



International Union for Conservation of Nature

Country: Guinea

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project: Strengthening restoration and conservation of the Biosphere Reserves: Mount Nimba (and Bossou ecological corridor) and Ziam Forest (Massif) in Guinea

Brief Description of the project

In Guinea, forests provide vital ecosystem services such as fresh water, climate regulation, and resources for food and medicine, which local communities depend on for their livelihoods. However, the country faces severe challenges due to rapid deforestation and forest degradation, particularly in the Guinean Forest Biome driven by over-exploitation of forest resources from agricultural expansion, unsustainable timber extraction, charcoal production, artisanal and industrial mining, and unsustainable hunting, all exacerbated by climate change. Key underlying drivers include poverty, wealth inequality, economic development pressures, population growth, unclear land tenure, and gender inequities in resource management.

In response to these challenges, the project aligns with the GEF Guinean Forests Integrated Program, and aims to protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods, and conserve biodiversity in the Mount Nimba and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves. Key actions involve developing enabling policies, sustainable finance mechanisms, and managing transboundary landscapes while fostering stakeholder collaboration.

The project will also create knowledge management products (e.g. policy briefs, land use plans, fact sheets, project progress reports, success stories, lessons learned, best practices, etc.) for dissemination among local, national, and regional stakeholders and collaborate with child projects in Sierra Leone and Liberia via the Regional Coordination Project. Transformative measures include developing gender-sensitive policies, leveraging sustainable finance opportunities, and promoting inclusive land use planning.

Ultimately, the project will generate global environment benefits including 7,000 hectares of degraded forests restored, 115,000 hectares of land under improved practices, 1.5 million tCO₂e mitigated, and benefit 10,000 people (5,000 men and 5,000 women).

List of Acronyms

ACAD	Association-Consultant for Development Actions
ADB	African Development Bank
ADCAP	Association for Community and Agro-Pastoral Development
ADECAM	Association pour le Développement du Café Macenta
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
AND-FVD	Designated National Authority for the Green Climate Fund
APDRA	Farmers led Fish Farming
AUDER	United Actors for Rural Development
BLI	Birdlife International
CASUMZSaint	Ursula Agro Pastoral Center of Mount Ziam
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBI	Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries
CEGENS	Environmental Management Center for Mount Nimba and Simandou
CFZ	Nzéérékoré Forestry Center
CI	Conservation International
CNCC	National Committee on Climate Change
CNE	National Environmental Council
CNEDD	National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development
CNGPC	National Chemical Products Management Council
CPCN	Paramilitary Corps of Conservationists of Nature (CPCN)
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTF	Conservation Trust Fund
DGCN	General Directorate of Nature Conservators
DNFF	National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife
DNACV	National Directorate of Sanitation and Living Environment
DNPNC	National Directorate of Pollution, Nuisances and Climate Change
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System
EU PAPFor	EU Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCP	Forest Convergence Plan
FF	Fauna and Flora
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FPIC	Free prior informed consent
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GE	Guinee Ecologie – NGO
GGO	IUCN's Global Gender Office
GFIP	GEF 8 Guinean Forests Integrated Program
GRET	Group for Research and Technology Exchanges- NGO
IBA	Important Bird Area
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IMET	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
IRAG	Agronomic Research Institute of Guinea
IREB	Bossou Environmental Research Institute (IREB)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	International Water Resources Management
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
Kew	Kew Royal Botanical Gardens
LUP	Land Use Planning
MAB-Guinea	Man and BiosphereNational Service of the programme on Man and the Biosphere
MAGEL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

MATD	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
MEDD	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
MEHH	Ministry of Energy, Hydraulics and Hydrocarbons
MGE	Guinean House of Entrepreneurs
MESRI	Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation
MIKE	Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants
MNBR	Nimba Mountains Biosphere Reserve
MRU	Mano-River Union
MUHA	Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Territory Planning
NbS	Nature based Solutions
NBSAP	National Strategy for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its resources with its Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFP	Non-timber forest products
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
OGPRNF	Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves
OGUIB	Guinean Wood Office
PAAS	Project Appraisal and Approval System
PAG	Management Plan (Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion)
PARSS 3	Security Sector Report Support Program in Guinea – Internal Security Component
PASANDAD	Accelerated Programme for Food and Nutritional Security & Sust. Agric. Development
PCMS	Project Complaints Management System
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PGS	Project Guidelines and Standards
PIF	Project Identification Form
PMC	Project Management Cost
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PNAE	National Action Plan for the Environment (PNAE)
PNDES	National Economic and Social Development Plan
PNE	National Environmental Policy
RBA	Rights-based approach
RCP	GEF 8 GFIP – Child Project: Regional Coordination and Learning Project
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation & forest degradation in developing countries
Rio Tinto	Rio Tinto Group - metals and mining corporation
ROAM	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology
RSS	Security Sector Reform (RSS)
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMFG	Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée - Nimba Ore Project
SNDD	National Sustainable Development Strategy (SNDD)
SSMN	Scientific Station of the Nimba Mountains
TFP	Technical and Financial Partners
ToR	Terms of references
UN Bio	National Unit for Biological Diversity (UN Bio)
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
WA BiCC	West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Project
WABiLeD	West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development Project
WB	World Bank
WCF	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation
ZMBR	Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve
ZWW	Ziama- Wonegizi-Wologizi Transboundary Forest Landscape

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1. Project Profile

1. **Project title** **Strengthening restoration and conservation of the Biosphere Reserves: Mount Nimba (and Bossou ecological corridor) and Ziama Forest (Massif) in Guinea**
2. **Project Number (GEF ID / IUCN ID)** 11146
3. **Project type (FSP or MSP)** Full Sized Project
4. **Trust Fund** GEF Trust Fund
5. **GEF strategic objectives and focal areas** Biodiversity
Climate Change
6. **IUCN programme priority**
7. **Geographical scope** Guinea
8. **Project executing agency/ies** IUCN, MEDD, Nzerekoré Forestry Centre (CFZ), Guinean Parks and Reserves Office (OGPRNF), Environmental Management Center for Mount Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS)

Project description overview and project cost (Summary)

Project Objective*:	To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mt Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) in Guinea					
Project Components	Component Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Component 1: Technical Assistance Enhancement and creation of enabling, gender sensitive and inclusive policies, partnerships and sustainable finance mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas: Mont Nimba (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) Biosphere Reserves		1.1: Improved gender sensitive and socially inclusive management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves (BRs)	1.1.1: Inter-ministerial agreement signed for inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mont Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves. 1.1.2: Gender sensitive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations. 1.1.3: Gender sensitive sustainable conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves and adjacent communities investigated and supported	GEFTF	419,287	3,701,354
Component 2: Restoration of ecosystem connectivity (including the Mt Nimba-Bossou corridor) and	Investment	2.1: Enhanced Forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience	2.1.1: Integrated, gender sensitive and social inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with	GEFTF	3,291,641	4,293,433

enhancement of sustainable livelihoods and green development around MNBR and ZMBR		<p>2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive, livelihoods of local communities</p>	<p>forest-adjacent communities.</p> <p>2.1.2: A gender sensitive inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones (MNBR).</p> <p>2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored incorporating gender dimensions.</p> <p>2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and green and inclusive SMEs.</p> <p>2.2.3: Joint ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities</p>			
<p>Component 3: Strengthened, management of transboundary forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins: Mt Nimba complex (Cavally RB: Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire) and Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi landscape (Moa-Makona/ Mano RB: Guinea, Liberia)</p>	Technical Assistance	<p>3.1: Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins</p>	<p>3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive, transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighbouring countries revitalized and operationalized.</p> <p>3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary, gender sensitive and inclusive, forest management and</p>	GEFTF	521,273	1,081,973

			ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins. 3.1.3: Gender inclusive, nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts			
Component 4: Capacity building, learning, collaboration, and communication	Technical Assistance	4.1: Enhanced, gender sensitive, capacity learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development	4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziam communities and responsible government authorities & institutions on topics such as conservation, management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc. 4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategy developed. Output 4.1.3: Regional and International collaboration and gender sensitive, knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems. 4.1.4: Capacity is built and experience shared for the development of sustainable finance opportunities at national and regional levels. 4.1.5: Gender sensitive Knowledge management products developed	GEFTF	573,912	4,156,585

			and disseminated at local, national and regional levels			
Component 5: Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E**)	Technical assistance	5.1 Improved project delivery, and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation.	5.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation. 5.1.2: Gender sensitive project technical and financial reports produced. 5.1.3: Independent and gender sensitive evaluations conducted	GEFTF	161,103	2,056,899
Subtotal				GEFTF	4,806,112	15,490,244
Project Management Cost (PMC)				GEFTF	234,466	790,702
Total Project Cost					5,201,681	16,280,946

For M&E activities related costing please refer to Annex 3 of the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy (GEF/C.59/Inf.03) for further information.

Please ensure that that PMC is within 5 % (FSP) or 10% (MSP) of the GEF grant and there is proportionality between PMC and project co-finance in line with the overall project co-finance to GEF grant ratio of the project.

Item	USD
1. GEF financing	5,201,681
2. Co-financing	
1. Co-financier 1 - MEDD DG-CEGENS	490,702
2. Co-financier 2 - MEDD Centre Forestier de N'Zerekore (CFZ)	5,312,642
3. Co-financier 3 - Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (MESRI)	434,271
4. Co-financier 4 - IUCN	300,000

5.	Co-financier 5 - BirdLife International (& 7,300,000 Guinée Ecologie)	
6.	Co-financier 6 - Royal Botanical Garden, Kew	922,881
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.	Co-financier 7- APDRA	1,620,000
13.	Sub-total co-financing	16,280,946
14.	Total (A+C)	21,482,627

15. Project Results Framework

Table 1: Project Results Framework

	Outcomes and outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target(s)	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
Project Objective: To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mount Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) in Guinea						
Component 1 - Enhancement and creation of gender sensitive and inclusive enabling policies, partnerships and sustainable finance mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas	Outcome 1.1: Improved gender sensitive and socially inclusive, management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves (BRs)	Indicator 1.1: Number of hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	Baseline 1.1: Zero (0) hectares	Target 1.1: 264,539 hectares	1. METT tool 2. Project progress reports	<u>Assumption</u> (A): Commitment by all stakeholders and notably by government agencies to improve coordination and cooperation <u>Risk</u> (R): Unclear political developments alongside competition undermine and delay cooperation.
	Output 1.1.1: Inter-ministerial agreement signed for inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves	Indicator 1.1.1a: Number of inter-ministerial agreements/decrees on inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves. Indicator 1.1.1b: Number of gender sensitive and inclusive, site-level multi-stakeholder platforms agreed for MNBR and ZMBR	Indicator 1.1.1a: No (zero) inter-ministerial agreements/decrees on the management of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves. Target 1.1.1b: Zero (0) site-level multi-stakeholder platforms (MNBR or ZMBR)	Target 1.1.1a: One gender sensitive inter-ministerial agreement/decrees on the management of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves. Target 1.1.1b: Two site-level, gender sensitive and inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms for local coordination, communication and implementation (MNBR and ZMBR)	1. Signed inter-ministerial agreement 2. Multi-stakeholder platform ToRs/ constitution and meeting minutes 3. Project progress reports	A: Sufficient political support exists at all levels for clarifying and agreeing on mandates and roles R: Competition and conflicts among stakeholders could delay or prevent reaching agreements

	Output 1.1.2: Gender sensitive and inclusive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations	Indicator 1.1.2: Number of gender sensitive and inclusive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform	Baseline 1.1.2: No gender sensitive and inclusive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform	Target 1.1.2: At least one gender sensitive and inclusive policy brief developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform	1. Gender sensitive and inclusive policy briefs 2. Project progress reports	A: Strong policy commitment and willingness from local communities and stakeholders to support and engage in inclusive, participatory land-use planning. R: Policy resistance and lack of community participation
	Output 1.1.3: Sustainable, gender sensitive conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves investigated and supported	Indicator 1.1.3a: Number of sustainable, gender sensitive finance options identified Indicator 1.1.3b: Amount of funds generated from sustainable finance options	Baseline 1.1.3a: No (zero) sustainable options in place Baseline 1.1.3b: No funds generated from sustainable finance options	Target 1.1.3a: At least two new gender sensitive sustainable finance opportunities under investigation for each of NMBR and ZMBR Target 1.1.3b: About one (1) million € raised for the Conservation Trust Fund in which gender dimensions have been taken into account		A: Strong interest and commitment from stakeholders and financial institutions to explore and support sustainable finance opportunities for both Reserves R: Limited stakeholder engagement/interest to explore and/or provide financial support
Component 2 – Restoration of ecosystem connectivity and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods and green	Outcome 2.1: Enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience	Indicator 2.1a: Number of hectares of forest under restoration Indicator 2.1b: Number of tons of CO ₂ e mitigated.	Baseline 2.1a: No (zero) hectares of forest and forest land under restoration. Baseline 2.1b: Zero (0) tons of CO ₂ e mitigated	Target 2.1a: 800 hectares of degraded forests restored Target 2.1c: 1.5 million tCO ₂ e	1. GIS reports 2. ROAM reports 3. FAO EXACT tool 4. Project progress reports	A: Collaborative effort among stakeholders to create and implement LUPs. R: Conflicts of interest and inadequate stakeholder cooperation around LUPs.

development around MNBR and ZMBR	Output 2.1.1: Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities	Indicator 2.1.1: Number of integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans	Baseline 2.1.1: Zero (0) integrated village land use plans	Target 2.1.1: 47 Gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (32 in Ziama and 15 in Nimba developed)		A: Communities and relevant stakeholders collaborate, and adequate resources and expertise are available to support the development LUPs. R: Conflicts of interest, lack of cooperation, limited funding, and technical expertise.
	Output 2.1.2: A gender sensitive inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones, (MNBR)	Indicator 2.12: Number of gender sensitive inventories and maps of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones (MNBR) developed	Baseline 2.1.2: Zero (0) gender sensitive integrated inventory and map of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones	Target 2.1.2: One gender sensitive and comprehensive inventory report and map of biodiversity & ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones	1. Inventory 2. Biodiversity & ecosystem services map	A: Sufficient technical expertise and resources are available to conduct a comprehensive study R: Technical challenges, and lack of stakeholder cooperation

	Outcome 2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive, livelihoods of local communities	<p>Indicator 2.2a: Number of hectares of degraded agricultural land restored.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2b: Number of hectares under sustainable land management in production systems</p> <p>Indicator 2.2c: Number of tons of CO₂e mitigated.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2d: Number of people (disaggregated by gender) benefitting from project activities</p>	<p>Baseline 2.2a: Zero (0) hectares of degraded agricultural land restored.</p> <p>Baseline 2.2b: Zero (0) hectares under sustainable land management in production systems</p> <p>Baseline 2.2c: Zero (0) tons of CO₂e mitigated.</p> <p>Baseline 2.2d: Zero (0) people</p>	<p>Target 2.2a: 6,200 hectares of degraded agricultural land restored</p> <p>Target 2.2b: At least 115,000 hectares under sustainable land management in production systems</p> <p>Target 2.2c: 1.5 million tCO₂e</p> <p>Target 2.2d: At least 10,000 people (5,000 men and 5,000 women)</p>	<p>3. GIS reports</p> <p>4. ROAM reports</p> <p>5. FAO EXACT tool</p> <p>6. Project progress reports</p>	<p>A: Local communities will actively engage and support land use plans</p> <p>Government policies and regulations are supportive of land use plans (LUPs)</p> <p>R: Resistance from community members or stakeholders to proposed changes.</p> <p>Government policy or regulatory changes may obstruct the implementation of LUPs.</p>
	Output 2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored, incorporating gender dimensions	Indicator 2.2.1: Number of hectares of degraded agricultural land restored	Baseline 2.2.1: Zero (0) hectares of degraded agricultural land restored incorporating gender dimensions	Target 2.2.1: 6,200 ha of degraded agricultural land restored incorporating gender dimensions	<p>7. GIS reports</p> <p>8. ROAM reports</p> <p>9. FAO EXACT tool</p> <p>10. Project progress reports</p>	<p>A: Local communities will participate in and support forest restoration activities.</p> <p>R: Insufficient community involvement or opposition to restoration activities.</p> <p>Insufficient quality and quantity of seeds and/or seedlings for restoration</p>

	Output 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises	Indicator 2.2.2: Number of people (disaggregated by sex) from improved gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises	Baseline 2.2.2: Zero (0) people benefitting from improved sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises	Target 2.2.1: At least 6,000 individual beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex) of improved agricultural practices and green community-based businesses: 2,500 (Ziama) and 3,500 (Nimba) of which 40% women.	1. Project progress reports	<p><u>A:</u> Local communities are willing to adopt sustainable agriculture and business practices</p> <p><u>R:</u> Resistance from community members to change traditional practices. Economic instability or market fluctuations affect business viability</p>
	Output 2.2.3: Joint, gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities	Indicator 2.2.3: Number of joint and gender sensitive monitoring and gender sensitive evaluation sessions	Baseline 2.2.3: No (zero) joint and gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring by forest-adjacent communities	Target 2.2.3: At least 2 joint and gender sensitive monitoring and 1 evaluation session per year per	2. Project progress reports	<p><u>A:</u> Community members are willing to participate in ecological and socio-economic monitoring.</p> <p>Adequate training and resources are provided for effective monitoring activities.</p> <p><u>R:</u> Inconsistent participation or lack of commitment from community members.</p>

Component 3 - Strengthened management of transboundary forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins	Outcome 3.1: Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins	Indicator 3.1: Number of gender sensitive transboundary collaboration mechanisms for strengthened conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins	Baseline 3.1: No strong transboundary collaboration mechanisms for conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins	Target 3.1: At least four gender sensitive transboundary collaboration mechanisms for conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins strengthened	3. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) 4. ToRs for collaboration mechanisms 5. Project progress reports	A: Participating countries are committed to transboundary collaboration and coordination. R: Political instability or policy changes in one or more countries disrupt coordination. Communication (language) barriers and logistical challenges hinder effective collaboration.
	Output 3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighboring countries revitalized and operationalized	Indicator 3.1.1: Number of local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms/, technical committees	Baseline 3.1.1: Weak local level transboundary platforms/, technical committees	Target 3.1.1: At least four, (4) gender sensitive transboundary Committees/ technical sub-committees strengthened and capacitated	1. ToRs and minutes of committee meetings and training events 2. Project progress reports	A: Stakeholders are committed to revitalizing and operationalizing local transboundary platforms. R: Political or administrative changes disrupt the commitment to transboundary agreements. Logistical and/or financial challenges hinder the effective functioning of platforms and committees

	Output 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary, gender sensitive and inclusive forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins	Indicator 3.1.2: Number of gender sensitive and inclusive trainings/ capacity building events on use of applied research results in gender inclusive transboundary decision-making	Baseline 3.1.2: Zero (0) trainings on use of applied research results in transboundary decision-making	Target 3.1.2: At least three gender sensitive (3) training events for at least 30 people (disaggregated by gender)	1. Training/ capacity building reports 2. Project progress reports	<u>A:</u> Guinea stakeholders are committed to using applied research results for decision-making. Adequate training and resources are available to interpret and implement research findings. <u>R:</u> Limited interest by stakeholders to use relevant research data
	Output 3.1.3: Gender sensitive and inclusive, nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts	Indicator 3.1.3: Number of gender sensitive and inclusive NbS pilot initiatives implemented successfully	Baseline 3.1.3: Zero (0) NbS initiatives with Ziama and Nimba communities targeting transboundary freshwater ecosystem health and restoration	Target 3.1.3: At least 3 gender sensitive and inclusive NbS initiatives achieving measurable benefits for transboundary ecosystem health, communities and climate change mitigation/ adaptation	1. Project progress reports	<u>A:</u> Local communities are supportive of implementing nature-based solutions (NbS). <u>R:</u> Insufficient community engagement or resistance to NbS initiatives. Unpredictable environmental changes impact the effectiveness of NbS interventions and stakeholders lose interest.

