



# Newsletter Rampao

## CONTENTS

<b>Edito</b> .....	1
<b>Focus on :</b>	
RAMPAO empowerment .....	2
<b>Theme of the Day:</b>	
The RAMPAO – PRCM collaboration.....	2
<b>Expert opinion :</b>	
4 questions to Colonel Abdoulaye Diop, Director of Community Marine Protected Areas .....	3
<b>Experience here and elsewhere :</b>	
Constraints transformed into opportunities: construction and immersion of artificial reefs in the Marine Protected Areas of Abebe and Joal (Senegal).....	3
<b>Report back:</b>	
Small grants – Great impacts.....	4

**Editorial Director**  
Aboubacar OULARE

**Proof Reading**  
Coura DOUMBOUYA  
Dr Paul S. TENDENG  
Ababacar YAGUE

**Desing /Secretary Editor**  
Coura DOUMBOUYA

**Contacts :**  
Tel :33 869 10 44 / 78 018 57 57  
Email [secretariat@rampao.org](mailto:secretariat@rampao.org)  
Site web : [www.rampao.org](http://www.rampao.org)

©Photo : RAMPAO PND

## Edito

The Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO) has originated from the need to further preserve the resources of the marine, coastal and insular ecosystems in West Africa for the benefit of local communities. In this sub region, more than 50 per cent of the human populations living in the vicinity of the big marine currents of the Canaries and the Gulf of Guinea find their means of subsistence from the exploitation of natural resources of the ecosystems, hence the need for a better management of communities' needs. To this end, the sustainability of their use for years to come is a major concern of all times.

RAMPAO, which is a concrete expression of Member States of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), contributes, and will markedly foster the common efforts of preservation and enrichment of the resources, notably through marine protected areas. The Marine Protected Areas form an integral part of the heritage of the States that are signatories to the Charter. A greater institutional and financial appropriation of the Network by these countries appears to be of paramount importance. This presupposes a direct contribution of the States in addition to the support secured from development partners.

Actually, since its creation in 2007, the Network has secured support from development partners in the form of direct grants. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank FIBA, the Oak Foundation, MAVA, PRCM and all other partners, even anonymous partners that have contributed somewhat to the life of the Network.

Thus, the Network's empowerment will ensure a greater appropriation at national level, more robustness and continuity in its interventions through the accountability of sustainable State institutions.

For the upcoming years constituting a transitional phase, the biggest challenge for RAMPAO will be to further the empowerment process started in 2015 to completion, and step up the Network's visibility at national and international level. Emphasis will be laid on the establishment of foundations that are essential for a smooth functioning of the new structure meant to be autonomous in relation to its founding instruments, the effective mobilisation of the States and the launching of fund-raising mechanisms.

Such a task requires that the future President demonstrate commitment, diplomacy, a strong will and, mainly efficiency, because, as someone has said, "big achievements require great builders and major sacrifices."

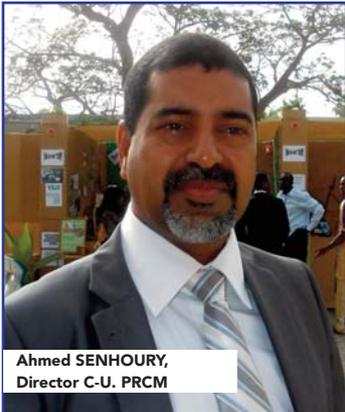
At the end of the chairmanship of RAMPAO by the Republic of Guinea, I would like to express the wish that the Network will keep serving the cause of nature conservation and local communities.

**Colonel Aboubacar OULARE**  
**President**



## Focus on

### RAMPAO – PRCM collaboration



Ahmed SENHOURY,  
Director C-U. PRCM

The study launched in 2015 towards identifying the options and means to ensure RAMPAO empowerment recommended several scenarios. The key option chosen following consultations of Network members is apparently to further the empowerment process with a transition period that will allow for a preparation/construction of this dynamic. PRCM has been identified as the entity likely to “support and host” RAMPAO during this transition phase.

**Mr. SENHOURY, what is your conception of the envisaged collaboration between PRCM and RAMAPO?**

Considering the choice retained by most of RAMPAO members during the consultations and pursuant to its mission to support the

networks founded within, PRCM will be honoured to provisionally carry RAMPAO. This will help appropriately prop up the empowerment of the network as requested by its members, on the statutory, administrative and financial fronts during the transitional period.

