



SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY AND FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS, ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN WEST AFRICA (PAPBIO)

Best practice guide

JULY 2024



INTRODUCTION

CONTEXTE

Active from 2018 to 2024, the support programme to preserve biodiversity and fragile ecosystems, environmental governance and climate change in West Africa (PAPBio) had the overall objective of promoting endogenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development, addressing the challenges of climate change.

In particular, it has sought to establish integrated protection of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems while building greater resilience in the face of climate change.

Financed by the European Union (EU) and implemented in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) in 14 West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo), the PAPBio programme has two components – a 'landscape' component and a 'regional' component – each detailed below.

- **The 'landscape' component** supports the sustainable management of seven terrestrial, coastal and marine protected and conserved areas (PCAs), via field projects implemented by different lead partners. Each project aims to improve the effectiveness of the existing management model, by promoting a participatory approach.

PAPBio encompasses eight priority conservation landscapes (PCLs): WAP Complex; Gourma Elephant Biosphere Reserve; Po-Nazinga-Sissili Complex; Comoé National Park; Mole National Park; Termit and Tin-Toumma National Nature Reserve (RNNTT); and four mangrove PCLs from Senegal to Benin (see map on page 3).

- **The 'regional' component**, aims to create a regional dynamic in favour of the effective management of protected areas, by capitalising on and sharing experience and cooperation in the fight against environmental crime, implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which also had the a mandate to monitor and coordinate the entire PAPBio.

The PAPBio promoted more effective models of governance and management, built and implemented in a participatory manner, placing local communities at the heart of the preservation of landscapes and benefiting from the sustainable management of natural resources.

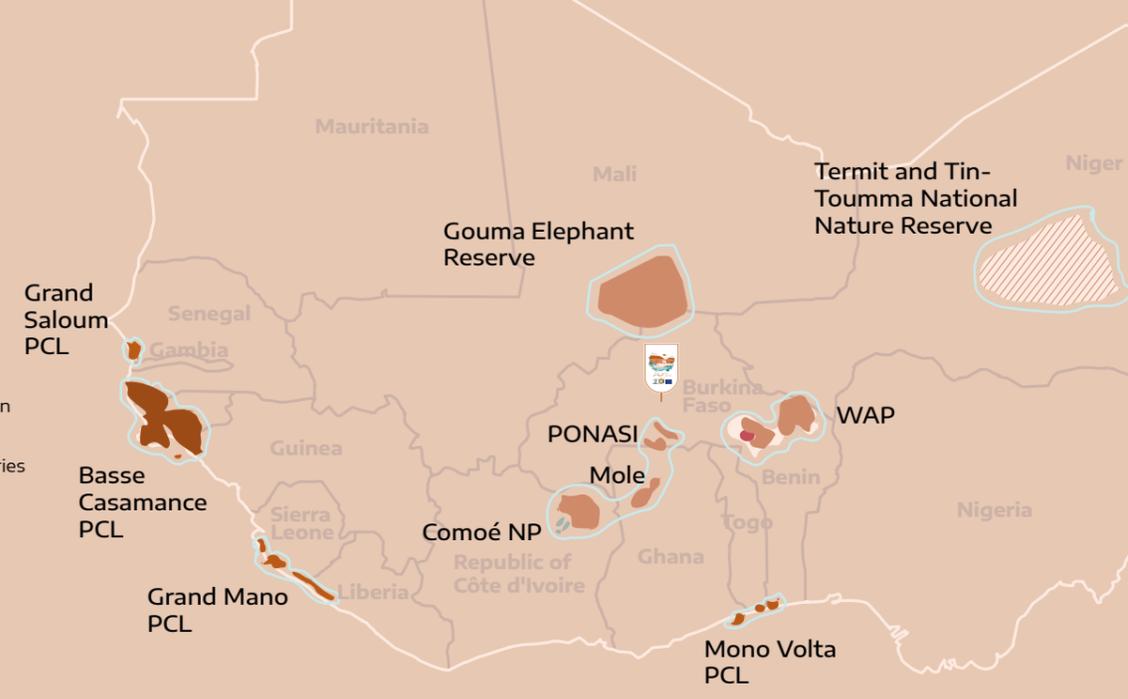
Implementation of the PAPBio has been affected both by the Covid-19 pandemic and by the significant deterioration of the security context in the region since 2020, which has seen the establishment of armed terrorist groups in several of its intervention zones.



Mangrove landscape; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN



- PAPBio Regional coordination
- PCL
- PAPBioC2 beneficiary countries
- Biodiversity zone
- Enclave
- Hunting area
- PAPBio C1 sites**
- Desert
- Savannah
- Mangrove



MAP OF PAPPBIO IMPLEMENTATION SITES

PURPOSE OF THE BOOKLET

LEARN FROM BEST PRACTICES RESULTING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PAPPBIO

Commissioned by the IUCN, Altai Consulting conducted a capitalisation exercise to identify, document and centralise the main good practices resulting from implementation of the PAPBio, in a document targeting all stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation across West Africa.

The lessons learned presented in this booklet are based on interviews conducted with the programme's multiple stakeholders (lead organisations of field projects, regional operators, national agencies in charge of PCA management, EU delegations, etc.), and on a literature review of documents issued as part of the programme.

14 good practices have been identified, based on 29 examples from projects implemented under the PAPBio programme. These practices cover four topics, in line with the programme's expected results:

TOPIC 1 Managing protected and conserved areas (PCAs)

Developing effective management systems for protected and conserved areas, encouraging cross-border and regional cooperation, in a challenging context.

TOPIC 2 Involving communities in the conservation of natural resources.

Promote sustainable socio-economic development that is consistent with the needs of local communities and compatible with the preservation of ecosystem services in landscapes, through the participation of communities in the governance and management of PCAs.

TOPIC 3 Ecological monitoring and combating environmental crime.