Component 4 - Capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication	Outcome 4.1: Enhanced gender sensitive, capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development	Indicator 4.1: Number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender)	Baseline 4.1: Zero (0) beneficiaries	Target 4.1: 3,000 people of which 50% women	2. Gender sensitive Project progress reports 3. Capacity building reports 4. Trip reports	A: Stakeholders are committed to participating in capacity-building and collaboration activities. Effective communication channels are established among State and non-State actors. R: Insufficient engagement or collaboration among key stakeholders. Communication barriers (language; education level) hinder effective knowledge sharing and cooperation.
	Output 4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziama communities and responsible government authorities and institutions on topics such as conservation, management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc.	Indicator 4.1.1a: Number of gender sensitive capacity building events. Indicator 4.1.1b: Number of people (disaggregated by gender) benefiting from gender sensitive capacity building	Baseline 4.1.1a: No capacity building events. Indicator 4.1.1b: Zero people benefitting from gender sensitive capacity building.	Target 4.1.1a: At least eight (8) gender sensitive capacity building events. Target 4.1.1b: At least 1,000 Guinea beneficiaries total (including: 500 government personnel & staff from the sectorial ministries at the national level plus community stakeholders)	5. Gender sensitive capacity building reports 6. Project progress reports	A: Nimba and Ziama communities are eager to enhance their technical capacities. Government authorities and institutions are receptive to guidance from RCP R: Inconsistent support or engagement from government authorities and other stakeholders. RCP coordination is not aligned with local needs and conditions

	Output 4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategy developed	Indicator 4.1.2a: Number of inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategies developed. Indicator 4.1.2b: Number of students (disaggregated by gender) participating in environmental education and awareness programmes	Baseline 4.1.2a: Zero (0) Project communications and education strategy. Baseline 4.1.2b: Limited number of students participating in environmental education and awareness programmes	Target 4.1.2a: One (1) inclusive and gender-sensitive communications and education strategy. Target 4.1.2b: 2,000 students (disaggregated by gender) involved in environmental education and awareness programmes of which at least 40% women.	7. Communication and education strategy document 8. Project reports 9. project websites 10. RCP portal 11. Information, Education and Communication materials	A: Stakeholders are receptive to and actively engage with project communications. Communication channels are effective in reaching all relevant audiences. R: Key stakeholders do not engage with or act on the information shared. Communication strategies fail to effectively reach or resonate with target audiences.
	Output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems.	Indicator 4.1.3: Number of stakeholders participating in regional and international (RCP-coordinated) gender sensitive events and fora (including GEF International Waters/transboundary component)	Baseline 4.1.3: Zero (0) Guinea Child project stakeholder participation in regional and international (transboundary watersheds) fora	Target 4.1.3: About 20 Guinea Child project stakeholders participate in regional and international (transboundary watersheds) fora / of which at least 30% women. At least eight collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge events	1. Trip reports 2. Project progress reports	A: Regional events provide valuable opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing. R: Limited participation or interest from staff, stakeholders, and partners. Political influence in selection process participants

	Output 4.1.4: Capacity is built and experience shared for the development of sustainable finance opportunities at national and regional levels.	Indicator 4.1.4: Number of regional exchange, learning and cooperation opportunities focused on sustainable finance	Baseline 4.1.4: Zero (0) regional and international exchange and learning opportunities on sustainable finance	Target 4.1.4: (Co-organize and support four multi-stakeholder dialogues / learning events with governments, regional institutions, donors, and the private sector to develop and implement sustainable finance mechanisms.	3. Event reports 4. Sustainable finance case studies explored	A: Stakeholders are open to exploring sustainable finance solutions and innovations. RCP provides effective support and coordination for finance initiatives. R: Sustainable finance initiatives do not align with local, national, or regional needs.
	Output 4.1.5: Gender sensitive, knowledge management products developed and disseminated at local, national and regional levels.	Indicator 4.15: Number of gender sensitive, knowledge products developed and disseminated.	Baseline 4.1.5: No gender sensitive knowledge products developed	Target 4.1.5: At least 10 gender sensitive knowledge products developed	1. Policy briefs 2. Land use plans 3. Fact sheets 4. Documentaries 5. Project progress reports 6. Success stories 7. Lessons learned 8. Best practices	R: Inadequate knowledge capture and documentation during the project lifecycle. A: There is effective knowledge capture and transfer
Component 5 – Programme management, monitoring and evaluations	Outcome 5.1: Improved project delivery, and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation	Indicator 5.1: Number of satisfactory Project progress reports				A: Project governance and M&E system works effectively R: Staff turnover, delays and external conditions

	Output 5.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation	Indicator 5.1.1: Number of gender sensitive Project M&E systems operational	Baseline 5.1.1: No project M&E system	Target 5.1.1: One Gender sensitive Project M&E system	1. M&E system	A: Adequate information is available, and information sharing is effective. R: IT, training or capacity constraints impact effectiveness of M&E system.
	Output 5.1.2.: Project technical and financial reports produced	Indicator 5.12: Number of technical and financial reports produced in which gender and inclusion are integrated.	Baseline 5.1.2: No quarterly and annual project reports	Target 5.1.2: 12 quarterly and four annual technical and financial reports	2. Project progress reports 3. Audit reports	A: Adequate information is available, and information sharing is effective. R: IT, training or capacity constraints impact effectiveness of M&E system.
	Output 5.1.3: Independent and gender sensitive evaluations conducted	Indicator 5.1.3: Number of independent, gender sensitive evaluations conducted	Baseline 5.1.3: No independent evaluations	Target 5.13: One gender sensitive mid-term and terminal evaluations	4. Mid-term evaluation reports 5. Terminal evaluation reports	A: Suitably qualified and experienced evaluators can be secured. R: Evaluator faces challenging accessing key stakeholders / documents

6. Background and situation analysis (Baseline course of action)

1. Background and context

The child project is an initiative supported by IUCN which aims to restore the forest ecosystem, sustainably improve livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Nimba Mountains, the Bossou Corridor and the Ziam Forest in Guinea. These three project intervention sites are Classified Forests established as Biosphere Reserves and located in the forest region of southeastern Guinea. The situation of all Classified Forests was clarified by the 1989 forest code, in its articles 95 to 101 and 110 to 113 and updated by Law L/2017/060/AN of December 12, 2017, relating to the Forest Code.

1. Environmental context

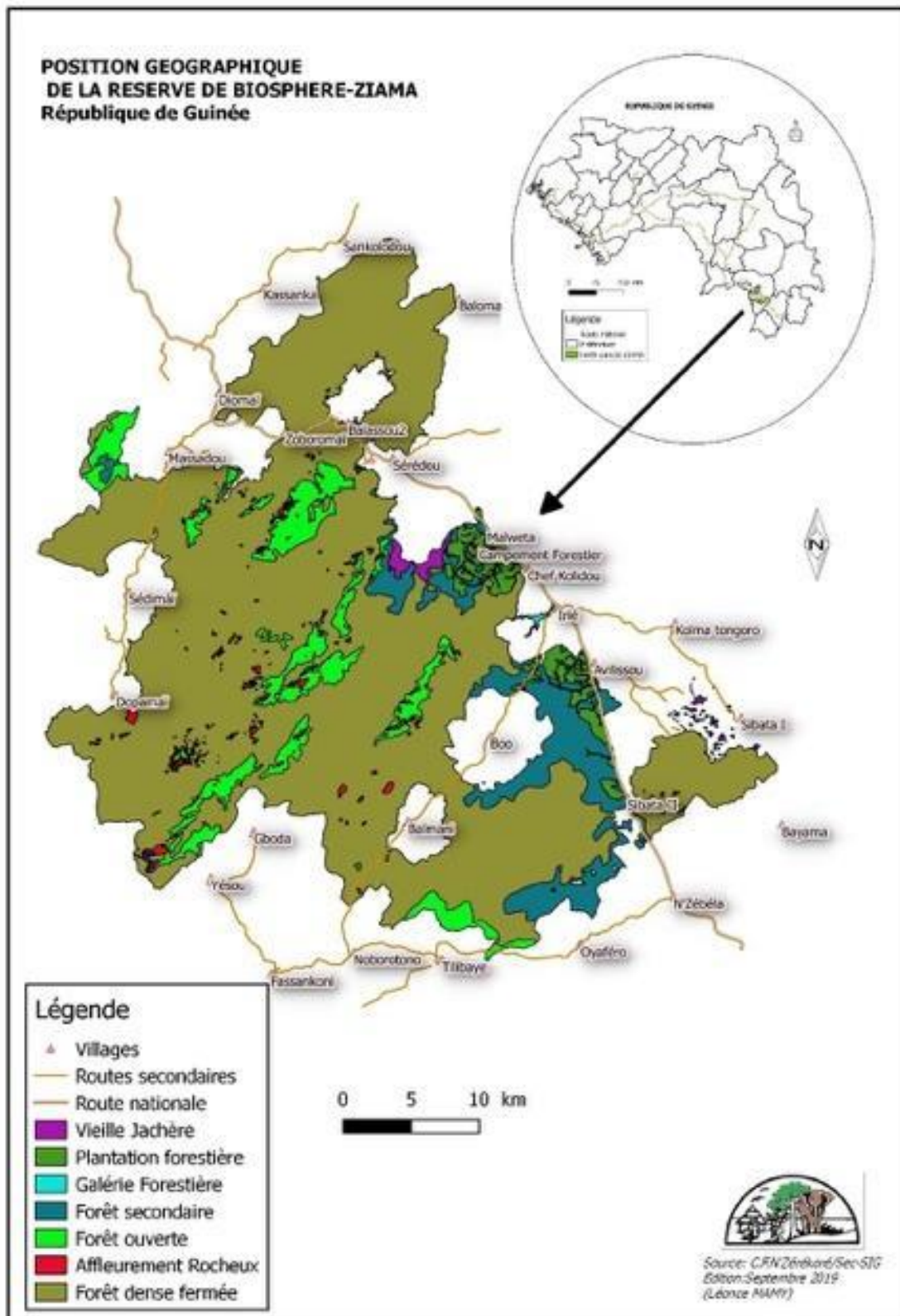
3.1.1.1. Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserve (ZMBR)

Ziam Biosphere Reserve is located in the South-East of Guinea, in the natural region commonly called Forested Guinea which borders Liberia (see <https://www.protectedplanet.net/29066>). Within the humid forest zone of the Macenta prefecture, it extends between 8°03' - 8°32' latitude N and 9°08' - 9°32' longitude W, falling under the supervision of the Governorate of the Region administrative of Nzérékoré. Before being designated by decree as a Biosphere Reserve on 02/17/1981, the Ziam forest was previously under the status of Classified Forest by decree No. 3272 SE/F of the Governor of French West Africa (AOF) dated 09/12/1942.

ZMBR has 3 enclaves which are: Boo, Baimani, and Sibata II (see maps below). The first two were created simultaneously with the classification of the forest, the last by a presidential decree of 05/11/1963. Their areas as described in the classification order are respectively 3,783, 1,950 and 790 ha. According to the 1993 topographical measurements carried out by the IUCN project, PROGEFOR, 4,301 hectares were retained for Boo; Baimani 1,983ha and Sibata II 798 ha. A fourth enclave, not provided for in the classification order, concerns the village of Balassou and covers an area of 2,967 ha.

There are 32 villages spread across 5 sub-prefectures under the Macenta Prefecture and which border the ZMBR, namely: (i) S/P of Fassankoni; (ii) S/P of N'Zébéla; (iii) S/P of Sérédou; (iv) S/P of Oremāi; (v) S/P of Singbedou. Several roads cross the reserve, the busiest of which is the RN2: Macenta- N' Zérékore passing through Sérédou. The second is the Irié-Koyamah road which goes to the border of Liberia. The third goes from N'Zébéla towards Oyaféro, Tilibaye, Noborotono. The fourth is a rural track going from Massadou to Dopamāi via Sédimāi.

Map 1: Geographical position of the ZMBR Biosphere Reserve



Climate

The climate of the Macenta area is humid tropical with daily temperatures varying between 17.7° and 30.4°, the coldest months being December and January. The hottest month of the year is April, with a variation of 2.6°C recorded over the year.

Precipitation

Rainfall is around 2,700 mm per year, with approximately 170 days of rain. The difference in precipitation between the driest month and the wettest month is 422mm.

Hydrography of the region

The region is watered by numerous rivers, some of which are permanent and others seasonal.

Vegetation

The Ziam forest is of the dense evergreen or semi-deciduous type, the lower level of which is between 950 and 1,000m above sea level including plant groups typical of the lowland plains, found at the foot of the mountains and on the slopes. At this level, **mesophilic forests** are dominant with characteristic species: *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (Sterculiaceae), *Chrysophillum perpulchrum* (Sapotaceae), *Morus mesozygia* (Moraceae), *Sterculia tragacantha* (Sterculiaceae), *Termilalia superba* and *T. ivorensis* (Combretaceae), *Aubrevillea platycarpa* (Mimosaceae), *Celtis adolphi frederichii* (Ulmaceae), *Chidlowia sanguinea* (Caesalpiniaceae), *Amphimas pterocarpoids* (Caesalpiniaceae), *Parkia bicolor* (Mimosaceae), *Chlorophora excel* (Moraceae).

Rainforests, dense evergreen forests, representing the wettest series of dryland forest groups occupy the valleys and their slopes. Currently they are in decline, undoubtedly due to unfavourable climate change. The representative species of these rainforests are: *Lophira alata* (Ochnaceae), *Heritiera utilis* (Sterculiaceae), *Combretodendron africanum* (Lecythidaceae), *Uapaca guineensis* (Euphorbiaceae), *Turraeanthus africana* (Meliaceae), *Cryptosepalum tetraphyllum* (Caesalpiniaceae), *Anopyxis klaineana* (Rhizophoraceae), *Khaya ivorensis* (Meliaceae), *Mammea africana* (Chisidaeae), *Mapania linderi* (Cyperaceae), *Hypolytrum africanum* (Cyperaceae), *Xylia evansii* (Mimosaceae).

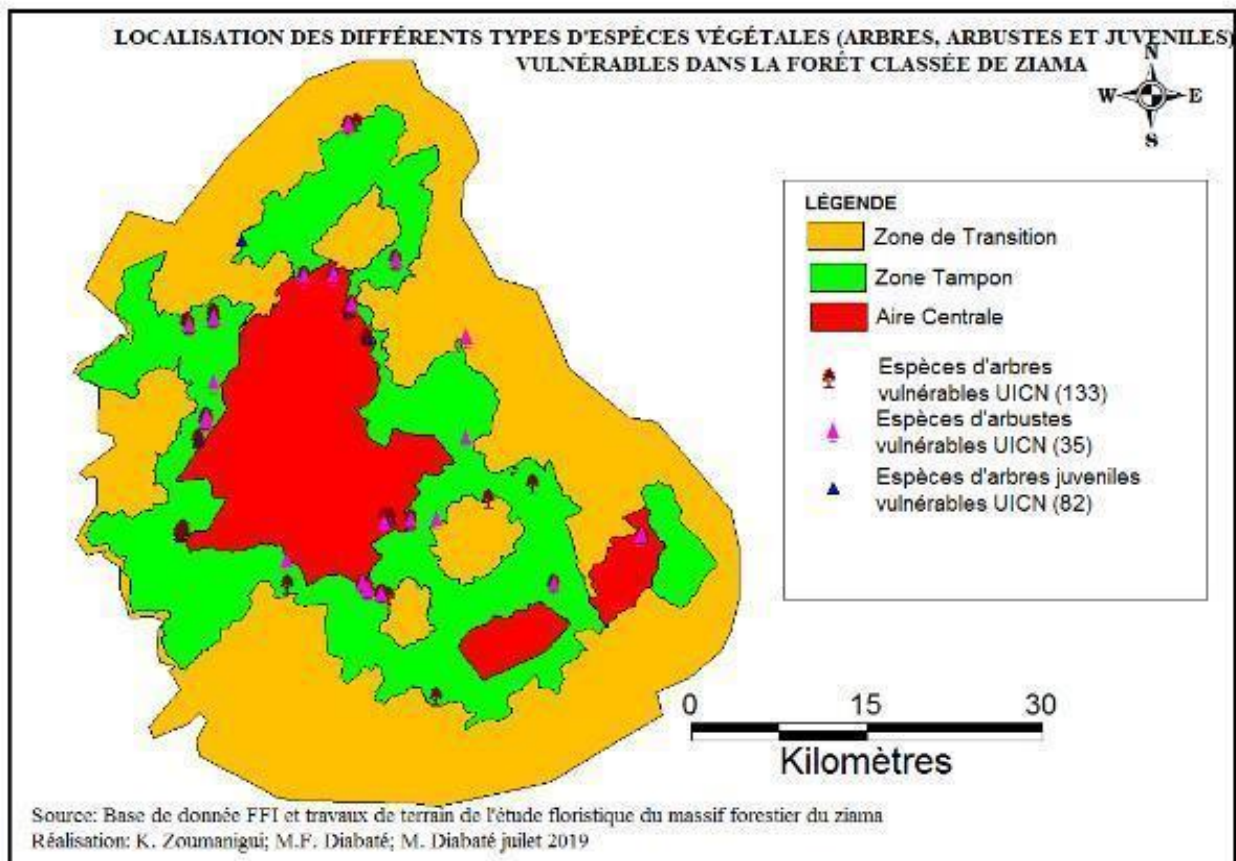
There are intermediate forest groups between these two types of climax forests among which there are edaphic swamp forests occupying the lowlands at the foot of the mountains, in the valley bottoms. Their floristic composition mainly includes: *Uapaca paludosa* (Euphorbiaceae), *Mitragyna stipulosa* (Rubiaceae), *Mitragyna ciliata* (Rubiaceae), *Nauclea pobeguini* (Rubiaceae), *Raphia vinifera* (Aracaceae), *Gardenia imperialis* (Rubiaceae), *Cryptosperma senegalensis* (Aracaceae).

