

« WATER AND ENVIRONMENT » MEDIA COMPETITION



Press release

(For immediate release)

(Ouagadougou, 18 July, 2018) - The West and Central Africa Programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN / PACO), the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine area in West Africa and [Global Water Partnership West Africa](#) (GWP-WA) released today July 18, 2018 the winners of the fifth edition of the "Water and Environment Journalism" competition on the theme "**Water resources management: examples of good nature - based practices**".

The competition which was launched on May 1, 2018 for one month had two price categories: sponsored by IUCN and GWP-AO and marine waters by PRCM. The number of participants was relatively low this year. The winners are as follows:

In the category "Continental Waters",

- the first prize goes to **Mr. Abdou Karim SAWADO** from Burkina Faso, for his report entitled "**Lake Boukou in Bourzanga - an economic lung threatened with asphyxia**" published in the daily paper L'Observateur Paalga on 29 May 2018. This feature article can be summarized as follows:

Lake Boukou, one of Burkina Faso's major natural water reservoirs, supports thousands of market gardeners and is the ecological lung and economic jewel of Bourzanga, the largest rural commune in Bam province. In view of its irreplaceable

role in socio-economic development, the local ancestors named it Boukou, which means "My children are saved" in the local Kouroumba language.

However, this heritage suffers from its anonymity because rarely in the spotlight, it is not one of the favorite themes in political discourse. Its "misfortune" comes from the fact that it is located in the same province as the largest lake in the country, the Bam.

In addition to being almost forgotten, this lake suffers from a strong anthropic pressure which is exerted on it because of a fast-growing population in the locality. The report therefore aims to draw the authorities' attention to the threats to the resource and encourage the promotion of IWRM to save Boukou.

- The second prize goes to **Mr. Constant TONAKPA** from Benin for his cartoon entitled " **The mangrove to the rescue of our river banks** " published on May 31, 2018 on page 9 of the daily paper LE MATINAL.

According to the author, the work was created to encourage readers to protect the banks of watercourses mainly the maritime marshes by planting trees on the eve of June 1st "National Tree Day in Benin". These trees planted on the banks will form the mangrove to promote the development of all living aquatic resources that use this ecosystem called mangrove as a place for laying eggs or shelter.

Tree planting restores the banks and replaces the bad practices previously observed, namely the cultivation of farms along watercourses, a practice that enables silting of watercourses. Once the mangrove is replenished, the fishery resources start to live again. It is up to everyone to ensure the survival and development of this mangrove for a reassuring future for future generations.

In the Marine Waters category, no prize was awarded.

Mr. Abdou Karim SAWADOGO, winner of the first prize, is invited to take part to the next World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden from 26 to 31 August 2018 on the theme "Water, Ecosystems and Human Development".

The second positioned winner will receive a cash prize of FCFA 250, 000.

GWP-WA, PRCM and IUCN-PACO take this opportunity to thank all the candidates and reiterate their willingness to accompany the media in the proper performance of their tasks of information and relay to the public.

For more information on water and environmental journalism contest, please contact:

- IUCN / PACO Clément Bihoun, Communication and knowledge mobilization expert: clement.bihoun@iucn.org
 - GWP-WAF: Sidi Coulibaly, Communications and knowledge Manager: sidi.coulibaly@gwpao.org
 - PRCM : Safietou Sall Ba, Coordinator Monitoring, capitalisation and communication : safietou.sall@iucn.org
-

On GWP: www.gwpao.org or www.gwp.org

Global Water Partnership (GWP) was established in 1996 to develop regional water partnerships (including that of West Africa) and there are 13 RWP today worldwide. The GWP network include about three thousand (3,000) partners.

Global Water Partnership West Africa (GWP / WA) consists of member organizations of the GWP at regional level and in the countries of West Africa. It is a network of institutions aspiring to catalyze public action in the field of water and related sectors for better impact.

The GWP Vision is for A Water Secure World. GWP's Mission is **to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.**

There are currently thirteen (13) Country Water Partnerships (CWP) in West Africa.

On IUCN www.iucn.org/page www.iucn.org/paco

The "Partnership for Environmental Governance in West Africa (PAGE)" is a regional initiative implemented by the Central and West Africa Programme of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-PACO) in collaboration with its partners. Its aim is to contribute to improving the living conditions of West African populations through policy and environmental institutional strengthening. It is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) for a period of five years (2014-2018).

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, is the oldest and the biggest world conservation organization. It helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

On the PRCM: www.prcmarine.org / www.facebook.com/prcmarine

The regional partnership for the conservation of coastal and marine zone (PRCM) is a coalition of actors working on the issues related to the West African coast and covering seven countries: Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The Partnership's mission is to mobilize and support the initiatives of local and international actors for a sustained dialogue on a good governance of the West African coastal and marine zone. It also aims to bring about change of development patterns within the coastline for the consideration of the conservation and the well-being of communities.

After more than a decade dedicated to the fight for a healthy and productive marine environment in West Africa, the Partnership has become an effective vehicle for change, influential and credible, dedicated to the conservation at the regional scale.