

# SYNTHESIS REPORT

## ON THE CONSEQUENCES

### OF THE PRESSURE EXERTED BY VIP

### HUNTING IN NIGER

Report to the CMS Scientific Council  
March 2007

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#### Introduction:

For many years, VIPs (essentially Arab personages from the Persian Gulf) have been organising hunting camps in countries of the Sahel and the Sahara, mainly Niger, Chad, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mali. These hunts are essentially an occasion for exercising falconry skills, in particular on several species of bustards, as well as hunting several species of antelopes found in the Sahel and the Sahara. These hunting drives are taking place practically everywhere in the Sahara: there are not really any areas that are inaccessible these days, with modern 4x4 vehicles.

However, too often, these drives result in extremely high numbers on the “hunting lists”, attaining thresholds that clearly cannot be maintained. The large desert fauna are, by definition, fauna that take advantage of ephemeral pastures, and which are therefore characterised by relatively low densities and populations that need large areas for survival. They are therefore also large fauna which do not easily reconstitute their numbers when the pressures that are exerted on them are too great.

The CMS and all of the countries in the area over which the Sahel-Saharan Antelopes are distributed emphasised the need for warnings in the attached CMS declaration Djerba (1998) and Agadir (2003). The alarm has also been sounded by several international and national NGOs, in particular the IUCN (World Conservation Union) and the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF).

In November 2006, the CMS Standing Committee was given information about one of the hunting parties that had taken place in the Tasker region (Termit mountain region in Niger) between 11 and 20 September 2006, and which had had serious consequences for the local fauna, with several Addaxes, Dama Gazelles and Aoudads killed.

Now, the Termit Mountains and the contiguous TinToumma Erg are precisely the central regions of a new area which, since 2005, the Government of Niger has undertaken to protect. The CMS has also undertaken to support Niger in developing this new PA, by means of the ASS CMS/FFEM project, with the support of the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), and the ASS CMS/EU project.

At the time of the meeting of 27/09/2006, the Standing Committee decided to send an information mission, comprising Mr. John Mshelbwala (Chairman of the CMS Scientific Council) and Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (specialist for African fauna). A week-long mission to Niamey (8-15 November 2006) enabled the representatives to meet numerous important people in Niger. The mission's report is attached to the present synthesis report. It should be emphasised that the CMS mission concentrated on the meetings at Niamey with various important people; the mission did not aim to visit the field.

A few weeks later, and **totally independently, from the «reports on hunting in the Termit»**, a field mission, planned several months previously, was organised in the context of the «CMS/FFEM Antelopes of the Sahel and the Sahara» project, and starting up the «Termit-TinToumma protection area» project. This mission began with a workshop with the representatives of the main groups in the Termit region (various groups: Toubous, Arabs and Touaregs), in the presence of the representatives of the DFPP (Direction de la Faune, de la Pêche et de la Pisciculture du Niger = Niger Fauna, Fishing and Pisciculture Management), the CMS/FFEM project and its main partner for the Termit project, the Sahara Conservation Fund SCF. After this workshop, the participating representatives also stayed in the Termit region and met other personages from the area.

This last-mentioned mission was accompanied by an Independent journalist, Mr. Stanley Johnson, now CMS ambassador. As a result of his participation in the mission, an article was published in «The Independent», drawing the reader's attention to the problems connected with these hunts.

The object of this report is to synthesise the findings of the CMS mission to Niamey of November 2006, and all of the information collected at the time of the workshop launching the ASS CMS/FFEM (Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial = French Fund for the World Environment) project at Zinder (December 2006) and at the time of the consequent CMS/FFEM field mission.

It is drawn up as follows:

1. General findings
2. Report of the ASS CMS/FFEM mission 28/11 to 15/12/2006
3. Report of the Workshop launching the « Termit-TinToumma Protection Area » project
4. Main conclusions and recommendations of the CMS/Niamey mission report by John Mshlembwala and Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (November 2006)
5. Appendix 1 : Full report of CMS/Niamey mission
6. Appendix 2: report on poaching in the Termit region, Ibrahim Madougou, National Co-ordination Committee of the ASS CMS/FFEM project, DFPP.

## CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

Information collected in the field: SCF and ASS CMS/FFEM (RC Beudels (ASS CMS/FFEM) mission, A. Greth (ASS CMS/FFEM), J.Newby (SCF), Th. Rabeil (SCF), N.Hiessler (CCN AFVP (Association française des Volontaires du Progrès = French Volunteers for Progress Association), I. Madougou (CCN (Centre de Calcul Numérique = Centre for Numerical Calculation) DFPP):

During the field mission, we met several important local people, such as the leaders of Toubou, Touareg and Arab groups, political personalities (mayor of Tasker), and military and Police officials.

It is clear that, in the Tasker and Diffa regions, there is a large amount of evidence concerning the regular presence of foreign hunters, originating from Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Libya. It is also clear that, in reality, the hunting drives organised for bustard hunting are massive hunting drives, with sophisticated arms, resulting in quite considerable numbers on the hunting lists, and that these activities can obviously not claim to be sustainable.

According to several witnesses, the last Libyan hunting party ended in numerous gazelles being shot, refrigerated lorries being used for taking away the carcasses, living animals being taken away in crates, night-time hunts with headlights, with a helicopter, particularly at the foot of the Termit mountains, since the Aoudads come down at night. All of this took place well beyond the supposed hunting concession limits.

We have collected numerous eye-witness accounts on these hunting drives, and the excesses resulting from them. Although it is practically impossible for observers to approach these camps, once the camp is broken up, the vehicles (Jeeps, lorries) return to centres like Tasker. There, the entire population can see what the vehicles contain, when they are opened up. But of course, no-one may take photos, or trophies. This would clearly be impossible. We were also told that these animals were taken via Dirkou, to the North of Niger, towards Libya. On the same route, we did not see any traces of Addax or Aoudad hunting. Several witnesses talked of live animals being captured using a helicopter.

In the TinToumma Erg, we came across lots of vehicle tracks, many of which went round in ever-decreasing circles. These were clearly vehicles that had been pursuing animals.

The local populations are visibly hostile to these hunts. They are also hostile to the presence of a hunting tent, erected by Islam al Kadhafi about fifty kilometres from the Termit mountain region.

The main problem is clearly that special hunting permits are given to foreign VIPs, who hunt under the protection of the Armed Forces in Niger, without any hunting plan, fauna management plan or other control.

**It is also quite evident that these activities are threatening the viability of our conservation efforts. In 5 years, the fauna has visibly become dramatically diminished throughout the area.** Everyone can see this, when they go there and talk to the inhabitants.

But it is also clear that the presence of the project in the field from 2007, posting eco-wardens and reinforcing the numbers of DFPP agents in Tasker and Diffa, and no doubt also in Termit Kaboul, really are the only ways of dealing with this situation. We are convinced that this dissuasive presence will make all the difference.

The DFPP, Mr. Ai Harouna, assured us, as had the Minister of the Environment, Mr. Labo previously, that certain hunting concessions could be removed, if we were able to show that they might prejudice the implementation of the Termit-TinTinoumma Protection Area.

