



SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN WEST AFRICA

Programme newsletter

October 2022



Hello, and welcome to our first newsletter about the PAPFor Programme.

For those who are not yet familiar with the programme, in this first newsletter you will find links to the regional programme and to each of the PAPFor landscapes.

The newsletter is available in English and French. If you would like to receive a different version from the one you received, please contact us.

Follow our [Facebook page](#) for all the latest news

Happy reading!

The PAPFor Team

THE PAPFor PROGRAMME

The programme's objectives

The PAPFor programme's challenge is to slow - and eventually stop - the degradation of Guinean forest ecosystems and to promote sustainable solutions for their maintenance, with and for the benefit of local communities.

At regional level

A regional coordination unit, based in Monrovia, provides a regional overview and communicates on the progress and challenges of Guinean forest conservation.

At landscape level

An implementing agency carries out field activities and supports a variety of initiatives, through different partners, focused on three major objectives:

- maintaining forest cover across the landscape,
- improving the management of protected areas,
- enabling sustainable rural development on the periphery of protected areas.



PAPFOR SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR THE PRESERVATION OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN WEST AFRICA

The dense rainforests of West Africa extend from Guinea to western Cameroon. These Guinean forests play a crucial role in maintaining climate, environmental services and unique biodiversity.

However, various unsustainable human activities are leading to rampant deforestation. The remaining forests are being depleted of wildlife and many species are now threatened with extinction. As these forests disappear, so do development and employment opportunities, as well as ancient cultures.

The challenge of the PAPFOR programme is to slow down - and ultimately halt - the loss of these forests and to promote sustainable solutions for their maintenance, with and for the benefit of local communities.

5 countries: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Nigeria
6 transboundary forest landscapes
30 protected areas

TWO LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

At the level of each landscape
 An implementing agency conducts field activities and supports various initiatives, through different partners, around three major objectives:

- maintaining forest cover across the landscape;
- improving the management of protected areas;
- sustainable rural development in the periphery of protected areas.

At the regional level
 A regional coordination unit, based in Monrovia, promotes a regional dynamic and communicates on progress and conservation issues in Guinea's forests.



PAPFOR - FACT SHEET 1 | JUNE 2022

[See the full programme brochure](#)

PROGRAMME NEWS



Working together on cocoa issues in West Africa

All the PAPFor landscapes are located in areas where cocoa is produced and four of them are working actively on the issue of cocoa expansion.

In collaboration with WABILED, PAPFor's Regional Coordination team therefore organised a workshop on 8 June with nearly 50 participants to discuss **challenges and possible solutions to improve field interventions and promote sustainable and environmentally friendly cocoa production.**



It emerged from the workshop that cocoa development is **both a threat and an opportunity for the conservation of Guinean forests.** The meeting opened the way to further analysis of the topic and decisions on concrete measures where everyone commits to a win-win solution: **sustainable cocoa production from which communities also benefit and which does not come at a cost for the Guinean forests.**

The PAPFor team and WABILED are already working on organising the next meeting and will keep you informed.

Attending the first Pan-African Congress on Protected Areas, in Kigali in July 2022

PAPFor was particularly active at the congress and during various side events:

- RSPB/SCNL showcased its activities within the programme;
- OKKPS, Gola and TGKS landscapes took part in a forum on transboundary forest governance;
- UEMOA highlighted the conservation situation in the PAPBio and PAPFor zones.

The PAPFor regional coordination team, in collaboration with OBAPAO, also presented the **results of a comparative study into the evolution of landscape occupation, deforestation and bushfires in Gola-Foya and the Mount Nimba range over the last 20 years.**

The comparative study shows that the areas that have been best preserved are those with protected status, notably the national parks. [See the two brochures and explanatory videos.](#)

About 30 people attended the presentation and learned about how **Earth observation data can be used to monitor protected areas** and how to obtain such data, notably through the European Space Agency (ESA) [Copernicus portal](#) and the European [Commission's Joint](#)



Research Centre platform.

The session also demonstrated that it is **possible to set up real-time alerts for various types of threat** (fires, deforestation, etc.) using **publicly available observation data.**



Protected area	Type	Status	Country	Area (km ²)
Mt Nimba	Strict NR	Classified	GUI	130
Bessou	Strict NR	Classified	GUI	3,2
Mt Nimba	NR	Classified	LIB	135
Mt Nimba	Intégral Réserve	Classified	CI	51

PAPFOR Actions:
 Starting of the project: January 2021
 End of project date: April 2024

Coming soon... a new website

The PAPfor team is currently preparing content for a **website dedicated to Guinean forests and to showcasing the regional programme and its 6 landscapes.**

Designed as a permanent information source on West African forest ecosystems, the site will provide content on emblematic fauna and flora species, ecosystems, threats and solutions.

Regional and local news will be shared via a newsletter.

DISCOVER THE LANDSCAPES



OKKPS

The OKKPS (Outamba-Kilimi, Kuru Hills, Pinselli-Soyah) landscape is characterised by a **variety of habitats, combining dense rainforest, dry forest, wooded savannah and gallery forest.** It is an important conservation area for many species and in particular 13 primate species, including the West African chimpanzee. The forests in this landscape are under **severe threat from logging**, particularly of rosewood for timber and charcoal production. **Slash-and-burn agriculture** and **mining** also threaten the remaining forests.



See factsheet



Gola Foya

The Gola-Foya landscape contains **vast areas of dense rainforest.** It is an **important conservation area**, protecting over 60 threatened species including the zebra duiker, pygmy hippo, many primates and the forest elephant.

Due to its extent, the landscape represents an important carbon stock and plays a **key role in mitigating the impact of climate change.** Artisanal **mining** (gold and diamonds) and **poaching** are the main threats. Slash-and-burn agriculture is also practised.



See factsheet



Cross River

Cross River National Park is **the largest rainforest in Nigeria**, with an area of 3 640 km². It is a **key area for primates**, including the Cross River gorilla, chimpanzee and drill, as well as forest elephants. The landscape is a mosaic of protected areas, community forests and agricultural areas, **spread over low- and mid-altitude areas.**

The site has **high potential for tourism** and is also being considered for **recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**



See factsheet



MOUNTS NIMBA

The Mount Nimba landscape, with an altitudinal gradient of 400 to 1750m, has a great variety of habitats, from dense rainforest to montane grasslands and gallery forests. Mount Nimba itself is a **unique centre of endemism for many plant and animal taxa**, such as the world's only **toad that gives birth to live young**, and a **bat species discovered in 2018**.

The Guinean and Ivorian section is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and, with its unique biodiversity and mountain landscapes, the landscape has a strong tourism potential.



[See factsheet](#)



TGKS

The TGKS (Taï-Grebo-Krahn-Sapo) landscape has large areas of Guinean forest. It is a very important conservation area, home to species such as the forest elephant, the pygmy hippopotamus, numerous primates – including **large chimpanzee populations** – and a large number of forest duikers.

This landscape contains the largest section of Guinean forest. It is also a landscape with a wide variety of human activities: logging and mining, fishing, industrial agriculture and cocoa production.



[See factsheet](#)



WWZ

The WWZ (Wologizi-Wonegizi-Ziama) landscape has a mosaic of diverse habitats with **altitudes ranging from 300 to 1 440 metres** in an important conservation area. It is home to the **forest elephant, pygmy hippo and chimpanzee**, as well as many other animals and plants.

On the Liberian side, Wologizi and Wonegizi are potential protected areas. Ziama is protected as a Classified Forest.



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