This collaboration is actually beneficial and a win-win approach at all levels. In fact, this will enable PRCM to support the RAMPAO Secretariat in properly establishing its restructuring process. Thus, the Network can count on PRCM support in raising and diversifying its funding sources towards strengthening its sustainability.

For PRCM, this will be a strategic step and a means to more rapidly strengthen its coalition and give it more visibility and a greater credibility.

**Should this option of attaching RAMPAO to PRCM be validated by the RAMPAO General Assembly, how do you perceive the roles and responsibilities of each of the two entities?**

The principles of RAMPAO endorsement by PRCM would tally with the vision of RAMPAO members and the Network’s operational objectives, and its support towards establishing a structure and functioning likely to help attain its objectives.

During this transition phase, RAMPAO Secretariat will keep conducting its activities of animation and coordination of the network under the supervision of the current statutory bodies that are the General Assembly, the Advisory Board and the Scientific Committee.

PRCM will assure, in collaboration with IUCN, an administrative and financial support for the Network, notably when it comes to its Secretariat, to help maintain its activities. It will see to the effective roll-out of the Network’s empowerment roadmap that will have been validated by the General Assembly.

Grouping the two entities in the same premises can be envisaged, which will notably help build on the synergies that can result from it in terms of optimising the logistic, financial and technical resources.

**According to you, what will be the added value of such a collaboration for the Network and for PRCM?**

Such a collaboration will be very likely to:

- Contribute to the Network’s administrative empowerment process, pending its evolution towards an appropriate legal status;
- Help RAMPAO build on PRCM expertise and experience in outsourcing and in the mobilisation of stakeholders;
- Confirm PRCM leadership in nature conservation in West Africa and its function of « Network of networks » that it has been playing from the onset;
- Strengthen the actions and the visibility of both entities on the ground, thanks to the pooling of their logistic, technical, financial and communication resources.

**What, do you think, would be the ideal duration for the Network to be autonomous?**

I do think a period of one to two years would be enough to roll out a roadmap aimed at a comprehensive empowerment of RAMPAO

## Theme of the Day

### RAMPAO empowerment

**Bocar KANTE, Doctor in Law and Lawyer, member of RAMPAO Scientific Council**



Bocar KANTE

**What type of Organisation for a strong, independent and sustainable Network?**

First and foremost, we prefer the notion of autonomy over that of independence in light of the territorial unity of the different States.

A strong network is an organisation having a certain identity, i.e. some core values through which members distance themselves from third parties (detachment) and recognise one another (identification). And RAMPAO boasts some core values constituting its identity.

The organisation’s sustainability can only be ensured through the institutionalisation thereof, thus creating a double process of firming-up and strengthening its basic identity, but also a process of inculcating these values into its members. The institutionalisation, meaning the legal recognition, confers a legal personality to the organisation. This legal personality enables RAMPAO to be autonomous, to be responsible for its decisions, and to definitely enter the legal sphere. This presupposes that RAMPAO members appoint their own leaders and respect the decisions undertaken based on processes clearly defined by statutory instruments.

**Yet, this legal autonomy is not adequate to ensure sustainability. It is essential to boost it with a financial autonomy. This financial autonomy actually enables the organisation to conduct its activities while respecting its core values and keeping its legal autonomy.** First, the financial resources are secured from members’ contributions. But when it comes to RAMPAO, members’ contributions alone are not adequate to help attain the objectives of conservation and enhancement of the network’s marine protected areas.

RAMPAO should take the form of an international nongovernmental organisation providing services for valuable consideration, or not. The services provided in return for payment will help the network to secure a financial autonomy towards attaining its objectives. In this regard, the report on the options of institutional and financial sustainability has also highlighted areas to be explored.

The choice of a status of a nongovernmental organisation instead of a governmental entity is explained by the fact that RAMPAO full members are Marine Protected Areas. Hence, RAMPAO should take the legal form of an association. Such a body cannot be a national association, since its different members do not belong to the same country. It has to be a foreign or international association admitting members not based in the host country.

