

# NEWS

# Letter

Quarterly of the West African  
Coast Observation Mission (WACOM)

Issue No2  
September-October-November 2013

# SDLAO workshop findings in the different countries

During the workshop, participants were asked to identify the main challenges to the implementation of the SDAO in their respective countries. The findings were as follows:

## 1. Awareness

Many participants were unaware of the SDAO despite the availability of documents in ministries in charge of environment in different countries and on the website of IUCN. As is so often the case, the flow of information is lacking, especially for such a cross product as the SDAO.

This failure has been largely filled with participants



During my career as a researcher at the "Centre de Recherches Océanologiques" from 1987 to 1997, I conducted research and consultation focused on aquatic ecosystems, particularly coastal wetlands (coastal lagoons, estuaries and mangroves). From 1997 until June 2011, I performed various positions in the Ministry of Environment of Côte d'Ivoire, cumulatively for a while, with the position of Acting Coordinator of the Regional Coordination Unit of the Abidjan Convention.



As part of the issues I had to deal with, I remember the following:

From the morphological view, the Guinean coast is mainly composed of silt and characterized by low energy. It proves to be very dynamic in relation to hydro-climatic conditions. Physical degradations that are observed are mainly due to erosion. The factors that are responsible for these degradations are either natural (geological, hydrodynamic) or anthropogenic (extraction of sand and gravel, destruction of the vegetation cover, large infrastructures on the coastal streams, uncontrolled or inappropriate developments on the northern coast, unplanned urbanization).

- In the South, *Kakossa* a rice-growing plain with an area of 30 km<sup>2</sup> was destroyed in 2012 in the locality of *Kiranènè* located 5 km from the inlet where the RAZC<sup>1</sup> project has diked 3115 ha.

The analysis of the information obtained by the “Centre de Recherche Scientifique of Conakry-Rogbane (CERESCOR)” following the field visits in 2012 has enabled quite a number of observations:

- Upwelling causes serious problems for local populations; entire villages such as *Mampaya* (which was inhabited since 1970) and *Kassa* disappeared. Others like *Daoro*, *Gamblan* are threatened by coastal erosion;

Some management infrastructures have not played the role of devices for discharging stagnant water that was assigned to them on the rice-growing plains, either because they are inadequate, or they are badly maintained.

Infrastructures made do not always take into account the specificities and hydro sedimentary dynamics of the mangrove environments. This is what is surely the basis for failures of some development projects. Indeed, the comparison between the 1953 coastline and that of 1992 was used to assess the effects of the erosion phase of the waterfront that has been continuing for four decades.

