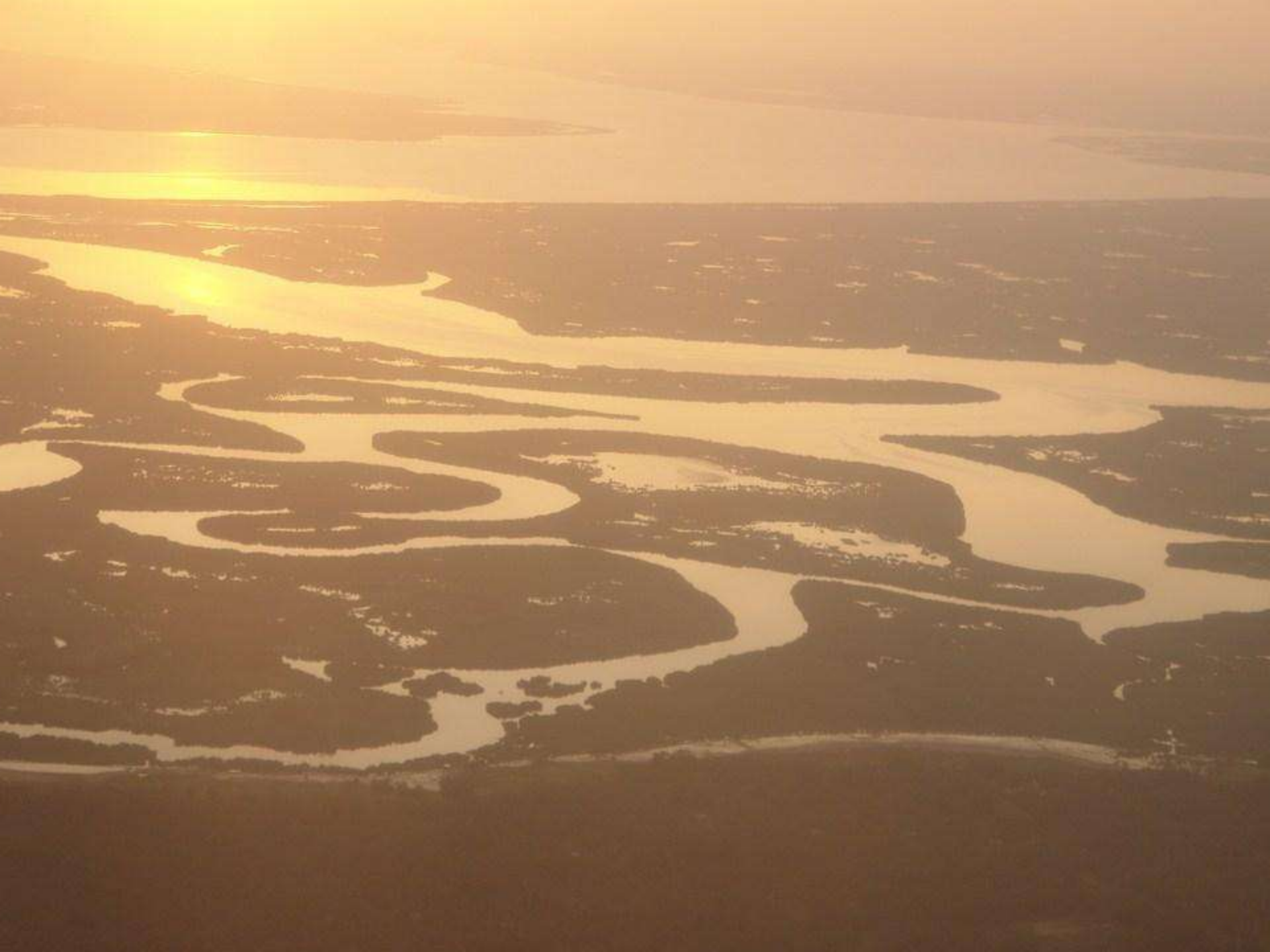
Kawawana

Community Conserved Area of Mangagoulack – Casamance (Senegal)

geographic setting –
West Africa

google map –
north of Ziguinchor

Ria Casamance, estuarine ecosystem, rich fisheries, mangroves, traditional rice cultivation— rural community of Mangagoulack, 8 villages, 12,000 people



NIKE

AIG

- rich culture of the Djola people – very strong social ties

- amazing biodiversity found here until not so long ago...
- together with effective traditional insitutions to govern and manage it...

- But the State determined that it was to control resources only according to its own rules...
- ...and, with time, a worrying trend became apparent...

- What to do?...