**Overall, these exceptional practices and incidentally any hunting activity inside concessions in Saharan areas must be registered in a sustainable fauna and natural resources management policy, in compliance with national and international policies, on defined areas (cynetic areas of interest), and with a financial contribution by people involved in conserving arid regions.**

## **A. The ASS CMS/FFEM field mission (28/11 to 15/12) and the workshop launching the Termit project (2 and 3 December 2006).**

### **Objectives of the ASS CMS/FFEM mission:**

3. Taking stock of:
  - The progress of the activities of the National Co-ordination Committee (operations, vehicle etc.), on the AFVP Devis-Programm, on the Monitoring Devis-Programm, the Sensitisation Devis-Programm and on the ASS Niger strategy Devis-Programm, based on the report of the March 2006 mission.
  - The future Termit-TinToumma Protection Area: state of progress, opportunities, threats.
  - Meetings with the various partners (DFPP, SCF, AFVP, Embassies)
  - Final organisation of the CMS/FFEM workshop launching the « Termit-TinToumma Protection Area » project.
3. Discussing the launching of the CMS/EU « Biodiversity in the Sahara » Niger / Tchad Project and « Addax Without Frontiers » with the DFPP.
3. Taking part in the workshop launching the ASS CMS/FFEM « Termit-TinToumma Protection Area, in Zinder » part of the project. Setting out the challenges with all of the partners, listening to opinions, taking part in debates, meeting regional authorities, and the representatives of the various communities in the area.
3. In collaboration with the SCF team, a field mission in the Termit Region, including some transects in the TinToumma Erg (natural environments, meeting local populations, pursuing exchanges inside the team)

The recommendations and the findings of the ASS CMS/FFEM field mission are included in the main conclusions in pages 3 and 4 of the present document.

## **B. Zinder Workshop: Workshop launching the « Termit-TinToumma Protection Area » workshop, in the context of the ASS CMS/FFEM project**

### **Zinder Workshop Recommendations:**

The Workshop was held in the presence of the Governor of the Zinder region, **Mr. Yaya Dan Danka**. Representatives of the various groups affected by the area were present, mainly representatives of various Toubou, Touareg et Arab groups.

It was emphasised by the representatives of the local communities that there was a general consensus with regard to the significant diminution of the wild fauna populations in the area, mainly due to hunting and poaching. Those taking part also agreed on the fact that responsibility should be shared. The objectives of the project are good ones, but would only be attained by everyone agreeing to make the effort that would be required.

Considering the unique nature of the biodiversity in the Termit/Tin Toumma area, the **Workshop recommended** (reporter Thomas Rabeil, SCF, CMS/FFEM project):

### **1. The State of Niger**

- To make a political commitment at the highest possible level in the struggle against poaching, which is practised by certain Gulf princes and certain leading Libyan citizens in the Termit/Tin Toumma area, in order to safeguard the last Saharan antelopes and the biodiversity of the Sahara, generally.

### **2. The partners in conservation/ development**

- To address the need for increasing resources for protecting the fauna of the Sahel and the Sahara, which is unique in the world. In view of the vastness of the area, those taking part called upon the international community to help Niger conserve and provide better management of the fauna of the Sahel and Sahara and its habitats.
- To improve coherence in implementing the National Strategy and action plan in respect of Biological Diversity: this will make it possible to make durable use of the wild fauna and ensure conservation of threatened species like the Addax, the Dama Gazelle, the Saharan Cheetah, etc...
- To give thorough consideration to a concertation framework providing the largest possible number of actors for perennialising activities;
- To place the project activities in the field and post and forestry agents and eco-wardens as soon as possible, which may reduce poaching pressure and ensure improved management of the fauna of the Sahel and the Sahara.

## **C. CMS/Niamey Mission:**

**by JOHN H. MSHELBWALA and ALFRED OTENG-YEBOAH**

### **❖ The key points of the CMS/Niamey mission report are as follows:**

- The Government and the people of Niger welcomed the CMS mission and understood the objectives. This mission has, in particular, made it possible to discuss the problems involved in getting the various parts of the ASS Concerted Action in Niger underway.
- Although hunting in Niger is open to everyone, the mission assured the DFPP and other high Government officials that, if the Presidency were to request professional advice in respect of opening the 2007 hunting season, the Minister would advise against this.
- The CMS mission encouraged Niger not to open hunting to everyone, until the quotas that have been drawn up on a scientific basis have been established in conjunction with the CMS and its partners, and wild fauna management plans have been defined and implemented.

- Niger renewed its commitment to implementing the Termit-TinToumma Protection Area.
- The Government of Niger is awaiting from the ASS CMS/FFEM and ASS CMS/EU projects to implement, with the accent on the main partners, the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), in particular.
- The CMS mission encourages Niger to:
  - seek funds and additional support from foreign hunting permit-holders for the conservation of Saharan biodiversity, in collaboration with the CMS and its partners.
  - strengthen its efforts for the designation and implementation of the Termit-TinToumma Protection Area;
  - ensure that hunting is not open to everyone until management methods that are acceptable to the CMS and its partners have been clearly identified.
  - ensure that presidential permits for capturing or hunting species that are threatened with extinction may only be issued after the impact that such permits would have on the CMS ASS and the international conservation community has been properly assessed.
  - Provide the CMS and the Partners in the ASS with the assurance that any activity that compromises the objectives and the sustainability of the ASS project will not be permitted;
- The CMS mission encourages the technical and financial partners in the CMS/FFEM project to:
  - Continue supporting Niger in implementing the Termit-TinToumma Protection Area and the diversity of the Sahara that is represented there;
  - Help the DFPP implement and organise monitoring of the Termit area and a warning system;
- The CMS mission encourages the holders of hunting permits to:
  - Contribute to the efforts for conserving the biodiversity of the Sahara, together with the Government of Niger, the CMS and its partners, so as to ensure that there will permanently be qualified personnel in the Termit Protection Area and the contiguous hunting concessions.
- The CMS mission encourages the CMS secretariat to ensure that the necessary resources are allocated to:
  - Installing a monitoring network and a warning system in the Termit area;
  - Developing programming for informing the people of Niger and the communities concerned of, and making them aware in particular of the importance of conserving the ASS and the biodiversity of the Sahara;
  - Ensuring the cohesion and the involvement of the local communities concerned in designating and implementing the protection area..

**❖ Points brought up by the DFPP and which contradict the information collected elsewhere in the field:**

- As opposed to this last population of African giraffes of the west of Kouré, if a small population of Addaxes is still occupying the Termit-TinToumma region nowadays, it is because the Toubou populations have not hunted them down to the last one. There is neither a development project, nor a conservation effort in the area that could be acknowledged as the reason for this population having survived.

- It is clear that it is almost impossible for evidence, in the form of photos or hunting trophies, to be provided of this sort of hunting drive. Everywhere where they take place, the authorities with responsibility acknowledge that they are unable to intervene, and no-one from the outside is permitted to approach hunting camps, which are under national military guard.
- The authorities with which meetings were held did not object to the possibility that there might be hunting parties authorised by the Presidency. But if such permits are given, they are given for the Dorca Gazelles, not for the Addaxes or the Aoudads. The authorities reaffirmed their willingness to co-operate with the CMS and other organisations to ensure that the biodiversity of the country is retained.

ANNEXE 1

**RAPPORT DE LA MISSION CMS NOVEMBRE 2006 à NIAMEY**

**CMS  
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL  
MISSION TO NIGER**

**8-15 NOVEMBER 2006**

**FINAL REPORT**

BY  
**JOHN H. MSHELBWALA  
ALFRED OTENG-YEBOAH**

January 2007

## A. INTRODUCTION

1. Increased hunting pressure and long periods of drought in the 1980's is threatening the future survival of the biodiversity of the Sahara and Sahel region in general and Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes in particular. Other threats include overgrazing, development of new infrastructures for mining and oil prospecting, military conflicts, unsustainable use of natural resources and livelihoods and pervasive poverty among the citizenry.

2. The Termit massif and surrounding areas, provide habitat for Adax (*Addax nasomaculatus*); Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus* sp.); Dama gazelle (*Gazella dama*) and Dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*). These species are of particular interest to CMS and unconfirmed reports have indicated that they have become target for hunting parties resulting in massive killings of these antelopes.