Rupicolous forests (another type of edaphic forest) grow along watercourses, especially along large rivers. In these forests are found especially: *Uapaca heudoltii* (Euphorbiaceae), *Pterocarpus santalinoides* (Fabaceae), *Pseudospondias microcarpa* (Anacardiaceae), *Samanea dinklagei* (Mimosaceae), *Pachystela brevipes* (Sapotaceae).

Secondary forests currently occupy considerable areas and typically include the following species: *Musanga cecropioides* (Moraceae), *Trema orientalis* (Ulmaceae), *Anthocleita nobilis* and *A. Procera* (Loganiaceae), *Harungana madagascariensis* (Hypericaceae), *Tabernaemontana longifolia* (Apocynaceae), *Callichilla subsessilis* (Apocynaceae), *Selaginella myosurus* (Selaginellaceae), *Scleria barteri* (Cyperaceae), *Vernonia amygdalina* and *V. Conferta* (Asteraceae), *Acacia pennata* (Mimosaceae), *Newbouldia laevis* (Bignoniaceae), *Elaeis guineensis* (Arecaceae), *Rauwolfia vomitoria* (Apocynaceae), *Albisia zygia* (Mimosaceae).

At higher montane levels up to 1,400 m (including the upper parts of the slopes, the ridges and the summits), the dominant groups are the climax mountain forests dominated by *Parinari excelsa*. There are several groups of these forests, and their distribution is conditioned by different ecological factors. In addition to the tree species which also exist at lower levels, but which become more common here, montane forests have distinct

species. Among those characteristic of climatic montane forests, are *Parinari excelsa* (Chrysobalanaceae), *Syzygium steudii* (Myrtaceae), *Dracaena arboria* (Agavaceae), *Trichilia heudelotii* (Meliaceae), *Beilschmidia mannii* (Lauraceae), *Bersama abyssinica subsp pollinoid* (Melianthaceae), *Vernonia frondosa* and *V. Andohii* (Asteraceae), *Memecylon fasciculare* (Melostomataceae), *Trichoscypha oba* (Anacardiaceae), *Polyscias fulva* (araliaceae), *Cscheffera barteri* (araliaceae), *Garcinia polyantha* (clusiaceae), *Opowia mimbana* (amomaceae), *Ochna mambranacea* (ochraceae), *Garrettnera cooperi* (loganiaceae), *Rhaphiostylis heliniensis* (icacinaceae), *Daniella thurifera* and *Thieghemella heckelii*.



Map 2: Localisation of different Biosphere Reserve zones and threatened tree species in ZMBR

Wildlife

The main flagship species of wildlife which justified the creation of the reserve are Elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), Pygmy Hippopotamus (*Hexaprotodon liberiensis liberiensis*), Chimpanzee (*Pan_troglodytes*), Bongo Antelope (*Tragelaphus eurycerus*), Buffalo (*Synecerus caffer namus*), Giant Pangolin (*Manis gigantea*), the Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus diana*) and the Bald-headed Picathartes (Rockfowl) (*Picathartes gymnocephalus*).

Ziama Reserve, according to inventories by PROGERFOR, from 1991 to 1994, includes some of the most important biodiversity in West Africa. For all vertebrates (excluding fish) 547 species have been recorded in the region. For mammals, 124 species have been recorded, with a high diversity of large mammals (elephant, pygmy hippopotamus, duikers, monkeys and carnivores), as well as a diversity of smaller species including 31 species of bats and 38 species of rodents. 54 species of reptiles have been recorded including 41 species of snakes; 10 lizard species; 2 species of turtles and 1 species of crocodile, 30 species of amphibians. For birds, 347 species of birds have been recorded in the Guinea Forest region, with 286 within the limits of the ZMBR.

This leads to classification of the Reserve by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA)¹ and now Key Biodiversity Area².

Many vertebrate species are dependent on specific forest habitats, including fruit bats, monkeys, birds and large herbivores. This richness places the ZMBR at the forefront of diversity in West Africa with 50% of the species present in Guinea found in the Reserve. It is also a refuge for rare, vulnerable and threatened species, hosting 22 mammals protected by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), 3 of which have received full protection status under the Washington Convention for the Protection of Endangered Species and 19 having received partial protection.

Eighteen (18) main conservation targets of the ZMBR

Conservation targets include species for which special attention needs to be paid for conservation management. During the IMET analysis³, the 18 species listed in the Table 2 were selected by ZMBR managers as conservation targets, due to endemism or degree of vulnerability and/ or danger.

Table 2: Main conservation targets for ZMNR

N°	Noms communs	Noms scientifiques
1	Atherure	<i>Atherurus africana</i>
2	Bongo	<i>Tragelaphus euryceros</i>
3	Buffle de Forêt	<i>Syncerus caffer nanus</i>
4	Céphalophe à bande dorsale noire	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>
5	Céphalophe à dos jaune	<i>Cephalophus sylvicultor</i>
6	Céphalophe bleu	<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>
7	Chimpanzé de l'Afrique de l'ouest	<i>Pan troglodytes verus</i>
8	Civet	<i>Viverra civetta</i>
9	Daman de rocher	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
10	Guib harnaché	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
11	Hippopotame nain	<i>Hexaprotodon liberiensis</i>
12	L'éléphant de forêt	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>
13	Le Pangolin à longue queue	<i>Manis tetradactyla</i>
14	Le Pangolin géant	<i>Manis gigantea</i>
15	Les tortues	<i>Testudines sp</i>
16	Potamochère	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>
17	Singe	<i>Cercopithecus spp</i>
18	Varan	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>

Other species are not neglected, but particular attention will be paid to these target

1 <https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/massif-du-ziama-iba-guinea>

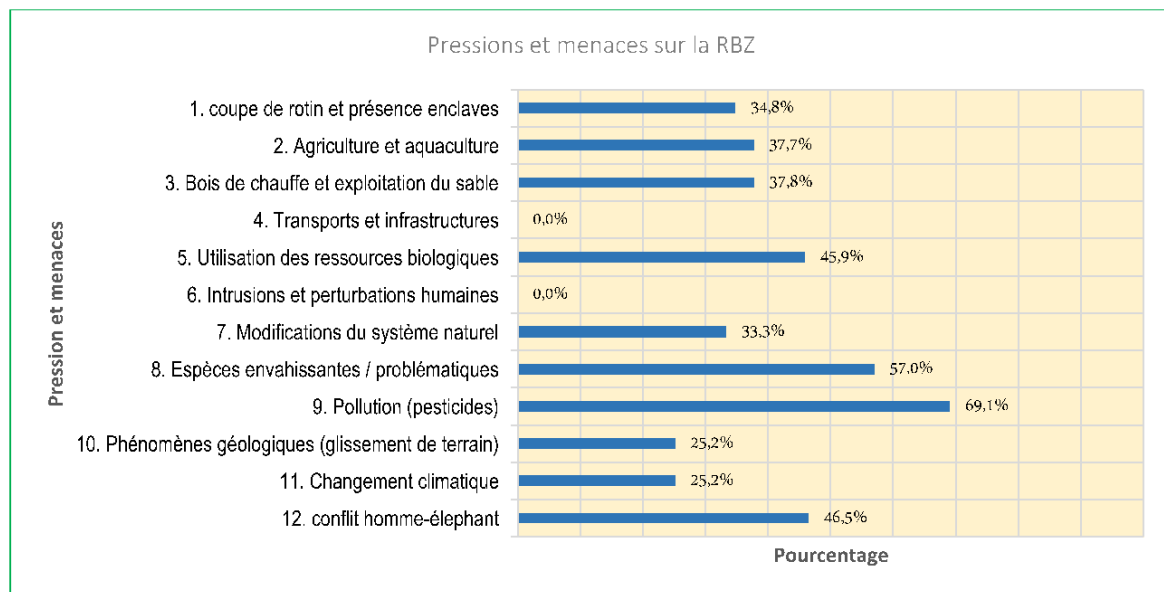
2 Massif du Ziam KBA (<https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6375>)

3 (2024) Rapport d'analyse d'efficacité de gestion de la RBZ exercice 2023.pdf. (avec l'appui technique et financier de l'Union Européenne FFI/ PAPFor)

Pressures and threats on the ZMBR

See Fig. 3.1 below (from IMET analysis)³.

Figure 1: Pressures and threats on the ZMBR



Graphique 3 : Différentes pressions et menaces sur la RBZ

Strategy and actions against threats

It is to face the threats cited above that a development and management plan (PAG) for the Reserve was prepared and adopted after consultation with all stakeholders⁴.

The vision of the ZMBR PAG for the 20-year horizon is to: 'Ensure the conservation of biological diversity, landscapes and participatory management of natural resources in RBZ and cross-border ecosystems in order to contribute to the fight against climate change for the well-being of local, national and international communities.

The mission enshrined in the PAG is the 'Protection of the biological diversity of the ZMBR, in collaboration with stakeholders including trans-boundary, by ensuring that all its zones fulfil their functions and their ecological, economic, socio-cultural and scientific values for the benefit of present and future generations.

⁴ (2020) Plan d'Amenagement et de Gestion (PAG) de la Reserve de Biosphere de Zياما (2020-2029). Ministere de l'Environnement, des eaux et forets: Centre forestier de N'Zerekore Guinea

To achieve the vision of the ZMBR, the mission of the PAG must be translated into the following major actions:

1. The structural organization and commitment of qualified and well-trained people to steer the shared management of the ZMBR;
2. Maintaining the territorial integrity of the RBZ and its functions and values while respecting the requirements of its international status as a Biosphere Reserve and its model of shared governance;
3. Preserving the quality of its forest and aquatic ecosystems so as to maintain viable animal and plant populations in ecologically stable states with a view in particular to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable agricultural production and the development of tourism potential;
4. The development of research and biological monitoring activities for better knowledge of the potential of the RBZ with a view to guiding its management;
5. The development of wood and non-wood forest products with a view to reducing poverty in local communities;
6. Promoting the traditional knowledge of local communities;
7. The involvement of local communities in the governance of the Reserve for ownership and sustainability of actions.
8. The application of the principle of equity with a view to the redistribution of income among local populations
9. Environmental education of populations, particularly women and young people
10. Openness without discrimination to cooperation with all national and international partners
11. Strengthening the mechanism for coordinating the activities of partner actors through an operational coordination committee 'CCO' to ensure transparency in the circulation of a good flow of information.
12. Sub-regional and regional cooperation mechanisms and the development of transboundary cooperation.

Institutional framework for the development and management of the ZMBR

The RBZ reports to the N'Zérékoré Forestry Centre which is responsible for managing the classified forests of the forest region, notably Diécké, Béro, classified massifs of Pic de Fon, Yonon, Banan and Bonama. See Map 3 below.

The public structures directly concerned with the development and management of the RBZ are mainly attached to the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests (now MEDD) and work in direct collaboration with the N'Zérékoré Forestry Centre. These include:

1. the Strategy and Development Office with the mission of coordinating, designing and developing development policies, strategies and programmes of the Ministry in charge of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and ensuring their monitoring.
2. the National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife (DNFF/MEDD) whose mission is the implementation of the Government's environmental policy, by monitoring forests and wildlife and ensuring monitoring of implementation.
3. the National Environment Directorate whose mission is to implement the Government's environmental policy and to ensure its monitoring.
4. the Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves (OGPRNF) which is responsible for the management of terrestrial and marine protected areas as well as certain nature reserves.
5. the General Directorate of Nature Conservators whose mission is the management of the body of conservationists and support to the OGPRNF in the monitoring of forests and protected areas.
6. Simandou Management Centre (CEGENS); which has the mission of coordination, promotion of activities to protect the World Heritage Site and the sustainable development of the biological and plant resources of the Nimba and Simandou Mountains range and their zones of influence in particular the buffer zones and transition areas.
7. the Guinean Timber Office (OGUIB) whose mission is to implement the Government's policy in terms of transport, processing, preservation, marketing and use of timber and derivatives;
8. prefectural sections of the DNFF which represent and execute the mission of their national leadership in the prefectures;
9. forestry cantonments at the sub-prefectural level which represent and execute the mission of their national management in the prefectures.

Map 3: Classified Forests of Guinea Forestière managed by the N'Zérékoré Forestry Centre

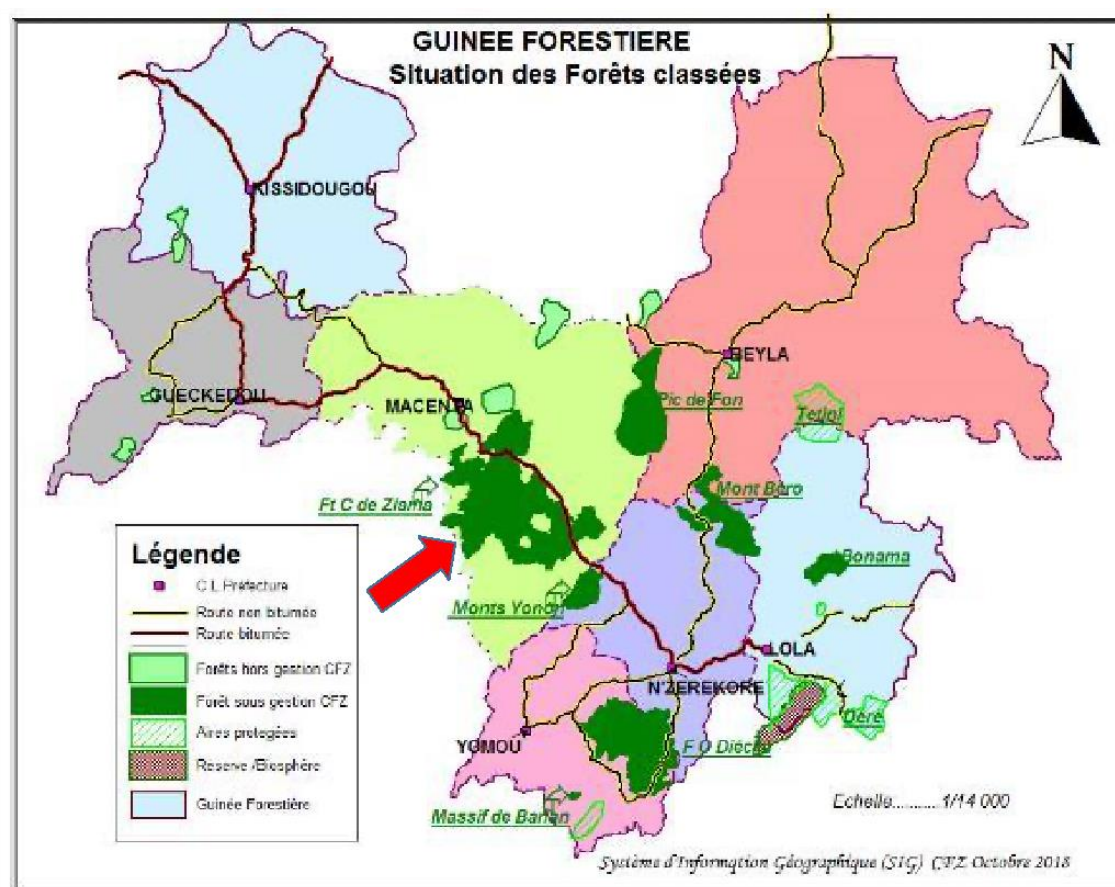


Figure 7 : Carte des forêts classées de la région forestière sous gestion du CFZ

ZMBR partners

The main current technical or financial partners of the ZMBR are:

1. **Fauna and Flora (FF)** International intervenes in research, ecological monitoring, capacity building and equipment of administrative infrastructures, community conservation, income-generating activities and awareness raising. monitoring and surveillance.