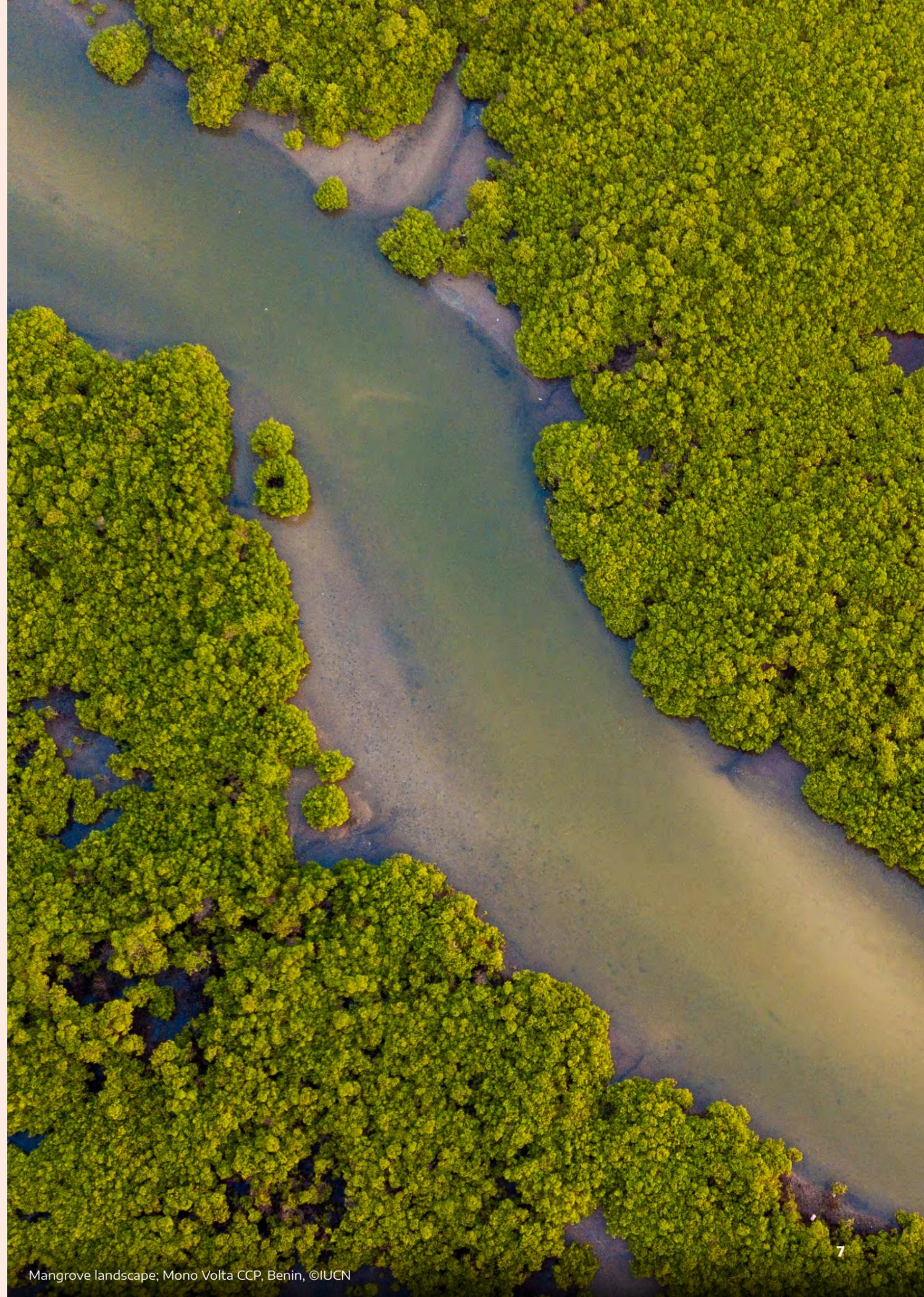
Ensuring the surveillance and monitoring of species in a complex context, affected by the cross-border nature of many PCAs and the degradation of the security situation.

TOPIC 4 Producing, managing and sharing knowledge

Building a regional community of practitioners based on shared tools and knowledge.

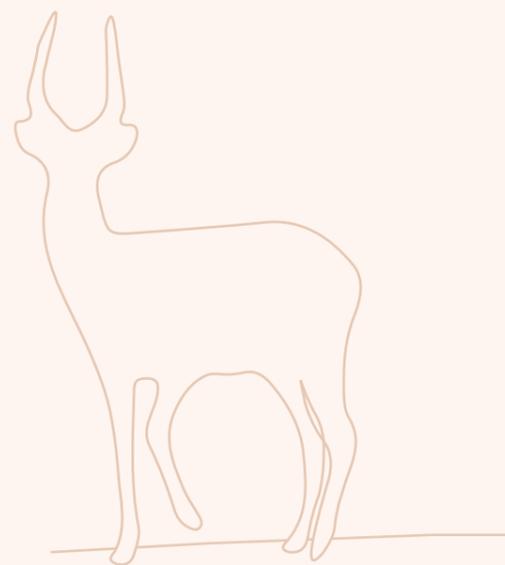
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01 MANAGING PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

The development of effective PCA management systems, encouraging cross-border and regional cooperation, was one of the key objectives of the PAPBio programme. In a challenging intervention context (the Covid-19 pandemic and the gradual degradation of the security context), operators have worked to adapt and improve the management capacity and efficiency of the systems in place.



Adapting to the deteriorating security environment

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Targets 3 ; 20 ; 22

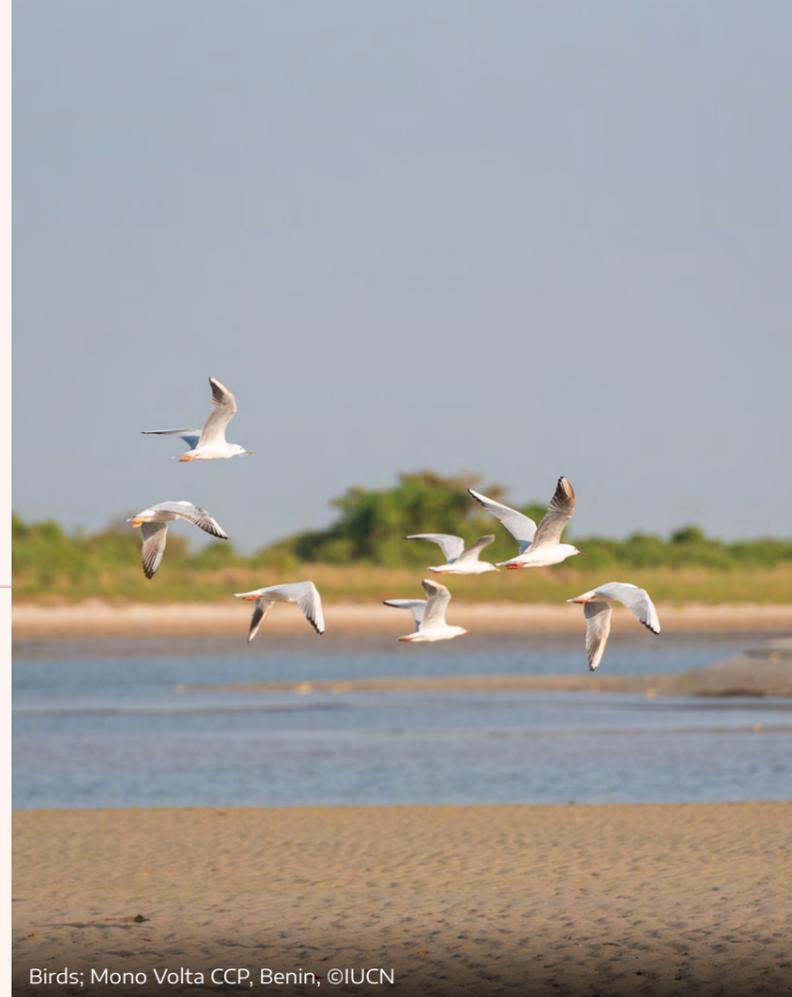
CONTEXT AND RESULTS

The region where PAPBio is implemented has been marked by a sharp deterioration in the security context since 2020, particularly in the central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) region and north of the coastal countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo). The presence of armed terrorist groups at the heart of protected areas has caused significant wildlife displacements and allowed for poaching and wildlife trafficking to increase, while simultaneously making it difficult and dangerous for management teams to travel in the field (due to damaged access routes and communication lines, alongside security concerns).

