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OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING MITIGATION OUTCOMES FROM COASTAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

COASTAL CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS / UNEP SIDE EVENT

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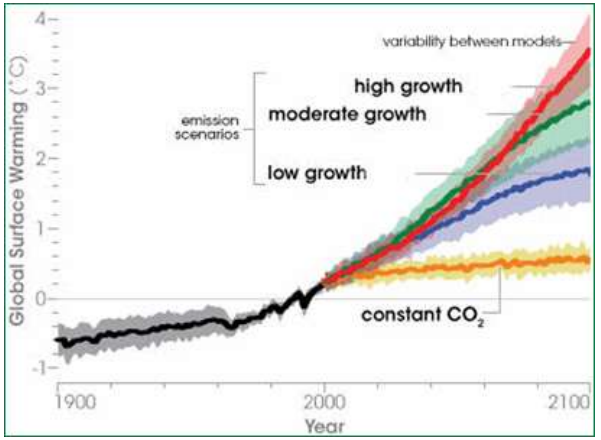
BACKGROUND

- The global Greenhouse Gases emissions have nearly doubled since the early 1970s;

- If current policies are not being changed, they could increase more than 70% by 2050;

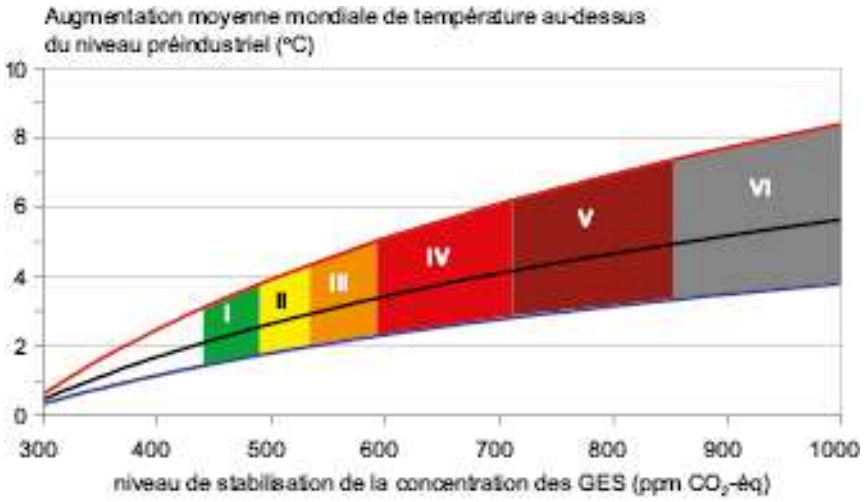
- Many economic activities generate GHG:
  - Electricity sector: **26%**
  - General industry: **19%**
  - Transportation: **13%**
  - Deforestation and forest degradation: **17%**



CLIMATE TARGETS : MITIGATION OUTCOMES

According to the IPCC, the most onerous outcome would result from the scenario focusing on :

- Stabilizing the rate of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to between 445 and 490 ppm CO2-eq;
- Thus limiting the average global temperature increase to 2 to 2.4° C above pre-industrial levels;
- Which can only be achieved if the emission level of GEF decreases by 50% in 2050 compared to their current emission rates