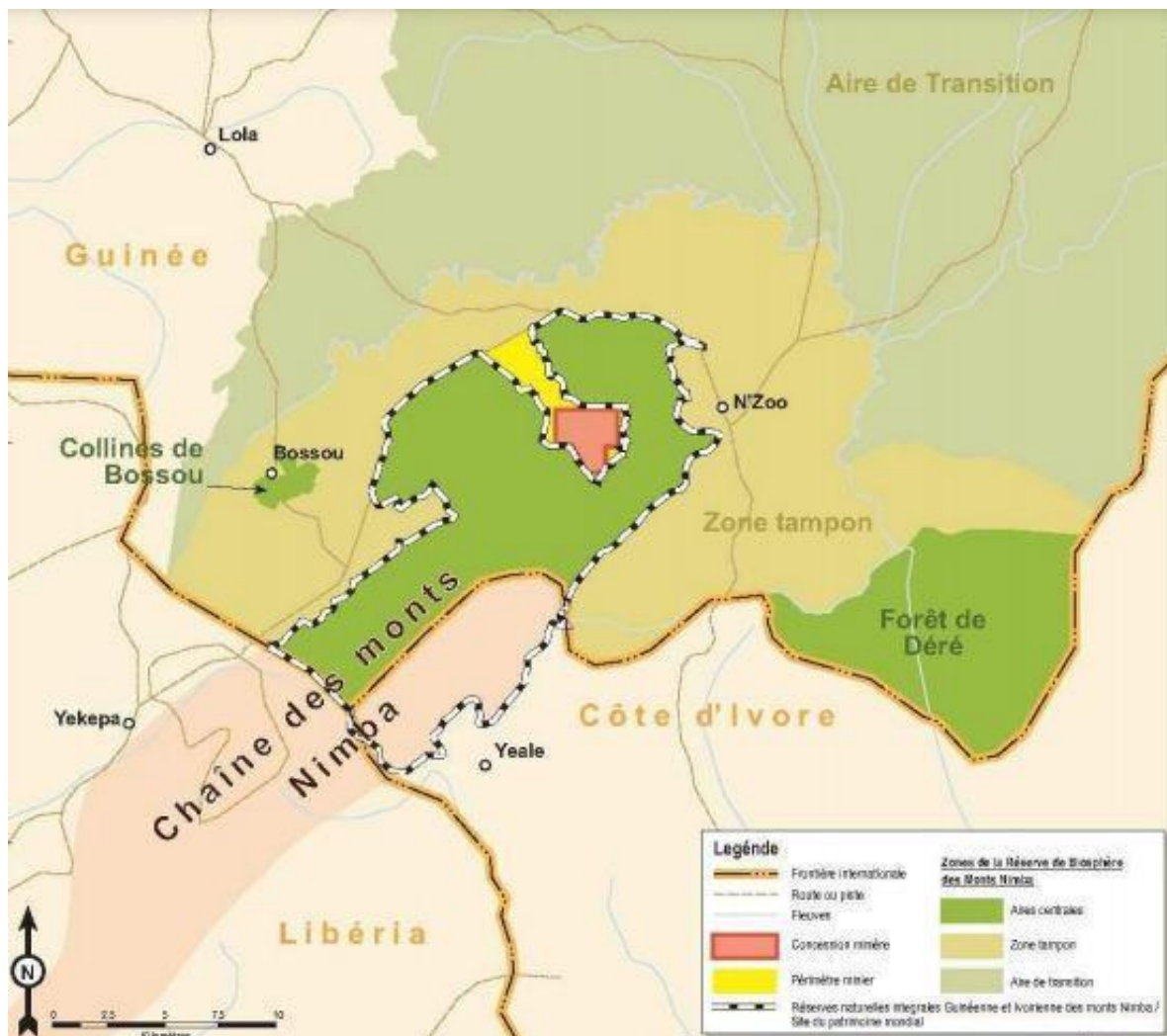
2. **Mano-River (GEF-IUCN)** also intervenes in community conservation (relations with communities, development of promising sectors, product certification, obtaining approvals and labels on cash crops), restoration and regeneration landscapes.
3. **Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)**. Its global mission is to monitor the killing of elephants. At the RBZ level, the MIKE Project supports patrols for the location and management of elephant carcasses, the training of forest guards and the provision of office and field equipment.
4. **GRET** has been present in Guinea since 1995 and works in collaboration with local authorities and civil society organizations on management of natural resources, food security, value chains and land governance and rights, including around Ziama with other NGOs FF and Guinée Ecologie to implement the current EU PAPFor and AFD programmes.
5. European Union/PAPFor (UNOPS) intervenes in the consolidation and extension on a national scale of the operationalization of the Paramilitary Corps of Conservationists of Nature (CPCN) within the framework of the Security Sector Reform (RSS) and PARSS 3-Component Environment, allowing an improvement in the sustainable management of renewable natural resources promoting a social and economic climate and environmental security around protected areas. The RBZ is one of these protected areas, it is supported by the EU in all management programmes in particular: protection, ecological monitoring, ecotourism, planning, training and monitoring-evaluation as well as in relations with local residents. It also provides the RBZ with materials and equipment for better operation.

3.1.1.2. Nimba Mountains Biosphere Reserve (MNBR)

The Monts Nimba Biosphere Reserve (MNBR), including the Bossou Corridor, is located in the prefecture of Lola, in all or part of the territories of the sub-prefectures of Bossou, N'Zoo, Tounkarata, Gama-Béréma and the urban commune of Lola Centre. (See maps 4 and 5 below + <https://www.protectedplanet.net/3027>)

Located on the borders between Guinea and Ivory Coast, (to the west), and Liberia, (to the south-east), around 7°25' - 7°35' N, 8°20' - 8°30' W, the Nimba Mountains form a mountain range, oriented Northeast – South. The massif belongs to the Guinean Dorsal, with peaks which culminate between 1,500 m and 1,752 m altitude at Mont Richard- Molard. With an area of 145,200 hectares, the MNBR has a structure which includes three core (strictly protected) areas (Monts Nimba, Bossou and Déré), a buffer zone and a transition area.

Map 4: Geographical position and zoning of the MNBR Reserve.



Climate

The annual rainfall in the Nimba Mountains varies between 1,700 and 2,600mm with September as the rainiest month. The single dry season is from November, and sometimes December, to February.

Hydrography of the region

The Nimba Mountains constitute the headwaters of nearly 40 permanent rivers which are tributaries of the Cavally River which flows towards neighbouring Ivory Coast while constituting the border with Liberia. These watercourses are permanent thanks to the groundwater coming from the heights of the massif.

Vegetation

The MNBR is considered one of the priority areas for the conservation of global biodiversity due to its high degree of endemism. It is home to great biological diversity with nearly 85% of the species constituting Guinea's biodiversity, i.e. 3,482 animal species observed in different biotopes including 698 species of vertebrates and 2,784 species of invertebrates (2,545 species of insects) and 239 species of crustaceans, molluscs, arachnids, oligochaetes and myriapods).

The classification of this mountain range as a Biosphere Reserve aims to achieve;

1. The conservation of watersheds dependent on the various rivers which have their source there; the conservation of biodiversity and protection of the environment;
2. The promotion of development and/or scientific research;

3. Environmental education;
4. Continuous monitoring of the environment.

1. Central (core) areas

The central areas are strictly protected and prohibited from all human activities, except for scientific purposes or as part of development operations authorized by the Ministry in charge of the Environment, Water and Forests and Sustainable Development (MEDD). They must be managed sustainably in order to achieve conservation and sustainable development objectives. These areas must ensure the conservation of biodiversity and the preservation of animal and plant species, fragile ecosystems and threatened or disappearing habitats.

1. **The central area of the Nimba Mountains (12,540 ha)**, a World Heritage Site, includes the Guinean part of this mountain range with the exception of the mining zone (1,550 ha) located in the buffer zone. It is made up of a set of high peaks such as: Richard Mollard (1,752 m), Sempere (1,650 m), Pierre Richaud (1,611 m), Leclerc (1,568 m) and the Monts Génies (1,531 m). This area, which is one of the priority sites for the conservation of the biodiversity of the forest ecosystems of Upper Guinea, presents exceptionally rich floral and faunal diversity.
2. **The central area of Bossou (320 ha)** is made up of a set of hills (also called chimpanzee hills) of low altitude surrounded by savannahs. With the exception of the Gban hill which is covered by an evolved secondary forest with some relics of low and medium altitude forests, no hillside or summit is spared from agricultural and hunting activities. However, the chimpanzees are sacred to the inhabitants of Bossou and therefore enjoy traditional protection. A green corridor and monitoring project for these primates is being undertaken jointly by the Japanese and Guinean governments, represented respectively by the KUPRI and IREB institutions, aiming to connect the forests of Bossou to that of Nimba at the level of the villages of Nion and Seringbara, this in the hope that it will serve as a forested migration corridor for chimpanzees and other wildlife species.
3. **The classified forest of Déré (8,920 ha)** which is a transboundary forest limited to the east by the border between Guinea and Ivory Coast, formerly suffered a very pronounced anthropogenic influence with a degradation of almost 90% of the forest. In this regard, it required strong involvement from the State and partners (UNOPS) as well as collaboration with the Ivorian government to evict the occupants from this forest. However, despite this significant degradation of vegetation, the Déré zone contains in addition to these forest islands some relics of low altitude plains, high altitude forests, hills, swamp forests and secondary forests which still shelter a wealth flora and fauna of conservation importance.
4. **The buffer zone:** This is an area where activities are strictly controlled and subject to increased surveillance in order to ensure rational and sustainable management of natural resources. The exploitation of forest products, hunting and fishing are strictly regulated, as is the use of fire for clearing. It is designed as an experimentation area for the development of new cultivation methods and learning about small livestock farming, the promotion of nurseries and forest plantations. The buffer zone covers an area of 35,140 ha, including the mining zone and has nearly twenty villages whose populations live from agriculture, livestock breeding, hunting, fishing and gathering. Most border villages have in the past recorded an influx of refugees who have exerted very strong pressure on biodiversity and forest ecosystems.
5. **The transition area:** It is larger (88,280 ha) and shelters most of the villages in the Nimba Mountains region. This highly degraded area which is subject to very high human pressure serves as a focus for the development of pilot activities initiated in the buffer zone. *(See Maps 3 and 4)*

❖ Wildlife

The great diversity of habitats of the Reserve with its numerous niches allows the property to shelter on the one hand more than 317 species of vertebrates including 107 mammals, and on the other hand more than 2,500 species of invertebrates. Several species are endemic to Mount Nimba or West Africa. This is particularly the case of two species of freshwater crabs (*Liberonautes lugbe* (CR) and *Liberonautes nimba* (VU)), of a species of dragonfly (*Paragomphus kiautai*) and the unique viviparous toad (*Nimbaphrynoides occidentalis* (CR)), all endemic to Mount Nimba. There are also two species of mammals endemic to the sub-region, namely the micropotamogale (*Micropotamogale lamottei*) and the bat *Hipposideros lamottei* (CR) (Monadjem et al. 2016). These latter authors recently assessed the bat richness of Mount Nimba at 97 species. The site also contains emblematic species such as chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus* (CR)) capable of using tools. The reserve is home to very important flora, with a dense forest covering the base of the massif up to 1,000 m above sea level, replaced higher up by a mountain forest rich in epiphytes. More than 2,000 species of vascular plants, several of which are endemic or near-endemic, have been recorded there (World Heritage Committee, 2012; Marshall & Hawthorne, 2013).

A total of 132 species of mammals are known from the Nimba Mountains region, including 18 species of particular interest for conservation, including 9 with restricted distribution, one species with a disjunct range and three species endemic to Nimba. This includes large mammals such as the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), the buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*), the bush hog (*Potamochoerus porcus*) and duikers (*Céfalophes niger*, *C. sylvicultor*, *C. dorsalis*, *C. monticola maxwelli*). Certain species such as the panther (*Panthera pardus*), the Bongo (*Tragelaphus euryceros*) and the pygmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*), formerly reported in the region, have very likely disappeared today. Some 66 species of amphibians are known from the Nimba Mountains, with 19 species of particular conservation interest and 7 endemic species (*Arthrolepis nimbaensis*, *Schoutedenella* (*Arthrolepis*) *crusculum*, *Nimbaphrynoides liberiensis*, *Nimbaphrynoides occidentalis*, *Hyperolius nimbae*, *Phrynobatrachus annulatus* and *Amnirana occidentalis*). Two species (*Nimbaphrynoides liberiensis* and *Nimbaphrynoides occidentalis*) are Critically Endangered, three (*Amnirana occidentalis*, *Arthrolepis crusculum* and *Phrynobatrachus annulatus*) Endangered and one Vulnerable (*Conraua allen*).

1. Flagship, threatened or endemic species

Table 3 below drawn up by Fauna and Flora (reference, year?) presents the list of flagship threatened and endemic fauna species chosen as indicators of the protected area during a participatory evaluation.

Table 3: Flagship, threatened or endemic species

Espèces	Statut				Estimation population
	Phare	Menacée	Endémique	Exploitée	
<i>Pan troglodytes</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Nimbaphrynoides occidentalis</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Micropotamogale lamottei</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Hyperolius zonatus</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Crocidura nimbae</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Hipposideros lamonte</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Caracal aurata</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Phataginus tetradactyla</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Chiloglanis lamottei</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Aplocheilichthys nimbaensis</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Neolemonniera clitandrifolia</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Kigelia africana</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Okoubaka aubrevillei</i>					Données Inventaire FFI 2012
<i>Picdenia stomp africana</i>					

However, 12 years after the inventories carried out by FF, the few ecological monitoring reports produced by the current managers of the MNBR do not confirm the continued presence of many of these conservation target species. It is not clear whether the species are no longer there or is it because the conservationists do not know how to identify them due to lack of data collection or weakness of specific patrols on this subject. Hence the need (identified in this project preparation) to redo the inventories, which should normally be repeated at minimum every 4 or 5 years. Training and support is also required for current teams on the identification of species, setting up an ecological monitoring system and a database with geographical references for all scientific data collected on the site.

2. Pressure or threats

MNBR managers cite bushfires as one of the most serious threats to the entire World Heritage Site and the survival of upland grasslands and forests. These repetitive bush fires caused by hunters to facilitate hunting and poaching, and by livestock herders to encourage the regrowth of fresh grass in areas suitable for grazing, are the basis of the gradual conversion of wooded formations into grassy formations. Other significant threats (in addition to the occupation of enclaves) include pressures from road construction, small-scale grazing and livestock operations, small-scale timber exploitation, frequency and intensity of fires, demographic pressure, exploitation of mines and quarries, uncontrolled urbanization, and use of herbicides and pesticides in agriculture, exacerbated by underemployment of local residents.

3. Ecosystem services

The ecosystem services provided by the MNBR include provisioning services (food, medicinal plants, construction materials and energy), regulation services and cultural services. According to the last national census of 2014, the population around the reserve amounts to 171,561 people. Agriculture is the primary activity practiced by this population and mobilizes on average 80% of the total population. It is considered the leading cause of deforestation, degradation of plant cover and forest ecosystems in the Nimba Mountains region. The Nimba Mountains region is full of numerous NTFPs, several of which are used by local populations for their subsistence or for sale.

The situation of the Mount Nimba integral nature reserve remains very worrying, under the combined effect of poaching, uncontrolled bush fires and increasing anthropogenic pressure on the periphery of the site, which contributes to its progressive ecological isolation. These pressures are all the more problematic as the buffer zone is poorly functional or even non-existent. Several mining projects adjacent to the boundaries of the site in Guinea pose a significant potential threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, with possible

cumulative effects which have not been assessed. The indirect consequences of mining activities would be the opening of railways for the export of ore and the influx of populations. Although they have been strengthened in recent years, monitoring resources remain insufficient and remain very dependent on contributions from international cooperation.

Furthermore, there is a lack of a management system common to the entire property, as well as a system for ecological monitoring of the main values and capitalization of naturalist inventories. There is no global participatory management system for communities in conservation actions and these do not generate sufficient alternative income to reduce pressure on natural resources.

Payment for ecosystem services (PES), which is an innovative financing mechanism that offers economic incentives to farmers and forest owners in exchange for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, is a new mechanism, not yet practiced in Guinea. The Guinean government has undertaken to explore all possible PES mechanisms by identifying opportunities or risks that could hinder their implementation; by organizing public hearings to facilitate community ownership and empower them. Furthermore, PES should go beyond simple compensation for shortfalls in order to encourage farmers to conserve trees, reforest and protect existing forests. Priority should be given to the following actions: (i) the restoration and safeguarding of ecosystems which provide essential services, in particular water and contribute to health, the means of livelihood and well-being, linked to the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and poor and vulnerable populations; and (ii) improving the resilience of ecosystems and the contribution of biological diversity to carbon stocks.

1. Socio-economic context

3.1.2.1 Guinea Forestière Region

Guinea Forestière is a primarily rural region. **N'Zérékoré**, the capital of Guinea's Forestière region, boasts a diverse population of approximately 1.9 million people, comprising ethnic groups such as Kpelle (Guerzé), Köno, Manon, Kissi, Konianké, Malinké, and Toma. Over 75% of the inhabitants depend on agriculture, which suffers from low productivity due to limited technical know-how and insufficient capital investment. An estimated 836,000 people, or 45% of the region's population, live below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day⁵.

The Nzérékoré administrative region is divided into six prefectures, including Lola Prefecture, which comprises the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve, and Macenta Prefecture, home to the Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve.

3.1.2.2 Lola Prefecture and the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve

Lola Prefecture makes up approximately 10% of the Nzérékoré administrative region's territory and comprises 8.3% of its population. It is home to a little over 200,000 people. The predominant ethnic groups in Lola are the Konon, Manon, and Konianké with smaller groups including Guérézé, Malinké, Toma, Kissi, Soussou, Peulhs, Kpelè and Yacouba⁶. The area is characterized by social volatility due to its permeable international borders and historical waves of cross-border migration.

Between 2000 and 2020, Lola lost 15% of its total tree cover, with the deforestation rate accelerating significantly since 2015. If current trends continue, Lola could lose all its tree cover within 50 years. The Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve, located in the southern part of the prefecture and bordering Côte d'Ivoire to the east and southeast and Liberia to the south, remains Lola's last major stronghold for forest conservation.

