



SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN WEST AFRICA

Programme newsletter

December 2023

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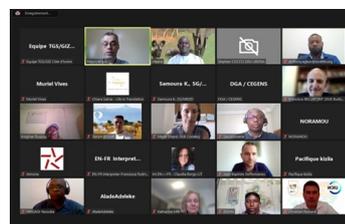
Wishing you all a very happy new year 2024



PROGRAMME NEWS

Annual meeting of the PAPFor steering committee

The Regional Programme Steering Committee held its annual meeting on 25 October 2023 to review progress and plan for 2024. This third session of the steering committee was attended by almost 50 participants who reviewed progress and results against the indicators in the PAPFor funding agreement. The meeting benefited from a presentation by BirdLife International and RSPB on activities in the Gola Foya Landscape, and a second by Nature Plus on a reference document it is preparing with PAPFor's regional coordination team on the state of Guinean forests and the main forest protected areas in West Africa.



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Agreement on "call to action" to prevent deforestation caused by cocoa farming

Stakeholders representing government



agencies, conservation partners, the private sector and agricultural experts have drafted a "call to action" for forest protection and conservation in the West African cocoa sector, following a workshop held in Monrovia, Liberia, in May 2023. The initiative aims to reconcile cocoa production with ongoing conservation efforts in West African forest landscapes.

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PAPFor Coordination meets WAEMU and the EU Delegation in Ouagadougou

A mission by the Regional Coordinator to Ouagadougou was organised in November with specific objectives linked to three important developments: to define with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) the priorities for the next six months as we approach the end of the PAPFor programme (mid-2024); to meet the new focal point of the European Union Delegation for the PAPFor and PAPBio programmes, Mr Francisco Bellafont; and on the occasion of the first mission of the coordination team of the West African component of the new European Union regional programme in Africa, NaturAfrica, to transfer lessons learned as well as a wealth of information to ensure a good start for the team.

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LANDSCAPE NEWS



Mount Nimba

Providing support for local groups to set up income-generating activities

Six local groups in rural districts around the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve have benefited from agricultural inputs and equipment to plant cash crops and make soap in order to improve their economic living conditions. "These activities will enable communities to reduce the threats to the reserve and increase food security by



WWZ

Emergence of agroforestry cooperatives to develop cocoa and pepper in Guinea

Following a study of the cocoa and pepper sectors and their markets, GRET is helping to structure the players in these sectors and boost their activities as part of the "One Landscape: One Vision" project under the PAPFor programme. The strategy aims to develop these two sectors while taking account of



Cross River

Developing Cross River National Park as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Building on regional action plans for the Cross River gorilla and the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been promoting transboundary conservation collaboration between Nigeria and Cameroon since 2009. WCS and other organisations are currently working to link the two biosphere reserves in Nigeria's

increasing food production in the region," said Mariama Sy of UNOPS, PAPFor partner in the Mount Nimba landscape.

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environmental issues, in particular the preservation of the region's rich biodiversity. To achieve this, a number of activities are being implemented in collaboration with partners and consultants.

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Cross River State with the biosphere reserves in Cameroon to create a single transboundary biosphere reserve. It has also been working on the creation of a transboundary UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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OKKPS

Third series of consultations in the future Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah national park

From 18 to 23 October 2023, meetings were held in the 6 rural communes hosting the future Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park. These meetings were part of the process of obtaining the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the local communities regarding the provisional boundaries of the future park, with the aim of discussing with the communities the land use and zoning of the future national park.

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Gola - Foya

Conservation Society completes conservation planning in Sierra Leone's Gola Forest

After three years of consultation, the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) has successfully completed land-use planning and mapping of all community forests around the Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone. In developing strategies to mitigate threats to the ecosystem and mapping the land management of the landscape, the CSSL held a series of workshops and qualitative interviews with communities in each locality.

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OKKPS

Visit from the Secretary-General of the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development

The offices of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation and the Outamba Killimi-Kuru Hills Pinselli Soyah Sabouyah (OKKPS) landscape in Mamou were visited by the Secretary General of the Guinean Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), Karim Samoura, on 31 October 2023. This provided an opportunity to discuss the progress of the process to create the Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park.

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BIODIVERSITY FOCUS



Duikers

Guinea's forests are home to no fewer than nine species of duiker, a genus of small forest antelope, four of which are endemic. Varying enormously in size, they weigh between 5 kg and 80 kg depending on the species. Duikers control the composition of the undergrowth and are important disseminators of trees by eating their ripe fruit that has fallen to the ground.

Photo: Maxwell's duiker, Tai NP, Tremarcos Photography

[See the complete article](#)



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