



SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN WEST AFRICA

Programme newsletter

September 2023

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PROGRAMME NEWS

First training in the new IMET tool adapted for use in community forests and other conservation areas managed by communities

PAPFor partners joined a training course last week on a management analysis tool for community forests and other community-managed conservation areas which has been adapted from the IMET tool by the programme with support from other EU-funded initiatives. PAPFor Regional Coordination organised the course in Monrovia in early September for 13 practitioners from Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.



[Learn more](#)

LANDSCAPE NEWS



Cross River

The network of conservation clubs in schools around Cross River National Park has been increased from 72 to 246

Outreach activities including school visits, film screenings and teacher training were intensified in July 2023, when the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) succeeded in extending the network of conservation clubs. The clubs now count more than 10 000 enthusiastic schoolchildren members.

[See more](#)



OKKPS

Members of the OKKPS landscape steering committee visit Moyen Bafing National Park in Guinea

PAPFor organised a field mission for members of the Outamba-Kilimi-Kuru-Pinselli-Soyah (OKKPS) landscape steering committee to the Moyen-Bafing national park in Guinea, to exchange experiences and enable OKKPS landscape stakeholders to draw on best practice with a view to creating the future Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah national park in Guinea and strengthening governance of the Outamba-Kilimi national park in Sierra Leone.

[See more](#)



Gola-Foya

Technical sub-committee meets to examine the Greater Gola action plan

The meeting focused on the action plan for cross-border patrols and the harmonisation of legal instruments. It concluded that there was an urgent need to do more to ensure the protection of forests in the region; also that there was a need to strengthen cross-border collaboration, harmonise strategies and involve communities in activities.

[See more](#)



WWZ

Ziama: a workshop was held in July to define criteria for membership of the Community Management Committees

Community management committees have been set up at local, communal and central levels in the indigenous communities of the Ziama biosphere reserve in Guinea, in order to promote better governance in the landscape.

[See more](#)



Mount Nimba

Communities take part in reforestation of degraded critical sites in the Seringbara and Nyon sectors

In August, UNOPS organised the first reforestation exercise in the rural communities of Bossou in Guinea, with the aim of reforesting the degraded natural area between Bossou's Gban hill and the World Heritage site of Mount Nimba Nature Reserve, to serve as a migration corridor for Bossou's chimpanzees.

[See more](#)



OKKPS

A theatre tour raises awareness about the Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park project, Guinea

A theatre tour was organised to inform and educate local people about the processes involved in creating and managing a protected area. The actors portrayed themes such as 'The challenges of protecting natural resources', 'The state of elephant protection in Guinea' and 'The creation of the PSS national park'.

[See more](#)

BIODIVERSITY FOCUS

Pangolins of the Guinean forests



The name "pangolin" comes from Malay and means "one that curls up into a ball". These exceptional mammals are largely covered in scales, except on their bellies.

They feed almost exclusively on ants and termites, but have no teeth. They do, however, have an extremely long tongue, which - when unrolled - is as long as their body.

[See the complete article](#)

ZOOM ON A PROTECTED AREA

Cross River National Park

The Cross River landscape contains the largest forest block left in Nigeria, with a wide variety of habitats ranging from dense rainforest to montane forest to high-altitude grasslands. Bordering Cameroonian forested areas, the landscape is a biodiversity hotspot of global significance and a centre of endemism for primates, birds, freshwater fish and amphibians. The Oban and Okwangwo Divisions of Cross River National Park are recognised as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and have been proposed as a World Heritage Site. PAPFor has supported the management of Cross River National Park through the Wildlife Conservation Society since 2019.



[See the complete article](#)



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