

Sustainability Declaration

Pendjari National Park, Republic of Benin



Our organisation's policy is founded on the following sustainability objectives:

The objective of tourism development in the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve is to contribute to the preservation of natural resources, in particular by

- Generating income for the financing of the park management, and
- Creating sustainable sources of income for the park bordering population.

We are aware that the Reserve's conservation can't be effective without the cooperation with local populations. Therefore, the associations of local communities are involved in all fields of park management including tourism. In an ecotourism development strategy, the local tourism actors agreed on numerous activities which tend to minimize negative environmental and social impacts of tourism and to maximize economic success by fulfilling international quality standards.

We implement these objectives through practical measures and projects as follows:

- Joint park management together with the associations of park bordering populations,
- Paying 30% of the revenues from the utilization of buffer zones by professional hunters to the villager's associations,
- Supporting local tourism activities in the park bordering villages (local accommodation, cultural tours in the villages, training of local guides),
- Reauthorizing traditional ceremonies in the Biosphere Reserve, such as the traditional fishing,
- Raising visitor's awareness for ecotourism standards by informational documents,
- Offering possibilities to visitors to take part in ecological monitoring activities in the frame of volunteer programs,
- Implementing and monitoring a participative ecotourism development strategy aiming on the respect of quality standards and a sustainable utilization of natural resources,
- Supporting sustainable local development activities in the park's periphery such as the production of organic cotton and honey.

Further details of this and our other projects are available at our stand.

Our plans for further action:

- Diversifying tourism offers in the National Park and its periphery by developing and/or enlarging of boat tours, hiking tours, ornithological and botanical tours, bike tours,
- Developing a charter of quality,
- Developing an ecotourism promotion structure with a central information center.

Our organisation is a member of:

- UNESCO-Biosphere Reserves
- RAMSAR-sites of protected wetlands
- Internet platforms on sustainable tourism such as GreenBazaar, Greentravelmarket, West African Travel Market, "Biosphere tomorrow is now" on Facebook

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