To continue their activities, PAPBio projects had to adapt their methods of intervention – **relying on local non-governmental organisations (NGOs)/civil society organisations (CSOs) and communities**, developing new **monitoring tools**, and **minimising their visibility** on the ground, although some have had to scale down their aims.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Involving defence and security forces in patrols; sharing security information
- Working in close collaboration with organisations and communities in the intervention areas
- Recycling learning from the Covid-19 pandemic, notably remote work (videoconferencing, etc.)
- Implementing appropriate monitoring tools (real-time remote monitoring)
- Publicly recognising volunteers who help make the community safer



Birds; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN

GAPS

- Exposure of rangers to security risks
- Inaccessibility of certain areas, leading to fewer field checks and difficulties in assessing the impact of actions.
- Strong restrictions on the collection tools authorised in certain areas where armed groups are present / where military operations are being deployed (no GPS, cameras, survey tablets, etc.).
- Training communities and CSOs to use the tools
- Distance from the head office team, resulting in less close collaboration

WILD Foundation

MOBILISING LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO MONITOR AND RAISE AWARENESS IN THE GOURMA BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN MALI

Young volunteer eco-guards and facilitators were selected by community leaders to conduct surveillance and awareness-raising activities. They have excellent local knowledge of the field and are supported in their work by the project team and the government technical services. The project team and technical services have been given the necessary training. Nearly 600 eco-guards in 16 communes have been trained, against an initial target of 20 across six communes.

GIZ

DEVELOPMENT OF A DIGITAL TOOL FOR MONITORING FIELD ACTIVITIES IN THE W-ARLY-PENDJARI COMPLEX

The Iknow application was developed specifically for the remote monitoring of project activities carried out by local NGOs. It enables field workers to enter data (number of people trained, photos, number of hectares reforested, etc.) including offline, and then analyse this data on the web interface. This tool enables real-time monitoring of the project's progress and its indicators, including carbon storage (linked to land restoration activities) thanks to the connections established with other specialised tools.



Adopting knowledge-based tools to steer the management of PCA intervention zones

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Targets 1; 20

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

Management planning is a major mechanism for steering the conservation activities of a PCA over the medium to long term. Various tools, such as partial diagnoses, have been adopted and used within the PAPBio projects to strengthen the relevance of the guidelines and the quality and effectiveness of PCA management.

These tools have made it possible to reduce certain knowledge gaps, both in terms of biodiversity and human activities in and around protected areas, and to strengthen community ownership of PCA management plans.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Participatory development to promote knowledge sharing and prefigure governance bodies
- An approach based on science and endogenous knowledge
- Effective management of the data collected

GAPS

- Effective adaptation of the tools to the specific characteristics of each zone
- Insufficient resources dedicated to research and knowledge development



Planting mangroves; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN



Juvenile Addax RNNTT ©Noe



Pelicans; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN

Parcs de Noé

DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE-BASED PLANNING IN RNNTT IN NIGER

Noé has drawn on endogenous knowledge and combined it with a scientific approach to gain recognition for the reserve's ecological value and generate monitoring indicators and reference values to guide strategic planning of activities. A working framework for research, highlighting the gaps in knowledge, has been drawn up, making it possible to identify future scientific research to be carried out, demonstrate the ecological value of the reserve, and thus mobilise the funding needed for its management.

IUCN

DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICIPATORY SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIAGNOSES BY LANDSCAPE IN THE MANGROVES PROJECT

The diagnostics, developed in collaboration with all stakeholders, encompassed the study of the environmental and cultural context, and the socio-economic potential of each landscape, and made it possible to identify the players involved at the local level and their positioning. Local actors played a key role in developing the landscape-level action plan and in guiding subsidies and establishing the project's benchmark values and indicators for monitoring implementation of the activities. They have also helped to identify cross-cutting practices between landscapes and thus to ensure consistency between initiatives in the various target areas.

Drawing on representative, multi-stakeholder platforms to coordinate cross-border and regional actions, improve the management of PCAs, and build the capacities of future stakeholders in the region

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Targets 1; 21

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

The PAPBio was distinct in its regional scope, targeting cross-border PCAs. It thus mobilised and trained a wide range of stakeholders at both the national level (park management authorities, supervisory ministries, etc.) and the regional level (UEMOA, RAMPAO, PRCM, etc.). The formalisation of a multi-stakeholder dialogue and the establishment of a dedicated framework are therefore a prerequisite for successful consultation and decision-making. On several occasions, the programme has been able to draw on national and regional consultation frameworks that already existed prior to the project. It has also supported training programmes, particularly at the university level, to build the capacity of young professionals and players in the sector within the region.

In this way, the PAPBio has helped to strengthen cross-border and regional collaboration on PCAs and contributed to consolidating or revitalising existing consultation platforms by mobilising resources to strengthen their operation and leadership, as well as by training future professionals working in the region.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Access to strategic players (ministries/ universities)
- Supporting pre-existing platforms or memoranda of understanding and strengthening their capacity to influence and take decisions
- Regularity of meetings, including platform meetings
- Support provided to universities, master's level coursework, and training curricula

GAPS

- Limited funding available for consultation and training schemes (grants)
- Language barriers within platforms (French vs. English) requiring translation tools

IUCN

WORKING WITH THE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR COASTAL AND MARINE CONSERVATION IN WEST AFRICA TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL MANGROVE STRATEGY

The PRCM is a platform that brings together numerous strategic players involved in conservation, particularly at its biannual forum. The IUCN used this forum to bring together experts to develop a charter for the conservation of mangroves, which was subsequently signed by the ministers of environment in six countries, and to develop a Regional Action Plan, implemented by the Abidjan Convention, supplemented by an additional protocol dedicated to mangrove ecosystems (not yet signed).

GWS

SETTING UP INTER-PARK CORRIDORS AROUND MOLE NATIONAL PARK IN GHANA

Under the impetus of the PAPBio, links between the Mole National Park and the neighbouring Comoé (Côte d'Ivoire) and Nazinga (Burkina Faso) parks have been strengthened. With support at the ministerial level, regular meetings between the managers of the different parks were organised, encouraging the exchange of

experience and improved coordination in the management of wildlife corridors, enabling species to move between the parks. This cross-border networking facilitates the connectivity of ecosystems (genetic diversity) and the fight against poaching.

