

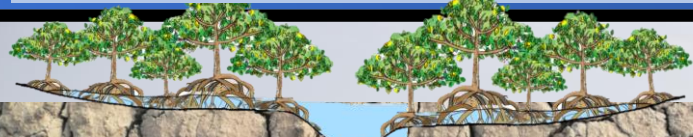
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF A COMMUNITY NEXT TO THE BIGGEST MANGROVE DIEBACK OF THE GAMBIA

Sanz-Yus, D.,¹ Darboe, A.,² Dahdouh-Guebas, F.,^{1,3,4} Hugé, J.,^{1,5,6}



1 Laboratory of Systems Ecology and Resource Management, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium **2** Sankandi Youth Development Association **3** Laboratory of Plant Biology and Nature Management, Ecology & Biodiversity, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium, **4** Mangrove Specialist Group (MSG), Species Survival Commission (SSC), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), London, United Kingdom, **5** Interfaculty Institute of Social-Ecological Transitions, Université Libre de Bruxelles - ULB, Brussels, Belgium) **6** Open University of the Netherlands, Valkenburgerweg 177, 6419AT Heerlen, The Netherlands **7** Centre for Environmental Science, Hasselt University, 3500 Hasselt, Belgium

Systems Ecology and Resource Management



THE GAMBIA

Occupies the 0,04 % of land in Africa but contains the 2,1% of the total mangrove forests in the continent¹

Since the 1970's several droughts eliminated 11,000 ha of mangrove forests.²

The **BINTANG BOLONG** lost 90% of the mangrove forests causing direct impacts in the communities.

Today, a horizon of dead stumps and salinized soils are remnants of this wetland from the Sudano-Guinean biome.³



ADAPTIVE RESEARCH DESIGN

"More flexible approach with possibilities of responding to what is discovered, through observation and reflection, and allowing the researcher to draw the conclusions of new insights by altering the path of research."⁴

MASTER THESIS' OBJECTIVE

Study the evolution of the Sankandi community in its socio-ecological system through the last decades

METHODS

- 1 Snowball sampling
- 2 Semi-structured interviews
- 3 Participatory Action Research



Report on survey on the distribution, identification and suitable sites for mangrove enrichment and restoration in LRR.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Local reflections about the change in the environment and the climate, the biodiversity,...

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Uses of mangroves, storytelling, *Churay pots*, taboos with nature,...

COMMUNITY-BASED MANAGEMENT

SANKANDI YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION⁵

Perceptions of the Community-Based Organization founded by Ansumana Darboe in 2012, engaging with more than 200 local volunteers from 5 communities along the Bintang Bolong. The community has planted more than 450.000 propagules of *Rhizophora mangle* with high rates of survival and growth⁶, also the biodiversity is increasing⁷, including fish. Tens of locals are involved in honey production and in the monitoring of the ecosystem.



1. Mangrove planting in 2018
2. Sankandi Bee-keeping enterprise



GENERAL TOPICS

1

PAR

2

"MANGROVE TALKS" ACTION RESEARCH

Elders of the community sharing their experiences living with mangroves before the dieback 40 years ago.
Local awareness raising activities



Churay Dandingo, Churay Pot
Pottery made out of mangrove clay in Sankandi

Planting sites in the Bintang Bolong
D. Sanz Yus, March, 2022

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2) Ligonis, L., K., Okolie, C., J., (2021). Detecting changes in mangrove forests along the Bintang Bolong Estuary, Gambia using Google Earth Engine, Sentinel-2 Imagery and Random Forest classification. *Intercontinental Geoinformation Days*.
3) White F (1983). The vegetation of Africa, a descriptive memoir to accompany the UNESCO/AETFAT/UNSO vegetation map of Africa. UNESCO, Natural Resour. Res. 20:1-356
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6) Asrat, S., (2018). Monitoring survival and growth rate of planted trees at a mangrove restoration site in West Africa. Edinburgh Napier University. (Non-published)
7) Svengen, K., (2018). Deriving baseline data on faunal communities in a mangrove reforestation site along the Bintang Bolong tributary, in The Gambia. Edinburgh Napier University. (Non-published)

