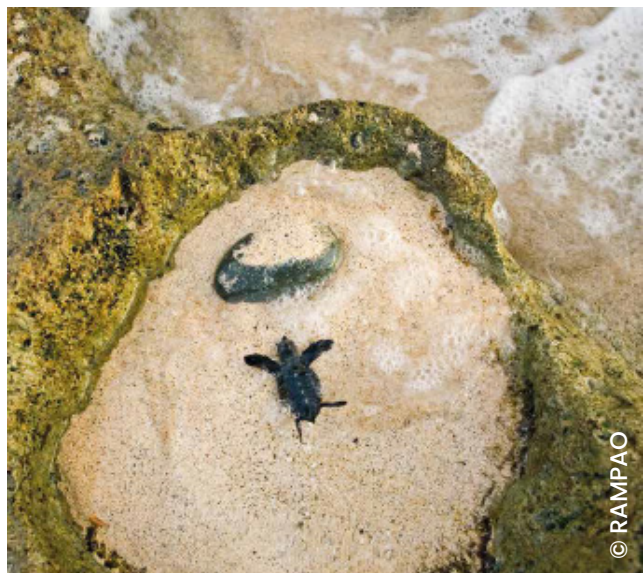
- the maintenance of a coherent set of critical habitats necessary for the dynamic functioning of environmental processes essential to the regeneration of natural marine resources;
- and the conservation of biodiversity for the well-being of local communities, through a functional regional network of MPAs.

More specifically, RAMPAO aims to:

- network a set of representative MPAs;
- rehabilitate and restore critical habitats;
- promote exchange and mutual learning between members;
- create synergies between MPAs on topics of common interest;
- make the region's MPAs functional and operational; and
- strengthen mutual capacities for advocacy and representation of the region's MPAs in the international arena.

## 3. RAMPAO structure and operation

Under the authority of the General Assembly, whose role is to adopt the decisions necessary to achieve the network's objectives, its governance and its operation, in liaison with the Board of Directors, which ensures that its decisions are implemented, and the Executive Secretariat, which oversees all the network's administrative, management and coordination tasks. The Secretariat is supported in its tasks by members of the Scientific and Technical Council and experts from RAMPAO's thematic Task Forces.



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# Technical review 2022-2023

# COMPONENT 1

Support for the RAMPAO extension dynamic



The network's mission to promote, support the establishment and accompany the management and monitoring of MPAs has the ambition of gradually extending to the whole of the West African coastline, and so the accession of new countries to RAMPAO is crucial to strengthening its impact in the region. Thanks to the leadership of RAMPAO's Board of Directors, with the support of the Executive Secretariat, between 2022 and 2023, the processes for Togo and Côte d'Ivoire to join the network have been set in motion. This common desire reflects the growing commitment of West African countries to build synergies to preserve natural capital and promote sustainable and equitable management of marine and coastal resources through a regional network of interconnected and complementary MPAs.

In addition to complying with commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, to which all RAMPAO member states are contracting parties, the extension of the RAMPAO network, through the creation of new MPAs, will make it possible to pool efforts to protect biodiversity, particularly threatened species and critical habitats, amplify conservation actions and strengthen the contribution of West Africa's network of marine protected areas to the global objectives enshrined in Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

## 1.1. Accession of new countries to RAMPAO

### 1.1.1. The Republic of Togo

Togo is a West African country on the Gulf of Guinea, with an estimated population of 8.1 million in 2023.

Its marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as those of its shores, banks, lakes, rivers and groundwater, are rich in natural resources and offer enormous potential for wealth creation, employment and integration.

Since 2022, the RAMPAO Executive Secretariat has been working with the Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources (MEFR), through the Forest Resources Department (FRD), on the country's membership of the Network. A workshop was held in Lomé on January 22 and 23, 2024, to discuss the process of creating protected areas. Entirely financed by RAMPAO, the workshop capitalized on the various initiatives undertaken by several organizations to create marine protected areas in the country, identified the institutional, technical and operational steps to be taken to create marine protected areas in Togo and, above all, laid the foundations for a synergy of actions to make Togo's membership of RAMPAO a reality.

At the end of the workshop, firm commitments were made by the FRD to compile and submit the Republic of Togo's application for membership to the RAMPAO Board of Directors.



Togo WAP creation workshop

## 1.1.2. The Republic of Ivory Coast

On July 25, 2023, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, through its Ministry in charge of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition (MESDET), officially notified the RAMP AO Executive Secretariat of its intention to join the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa, with a view to contributing to marine and coastal zone conservation efforts in the region.

Indeed, this political commitment follows the official creation of the 1st Marine Protected Area named "MPA Grand-Béréby" by presidential decree signed on July 2, 2022. It also demonstrates the political will of the Ivorian government to preserve marine biodiversity and promote sustainable management of marine resources. In October 2023, after examining the Ivorian Ministry of the Environment's request, the members of RAMP AO's Board of Directors approved the inclusion of Ivory Coast in RAMP AO's College of Member States. This is a significant step forward for the network, as it has just added the ninth country to its membership. It's a highly symbolic act, with many issues at stake for the preservation of our natural marine and coastal resources.

## 1.2. Support for the creation of new MPAs

As the only regional MPA network in West Africa, RAMP AO remains a key player in the conservation of marine and coastal resources in the region. 17 years after its creation, its leadership and expertise in supporting the creation and effective management of MPAs make it a powerful instrument of regional integration for the implementation of regional policies on the environment and the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity.

The RAMP AO Thematic Task Forces, a support body for the RAMP AO network, were set up with the support of the IUCN and the SRFC. Their role is to advise, support and accompany the network's MPAs by providing MPA managers and the grassroots community organizations that live around these protected areas with technical skills and adapted tools, with a view to improving knowledge on various themes linked to the governance and management of MPAs.

Between 2022 and 2023, at the request of its members, the executive secretariat has deployed experts from RAMP AO's Thematic Task Forces to provide technical support to four (4) MPAs in the network: the bouche du Roy and Donaten MPAs in Benin, the Gorée MPA in Senegal, and the Grand-Béréby MPA in Ivory Coast.



RAMP AO membership

### 1.2.1. Bouche du Roy & Donaten MPAs

Created by decree N°2020- 003 of February 05, 2020, the Donaten and Bouche du Roy MPAs were set up with the aim of ensuring the conservation and equitable, sustainable use of natural resources. In this context, RAMPAO’s support for the process of drawing up the development and management plan (PAG) remains a crucial step. RAMPAO therefore carried out a visit with a view to supporting the Beninese government, through NWRMC, in establishing the baseline situation for these two new MPAs.

For Bouche du Roy, the RAMPAO Task Force contributed to the characterization of the new MPA. As for DONATEN, the RAMPAO Task Force was deployed for the technical review of the diagnostic study of the MPA, which is to serve as a basic document for the forthcoming work on drawing up the DMP. The DMP development process is based on a participatory and inclusive approach involving all stakeholders, including government departments, local communities, local authorities, the private sector, NGOs and resource users, before leading to its validation and implementation by a dedicated management team.

