Lake Bam, the largest manmade water of Burkina Faso, 23 May 2013. The fishermen feel that fishing is not productive. They asked the most important Tengsoba of the lake (natural resources manager in the traditional communities)

to do sacrifices for fishing to be productive.



People come to the Tengsoba of Bam village

They discuss anything and drink traditional beer when waiting for those who are late



When everything is ready, the fishermen show the ingredients to the Tengsoba. Here head of Bam village fishermen association was showing a chicken to him



Getting to the sacrifice place in procession

The young girl is carrying some of the ingredients in calabashes. She is occupies the first place in the procession, followed by the Tengsoba

If the procession meets some people who are not taking part in the ceremony, it is expected that they wish good luck

Getting close to the lake which water can be seen in background

The Tangsoba is holding

The Tengsoba is holding a sacred tool (a piece of wood on which one can see feather and dried blood



Getting closer to the lake. Some ingredients are visible. Example: a black goat, a white chicken, traditional beer carried in the yellow can.



Arrival to the ceremony place that is a sacred site represented by the big stone

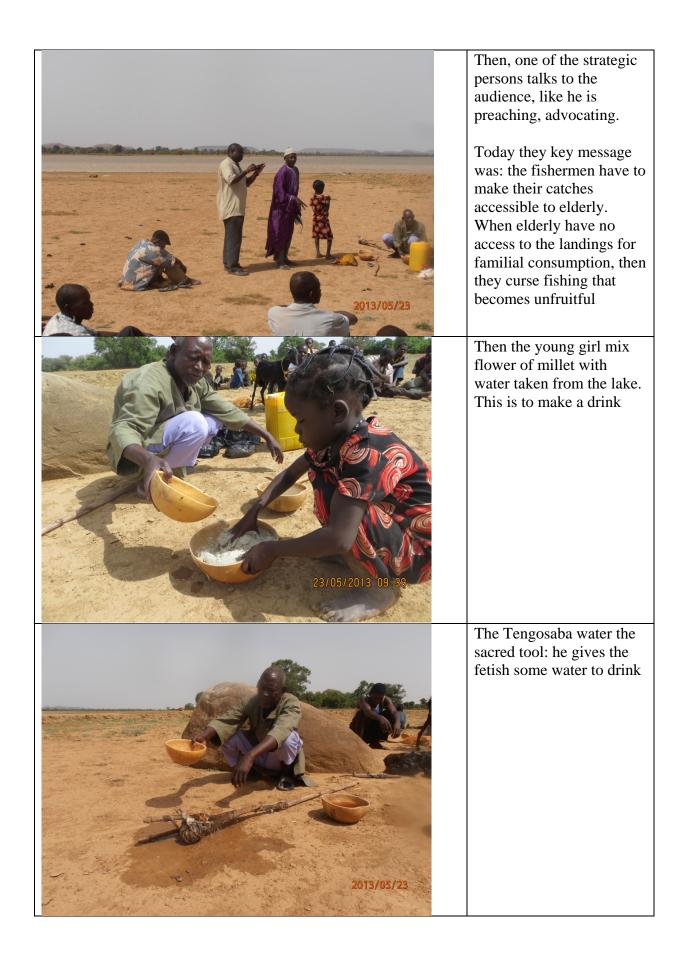
The lake water is visible



Before starting the sacrifice, the sacred tool is laid down on the ground and held in that position for some minutes, comparable to knocking a door before entering a house



The fishermen have to be around. There sitting down when the three major people of the ceremony are conferring / deliberating.





He does the same with the traditional beer. Some beer is poured on the left and right hand sides of the fetish. This is for passing-by spirits



A white cock is slaughtered



Its blood spread on the sacred tool: that is then said to have eaten it.

The chicken is thrown on the ground. When struggling, if it lays on its back (even for less than half a second), the sacrifice is said to be successful.

This was the case today. The audience applauded. Unfortunately I could not take a picture but a film.