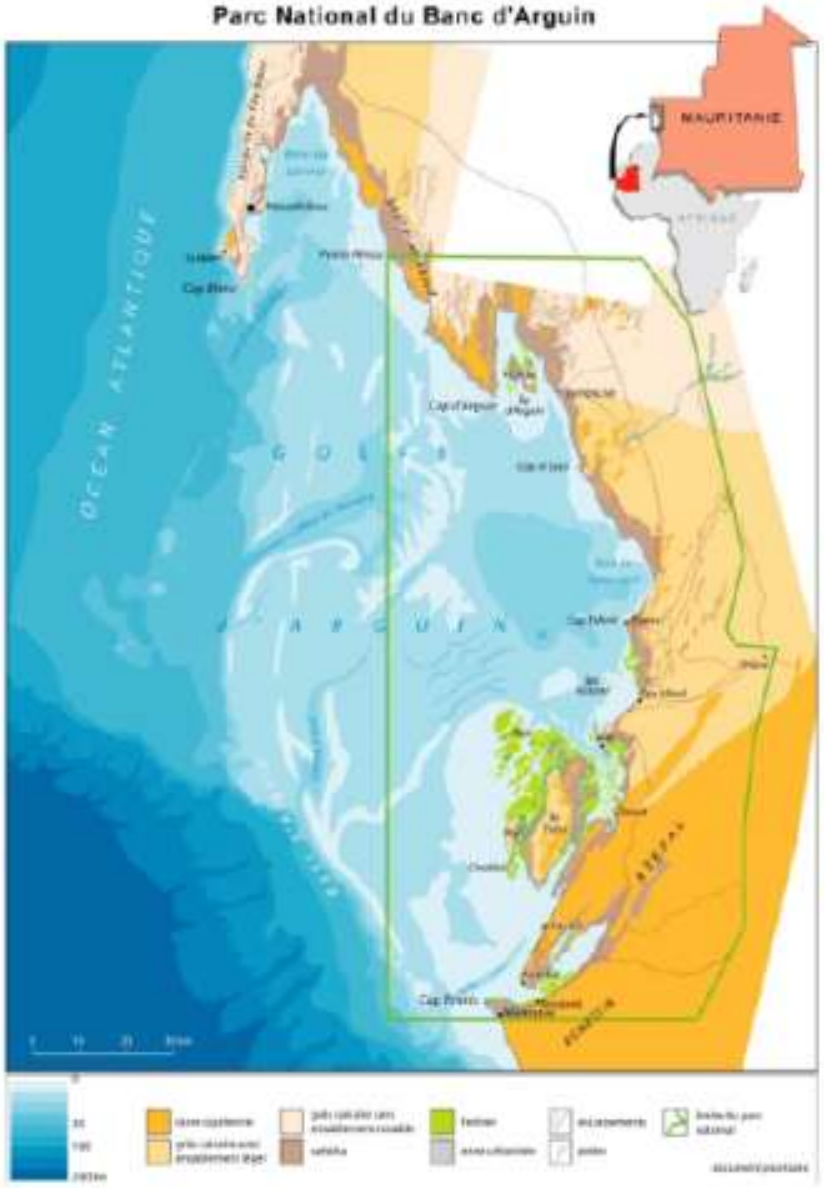


OPPORTUNITIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

1. CARBON SEQUESTRATION

- Forestation, reforestation and prevention of mangroves deforestation;

- Protection of sea grass beds (by limiting destructive fishing practices and marine pollution)



2. AVOIDING EMISSION OF GHG

Protection of tidal marshlands
The disappearance of tidal marshlands or a decrease in their salinity levels causes increased emissions of GHG