⁵ <https://gadm.org/>

⁶ CR de Bossou PDL 2022-2026 ; CR de N'Zoo PDL 2022-2026 ; CR de Tounkarata PDL 2022-2026
CR de Gama-Béréma PDL 2016-2020 ; Commune de Lola PDL 2017-2022

Lola prefecture is divided into nine sub-prefectures, with five—Bossou, N’Zoo, Tounkarata, Lola and Gama Berema—overlapping with the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve. These five sub-prefectures are further divided into over 44 villages (referred to as 'districts'). Additionally, the Urban Commune of Lola counts 12 administrative neighborhoods (referred to as 'quartiers') designated for its urbanized areas. The total population of the 5 communes is around 115.00 people (see Table 4

**Table 4: Five Rural communities encompassing the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve
Lola Prefecture**

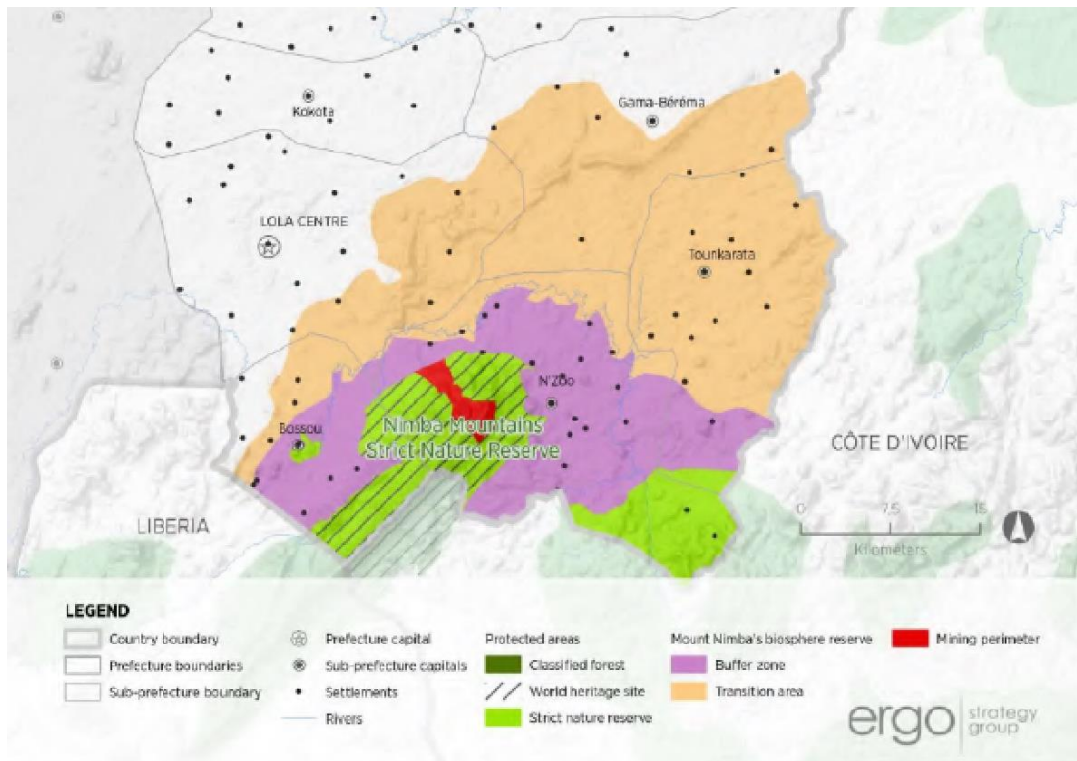
Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve

N°	Village (district et/ou secteur)	No People	Municipality (Communes Rurales/Sous Prefectures)
1	Bossou	4075	Bossou
2	Thuo	1928	
3	Nyon	952	
4	Serengbara	969	
5	Thèassou	1806	
6	Gbah	1505	
7	Soromiata I	796	
8	Soromiata II	733	
9	Gbènèmou	1557	
10	Doromou	3975	
11	Gaah	4963	N’Zoo
12	Gbakoré	3667	
13	Kéoulenta	3653	
14	N’Zoo I	4492	
15	N’Zoo II	4751	
16	Piné	1614	Gama-béréma
17	Guélémata	2177	
18	Fanghan	6046	
19	Kassieta	2234	
20	Gbata	1517	
21	Gama	5904	
22	Tounkarata	44571	
23	Bouzouta	1468	

24	Iro	1834	
25	Kogota	1308	Toungkarata
26	Kpinita	1219	
27	Seyta	1526	
28	Gbeckè	963	
29	Dirita	1149	
30	Gogota *	1987	
31	Weyakore*	2037	
32	Balémou	1521	
34	Gama Koni- Koni	1982	
35	Gama Yalé	1546	
36	Gbeckè	1672	
37	Gogota I	1453	Commune Urbaine Lola (excluding 12 'quartiers')
38	Gogota II	1534	
39	Göh	1158	
40	Lömou	812	
41	N'Zon	2131	
42	Togbanata	1379	
43	Zougouéta I	3668	
44	Zougouéta II	1586	

It is important to note that not all of these villages are situated within the boundaries of the Biosphere Reserves (see Map 3.5). The most important villages are in the sub-prefectures of Bossou and N'zoo, and a small portion of Lola, as they border the Reserves' core areas and have the strongest overlap with the buffer zone. A part of the villages in the sub-prefectures of Toungkarata and Gama Berema overlap with the transition zone.

Map 5: Southern part of Lola Prefecture with Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve (showing core (green), buffer (purple) and transition zone (light brown). The project focusses on villages in the buffer zone and a number of villages in the transition zone).



Economy

Subsistence agriculture is the main economic occupation in Lola, with salaried employment being very scarce. The vast majority of the rural population is engaged in agriculture. Public sector jobs provide incomes to 10% of households in Lola Centre but only 3% in rural villages.

Rice is the main staple crop, cultivated mostly on unirrigated land (rain-fed rice cultivation), resulting in seasonal production. Consequently, farmers often need to purchase rice for consumption for up to five months a year. Other important food crops include cassava and maize, which, despite their relatively small volumes, contribute 40% and 60% of the regional production, respectively. Peanuts, oil palm, and coffee are the main cash crops, particularly around the Nimba Mountains. However, productivity remains very low, and local processing is minimal.

Livestock farming is a secondary activity practiced extensively using traditional methods, with limited intervention by technical services. Annual livestock census and vaccination campaigns are conducted, but livestock remains unquantified due to poor organization among farmers. Fishing is practiced by a minority and is entirely traditional, conducted year-round using traditional lines and nets. Hunting is minimally practiced due to the scarcity of wildlife, but it provides local meat, utilizing hunting rifles, dogs, traps, and collective hunts.

Agricultural activities in Lola follow a distinct calendar. During the hot dry season (March to May), fields are identified, cleared, and prepared. The rainy season (June to October) is the main growing period for important food crops such as rice, maize, and cassava. The cool dry season (November to February) is typically reserved for market gardening.

3.1.2.3 Macenta Prefecture & Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserve

Macenta is a prefecture located in the Nzérékoré Region of Guinea. The prefecture covers an area of 7,056 km² and had an estimated population of 342,165 inhabitants in 2021 (15% of the population of Forest Guinea). The prefecture experienced significant population movements in the 1990s and 2000s due to the arrival and then departure of refugees fleeing conflicts in Liberia (1989-2003), Sierra Leone (1991-2002), and Côte d'Ivoire (2002-2007). The prefecture was an epicentre of the Ebola crisis in 2014-2015.

The prefecture is divided administratively into 10 sub-prefectures of which five - Fassankoni, N'Zébélé, Sérédou, Oremai and Singbedou - encompass the Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserve (ZMBR). Divided over these five sub prefectures, a total of 32 villages are situated in the transition zone of the biosphere reserve (see Table 5 and Map 6).

Table 5: Sub-prefectures and targeted communities of the Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserve

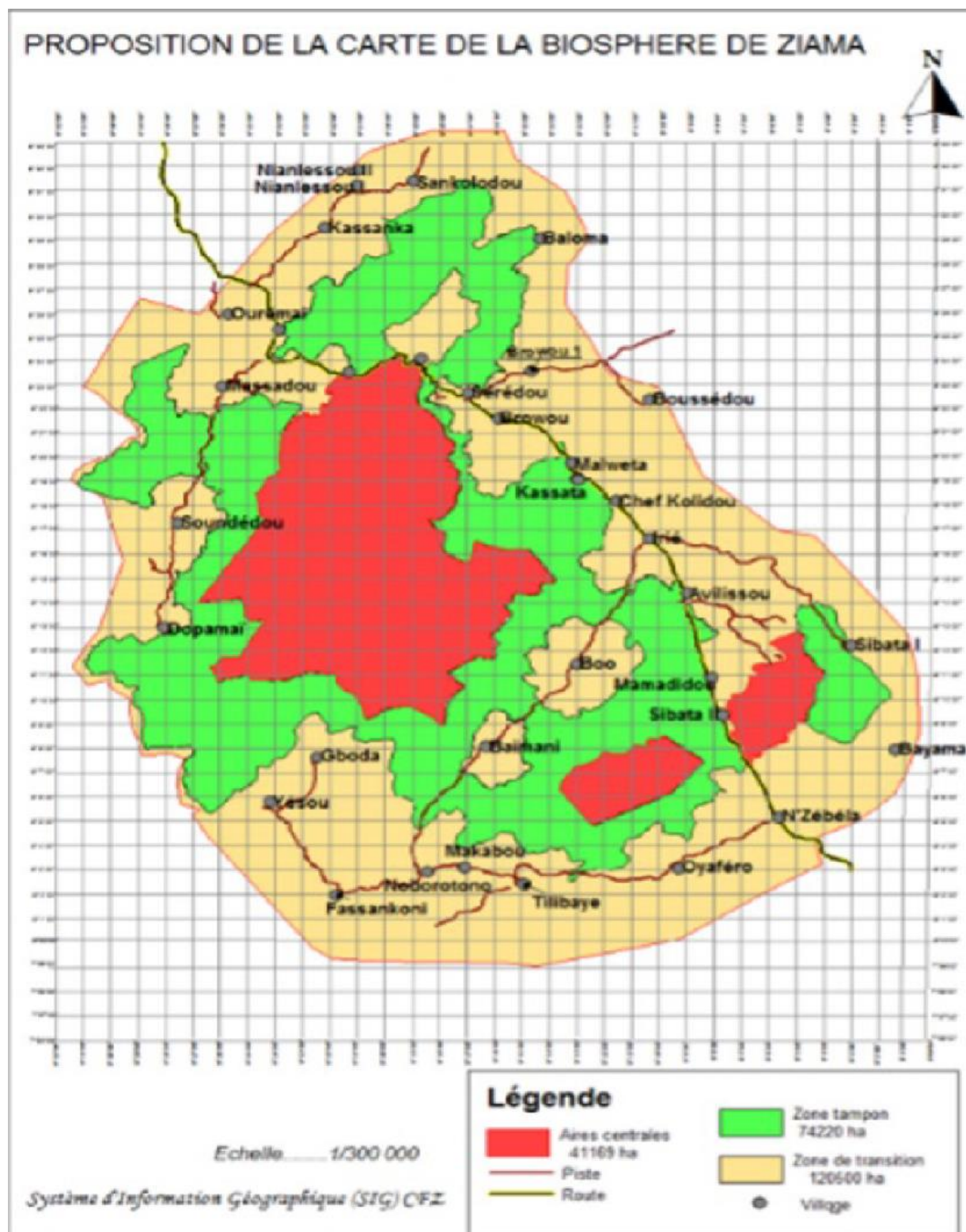
Prefecture of Macenta

Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserve

N°	Village (district et/ou secteur)	No People	Municipality (Communes Rurales/Sous Prefectures)
1	N'Zébélé centre	6163	N'Zébélé
2	Bayamah	4635	
3	Oyafero	4350	
4	Sibata I	2002	
5	Sibata II	3195	
6	Iyessou	3161	
7	Kpoda	2093	
8	Noborotono	3303	Fassankoni
9	Baimani	1061	
10	Makabou	2065	
11	Tilibaye	4992	
12	Oremai	1979	
13	Waleno	342	
14	Yomai	1225	
15	Massadou	833	Oremai
16	Kassanka	3320	
17	Sedimai	1589	
18	Dopamai	871	
19	Zoboroma	2290	
20	Sanglomain centre	1630	
21	Nianlessou	1264	Sengbedou
22	Avlissou	3428	
23	Baloma Centre	657	

24	Boo	279	
25	Boussedou	4908	
26	Malewoita	561	Seredou
27	Kassata	?	
28	Irié	5301	
29	Chef kolidou	426	
30	Koima	3543	
31	Seredou	14148	
32	Balassou	509	

Map 6: Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve showing core areas (**red**), buffer zone (**green**) and transition zone (**light brown**). Targeted 32 villages are situated in the transition zone.
(Source Fauna & Flora / CFZ)



The current population of these 32 villages in the ZMBR is estimated at 90,000 inhabitants (a quarter of the population of the prefecture) with a density of 75 inhabitants per km². Half of the 32 villages have fewer than 2,000 inhabitants (350 for the smallest). Among the 5 sub-prefectures (rural communes) where the villages are distributed, Sérédou has the most villages (11) and concentrates 41% of the population, predominantly along the national road between Macenta and N'Zérékoré.

The villages are composed of various ethnic groups, including Toma (Loma on the Liberian side), Manian, Kpèlè, Kissi, and Manon. The Toma, who are the majority in the Macenta prefecture, are even more predominant (80%) in the communities bordering the ZMBR, followed by the Manian (13%). The Toma and Manian are the

main founding ethnic groups of the riparian villages of the ZMBR, which have gradually welcomed 'newcomers.' The most ethnically heterogeneous villages appear to be the largest ones along the national road between Macenta and N'Zérékoré.

The Ziama landscape owes its characteristics to the presence of dense, humid forests that allow the development of cash crops within hillside agroforests (mainly coffee), marked by the presence of self-seeded palm trees (*Dura* variety)⁷. This climate is also favorable for upland rice cultivation, practiced in association with other annual crops on hillsides using the traditional slash-and-burn system. The area also harbours small low-lying wetlands that began to be used for flooded rice cultivation and market gardening in the 1990s in response to declining upland rice yields, linked to the reduction of fallow periods.

Agriculture is the main source of income for the vast majority (90%) of households living within the ZMBR, far ahead of trade (17%) and tilling. Both urban and rural households practice mainly food crops - rice (67.4%) and about a third (31.7%) cash crops (coffee, cocoa, palm oil, rubber, cola) or market gardening (37.3%). Most of households report having only one source of income. Cultivated areas are small (land pressure) and yields are low (lack of land fertility, water control, development or infrastructure) regardless of the crop. This unsustainable production system linked with a complex land tenure system means that many farmers are landless and pushed to look for the arable land inside the buffer and core areas of the reserve. Farmers grow crops in some of the lowlands of the buffer zones and some have coffee trees in the fully protected areas. All the communities raise small ruminants for their own consumption such as poultry and pigs, but hunting remains an important source of protein and a traditional practice.

Credit is used by 71% of households in the Macenta prefecture. This high rate is explained by the need for the poorest households to go into debt to buy basic foodstuffs, leading them either to mortgage their future harvests or to sell their labor to repay their debt. Food insecurity affects 50% of households in the prefecture, placing it above the average for Forest Guinea (41.4%), the region with the most concerning situation in the country, with 6.1% of households in severe food insecurity⁸. This food insecurity particularly affects children: 38% of children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition (very close to the critical threshold defined by the WHO⁹) and a third of infant mortality is due to malnutrition.

The increasing land pressure in the agroforestry zone, which no longer allows all households to access land, is fueling a phenomenon of individualization and commercialization of land rights (historically belonging to the founding families of the villages). This is manifested by the expansion of cash crops (a means of appropriating family lands but also securing land in the absence of land titles) at the expense of food crop areas. This phenomenon can benefit women and young people who traditionally only have usufruct rights over family lands.

3.1.2.4 Gender

Women and girls in Guinea face significant barriers to accessing the same opportunities as men, according to a recent World Bank report, *'Unlocking Women's and Girls' Potential: The Status of Women and Girls Relative to Men and Boys in Guinea'*¹⁰. Guinea, ranked 182 out of 191 in the United Nations Development Programme's Gender Inequality Index in 2021, is one of the most unequal countries in the world in terms of gender.¹¹

The social milieu in both Biosphere Reserves, regardless of ethnic group, is mainly gerontocratic and phallogocratic. It is thus characterised by the traditional domination of the elderly over the young and men over

7 Étude de faisabilité du projet de conservation et d'aménagement de la RBZ ; AFD 2022

8 WFP, 2018. Analyse globale de la vulnérabilité, de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition (AGVSAN).

9 <https://www.who.int/data/nutrition/nlis/info/malnutrition-in-children>

10 (2022) De Paz Nieves, Carmen; Muller, Miriam; Mykytyshyn, Alina; Alia, Didier Yelognisse. *Unlocking Women's and Girls' Potential - The Status of Women and Girls Relative to Men and Boys in Guinea (English)*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

11 Human Development Indices: A statistical update (2022)

<https://data.un.org/DocumentData.aspx?q=Gender+inequality+index&id=471>

women. As the family generally owns land, its management is entrusted to the 'sages' (elderly men) and land is passed on from father to son. Women, however, have usufruct rights to all land in their own families and in their husbands' families. Women's access to land in rural areas is hampered by a number of factors, including the persistence of certain harmful customary practices, a lack of awareness of the law, women's lack of economic power and a general failure to comply with the law. There are still deep-rooted gender inequalities with regards to land ownership.

In addition, local inheritance practices generally do not allow women to inherit land unless they have no brothers. Otherwise, it is the brothers who inherit the land and who "out of kindness" may give part of it to their sisters. This practice, which discriminates against women, is in no way in line with Muslim prescriptions (despite the smaller share reserved for women) or with the various international treaties and laws applicable in Guinea. Another issue around women's rights is the local tradition of polygamy.

In the villages bordering the Biosphere Reserves, women's economic activities include market gardening, snail collection (in the forest), palm oil extraction, rice parboiling, and more recently pig farming and rice growing. As family labour, they are also involved in plot maintenance and harvesting, as well as post-harvest operations for coffee and cocoa. The 'gendered' distribution of activities can vary from one ethnic group to another, but also from one village to another, depending on economic opportunities and the household economy. An increasing number of women are working as agricultural laborers.

Positive developments for women in the Ziama area in recent years have been the development of lowland market gardening, for which women are organising themselves into groups, and the mechanisation of rice and coffee husking and palm nut crushing, which has improved their working conditions and income (increased extraction yields) and also given them greater institutional visibility.

