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.

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).