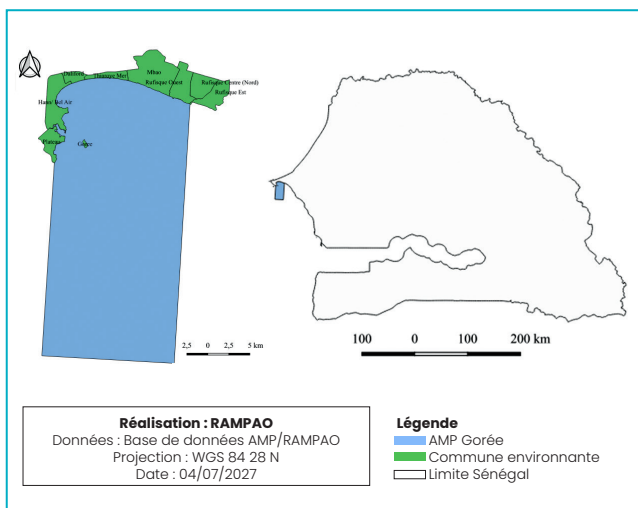
RAMPAO’s technical support has therefore helped to instil a regional dimension, as well as mobilizing specialized expertise through the RAMPAO Task Force, thus reinforcing the relevance and credibility of the process. The expected end result is a strategic and operational framework integrating preservation, restoration and enhancement measures, while encouraging the involvement of local stakeholders and promoting the sustainable use of the area’s resources.

### 1.2.2. Goree’s MPA

Goree’s MPA in Senegal was created by decree 2020-1133 of May 27, 2020. As a member of RAMPAO, between 2022 and 2023 it benefited from the technical support of experts from its Task Force in mapping the MPA, drawing up its DMP, defining management rules and setting up and ensuring the effective operation of the MPA’s management body.

The approach was essentially participatory and inclusive at every stage of the process. Two workshops were organized to define the management rules and agree on the zoning of the MPA, and to validate the related deliverables. And, secondly, to raise awareness among Gorée MPA users of the MPA’s management rules and zoning on the basis of communication media and, above all, visits to exchange experiences in the Cayar and Joal MPAs (in Senegal), all members of the RAMPAO network.

Figure 1: Map of the Gorée MPA



© : Nature Tropicale ONG

### 1.2.3. AMP de Grand-Béréby

Created on July 2, 2022 by presidential decree n°2022-448 of July 06, 2022, the Grand-Béréby MPA in Ivory Coast also benefits from the support of the RAMPAO Task Force through several missions to identify the MPA's baseline situation.

With this in mind, the RAMPAO network is supporting and collaborating with the Nature Protection Department (NPD), the supervisory body, in drawing up the DMP for the Grand Béréby MPA. To this end, a roadmap has been produced and submitted to RAMPAO's executive secretariat for implementation in the near future.





Visit to AMP Grand-Béréby, San Pedro

# COMPONENT 2:

Support for improving the management efficiency  
and operation of RAMPAO MPAs





The effective management of the network's MPAs is one of RAMPAO's primary missions in a context particularly marked by the financial precariousness of the majority of the network's MPAs, coastal erosion due to climate change, demographic growth along the West African coastline, overexploitation of marine and coastal resources, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, pollution in various forms... Backed by its technical expertise and sub-regional presence, RAMPAO will be monitoring and evaluating the effective management of some twenty MPAs in the network between 2022 and 2023, using two flagship tools: Integrated Management Effectiveness Tools (IMET) and the Wind Rose (WR). In addition, as part of its mission to provide services to its members, the network has provided a dozen member MPAs with office equipment and material for monitoring the network's MPAs, thereby helping to strengthen the regulatory monitoring and control system for users of these protected sites.

## 2.1. MPA management effectiveness assessment campaigns

### 2.1.1 Integrated Management Effectiveness Tools (IMET)

IMET is a decision-support tool designed to strengthen the planning, monitoring and evaluation process in order to improve the effectiveness of protected area management. It is suitable for all protected areas, regardless of their management category or governance. The tool takes the form of a computer application that can be downloaded free of charge, installed on a PC and used without an Internet connection. It collects, organizes and visualizes protected area data to facilitate analysis and guide planning decisions.

A total of 4 MPAs in the network were supported by the RAMPAO secretariat as part of its OBAPAO IMET campaigns. They include:

- Ehotilé Islands National Park (Ivory Coast)
- Aghien Nature Reserve (Ivory Coast)
- Donaten MPA (Benin)
- Bouche du Roy MPA (Benin)

### 2.1.2. Wind Rose (WR)

The Wind Rose (WR) is a tool for assessing the effectiveness of an MPA's management. Its aim is to identify in detail the strengths and weaknesses of the MPA's management and to propose a list of actions to correct the MPA's weaknesses. It is therefore an assessment tool that can be used by evaluators, donors, managers and others. It can be carried out alone, given the information accumulated, but the ideal is to complete it in a participatory manner with at least the manager, and then to confirm his or her opinion by asking questions of the stakeholders encountered on the most sensitive, unclear, complex criteria, etc., which deserve to be verified through a triangulation of information.

As part of the PIMFAO project, assessments of RAMPAO MPAs using the Rose des Vents tool were carried out in collaboration with experts from Cabinet Oréade Brèche (who also designed the tool) and experts from the RAMPAO Task Force. A total of 9 sites were involved, and a participatory and inclusive approach was favored, involving the management team, members of the management committee and the main users of the MPAs.

#### The nine (9) MPAs are:

- Kapatchez MPA in Guinea
- Loos Islands MPA in Guinea
- Tristao MPA, Guinea-Bissau
- Alcatraz MPA, Guinea-Bissau
- Saint Louis MPA, Senegal
- Gandoule MPA, Senegal
- Bamboung MPA, Senegal
- Niamone Kalounayes MPA, Senegal
- Grand-Béréby MPA in Ivory Coast



## 2.2.- Support for MPA operations

### 2.2.1. Provision of office equipment

To strengthen the functional and operational capacities of MPA management bodies, the RAMPAO Secretariat has provided 8 MPAs with office equipment and MPA monitoring, control and surveillance materials.

These include computers, printers, office tables, office and visitor chairs and file cabinets.

The table below shows the equipment and the beneficiary MPAs.



Endowment of office equipment in Casamance

**Table 1: Office equipment provided to MPA management committees**

MPA beneficiaries	Equipment received
Kalolaal Blouf Fogny MPA	03 computers, printers, 03 office tables + chaires, 1 storage cupboard
Ufoyaal Kassa Bandial MPA	03 computers, printers, 03 office tables + chaires, 1 storage cupboard
Kawawana MPA	03 computers, printers, 03 office tables + chaires, 1 storage cupboard
Kalissaye ornithological reserve	03 computers, printers, 03 office tables + chaires, 1 storage cupboard

### 2.2.2. Provision of MPA monitoring, control and surveillance equipment

From November 9 to 15, 2023, a mission was carried out in the Gambia and Sierra Leone to help strengthen the regulatory control system for users of the country's MPAs, as well as monitoring and surveillance of

resources in general and critical habitats and endangered species in particular.

This mission is part of the STM 2 project, funded by the HANS Foundation and coordinated by PRCM.

The table below gives details of the equipment allocated to the MPAs.

**Table 2: Allocation of monitoring equipment to RAMPAO member MPAs in The Gambia and Sierra Leone**

MPA beneficiaries	Equipment received
Tanji Bird Reserve (The Gambia)	1 motorcycle 20 rain suit 20 mud boot 20 reflective vests 4 GPS 4 digital cameras 4 camping tents.
Bolong Fenyo Community Wildlife Reserve (The Gambia)	1 motorcycle 20 rain suit 20 mud boot 20 reflective vests 4 GPS 4 digital cameras 4 camping tents.
Yawry Bay (Sierra Leone)	1 motorcycle 20 rain suit 20 mud boot 20 reflective vests 4 GPS 4 digital cameras 4 camping tents
Sherbro River Estuary (Sierra Leone)	1 motorcycle 20 rain suit 20 mud boot 20 reflective vests 4 GPS 4 digital cameras 4 camping tents



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# COMPONENT 3

## Capacity-building for MPA managers and management committee members



The RAMPAO Executive Secretariat is fully committed to building the capacity of MPA managers and members of management committees made up of local communities living around these MPAs, to improve knowledge of the bio-ecological dynamics of species, a better understanding of the uses of the MPA, compliance with pre-established management rules and sustainable use of the goods and services provided by the MPA. In this respect, over a hundred managers and members of RAMPAO's MPA management committees have been trained in various key themes relating to MPA governance and management, such as marine turtle conservation, sea grass management, the blue economy and the fight against environmental crime.