IUCN

SETTING UP A SYSTEM TO STRENGTHEN APC MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES AS PART OF THE PAPBIO'S REGIONAL COMPONENT

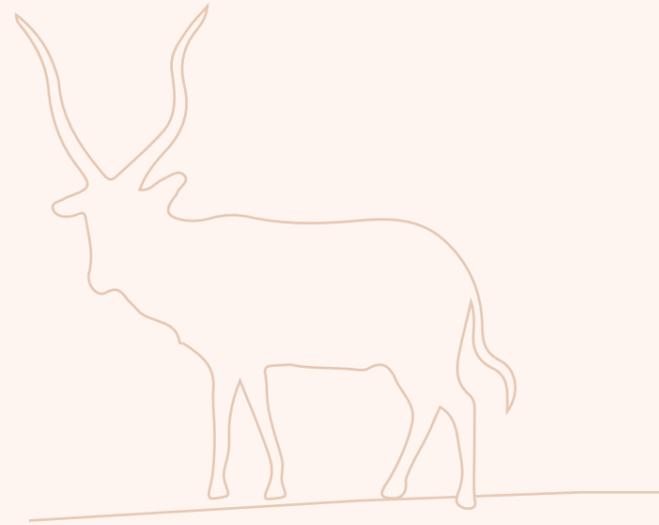
The PAPBio has made it possible to set up two doctoral research grants and four research scholarships, in addition to funding 30 scholarships towards a Master's degree in the Management of Protected Areas and Biodiversity (Master GAPB). Further, PAPBio has helped train 75 young professionals from the region through four consecutive years of the University Diploma in the Management of Protected Areas (DU-GAP).

At the professional level, 42 ecoguards from the RAMPAO area, as well as 101 professionals involved in the chain of control and surveillance of environmental crime in the region, were each trained using modules specifically developed under the project.



02 ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Promoting sustainable socio-economic development that is consistent with the needs of local communities and compatible with the preservation of landscape ecosystem services was one of the main objectives of the PAPBio. International recommendations likewise guide the management of PCAs towards the effective – or even direct – participation of local communities in their governance. As a result, numerous approaches to engaging local stakeholders, mainly communities living alongside PCAs, were tested during implementation of the PAPBio project, encouraging improved sharing of responsibilities in the planning and implementation of conservation activities as well as a greater contribution by PCAs to community development.



Improving the engagement of local stakeholders, particularly communities, in decision-making at the PCA/landscape level

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Targets 3 ; 22

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

Participatory governance and management bodies have been set up in various PAPBio landscapes, to provide a space for relevant stakeholders, particularly communities, to take part in PCA management decisions. These bodies play a key role in facilitating exchanges between stakeholders at national and local levels, and they also promote cross-border cooperation.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Analyses undertaken of each landscape, mapping the existing players and consultation frameworks, and initiating networking between relevant actors
- Clear division of roles between players
- Consideration for the diversity of stakeholders, in particular vulnerable sections of the population, and awareness of the risk of causing tensions within the target communities (e.g. between

GAPS

- Appropriate definition and unanimously shared understanding of the rights/privileges of each consultation body/multi-stakeholder governance body
- Representativeness of the stakeholders mobilised within the bodies and method of identifying these representatives
- Variation in maturity of consultation frameworks between landscapes
- Difficulties in tapping into the private sector
- The challenge of securing long-term funding

IUCN

SETTING UP STEERING COMMITTEES FOR PRIORITY CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES (COPPC) AS PART OF THE MANGROVES PROJECT

These consultation platforms bring together local communities, stakeholders and the private sector and, in some cases, a scientific committee. The COPPCs steer the development of the landscape development and management plan and prepare the associated decision-making.

GWS

INTEGRATING CONSERVATION ISSUES INTO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN MOLE NATIONAL PARK, GHANA

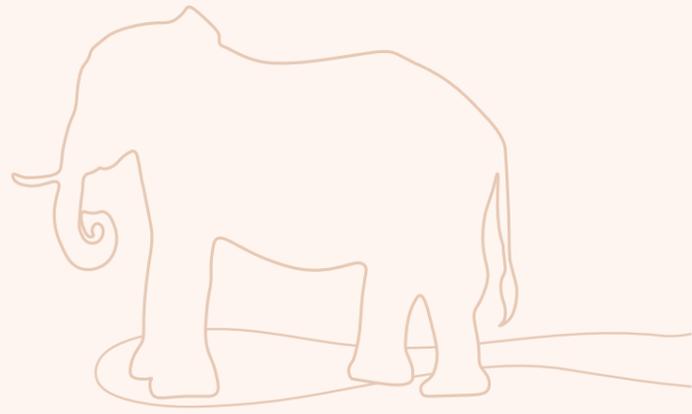
The GWS initiative has helped train local authorities on environmental assessments, cross-border cooperation and ecological monitoring, enabling them to integrate conservation issues into their development plans. This encourages the integration of PCAs into local development planning, in which the authorities are committed to include budgets dedicated to the environment. The prospect of the certification of these plans by the national land-use planning commission was a motivating

factor. Those responsible for local governance structures in community resource management areas (CREMA) have also received training on conservation issues and leadership, and have been integrated into networks to encourage the sharing of their experiences.

Parcs de Noé

SETTING UP A LOCAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LMAC) IN THE NRNTT IN NIGER

The CCLG, set up by Noé, brings together all local stakeholders, including traditional authorities, civil society and political authorities, who are consulted on key management decisions pertaining to the reserve, for example to decide on the programme for community support activities. This body helps create a link between the reserve's management and the communities. The partnership approach at the heart of Noé's management model encourages collaboration between users and builds a foundation for prompt resolution of potential conflicts.



Implementing community resource management contracts

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Targets 3 ; 4 ; 5 ; 9

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

Several tools (agreements, contracts) have been tested to formalise the engagement of communities in the sustainable management of resources, defining their responsibilities in the preservation of species and resources and the surveillance of their territory.

In addition to preserving biodiversity, these tools help strengthen community ownership of, and appreciation for, natural heritage (the value of the PCA to local communities), and their commitment to the protection of emblematic species. The tools also encourage more effective engagement of women and young people through various support measures and adaptation to the security context, by strengthening partnerships with communities to carry out joint PCA management activities.