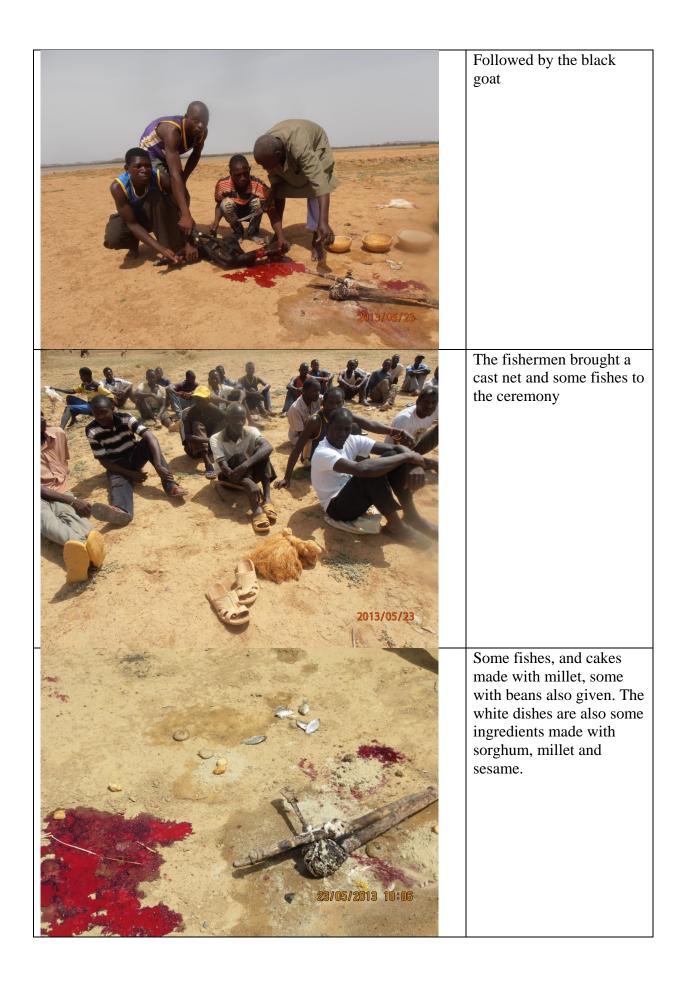
After eating, the sacred tool 'drinks' the mixture millet-water

