

Project Update: December 2013

The second stage of our project has gotten underway with many meetings with National Park staff, the town council of Tambacounda, and local NGOs. Following this, we have decided that recycling activities will stay in Tambacounda, where households produce a large amount of rubbish each week, but that the programme of environmental education will move to Dar Salam, a village situated at the main entrance to Niokolo Koba National Park. Being right on the periphery of the park, the development of sustainable livelihoods in Dar Salam will have a greater impact on conservation of the park environment, and resources developed can be used for future work in other villages surrounding the park. We are also very pleased to have found the name “Kambien” for our group. Kambien is a mandink word which means “we are together”, not only with one another but also with the environment. A local artist is currently working on logo ideas to capture this concept, and we look forward to posting this soon.

During November we have had the great pleasure of working in collaboration with Purple Field Productions to produce Senegalese versions of two of their films. The first of these films, entitled “Trees and Stoves” was originally produced in Malawi, and describes the importance of trees in everyday life and how we can preserve trees by starting tree nurseries and replacing open cooking fires with brick stoves built out of local materials. The second film is called “Changing with the climate” and describes the work of farmers in Uganda who are introducing beekeeping, bamboo agriculture, organic farming methods and agroforestry in order to adapt their agricultural practices with the changing climate. To share the ideas and activities described in these films, we worked with a local team to translate the existing films into Mandinka, and to add a Senegalese introduction and conclusion to each film. Our first screening of these films, using Electric Pedal’s pedal powered cinema system was a great success, washed down with an enormous quantity of popcorn and bissab juice. Everyone is now looking forward to starting to put some of these ideas into action within the community of Dar Salam, and other neighbouring villages.



a. Filming traditional singing and dancing by local women in Dar Salam to use in the Senegalese version of the film Changing with the Climate. b. Recording local women talking about the benefits of using a brick stove. This conversation is a part of the Senegalese version of the film Trees and Stoves.