3. These unconfirmed reports indicate that such hunting had taken place between 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006 in the North of the Administrative Post of Tasker region of Kandil Bouzou, and in the West, the Central and Eastern areas of the Termit massif. It was also reported that the hunting took place in the presence of members of the Nigerien Armed Forces accompanied by members of the Libyan Army, but without the involvement of Forestry Services personnel.

4. This explains the absence of any control on the species of animals killed, the number and location where such animals were killed or even the method adopted (whether on vehicles or planes). Hunting was also reported to have taken place during pregnancy period of these antelope species and during closed hunting season. The number purported to have been killed include 20 Addax, 2 Dama gazelle and 10 Barbary sheep.

5. The CMS Secretariat and 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, that held in Bonn 28-29 September 2006, were informed of progress on the Saharo Sahelian Antelope project (SSAP) including the project expansion, and also about the reported killings of these endangered antelopes in the Termit massif.

## B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the mission, including purpose, expected output and contact persons for the mission are contained in annex 3 of the report.

## C. DISCUSSION

1. The Government and people of Niger appreciated the purpose of the CMS Scientific Council mission to Niger, that provided an opportunity for CMS and the Niger Government to discuss issues that had hindered the effective take-off of the SSA project.

2. The mission observed that in spite of the very high level of poverty in Niger, the Government has committed her Human and Material resources towards the sustainable development of her natural resources and biological diversity in accordance with the National Law 98-07 of 1998 (Annex 5). Consequently, Niger remains one of the few countries in Africa that shelters the last populations of Addax living in their natural habitat and the only country in West Africa with wild populations of giraffe.

3. The civil and military authorities in Niger therefore, expressed astonishment at the reported authorised hunting or illegal killing of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes in the Termit region by Libyans. The Directorate of Wildlife and Fisheries also strongly denied the alleged illegal hunting and killing of endangered species in the Termit region and other parts of Niger.

4. The Government of Niger is concerned that these reports are capable of slowing down

the socio-economic development of the country, especially as this is coming at a time when she is still grappling with the effect of drought and food security problems. The Government therefore called on all friends of Niger to support the country in protecting and conserving her unique biodiversity.

5. The mission acknowledged the efforts made by Niger to protect the Saharan wildlife in general and Sahelo Saharan Antelopes in particular with modest monthly allocations from the national budget to the Agadez, Zinder and Diffa areas for the protection and monitoring of the zone where the SSA Project is located. These efforts were encouraged through the technical and financial support from partners as well as holders of concessions around the SSA project.

#### D. REPORTED HUNTING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. These reports although believed to be true, have become difficult to prove or substantiate, as no one was able to provide the mission team with concrete proof, either in form of photographs or trophy exhibits or even provide eye witness accounts to verify these killings.

2. During the course of several meetings with government officials, partners to the project, including members of the NGO community, no one was able to provide any lead, proof or eyewitness accounts to support the killing of these endangered species.

3. Government officials met by the Mission team were surprised at the origin of these reports that they considered to be rumours. They all doubted that these reports could be genuine, but were ready to take action if any one was ready and able to provide proof of these killings.

4. They however, do not rule out the possibility of hunting taking place as a result of a Presidential approval, although they doubt that such an approval has been granted. They also indicated that such authorisation if any is likely to be for Dorcas gazelle and not for Addax or Barbary sheep. The officials however assured the mission team that the Government of Niger is ready to cooperate with CMS and any other organization, including donor countries and agencies to ensure that the country's biodiversity is conserved and protected.

#### E. CURRENT LEGISLATION AND HUNTING CONCESSIONS

1. Current legislations and relevant guidelines on hunting, including location of Hunting Concession areas in Niger are contained in the following Annexes:

- a. Annex 5: Décret N° 98-295/PRN/MH/E du 29 octobre 1998
- b. Annex 6: Loi N° 98-07 Chasse et Protection de la Faune;
- c. Annex 7: Contrat De Concession De Zone De Chasse;
- d. Annex 8: Localisation Des Zones de Chasse; and
- e. Annex 9: Cahier de Charges Régissant L'Activité Des Concessionnaires de Zones de Chasse Au Niger.

2. The Mission team was informed of the existence of ten Hunting Concession areas in Niger, three of these Hunting Concessions directly border the proposed Termit Reserve:

- a. Kossotori and Tesker Concessions, Allocated in 2003, to Saleym Hamada (Citizen of Niger) in association with Sheik Maktoum Bin Rachin, Emir of Dubaï for a limited period of rotation;
- b. Farak Concession, allocated to Mr Aboubacar Farage (Citizen of Niger) in association with SAEF Al Kadhafi ISLAM.

3. Other Hunting Concessions within the vicinity of the Termit Reserve indicated on the location map of concessions include:

- a. 1, 437, 642 Ha belonging to General Ateig;
- b. 1, 657.711 Ha belonging to Cheik Said;
- c. 3, 103.320 Ha belonging to Cheik Hamdan;
- d. 1, 022.035 Ha Belonging to Prince Bandar; and

e. 2, 333.695 Ha also Belonging to Prince Bandar.

4. The mission team was informed that these hunting concessions are being managed according to the guidelines contained in Decret N° 98-295/PRN/MH/E du 29 octobre 1998 déterminant les modalités d'application de la loi N° 98-07 du 29 Avril 1998 portant régime de la chasse et de la protection de la faune (Annex 5 and 6) and Contrat De Concession De Zone De Chasse (Annex 7).

5. The Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife informed the team that hunting was closed from 1974 to 1996 to allow the wildlife to recover. Hunting was then re-opened between 1996-2002

when the Niger President again closed hunting because the country was facing drought and food security problems. Hunting has not been re-opened since 2003. The Mission team was assured by the Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife and other top Government officials that if the Presidency were to seek professional advice from the Ministry, for opening the hunting season in 2007, the Ministry will certainly advise against such an action.

## F. WAY FORWARD

1. Niger has agreed to demarcate and properly gazette and establish the Termit protected area;

2. Government officials have also assured the Mission team that they would strongly advise the Presidency against the opening of hunting this coming 'hunting' season (December-February) to forstall further international outcry and action;

3. During the course of meetings and discussions (Please see summary of minutes of stakeholder meetings, Annex 13), the mission team had encouraged Niger to maintain the hunting season closed until such time as an acceptable modality for a scientifically-based hunting quotas is worked out with CMS and Partners;

4. The government and people of Niger look forward to an early commencement of the project and await the release of funds for the immediate demarcation and gazettelement of the Termit reserve.

## G. CONCLUSIONS

The mission Team commended Niger for her efforts at conserving and protecting her national heritage and invites the Nigerien Government to mobilize all Financial and Technical support from Partners and Concessionaires for the conservation and sustainable development of the country's biodiversity.

## H. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. GOVERNMENT OF NIGER

The Mission team requests the Government of Niger to:

a. Maintain and where possible, improve on her efforts at preserving her biological diversity in general and the SSA in particular and to ensure that the Termit Reserve is properly surveyed and gazzetted immediately;

b. Ensure that Hunting is not re-opened in Niger, until a workable modality aggreable to CMS and Partners to the Project can be articulated;

c. Ensure that special Presidential approvals to capture or kill any of the endangered species listed in the existing law, should only be granted after the implication of such approvals on the SSA project and sensitivity of the international conservation community have been fully considered; and

d. Urgently, furnish the CMS Secretariat and Partners to the SSA Project with an undertaking reiterating the Government of Niger's commitment to the project and that all activities taking place in the region that are capable of compromising the sustainability of the project will no longer be permitted to continue.

## 2. TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The Mission team requests the technical and financial partners to the SSA project to:

- a. Continue to support the efforts of Niger in the development and conservation of the Termit Reserve and its biodiversity; and
- b. Assist the Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife in every way possible, to maintain surveillance on the project area to ensure the early detection of activities likely to be harmful to the project.