These capacity-building sessions were conducted in collaboration with RAMPAO's technical and financial partners: IUCN, the CHELONÉE Association, the University of Algarve in Portugal, the Blue Governance Center at the University of Portsmouth in the UK, WAADAF...

### 3.1 Marine turtle conservation

This practical training course was conducted as part of the RAMPAO project "Conservation of marine turtles through catch reduction in artisanal fisheries and capacity building for MPA managers".

Thanks to the technical support of experts from the CHELONÉE Association, some thirty

MPA managers from Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cabo-Verde have benefited from a 5-day practical training course covering aspects linked to the identification of marine turtle species, ecological monitoring of turtles at nesting sites, nest and hatchery management, management and care of turtles recovered from accidental captures, and translocation of turtles in the sea...

The workshop also made the link between sea turtle conservation and international instruments such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which makes the conservation of sea turtle habitats a priority. The thirty or so MPA managers trained in marine turtle protection have strengthened the network of NGOs involved in marine turtle conservation along the West African coast.

In terms of capitalization, this RAMPAO training program has made it possible to:

- Produce a practical training manual in English, French and Portuguese
- Produce an advocacy document highlighting the connectivity of the network's MPAs through one of the region's most emblematic turtle species: the green turtle
- Equip some thirty network managers with technical skills and practical tools for protecting marine turtles.



Sea turtle training workshop

### 3.2 Sea grass conservation

As carbon dioxide sinks, the protection of sea grass beds on a regional scale has become a priority for countries in the West African eco-region, where sea grass species have been identified (from Mauritania to Sierra Leone) as part of the ResilienSEA project, coordinated by wetlands in collaboration with Grid Arendhal and RAMP AO.

The aim of the ResilienSEA project is to improve basic knowledge of sea grass beds in order to ensure their protection in West Africa. Among other things, the project has enabled the first-ever mapping of sea grass beds on a West African scale, from Mauritania to Sierra Leone, showing important sea grass sites in the 7 countries targeted by the project (Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Cabo-Verde and Sierra Leone).

RAMP AO's contribution to the ResilienSEA project, which focuses on protecting and improving the management of sea grass meadows in pilot sites, led the executive secretariat to conduct a practical training course on seagrass conservation in West Africa at Somone, Senegal, for some thirty managers from Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, the Republic of Guinea and Sierra Leone. The work carried out by experts from the University of Algave in Portugal provided a wealth of information on:

- The biology and ecology of sea grass beds
- Global, regional and local threats to sea grass beds in RAMP AO countries
- Management measures for sea grass beds in RAMP AO countries
- Monitoring methods for assessing sea grass health and trends

In the chapter of capitalization, the training manual was produced in the network's 3 working languages (English, Portuguese and French) to ensure its appropriation. Three interactive videos were also produced to raise awareness of the importance of sea grass beds, to raise awareness of degradation practices and to encourage politicians to integrate this marine ecosystem into national and regional policies to combat climate change.

### 3.3 Blue economy

The RAMP AO Secretariat organized a webinar on June 28, 2023, on the theme "The blue economy: what opportunities for the West African region?"

Moderated by Pierre Failler, Professor of Economics at the University of Portsmouth and Director of the Blue Governance Center, this webinar brought together nearly 80 participants, including RAMP AO members, researchers, students and the general public.

In addition to MPA managers, this online information session raised awareness among conservation professionals of the potential of the blue economy for the West African region, identified challenges and opportunities linked to the sustainable exploitation of marine and coastal resources, and promoted collaboration between key players in the development of the blue economy in the region.

The webinar, which was followed by a question-and-answer session, provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the potential of the blue economy for West Africa.

### 3.4. Fight against Environmental Crime (FAEC)

As part of IUCN's support for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems, Environmental Governance and Climate Change in West Africa - PAPBio, RAMP AO's Executive Secretariat supported the organization of a cross-border networking workshop for stakeholders involved in the Fight against Environmental Crime in marine protected areas from September 5 to 7, 2023 in Dakar, Senegal.

This workshop brought together some thirty law enforcement officers from MPAs and marine and coastal ecosystems along the West African coast from Mauritania to Nigeria, with the aim of strengthening cross-border cooperation between actors involved in FAEC in marine protected areas and marine and coastal ecosystems in West Africa.

Participants shared experiences of monitoring and presented the situation of



Training workshop on environmental crime

environmental crimes in their respective sites. In addition, an exchange and communication network on environmental crime was set up to facilitate the sharing of information on surveillance actions and cases of crime recorded in MPAs.

Stakeholders have also been introduced to the use of the regional information system on environmental crime (RISEC). RISEC is a component of the Observation for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBPAWA) and its role is to mobilize environmental crime data, thereby helping to inform threat indicators at OBPAWA level. RISEC will make it possible to monitor the spatio-temporal dynamics of environmental crime and guide strategies and decision-making in the fight against environmental crime within MPAs and states.

### 3.5. Development of MPA management rules

A capacity-building workshop on management rules for the Cayar and Gorée MPAs was held in 2022.

It enabled members of the Gorée MPA Management Committee to exchange views with the Cayar Management Committee on the process of setting up a Management Committee, its mission, how it operates, and strategies for enhancing the value of a site, challenges and possible solutions.

The workshop was also an excellent opportunity for promoters/women's groups to exchange and share experiences on the constraints they face in processing and adding value to fishery resources. Finally, the workshop provided an opportunity to discuss MPA zoning procedures with fishermen, and to prioritize MPA monitoring indicators and management objectives.

# COMPONENT 4

## Production of Training Manuals and Study Reports





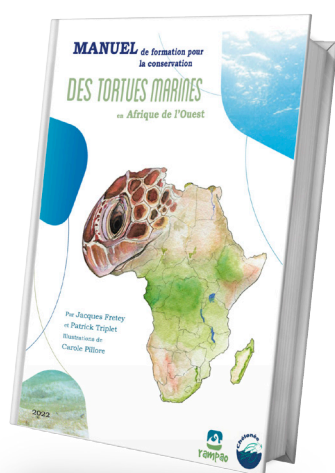
West Africa's coasts are a migration corridor for many species of fish, birds and sea turtles, and are home to countless emblematic species and habitats that are both fragile and necessary for maintaining ecological processes. Protecting these critical ecosystems is therefore essential for the survival of endangered species and the conservation of biodiversity.

With this in mind, RAMPAO places the production of knowledge by experts from the region and beyond, at the heart of its priorities. This knowledge is primarily intended for managers and members of MPA management committees, who are at the heart of the shared governance and management of these MPAs, as well as for political decision-makers and practitioners of marine and coastal conservation in West Africa.

The aim is to improve knowledge and, above all, provide tools for informed decision-making that support conservation efforts and contribute to the preservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in West Africa.

#### 4.1. Training manual for marine turtle conservation in West Africa

The result of collaboration between experts from the Chélonée association and RAMPAO, the training manual for marine turtle conservation draws on local success stories (notably endogenous knowledge). It fills the gaps in knowledge about marine turtle conservation by considering the needs previously expressed by Network members. The manual proposes principles and methods that can inspire and guide the actions of MPA managers and users in favor of marine turtles.