Protection of high carbon species
may prevent the emission of greenhouse gases

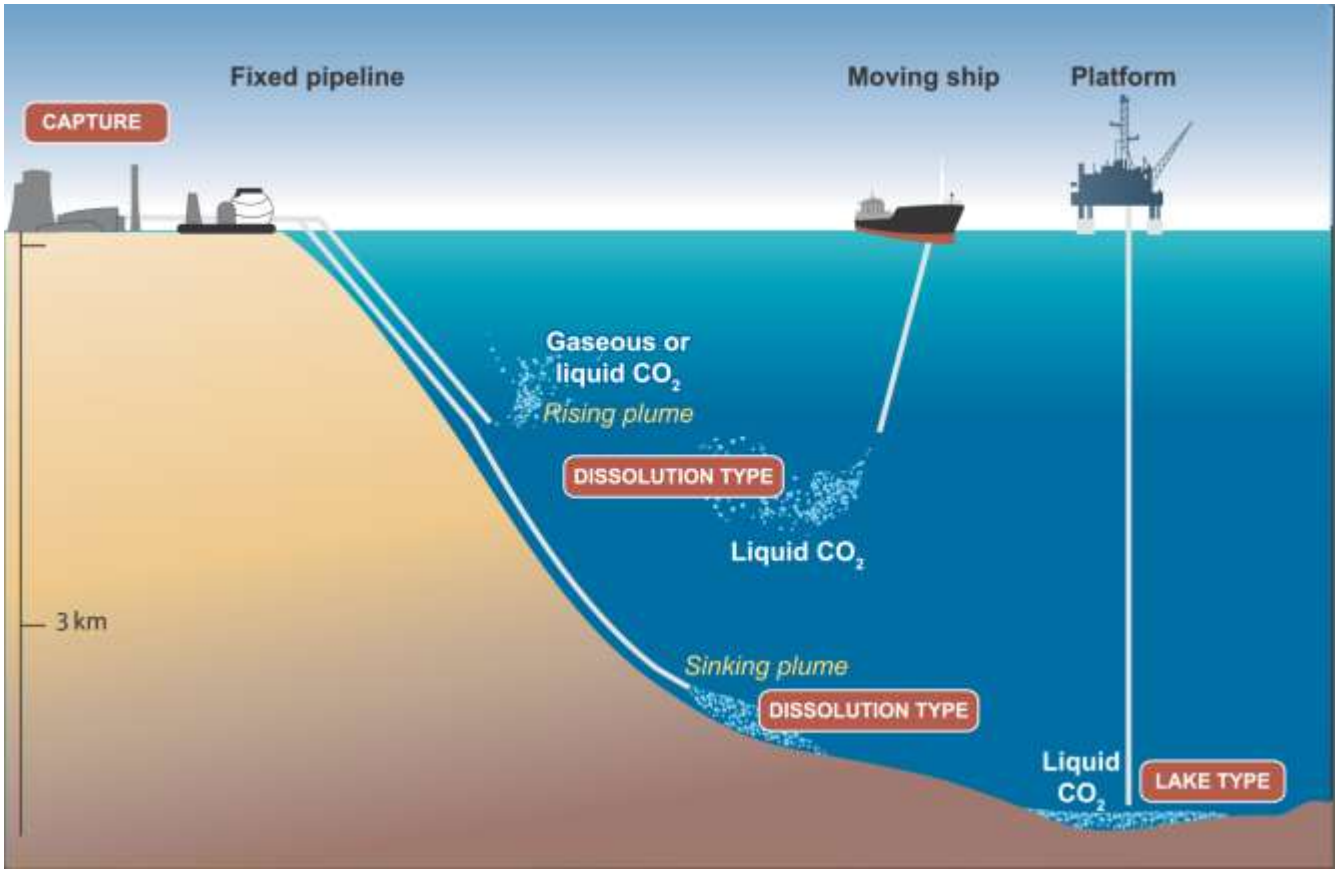
3. REDUCING EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES

- Production of clean energy: wind power, wave power, tidal energy, ….

- Promoting innovation and deploying low-carbon technologies in the coastal and marine activities (Fishing, Oil and Gas exploitation, Shipping ,....)

4. CAPTURE AND OCEAN STORAGE OF CO2

This process involves separating CO2 from industrial sources and transporting it to a storage location in the ocean



