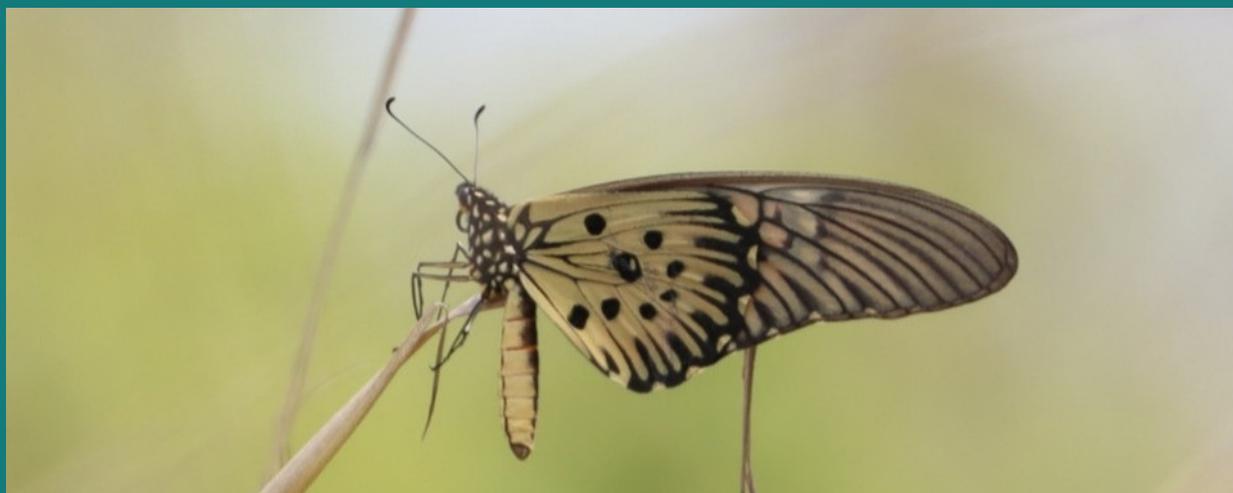




SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN WEST AFRICA

Programme newsletter

March 2023



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PROGRAMME NEWS

PAPFor, BIOPAMA and EU Joint Research Centre launch ambitious initiative to adapt IMET for community forests and OECMs

The Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) was designed for assessing 'standard' protected areas but is less well suited to use with community forests and OECMs (other effective area-based conservation measures). In January, the European Union's Joint Research Centre (JRC), the BIOPAMA programme and the PAPFor programme committed to adapt IMET, with a special focus on community forests.



[Learn more](#)



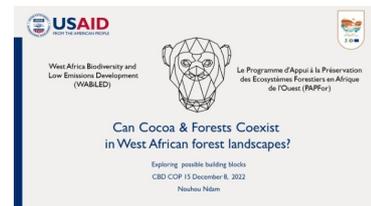
PAPFor Coordination meets with West Africa Economic and Monetary Union

PAPFor Regional Coordination and WAEMU held a fruitful meeting in January 2023, progressing work on issues including: PAPFor and PAPBio working jointly to support the nomination of various sites as World Heritage Sites; ensuring the forest dimension is included in the Reference Framework (a strategic document for conservation in West Africa); planning a new document on the state of forests and forest protected areas; and capacity building for the WAEMU.

[Learn more](#)

WABILED and PAPFor together at CBD COP15 in Montreal

The WABILED programme (USAID) team presented the joint PAPFor-WABILED initiative to promote sustainable cocoa production while maintaining forests and biodiversity at a side event on deforestation around protected areas at CBD COP15 in Montreal in December.



[Learn more](#)

LANDSCAPE NEWS



OKKPS

Promoting environmental education in the OKKPS landscape

The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) has set up 6 'People, Animals, Nature' (PAN) clubs in schools around the Outamba-Kilimi-Kuru Hills-Pinselli-Soyah (OKKPS) landscape, as part of its environmental education programme for 2022-23. It trained 21 people in January, covering topics, teaching techniques and using course materials. Nearly 300 children have since taken part in the courses.

[See more](#)



Gola Foya

Preserving the 'weeping hill' water source in Gaura, Sierra Leone

The people of Gaura chiefdom in Gola Rainforest National Park have been working with the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) since 2020 to protect 'the weeping hill', a lush primary forest ecosystem and their only source of clean water. The Gaura community forest project set up in 2021 has been a great success, thanks to strong local commitment, and has delivered tangible improvements in water provision.

[See more](#)



Mount Nimba

Local Development Plans formally handed to 3 project communities around Bossou

A workshop was held at the Prefecture of Lola on 9 January to submit Local Development Plans (LDPs) for the communities of N'zoo, Bossou and Tounkarata. The plans had been revised in a process that began in March 2022 and involved data collection, revision workshops, presentation sessions and the agreement and adoption of the revised LDPs.

[See more](#)



WWZ

Focus groups in WW, Liberia, consider integrated aquaculture-agriculture fishpond systems

Fauna & Flora International has been organising expert and stakeholder consultations to explore the potential impacts of developing aquaculture pond systems in the WW landscape, with a focus on livelihood development and biodiversity conservation. Local communities are looking forward to the opportunity this will provide to enrich their diets.



OKKPS

Wild Chimpanzee Foundation trains beekeeping cooperatives in OKKPS

The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation organised a series of training sessions in January for members of beekeeping cooperatives in the OKKPS landscape. Participants learned essential techniques for managing and monitoring beehives and producing ecologically responsible honey.



Cross River

Support for ranger patrols significantly reduces hunting in Cross River National Park, Nigeria

Ranger patrols supported by PAPFor in Cross River National Park during 2022 arrested 98 offenders for illegal logging and hunting, and measured a large decline in the encounter rate of wire snares, by 70% per kilometre.

[See more](#)

[See more](#)

[See more](#)

BIODIVERSITY FOCUS



The chimpanzee

Of the four sub-species of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) in the world, two are endemic to the Guinean forests. But numbers of the species have been in decline for several decades, particularly in West Africa, threatened by agricultural expansion (village and industrial) and hunting, either for meat or for the trade in live individuals to sell as pets. With chimpanzee populations in each of the PAPFor landscapes, this programme is very important for the survival of the species. (Photo: © L. Samuni / WCF)

[See the complete article](#)

ZOOM ON A PROTECTED AREA

East Nimba Nature Reserve (Mount Nimba range)

In a landscape heavily impacted by decades of iron ore mining, this protected area established in 2003 is relatively small. However, it contains a critical set of ecosystems and is home to many species on the IUCN Red List of endangered species, including 11 species of primate and a unique toad. It is also a good place to spot the largest butterfly in Africa.

[See the complete article](#)



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