## 3. CONCESSIONNAIRES

The team hereby requests the concessionaires to make available to the Government of Niger, the necessary funds in accordance with the contract guiding the concessions in order to enable government to establish a permanent presence of qualified protection personnel in the Termit region that includes the Hunting Concessions;

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## 4. CMS SECRETARIAT

The team hereby urges the CMS Secretariat to:

1. Ensure that the funds assigned to the project are invested immediately for the purpose of:
  - a. Establishing a surveillance team for the protection of the SSA Project area;
  - b. Mounting of a sustained public awareness and education programme among the communities, on biodiversity conservation and the SSA project in particular; and
  - c. Establishing partnership with the surrounding communities for the demarcation and establishment of the Termit reserve boundaries.
  
2. Ensure that field allowances for Niger Officers working on the project are paid according to Decret No. 98-161/FRN/MFRE/P/MP of 4<sup>th</sup> June 1998 (Annex 11).

## I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The mission team hereby acknowledge the following for making the mission a success:

- a. CMS/UNEP Secretariat, particularly Mr. Lahcen El kabiri, Deputy Executive Secretary, for the planning, coordination and following through the mission;
  - b. CMS/UNEP donors and partners for providing the necessary funds for the mission;
  - c. The Niger Government for welcoming the mission team and allowing government officials to receive and meet with the team without hinderances. Special gratitude to the following:
    - i. Mr. Ousseini, Secretary-General, Ministry for Water, Environment and Desertification Amelioration, for assuring the team of the commitment of the Ministry and Government of Niger to the Project,
    - ii. Mr. Azara Malam Sully, Consular, Rural Development and Environment, Prime Minister's Office, for his frank and focused comments during our meeting with him,
    - iii. Colonel Ali Haruna, Director, Fisheries and Wildlife, for being an excellent host and chairing the stakeholders meetings in his office. Also Mr. Zoumari Salifou who served as secretary for these meetings,
    - iv. Philippe Gineste, French Cooperation (IAFD), Technical Adviser, Sahelo-Saharan Antelope Project, for providing invaluable information and support to the team throughout the duration of the mission,
    - v. El Hadji Mahamane Ousseini, President, SOS FAUNE, for attending all the meetings convened, including the dinner and debriefing and for providing useful information to the team, and
    - vi. Ibrahim Madougou, Coordinator, Sahelo-Saharan Antelope Project, who
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provided support and vital information on the project to the team throughout the

duration of the mission;

- d. The French Ambassador to Niger, for hosting the mission team to a dinner; and
- e. The German Ambassador to Niger, Her Excellency, Heike Thiele, for organising a debriefing meeting on the outcome of the mission by the chairman, CMS Scientific Council for members of the diplomatic corps in Niger and Partners of CMS and sponsors of the project

**J. Annexes (not attached to the present report except no8, but can be made available)**

1. Letter to Niger Minister, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Annex 1
2. Letter to Niger Minister, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Annex 2
3. Terms of Reference Annex 3
4. Lettre d'engagement Annex 4
5. Décret N° 98-295/PRN/MH/E Annex 5
6. Loi N° 98-07 Chasse et Protection de la Faune Annex 6
7. Contrat De Concession De Zone De Chasse Annex 7
8. Localisation Des Zones de Chasse Annex 8
9. Cahier de Charges Régissant L'Activité Des Concessionnaires de Zones de Chasse Au Niger Annex 9
10. Devis Programme SSA/FFEM Final Project Budget Annex 10
11. Décret No. 98-161/PRN/MFRE/P/MP Annex 11
12. Preliminary Report Annex 12
13. Summary Minutes of Stakeholder Meetings Annex 13

**Annexe 2 :**

**RAPPORT DE LA CELLULE NATIONALE DE COORDINATION DU  
PROJET ASS CMS/FFEM SUR LES ACTIVITES DE BRACONNAGE  
DANS LA ZONE DE TERMIT TIN/ TOUMMA**

REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER  
MINISTERE DE L'HYDRAULIQUE DE  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA LUTTE CONTRE  
LA DESERTIFICATION  
DIRECTION DE LA FAUNE DE LA PECHE ET DE LA  
PISCICULTURE  
PROJET ANTILOPES SAHELO SAHARIENNES

**RAPPORT DE SYNTHESE SUR LES ACTIVITES DE BRACONNAGE DANS LA  
ZONE DE TERMIT TIN/ TOUMMA**

Présenté par :  
Ibrahim Madougou  
Coordonnateur ASS

Décembre 2006

L'équipe de la Cellule de Coordination Régionale, s'est intéressée au phénomène du braconnage organisé par les arabes de la Libye dans la zone de Termit. Ces actes répétitifs ne laissent personne indifférent car diverses plaintes ont été enregistrées dans les localités visitées. Le présent document est le résultat des entretiens avec les populations, les élus locaux, et les agents forestiers.

### **1. Zones de chasse**

La Direction de la Faune de la Pêche et de la Pisciculture a définie trois (3) zones chasse dans la région de Termit / Tin Toumma :

- zone de chasse de kossotori
- zone de chasse de Tesker
- zone de chasse de Farak

Ces zones de chasse sont situées au sud du Massif de Termit

Mais dans le cadre de la mise en place de la future réserve de Termit des études sont en cours et probablement les limites de ces zones de chasse seront affectées.

### **2. Méthodes**

Ils s'agit des pratiques contraires à l'esprit de la loi 98 07 du 29 Avril 1998 fixant le régime de la chasse et la protection de la faune sauvage.

Les pratiques constatées sont les suivantes :

- Utilisation de l'hélicoptère la nuit afin d'éblouir les gazelles qui sont ensuite capturées vivantes par une équipe au sol
- Utilisation de faucons et d'armes à feu le jour à bord de véhicule

### **3. Animaux prélevés**

Les trophées trouvés au niveau du campement de l'enfant de Kadhafi se composent comme suit :

- la gazelle dorcas
- l'outarde

Bien qu'il nous ait été signifié des prélèvements sur le mouflon à manchette aucun trophée n'a été observé. Il en a été de même que pour l'Addax.

### **4. Réactions des populations**

D'une manière générale les populations voisines des zones visitées par le fils de Kadhafi ne sont pas favorables à ces pratiques et appellent l'ÉTAT du Niger à prendre ces responsabilités face à ce que certains considèrent de reconquête du pays. Les hélicoptères perturbent la quiétude et contribuent fortement à des avortements dans le cheptel camelin qui constitue les principales sources de revenus des populations

### **5. Réactions des autorités locales**

Le Maire affirme ne jamais être au courant officiellement de l'arrivée de cette équipe dans la zone et envisage de faire percevoir une taxe sur campement de chasse situé à 70 km au Nord de Tesker.

Plusieurs plaintes ont été enregistrées suite au passage de l'hélicoptère à basse altitude

### **6. Période de chasse**

Selon les informations recueillies, Saïf Kadhafi était dans la zone de Termit au cours du mois de Septembre 2006 ; récemment encore (il y a 20 jours) certains paysans affirment avoir observés les mêmes types de véhicules Libyens, mais cette fois-ci pour la capture de faucons.

### **7. Impacts sur l'environnement**

Au vu du nombre important de véhicules (plusieurs dizaines), les passages fragilisent le milieu et perturbent le cycle de régénération des plantes. Nous avons également constaté des dépotoirs à ciel ouvert, contribuant de ce fait à une pollution de l'Environnement.

