



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



Liran Samra/Tai Chimpanzee Project

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

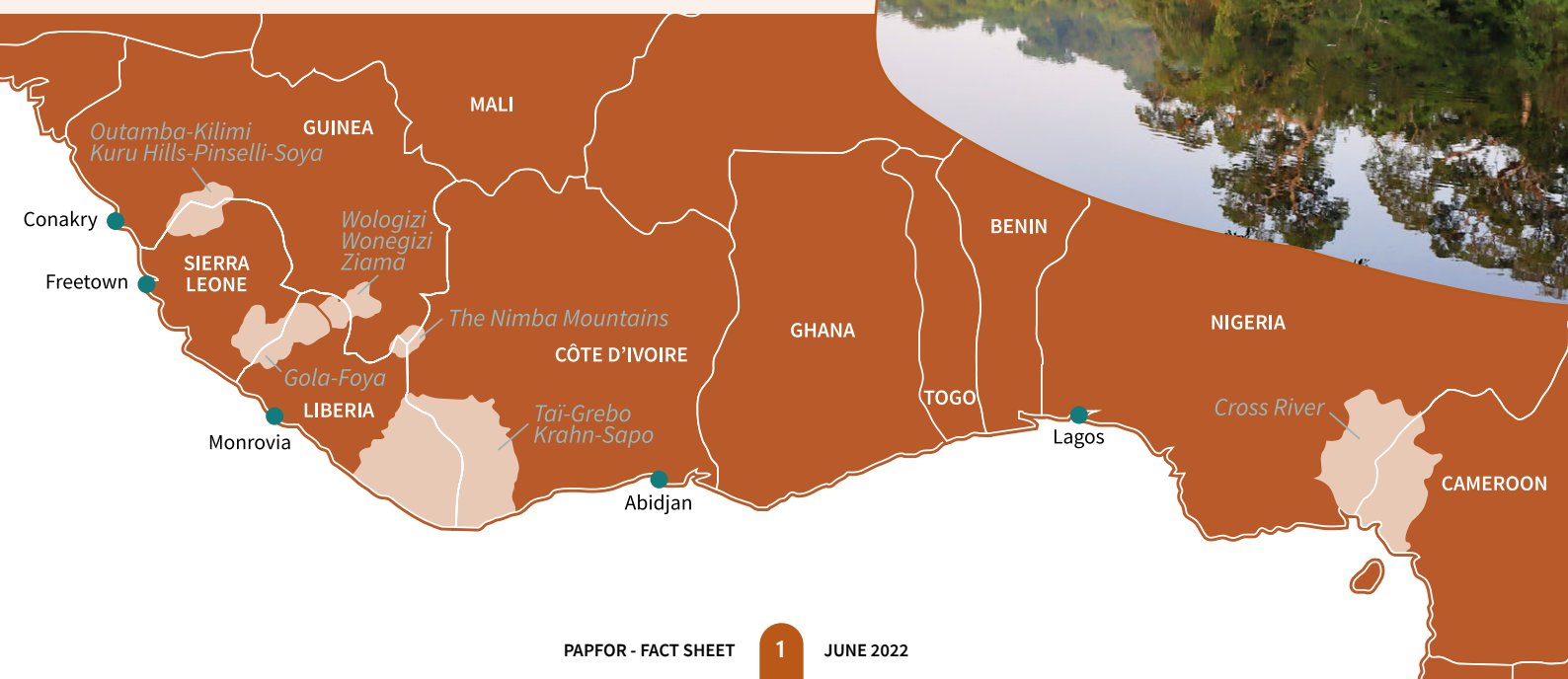
### At the level of each landscape

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

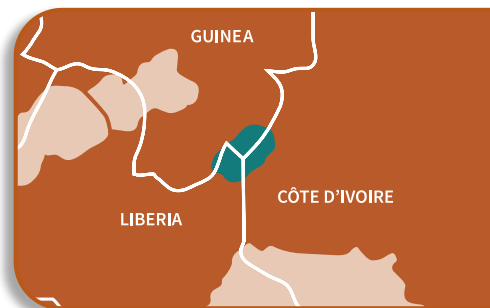
A regional coordination unit, based in Monrovia, promotes a regional dynamic and communicates on progress and conservation issues in Guinea's forests.



