

## Projects Update: March 2015

We started the project and the following activities have been realised:

**1-** Rapid survey in the villages surrounding the W Biosphere reserve. We conducted a quick survey to select the villages where human-elephant conflict is most frequent. At the end of this survey, the villages of Ginbagou and the village of Bontè (district of Banikoara) were selected to host the beehive fence installation.



Community mobilisation for the projects activities

**3-** Training of the local communities in beehives building. The local communities were organised in association and trained on beehive building. Taking in account the cost of the modern beehives (langstroth) building, the participants were mainly trained on the traditional beehives building based on local material.



Training on beehive building



Beehives transportation to site retained for fence building

**4-** Installation of the beehive fences. After the training, the beehives were built by the local communities and transported to the sites retained for the fence. A total of 60 beehives were realised in each village. At Bontè, we installed a fence 300 m long (this corresponds to an interval of 5 m between beehives) and at Ginbagou a fence 400 m long (this corresponds approximately to an interval of 6 m between beehives).



Beehives installation at Ginbagou

### **Next steps**

For the next step we will pursue the project with the following activities:

- Environmental education toward local community and capacity building of reserve managers and local NGO on the elephant-human conflict mitigation through the use of bee buzzing and capsaicin (from chili pepper).
- Establishment of chili pepper in the field. This activity is supposed to be done in the same time as beehives fence installation. Unfortunately the period where the beehive activity was implemented corresponded to the dry season (November to April). In this period, water availability represents a great constraint to plant growth. So I decided to carry out that activity from May to September and expect outputs on September/October.