### **8. Conclusion**

D'une manière générale, on constate qu'il s'agit d'une en période de fermeture sans aucune autorisation préalable. En conséquence, ces actes doivent être punis conformément à la loi

# SYNTHESIS REPORT

## ON THE CONSEQUENCES

### OF THE PRESSURE EXERTED BY VIP

### HUNTING IN NIGER

Report to the CMS Scientific Council  
March 2007

Roseline C. Beudels-Jamar  
Focal Point for ASS Concerted Action within CMS

#### Introduction:

For many years, VIPs (essentially Arab personages from the Persian Gulf) have been organising hunting camps in countries of the Sahel and the Sahara, mainly Niger, Chad, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mali. These hunts are essentially an occasion for exercising falconry skills, in particular on several species of bustards, as well as hunting several species of antelopes found in the Sahel and the Sahara. These hunting drives are taking place practically everywhere in the Sahara: there are not really any areas that are inaccessible these days, with modern 4x4 vehicles.

However, too often, these drives result in extremely high numbers on the “hunting lists”, attaining thresholds that clearly cannot be maintained. The large desert fauna are, by definition, fauna that take advantage of ephemeral pastures, and which are therefore characterised by relatively low densities and populations that need large areas for survival. They are therefore also large fauna which do not easily reconstitute their numbers when the pressures that are exerted on them are too great.

The CMS and all of the countries in the area over which the Sahel-Saharan Antelopes are distributed emphasised the need for warnings in the attached CMS declaration Djerba (1998) and Agadir (2003). The alarm has also been sounded by several international and national NGOs, in particular the IUCN (World Conservation Union) and the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF).

In November 2006, the CMS Standing Committee was given information about one of the hunting parties that had taken place in the Tasker region (Termit mountain region in Niger) between 11 and 20 September 2006, and which had had serious consequences for the local fauna, with several Addaxes, Dama Gazelles and Aoudads killed.

Now, the Termit Mountains and the contiguous TinToumma Erg are precisely the central regions of a new area which, since 2005, the Government of Niger has undertaken to protect. The CMS has also undertaken to support Niger in developing this new PA, by means of the ASS CMS/FFEM project, with the support of the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), and the ASS CMS/EU project.

At the time of the meeting of 27/09/2006, the Standing Committee decided to send an information mission, comprising Mr. John Mshelbwala (Chairman of the CMS Scientific Council) and Mr. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (specialist for African fauna). A week-long mission to Niamey (8-15 November 2006) enabled the representatives to meet numerous important people in Niger. The mission's report is attached to the present synthesis report. It should be emphasised that the CMS mission concentrated on the meetings at Niamey with various important people; the mission did not aim to visit the field.

A few weeks later, and **totally independently, from the «reports on hunting in the Termit»**, a field mission, planned several months previously, was organised in the context of the «CMS/FFEM Antelopes of the Sahel and the Sahara» project, and starting up the «Termit-TinToumma protection area» project. This mission began with a workshop with the representatives of the main groups in the Termit region (various groups: Toubous, Arabs and Touaregs), in the presence of the representatives of the DFPP (Direction de la Faune, de la Pêche et de la Pisciculture du Niger = Niger Fauna, Fishing and Pisciculture Management), the CMS/FFEM project and its main partner for the Termit project, the Sahara Conservation Fund SCF. After this workshop, the participating representatives also stayed in the Termit region and met other personages from the area.

This last-mentioned mission was accompanied by an Independent journalist, Mr. Stanley Johnson, now CMS ambassador. As a result of his participation in the mission, an article was published in «The Independent», drawing the reader's attention to the problems connected with these hunts.

The object of this report is to synthesise the findings of the CMS mission to Niamey of November 2006, and all of the information collected at the time of the workshop launching the ASS CMS/FFEM (Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial = French Fund for the World Environment) project at Zinder (December 2006) and at the time of the consequent CMS/FFEM field mission.

It is drawn up as follows:

1. General findings
2. Report of the ASS CMS/FFEM mission 28/11 to 15/12/2006
3. Report of the Workshop launching the « Termit-TinToumma Protection Area » project
4. Main conclusions and recommendations of the CMS/Niamey mission report by John Mshlembwala and Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (November 2006)
5. Appendix 1 : Full report of CMS/Niamey mission
6. Appendix 2: report on poaching in the Termit region, Ibrahim Madougou, National Co-ordination Committee of the ASS CMS/FFEM project, DFPP.

## CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

Information collected in the field: SCF and ASS CMS/FFEM (RC Beudels (ASS CMS/FFEM) mission, A. Greth (ASS CMS/FFEM), J.Newby (SCF), Th. Rabeil (SCF), N.Hiessler (CCN AFVP (Association française des Volontaires du Progrès = French Volunteers for Progress Association), I. Madougou (CCN (Centre de Calcul Numérique = Centre for Numerical Calculation) DFPP):

During the field mission, we met several important local people, such as the leaders of Toubou, Touareg and Arab groups, political personalities (mayor of Tasker), and military and Police officials.

It is clear that, in the Tasker and Diffa regions, there is a large amount of evidence concerning the regular presence of foreign hunters, originating from Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Libya. It is also clear that, in reality, the hunting drives organised for bustard hunting are massive hunting drives, with sophisticated arms, resulting in quite considerable numbers on the hunting lists, and that these activities can obviously not claim to be sustainable.

According to several witnesses, the last Libyan hunting party ended in numerous gazelles being shot, refrigerated lorries being used for taking away the carcasses, living animals being taken away in crates, night-time hunts with headlights, with a helicopter, particularly at the foot of the Termit mountains, since the Aoudads come down at night. All of this took place well beyond the supposed hunting concession limits.

We have collected numerous eye-witness accounts on these hunting drives, and the excesses resulting from them. Although it is practically impossible for observers to approach these camps, once the camp is broken up, the vehicles (Jeeps, lorries) return to centres like Tasker. There, the entire population can see what the vehicles contain, when they are opened up. But of course, no-one may take photos, or trophies. This would clearly be impossible. We were also told that these animals were taken via Dirkou, to the North of Niger, towards Libya. On the same route, we did not see any traces of Addax or Aoudad hunting. Several witnesses talked of live animals being captured using a helicopter.

In the TinToumma Erg, we came across lots of vehicle tracks, many of which went round in ever-decreasing circles. These were clearly vehicles that had been pursuing animals.

The local populations are visibly hostile to these hunts. They are also hostile to the presence of a hunting tent, erected by Islam al Kadhafi about fifty kilometres from the Termit mountain region.

The main problem is clearly that special hunting permits are given to foreign VIPs, who hunt under the protection of the Armed Forces in Niger, without any hunting plan, fauna management plan or other control.

**It is also quite evident that these activities are threatening the viability of our conservation efforts. In 5 years, the fauna has visibly become dramatically diminished throughout the area.** Everyone can see this, when they go there and talk to the inhabitants.

But it is also clear that the presence of the project in the field from 2007, posting eco-wardens and reinforcing the numbers of DFPP agents in Tasker and Diffa, and no doubt also in Termit Kaboul, really are the only ways of dealing with this situation. We are convinced that this dissuasive presence will make all the difference.

The DFPP, Mr. Ai Harouna, assured us, as had the Minister of the Environment, Mr. Labo previously, that certain hunting concessions could be removed, if we were able to show that they might prejudice the implementation of the Termit-TinTinoumma Protection Area.

