

## Change the behaviours for the benefit of our environment

### Launching of a regional dynamic for the environmental education in the 7 countries of West Africa...

A vision that needs to fly over the borders and that should contribute to strengthen the efforts of all stakeholders engaged in marine and coastal environment conservation in West Africa.

An ambitious project that brings hope as it is based in an investment in the future generations.

The PREE partners definitively chose a participative approach in the building of their strategy showing a willingness to respond to the needs from the different cultural and institutional



contexts observed in the 7 countries from the PRCM area.

To give life to this regional network, the PREE chose to give value to regional knowledge and know-how and to facilitate sharing experiences between the countries of the sub-region

To change the mentalities, make people understand the importance and the fragility of natural ecosystems and make them change their behaviour towards our environment, the PREE needs to demonstrate patience and pragmatism in the achievement of the results taking into account budget limitations and rhythms, constraints and capacities of everyone.



## Towards a regional network of environmental education professionals in West Africa

A new network of organizations from 7 countries was gathered and demonstrates a great interest and desire to act together to change the behaviour of the citizens from their countries so that they may be more conscious of the environmental challenges and more respectful of nature.

A regional workshop gathered in Guinea Bissau in March 2010 this network to

share their experiences, develop common tools and be trained on environmental education techniques.

In the coming months, more trainings will empower the capacities of the members of this workshop.



**PREE is an initiative from PRCM.**

The PRCM Regional Program for Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone of West Africa is supported by the MAVA Foundation, the Spanish cooperation AECID and the Cooperation from the Kingdom of Netherlands.

[www.prcmarine.org](http://www.prcmarine.org)



## Supporting the integration of environmental education in the school programs

A Regional Task Force is being created to coordinate the processes, promote the different experiences and encourage collaborati-



ons between the 7 countries.

The main mission of this Regional Task Force will be to conceive and execute a regional plan of action to integrate Environmental Education in school programs.

This integration will only be possible through actions of lobbying, training of trainers of teachers, creation of a referential of skills related to marine and

coastal environment issues, pedagogical tools adapted to the school context and set up monitoring and assessment systems of the integration of environmental education in the schools.

This Task Force will have to prepare the Meeting of the 7 Ministers of Education from the PRCM countries as wished by the Minister of Education of Guinea Bissau.

## The environment enters officially in the the Schools of Guinea Bissau

**On the 21st of may 2010, the Parliament of Guinea Bissau approved a law that officialize the integration of Environmental Education in the school programs .**

This law was strongly defended by the Minister of Education, Mr Artur SILVA, that considers that "environmental education

is very important in a country like Guinea Bissau that has an incredible biodiversity which people need to know better.

It is the role of the school to give to children the guidelines to understand better their living environment.

Many initiatives are active

in the country and ready to support the pioneer initiative of Guinea Bissau apart from the efforts of the Ministry of Education, we can name the NGOs like Palmeirinha, AD - EVA Network and Tiniguena at the national level and the PREE at the regional level that strongly welcomed the exemplary initiative of this country.

## Give educational tools to the professionals of environment education

Educational tools have been discussed with the participants of the workshop of Bubaque in March 2010. These tools consist in a Book of knowledge about the west african coastline and several educational sheets to guide the teachers and environmental education technicians during their work with children.

These tools may be useful for teachers and staff from MPA and NGO.

They will be published in 2010 (bookf of knowledge) and 2011 (educational sheets). These tools will be printed in French, English and Portuguese.

Trainings on the use of these tools will be organi-

zed in 2011 in all the 7 countries of PRCM region

The partners of PREE decided to gather their existing tools in a regional educational toolbox that will also be spread to share the regional know-how and giev inspiration to the environmental education professionals.

*"We need to teach to our children how to live with nature, to give valuer and respect our environment"*

**S.E Mr Artur SILVA**  
Minister of Education  
of Guinea Bissau



## Support local initiatives that create links between schools and coastal communities



Some environmental education pilote projects receive the support of PREE:

**Cabo Verde** INDP  
**Senegal** UNIVERE  
**The Gambia** SGF  
**Guinea Bissau** AD  
**Guinea** ADEPAG

Some projects are in the selection process:

**Mauritania** ANNAJAH  
**Mauritania** ASSPCI  
**Sierra Leone** EFA  
**Guinea Bissau** Palmeirinha

Some initiatives of EE and public awareness have occasionally been supported by PREE in 2010:

- **International Biodiversity Week** in Bissau in May 2010 with IBAP

- **Biodiversity Village** Nouakchott in June 2010 with CANPE

## Communication within the network

The PREE participated in the 4th International Meeting of the World Ocean Network in May 2010 in France to promote the initiative undergoing in West Africa, to discuss about the youth awareness strategies and to create links with other partners worldwide involved in similar actions

[www.worldoceannetwork.org](http://www.worldoceannetwork.org)

The PREE tries to create ways to share experiences and know-how between the 7 coastal countries of the sub-region through:

The creation of a website where it will be possible to download the PREE educational tools and the regional educational toolbox (launching of the website in October 2010)

The development of a collaboration with IUCN Commission on Education and Communication CEC.

[www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/cec/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/cec/)

The diffusion of a semi-annual newsletter to all partners involved in marine and coastal environment conservation in West Africa.

« I listen and I forget  
I see and I remember  
I do and I understand »

**Chinese proverb**  
good to keep in mind during environmental awareness sessions with kids ...

## Learn more...

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