



RESIDENCY IN THE CASAMANCE FOR SCHOLARS AND WRITERS

A dedicated retreat for research, writing,
and cultural exchange

Akine Dyioni Ecolodge & Hideaway
Diembering (Dunes de Kaengha) • Senegal

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RESEARCH. CREATION. EXCHANGE. – YOUR INSPIRING RETREAT IN THE CASAMANCE

Are you looking for a place that encourages small-group professional exchange in an open, welcoming, and interdisciplinary environment? Would you like a peaceful setting to work on your thesis, finish a scientific article, or carry out a research project in Senegal or elsewhere in West Africa? Writers are also welcome—whether to create, explore new ideas, or simply find inspiration.

As native wisdom says: *"We plant the kapok tree so our grandchildren may rest in its shade."*

In this same spirit, we welcome you to a place shaped by care and long-term vision. Here you'll find all the essentials: a natural setting, an intimate atmosphere, and ideal spaces for focus, creativity, and exchange — all under fair and accessible conditions.

Welcome to Akine Dyioni!





AN INTERFACE BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE, NATURE, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Located in Kaengha, in the village of Diembering in Lower Casamance, Akine Dyioni is much more than an ecolodge. It is a place of inspiration, co-creation and rest, where knowledge sharing, intercultural exchange and ecotourism converge in a unique natural setting.



We believe in vibrant dialogue: between science and community, art and local knowledge, visitors and nature, past and future.



WHY WE ARE A GOOD CHOICE

At Akine Dyioni, you will find:

- a rich natural environment – between ocean, rice paddies, forests and community gardens.
- a living cultural heritage – Diola traditions, vernacular architecture, spirituality, and rice cultivation.
- eco-conscious facilities – solar energy, local materials, sustainable lodge management.
- strong community anchoring – local initiatives in reforestation (mangroves), cultural transmission, and agriculture.





OUR OFFERS FOR RESEARCHERS, ACADEMICS & WRITERS

- Comfortable, quiet rooms available for stays ranging from one week to three months, each equipped with a desk (breakfast or half-board available).
- Small yet inspiring indoor and outdoor workspaces.
- Internet connection, library access, and technical equipment.
- Connections with local actors and community knowledge.
- Support in organising events, such as workshops, scientific excursions, and film screenings.
- Assistance with publishing or disseminating your work.





AN EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE: THE HYBRID MODEL

Our hybrid model combines scientific residencies, artistic creation, ecotourism and community engagement to offer a unique experience at the intersection of knowledge, nature and local culture.



- **Explore nature and living culture**
Outdoor yoga sessions, local fishing experiences, ecological walks through the mangroves, and evenings alive with cultural and musical events.
- **Discover local knowledge systems**
Introduction to local botany (village-based ethnomedicine) and traditional crafts that highlight the region's natural resources.
- **Create open and inclusive spaces for sharing**
At Akine Dyioni, resident researchers and artists are invited to share their knowledge through participatory workshops, fostering lasting links between science, place and community.



ENJOY OUR CUISINE, BAR & SELECTION OF TEAS AND COFFEES

Our culinary offerings are authentic, local and convivial. We prioritise fresh, seasonal products and collaborate with local fishers and small-scale vegetable growers.

Nestled beneath a kapok tree, the bar offers a delightful selection of cocktails, fresh local juices, and refreshing beers - a tranquil gathering spot where conversations flow under starry skies.

We also regularly serve crêpes, waffles, cakes and sandwiches – a perfect match for an authentic Italian espresso.





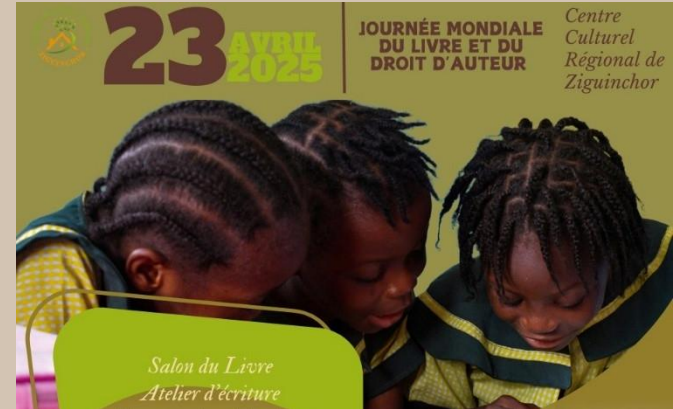


COLLABORATION & EXCHANGE

Our region provides fertile ground for scientific and cultural collaboration. We invite you to build, strengthen and nurture promising collaborations.

A SELECTION OF POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- The "University of Assane Seck" in Ziguinchor and the "National Centre for Agronomic Research (CNRA) - ISRA Ziguinchor".
- NGOs and active institutions in the region, such as "ENDA Pronat", "Tostan", the "Union of Farmers' Groups of Casamance (UGPC)", or the "French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)".
- Cultural institutions like the "Regional Cultural Centre of Ziguinchor", the "Alliance Française of Ziguinchor" or the "Ecomusée of Brin".



Sous les Etoiles

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SUGGESTED PERIODS FOR YOUR STAY

To enjoy the best of Akine Dyioni, plan your visit between November and December, or from March to June. These months offer pleasant, mild weather—ideal for cultural and nature-based experiences—along with favourable rates outside the Christmas and Easter seasons.

- 8 % discount on half-board packages.
- 5 % discount on room rates.

For stays of more than one month, we are happy to discuss tailored solutions to meet your needs.

(Breakfast is included in all room rates)





OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

At Akine Dyioni, profit goes hand in hand with positive impact. Since taking over, we have invested in preserving the site and securing its future.

SOME OF OUR MEASURES

- Planting trees and species such as *Vetiveria zizanioides* to stabilise sandy slopes and prevent erosion.
- Harnessing renewable energy through efficient solar and irrigation systems.
- Recycling, composting, and incorporating geo-concrete in construction.
- Maintaining a pesticide-free environment, relying instead on biological pest control (such as applying neem-based treatments to prevent whitefly infestations).



OUR PROMISE AS RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURS

At Akine Dyioni, people and nature are at the heart of everything we do. We see ourselves as responsible entrepreneurs, committed to treating our team, service providers, and local communities with genuine respect, fairness, and care.

We believe that true hospitality goes beyond comfort – it extends to creating positive, lasting benefits for the people we work with and the environment we depend on.

Guided by this vision, we follow Article 3 of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (UNWTO) and uphold the four principles of the International Labour Organization's Decent Work Agenda.



About your hosts:

We, Fabienne and Arndt, bring together our extensive backgrounds in academia and international development in West Africa to create a meaningful and grounded experience for you. Our deep familiarity with the region, combined with a keen understanding of your expectations, allows us to share our knowledge and passion in a way that resonates. We look forward to warmly welcoming you.

Akine Dyioni - Scientific Residency and Ecotourism in Casamance

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