**Overall, these exceptional practices and incidentally any hunting activity inside concessions in Saharan areas must be registered in a sustainable fauna and natural resources management policy, in compliance with national and international policies, on defined areas (cynetic areas of interest), and with a financial contribution by people involved in conserving arid regions.**

## **A. The ASS CMS/FFEM field mission (28/11 to 15/12) and the workshop launching the Termit project (2 and 3 December 2006).**

### **Objectives of the ASS CMS/FFEM mission:**

3. Taking stock of:
  - The progress of the activities of the National Co-ordination Committee (operations, vehicle etc.), on the AFVP Devis-Programm, on the Monitoring Devis-Programm, the Sensitisation Devis-Programm and on the ASS Niger strategy Devis-Programm, based on the report of the March 2006 mission.
  - The future Termit-TinToumma Protection Area: state of progress, opportunities, threats.
  - Meetings with the various partners (DFPP, SCF, AFVP, Embassies)
  - Final organisation of the CMS/FFEM workshop launching the « Termit-TinToumma Protection Area » project.
3. Discussing the launching of the CMS/EU « Biodiversity in the Sahara » Niger / Tchad Project and « Addax Without Frontiers » with the DFPP.
3. Taking part in the workshop launching the ASS CMS/FFEM « Termit-TinToumma Protection Area, in Zinder » part of the project. Setting out the challenges with all of the partners, listening to opinions, taking part in debates, meeting regional authorities, and the representatives of the various communities in the area.
3. In collaboration with the SCF team, a field mission in the Termit Region, including some transects in the TinToumma Erg (natural environments, meeting local populations, pursuing exchanges inside the team)

The recommendations and the findings of the ASS CMS/FFEM field mission are included in the main conclusions in pages 3 and 4 of the present document.

## **B. Zinder Workshop: Workshop launching the « Termit-TinToumma Protection Area » workshop, in the context of the ASS CMS/FFEM project**

### **Zinder Workshop Recommendations:**

The Workshop was held in the presence of the Governor of the Zinder region, **Mr. Yaya Dan Danka**. Representatives of the various groups affected by the area were present, mainly representatives of various Toubou, Touareg et Arab groups.

It was emphasised by the representatives of the local communities that there was a general consensus with regard to the significant diminution of the wild fauna populations in the area, mainly due to hunting and poaching. Those taking part also agreed on the fact that responsibility should be shared. The objectives of the project are good ones, but would only be attained by everyone agreeing to make the effort that would be required.

Considering the unique nature of the biodiversity in the Termit/Tin Toumma area, the **Workshop recommended** (reporter Thomas Rabeil, SCF, CMS/FFEM project):

### **1. The State of Niger**

- To make a political commitment at the highest possible level in the struggle against poaching, which is practised by certain Gulf princes and certain leading Libyan citizens in the Termit/Tin Toumma area, in order to safeguard the last Saharan antelopes and the biodiversity of the Sahara, generally.

### **2. The partners in conservation/ development**

- To address the need for increasing resources for protecting the fauna of the Sahel and the Sahara, which is unique in the world. In view of the vastness of the area, those taking part called upon the international community to help Niger conserve and provide better management of the fauna of the Sahel and Sahara and its habitats.
- To improve coherence in implementing the National Strategy and action plan in respect of Biological Diversity: this will make it possible to make durable use of the wild fauna and ensure conservation of threatened species like the Addax, the Dama Gazelle, the Saharan Cheetah, etc...
- To give thorough consideration to a concertation framework providing the largest possible number of actors for perennialising activities;
- To place the project activities in the field and post and forestry agents and eco-wardens as soon as possible, which may reduce poaching pressure and ensure improved management of the fauna of the Sahel and the Sahara.

## **C. CMS/Niamey Mission:**

**by JOHN H. MSHELBWALA and ALFRED OTENG-YEBOAH**

### **❖ The key points of the CMS/Niamey mission report are as follows:**

- The Government and the people of Niger welcomed the CMS mission and understood the objectives. This mission has, in particular, made it possible to discuss the problems involved in getting the various parts of the ASS Concerted Action in Niger underway.
- Although hunting in Niger is open to everyone, the mission assured the DFPP and other high Government officials that, if the Presidency were to request professional advice in respect of opening the 2007 hunting season, the Minister would advise against this.
- The CMS mission encouraged Niger not to open hunting to everyone, until the quotas that have been drawn up on a scientific basis have been established in conjunction with the CMS and its partners, and wild fauna management plans have been defined and implemented.

- Niger renewed its commitment to implementing the Termit-TinToumma Protection Area.
- The Government of Niger is awaiting from the ASS CMS/FFEM and ASS CMS/EU projects to implement, with the accent on the main partners, the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF), in particular.
- The CMS mission encourages Niger to:
  - seek funds and additional support from foreign hunting permit-holders for the conservation of Saharan biodiversity, in collaboration with the CMS and its partners.
  - strengthen its efforts for the designation and implementation of the Termit-TinToumma Protection Area;
  - ensure that hunting is not open to everyone until management methods that are acceptable to the CMS and its partners have been clearly identified.
  - ensure that presidential permits for capturing or hunting species that are threatened with extinction may only be issued after the impact that such permits would have on the CMS ASS and the international conservation community has been properly assessed.
  - Provide the CMS and the Partners in the ASS with the assurance that any activity that compromises the objectives and the sustainability of the ASS project will not be permitted;
- The CMS mission encourages the technical and financial partners in the CMS/FFEM project to:
  - Continue supporting Niger in implementing the Termit-TinToumma Protection Area and the diversity of the Sahara that is represented there;
  - Help the DFPP implement and organise monitoring of the Termit area and a warning system;
- The CMS mission encourages the holders of hunting permits to:
  - Contribute to the efforts for conserving the biodiversity of the Sahara, together with the Government of Niger, the CMS and its partners, so as to ensure that there will permanently be qualified personnel in the Termit Protection Area and the contiguous hunting concessions.
- The CMS mission encourages the CMS secretariat to ensure that the necessary resources are allocated to:
  - Installing a monitoring network and a warning system in the Termit area;
  - Developing programming for informing the people of Niger and the communities concerned of, and making them aware in particular of the importance of conserving the ASS and the biodiversity of the Sahara;
  - Ensuring the cohesion and the involvement of the local communities concerned in designating and implementing the protection area..

**❖ Points brought up by the DFPP and which contradict the information collected elsewhere in the field:**

- As opposed to this last population of African giraffes of the west of Kouré, if a small population of Addaxes is still occupying the Termit-TinToumma region nowadays, it is because the Toubou populations have not hunted them down to the last one. There is neither a development project, nor a conservation effort in the area that could be acknowledged as the reason for this population having survived.

- It is clear that it is almost impossible for evidence, in the form of photos or hunting trophies, to be provided of this sort of hunting drive. Everywhere where they take place, the authorities with responsibility acknowledge that they are unable to intervene, and no-one from the outside is permitted to approach hunting camps, which are under national military guard.
- The authorities with which meetings were held did not object to the possibility that there might be hunting parties authorised by the Presidency. But if such permits are given, they are given for the Dorca Gazelles, not for the Addaxes or the Aoudads. The authorities reaffirmed their willingness to co-operate with the CMS and other organisations to ensure that the biodiversity of the country is retained.

ANNEXE 1

RAPPORT DE LA MISSION CMS NOVEMBRE 2006 à NIAMEY

**CMS  
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL  
MISSION TO NIGER**

**8-15 NOVEMBER 2006**

**FINAL REPORT**

BY  
**JOHN H. MSHELBWALA  
ALFRED OTENG-YEBOAH**

January 2007

## A. INTRODUCTION

1. Increased hunting pressure and long periods of drought in the 1980's is threatening the future survival of the biodiversity of the Sahara and Sahel region in general and Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes in particular. Other threats include overgrazing, development of new infrastructures for mining and oil prospecting, military conflicts, unsustainable use of natural resources and livelihoods and pervasive poverty among the citizenry.

2. The Termit massif and surrounding areas, provide habitat for Adax (*Addax nasomaculatus*); Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus* sp.); Dama gazelle (*Gazella dama*) and Dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*). These species are of particular interest to CMS and unconfirmed reports have indicated that they have become target for hunting parties resulting in massive killings of these antelopes.