## THE NIMBA MOUNTAINS

Shared between Guinea, Ivory Coast and Liberia, and with an altitudinal gradient of 400 to 1750m, the Mount Nimba landscape has a wide variety of habitats, from dense rainforest to montane grasslands and gallery forests. Mount Nimba is a unique centre of endemism for many plant and animal taxa, such as the world's only viviparous toad and a species of bat discovered as recently as 2018.

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



### Key actions:

- Support to the transboundary dynamics between the three countries for management of the landscape and contiguous protected areas
- Support for the development or updating of management plans of the protected areas
- Training and support for good governance of protected areas
- Support for the establishment of local development plans
- Identification and support to income generating activities
- Protection of watersheds
- Support for the development of forest corridors between protected areas.

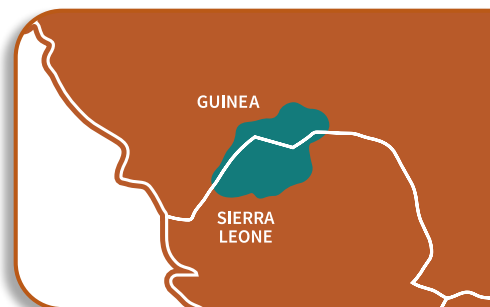
## OUTAMBA-KILIMI-KURU HILLS-PINSELLI-SOYA (OKKPS)



The OKKPS landscape, shared between Guinea and Sierra Leone, contains a mixture of habitats ranging from dense rainforest and dry forest to wooded savannahs and gallery forests. It is an important conservation area for many species, in particular 13 species of primates, 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



### Key actions:

- Creation of a new protected area in Guinea
- Strengthening of the agency in charge of protected areas to improve protected area management
- Transboundary dynamics for landscape management
- Identification of high conservation value forests for the establishment of forest corridors between existing protected areas
- Establishment of a land-use plan for the OKKPS Landscape
- Development of community-based natural resource management projects, with the development of value chains for agroforestry products
- Strengthening of local communities for the co-management of protected areas and natural resources.

## GOLA-FOYA

The Gola-Foya landscape, shared between Sierra Leone and Liberia, is home to vast tracts of dense rainforest. It is an important conservation area, protecting more than 60 endangered species including the zebra duiker, the pygmy hippopotamus, numerous primates and the forest elephant. Because of its size, this landscape represents a carbon stock and plays a key role in mitigating the impact of climate change.

Artisanal mining (gold and diamonds), as well as poaching are the most significant threats. Slash and burn agriculture is also practiced.



### Key actions:

- Facilitating the implementation of a Land Use Plan at the landscape level
- Support to the cross-border dynamics between Liberia and Sierra Leone
- Support for the creation of Community Forests
- Support for the production of local development plans
- Development of the eco-tourism sector in collaboration with local communities
- Support to the process of nomination of the landscape as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Support to the management plans of the National Parks
- Monitoring of fauna and flora
- Development of the shade-grown cocoa sector

## WOLOGIZI-WONEGIZI-ZIAMA (WWZ)

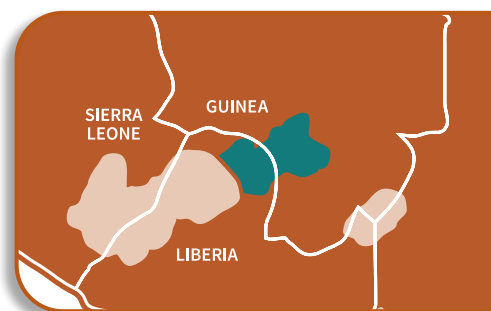
Covering an area of approximately 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the WWZ Landscape comprises three main conservation areas (Wologizi and Wonegizi in Liberia, and Ziamia in Guinea) aligned on a south-north axis, as well as the surrounding forest and agricultural areas.