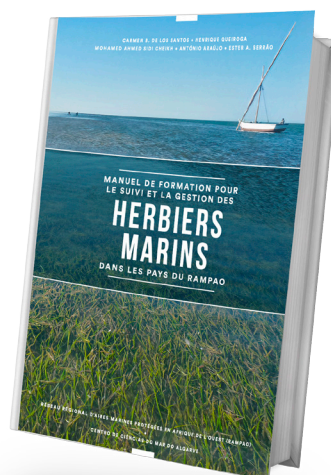


#### 4.2 Training manual for monitoring and managing sea grass beds

The production of the training manual for the monitoring and management of seagrass beds is the fruit of collaboration between RAMPAO and scientists from Portugal's University of Algae.

The training manual represents a major step forward in the protection of these fragile ecosystems and is the first of its kind in West Africa.

More than just an educational tool, this manual is the first compilation of major information on seagrass beds in the West African region.



#### 4.3. Study report on the socio-economic impacts of the fishmeal and fish oil industry

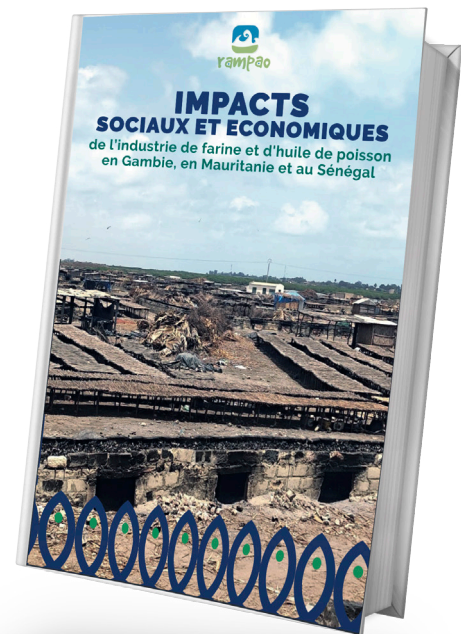
This report was produced as part of the "Our Fish" project funded by OCEANS 5 and the MAVA Foundation.

It deals with the social and economic impacts of fishmeal and fish oil production plants in Mauritania, Senegal and the Gambia, which over the past decade have proliferated, putting additional pressure on already overexploited stocks of small pelagic. On the one hand, the report highlights the problem of the raw material used in the fishmeal and fish oil industry, which is essentially made up of the fresh fish species most accessible to people in the West African region. On the other hand, the proliferation of an industry essentially destined for export, which does

not benefit the aquaculture and livestock sectors of the countries in the region, namely Gambia, Senegal and Mauritania.

The report also provides an in-depth analysis of the negative social and economic impacts of the fishmeal and fish oil industries in The Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal. It helps to understand the organization and functioning of these operational fishmeal and fish oil production units, and the perceptions of the various stakeholders (industrial fishermen, artisanal fishermen, fishmongers, retailers, women processors, consumers, etc.).

The report also proposes appropriate measures to reduce the social and economic impacts and environmental risks of fishmeal and fish oil production plants in each target country.



# COMPONENT 5

## RAMPAO Small Projects Program



The RAMPAO small projects program, financed by the French Global Environment Facility (FGEF), aims to revitalize the network's leadership dynamic, strengthen network cohesion by developing exchanges of experience between small projects, and improve the capacities of MPAs and local organizations by providing them with small grants to implement concrete actions to enhance the management effectiveness of the network's MPAs.

Three themes are central to the selection of these projects. These are: support for

MPA management; conservation and bio-ecological monitoring of marine and coastal ecosystems; and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for the conservation of marine and coastal resources.

For this 1st call for small projects, 15 small projects were selected for total funding of 290,278 euros for an 18-month implementation period.

The projects funded are listed in Table 4 below.

**Table 3: Presentations of small projects selected in the 1st call of the FIMPAO project**

PROJECT TITLE	MPAS TARGETED	BENEFICIARIES	OBJECTIVES	RESULTS OBTAINED
Support for the organization of participatory monitoring operations and capacity building for community monitors in the Bamboung MPA area (Toubacouta, Saloum Delta)	Bamboung MPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community supervisors</li> <li>▪ Bamboung MPA management committee,</li> <li>▪ Population of the 13 villages bordering Bamboung MPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support participatory monitoring activities in the Bamboung MPA area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capacities of BMPA agents and community monitors strengthened</li> <li>▪ Participatory monitoring operation organized at MPA level</li> <li>▪ Awareness of biodiversity conservation issues in the BMPA area raised</li> </ul>
Niamone-Kalounayes Marine Protected Area Ecosystem Governance and Community Capacity Building Support Project (GCCBS)	Niamone-Kalounayes MPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NKMPA Management Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve resilience mechanisms of mangrove ecosystems and other NKMPA values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resilience mechanisms of mangrove ecosystems and other MPA values are improved</li> </ul>
Waste management and recovery project of Saint Louis MPA	Saint-Louis MPA	Saint-Louis Marine Protected Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Propose a waste management strategy</li> <li>▪ contribute to the fight against plastic waste in the marine and coastal environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The problems posed by plastic waste on the marine and coastal environment of Saint-Louis are better known.</li> <li>▪ Turtle nesting area cleaned up</li> <li>▪ Awareness of actions to reduce plastic waste is raised.</li> </ul>

Diapalé éco-gardes	Somone MPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EIG of co-gardes</li> <li>▪ Management committee of Somone MPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generate income for SMPA</li> <li>▪ Improve living conditions for eco-guards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Terrestrial monitoring coverage of the Somone MPA is improved and systematized.</li> <li>▪ The blue economy is encouraged within the MPA (noise pollution and greenhouse gas emissions mitigated),</li> </ul>
Community commitment to the sustainable conservation of the Marine Protected Areas of the TRISTAO Islands	TRISTAO Islands MPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tristao Islands population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring a sustainable future for communities through the creation of income-generating activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By 2023, effective planning is promoted</li> <li>▪ Best practices in biodiversity protection are adopted by stakeholders enabling mitigation of sector impacts on natural resources and communities in Tristao Islands MPA.</li> <li>▪ By 2023, community livelihoods and well-being are progressively improved.</li> </ul>
Community-based approach to MPA governance in Benin	Mono Transfrontier Biosphere Reserve: Bouche du Roy site (MAB-UNESCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riverside communities of Benin's marine protected areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving the governance of Benin's community marine protected areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riverside communities are better involved in the governance of natural resources.</li> <li>▪ RAMSAR MPAs are managed more effectively</li> </ul>
Rehabilitation of degraded habitats and community resilience around SANGOMAR MPA	SANGOMAR MPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Restore degraded habitats</li> <li>▪ Improve the resilience of riverside communities through oyster farming, beekeeping and environmental education for schoolchildren.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Degraded ecosystems are rehabilitated</li> <li>▪ Management committee members trained and equipped</li> <li>▪ Environmental education of schoolchildren (FALIA-NIODIOR-DIONEWAR) improved</li> </ul>
Associativism, an essential strategy for organizing ecotourism activities and promoting natural and cultural heritage.	Porto Mosquito - Municipality of Ribeira Grande de Santiago, Cape Verde	The Porto Mosquito community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote and strengthen the Porto Mosquito nature guide association</li> <li>▪ Create and make functional the association of nature guides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An open-air interpretation center in the village of Porto Mosquito is created</li> <li>▪ Small portfolio of tourist activities/ products integrating natural and cultural heritage is created</li> </ul>