3. These unconfirmed reports indicate that such hunting had taken place between 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006 in the North of the Administrative Post of Tasker region of Kandil Bouzou, and in the West, the Central and Eastern areas of the Termit massif. It was also reported that the hunting took place in the presence of members of the Nigerien Armed Forces accompanied by members of the Libyan Army, but without the involvement of Forestry Services personnel.

4. This explains the absence of any control on the species of animals killed, the number and location where such animals were killed or even the method adopted (whether on vehicles or planes). Hunting was also reported to have taken place during pregnancy period of these antelope species and during closed hunting season. The number purported to have been killed include 20 Addax, 2 Dama gazelle and 10 Barbary sheep.

5. The CMS Secretariat and 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, that held in Bonn 28-29 September 2006, were informed of progress on the Saharo Sahelian Antelope project (SSAP) including the project expansion, and also about the reported killings of these endangered antelopes in the Termit massif.

## B. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for the mission, including purpose, expected output and contact persons for the mission are contained in annex 3 of the report.

## C. DISCUSSION

1. The Government and people of Niger appreciated the purpose of the CMS Scientific Council mission to Niger, that provided an opportunity for CMS and the Niger Government to discuss issues that had hindered the effective take-off of the SSA project.

2. The mission observed that in spite of the very high level of poverty in Niger, the Government has committed her Human and Material resources towards the sustainable development of her natural resources and biological diversity in accordance with the National Law 98-07 of 1998 (Annex 5). Consequently, Niger remains one of the few countries in Africa that shelters the last populations of Addax living in their natural habitat and the only country in West Africa with wild populations of giraffe.

3. The civil and military authorities in Niger therefore, expressed astonishment at the reported authorised hunting or illegal killing of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes in the Termit region by Libyans. The Directorate of Wildlife and Fisheries also strongly denied the alleged illegal hunting and killing of endangered species in the Termit region and other parts of Niger.

4. The Government of Niger is concerned that these reports are capable of slowing down

the socio-economic development of the country, especially as this is coming at a time when she is still grappling with the effect of drought and food security problems. The Government therefore called on all friends of Niger to support the country in protecting and conserving her unique biodiversity.

5. The mission acknowledged the efforts made by Niger to protect the Saharan wildlife in general and Sahelo Saharan Antelopes in particular with modest monthly allocations from the national budget to the Agadez, Zinder and Diffa areas for the protection and monitoring of the zone where the SSA Project is located. These efforts were encouraged through the technical and financial support from partners as well as holders of concessions around the SSA project.

#### D. REPORTED HUNTING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

1. These reports although believed to be true, have become difficult to prove or substantiate, as no one was able to provide the mission team with concrete proof, either in form of photographs or trophy exhibits or even provide eye witness accounts to verify these killings.
2. During the course of several meetings with government officials, partners to the project, including members of the NGO community, no one was able to provide any lead, proof or eyewitness accounts to support the killing of these endangered species.
3. Government officials met by the Mission team were surprised at the origin of these reports that they considered to be rumours. They all doubted that these reports could be genuine, but were ready to take action if any one was ready and able to provide proof of these killings.
4. They however, do not rule out the possibility of hunting taking place as a result of a Presidential approval, although they doubt that such an approval has been granted. They also indicated that such authorisation if any is likely to be for Dorcas gazelle and not for Addax or Barbary sheep. The officials however assured the mission team that the Government of Niger is ready to cooperate with CMS and any other organization, including donor countries and agencies to ensure that the country's biodiversity is conserved and protected.

#### E. CURRENT LEGISLATION AND HUNTING CONCESSIONS

1. Current legislations and relevant guidelines on hunting, including location of Hunting Concession areas in Niger are contained in the following Annexes:
  - a. Annex 5: Décret N° 98-295/PRN/MH/E du 29 octobre 1998
  - b. Annex 6: Loi N° 98-07 Chasse et Protection de la Faune;
  - c. Annex 7: Contrat De Concession De Zone De Chasse;
  - d. Annex 8: Localisation Des Zones de Chasse; and
  - e. Annex 9: Cahier de Charges Régissant L'Activité Des Concessionnaires de Zones de Chasse Au Niger.
2. The Mission team was informed of the existence of ten Hunting Concession areas in Niger, three of these Hunting Concessions directly border the proposed Termit Reserve:
  - a. Kossotori and Tesker Concessions, Allocated in 2003, to Saleym Hamada (Citizen of Niger) in association with Sheik Maktoum Bin Rachin, Emir of Dubaï for a limited period of rotation;
  - b. Farak Concession, allocated to Mr Aboubacar Farage (Citizen of Niger) in association with SAEF Al Kadhafi ISLAM.
3. Other Hunting Concessions within the vicinity of the Termit Reserve indicated on the location map of concessions include:
  - a. 1, 437, 642 Ha belonging to General Ateig;
  - b. 1, 657.711 Ha belonging to Cheik Said;
  - c. 3, 103.320 Ha belonging to Cheik Hamdan;
  - d. 1, 022.035 Ha Belonging to Prince Bandar; and

e. 2, 333.695 Ha also Belonging to Prince Bandar.

4. The mission team was informed that these hunting concessions are being managed according to the guidelines contained in Decret N° 98-295/PRN/MH/E du 29 octobre 1998 déterminant les modalités d'application de la loi N° 98-07 du 29 Avril 1998 portant régime de la chasse et de la protection de la faune (Annex 5 and 6) and Contrat De Concession De Zone De Chasse (Annex 7).

5. The Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife informed the team that hunting was closed from 1974 to 1996 to allow the wildlife to recover. Hunting was then re-opened between 1996-2002

when the Niger President again closed hunting because the country was facing drought and food security problems. Hunting has not been re-opened since 2003. The Mission team was assured by the Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife and other top Government officials that if the Presidency were to seek professional advice from the Ministry, for opening the hunting season in 2007, the Ministry will certainly advise against such an action.

## F. WAY FORWARD

1. Niger has agreed to demarcate and properly gazette and establish the Termit protected area;

2. Government officials have also assured the Mission team that they would strongly advise the Presidency against the opening of hunting this coming 'hunting' season (December-February) to forstall further international outcry and action;

3. During the course of meetings and discussions (Please see summary of minutes of stakeholder meetings, Annex 13), the mission team had encouraged Niger to maintain the hunting season closed until such time as an acceptable modality for a scientifically-based hunting quotas is worked out with CMS and Partners;

4. The government and people of Niger look forward to an early commencement of the project and await the release of funds for the immediate demarcation and gazettelement of the Termit reserve.

## G. CONCLUSIONS

The mission Team commended Niger for her efforts at conserving and protecting her national heritage and invites the Nigerien Government to mobilize all Financial and Technical support from Partners and Concessionaires for the conservation and sustainable development of the country's biodiversity.

## H. RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. GOVERNMENT OF NIGER

The Mission team requests the Government of Niger to:

a. Maintain and where possible, improve on her efforts at preserving her biological diversity in general and the SSA in particular and to ensure that the Termit Reserve is properly surveyed and gazzetted immediately;

b. Ensure that Hunting is not re-opened in Niger, until a workable modality aggreable to CMS and Partners to the Project can be articulated;

c. Ensure that special Presidential approvals to capture or kill any of the endangered species listed in the existing law, should only be granted after the implication of such approvals on the SSA project and sensitivity of the international conservation community have been fully considered; and

d. Urgently, furnish the CMS Secretariat and Partners to the SSA Project with an undertaking reiterating the Government of Niger's commitment to the project and that all activities taking place in the region that are capable of compromising the sustainability of the project will no longer be permitted to continue.