With altitudes ranging from 300m to 1440m, this landscape offers a mosaic of highly varied habitats and is an important conservation area. The forest elephant is found here, pygmy hippopotamus and chimpanzees, but also many other animals and plants. On the Liberian side, Wologizi and Wonegizi are potential protected areas, while Ziamia is protected as a Gazetted Forest.



### Key actions:

- Support for the implementation of the Ziamia management plan
- Support for the gazettment of the Wologizi and Wonegizi forests
- Support for the implementation of a REDD+ programme
- Agroforestry and biological control programme against pests
- Establishment of a cross-border dynamic for joint landscape management by Guinea and Liberia
- Monitoring of wildlife by camera traps
- Participatory land mapping and identification of high conservation value forests for the establishment of forest corridors
- Support to local development plans.



## TAÏ-GREBO-KRAHN-SAPO (TGKS)

Shared between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and covering almost 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>, the TGKS 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 populations of chimpanzees - and a large number of forest duikers.

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



### Key actions:

- Support for the development of protected area management plans
- Training of agencies in charge of protected areas in management and monitoring tools
- Activities to establish forest corridors between Tai and Grebo-Krahn National Parks
- Support for the establishment of local development plans
- Development of the shade-grown cocoa sector
- Agroforestry programme with local communities
- Development of non-timber forest product value chains.



## CROSS RIVER

With an area of 3640 km<sup>2</sup>, Cross River National Park is the largest rainforest in Nigeria and is contiguous with Korup and Takamanda Parks in Cameroon. It is a key area for primates, including the Cross River gorilla, chimpanzee and the drill, as well as for the forest elephant. The landscape is a mosaic of protected areas, community forests and agricultural areas, spread over the low to mid-altitude ranges. The tourism potential is high and the site is being considered for recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



### Key actions:

- Support to Nigeria Park Services for the management of Cross River NP
- Support to local communities for the sustainable exploitation of wild mangoes
- Development of environmentally friendly cocoa production value chains
- Support for the establishment of local development and land use plans
- Support for community management of key areas, such as Mt Mbe
- Wildlife monitoring and protection activities for the Cross River gorilla and other key species
- Promotion of the nomination of the transboundary landscape as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Supporting environmental clubs in many schools.



# THE SOLUTIONS



## Maintaining forest cover

As a result of the impacts of economic development, 85% of the original forest cover of the Africa's Guinean forests have disappeared since the beginning of the 19th century. And this is continuing at an alarming rate of up to 2% per year.

PAPFor is working with local communities and territorial authorities to identify the forest corridors that will **ensure connectivity between the forest protected areas**.

Land-use plans and local development plans **encourage local development compatible with the forest conservation**.

It supports community forests and reforestation activities where **the forest cover has disappeared**



## Support to protected areas

The six PAPFor landscapes contain some 30 protected areas, each of which plays a central role within these landscapes both for biodiversity and the surrounding populations.

PAPFor provides support for the proper management of these protected areas by **facilitating the involvement of local communities** in their management and providing **technical support to the management structures** (material, equipment and training...).

Support for biodiversity monitoring (bio-monitoring) and the development of management plans to ensure that each protected area is equipped with a plan developed with the participation of all stakeholders. The programme promotes the **use of standardised tools** for monitoring management effectiveness such as IMET or METT



## Support to development

Within landscapes, biodiversity and local people are interdependent. While it is true that most threats to biodiversity are human in origin, so are the solutions.

PAPFor intervenes **around protected areas** to support **economic activities** that enable sustainable development. These activities vary from one landscape to another (improvement of agricultural practices, shade-grown cocoa, sustainable wood extraction plans, development of sustainable energy, etc.).

The programme also supports the establishment of **community forests** and the **development of eco-tourism and environmental education activities**.

With economic models and food largely dependent on forest ecosystems, saving West Africa's forests is not only to preserve biodiversity and the climate, but above all to save human populations and future generations. PAPFor is a joint effort to reduce the threats to these forests and promote their sustainable use.

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