Artificial reef immersion and bioecological monitoring project at Abéné MPA	Abéné MPA	Local communities and managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor biological populations</li> <li>offer species a better living environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species dynamics are known</li> <li>Artificial reefs are built and immersed</li> <li>Communication materials are produced</li> <li>Awareness-raising sessions are organized</li> </ul>
SRACST (Studies and Reduction of Accidental Catch of Sea Turtles)	The entire Mauritanian coastline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The riverside community</li> <li>Conservationists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing incidental catches of sea turtles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By-catch of sea turtles reduced</li> </ul>
Participatory contribution to improving ecosystem preservation in the Urban Nature Reserve of Pikine Grand Niaye and Dependency (UNRPGND)	Grand Niaye of Pikine and Dependency Urban Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local communities</li> <li>Local players</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in improving the preservation of the UNRPGND ecosystem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reserve's degraded natural habitats have been restored.</li> <li>Reserve bird population dynamics are known</li> <li>Awareness-raising among local residents</li> </ul>
Supporting sea turtle conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along the coast (Banjul - Kartong)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishing communities</li> <li>PWM</li> <li>Smile for Life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training and awareness-raising on turtle nesting data collection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine turtle breeding populations are protected</li> <li>A communication plan is drawn up</li> <li>Tools and materials are obtained to raise awareness among beneficiary communities.</li> </ul>
Protection of sea turtles through co-management of the Kalissaye Ornithological Reserve (KOR)	Kalissaye Ornithological Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable conservation of sea turtles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea turtle breeding conditions are improved</li> <li>stakeholders are made aware of the importance of marine turtles</li> <li>income-generating activities are implemented to reduce encroachment on turtle nesting sites</li> </ul>

<p>Awareness-raising and support for marine fishermen and women fishmongers for sustainable management of the Donaten MPA</p>	<p>Donaten MPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Artisan fishermen</li> <li>▪ Seamstresses</li> <li>▪ Ecogardes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contribute to the sustainable management of the Donaten MPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fishermen, fishmongers and local residents are aware of the presence of the Donaten MPA.</li> <li>▪ Stakeholder capacity for sustainable management of the Donaten MPA is strengthened.</li> <li>▪ Sources of income for fishermen and fishmongers are diversified, reducing pressure on the Donaten MPA.</li> </ul>
<p>Project to support artisanal fishermen and women in managing marine biodiversity in the Popenguine Reserve</p>	<p>Popenguine Nature Reserve and Popenguine commune</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Artisan fishermen</li> <li>▪ Local communities of Popenguine, Ndayane and Popenguine sérère</li> </ul>	<p>Improving the livelihoods of artisanal fishing communities living around the Popenguine Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fish production areas are protected</li> <li>▪ Local fishermen are provided with appropriate fishing equipment and gear, and trained in sustainable fishing techniques.</li> </ul>

# COMPONENT 6

## Strengthening and consolidation of RAMPAO





Firmly committed to a process of reinforcement and consolidation to guarantee its sustainability and legitimacy among its members, RAMP AO has held meetings of its governance and support bodies. The preparation and implementation of an organizational development plan for the RAMP AO secretariat in 2023 marks a decisive turning point in the professionalization and performance of its actions, with the establishment of a permanent RAMP AO executive secretariat team. To lay the foundations for its consolidation, the network also launched the LMC project.

### 6.1. RAMP AO General Assembly

The ninth RAMP AO General Assembly was held from 27 to 28 March 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.

It was co-organized by the Senegalese Ministry in charge of the Environment and Sustainable Development (through

the National Parks Directorate and the Community Protected Marine Areas Directorate) and the RAMP AO Executive Secretariat.

For this ninth edition, the work of the general assembly took place in person and by videoconference. This bimodal organization facilitated the participation of representatives from eight RAMP AO member countries (Benin, Mauritania, Cabo Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone) in both the technical and institutional segments of the General Assembly, in the presence of the network's technical and financial partners.

During this 9th session, which was attended by more than a hundred participants, the following main resolutions were adopted by the RAMP AO General Assembly:



## **FIRST RESOLUTION**

### **Election of the President**

The RAMP AO General Assembly unanimously elected Colonel Mamadou SIDIBE, Senegal's Director of Community Marine Protected Areas (DCMPA), as President of RAMP AO. He replaces Mr. Aly Ould Mohamed SALEM.

The President is also the President of the RAMP AO General Assembly for a 24-month term.

## **SECOND RESOLUTION**

### **Appointment of the Members of the Board of Directors**

The candidates having made themselves known and having presented themselves, the General Meeting decides to appoint, in accordance with Article 12 of the RAMP AO Articles of Association, the 11 members of the Board of Directors, made up of:

#### ► **the elected Chairman the Vice-Chairman of RAMP AO**

1. Mr. Mamadou SIDIBE, Director of the DCMPA (Senegal)
2. Mr. Aly Ould Mohamed SALEM, Director of the PNBA (Mauritania)

#### ► **9 members divided into three colleges of three members each:**

##### **For the States:**

3. Mr. Abdel Aziz Baba-Moussa, Director of CENAGREF (Benin);
4. Mr. Aboubacar SAMOURA, Director of the Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves (Guinea);
5. Mrs. Yatta CAMARA, Manager National Protected Area Authority (Sierra Leone).

##### **MPA Managers:**

6. Mr. Domingu BETUNDE of the Natural Park of Mangroves of the Rio Cacheu River (Guinea Bissau);
7. Mr. Sadio MANÉ of the Niimi National Park (Gambia)
8. The manager (to be appointed) of the Santa Luzia MPA (Cabo Verde).

##### **For the college of local communities:**

- 9) Mr Jean-Baptiste KOUMADO, Bouche du Roi MPA (Benin);
- 10) Mr. Salatou SAMBOU, Kawawana Community Indigenous Protected Area (Senegal);
- 11) Mr. Karim Sall, JOAL-FADIOUTH Marine Protected Area (Senegal).

## **THIRD RESOLUTION**

### **Accession of new MPA members to RAMP AO**

The membership applications of the new members listed below were examined and accepted by the RAMP AO General Assembly:

#### ► **Nine (9) full members:**

1. The Kalissaye Ornithological Reserve (Senegal);
2. The Grande Niaye of Pikine Urban Nature Reserve (Senegal);
3. The Gorée Marine Protected Area (Senegal);
4. Kaalolal Blouf Fogny Marine Protected Area (Senegal);
5. The Ufoyaal Kassa-Bandial Marine Protected Area (Senegal);
6. The Jokadu National Park (Gambia);
7. Donaten MPA (Benin);
8. Bouche du Roy MPA (Benin);
9. Sherbro River Estuary (Sierra Leone).

#### ► **Neuf (9) membres associés :**

1. The Association for the Protection of Marine Turtles in Mauritania (APTOM);
2. The National Federation of Fishing EIG (NFFEIG) of Senegal;
3. Nature Community Development (NCD) of Senegal;
4. Smile for Life of the Gambia;
5. Carbone Guinea from the Republic of Guinea;
6. The Reptile and Amphibian Program, Sierra Leone;
7. Terrimar - Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Sustentável, Cape Verde;
8. Dr. Mamadou DIALLO (Senegal);
9. Mr. Ibrahima GUEYE (Senegal).

## **FOURTH RESOLUTION**

### **Extension of the scope of RAMPAO**

RAMPAO integrates river-lake and terrestrial protected areas and recognizes other effective conservation measures by area.