## 2. TECHNICAL PARTNERS

The Mission team requests the technical and financial partners to the SSA project to:

- a. Continue to support the efforts of Niger in the development and conservation of the Termit Reserve and its biodiversity; and
- b. Assist the Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife in every way possible, to maintain surveillance on the project area to ensure the early detection of activities likely to be harmful to the project.

## 3. CONCESSIONNAIRES

The team hereby requests the concessionaires to make available to the Government of Niger, the necessary funds in accordance with the contract guiding the concessions in order to enable government to establish a permanent presence of qualified protection personnel in the Termit region that includes the Hunting Concessions;

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## 4. CMS SECRETARIAT

The team hereby urges the CMS Secretariat to:

1. Ensure that the funds assigned to the project are invested immediately for the purpose of:
  - a. Establishing a surveillance team for the protection of the SSA Project area;
  - b. Mounting of a sustained public awareness and education programme among the communities, on biodiversity conservation and the SSA project in particular; and
  - c. Establishing partnership with the surrounding communities for the demarcation and establishment of the Termit reserve boundaries.
  
2. Ensure that field allowances for Niger Officers working on the project are paid according to Decret No. 98-161/FRN/MFRE/P/MP of 4<sup>th</sup> June 1998 (Annex 11).

## I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The mission team hereby acknowledge the following for making the mission a success:

- a. CMS/UNEP Secretariat, particularly Mr. Lahcen El kabiri, Deputy Executive Secretary, for the planning, coordination and following through the mission;
  - b. CMS/UNEP donors and partners for providing the necessary funds for the mission;
  - c. The Niger Government for welcoming the mission team and allowing government officials to receive and meet with the team without hinderances. Special gratitude to the following:
    - i. Mr. Ousseini, Secretary-General, Ministry for Water, Environment and Desertification Amelioration, for assuring the team of the commitment of the Ministry and Government of Niger to the Project,
    - ii. Mr. Azara Malam Sully, Consular, Rural Development and Environment, Prime Minister's Office, for his frank and focused comments during our meeting with him,
    - iii. Colonel Ali Haruna, Director, Fisheries and Wildlife, for being an excellent host and chairing the stakeholders meetings in his office. Also Mr. Zoumari Salifou who served as secretary for these meetings,
    - iv. Philippe Gineste, French Cooperation (IAFD), Technical Adviser, Sahelo-Saharan Antelope Project, for providing invaluable information and support to the team throughout the duration of the mission,
    - v. El Hadji Mahamane Ousseini, President, SOS FAUNE, for attending all the meetings convened, including the dinner and debriefing and for providing useful information to the team, and
    - vi. Ibrahim Madougou, Coordinator, Sahelo-Saharan Antelope Project, who
- 8  
provided support and vital information on the project to the team throughout the

duration of the mission;

- d. The French Ambassador to Niger, for hosting the mission team to a dinner; and
- e. The German Ambassador to Niger, Her Excellency, Heike Thiele, for organising a debriefing meeting on the outcome of the mission by the chairman, CMS Scientific Council for members of the diplomatic corps in Niger and Partners of CMS and sponsors of the project

**J. Annexes (not attached to the present report except no8, but can be made available)**

1. Letter to Niger Minister, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Annex 1
2. Letter to Niger Minister, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Annex 2
3. Terms of Reference Annex 3
4. Lettre d'engagement Annex 4
5. Décret N° 98-295/PRN/MH/E Annex 5
6. Loi N° 98-07 Chasse et Protection de la Faune Annex 6
7. Contrat De Concession De Zone De Chasse Annex 7
8. Localisation Des Zones de Chasse Annex 8
9. Cahier de Charges Régissant L'Activité Des Concessionnaires de Zones de Chasse Au Niger Annex 9
10. Devis Programme SSA/FFEM Final Project Budget Annex 10
11. Décret No. 98-161/PRN/MFRE/P/MP Annex 11
12. Preliminary Report Annex 12
13. Summary Minutes of Stakeholder Meetings Annex 13

**Annexe 2 :**

**RAPPORT DE LA CELLULE NATIONALE DE COORDINATION DU  
PROJET ASS CMS/FFEM SUR LES ACTIVITES DE BRACONNAGE  
DANS LA ZONE DE TERMIT TIN/ TOUMMA**

REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER  
MINISTERE DE L'HYDRAULIQUE DE  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA LUTTE CONTRE  
LA DESERTIFICATION  
DIRECTION DE LA FAUNE DE LA PECHE ET DE LA  
PISCICULTURE  
PROJET ANTILOPES SAHELO SAHARIENNES

**RAPPORT DE SYNTHESE SUR LES ACTIVITES DE BRACONNAGE DANS LA  
ZONE DE TERMIT TIN/ TOUMMA**

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Décembre 2006

L'équipe de la Cellule de Coordination Régionale, s'est intéressée au phénomène du braconnage organisé par les arabes de la Libye dans la zone de Termit. Ces actes répétitifs ne laissent personne indifférent car diverses plaintes ont été enregistrées dans les localités visitées. Le présent document est le résultat des entretiens avec les populations, les élus locaux, et les agents forestiers.

### **1. Zones de chasse**

La Direction de la Faune de la Pêche et de la Pisciculture a définie trois (3) zones chasse dans la région de Termit / Tin Toumma :

- zone de chasse de kossotori
- zone de chasse de Tesker
- zone de chasse de Farak

Ces zones de chasse sont situées au sud du Massif de Termit

Mais dans le cadre de la mise en place de la future réserve de Termit des études sont en cours et probablement les limites de ces zones de chasse seront affectées.

### **2. Méthodes**

Ils s'agit des pratiques contraires à l'esprit de la loi 98 07 du 29 Avril 1998 fixant le régime de la chasse et la protection de la faune sauvage.

Les pratiques constatées sont les suivantes :

- Utilisation de l'hélicoptère la nuit afin d'éblouir les gazelles qui sont ensuite capturées vivantes par une équipe au sol
- Utilisation de faucons et d'armes à feu le jour à bord de véhicule

### **3. Animaux prélevés**

Les trophées trouvés au niveau du campement de l'enfant de Kadhafi se composent comme suit :

- la gazelle dorcas
- l'outarde

Bien qu'il nous ait été signifié des prélèvements sur le mouflon à manchette aucun trophée n'a été observé. Il en a été de même que pour l'Addax.

### **4. Réactions des populations**

D'une manière générale les populations voisines des zones visitées par le fils de Kadhafi ne sont pas favorables à ces pratiques et appellent l'ÉTAT du Niger à prendre ces responsabilités face à ce que certains considèrent de reconquête du pays. Les hélicoptères perturbent la quiétude et contribuent fortement à des avortements dans le cheptel camelin qui constitue les principales sources de revenus des populations

### **5. Réactions des autorités locales**

Le Maire affirme ne jamais être au courant officiellement de l'arrivée de cette équipe dans la zone et envisage de faire percevoir une taxe sur campement de chasse situé à 70 km au Nord de Tesker.

Plusieurs plaintes ont été enregistrées suite au passage de l'hélicoptère à basse altitude

### **6. Période de chasse**

Selon les informations recueillies, Saïf Kadhafi était dans la zone de Termit au cours du mois de Septembre 2006 ; récemment encore (il y a 20 jours) certains paysans affirment avoir observés les mêmes types de véhicules Libyens, mais cette fois-ci pour la capture de faucons.

### **7. Impacts sur l'environnement**

Au vu du nombre important de véhicules (plusieurs dizaines), les passages fragilisent le milieu et perturbent le cycle de régénération des plantes. Nous avons également constaté des dépotoirs à ciel ouvert, contribuant de ce fait à une pollution de l'Environnement.

### **8. Conclusion**

D'une manière générale, on constate qu'il s'agit d'une en période de fermeture sans aucune autorisation préalable. En conséquence, ces actes doivent être punis conformément à la loi