**That’s why, the criteria for the selection of the RAMPAO host country should include a legal status allowing for the creation of an association that can admit members not based in the host country.**

Only in this condition will RAMPAO take the form of an international nongovernmental organisation providing services for valuable consideration, but without making profit. This would undoubtedly enable RAMPAO to become a strong, autonomous and sustainable network.

## Expert opinion



Abdoulaye DIOP

### 4 questions to Colonel Abdoulaye Diop, Director of Community Marine Protected Areas

**Colonel, how do you analyse the linkage between RAMPAO and PRCM as a transitional solution?**

As far as I know, the Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO) is part of a set of "networks" that have been founded during the decade-long implementation of the Regional Project for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources (PRCM).

Overtime, PRCM has changed to become a platform, and RAMPAO has directly undergone the effects of the fusion between FIBA and MAVA. Now, RAMPAO plays a more consistent role in supporting the sites, which requires some structural transformation of the network in a bid to better meet the requirements of the current context. But it shall necessarily need some time before being autonomous.

In a bid to give it enough time to adapt to the new context, an anchorage into PRCM for a period of 1 to 2 years would be suitable. But, it is essential to avoid any substitution of mission, much less a phagocytosis.

**Do you think Member States have fully played their role to strengthen the Network since its creation?**

In RAMPAO conception, we talk more about member sites and individuals than member States. That is my understanding of the Network's configuration. In fact, during the last RAMPAO GA, at a point in time, the Director of National Parks, Colonel Souleye Ndiaye and I were isolated in a room pending the deliberations of full members (conservation officers under our tutelage).

This being said, in Senegal, a context that I know better, DAMCP and DPN are strategic partners for RAMPAO. And whenever need be, representatives of the State, and acting on behalf of the government, have often reacted as expected to RAMPAO requests. Such is my viewpoint as a Director at the service of the State and having signed the partnership convention with the Network during the last GA.

We do hope that these relations will strengthen with the new orientations that will most probably make the working relations more operational, both at the central and decentralised levels.

**What should be the roles and responsibilities of Member States for RAMPAO to be a strong, autonomous and sustainable network?**

The States have created MPAs. They allocate human, financial and material resources for the functioning of the administrations in the tutelage of which are the said MPAs. The role of these administrative bodies is to carry out fundamental missions devolved on the government, and in collaboration with the communities participating, through governance bodies, in the implementation of MPA management programmes.

The multilateral partners and NGOs support the projects and programmes initiated by MPA governance bodies. The populations and administrative entities are key stakeholders and local populations are the main beneficiaries of the economic and social spinoffs of MPA development activities.

In a bid to step up its legitimacy, RAMPAO must focus on a role of mobilising resources that are lacking for the implementation of programmes of conservation, research and strengthening of stakeholders and perpetual enhancement of MPA governance.

**With the envisaged change of the Network's status, what should be the role of members and financial partners?**

Without a doubt, the change of RAMPAO status will certainly entail a change of membership status. I do not think it useful for RAMPAO to remain just a simple association (status quo). It essential that:

1. Members of the Network should be entities involved in MPA management ;
2. Its forthcoming structure and operation are based on national networks of MPAs towards embracing the national policies in the matter.

It is obvious that there are disparities amongst the States configuring the intervention space, but RAMPAO shall have to support initiatives aimed at ensuring consistency and an ecological, economic and socio-anthropological interconnectivity.

## Experience here and elsewhere

### Constraints transformed into opportunities: construction and immersion of artificial reefs in the Marine Protected Areas of Abebe and Joal (Senegal)

From Abebe to Joal, the recovery and recycling of shells have facilitated the construction of hundreds of artificial reefs destined to rehabilitate marine habitats. The strong involvement of local populations in this process was very instrumental in the success of the operation in both sites.

#### Abene: From construction to immersion

For the very first time, the Management Committee and GIE des Eco-gardes of the Marine Protected Area of Abene (AMPA) constructed and immersed artificial reefs aimed at rehabilitating a marine habitat to serve as egg-laying sites and nurseries for several fish species, notably demersal species.