#### **6.2. Meetings of RAMPAO bodies**

The RAMPAO secretariat held its annual retreat to prepare the network's annual work plan and budget. The secretariat team took advantage of the opportunity to discuss how the secretariat was working optimally and, above all, ways and means of improving the network's activities.

At the same time, RAMPAO's thematic Task Forces were formally set up and technical support to network members became effective.

The annual meeting of the RAMPAO Board of Directors was organized back-to-back with the exchange workshop between the MedPAN and RAMPAO executive secretariats in Tarragona (Spain). This was an opportunity to present and validate the RAMPAO executive secretariat's work plan and annual budget for 2023, to discuss the operation of RAMPAO's bodies and to work together to implement RAMPAO's new five-year strategic plan.

The meeting also focused on improving exchanges between MedPAN and RAMPAO and pooling our efforts through the signing of a partnership agreement between our two regional networks of MPA managers.

#### **6.3. Le Projet « La Maison de la Conservation (LMC)»**

The "House of Conservation" project is funded by the MAVA Foundation for Nature and supported by the consortium made up of Birdlife International (BLI), the Regional Coastal and Marine Partnership (RCMP), Wetlands International for West and Central Africa (WIWCA) and the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas of West Africa (RAMPAO). The LMC project is more than just a building project that will provide each of the 4 above-mentioned organizations with a head office; it is an initiative of major interest to those involved in conservation and to West Africa as a whole.

Convinced of the relevance and validity of the regional approach and collaboration to achieve the objectives defined for the conservation of marine resources in West Africa, the main objective of the LMC project is to make operational the common will and vision shared by the 4 organizations, including RAMPAO. This is to be achieved



MedPAN and RAMPAO Board meetings - Tarragona, Spain



Acceptance ceremony for the Maison de la Conservation (LMC)

through the conservation of the West African coastline and the sustainable development of the communities that depend on it and of future generations, to whom they recognize the duty to maintain a healthy and productive environment.

To make the LMC project sustainable, a joint work plan has been drawn up and various governance bodies have been set up, including a leaders' conference and a steering committee to monitor joint actions.

#### **6.4. Five-year strategic action plan for RAMPAN's Executive Secretariat**

The various RAMPAN evaluation reports show that the executive secretariat, which runs and ensures the administrative operation and day-to-day communication of the network, should improve its strategic planning and adaptive management in the face of the current political context, promote the visibility of its achievements, and strengthen the running of the MPA network, which remains complicated due to the often difficult technical communication links with stakeholders and their variable responsiveness.

In view of all these challenges and issues, the 8th session of the RAMPAN General Assembly in 2020 will make defining a strategic plan for

RAMPAN a priority. The PIMFAO project, co-financed by the French Global Environment Facility and the MAVA Foundation, provides RAMPAN's executive secretariat with the resources it needs to carry out its strategic planning and structure its activities, thus fulfilling the start of this agenda.

This strategic document will structurally strengthen RAMPAN's secretariat, the network's legitimacy in the eyes of its members, and the capacities of its staff, thus enabling the constitution of expertise capable of strengthening MPAs and their operational management in the future.

To achieve these objectives of developing and upgrading the internal organization and operation of the Executive Secretariat, operational targets have been identified and aligned. For each operational target, the action plan sets out the activities to be carried out. This five-year action plan is presented in table form, with chapters corresponding to the operational targets and action sheets for each programmed action, to facilitate implementation by the RAMPAN secretariat.

## 6.5. RAMPAO communication and capitalization strategy

Within the RAMPAO Executive Secretariat, communication and knowledge management are at the heart of the mechanisms for running the network and providing services to members. While communication enables interaction with network members (college of States, college of managers, college of communities), technical and financial partners, the general public and the media, the process of capitalizing on the network's experiences seeks to draw lessons and identify good practice in order to respond more quickly and effectively to the need for RAMPAO members to improve their knowledge.

Following validation of the organizational development plan, the executive secretariat has developed a communication and capitalization strategy with clear objectives. This strategic document promises to improve the network's leadership, the provision of services to members and the sharing of experience and dissemination of

best practice and solutions in terms of MPA governance and management. In addition, it is the reference tool on which all the RAMPAO executive secretariat's communication and capitalization actions will be based.

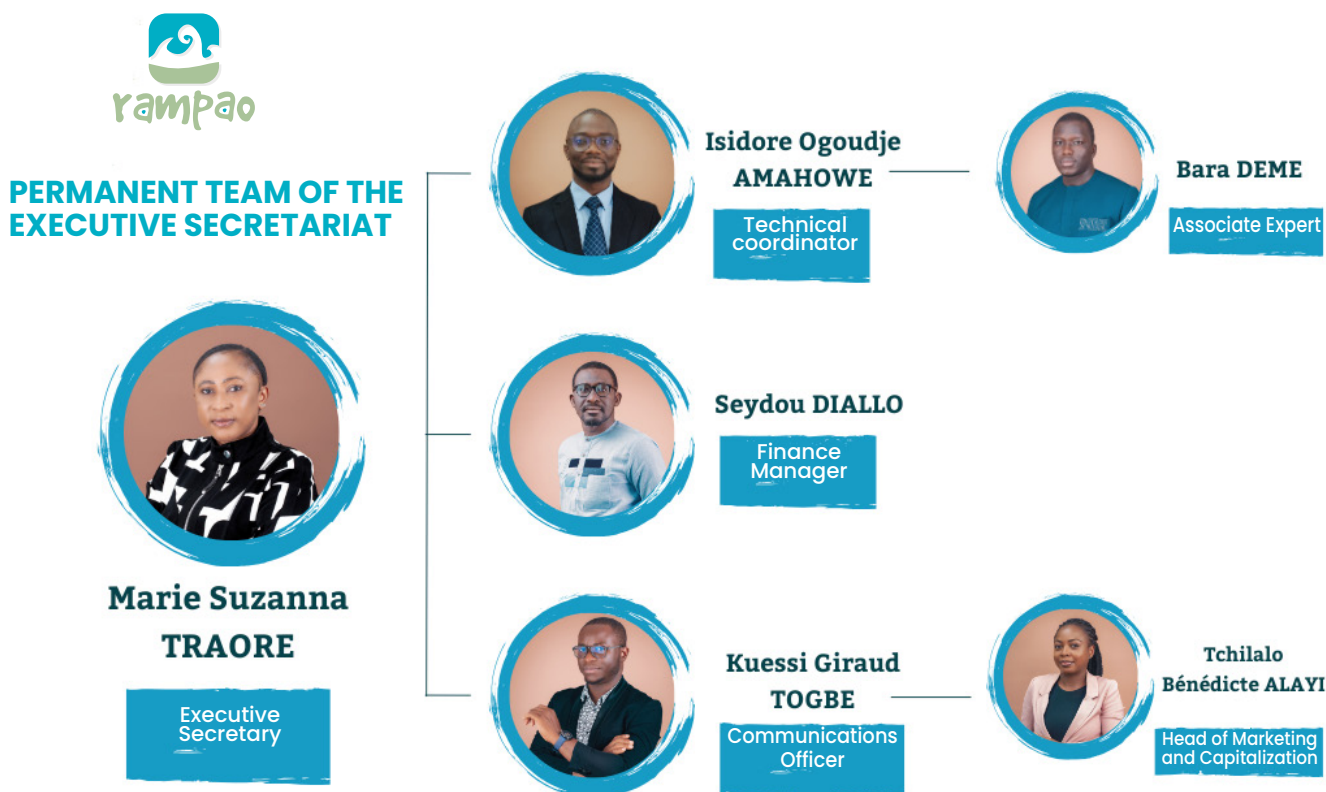
The communication and capitalization strategy has been translated into an action plan with strategic guidelines for running the network over the next five years. The aim of this strategic document is to give new impetus to the RAMPAO leadership dynamic.