The challenges

1. Limiting access to appropriate technologies and financial mechanisms

2. Lack of knowledge and skills for better understanding of phenomena and interventions

3. Environmental impact of some mitigation options

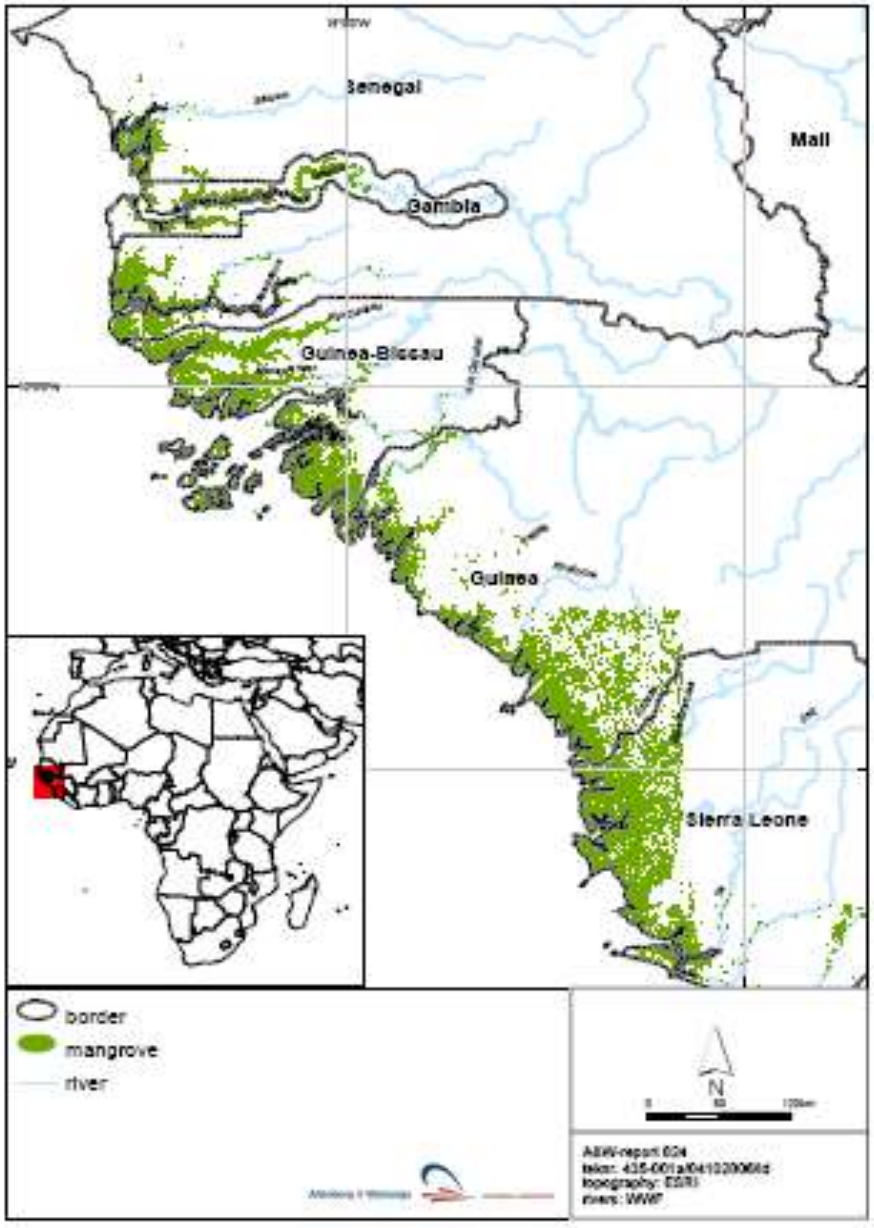
4. Degradation of Ecosystems and decline of coastal resources (overfishing, marine pollution,….)

5. Poverty of coastal communities

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION : EXAMPLES OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