KEY SUCCESSES

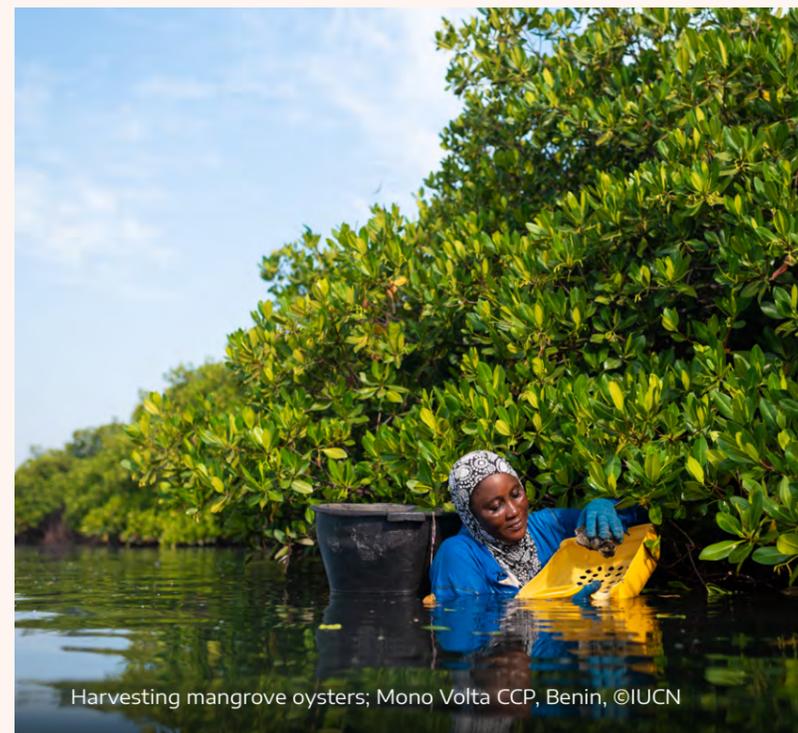
- Taking into account the needs of communities with accompanying measures (technical and financial support)
- Joint management by relevant stakeholders (administrative, traditional chiefs, defence and security forces, etc.)
- Enhancing endogenous knowledge and local practices and strengthening the responsibilities entrusted to each community to manage their respective territory
- Recruitment of community-based activity leaders

GAPS

- Strengthened community structures and organisational capacities to ensure rigorous management of the zones
- Consistency with regional development plans
- Means to monitor reciprocal commitments and ensure they are respected, in particular through perpetuation of accompanying measures



Fisherman in the mangroves; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN



Harvesting mangrove oysters; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN

examples

Parcs de Noé

TERROIR CONTRACTS (TC) IN THE RNNTT IN NIGER

Based on negotiations, the «Contrats Terroir», implemented in 14 territories, has produced positive results from the creation of indicators to monitor compliance with commitments and periodic reviews. In particular, it makes it possible to define areas dedicated to wildlife and livestock. Accompanying measures mainly concern access to health, education and support for the pastoral sector (e.g. access to water and animal health).

WILD Foundation

LOCAL COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (CNRM) AGREEMENTS IN THE GOURMA BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN MALI

Park management and communities have signed a total of 23 conventions, covering new habitats for elephants, displaced by the presence of armed groups. Implemented by management committees and accompanied by a development plan for alternative economic activities, these conventions encourage the restoration of vegetation and a reduction in human-elephant conflicts.

Supporting the development of industries for the sustainable use of natural resources in buffer zones

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Target 10

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

The development of alternative income-generating activities (IGAs) and sustainable resource exploitation methods is a key challenge for the communities in PCA intervention zones, most of whose activities rely on natural resources.

The challenge is to develop value chains to increase the added value of local products and the benefits for producers.

These activities help limit the depletion of resources and deforestation, while improving the living conditions of local people. Women, in particular, have benefited from the activities developed under the PAPBio.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Formation of producer groups
- Training on good practices
- Identifying commercial opportunities
- Use of research findings to identify promising sectors
- Synergies with other projects active in the region

GAPS

- Competition between activities within production systems based on multi-activity (seasonal availability of labour for IGAs)
- Planning exit strategies in advance to support the long-term professionalism of producer organisations

Nitidae

STRENGTHENING THE SHEA INDUSTRY IN THE COMOÉ REGION OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE THROUGH ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

A shea nut collection and processing cooperative has been established in the Comoé National Park, bringing together 200 women producers. At the same time, a buyer was identified upstream to ensure sufficient outlets for the processing plant. Finally, some 800 women were trained in marketing marketing shea nut by-products. This support has helped make the sector more accessible and more professional, and it ensured added value by obtaining organic certification, thereby creating sustainable employment for women in the region. Nitidae coordinated its action in synergy with three other projects to achieve these results.

This project established organic shea plots and identified a buyer, who is helping train women in collection and processing, enabling them to move on to semi-industrial farming with high-volume production. In the honey sector, a honey processing centre and seven small businesses have been set up. A buyer has been identified to purchase wax, which has made it possible to stop the traditional technique of collecting wild honey using fire, which is regularly the cause of uncontrolled bush fires.

Nitidae

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY FORESTS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PONASI IN BURKINA FASO

Training on more efficient ways of producing charcoal has been provided, as well as training on improved stoves to brew dolo (local beer), thereby reducing the pressure on forest resources. In addition, reforestation operations have been carried out, including utilitarian species (fruit trees and energy wood). Communities have been trained on effective maintenance and collection practices.

GWS

STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIC SHEA BUTTER AND BEEKEEPING SECTORS IN THE MOLE NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE IN GHANA



Growing plants; RBT-WAP ©GIZ



Women associations collecting herbs and medicinal plants; Gourma Elephant Biosphere Reserve ©WILD Foundation



Woman in a market garden; RBT-WAP ©GIZ



Supporting the development of community funding windows

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Target 10

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

In addition to providing technical assistance and, in the beginning, equipment to support the development of IGAs, some projects under the PAP-Bio umbrella have developed financing windows, which are managed by the communities.

These funds empower communities to launch and continue their IGAs, by financing their initiatives over the long term. Partly funded by collective savings and supporting both individual and collective initiatives, these funds also help strengthen social cohesion and motivate young people within their communities.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Association of project with skills enhancement (financial literacy, entrepreneurship, etc.)
- Support from existing financial actors
- Competition between project leaders

GAPS

- Aligning funding application eligibility criteria with conservation objectives
- Need for start-up funding to kick-start the funding window



Gourma Biosphere Reserve; Gourma in Mali ©Wild Foundation ; Carlton Ward

Nitidæ

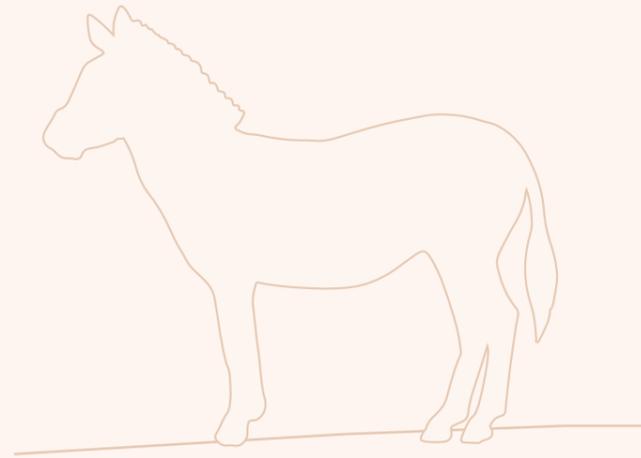
SETTING UP CREDIT SAVINGS GROUPS IN THE COMOÉ REGION OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

This project has enabled women and young people to benefit from a financing solution inspired by traditional tontines, as well as from support with respect to financial education and IGA creation. The project has supported the identification of individual and collective IGA opportunities, and 24 of a target of 12 GECs have been created. A partnership with a microfinance institute has made it possible to finance some IGAs.

