

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 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 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.



Then, one of the strategic persons talks to the audience, like he is preaching, advocating.

Today they key message was: the fishermen have to make their catches accessible to elderly. When elderly have no access to the landings for familial consumption, then they curse fishing that becomes unfruitful



Then the young girl mix flower of millet with water taken from the lake. This is to make a drink



The Tengosaba water the sacred tool: he gives the fetish some water to drink



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.



Followed by the black goat



The fishermen brought a cast net and some fishes to the ceremony



Some fishes, and cakes made with millet, some with beans also given. The white dishes are also some ingredients made with sorghum, millet and sesame.



The chickens are plucked

.....



...and the goat are cut up



To make a barbecue



The fishes are also barbecued



Particular pieces of meat are thrown (given) on the sacred tool



Then people eat the cakes,
...



...the meet,



... drink the beer



When prepared to leave
some vultures were
already present



Them people al go back in the village



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

Lessons :

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