1. MANGROVE PROGRAM

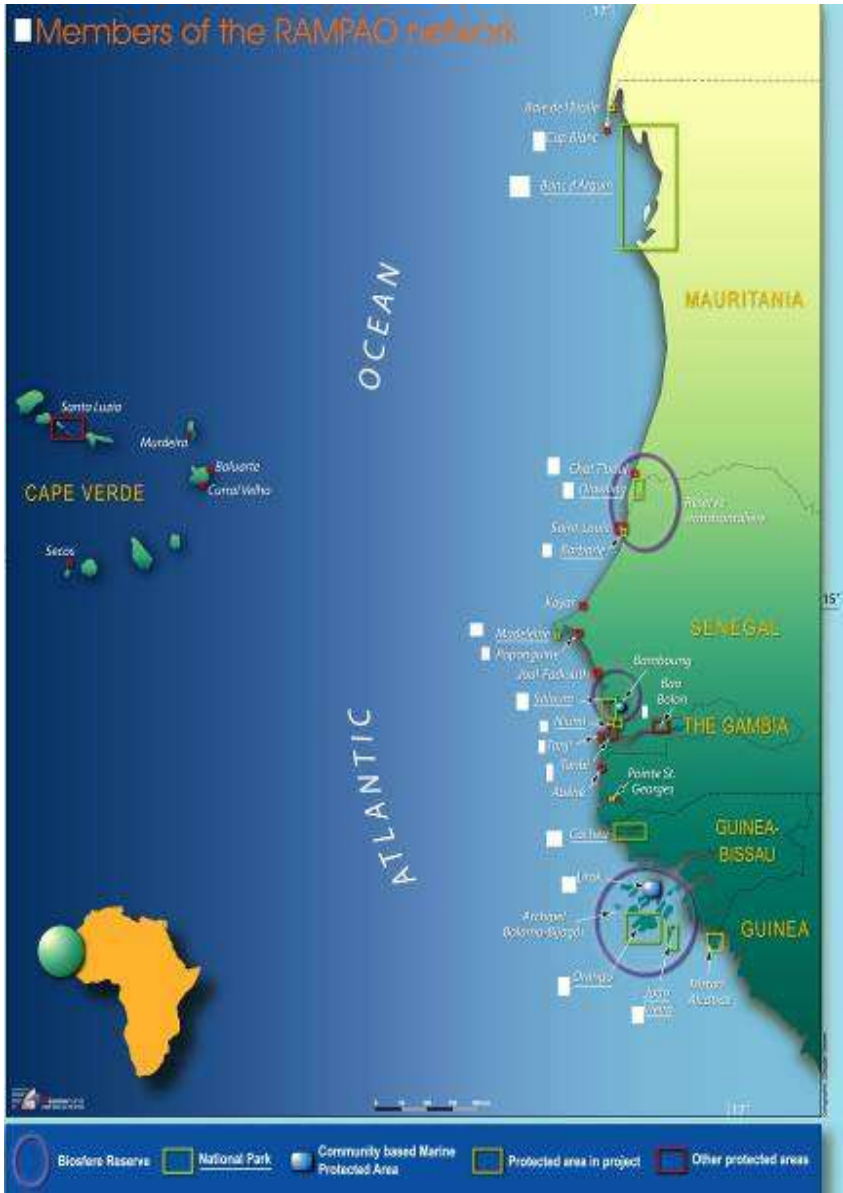
- Heightened awareness community in relation to the value of mangroves
- Widespread mangrove reforestation operations
- Alternative activities to the use of mangrove wood for heating
- Regional charter for the protection of mangroves signed by seven countries



2. THE REGIONAL NETWORK OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA - A TOOL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

- Creating and strengthening the management of Marine Protected Areas
- Implementation of research and participatory surveys protocols combining scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge
- Pilot projects for sustainable use of natural resources and implementation of socioeconomic solutions

The MPAs are laboratories for the development of mitigation solutions that are exported and replicated outside of MPAs



3. THE PRCM: A POSSIBLE MODEL FOR COLLABORATIVE COASTAL GOVERNANCE

- **Platform for exchange and collaboration among more than a hundred actors in the coastal zone;**
- **Appropriate framework for lobbying and influencing policy (Parliamentary Networks, Regional Forum, ….);**
- **Development of tools for integrated management of coastal areas**

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMANDATIONS

- Promote coastal and marine conservation because of its potential contribution to climate change mitigation;
- Integrate climate change into the conservation and development of coastal areas
- Find a balance between the fight against poverty and implementation of mitigation measures
- Involve communities and populations in recommended management measures

THANK YOU

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