WILD Foundation

SETTING UP «STABILISATION FUNDS» FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE GOURMA REGION OF MALI

The project has developed stabilisation funds, consisting of financial packages of FCFA 1.5–2 million (EUR 2,250–3,000) paid to groups of young people. These packages are used to put a micro-credit fund in place to finance the initiatives of other young people. The ultimate aim is to encourage the creation of economic opportunities within the community, to prevent young people from leaving or joining armed groups.



Supporting community access to basic social services to further approval for conservation efforts

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Targets 1; 9

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

The PAPBio was most often involved in remote areas where access to basic social services (water, health, education, etc.) was limited. As a result, PCA managers faced high expectations from the communities towards the development support that could be provided. Alongside conservation initiatives and the development of IGAs, some projects supported regional planning and development by improving access to basic services and upgrading rural infrastructure (including repairing rural tracks, electrification, etc.).

Ultimately, these actions encourage communities to support the protection of a part of their territory and condition their involvement in conservation actions.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Knowledge of community needs
- Support for traditional governance structures
- Synergies with other projects/funding sources

GAPS

- Anticipate exit strategy
- Harmonising development support across localities where the pressures are greatest (demographics, infiltration into protected areas, etc.)



Eaux et Forêts agents on patrol near a well; RNNTT ©Noé

Parcs de Noé

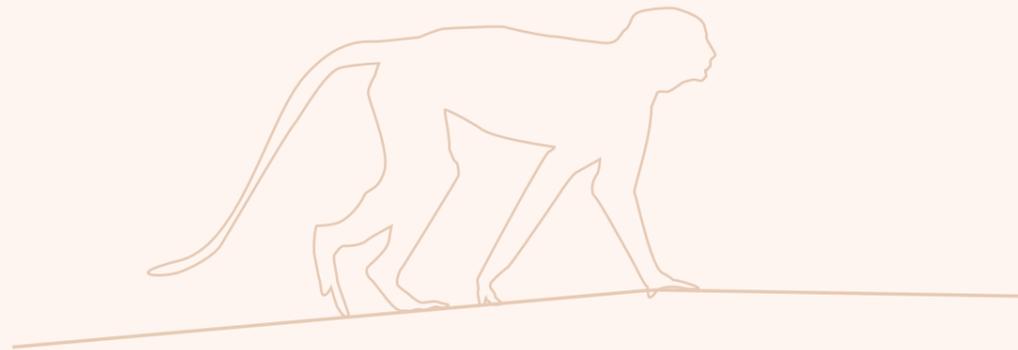
ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT AND RAISE AWARENESS AMONG THE LOCAL POPULATION IN THE RNNTT IN NIGER

In order to help local communities meet their priority needs and support the development of their territory, the project has financed children's education, health campaigns, the construction of wells, etc. following droughts and conflicts that, for example, triggered a large influx of pastoralists into the reserve in 2021. An emergency plan for pastoralism was developed, with funding from Re:Wild and the AFD, and includes the establishment of a food bank, livestock vaccinations, alternatives to wood energy, etc.

Nitidæ

BUILDING BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN COMOÉ IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The project supported the drafting of 12 Local Development Plans (LDPs) in the areas of education, health and access to water, and then selected projects to support. Schools, housing for teachers, general housing and pumps have been constructed. Improved infrastructure has also enabled beneficiaries to take part in other activities, such as support for cashew nut marketing.



Creating jobs related to PCA management

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Targets 2 ; 4 ; 22

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

PCA management requires different types of manpower. Recruiting within the local population helps create jobs, including those that support professionalisation, and helps make participatory management a reality. In addition, the existence of a PCA also provides opportunities for green jobs in connection with its development.

The creation of jobs, often targeted at young people in order to broaden their local prospects and actively engage them in the monitoring and management of the PCA thus helps increase motivation within communities to support the conservation of forest and wildlife resources, and contributes to their socio-economic development.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Opportunities for young people
- Inclusion of awareness-raising activities

GAPS

- The challenge of professionalisation



Preparing firebreaks; Gourma Biosphere Reserve ©WILD Foundation

GIZ

HIGH LABOUR-INTENSIVE (HIMO) PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS IN THE W NATIONAL PARK IN BURKINA FASO

Every year, the park management team hires local people to carry out work on the tracks, salt pans and ponds, in return for payment. This collaboration has made it easier to systematically report poachers and raise awareness of practices that are harmful to the W. National Park environment.

GWS

ECO-TOURIST GUIDE TRAINING IN THE MOLE NATIONAL PARK IN GHANA

The park's tourism potential has been enhanced through the training of eco-guides from the communities and through the exchange of information between communities which, in turn, have improved the quality of guided tours. The wildlife observation platforms, built for ecological monitoring, have also helped improve the park's tourism potential.

03 SUPPORTING ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AND COMBA- TING ENVI- RONMENTAL CRIME

The challenges of ecological monitoring and combating environmental crime are particularly acute in the intervention zones of PAPBio due to the cross-border nature of many PCAs, the challenge of involving local communities, and the deteriorating security situation.



Simplifying data-sharing to improve collaboration in the fight against environmental crime at both regional and cross-border levels

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Target 20

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

Strengthening cooperation in the fight against environmental crime was an objective aim of the regional component of the PAPBio. Several actions have been undertaken to promote information-sharing, capacity-building throughout the control chain, and the harmonisation of legal frameworks.

In particular, information-sharing improves the effectiveness of environmental crime-fighting teams by enabling better targeting of locations, perpetrators and offences committed.

KEY SUCCESSES

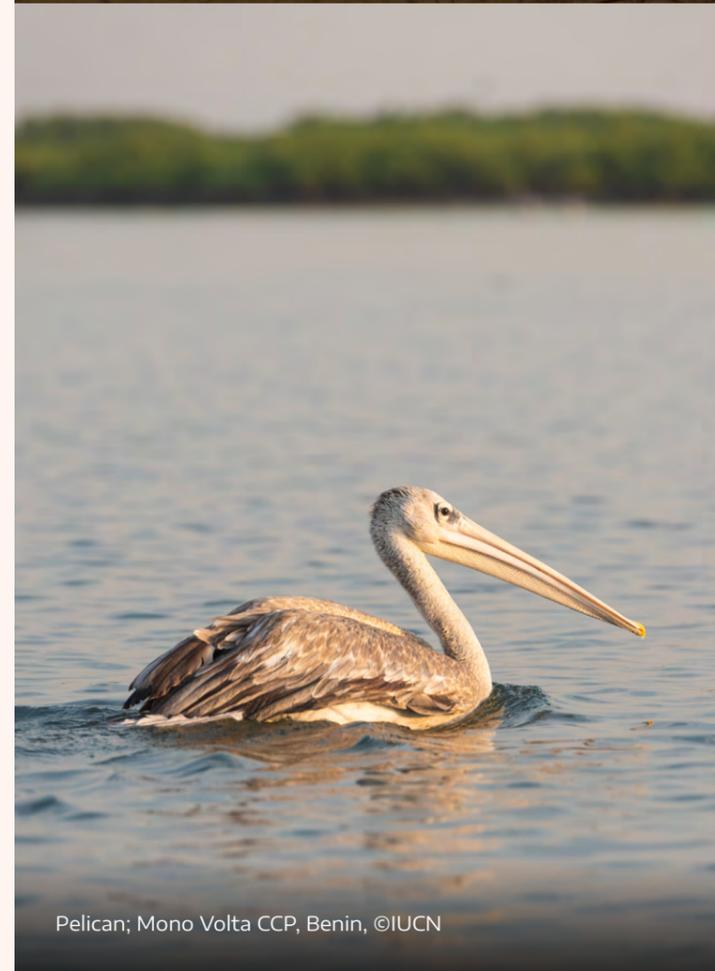
- Ensuring the long-term viability of the tools, by integrating collaborative tools within the West African Protected Areas Observatory (OBAPAO)
- Development of French and English versions of the tools
- Co-construction of tools with users

