

The Republic of the Gambia
Department of State for
Fisheries, Natural Resources
and the Environment

République du Sénégal
Ministère de la Jeunesse
de l'Environnement et de
l'Hygiène Publique

PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA AND
THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL FOR THE TRANSFRONTIER MANAGEMENT OF
PROTECTED AREAS

PREAMBLE

Whereas the Republic of the Gambia and the Republic of Senegal share the same ecological and socio-economic entities

In consideration of the objectives of harmonisation of the national policies and strategies of the two countries regarding the conservation of their natural and cultural heritage to enhance the management of biological diversity for the benefit of their respective communities.

In consideration of the objectives of community management required for a better conservation of the protected areas in the framework of the decentralisation policies defined by both states

In consideration of the two countries' achievements in terms of establishment and management of protected areas;

In consideration of the two countries' subregional integration objectives and their international commitment to better manage global biological diversity;

Whereas the Parc National du Delta du Saloum in Senegal and the Niimi National Park in The Gambia share the same ecosystem.

Whereas both the Parc National du Delta du Saloum and the Baobolong Wetland Reserve enjoy international status as a Wetland of International Importance and a Biosphere Reserve for the former and a Wetland of International Importance for the latter

Conscious of the fact that the sustainable management strategy for biodiversity in either of the two National Parks must take into account the management objectives of the other;

And aware that joint activities undertaken by The Republic of The Gambia and The Republic of Senegal within the scope of this agreement shall respect the national sovereignty and the socio-ecological, political and economical uniqueness of each of the two countries;

The Government of The Republic of The Gambia and The Government of The Republic of Senegal, hereby agree on the following

ARTICLE 1:

The Republic of The Gambia and The Republic of Senegal commit themselves to join efforts and resources for a coherent and concerted management of the landscape and biological diversity in their respective national territories, particularly the transfrontier ecological entities of the two states;

ARTICLE 2:

The two parties, by this agreement and in accordance with the policies and strategies of each country, commit themselves to work on the harmonization of approaches and status for the management of Parc National du Delta du Saloum and the Niomi National Park. (e.g ecotourism, awareness raising, research etc). This harmonisation should take into account the decentralisation and community management policies defined by both parties.

ARTICLE 3:

The Gambian authorities, with support from their Senegalese counterparts, will submit to UNESCO, the necessary documents with a view to harmonizing the status of the parks as transfrontier Biosphere Reserve

ARTICLE 4:

The Senegalese authorities shall initiate the process of classifying their portion of baobolong as a wetland site for the purpose of granting the entire basin the status of Transfrontier Wetlands of International Importance

ARTICLE 5:

The two parties shall set up a consulting and co-ordinating framework for the identification, the implementation and the monitoring of common management plans in accordance with the principles and norms defined by relevant international conventions and agreements: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Seville Strategy and Statutory Framework of Biosphere Reserve and Convention on Biological Diversity.

ARTICLE 6:

The two parties shall develop a common strategy for negotiations with development partners and/or keep each other informed of national initiatives in accordance with articles 3 and 4.

ARTICLE 7:

The current and planned programmes and action plans of the two Parks shall fit into the intended objectives of integration and harmonization specified in this agreement

ARTICLE 8:

The Management bodies of Parc National du Delta du Saloum and Niimi National Park shall set up a consulting and coordinating framework for the harmonisation of monitoring strategies for ecosystem and species' dynamics

ARTICLE 9:

The two parties shall coordinate their research activities such as surveys, bird ringing, monitoring of turtle populations, marine mammals, migratory and resident avifauna etc.

ARTICLE 10:

The two parties shall provide mutual assistance in strengthening technical and managerial capacities, particularly in the field of training, information exchange and sharing of knowledge and experiences

ARTICLE 11:

The two parties shall conduct common periodic inventories on flora and fauna, for the assessment and the promotion of their sustainable use for the benefit of local communities

ARTICLE 12:

The two parties shall submit a common proposal for the creation of a transfrontier biosphere reserve - Niimi-Delta du Saloum and a transfrontier reserve of wetlands of international importance - Baobolong Wetlands

ARTICLE 13:

The two parties shall support each other in seeking assistance from international organisations for the implementation of the transfrontier biosphere reserve project and wetlands of international importance

ARTICLE 14:

The national authorities of the two parties will set up a steering committee to facilitate the implementation of this protocol/agreement.

ARTICLE 15 :

The concerting and cordinating principles for the management of the transfrontier areas will be defined in accordance with Article 3 of the present agreement. :

- The managing bodies of these protected areas will set up on a common agreement ;
- The managing committees ,along with an indication of the terms, the duration, and the entitlements ;
- The technical principles of the management of the tranfrontier areas ;
- The monitoring principles of this common management.

ARTICLE 16 :

Any conflict born of the interpretation or implementation of the present agreement will be solved through negotiation. In case of failure to reach a negotiated solution, both parties could resort to the services or mediation of a third party. This third party shall be designated on common agreement

ARTICLE 17 :

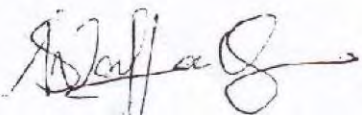
The present agreement has been concluded for an unspecified term.

It is, in each of the two states, a complement of the laws, regulations, and international conventions applicable to the management of protected areas across borders.

It will be published wherever necessary, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the two countries.

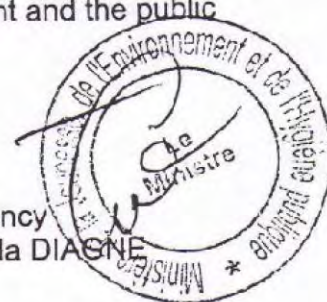
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For the Republic of the Gambia
The Secretary of State for
Fisheries, Natural Resources
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Her Excellency
Susan WAFFA-OGOO

For the Republic of Senegal
The Ministry of Youth, the
Environment and the public
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His Excellency
Modou Fada DIASNE