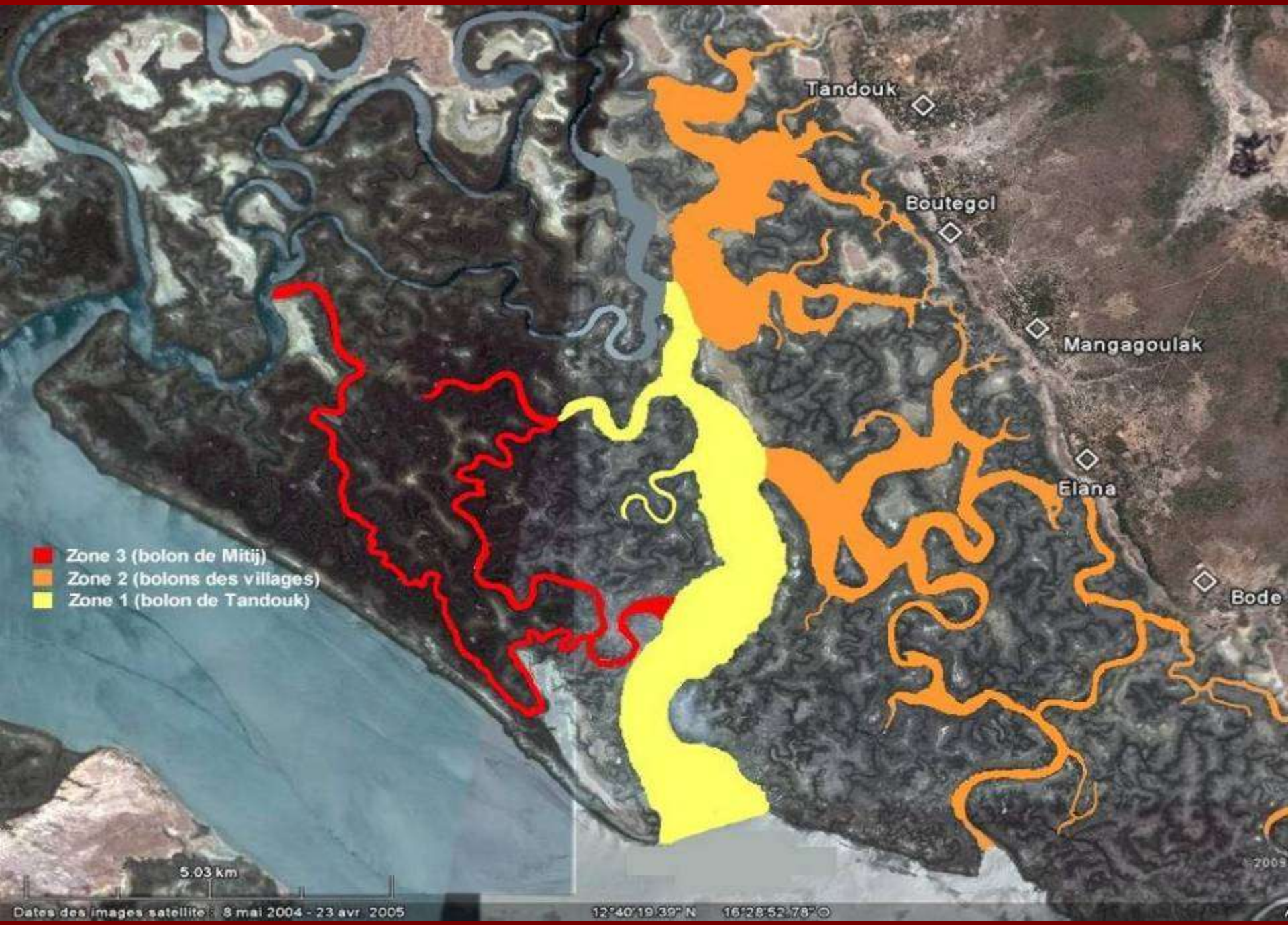
We, the local fishermen created an association and took action in a number of ways, which culminated in the creation of their own Community Conserved Area (*APAC – Aire du Patrimoine Communautaire*)...

- The name is Kawawana

Kapoye Wafwolale Wata Nanang

"our local heritage to be preserved by us all"

- ICCA— 9,665 ha
- a zoning system & management rules for preservation (long term biological resting) + sustainable use
- 3 zones, each with specific rules
  - 1. red zone: very strict protection (bolon MITIJ) – (back to tradition!)
  - 2. yellow zone: open fishing with allowed gear and no motor boats
  - 3. orange zone: fishing for local consumption and local market only (preserving food sovereignty)


Tandouk
Boutegol
Mangagoulak
Elana
Bode
Zone 3 (bolon de Mitij)
Zone 2 (bolons des villages)
Zone 1 (bolon de Tandouk)
5.03 km
Dates des images satellite : 8 mai 2004 - 23 avr. 2005
12°40'19.39" N 16°28'52.78" O

- ICCA initiative of the fishermen on a fully voluntary basis (i.e., no "project", no salaried staff, no dependence from outside funds!)
- The president of the rural community provided political support, applying the national law of decentralisation
- International friends and allies provided
  - technical support
  - funds for meetings, equipment and means of monitoring and surveillance (boat, nets, etc.)...