Despite the efforts made by the Government to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of health services, the health situation of women remains critical. It is characterised by indicators that highlight the precariousness of the health of women of childbearing age in particular. Inequalities between men and women limit access to quality health services and contribute to avoidable morbidity and mortality rates in women and men throughout the lifespan. The low level of women's health indicators is largely due to gender inequalities that affect their social situation, limiting their level of education and information, and their power to make decisions about their reproductive health.

2. Institutional, sectoral and policy context

3.1.3.1. Institutional context

The state institutions concerned with the management of forest resources include:

1. **The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)**, which ensures the implementation of national policy relating to the environment. It plays a crucial role in legislative and regulatory production by giving its opinion on programmes, policies, strategies or texts relating to natural resources and the environment.
2. **The National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife (DNFF)**. The DNFF's mission is to develop and implement government policy in the areas of water and forests. It is responsible for: (i) defining, planning and implementing national strategies and programmes for the management of forest and wildlife resources; (ii) designing and implementing national programmes for the defense, restoration and conservation of water, forests and soils; (iii) designing and implementing national bush fire control programmes; (iv) coordinating, monitoring and executing public forest development programmes and projects; (v) coordinating the preparation of the public investment programme (PIP), public forestry development programmes and projects; (vi) coordinating the design and implementation of forest and wildlife resource inventory programmes; (vii) coordinating and following the procedure for approving development plans and their revision; (viii) coordinating the development and implementation of national reforestation programmes; (ix) coordinating the activities of rural forestry promotion centers and organize public awareness of forestry programmes; (x) coordinating the development and

dissemination of forestry extension educational materials; (xi) coordinating the implementation of the national action plan to combat desertification; (xii) coordinating the development and implementation of community village reforestation programmes; (xiii) coordinating the collection, processing and dissemination of data relating to the forest economy; (xiv) ensuring the application of agreements, treaties and conventions relating to forests and wildlife; (xv) ensuring compliance with programmes for the rational exploitation of forest and wildlife resources.

1. **The Guinean Office of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves (OGPNRF)** is a department of the central administration. It implements government policy regarding the in situ or ex-situ conservation of biological diversity and the enhancement of landscapes of interest, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries, areas of hunting interest, community conservation areas, or private conservation areas within national protected areas (national parks, wetlands, Ramsar sites).
2. **The Guinean Wood Office (OGUIB)**, whose mission is the implementation of policies regarding the preservation, industrial transformation, marketing and use of wood and wood products. It develops regulations in these areas and monitors their application; it ensures the promotion, organization and improvement of activities for the preservation, marketing and use of wood and its derivatives, as well as the monitoring and organization of wood professionals.
3. **The National Unit for Biological Diversity (UN Bio)** is a multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary consultative body responsible for promoting communication between stakeholders (consultation during data collection or analysis, or for decision-making), giving opinions (approval of work plans, general policy advice, examination of results) and monitoring various measures (planning frameworks, decisions, actions, projects) to ensure respect of the national environmental policy and integration of the obligations in relation to the CBD.
4. **The National Environmental Council (CNE)** is a consultative body for promotion, planning, coordination and harmonization responsible for formulating opinions on sectoral environmental policies. It assists the Ministry responsible for the the preparation of national environmental policy; coordinates and facilitates government action in environmental protection and development. It remains non-functional.
5. **Environmental Management Centre for Mounts Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS).** Created by Decree 95/007/PRG/SGG of January 16, 1995, CEGENS has its headquarters in the Prefecture of N' Zérékoré, in Forestry Guinea. But it was only on August 4, 2005, that its responsibilities were set out in Order No. 2005/04006/ME/CAB. CEGENS is the management body of the Monts Nimba Biosphere Reserve.
6. **Nzérékoré Forestry Center (CFZ).** The Nzérékoré Forestry Centre (CFZ) was created by Decree N°D/2004/50/PRG/SGG as a public establishment of an industrial and commercial nature. As set by this Decree, the CFZ's mission is the development of the humid forest areas of Forest Guinea and the sustainable management of all its resources in accordance with the legislation and regulations in force.

Other important complementary institutions such as the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, which includes the 'Man and the Biosphere' (MAB) Programme, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, the Ministry of Urban and Regional Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Mines and Geology, the Ministry of Public Works, are also concerned by the sustainable management of forests during the implementation of their sectoral activities.

1. **Decentralized structures**, such as regional or prefectural directorates (with their sections and branches) play important roles in management of forest resources at local levels.
2. **Customary institutions** such as the Council of Elders, made up of sector chiefs, landowners, religious leaders, traditional healers and hunters, depending on the locality. This institution is responsible for regulating all community activities, in particular regulations affecting forest management and all related elements: management of sacred or haunted places; cutting of woody and non-woody forest products; determination of prohibited and permitted actions and related sanctions; and management of certain conflicts.
3. **Associations, cooperatives or local environmental protection unions** approved by the State (timber sector, associations of hunters, healers and fetishists) ensure that, either on their own initiative or in partnership with the State, the communities local authorities or the private sector, participate in any

action of general interest relating to the protection of the environment, health and living environment (monitoring, control, organization).

4. **Local authorities**, or 'decentralized territorial entities', are mentioned in most codes and also have their roles and responsibilities, although they are very little involved in good forest governance.

3.1.3.1.2. Context of sectoral policies

Several sectoral policy texts are linked to the objectives that the Guinea Child Project intends to pursue. These include:

The National Environmental Policy (PNE)

The PNE notes that the environmental situation of the country is characterized by the continuous degradation of natural resources (deforestation, erosion and degradation of soils, pollution and nuisances, drying up and silting of waterways, loss of biodiversity, uncontrolled urbanization, mining, etc.) favoured and accelerated by the virtual absence of control mechanisms and a very strong impoverishment of the population in recent years. Unfortunately, the country has only weak capacity to deal with it. Since 1986, the Guinean authorities have become more aware of the need to plan and implement a strategy for the rational exploitation of natural resources and protection of the environment with a view to sustainable development of the country. To do this, the Government adopted a code on the protection and development of the environment, a National Action Plan for the Environment (PNAE), policies, strategies and sectoral action plans as well as several other legislative and regulatory texts.

The National Action Plan for the Environment (PNAE)

The PNAE was adopted by the Council of Ministers on September 24, 1994. It constitutes the national Agenda 21 and the basis of environmental policy. It occupies a pivotal position with the sectoral strategies which have an impact on the management of natural resources and is anchored on all previous sectoral strategies in particular the National Forestry Action Plan (PAFN), the Mangrove Development Plan (SDAM) and the Agricultural Development Policy Letter of 1991 (LPDA-1).

The fundamental principle underlying the PNAE is the integration of the environmental dimension into Guinea's economic and social development policies with two main objectives: the rational and sustainable management of natural resources and the definition or strengthening of sectoral policies. The PNAE is structured around five major intervention programmes: i) Rural programme: 5 projects, ii) Urban programme: 3 projects, iii) Sea and coastal programme: 2 projects, iv) Cultural and society programme: 3 projects and v) Capacity Building Programme: 9 projects. However, it has only been partially implemented due to institutional problems and lack of funding. Its updating was started in 1999 to take into account the new problems that arose following the massive influx of refugees into Lower Guinea and Forestry Guinea, but the updating process was not completed. Such a design, although logical and making it possible to embrace all aspects relating to environmental preservation, proved insufficient from the point of view of intersectoral coordination and monitoring of its implementation. The practical execution of each of the PNAE programmes was the responsibility of several ministerial departments which are more concerned with the implementation of the sectoral strategies developed within them than with those relating to the PNAE programmes.

The National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity

In September 2001, the Guinean Government adopted its National Strategy for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its resources with its Action Plan (NBSAP) (2011-2020). The objectives of the Strategy and Action Plan are conservation, sustainable use, general measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the strengthening of international cooperation. But funding for the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan from donors was not sufficient. Guinea has also prepared a National Biosecurity Framework and has a National Information Exchange Centre (BCH) on biological diversity.

The National Sustainable Development Strategy (SNDD)

The SNDD emphasizes that in the area of sustainable environmental management, policies, plans and strategies likely to establish sustainable management of the country's natural resources have been developed. However, in terms of implementation, these different instruments have not yet resulted in rational exploitation

and effective protection of natural resources. The same applies to policies and plans in the areas of health, hygiene and sanitation and education and the fundamental objectives of Education and Health for all are far from being guaranteed to all the country's children. Other policies and plans particularly in line with the NSDS also suffer from implementation difficulties despite their relevance. This is the case of the national housing policy and the Mining Code. In practice, uncontrolled urbanization is characteristic of all the country's large cities, contrary to the ambitions displayed by the government within the framework of the national urbanization policy. With regard to the Mining Code, to consider only aspects related to environmental management, ESIA's are actually carried out in accordance with the requirements of the regulations. Environmental management plans are being developed, but their implementation needs to be intensified and monitored. The SNDD supports these different sectoral policies and promotes their implementation through a common action framework integrating the challenges of sustainable development.

3.1.3.2. Legal Context

The legal framework applicable to the development and management of protected areas and their resources, including the Ziama and Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserves, includes national legal texts (legislative and regulatory texts) and sub-regional, regional and international legal texts concluded in the form of multilateral agreements to which Guinea is a party.

3.1.3.2.1. Sub-regional, regional and international legal texts

The Government of Guinea is also a signatory to several sub-regional, regional and international level commitments in the form of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). These MEAs relate either to the use of resources common to two or more States (rivers or lakes), or to the use of natural resources beyond the jurisdictions of the countries (oceans, fauna, flora outer space), or to complex problems such as pollution extending beyond borders. Relevant to the management of Biosphere Reserves are:

1. The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Adopted on August 15, 1968, in Algiers (Algeria), this convention entered into force on June 16, 1969. The Republic of Guinea has been a contracting party since December 12, 1989. Its objective is to improve environmental protection, promote conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, harmonize and coordinate policies in these areas.

2. The Migratory Locust Convention

Adopted on May 25, 1962, in Kano (Nigeria), this convention entered into force on April 13, 1963. The Republic of Guinea has been a Party since May 28, 1963.

3. The ECOWAS community framework

The national environmental policy is now integrated on the one hand into a sub-regional ECOWAS community framework and on the other hand, into the integration policies of the African Union (New Partnership for Africa's Development – NEPAD).

4. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Signed in Rio in June 1992, Guinea ratified the CBD on May 7, 1993. Its objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its elements and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the exploitation of genetic resources.

5. The Cartagena Protocol on the prevention of Biotechnological Risks

This Protocol was adopted on January 29, 2000, and Guinea ratified it in 2005. Its objective is to protect biological diversity and the environment as well as human and animal health from possible risks that may result from handling and use of genetically modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. It establishes a prior informed consent procedure to ensure that countries have the necessary information to make informed decisions before authorizing any import, handling and/or use of genetically modified organisms on their national territory.

6. Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization

Signed on December 9, 2011, Guinea has been a Contracting Party since January 5, 2015. This protocol applies to genetic resources that fall under the provisions of Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as to the benefits arising from the use of these resources. It also applies to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and the benefits arising from the use of this knowledge.

7. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Ratified by Guinea on May 7, 1993, its objective is to regulate the concentration levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere so as to avoid provoking climate change to a level that could prevent sustainable economic development or compromise food production initiatives.

8. The Kyoto Protocol

Ratified by Guinea on October 25, 2005, and promulgated on December 5, 2007. It aims to reduce emissions of six GHGs by at least 5% between 2008 and 2012 compared to the 1990 level. These gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and three substitutes for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

9. The Convention to Combat Desertification

Guinea has been a party since April 19, 1997. Its objective is to fight against desertification and to ensure that the effects of drought are mitigated in countries seriously affected by drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through measures effective at all levels supported by international cooperation arrangements, as part of an integrated approach compatible with the Agenda21 programme, with a view to contributing to the establishment of sustainable development in affected areas.

10. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or Washington Convention

It came into force in 1975, and Guinea acceded to it in 1981. The purpose of this Convention is to control and regulate the trade in specimens of endangered plants and animals with regard to their importation, export, re-export and introduction.

11. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance particularly as Waterbird Habitat (Ramsar Convention)

Guinea has been a Contracting Party since September 24, 1992. This Convention aims to stop the progressive encroachment and loss of wetlands for the present and the future, while recognizing the fundamental roles of wetlands and their economic value, cultural, scientific and leisure.

12. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals or Bonn Convention

Guinea has been a Party to this Convention since September 24, 1992. Its objective is to promote the conservation of migratory species in their natural habitats.

13. The Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

Its objective is to recognize certain places, natural or cultural, as sites of sufficient importance for the international community as a whole to assume responsibility for them. The Convention aims to identify, protect, conserve, enhance and transmit to future generations the cultural and natural heritage which is considered to have exceptional universal value. Guinea has been a Contracting Party since June 18, 1979.

1. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

Guinea ratified the IUCN on September 24, 1992. The IUCN aims to: secure the conservation of nature, in particular, biological diversity, as an essential foundation for the future; when the planet's natural resources are used, guarantee that this use is rational, equitable and sustainable; guide the development of human communities towards lifestyles that are both high quality and in lasting harmony with the other elements of the biosphere.

3.1.3.2.2. National legal framework

In Guinea, the legal basis for environmental protection finds its foundation in the constitution which devotes four (4) articles to this subject:

- Article 16 states that "every person has the right to a healthy and sustainable environment and has the duty to defend it. The State ensures the protection of the environment";
- Article 17 specifies that "the transit, importation, storage, dumping on the national territory of toxic or polluting waste and any agreement relating thereto constitutes a crime against the nation..."
- Article 21 indicates that "the People of Guinea have an inalienable right to their natural riches. These must benefit all Guineans equitably. All have the right to the preservation of heritage, culture and their environment."
- article 119 according to which "There is high treason when the President of the Republic is recognized as the author, co-author or accomplice of acts detrimental to the maintenance of a healthy, sustainable environment favorable to development".

Other Key Legislation includes:

2. Environmental Protection and Development Code

The environmental code promulgated by Ordinary Law L/2019/0034/AN of July 4, 2019, on the Environmental Code of the Republic of Guinea prescribes rational management of fauna and flora with a view to preserving species animals and plants, their genetic heritage and their natural environments. To this end, all activities likely to affect them are either prohibited or regulated. It establishes the principle of special and strict protection of the national forest and wildlife heritage in the interest of present and future generations.

3. Law L/95/51/CTRN of August 29, 1995 relating to the Pastoral Code

Article 70 of this Law indicates that any exploitation of natural resources for pastoral purposes must take into consideration the need to protect the environment.

4. Law L/95/046/CTRN of August 29, 1995 on the Livestock and Animal Products Code

This legislation contains provisions concerning animal feed and fodder which can only be imported after authorization from the Minister of Livestock following a conformity check carried out by an approved laboratory and a technical consultation. Article 2 of this Law aims:

- improving animal production and animal feed;
- the reproduction ;
- the movement of animals;
- monitoring the health and safeguarding the natural environment of animals;
- hygiene, control and sanitary and qualitative inspection of products from animals, particularly when they are intended for human or animal consumption. Imports and exports of animals are subject to obtaining a health control certificate either from the country of origin or from the country of destination as the case may be. The Law also governs the exercise of the veterinary profession which covers, among other things, health control and health and safety inspections of animals, animal products, as well as establishments for the collection, storage, processing and marketing of these products.

5. Law L/97/021/AN of June 19, 1997 on the health code

This law contains provisions relating to biotechnology and biosafety. Thus, regarding the use of pesticides in vector control, it prohibits any pesticide for which all approved uses are prohibited by the health and environmental services. It also deals with food hygiene, hygiene of food establishments and hygiene of foodstuffs. It refers to the WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius standards for the packaging and preservation of meat, poultry and eggs.

The importation of food of animal or plant origin requires authorization and control from the competent authorities. Non-traditional foods obtained from animal or plant materials or food products such as flour, yeast, protein isolates can only be sold after consultation with the Ministers responsible for public health, livestock and agriculture. Border health control is established by the public health code to prevent the introduction into Guinea or the spread of diseases abroad by means of animals, infected goods or suspected such.

6. Law L/2017/060/AN of December 12, 2017 relating to the Forestry Code

The Forest Code in its article 69 stipulates that sacred forests and wooded areas protected by rural communities are managed and exploited in accordance with the habits and customs of these communities. However, within a framework of sustainable management of these forests, the exploitation of products can be done in accordance with the requirements of forest development plans, management and simplified operations.

7. Law L97/038/AN of December 9 Adopting and promulgating the Wildlife Protection Code and Hunting Regulations,

This code, in Title I, Chapter II, stipulates in Article 3, paragraph 1 that wildlife constitutes a heritage of general interest. The economic, nutritional and social interest is thus recognized, as well as its scientific, aesthetic, recreational and educational value. Paragraph 3 of the same article provides, among other things, that the preservation of wild fauna is ensured by all appropriate means, including the protection of environments and plant species which are necessary for it. In article 5, the Code for the Protection of Wildlife and Hunting Regulations recalls that the preservation, maintenance or restoration of a sufficient diversity of environments and habitats essential to wildlife is also a national obligation. and for this, specific measures to protect biotopes can be applied to part of the national territory each time the state of certain animal species justifies it.

The Code for the Protection of Wildlife and Hunting Regulations also deals with the protection of environments (parks, reserves and hunting zones) in its second title. It declares that, with a view to ensuring the conservation and management of wildlife, national parks, integral nature reserves, managed nature reserves, special reserves or wildlife sanctuaries may be created on the territory of the Republic of Guinea. wildlife, areas of

hunting interest, hunting areas (article 10). In Article 11, it indicates that National Parks, Strict Nature Reserves, Managed Nature Reserves, Special Reserves or Wildlife Sanctuaries and areas of hunting interest are placed under the control of the State, exercised by through the ministerial authority responsible for hunting. Their limits cannot be changed, nor any part be alienated, except by the competent authority and in legal form. Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Code provide, among other things, that national parks are preserved areas for the protection, conservation and natural evolution of wild animal life. For national parks located on the seaside, the maritime part belonging to the protected ecosystem can also be classified as a National Park and indicates that National Parks are created by decree, on the proposal of the ministerial authority responsible for hunting and on joint report from the ministerial authorities concerned. The same procedure is followed for any possible modification.

