

MEMORANDUM OF INTENT
THE COASTAL AREAS OF GUINEA-BISSAU, AFRICA
THE WADDEN SEA, EUROPE
A JOINT INITIATIVE OF
GUINEA-BISSAU (SETAA AND INEP)
AND
THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION ON
THE PROTECTION OF THE WADDEN SEA

GUINEA-BISSAU (SETAA Secretary of State for Tourism, Environment and Craftsmanship / INEP National Institute for Studies and Research) AND

THE TRILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE WADDEN SEA

hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties,

Bearing in mind that the tidal coast of Guinea-Bissau and the Wadden Sea, extending along the North Sea coasts of The Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark, are internationally important coastal areas for migrating waders (Charadrii);

Recalling that the 4th Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties of the RAMSAR Convention (1990) encouraged the cooperation of parties to enter into bilateral and multilateral cooperation to protect wetlands and migratory species of waterfowl;

Acknowledging that the development of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement under the Bonn Convention would profit from a partnership cooperation;

Recalling the decision of the 6th Trilateral Governmental Conference, 1991 acknowledging the necessity for a common approach with regard to the protection of migratory waterfowl in the whole range of the flyway;

Recalling the recommendation of the 8th International Wadden Sea Symposium, 1993 to increase joint applied research projects at a number of key sites on the total flyway to collect vital data for the future integrated management and conservation of species and habitats on the whole East Atlantic Flyway;

have made the following agreements:

1 PURPOSE

The Contracting Parties declare their intention to work together towards supporting the conservation of the Wadden Sea in Europe and the tidal areas along the coast of Guinea-Bissau, based on their strong ecological links by initiatives with a long-term view of establishing comprehensive protection of these areas by

1.1 tackling important gaps in knowledge of the wildlife and habitats of the tidal areas along the coast of Guinea-Bissau and the linkages to the Wadden Sea, and

1.2 exchanging information on research, management practices and other issues to enable, where possible, a common understanding and approach on international conservation issues;

1.3 operating and providing finance for exchange visits and fellowships by staff to broaden work

experience, attend seminars, symposia and conferences, and undertake joint projects;

1.4 providing advice in areas of special experience to the Contracting Parties;

1.5 arranging, where appropriate, joint publications relating to the international aspects of the two areas.

2 BASIC ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 The Contracting Parties have agreed to a work program covering the first three years of this initiative reflecting the Memorandums expression, which is attached.

2.2 No action arising from the Memorandum will override the statutory duties or responsibilities of the Contracting Parties.

2.3 The Contracting Parties will seek to achieve joint technical collaboration and assistance in an atmosphere of cordial international cooperation.

3 PROTECTED AREAS

3.1 Biosphere Reserves (MAB program of the UNESCO)

The Contracting Parties, in accordance with their responsibilities, will consider enlisting the Archipelagos dos Bijagos in Guinea-Bissau and the whole European Wadden Sea as Man and Biosphere Reserves.

3.2 Ramsar Sites

The Contracting Parties recognize and will stimulate the protection and management of the Ramsar sites in Guinea-Bissau and the Wadden Sea.

4 COMING INTO EFFECT AND REVIEW

4.1 This Memorandum of Intent has effect as from the 1 January 1995.

4.2 The Memorandum will be reviewed within three years.

Signed in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, 30 November 1994, in four original copies, two in English, and two in Portuguese.

Appendix to the Memorandum of Intent Guinea-Bissau - Wadden Sea A Joint Initiative

AN INTERIM OUTLINE ON A THREE YEAR WORK PROGRAM 1995-1997

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The program is designed to encourage an international interchange of knowledge and ideas and to develop multi-disciplinary approach to coastal protection and management issues.

The first steps of the program will be to establish and train an ornithological team in Guinea-Bissau to carry out research and monitoring work, especially - but not only - in the field of waders wintering in Guinea-Bissau and migrating to the Wadden Sea.

The work program will be carried out in the following fields:

- review of existing relevant work
- management and enforcement
- monitoring
- research

- education and public information

PROJECTS

Project 1

Subject:

- a. Research on the utilization of waders of the tidal flats in Guinea-Bissau throughout the year.
- b. Formulation of preliminary management policy proposals for the tidal areas.

Field:

Research, monitoring, and education.

Objective:

To provide data on the abundance and species composition of waders by monthly counts at low tide on the tidal flats of Bubaque and Soga.

Content:

Liaison between scientists and technicians in The Wadden Sea states and Guinea-Bissau to learn and develop methodology and exchange experience in year 1, to collect data in year 1-3, and to educate an ornithological team for field work. Elaboration of the management policy proposals by technicians of the participants in this project.

Participants:

Guinea-Bissau: MDRA (Coastal Planning Office), INEP, and IUCN.

The Wadden Sea states: The migratory bird monitoring coordinating group.

Implementation:

Exchange of information, development of methodology and study tour to Guinea-Bissau in year 1, full implementation of the program in year 2-3, and study tour to the Wadden Sea states in year 3. In year 3, the results of the inventories will be used to elaborate management policy proposals.

Estimated costs:

1995: 150.000 DKr.

1996: 150.000 DKr.

1997: 100.000 DKr.

Total: 400.000 DKr.

Project 2

Subject:

Survey of waterfowl as a part of the international surveys.

Field:

Research, monitoring and public information.

Objective:

- a. To obtain a full survey of the waterfowl in the RAMSAR site Lagoa de Cufada in Guinea-Bissau as a part of current international programs.
- b. Formulation of preliminary management policy proposals for the tidal areas.

Content:

Liaison between technicians of the Natural Park CUFADA, the ornithological team and the Wadden Sea states to execute monthly counts of waterfowl throughout the year.

Participants:

Guinea-Bissau: Coastal Planning Office (GPC)

The Wadden Sea states: The migratory bird monitoring coordinating group.

Implementation:

Development of methodology and study tour to the Wadden Sea states in year 1, implementation of the program in year 2-3. In year 3, the results of the inventories will be used to elaborate management policy proposals.

Estimated costs:

1995: 60.000 DKr.

1996: 10.000 DKr.

1997:10.000 DKr.

Total: 80.000 Dkr.

ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

1. Each project will elaborate a more detailed program for the projects including budgets and a list of contact points and procedures.
2. The Contracting Parties shall consider possibilities to support the program from ECE means.
3. A joint low-budget brochure shall be made on the Memorandum, the areas and the work program to inform, amongst others, the authorities.
4. The Contracting Parties shall review the results of the program based on a brief evaluation of each of the projects in year 3.