After the collection of empty crepidula shells at the Kafountine dock, MPA managers and the local populations moved on to construct the reefs. This collective work done thanks to a small funding secured from RAMPAO made it possible to immerse:

- 100 artificial reefs at the marine canal opposite the Diannah Village on 6th June 2015 ;
- 100 artificial reefs, 70 of which at the Diannah canal and 30 others close to the Soundoubato rock at the Abene village, on 6th June 2015 ;
- 210 artificial reefs, 110 of which at Sounboubato in Abene and 100 others at the Diannah canal on 8th August 2015 ; and
- 70 artificial reefs at the Diannah canal on 23rd August 2015.





**Joal: Construction of shell and reinforced concrete reefs**

Phase I of this project funded by RAMPAO specifically focused on the construction of reefs in shells and in reinforced concrete blocks. With an active participation, the local populations have carried out by themselves all the works under the supervision of the Conservation Officer and members of the Management Committee. The project's initial objective, which was to construct 200 reefs in shell bags and 20 reefs in reinforced concrete blocks, has largely been exceeded. About 235 shell bags and 30 concrete blocks have been constructed.

**Development of an Atlas of reptiles and amphibians, Diawling National Park takes census of its species**

From the 19th to the 23rd of August 2015, the University of Porto and officers of the Diawling National Park have toured the Birette, Toumbousse, Aftout, Berbar and Zire areas with the view to taking census of reptile and amphibian species living in the Park.

For 5 days of ground works, a team of 4 Portuguese experts, 1 Pole and 1 Mauritanian led by Mr. Jose Carlos Brito beefed up officers of the Park in the search and analysis of species. In total, 15 lizard species, 4 snake species and 4 frog species have been found, in addition to two new species – the *Scincus albifasciatus* (lizard) and the *Tomopterna cryptotis* (frog).

These species will be confirmed upon genetic analysis in Portugal.

This work represents the first phase of the development of the said Atlas. To carry out this project, 5 field missions are scheduled with Mauritanian expert Andack Sow during the next 8 months. This will enable the Park to enhance its knowledge in this domain, develop indicators and protocols for the monitoring of the species, improve the management of conducive areas, and better preserve this specific biodiversity.

The Park is very optimistic about the results of these works that will undoubtedly help develop an Atlas, but also facilitate a zoning of the most biodiversity-rich areas

**Small grants – Great impacts**

Though capacity-building in the form of training workshops, distribution of manuals or dissemination of best practices is necessary, the Marine Protected Areas, the community-based organisations, institutions and small organisations often need some small grants to carry out activities with substantial impact.

As said in PRCM brochure entitled **Capacity-building, the cornerstone for an effective conservation**, "small grants play a key role as they enable the organisations to implement projects whereby the acquired knowledge is put into practice. They help attain a series of specific objectives in a given field. When combined with an adapted and relevant training, or other targeted capacities, these small grants definitely have a strong impact." With the support of MAVA, the RAMPAO small grant programme has enabled the Network to support 9 projects in various domains. These include:

- **Rehabilitation of natural habitats and bio ecological monitoring of the Joal – Fadiouth MPA ;**
- **Development of a Reptile and Amphibian Atlas in the Diawling National Park and in its vicinity, and the training of Park officers in herpetology;**

- **Promotion of sustainable aquaculture in estuary cages and garlands in the bolongs of Mboss Ndo of the Community Nature Reserve of Palmarin ;**
- **Restoration of the *Avicenia africana* species (mangrove) in the Community Nature Reserve of Somone;**
- **Restoration of marine habitats of the Marine Area of Abene in Senegal;**
- **MPA of Santa Luzia, Raso and Branco wildlife restoration and fauna follow-up;**
- **Ecosystem restoration and pollution control in Tanbi Wetlands National Park;**
- **Strengthening marine turtle conservation strategies in one of the world's largest loggerhead rookeries (Boa Vista Island, Cape Verde) with an increasing participation of local communities;**
- **Building capacity towards financial and operational sustainability of the network of protected areas in Maio Island.**

On 18th February 2015, RAMPAO launched its first **Call for Small Grants for the year 2015**. As at the closing date on **20th March 2015 at 9:00 am**, 43 requests were received, **38** within the prescribed deadline, and 5 others beyond (the latter were not opened), representing a total of **€44,060** allocated to MPAs;

After careful selection , RAMPAO continued its commitment to holders of conservation and marine and coastal resource management projects of the West African ecoregion."