GAPS

- Data-sharing protocols not yet signed by all States
- Protecting personal data in a fragile security context
- Training community members to use the tools
- OBAPAO not operational



Elephants in the Gourma Biosphere Reserve; Gourma, Mali ©Wild Foundation ; Carlton Ward



Pelican; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN

IUCN

CREATION OF A REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ON ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME (SICE)

This tool, which can be accessed online, aims to bring together all available data on environmental crimes (poaching, illegal logging, illegal grazing, water pollution, etc.) at regional level (ECOWAS + Mauritania). This includes data on the perpetrators of the crimes, the species concerned, court rulings, etc. It also aims to improve knowledge of pressures in PCAs with a view to adapting conservation strategies at local, national and regional levels, and to facilitate the monitoring of national biodiversity indicators within the framework of international conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Using innovative surveillance and operational monitoring tools

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Target 20

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

Given the size of the PCAs covered by the PAPBio and the limited financial, human and material resources allocated to their surveillance, the use of tools to improve surveillance efficiency is essential, especially in a context of deteriorating security. Various tools based on new technologies have been successfully tested in the PAPBio intervention zones.

These tools enable better operational planning of the surveillance of the areas to be covered in order to optimise the movements of the teams in the field, thus helping improve the ecological monitoring of species and the fight against environmental offences, while also slowing the process of anthropisation within the areas.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Innovative technologies in West Africa
- Distribution of training courses

GAPS

- Constraints on the use of the tools and systems due to the security/military context
- Tool maintenance

examples

Nitidæ

IMPLEMENTATION OF A DIGITAL PATROL MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE PONASI COMPLEX IN BURKINA FASO

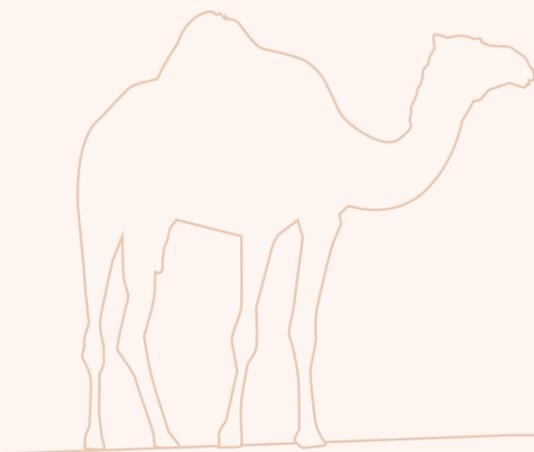
PAPBio has supported the construction of an operational centre, equipped with the Cluey system, to manage anti-poaching patrols. Cluey enables patrols to be tracked in real time using geolocation, enabling rapid response to alerts. In addition to the fight against poaching, use of this system has also been extended to monitoring community development activities (e.g. locating fields for crops). The effectiveness of the system has also helped reduce the impact of the threat of terrorism in the area.

GIZ

REGIONAL PROGRAMME TO ACQUIRE DRONES FOR SURVEILLANCE OF PCAs AND OTHER AREAS IN BENIN

PAPBio financed the purchase of the first drone for Benin's General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC), as part of the programme's support for DGEFC to become a national conservation champion. Operators have been trained on its use for anti-poaching and ecological monitoring purposes. The drone is now being used for additional purposes: the DGEFC is also using it to monitor mangroves, classified forests near the WAP complex, and surrounding plantations.





Strengthening the participation of local communities in PCA monitoring and surveillance operations

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Targets 3 ; 4 ; 22

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

Local communities are an essential link in the field for the teams responsible for monitoring PCAs, providing a knowledgeable and continuously available network of contacts across the territory. Several PAPBio projects have helped to formalise collaboration between anti-poaching brigades and communities, giving the latter an active role in detecting environmental offences, particularly poaching.

This collaboration has helped raise community awareness and reduce poaching by local people, while making it easier to spot and arrest poachers and traffickers.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Consultations with traditional authorities
- Accompanying support (access to basic services, development of IGAs)
- Provision of small surveillance and communications equipment and training on their use

GAPS

- The means to check that reciprocal commitments are respected, in particular by making the support provided more sustainable

examples

Parcs de Noé

SUPPORT FROM THE TRADITIONAL HUNTING COMMUNITY TO FORM A NETWORK OF INFORMERS IN THE RNNTT IN NIGER

The signing of a Concertation Framework for the Defence of Biodiversity with the Sultanate of Zinder (customary authority) has enabled 800 traditional hunters to be trained. These hunters now act as informants in the fight against poaching in the RNNTT. Since the framework was signed, no poaching by hunters has been recorded and any gazelles seized have been returned to the reserve. The communities themselves are involved in the arrest of poachers. At the same time, the project has supported community development through campaigns for health services, livestock, food distribution, etc.

CVA Apiculture; RBTP WAP ©GIZ

AGN

SETTING UP MIXED PATROLS IN THE PONASI COMPLEX IN BURKINA FASO

Joint patrols by eco-guards from riverside villages, water and forestry officers and the military have been put in place in the PONASI complex under the leadership of the AGN, to facilitate collaboration and information-sharing with communities, and to address security risks. These units were backed by a network of village informers.



Mehari patrols in the RNNTT; RNNTT, ©Noé

04 PRODUCING, MANAGING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

The creation of a community of practitioners and a shared toolbox, strengthened by the knowledge produced in the various fields covered by the PAPBio in West Africa, was one of the key results sought by the programme.

Producing knowledge to inform decision-making

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Target 20

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

As a result of its cross-cutting regional component, the PAPBio programme has contributed to the creation of a global knowledge base, enabling joint monitoring of the targeted PCAs (challenges, degradation/restoration dynamics).

