



# CEPF INVESTMENT IN THE GUINEAN FORESTS OF WEST AFRICA HOTSPOT

## Summary Description of FUNDED PROJECTS



# SMALL GRANTS

**Project title:** Promoting endangered primate conservation in three forest reserves in Ghana

**Organisation name:** Presbyterian University College, Ghana

This project seeks to implement the [IUCN](#) Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa targeting three priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Ghana; the Attewa range, Cape three points and Tano-offin forest reserves. Within the project framework, Presbyterian University College Ghana will contribute to the long-term survival and conservation of endangered primates in Ghana by carrying out ecological surveys, conservation education and awareness campaigns, biomonitoring and capacity building of Wildlife Division eco-guards. The main project result is the ascertainment of approximate populations and distributions of the five primate species under study to inform the design of conservation programmes in Ghana and update information on the four poorly assessed species.

**Project title:** Creation of first Marine Protected Area in Côte d'Ivoire

**Organisation name:** Conservation des Espèces Marines

The zone near the Tai National Park and La Forêt classée de la Haut Dodo in Côte d'Ivoire is of high value, for spawning and growth of several species of marine turtles such as hawksbills, leatherback turtle, green turtle and olive turtles. However, uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, poaching and illegal fishing are putting pressure on these species and their habitat.

Through this project, the local NGO, Conservation des Espèces Marines, will work closely with local and national stakeholders to create a Marine Protected Area in the area, which will be the first to exist in the country. It will target mainly villages located on the riverside such as Mani, Pitiké and Kablake, and is expected to lead to an increased population of marine turtles and other water species.



**Project title:** Strengthening capacity of local communities to sustainably manage Mount Nimba's natural resources

**Organisation name:** Initiative de Base pour la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles (IBGRN)

Mount Nimba is a nature reserve and world heritage site that spans Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. It covers significant portions of the Nimba Range, a rich geographical area with unique flora and fauna, including remarkable populations of single-site endemic species, such as viviparous toads, and horseshoe bats.

Population growth and industrial activities on site by locals are putting intense pressure on fauna and flora.

IBGRN's project is to build a more effective network of community based and women-led organisations that works to conserve natural resources, by directly supporting the creation and registration of 7 local organizations to work around Mount Nimba. IBGRN will also conduct a series of trainings in communication, marketing, advocacy, financial management and project management, as well as in market gardening and livestock farming.

**Project title:** Mobilization of local communities for the conservation of biodiversity in Touguissoury

**Organisation name:** Guinée Ecologie

The Island of Touguissoury in Guinea is under serious threat owing to excessive deforestation activities in the mangrove forests, weak enforcement of existing national laws relating to biodiversity preservation and the lack of awareness on the importance of the site to people and nature, among others.

Guinée Ecologie's project will be implemented with full participation of local communities in Touguissoury to carry out socio-economic studies, identify and build on best practices to conserve the mangroves.

The goal is to develop a participatory land use management plan for the Island and empower biodiversity friendly income generating activities.



## Project title: Planning and Partnership Consolidation for Biodiversity Conservation in the Western Area Peninsula National Park

Organisation name: Conservation Society of Sierra Leone

The Western Area Peninsula National Park in Sierra Leone is protected, yet remains under threat from continuous deforestation facilitated by urban expansion. The area is experiencing rapid population growth, leading to the creation of new settlements, intensive wildlife hunting and trade, logging and burning of riverbank forests for farmlands.

This planning grant given to CSSL is to carry out a stakeholders and actors analysis, and consolidate partnerships with communities and local organisations for the conservation of biodiversity in the Western Area Peninsula National Park. The goal is to reinforce synergies, maximize use of resources and avoid duplication of conservation efforts.

## Project title: Determining Distribution, Density and Connectivity of Threatened Tortoises in Nigeria

Organization Name: Biodiversity Preservation Centre (BPC)

This project will analyse the impact of forest habitat loss, fragmentation and hunting on threatened species of tortoises including hinged tortoises of the genus *Kinixys Testudinidae*, Home's Hinge-back Tortoise *K. homeana* and Forest Hinged Tortoise *K. erosa*. The aim is to provide useful data for prioritizing and recommending effective conservation and livelihood actions for its range. Conservation action plans for the target tortoise species in South-eastern Nigeria shall be implemented and their population size and connectivity evaluated.



**Project title:** Ukpom-Okom community mangrove restoration and tree planting project, Nigeria.

**Organization Name:** Society for Women and Vulnerable Groups Empowerment (SVOVUGE)

This project seeks to restore mangrove vegetation and improve habitat for coastal species, in the process, protecting and sustaining an important source of food for coastal communities, through reforestation and forest management activities. It will create alternative sources of income for the local population such as bee and snail farming. The main objective is to restore 10 hectares of degraded mangrove area and protect an estimated 50 hectares stretch of intact community mangrove reserve.



# LARGE GRANTS

**Project title:** Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision-Making in Ghana

**Organisation name:** Ghana Wildlife Society

Ghana Wildlife Society seeks to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Ghana through improved public policy. This project will provide site specific information of the value of forest ecosystem services to the government with special focus on those that support the livelihoods of forest dependent communities. It will also support government and private sector to integrate this information into their planning decisions and management practices.

The project targets *Cape Three Points* and *Tano Offin*, which are two CEPF priority Key Biodiversity Areas in the Hotspot, found in the forest reserves of South-eastern Cote d'Ivoire and Southwestern Ghana corridor. It will help decision-makers to understand the importance and economic value of biodiversity and to adopt policies and management responses at national level to reduce threats on ecosystems.

