



Zéro Plastique

A youth association in Dindéfélo organized an awareness day against the excess of plastic in the streets



This is the second year that the Dindéfélo's youth association Black Pose organizes a sensitization workshop focused on relevant issues for the population. Last year, they talked about politics. This time, they tackled an issue that affects the health and welfare of the population: the excess plastic. The Reserve Management Committee and

the JGI supported the event economically. To understand the purpose of the Zéro Plastic day, we discussed with **Elhaj Diallo**, one of the 14 young members of Black Pose. He explained to us why we must raise awareness to reduce the use of plastic.

Why did you decide to organize the Zéro Plastique day?

Because when you throw the plastic onto the ground, it does not only look bad, but it also pollutes. In addition, there are many cases of domestic animals which, after eating plastic, die. For these reasons, apart from the organization of the day, we decided to educate people to use cloth bags.

In Dindéfélo as well as in Senegal, we need initiatives to manage the waste produced by families every day. The use of bins is not widespread and most products are purchased in individual plastic packaging, generating a large amount of waste that ends in the ground. That's why, to spread the message:

What kind of activities did you organize?

In the morning, there



was a plastic cleaning activity in the village. In the afternoon, we made speeches and theatre play to illustrate the problem, plus rap and dance concerts. Finally, there was a 'soirée' to finish the day in a festive way.

Elhaj Diallo hopes the event will help to change the image and cleanliness of Dindéfélo. Black Pose aims to keep on organizing other awareness days in the coming years.

New technologies

The ecoguards are starting to use tablets during their patrols

The ecoguards of the Dindéfélo Community Reserve have begun their collaboration on a pilot program that seeks to apply new technologies in their day a day work. In the last months, they have been trained to replace notebooks and pens for **tablets** with the aim of systematizing and achieving greater efficiency in the collection of data using the **SMART-Cybertracker** methodology, the same used by JGI researchers in their fieldwork.

The task of the ecoguards is essential to follow up on the status of the Reserve. During their patrols, the different teams detect problems or infractions occurred on the protected area and they

have to report them and act consequently to solve them.

Until now, as all the information was collected by hand, it was difficult to collect their data and to know the areas of the Reserve that had been supervised by the ecoguards. With the new tablets, it is easier to track the status of the Reserve and to know, thanks to the integrated GPS, where the problems are and what actions were taken to resolve them.

When the program is 100% functional, the systematization of the data collected by the ecoguards will allow to analyse the evolution of the resources of the Reserve and thereby facilitate its maintenance.



Agroforestry

A forest inventory for the future of the reserve, in collaboration with the UHU



At the end of October, four forestry engineering students of the **University of Huelva (UHU)**, in Spain, arrived at Dindefélo to carry out a forest inventory of the Reserve. The activity undertaken by Álvaro, David, Rafa and Jose Carlos, and supervised by JGI's Roberto Martinez Orosa, is essential to monitor the evolution of the Reserve. Making an inventory means to acquire information

and knowledge that will lead to a better decision-making from the management committee to improve the conservation status of the reserve.

Since their arrival, the four students worked methodically with the ecoguards of the Reserve. For one week, they welcomed three of their university professors, experts on management of forests and natural resources, in order to receive their

advice on the job.

Five days a week, they get up early and meet at the Fouta Jallon Research Station in Dindefélo, JGI's main working centre, to have breakfast and to get the equipment they need. At 8am, with their batteries already charged, they

head to the sites they have to work on that day.

The aim of this project is to cover the maximum area of the Reserve during the four months the students will be working in Senegal. For this reason, when the plots around Dindefélo will be completed,

they will move to other key locations of the Reserve like Ségou and Nandoumay.

The future inventory

One of the biggest concerns on the management of the Reserve is to get to minimize the competition between humans and

chimpanzees, regarding the use of the resources. Thus, the control of species and their areas of concentration will lead to the next stage of the research, in order to obtain better life standards on the Reserve and to achieve a responsible use of the existing resources.

Did you know...?

The Baobab (*Adansonia*)

... there are eight different species of baobab? We find the majority of baobabs in Madagascar. The species more spread in Africa is the *Adansonia digitata* or African baobab.

... the Baobab is not used as a wood resource? The baobab bark is spongy; it can accumulate up to **120,000 liters** of water inside, which is why it is not used for burning. However, it is useful for certain species of animals that use their drinking water.

... that with its fruit a very popular drink is prepared? In areas where this tree abounds, the juice of bhohe is made from the dried fruit pulp is an excellent source of **vitamin C**.



Community Nature Reserve Dindefélo

A project from the
Commune de Dindefélo
in collaboration with the Jane
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