## 6.6. Implementing the organizational development plan

### ► Filling permanent posts in the executive secretariat

Following validation of the RAMPAO secretariat's organization chart, the Board of Directors proceeded with the recruitment process to fill vacant (or unfilled) positions. This process resulted in the establishment and operationalization of the permanent team of the RAMPAO secretariat.

**Figure 1: Presentation of the permanent team of the RAMPAO executive secretariat**



The composition of the permanent executive secretariat team is shown below.

► **The redesigning of RAMP AO’s website**

RAMP AO is not immune to the increasing digitalization of the world, where online presence plays an essential role in the visibility and commitment of organizations.

With this in mind, we have taken steps to redesign our website to make it more attractive and user-friendly. The aim of this initiative is to offer visitors and web users an optimized, aesthetic and intuitive experience. Featuring captivating visuals, simplified navigation and enriched content, the new site is designed to pique users’ interest and encourage them to explore more of RAMP AO’s initiatives and activities.

Indeed, in an environment where digital communication has become essential, RAMP AO’s new website offers an effective platform for disseminating information, promoting events, mobilizing the community and raising public awareness of the protection of marine protected areas in West Africa and beyond.

Visit the website: [www.rampao.org](http://www.rampao.org)

► **Managing digital platforms**

Convinced that digital communication is an essential tool for the success of its missions, RAMP AO’s communications team regularly animates these platforms by publishing varied, high-quality content, such as press articles, photos and videos, expert interviews, press releases and online events. We have four social networks: X, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube. Members and partners are encouraged to follow its digital platforms and share its content in order to amplify the reach of its messages and help raise awareness of marine conservation issues in West Africa. Basically, our vision at this stage is to really boost the Network’s visibility and impact with a wide audience. Check out the key statistics for our various social networks.