**Project title:** From Bee-burners to Beekeepers: Supporting Community Beekeeping Organisations in São Tomé and Príncipe

**Organisation name:** Fauna & Flora International

Honey collection is an activity among forest communities that damages forest habitats and this project proposes alternatives as incentive to manage wildlife sustainably. Fauna & Flora International (FFI) will use the project to build the capacity of people in the island nation to engage in sustainable management of their forests. The organisation will develop, train and support local honey producing organisations and also develop agroforestry to support both beekeeping and horticulture. Two local NGOs and local community groups will benefit from the project. It will also improve collaboration with government and the private sector to promote



sustainable production of honey around the Natural Park. The goal is to improve the conservation status of the Parque Natural do Principe, reduce the prevalence of burning, and increase the presence of native species in degraded clearances within the buffer zone. The livelihoods of locals will be improved and the capacity of local civil society groups to manage and deliver activities in support of conservation significantly boosted. This will lead to a stable or increased population levels of bees in and around the park and secure their role as pollinators.

## Project title: Saving Cross River Gorillas from Extinction in Nigeria

Organisation name: Wildlife Conservation Society

The project aims to reduce immediate threats to Africa's very rare ape, the Cross River gorilla, also known as *Gorilla gorilla diehli* and four other globally threatened species: *slender-snouted crocodile* - *Mecistops cataphractus* (CR), *Preuss's monkey* - *Allochrocebus preussi* (EN), *drill* - *Mandrillus leucophaeus* (EN) and the *Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee* - *Pan troglodytes ellioti* (EN), by providing support to SMART-based ranger patrols at three Cross River gorilla sites, namely the Okwangwo division of the Cross River National Park, the Mbe Mountains and the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. Hunting, trapping and the trade in bush meat often caused by poverty, remain a primary threat to the survival of the Cross River Gorilla and other primate species in the region. The project also seeks to improve community income by providing training on improved coca farming and NTFP collection, processing and marketing.

## Project title: Communities as Environmental Stewards of the Largest Guinea Rainforest Block

Organisation name: Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL)

The Lofa-Gola-Mano complex is a key biodiversity area and home to at least 60 globally threatened species. This critical wildlife corridor that links the Gola Forest National Park in Liberia to the proposed Foya Nature Reserve and the Gola Rainforest National Park in Sierra Leone, still hosts a vast section of intact forest that needs to be protected. Locals in and around the corridor have engaged in activities like pit sawing, mining and bush meat hunting among others that can severely affect the forests, if allowed to grow in scale. With the population growing, and development advancing, this situation can change rapidly and increase the negative impact of



such activities on the forests. The Society for Conservation of Nature of Liberia, through this project, wants to prevent such a rapid change by empowering and supporting these communities to directly benefit from conserving their forests and stop them from engaging in any activities that can damage forests. Community Forest Management Bodies (CFMBs) will have their capacities developed to conserve and manage their forests and support provided to help them secure the resources that will ensure robust community forest management.

**Project title:** Developing Liberia's Capacity for Effective Conservation of the Pygmy Hippopotamus

**Organisation name:** Fauna & Flora International

In the last few years, huge investments in agriculture, logging and mining have increased pressure on forests in Liberia, due to increased human settlements and market access roads. This has led to critical habitat loss and an increase in the decline of the population of the wild pygmy hippopotamus. Fauna & Flora International would use this project to raise awareness on the importance of the pygmy hippopotamus and corresponding legislation governing its protection at local and national levels, identify and strengthen relevant capacity to mitigate the threats to this species and provide more reliable estimates of the pygmy hippopotamus population size across Liberia. It will also ensure the effective management of forest corridors that link key habitats. This will lead to the development of a National Conservation Action Plan for Pygmy Hippopotamus in the country.

**Project title:** Strengthen Ivorian cocoa stakeholder landscape management capacity to foster conservation

**Organisation name:** Centre d'Etudes, Formation, Conseils et Audits (CEFCA)

The Cestos-Sapo-Grebo-Tai-Cavally is an important route for critically endangered chimpanzees like the *Pan Troglodytes verus* that move between protected areas, thus connecting their threatened populations in the national parks. Other iconic species using this corridor include the vulnerable forest elephant *Loxodonta cyclotis* and the endangered pigmy hippopotamus *choeropsis liberiensis*.



Unsustainable farming practices and deforestation in and around this corridor that provides natural connectivity for these highly threatened species is having a damaging effect on wildlife in the area.

This project by CEFCO seeks to address these problems and more. CEFCO will work with two cooperatives to build capacities and scale up training on the SAN standards and promote the implementation of its practices to protect the Cestos-Sapo-Grebo-Taï-Cavally corridor. In addition, local communities will be empowered to participate in the development and implementation of management plans for their landscape. This project is expected to lay a foundation to ensure that the cocoa industry effectively removes deforestation from its supply chain and achieve the Ivorian government's commitment to a deforestation-free agricultural economy.

**Project title:** Demonstrate how economic development can boost community-based trans-border conservation in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

**Organisation name:** Man and Nature

Kwabre and Tanoé forests form one of the largest intact block of swamp forest in the Upper Guinea global biodiversity hotspot and harbours a host of endangered species. Illegal logging, deforestation for agricultural use and poaching are some of the activities that pose a danger to the unique natural resources found in these areas. Over 80% of people in the local communities are farmers, yet lack sustainable agricultural practices.

Man and Nature will implement this project to demonstrate the efficiency of the community-based conservation model and illustrate that synergies can, and need to be created between conservation and economic development of local communities. The project is tailored to guarantee broad support from the population to conserve the forest by improving livelihoods. It will develop Green Value Chains (GVCs) that adapt global best practices in the local context in partnership with private companies, local communities and government bodies in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.