8. Ordinance No. 091/PRG/90 on the financial and tax regime of Rural Development Communities (CRD).

It is a text of 4 Chapters, 6 sections and 109 Articles. Article 5 of Chapter I (Taxation) of Section I (General) attributes direct taxes, assimilated taxes, miscellaneous taxes and estate income to the CRD. Estate income is composed, among other things, of royalties from mines and quarries, forestry and hunting royalties. According to article 6, the taxes and fees allocated to the CRD are collected entirely for their benefit. The provisions of these two articles clearly indicate that the exploitation of forest resources and quarries on people's lands must benefit them.

9. The local government code in the Republic of Guinea,

It deals with environmental protection in article 16. It refers to the environmental code for the conduct of mining operations in such a way as to ensure environmental protection. It is specified that mining companies must take the necessary measures to prevent pollution, treat waste, effluent emissions and preserve forest heritage and water resources. Despite all the measures taken, the mining sector is one of the greatest destroyers of the environment in Guinea. The situation could even get worse with the development of mega mining projects in the northwest and southeast of Guinea.

10. Law/2005/013/AN of July 4, 2005 establishing the regime of Associations in the Republic of Guinea

This law governs economic groups of a cooperative nature, mutual societies of a non-financial nature and cooperatives.

11. Law L/95/51/CTRN of August 29, 1995 relating to the Pastoral Code

Article 70 of this Law indicates that any exploitation of natural resources for pastoral purposes must take into consideration the need to protect the environment.

12. Law L/94/005 CTRN of February 14, 1994 relating to the Water Code

It governs the various aspects of the management, use and protection of water resources and hydraulic structures. But it is not exhaustive because it requires the adoption of several implementing texts.

13. Decree D/2011/ No. 295 / PRG / SGG of December 6, 2011, establishing the special status of the Paramilitary Corps of Nature Conservationists

According to this decree, the body of nature conservationists, which includes senior officers, junior officers and non-commissioned officers, is responsible, among other things, for (i) enforcing regulations in protected areas and in the forestry, (ii) to ensure their integrity, (iii) to apply policies regarding concerted management, and (iv) to boost participatory management with users and local communities.

14. Decree D/N° 008 / PRG / SGG of January 18, 2012, restructuring the administration of Biological Diversity, Protected Areas and Water and Forests

Through this decree, the correspondence of the ranks of senior officers, junior officers and non-commissioned officers within the civil service are respectively (i) engineers (hierarchy A), (ii) technical controller (hierarchy B), and (iii) assistant forest rangers (hierarchy C).

15. Decree D/94/044PRG/SGG of March 22, 1994 implementing Law L/92/028/CTRN of August 6, 1992 establishing legislation on pesticides

This decree concerns the control of pesticides throughout the territory of the Republic of Guinea. This control is exercised by the Plant Protection Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the National Directorate of the Environment. The pesticide approval procedure is defined and requires the creation of a file addressed to the Minister of Agriculture. The file includes several pieces of information, among others, those concerning the identification and physicochemical properties of the product and the active ingredient, toxicology, effects on the environment, residues and information on the safety of use of the product. product, the biological effect of the product, data on tests carried out locally and/or in countries with similar climatic and agronomic conditions. The study of the file by the Pesticides Committee results in a decision transmitted to the Minister of Agriculture who takes the final decision. The authorizations issued by the Minister of

Agriculture are accompanied by conditions, compliance with which requires the involvement of the Ministries of Health and the Environment.

16. Decree D/97/287/PRG/SGG of December 24, 1997 regulating the Management and Control of harmful and dangerous chemical substances in the Republic of Guinea

The Decree gives the distribution of harmful and dangerous substances, the measures relating to the management of these substances (chapter 2, articles 6, 7 and 8) and the financial provisions (chapter 3) which bind any producer, importer and user of substances to the payment of the tax known as “tax on chemical substances and/or dangerous products”.

17. Order No. 2395/MAE/SGG of June 6, 2000, on the list of active substances prohibited or regulated for use in agriculture

This list is established taking into account the toxicity and risks resulting from the agricultural use of these substances. Category A concerns active substances prohibited for use, numbering 60, with the mention of their name, their use and their family. Category B concerns active substances of restricted use, numbering 18 with the same information as in the first list. Category A products must not benefit from approval or provisional authorization, nor be sold or used for agricultural purposes. Those on list B benefiting from approval and which would be used otherwise than under the conditions and uses for which they were authorized will have their approval called into question.

3.1.3.2.3: The effectiveness of this legal framework in the current context

This legal framework for managing forest resources, although rich in legal texts, unfortunately contains many gaps which require to be filled. For example, effort must be made in the production of regulatory texts for the three (3) codes which deal with the environment, forests and wildlife. Beyond purely repressive regulations, it will certainly be necessary to explore new avenues to achieve more effective management mechanisms for forest resources, in particular by involving local communities more with consideration of customary rules and particular attention focused on the concerns and needs of populations who only have these resources to survive.

By using consolidated legal texts, enriched and adapted to the context, it will be possible to make all stakeholders responsible, to guarantee the recognition of community rights over forests, to contribute to the promotion of community forestry while offering populations more legal security.

1. Global environment problem

In Guinea, a recent study by the Swedish Development Agency carried out as part of the project ‘*Global transformation of forests for people and climate: focus on West Africa*’ notes that “Guinea has several forests of international importance (Ziama, Kounounkan, Pensilli and Nimba) which, unfortunately, are today strongly threatened by the extent of drought due to anthropogenic actions of various origins and climate change. In addition, in recent decades the rate of deforestation has unfortunately been very high. From 14 million hectares in the 1960s, forest cover fell, at the end of the 2010s, to less than 700,000 hectares, despite the reforestation efforts undertaken.

Several constraints exist in Guinea which prevent sustainable management of forest ecosystems: the population growth rate, slash-and-burn agriculture, artisanal and large-scale mining, unauthorized hunting, illegal floristic harvesting, all constitute serious threats to biodiversity. To this must be added the weakness of cooperation and the absence of common regulations between the neighbouring countries constituting the forest ecosystem of Upper Guinea (Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), in addition to the uncontrolled growth in demand for forest land and natural resources, and the fragmentation, transformation and conversion of forest land to other types of uses (World Bank, 2015).

The Guinea Child project will address global environmental problems in relation to 2 critically important Biosphere Reserves, their biodiversity and their dependent communities in Guinea Forestière. As a key national component of the wider GEF8 Guinean Forests Integrated Programme (GFIP) it will contribute to stemming and reversing forest loss and degradation across this critical forest biome and hence to maintaining the supply of ecosystem services and biodiversity essential to human populations and development. It will address threats posed by expanding agriculture, unmanaged timber and non-timber resource extraction, and infrastructure

development in Guinea, creating an enhanced enabling environment for sustainable forest management through supportive government policy and sustainable financing solutions; alternatives to unsustainable land and resource use through land use planning and support for sustainable livelihoods and promoting nature-based enterprises; enhancing forest governance through multi-stakeholder dialogues for co-management of protected areas and landscape-level coordination for improved planning and decision making. The project will collaborate with other Child projects at a regional level (the national Child projects in Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Regional Coordination and Learning Project (RCP) under the GFIP, to maximise collaboration and regional positive impacts for forests, forest biodiversity, Carbon sequestration, people and sustainable economic development, with technical support and capacity building from the RCP, for learning, knowledge exchange, and dissemination of innovations; facilitation of transboundary forest landscape management and regional policy dialogue.

Nationally and regionally in the Guinea Forest biome, these combined GFIP efforts target the expansion and strengthened management of 1,645,517 ha of forest areas under formal protection; improved sustainable management of 470,800 ha in wider forest landscapes outside Protected Areas, and the restoration of 65,000 ha of land, thereby mitigating GHG emissions by at least 24 million Mt CO₂eq. Critical to achieving these results will be ensuring inclusive, gender-equitable socioeconomic benefits for at least 36,000 men and 34,000 women. (ANNEX H to the GFIP Guinean Forests (GEF-8 Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes) Integrated Programme¹².

2. Threats, roots causes and barriers analysis

1. Threats

Forest landscapes across the Guinea Forest region of West Africa face similar threats to their biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide. Rapid declines in the health and integrity of forest ecosystems risk the loss of future opportunities to develop and benefit from sustainable long-term practices. The majority of these threats are due to over-exploitation of natural resources by people, with the impacts exacerbated by the current (and unknown future) impacts of climate change.

The Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot¹³ spans 11 countries in West and Central Africa, with two principal moist tropical forest blocks – the Upper Guinea forest (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) and Lower Guinea (Nigeria, Cameroon, Sao Tome e Principe). The Guinean Forests support globally important levels of biodiversity (including high levels of species richness and endemism) and provide essential ecosystem services to well over 200 million inhabitants of the region. An estimated 10 million hectares of forest have been lost in West Africa since the beginning of the 20th century, with only around 15% of the original forest cover still intact¹⁴. In Guinea, the rates of deforestation and degradation are not as high as in other Guinea Forest countries (see table 6 below) but they are still significant, with much exploitation unregulated and unsustainable.

Table 6: Evolution of moist (Guinea) forest cover in West Africa

Country	Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana	Guinea	Liberia	Nigeria	Sierra Leone
Deforestation (per year)	rate* 3.3 %	0	0.6 %	0.4 % (probably up to 2% in primary forest)	0.7 %	0.7 %

¹² <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11142>

¹³ <https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots/guinean-forests-west-africa>

¹⁴ Mittermeier, R., P. Gil, M. Hoffmann, J. Pilgrim, T. Brooks, C. Mittermeier, J. Lamoreux & G. Fonseca. (2004) Hotspots Revisited: Earth's Biologically Richest and Most Endangered Terrestrial Ecoregions

Estimate of fuelwood consumption (per year)	8 to 20 Million m3	47 Million m3	10 Million m3	9 Million m3	6 Million m3
Legal Roundwood production (per year)	2.4 Million m3	2.3 Million m3	?	0.5 Million m3	0.3 Million m3
(+ 'Informal')	(+ 3M m3)				

* Period: 2010-2020. (From: FAO/ FRA FAO. 2020. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report*. Rome)¹⁵

The principal threats to biodiversity and ecosystems are anthropogenic - the destruction, degradation and disturbance of natural habitats and wild species, and the widespread over-exploitation of finite natural resources, compounded by climate change effects. As in much of Africa, land use changes or land conversion (principally for agricultural expansion and intensification, but also unregulated conversion of intact forest, mining/ extractive industries, urban and infrastructure development) are the direct cause of much of biodiversity loss¹⁶. Forest destruction and degradation are also sources of Carbon loss and other greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

In the forest landscapes of Guinea, and the project area specifically, the major threats to biodiversity and ecosystems include agricultural expansion, unsustainable logging (commercial and artisanal), extraction of wood and charcoal, unsustainable fishing, bushmeat hunting and (illegal) wildlife trade, industrial and artisanal mining, climate change and pollution¹⁷. These human activities and encroachment into intact forests can also result in local issues such as human-wildlife conflict, disease transmission, and wildfire (or deliberate use of fires to clear land for agriculture), also leading to forest loss or degradation.

Combined, these pressures render the Guinean Forests and their dependent communities more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change by undermining ecosystem and community resilience, while also contributing to forest-based emissions of greenhouse gases.

2. Root causes

The root causes or underlying drivers of these threats to biodiversity and the conservation of intact forest ecosystems include high levels of poverty and wealth inequality, intense pressure for economic development, expanding infrastructure and settlements, gender inequity in natural resource rights and management, and inadequate definition and recognition of land tenure and resource rights. Gender issues and inequalities play a large part in this, with women particularly excluded from access to land and natural resources or to taking part in decision-making for communities. Further contributing factors include one of the world's highest population growth rates, one of the lowest ranks on the global Human Development Index (182 out of 193 countries in 2023)¹⁸ and weak governance of natural resource use and management.

Governance issues reflect the fact that Guinea and its neighbouring countries face many competing priorities with limited financial resources, and conservation and forest management are rarely a top government priority. The resulting under-investment leads to limited human, technical and financial capacity for sustainable natural resource management.

Failure to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation in the Guinean Forests

¹⁵ In: Coulthard & Busson (2022) EU NaturAfrica - West African Forests (NA-WAF) Final report & Recommendations - citing FAO/ FRA [<https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>]

¹⁶ IPBES (2019): *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystems* (2018) IPBES Secretariat Bonn, Germany.

¹⁷ CEPF (2016) Ecosystem Profile: Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot.

¹⁸ <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights#/ranks>

will result in continued loss of habitats and wildlife and decline in the supply of ecosystem services on which people depend. This loss of natural capital damages the socioeconomic well-being of forest-dependent communities in the short-term and limits the options for future environmentally and socially sustainable economic development.

3. Barrier analysis

The identified barriers which will be addressed by the Guinea Child project to address the needs of people and nature and to build resilient futures for the Biosphere Reserves (MNBR and ZMBR) and their adjacent communities are listed below. The project rationale and Theory of Change (section 4. 1), Log Frame (Chapter 2) and Intervention Strategy (4.2) are designed to address each of these barriers in turn, under the 4 project Components, to achieve the targeted project objectives and achieve the overall project goal:

To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mt Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) in Guinea.

1. Weak governance, conflicting national institutional mandates for management of Protected Areas and sustainable use of natural resources; lack of long-term management plans and resources for the 2 Biosphere Reserves in Guinea
2. Absence of integrated land use strategies and functional, consultative village Land Use Plans integrated with local development planning formal Protected Areas management
3. Lack of clarity and good governance – issues of land tenure and land rights and lack of integrated approaches in wider landscapes
4. Inequalities, lack of inclusive community engagement and gender balance, women not represented in decision-making and planning
5. Insufficient technical capacities, resources and partnerships (government and civil society)
6. Insufficient or poorly managed financial resources for management of land and resources
7. No security of long-term finance for conservation management, sustainable land use and local community sustainable development
8. Information base weak despite decades of research and lesson-learning; data hard to access and use in decision-making at all levels
9. Weak cooperation and lack of common policies, regulations and agreements for joint working between countries sharing the Upper Guinea forest ecosystems and transboundary landscapes

Efforts to address each of these barriers will benefit from knowledge exchange and cross-project learning, joint approaches and coordination (including for transboundary planning and management, policy reform, capacity building), which will be promoted through exchanges and collaboration with the other (Liberia and Sierra Leone) national Child projects, supported via the GFIP Regional Child Project (RCP).

1. Stakeholder analysis

(see also Annexes 1-3 and 4 and Annex: IUCN ESMS Screening Report)

From the start of the project planning stage in December 2023, a preliminary list of stakeholders was compiled. This list includes individuals and organizations at international, regional, national, and local levels who possess knowledge of, involvement in, or might have potential interest in the targeted areas or related national and regional initiatives. This list was refined during a one-day inception workshop held in Conakry at the end of February 2024. All known national and local key stakeholders attended the workshop, including representatives from locally operating government agencies in particular the N'Zérékoré Forestry Centre (CFZ), the Environmental Management Centre for Mounts Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS); and two local mayors.

Stakeholder consultation occurred through various channels, including online meetings, emails, workshops, and a three-week scoping mission. The scoping mission by a team of international and national consultants with support from the local IUCN office, involved visits and discussions with communities, women groups, and other local stakeholders at both project sites. Additionally, bilateral discussions were held with relevant

government agencies at both national and local levels, as well as with national directorates, multilateral and bilateral technical-financial partners, research institutes, civil society organizations, and private sector representatives. Throughout these interactions, stakeholders shared their ideas, needs, and expectations regarding the project, providing valuable input to the project preparation team.

In addition to insights from discussions and interactions, the team relied on numerous reports, studies, and plans concerning the areas of interest. A part of these reports concentrated on recent social and ecological assessments, offering supplementary and additional insights into the intricate network of local actors with diverse interests and influence, pertinent to the current project. This included detailed analyses of gender dynamics and vulnerable groups. The recommendations from these studies, which consider local preferences, gender equality, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups, have been invaluable for the stakeholder analysis.

One important finding from the field visits, supported by multiple documents, is the need for enhanced local community involvement in decision-making processes across different levels, with a particular focus on addressing gender disparities and supporting disadvantaged groups like the Fulani. Although a number of local NGOs have been identified as active in activities around both sites, their capacities are relatively low, and their involvement in the conception and implementation of projects and programmes is limited. This is also true for their participation in decision-making processes.

3.4.1 Regional bodies

In 2013, member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted the Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa. The Forest Convergence Plan (FCP) aims to mobilize political, institutional, technical, and financial support to address transboundary forest issues and ensure that national action plans consider these issues across ECOWAS's 15 member states: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The FCP addresses key issues of common interest and transboundary nature, including:

1. Harmonizing forest policies, laws, and regulations while considering agro-ecological peculiarities and different institutional settings.
2. Participating in efforts to combat desertification and soil degradation by rehabilitating fragile and degraded ecosystems (such as mangroves, humid, and arid zones), controlling bushfires, and regulating the exploitation of shared and transboundary pastoral resources.
3. Facilitating the role of local and sub-national players (including regional and local administrations, farmer and other stakeholder organizations, and technical departments) in the decentralized management of forest and wildlife resources. This includes improving governance approaches and involving women and youth.
4. Enhancing the vital services generated by different forest ecosystems, including their contributions to food security and livelihoods. This also involves optimizing current opportunities related to adaptation, mitigation, and vulnerability to climate change and their impact on forest ecosystems in the sub-region.

The Forest Convergence Plan serves as an important framework for support from international, bilateral, and regional technical and financial partners such as the EU (PAPFor), USAID (WA BiCC & WABiLED), FAO (Global Transformation of Forests for People and Climate: A Focus on West Africa), UNDP, African Development Bank and the World Bank. The Guinea Child project fits under the FCP framework and various partners involved in the FCP realization will also be directly involved in the implementation of the GEF Regional and Child projects.