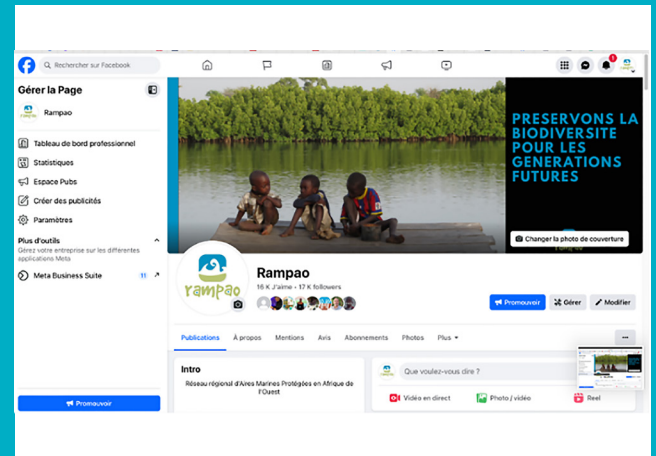


Figure 2: Partial view of Facebook profile

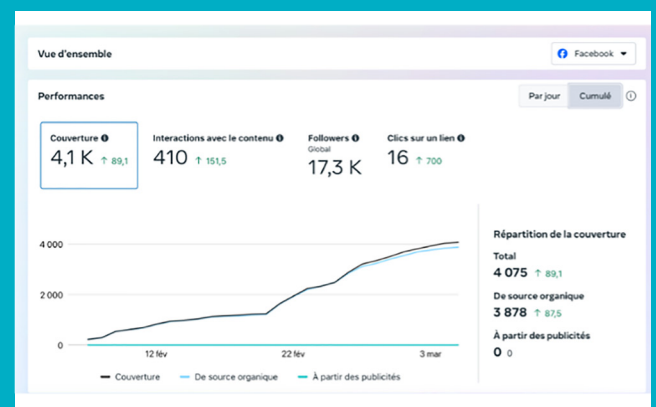


Figure 4: Facebook Performance

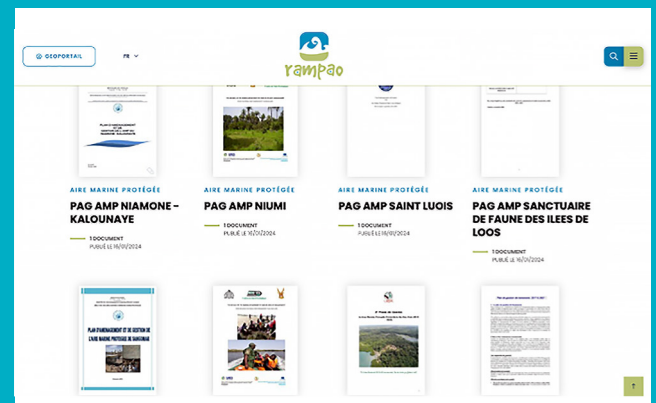


Figure 6: Website preview



Figure 8: Facebook coverage

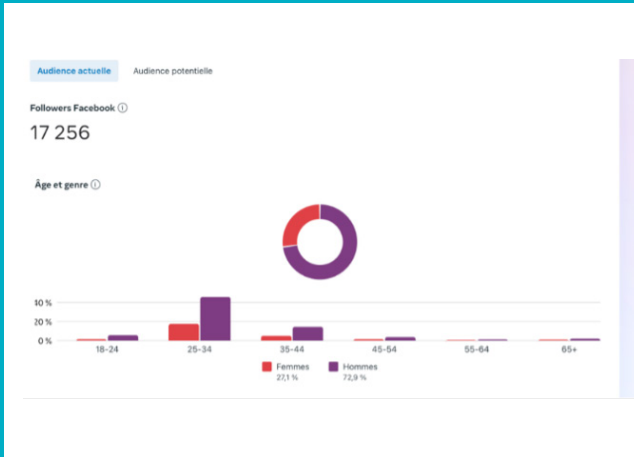


Figure 3: Facebook audience

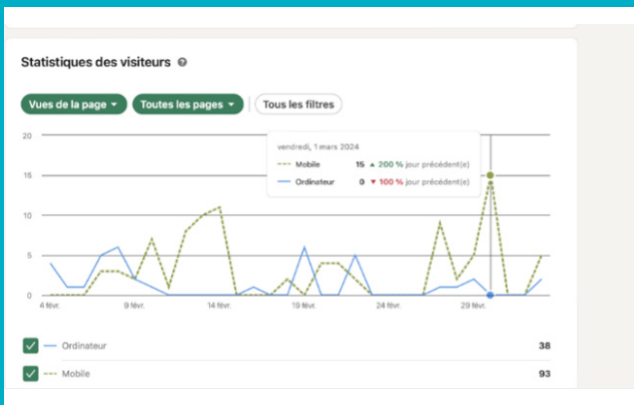


Figure 5: LinkedIn visitor statistics

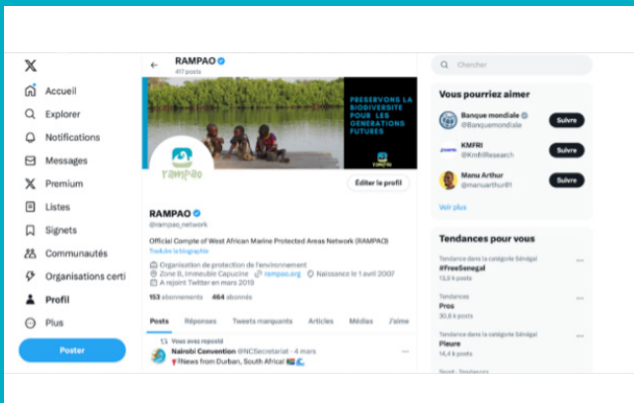


Figure 7: Profile X

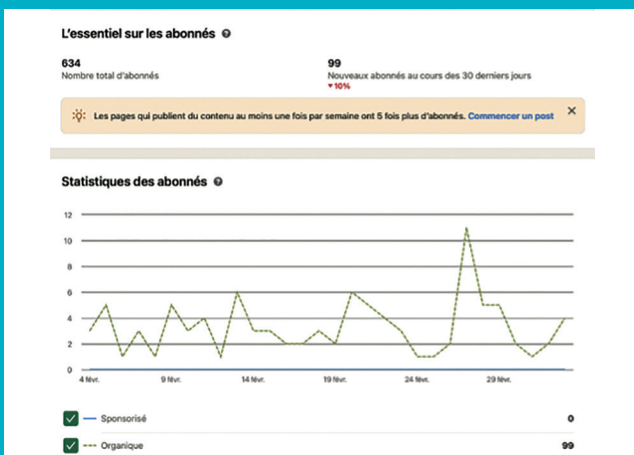


Figure 9: LinkedIn subscriber statistics

► **Leading thematic discussion platforms**

RAMPAO, in accordance with the new recommendations of its 2023-2027 communication strategy, has officially set up thematic discussion groups with the aim of providing regular and ongoing support for the Network, much to the delight of its members. The aim of setting up these discussion groups is to share all the information from the network secretariat with the members.

In this way, the Executive Secretariat seeks to maintain ongoing communication with members to strengthen collaboration and the harmonization of actions, while capitalizing on the experience and achievements of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the network, and promoting their integration. To this end, four major themes have been defined to encompass all the MPAs that are members of the Network:

- “MANGROVE - SEAGRASS BEDS”
- “FISHING MPA”
- “MARINE TURTLES”
- “RAMPAO MPA”

The main aim of these discussion groups is to encourage exchanges, not only between network members, but also with experts and other organizations with which RAMPAO collaborates. Set up in 2023, these discussion groups are already firmly rooted and active in the day-to-day lives of Network members. This is reflected in the wealth of messages and information shared on a weekly basis.

# VOLET 7

## Participation in international meetings





International meetings are opportunities for RAMPAO to forge partnerships with international organizations, research institutions and other key players in the field of marine and coastal biodiversity conservation. These collaborations encourage the sharing of expertise, the development of joint projects and the mobilization of resources. In terms of international meetings between 2022 and 2023, RAMPAO took part in the following events:

### 7.1. Participation in the African Congress on Protected Areas (APAC) in Kigali

The first African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) was held from 18 to 23 July 2022 at the Kigali Conference Centre in Rwanda. This first Congress aims to improve the status of nature conservation in Africa. It was a platform for exchange between several stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as academia, to shape the agenda for protected areas in Africa in order to improve the benefits for people and nature.

RAMPAO members from Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Gambia and Cabo Verde presented their contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity agenda, through various actions.

They led a side event on the issue of sustainable financing for MPAs in West Africa, in a context marked by the precarious financial resources of most of the MPAs that make up the network. RAMPAO members also contributed to various events on the creation of new MPAs, evaluating the effectiveness of MPA management, nature-based solutions, etc.

### 7.2. 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) on Biological Diversity

RAMPAO took part in the United Nations Conference on Biodiversity, which was held from 7 to 19 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada. This fifteenth conference ended with a historic agreement designed to guide global action in favour of nature until 2030: the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GFB) by the representatives of 188 governments. The Global Nature Fund (GNF) aims to combat biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. It includes concrete measures to halt and reverse the loss of nature, by protecting 30% of the planet and 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. It also contains proposals to increase funding for developing countries.



RAMPAO delegation at APAC, Kigali-Rwanda

### **7.3. 5<sup>th</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 5) in Vancouver, Canada**

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC) was held from 3 to 9 February 2023 in Vancouver, Canada. IMPAC represents an opportunity for the international community of marine conservation managers and practitioners to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices to strengthen marine biodiversity conservation and protect the natural and cultural heritage of the ocean.

RAMPAO representatives met with the world's leading ocean conservation professionals to work together to chart a course for protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

The final day was marked by the official announcement of Senegal's bid: Dakar will host the 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Marine Protected Areas in 2027.

This victory for the African continent, through the holding of an event of its kind on the continent, was carried and largely supported by the regional network of MPAs, coordinated by MedPAN



# Financial report 2022 - 2023

In this section, we present the financial statements of the RAMP AO Executive Secretariat for the 2022 and 2023 financial years. The main items of expenditure concern the operating costs and salaries of the RAMP AO secretariat, support for RAMP AO MPAs and capacity building for RAMP AO managers.

## 1.1. 2022 financial statement

For the 2022 financial year, the RAMP AO Executive Secretariat’s total budget is set at one million three hundred and sixty-nine thousand one hundred and thirty-nine (1,369,139) Euros. This budget has been raised from the following donors:

- The MAV A Foundation through direct funding (projects coordinated by RAMP AO) and indirect funding (projects coordinated by other organizations)
- The French Global Environment Facility (FGEF)
- The HANS WILSDORF Foundation

The breakdown of this budget according to financial partners is as follows:

**Table 4: Breakdown of the RAMP AO budget by financial partner**

PARTNERS	GRANTS RECEIVED 2022(€)
MAVA Foundation	338 564
FGEF	198 000
Hans WILSDOTF Foundation	832 575
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 369 139</b>



The breakdown of this total budget according to the main sources of funding is as follows:

- The MAVA Foundation : **24.7 %**
- The French Global Environment Facility (FGEF): **14.5%**;
- Hans WILSDORF Fund : **60.8%**

The breakdown of the budget according to the three main lines of expenditure of the RAMPAO secretariat is as follows:

**Table 5: Budget breakdown by expenditure line**

EXPENDITURE LINES	BUDGET (in Euros)	ALLOCATION RATE (%)
Functioning of the secretariat	150 605	11%
Development of management tools and supply of equipment to MPAs	821 483	60%
Training and capacity building for managers	397 051	29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 369 139</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 1.2. 2023 financial statement

For the 2023 financial year, the total budget for the RAMPAO secretariat is set at nine hundred and forty-six thousand three hundred and four (946,304) Euros. This budget has been raised from the following donors:

- The MAVA Foundation
- The HANS WILSDORF Foundation (direct and indirect);
- The French Global Environment Facility (FGEF);
- OCEAN 5

The breakdown of this budget according to financial partners is as follows:

**Table 6: Breakdown of the RAMPAO budget according to financial partners**

PARTNERS	PARTNERS GRANTS RECEIVED in 2023(€)
MAVA Foundation	215 027
HANS WILSDORF	213 337
OCEAN 5	31 052
FGEF	486 888
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>946 304</b>

The breakdown of this total budget according to the main sources of funding is as follows:

- The MAVA Foundation : **23 %**
- The French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) : **51%**.
- Hans Wilsdorf Funds (direct & indirect) : **22.5%**
- OCEAN 5 : **3.5%**

The breakdown of the budget according to the three main lines of expenditure of the RAMPAO secretariat is as follows:

**Table 7: Breakdown of the RAMPAO budget according to financial partners**

Lines of expenditures	Budget (in Euros)	Allocation rate (%)
Functioning of the secretariat	113 557	12%
Development of management tools and supply of equipment to MPAs	558 319	59%
Training and capacity building for managers	274 428	29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>946 304</b>	<b>100%</b>