- ... and surveillance can also count on sophisticated, well-respected local traditions (fetishes)…

How we did it? In 2009 several community meetings made the point about the situation and submitted a proposal to develop their ICCA to the Council of the Rural Community

- The proposal included a simple management plan (the three zones), governance structure (five organs) and a monitoring system to be run by the community itself

…the Council of the Rural Municipality approved the proposal and submitted it to the analysis and approval of the Regional Council of Casamance and of its Governor …

…after a year of diplomacy, waiting and lobbying, the Regional Council of Casamance and its Governor "approved" Kawawana! This was a first in Senegal!… and a ceremony in June 2010 set it officially in place!

Since then…

- Many meetings and training (which we fishermen paid for ourselves… to be recognised as "auxiliary agents")
- Regular surveillance by a team of volunteer "agents"
- Important social communication efforts (radio programmes, fishermen to fishermen discussions, etc.)

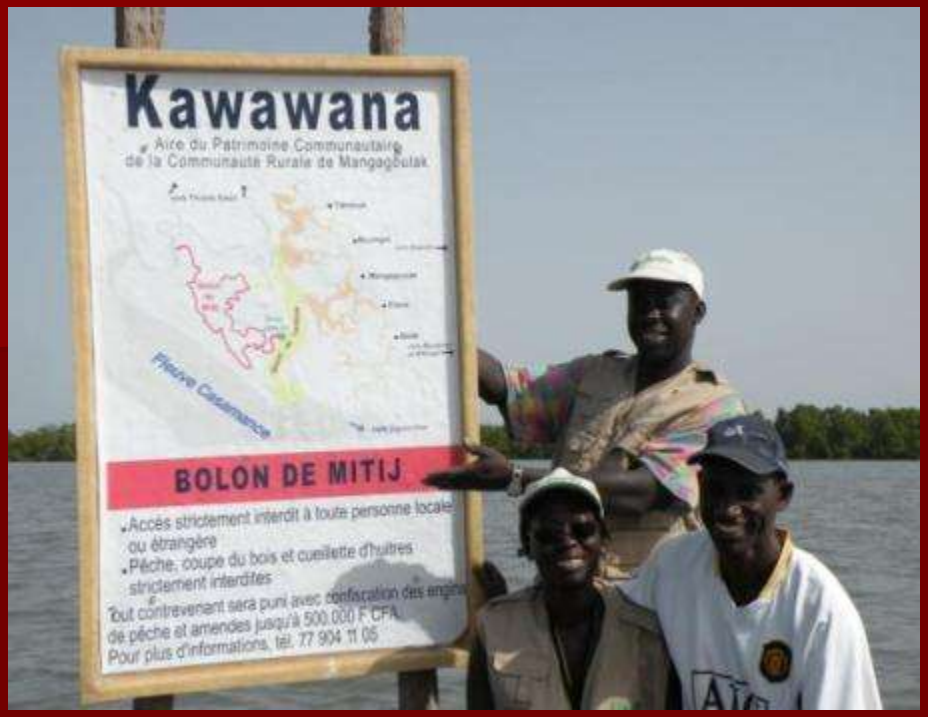
- And we extended our red zone to another sacred area… although we do not yet have the resources for the physical demarcation panels…

- We have also supported our women to create an Association of Oyster Collectors, and an Association of *bana bana*— (fish buyers and sellers)
- The first is now part of the governance of Kawawana

We keep being engaged in the regular monitoring of Kawawana's fisheries, biodiversity and socio-economic indicators, all on our own and a voluntary basis...

What are our results? … So far, everyone seems to be really happy. Some indicators:

- some fishermen have quadrupled their catch...
- local migrants get back to reside in the villages...
- the quantity and quality of fish we eat has greatly improved...
- all our neighbour communities want to create their Community Conserved Areas and we are helping them to get organised for that!



We are an important "first case" in Senegal for the local governance and management of coastal and marine resources, and we are stimulating a trend among other communities...

The government will soon need to devise new and more appropriate policies to respond to the success of our experience!

...Many thanks for your kind attention and advice!

The ICCA Consortium

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for more information please visit:

www.ICCAconsortium.org