

WEST AFRICA FOREST CONSERVATION STRATEGY

BACKGROUND

The **West Africa Forest Conservation Strategy**, under development by BirdLife and partners builds on **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)** work in the region, experience in **Sao Tome & Principe (STP)**, and the **Gola Landscape**. The Strategy is also based on existing frameworks, namely the African Union (AU) sustainable forest management framework for Africa (2020-2030), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) forest convergence plan.



SCOPE

The **Guinean Forests of West Africa** hotspot (unparalleled biodiversity and high threat). Covering **Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Sao Tome & Principe**.



VISION

The strategy envisions all priority forest landscapes in the GFWA are sustainably **protected, managed, restored**, and benefitting **local communities** equitably by 2032.

CONSERVING THE GUINEAN FORESTS OF WEST AFRICA

GOAL

10 priority forest landscapes are effectively protected, managed, restored and monitored and inter-dependant community members benefit from their management by 2027.



PILLARS

- ✓ Priority conservation areas **effectively managed and restored** through targeted conservation effort.
- ✓ Reduced **deforestation and forest degradation** in priority forest landscapes.
- ✓ Established mechanisms and structure to ensure **long-term sustainability** and enable broader **scalability of action** in priority landscapes.
- ✓ Strengthened civil society capacity to deliver impactful landscape programmes with strong **national stakeholder engagement** in priority landscapes.



KEY ENVISAGED OUTCOMES

- ✓ Reduced forest loss, degradation, and fragmentation.
- ✓ Increased connectivity for Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).
- ✓ Sustainable financing mechanism identified and implemented (first in model landscapes, then replicated /upscaled).
- ✓ Stakeholders' knowledge & capacity in forest conservation improved (partners, civil society organizations, communities).
- ✓ Improved economic returns from forests (deforestation-free cash crops, carbon finance, timber & non-timber).