This knowledge and reference database could be used to inform future conservation strategies and to lobby political players and technical and financial partners in order to obtain additional support and funding.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Synergies with other projects/players
- Common protocols between PCAs to harmonise data
- Integration of data and tools within OBAPAO
- Active strategy for disseminating results

GAPS

- Use of data for advocacy/decision-making purposes, rather than merely scientific purposes
- Expansion of knowledge-generating work to all areas to enable global monitoring
- OBAPAO not yet fully operational

IUCN

ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR ECOSYSTEM-BASED NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING - CECN

IUCN, in collaboration with their Belgian partner, VITO, developed a semi-automated platform (SyS4ENCA) to assess the ecosystem services of several landscapes. Two landscapes were studied, with a view to measure their evolution (degradation/restoration), and to support advocacy with political players and technical and financial partners. More than 80 regional actors have been trained in the CECN and several events have been held to disseminate the results.

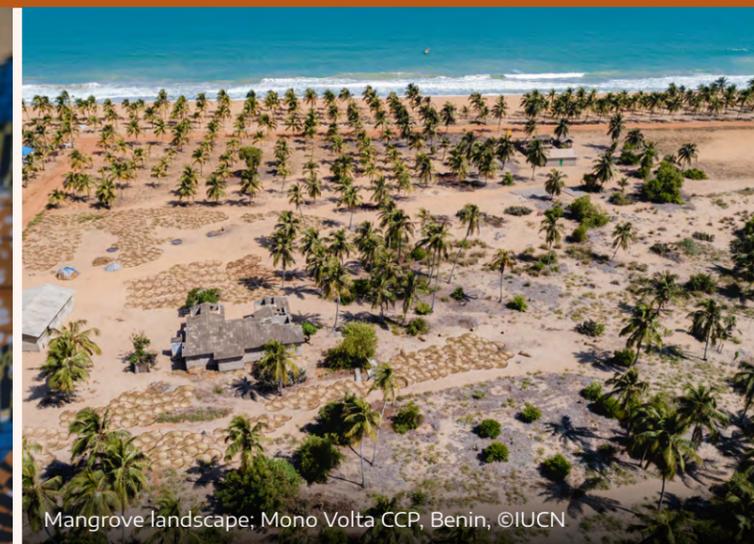
IUCN

ESTABLISHMENT OF A HARMONISED MONITORING SYSTEM AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS TOOL - IMET

IMET data is used to support a situational analysis of PCAs (management status, challenges, recommendations) and then to monitor the effectiveness of its management. As part of the PAPBio project, IMET data was collected in conjunction with the BIOPAMA project across 14 landscapes. The data collected was provided to the national authorities to be consolidated into regional reports by OBAPAO, once it is operational. More than 30 regional players, including trainers, have also been trained on the use of IMET.



Shell necklace; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN



Mangrove landscape; Mono Volta CCP, Benin, ©IUCN



Using the iNaturalist tool; RBTP WAP, ©GIZ



Disseminating knowledge to learn from PAPBio experiences

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal framework — Target 20

CONTEXT AND RESULTS

In addition to the production of knowledge, the PAPBio programme has also shared actions to promote learning across landscapes and countries, thereby initiating a community of practice between professionals involved in biodiversity conservation in West Africa. The programme has supported the creation of tools and platforms to facilitate exchange and cooperation at the regional level.

KEY SUCCESSES

- Possible long-term sharing of lessons via OBAPAO
- Participatory organisation of events

GAPS

- Cost of actions and experience-sharing tools
- Ensuring political and institutional support for these tools
- OBAPAO not yet fully operational



Environmental education session; RBT WAP, ©GIZ

examples

IUCN

CREATION OF A REGIONAL VIRTUAL KNOWLEDGE-SHARING HUB

The virtual Conservation Hub, developed by IUCN, is a space for exchange and collaboration and a source of information for conservation professionals in West Africa. It facilitates the organisation of webinars and coordination meetings, as well as the posting of online content (studies, stories of best practice, etc.) and information on the IUCN website. Alongside the online exchanges, three thematic regional workshops were held face-to-face (Ouagadougou, Niamey, Cotonou) between 2022 and 2023, focusing on the challenges facing conservation in West Africa, which provided the material for position statements at COP15 in Montreal.

IUCN

ORGANISATION OF THE MANGAL FESTIVAL BY THE MANGROVES PROJECT

The Mangal Festival, bringing together events over several months and in several countries (Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea) and culminating in a final event in Senegal at the end of 2023, aimed to raise public awareness of the value of mangroves by combining educational, scientific, artistic and cultural activities, such as conferences (including the first regional conference on mangrove ecosystems), debates, collective intelligence games, film screenings, a craft market, etc. In the same spirit, the GestionAir caravan was held, aimed at bringing together 30 managers of marine protected areas to lead a process of collective capitalisation of experiences in the sub-region.

CONCLUSION

The PAPBio programme carried out and consolidated experiments in West African PCAs and their peripheral areas, with a view to improving the effectiveness of their management, both through better cross-border and regional coordination based on the landscape approach, and through more effective engagement of local communities, while adapting to the deteriorating security context. These lessons learned have fed into the establishment of a regional community of practice.

The programme has developed numerous consultation tools and platforms at different levels (regional, national, cross-border, local), the most successful examples of which were presented and should be continued through the operationalisation of OBAPAO. These tools and platforms were also used to support the coordination of the fight against environmental crime.

The programme explored new models of governance (consultative committees, community-managed areas, etc.) and the sharing of conservation responsibilities between managers and local populations (management agreements and contracts). It also contributed to diversify economic opportunities available to communities, enabling them to play an active part in the management of PCAs (eco-guards, maintenance, eco-guides, etc.) and to develop activities compatible with the sustainable exploitation of resources.

It will be essential to capitalise on the lessons learned from the PAPBio as part of future actions to strengthen the governance of PCAs in West Africa.

abbreviations

BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
CBRM	Community Based Resource Management
COP	Conference of the Parties
COPPC	Priority Conservation Landscapes Steering Committee
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CT	Contrat Terroir
DGEFC	Department for Water, Forests and Hunting
DU-GAP	University Diploma in the Management of Protected Areas
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENCA	Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounts
EU	European Union
FDA	French Development Agency
GAN	Guardian Angels of Nature
GEC	Credit Savings Group
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GWS	Ghana Wildlife Society
HLI	High labour intensity
IGA	Income-generating activity
IMET	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDP	Local Development Plan
LMAC	Local Management Advisory Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NP	National Park
OBAPAO	Observatory of Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa
PAPBIO	Biodiversity Preservation Support Programme
PCA	Protected and Conserved Areas
PCL	Priority Conservation Landscape
PONASI	Po-Nazinga-Sissili
PRCM	Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation
RAMPAO	Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa
RNNTT	Termit and Tin-Toumma National Nature Reserve
SICE	Regional Information System on Environmental Crime
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAP	W-Arly-Pendjari

LEAD OPERATORS FOR THE PABIO PROGRAMME



AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT



giz

Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



GHANA
WILDLIFE
SOCIETY

Parcs de
Noé



WILD
FOUNDATION

COORDINATOR OF THE REGIONAL COMPONENT



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