

# “Tebanke Urok” — the story of a community marine protected area in Guinea-Bissau

Conservation Cinema No. 421

## **Background:**

This documentary was filmed during the Urok islands’ annual general assembly (Bijagos archipelago, Guinea Bissau) when all of the villages on the three islands come together to establish rules for the use of their marine protected area—a valuable resource which many rely on.

The film describes the special features of this Biosphere Reserve, which recently became a community-based marine protected area, and how it operates. It illustrates the pressures from outside that threaten the balance of both the ecosystem and the traditional societies that depend on it.

The Urok project is an example of effective participatory management at work—it is the inhabitants, along with the national NGO Tiniguena and its partners, who define the rules governing the management of the area’s natural resources.

External pressures, including the arrival of foreign fishermen, excessive harvesting of mangrove timber, the depletion of species (manatee, sharks, sawfish) and the gradual loss of interest among the younger generation to follow a lifestyle that is in harmony with nature, mean it is necessary to establish consultation and participatory decision-making to address the dangers faced by the archipelago.

Directed by ONG TINIGUENA/Laure Campredon/FIBA, 2005, French, 15 min.

## **Where:**

8 October 2008 19:00-19:15

## **Spokespersons:**

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