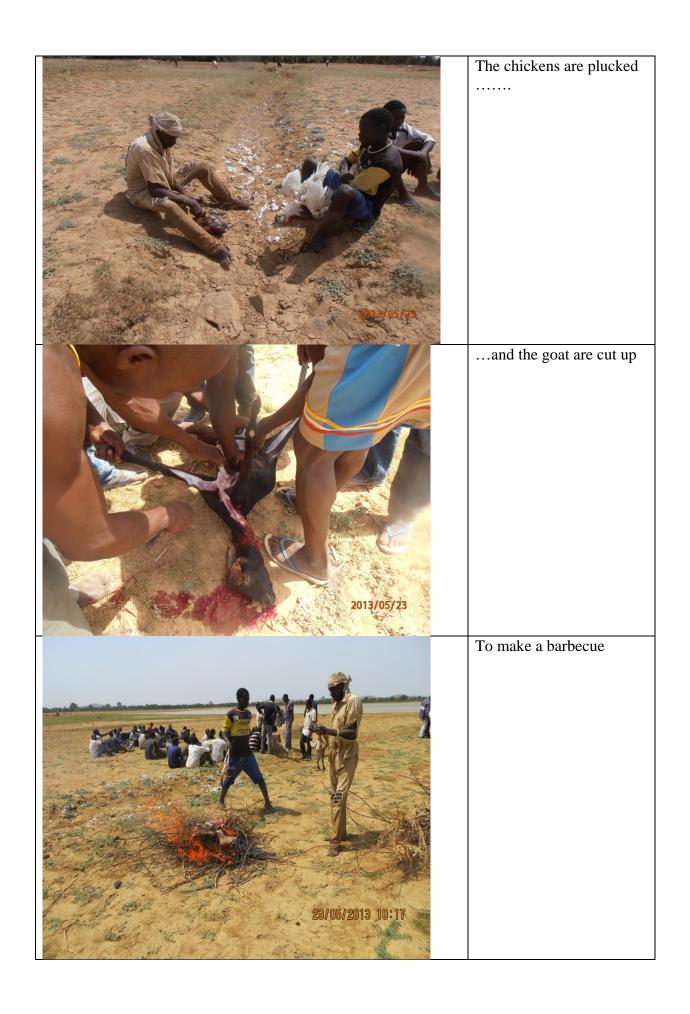


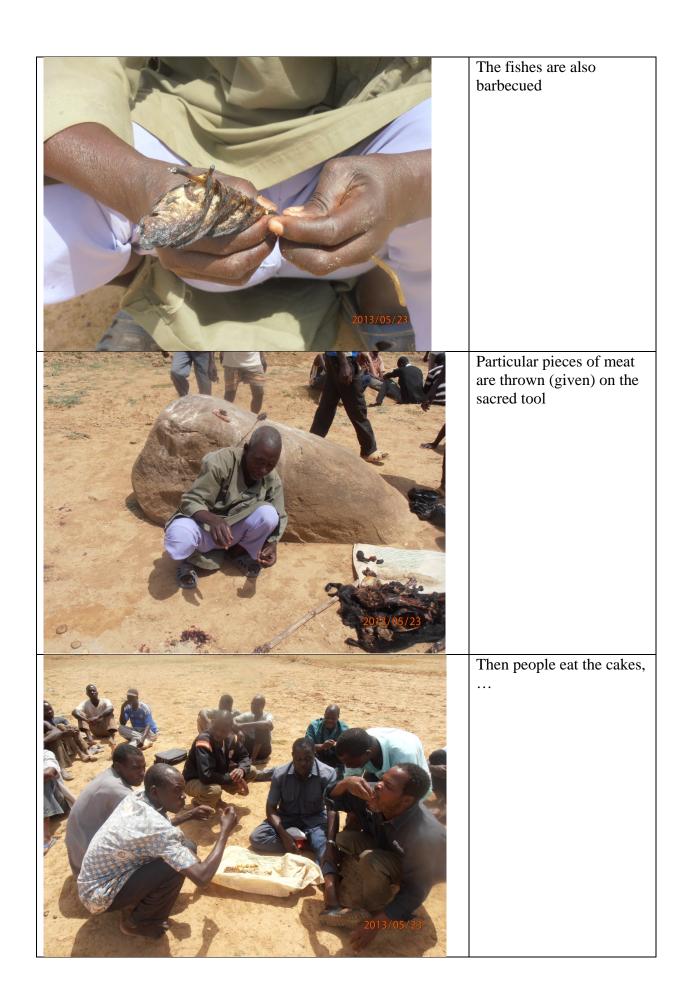
Then it drinks beer

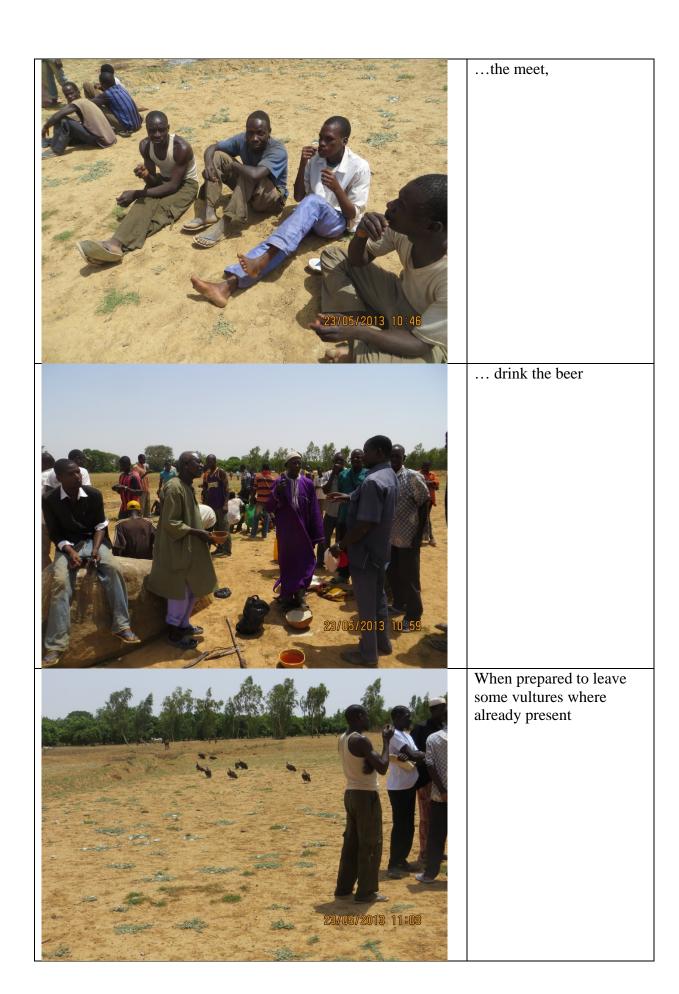


The second animal to be sacrificed is a red/black coq. This time the cock is not thrown away. It is kept in somebody's hands until it dies.











Them people al go back in the village



...to drink some beer, discuss about anything and enjoy

## Lessons:

- The fishermen are facing an unproductive fishey
- They are trying to find solutions by themselves: thye could be receptive of any assistence
- They rely on the traditionnel system of natural resource management. How does the republican system of natural resource management can consider it?