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Trip Report

On July 04th, 2002 I flew from Madison to Dakar (Senegal) for a pre-dissertation trip. My research focuses on a project of establishing a transboundary park between Senegal and Guinea. In Senegal I met the authorities of the park service and local people living around the national park. I tried to get their perceptions about the problems and to mention the difficulties they are facing in joining through a same management team the two adjacent parks. In Dakar I also visited the Institut National de Geographie to get some aerial photos of the research site. In Guinea I visited the national park Badiar and I met authorities in charge of the national park service. The project bureau is based in Conakry, and by meeting and discussing the staff, I collected more information and data about the two national parks.

From my visit, I decide to pursue two research questions:

Who are the different stakeholders in this Transfrontier project and what are their motivations?

Will the transfrontier park favor more wildlife migration and reduce poaching?

Now I am in concertation with my committee to better elaborate these research questions.

Overall this travel grant has allowed me to get more information on what was a research idea and now before December I will elaborate with the help of my committee a detailed research proposal. Again thanks for giving me the opportunity to substantially progress in my research.