The **Mano River Union (MRU)** is an intergovernmental organization with its Secretariat located in Freetown, Sierra Leone. It encompasses Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire—countries that share borders and have rich historical, cultural, social, economic and ecological connections (notably in Upper Guinea Forests and transboundary Water Basins).

With financial backing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the MRU implemented the GEF5 Mano River Union Ecosystem Conservation

and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) project. This initiative, which took place in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire, aimed to conserve the Upper Guinea forest ecosystem with a particular focus on strengthening joint management of a number of shared river basins. The project adopted a multi-focal approach, addressing water, land, and biodiversity management through a combination of institutional governance reforms, strategic transboundary planning and cooperation, capacity building, awareness raising, demonstration of best practices, and the exchange of knowledge and learning. The project, which began in 2016 and concluded in January 2024, has established a solid foundation upon which the Child projects in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, will build in the future. MRU and ECOWAS are co-executing partners in the GEF (GFIP) Guinean Forests Regional Coordination and Learning Project (RCP).

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. AFR100 contributes to the Bonn Challenge, and the African Union Agenda 2063. In Guinea, it is actively involved in a number of forest restoration initiatives.

3.4.2 Government stakeholders

Below is a list of ministries relevant to the implementation of the Child Project, along with other pertinent government stakeholders within Guinea's administrative and political subdivisions. Several of these ministries play a crucial role in shaping and executing the project's objectives. Further details are provided for a selection of key ministries.

Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development

Since 2021, the MEDD reformed organizational structure has encompassed 27 entities at the national level, 38 at the regional level, and 342 at the communal level, with 304 in rural areas and 38 in urban areas. In this new organization, the MEDD includes:

National and general directorates		Support Services	
1.	National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife (DNFF)	1.	Office of Strategy and Development (BSD)
		2.	General inspection
2.	National Directorate of Sanitation and Living Environment (DNACV)	3.	Human Resources Division (HRD)
		4.	Financial Affairs Division (DAF)
3.	National Directorate of Pollution, Nuisances and Climate Change (DNPNC)	5.	Financial Controller (CF)
		6.	Gender and Equity Service (SGE)
4.	General Directorate of Nature Conservators (DGCN)	7.	Person Responsible for Public Procurement (PRMP)
		8.	Legal Affairs Department (SAJ)
		9.	Communication and Public Relations Service (SCR)
		10.	Documentary Resources Center (CRD)
		11.	Reception and Information Service (SAI)
		12.	Hygiene Health Safety Service (SHSS)

13. Central Secretariat (SC)
14. IT Systems Modernization Service

Advisory bodies

1. Designated National Authority for the Green Climate Fund (AND-FVD)
2. National Chemical Products Management Council (CNGPC)
3. Disciplinary Council (CD)
4. National Committee on Climate Change (CNCC)
5. National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD)

Autonomous public establishments

1. Guinean Timber Office (OGUIB)
2. Fund for the Environment and Natural Capital (FECAN)
3. Guinean Office of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves (OGPNRF)
4. Guinean Environmental Assessment Agency (AGEE)
5. N'Zérékoré Forestry Center (CFZ)
6. Environmental Management Center for Mounts Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS)
7. National Agency for the Promotion of Biodigester Technology (ANPTB)

Within the context of the Child project, the following under MEDD operating autonomous public services are of high importance:

1. The National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife (DNFF)
1. The N'Zérékoré Forestry Center (CFZ),
2. The Environmental Management Center for Mounts Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS); and
3. The Guinean Office of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves (OGPNRF).

Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (MESRSI)

Most relevant services:

1. The Bossou Environmental Research Institute (IREB)
2. The UNESCO - National Service of the programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB- Guinea) attached to the General Directorate of Scientific Research)
3. The Scientific Station of the Nimba Mountains (SSMN)

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Most relevant service:

1. The **Agronomic Research Institute of Guinea (IRAG)** and its regional station at Sérédoug

Other ministries of interest:

2. Ministry of Mines and Geology
3. Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning
4. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises
5. Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Vulnerable People
6. Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Crafts

Other important partners are those government structures that are part of Guinea's decentralized administrative and political subdivisions in particular the **Nzérékoré Region** and **Lola and Macenta Prefectures** further divided over a selection of sub-prefectures, rural communes and districts.

3.4.3 Private Sector

For Nimba

The Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG)

The Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée is majority-owned by High Power Exploration through its subsidiary, Euronimba Limited. The Government of Guinea is expected to hold a 15% stake when the Amended Mining Convention, signed by SMFG, Euronimba Limited, and the Government of Guinea in September 2019, takes effect. Since the start of its operations at Nimba, SMFG has actively supported conservation and development activities within the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve and the broader transboundary Nimba landscape.

Nimba Development Company (NDC)

Nimba Development Company is committed to developing the infrastructure around its iron ore project, held through its subsidiary, Société de Développement Nimba (SDN), formerly Zali Mining S.A., in the Nimba mountains region and enhancing the economic prospects of the local population in south-east Guinea.

For Ziamara

Rio Tinto

The Rio Tinto Group is a British-Australian multinational and the world's second-largest metals and mining corporation. It is the majority shareholder and managing partner of Rio Tinto Simfer (SIMFER S.A.), a joint venture with CIOH (39.95%) and the Government of Guinea (15%). The company is currently developing part of the Simandou Iron Project. Rio Tinto acknowledges its social and environmental responsibilities and views itself as a long-term steward of natural resources, including land, water, and their ecosystems. In Guinea, it actively participates in initiatives and activities related to biodiversity conservation (including offsetting), climate mitigation and adaptation, and social and economic development.

3.4.4 International and Bilateral Financial and Technical Partners

The United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) operates in approximately 170 countries and territories, dedicated to eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, and fostering resilience for sustainable progress. As the United Nations' development agency, UNDP plays a pivotal role in assisting countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Guinea, UNDP collaborates closely with the government to establish an environment conducive to sustainable and inclusive growth. This involves strengthening accountable public institutions that actively engage with civil society. UNDP's development strategies focus on promoting good governance for sustainable development at the national, regional, and community levels, alongside investments in economic transformation and the sustainable management of natural resources.

UNOPS

UNOPS provides infrastructure, procurement and project management services for a more sustainable world. UNOPS is the implementing partner for the European Union's regional forest PAPFor programme in the transboundary Nimba landscape (EU 'Key Landscape for Conservation and Development'). It works closely with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), communities, and local organizations. Activities are geared towards raising awareness, providing information and supporting villagers in exploring alternative methods of generating revenue.

World Bank

The World Bank Group is a unique global partnership and one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. Its five institutions share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing

shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development. World Bank-supported projects in Guinea focus on community development, rural infrastructure, education, environment, natural resource management, transport, health, HIV/AIDS, and more.

Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations leading international efforts to defeat hunger. In Africa, its goal is to achieve food security for all and ensure regular access to enough high-quality food for active, healthy lives.

FAO's assistance in Guinea reflects priorities in relevant national policies, including Guinea's Poverty Reduction Strategy, Agricultural Development Policy, and National Plan for Agricultural Investment and Food Security. Assistance centers on three priority areas: strengthening food and nutrition security; strengthening governance of the agriculture and rural sector; and risk reduction and management of food crises and disasters, with an emphasis on environmental conservation and capacity building.

USAID

USAID collaborates with Guinea's transitional government to build an inclusive democratic culture, adherence to the rule of law, and corresponding institutional skills and resources to ensure transparent, peaceful, and legitimate electoral and political processes. USAID also works to strengthen Guinea's health system at the community level for improved service delivery and supports economic growth by improving agricultural productivity. USAID programmes promote gender equality across health services, agriculture, employment—especially for youth—and decision-making opportunities and the WABiLED programme in Guinea Forests (see 3.5.2 below, regional projects).

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

Guinea is a priority country for French aid, and AFD, present since 1979, is an important partner. AFD mobilizes its entire set of tools: debt relief and development contracts (C2D), loans, bank guarantees, training programmes, etc. The AFD Group has adopted three priorities for Africa: addressing climate change challenges and preserving biodiversity; fighting inequalities and promoting social cohesion; and supporting regional integration and addressing cross-border challenges.

European Union EU

The EU is a significant bilateral donor to Guinea forests, with regional funding (via UEMOA), a national overseas development aid programme and collaborative support programmes with EU Member States (including France/ AFD). The most relevant programmes are PAPFor (Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (PAPFor) which ends in 2024 and the new NaturAfrica-West African Forests programme starting in 2025 with funding in phase 1 for Nimba and possible phase 2 funding for Ziama. The funding is for transboundary landscapes – EU 'Key Landscapes for Conservation and Development. There is also a national NaturaGuinée EU investment in key Guinea forest and other landscapes (see below 3.5).

Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries

The Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI) is part of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency and is commissioned by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CBI connects small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries to the European market, thereby contributing to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. CBI is in the process of supporting Guinea's coffee sector. There are some promising initiatives in the sector that CBI would like to build on. The country produces a specific type of high-quality robusta coffee, which is recognized under the geographical indication 'Ziama-Macenta' by the African Intellectual Property Organization.

3.4.5 International and National non-government organizations - NGOs

Conservation International

Across Africa, Conservation International works to strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources to alleviate poverty, tackle climate change and reduce biodiversity loss. We support science, policy and investment that protects the ecosystems that are essential to the well-being of all Africans.

CI-GEF is the GEF Implementing Agency for the over-arching GEF8 Integrated Programme (IP): Guinean Forests Integrated Programme (GFIP).

BirdLife International

With regional offices in Amman, Brussels, Cambridge, Dakar, Nairobi, Singapore, Suva, Tokyo, and Quito, BirdLife is the largest international partnership for nature conservation. BirdLife has over 13 million individual members and supporters and unifies over 100 nature conservation organisations from across the planet. The organisation's mission is to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people toward sustainability in the use of natural resources.

Guinée Ecologie is the BirdLife Partner in Guinea. It is an independent non-profit, non-governmental organization, registered national NGO in Guinea (see 3.4.6). Created in 1989, it promotes actions in favour of good management of natural resources and lasting protection of Guinea's environment.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

With over 425 scientists, Kew's mission is to understand and protect plants and fungi for the well-being of people and the future of all life on Earth. Kew has developed a number of active partnerships in Guinea (in particular with the National Herbarium, the University Gamal Abdel Nasser University in Conakry and various field stations and projects), with the aim to halt biodiversity loss and develop nature-based solutions to some of the country's conservation challenges.

Flora & Fauna (FF)

In Guinea (and Liberia), Fauna & Flora is focusing on conserving what remains of the Upper Guinean Forest. Situated along the border with Liberia, this forest is rich in endemic and endangered species, but is also at risk from uncontrolled agricultural expansion, mining and poaching. As part of this, FF has been working in Ziama Man and Biosphere Reserve and to a lesser extent in the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve. Since 2009, FF has been working with national park authorities, helping communities to manage forest resources sustainably.

GRET

GRET is an apolitical, non-confessional, non-discriminatory association. GRET is working for the most vulnerable populations in 28 countries. Its actions take place locally, in territories and listening to communities, as well as internationally, through advocacy and knowledge sharing. GRET has been present in Guinea since 1995 and works in collaboration with local authorities and civil society organizations, particularly on management of natural resources, food security, value chains and land governance and rights.

APDRA

APDRA Pisciculture Paysanne is a French NGO, created in 1996. APDRA supports fish farming in southern countries and raises awareness among northern stakeholders about the challenges involved in this activity. The association aims to promote and develop sustainable farming.

Biotope

Biotope was created in 1993 with a mission to support any development project, from its design to its operation, by applying consultation methods and resolving all regulatory pitfalls linked to the environment. The services of Biotope are intended for businesses, communities, state services, and NGOs. They are available through consulting actions, regulatory studies, training and communication. Biotope has an office in Guinea and is involved various conservation initiatives

Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF)

The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation's mission is to enhance the survival of the remaining wild chimpanzee populations and their habitat, thereby participate in saving the behavioural diversity of this fascinating species. The philosophy of the WCF is threefold: Implement projects of Education, Conservation, and Research for and by African people. WCF implements conservation projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. It concentrates its activities in regions where wild chimpanzees are still abundant to ensure their future survival.

3.4.6 National and local non-government stakeholders

Guinea has a multitude of civil society organizations operating at all levels, ranging from NGOs to cooperatives and other associations. The civic space in the country is considered limited, with Guinea currently classified as 'repressed' by CIVICUS¹⁹.

The number of specialized environmental NGOs is limited, and their capacity is constrained. Many programmes financed by international donors and the government make use of NGOs or local associations to carry out specific activities, primarily in the role of 'service provider.' This approach can also be observed in the implementation of projects in the Ziamas and Nimba Biosphere Reserves.

Several cooperatives focused on specific agricultural crops, including coffee, rice, and palm oil, are active in both landscapes. Other informal groups do exist including women and youth groups. Finally, formal village committees have been established as part of the GEF-funded Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project, along with projects supported by PAPFOR and the USAID funded West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development (WABILED) project.

Below is a list of national and/or locally operating Civil Society Organizations that are involved or could potentially be involved in various initiatives concerning the Mount Nimba and Ziamas Massif Biosphere Reserves. This list is certainly not exhaustive, but it provides an overview of some key organizations that play a role in community development, income generating activities, climate adaptation, environmental conservation, human rights, gender and sustainable agriculture. Their involvement ranges from grassroots activism to providing services in collaboration with international donors and government-funded programmes.

Guinée Ecologie

Guinée Ecologie is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, the BirdLife Partner in Guinea. Created in 1989, it promotes actions in favour of good management of natural resources and lasting protection of Guinea's environment. The Mission of Guinée-Ecologie is to contribute to the protection of the environment, the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources by participating in the development and implementation of policies, strategies and business plans, action conducive to maintaining a healthy living environment and safeguarding species and their habitats for the benefit of current and future generations.

Association-Consultant for Development Actions

The Association-Conseil pour les Actions de Développement (ACAD) is a Guinean NGO established in 2006. It was founded by former facilitators of the Rural Resource Management Project, which focused on involving local populations in the management of classified forests such as Ziamas, Diecké, and Mont Bero. ACAD's main goals include supporting community development, environmental protection, agricultural development, and promoting social cohesion and peace.

Guinean House of Entrepreneurs (MGE)

The Maison Guinéenne de l'Entrepreneur (MGE), established in 1987, focuses on strengthening the capacities of local economic actors in Guinea. The organization supports the organizational development and activities of grassroots actors, including artisans and those involved in various agricultural value chains. MGE's primary interventions include training, advising, and enhancing the skills of local entrepreneurs to better manage public economic infrastructure and integrate into professional networks. The organization has been instrumental in promoting local products and sustainable agricultural practices, notably achieving the Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) for Ziamas-Macenta coffee.

Natural Resources without Poverty (RENASP)

RENASP's mission is to promote the socio-economic and cultural development of Guinea through the natural resource sector. It supports transparency initiatives to increase mining revenues and strives to create a mining sector that meets the expectations of the Guinean population, particularly those living in mining areas, to help reduce poverty. RENAP supports communities in the development and implementation of activities that protect natural resources and address climate change.

¹⁹ <https://monitor.civicus.org/watchlist-september-2023/guinea/>

United Actors for Rural Development (AUDER)

United Actors for Rural Development, is a national Guinean NGO, created in October 1995. It provides support for the sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation of forest biodiversity through the development and adoption of good practices and innovations allowing rational and profitable management of spaces while preserving natural heritage.

Cooperative Woko

The Woko Cooperative is a key player in the Ziamacenta coffee sector in Guinea. It adheres to Geographical Indication (GI) standards to ensure the quality and traceability of its coffee. The cooperative exports its certified GI coffee directly to Europe, enhancing market access and ensuring fair prices for local farmers. By promoting sustainable agricultural practices and facilitating the export of high-quality coffee, Woko Cooperative plays a vital role in the local economy and the broader coffee industry.

Association for Community and Agro-Pastoral Development (ADCAP)

The Association for Community and Agro-Pastoral Development (ADCAP) in Guinea, headed by Gbolou Konan Toupou, focuses on promoting integrated rural development through sustainable agricultural practices. ADCAP trains farmers in advanced techniques to increase crop yields and improve food security. The association also emphasizes the role of women in economic development and community leadership, engaging in projects like market gardening, rice cultivation, and perennial plantation nurseries to support local communities and address food insecurity.

Regional Federation of Oil Palm and Rubber Planters of Forested Guinea (Féréppah)

The Regional Federation of Oil Palm and Rubber Planters of Forested Guinea (Féréppah) promotes oil palm and rubber cultivation in Guinea's forested regions, playing a vital role in local economic development. Associated with Féréppah, the Diécké Oil Palm and Rubber Project, managed by SOGUIPAH, aims to boost palm oil and rubber production for domestic and export markets, contributing to economic diversification and poverty reduction. The project includes building processing facilities, workers' housing, and providing technical assistance. Féréppah supports smallholder farmers with training in advanced agricultural techniques to increase crop yields and improve food security.

Centre Agropastoral Sainte Ursule du Mont Ziamacenta

The Centre Agropastoral Sainte Ursule du Mont Ziamacenta is an initiative by the Sisters of Sainte-Ursule de Sion, located in the Diocese of N'Zérékoré, Guinea. The Ursuline Sisters have been active in the parish of Sérédou since September 2016. The center aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices and provide education and support to the local community, including women and young people. The sisters focus on pastoral care, education, and community development, embodying their mission to aid disadvantaged populations and support urgent educational needs.

Initiative de base pour la gestion des ressources naturelles (IBGRN)

The Initiative de Base pour la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles (IBGRN) in Guinea is a notable civil society organization focused on sustainable natural resource management. IBGRN aims to protect the environment through community engagement and sustainable practices. Their enhanced capacity has allowed them to secure competitive projects and expand their efforts in supporting local communities.

Association pour le développement du café macenta (ADECAM)

The Association pour le Développement du Café Macenta (ADECAM) focuses on the promotion and quality enhancement of Ziamacenta robusta coffee in Guinea. Recognized as a Geographical Indication (GI) product, this coffee benefits from the unique microclimate of the Ziamacenta Mountains. ADECAM supports local cooperatives, ensuring adherence to GI specifications and facilitating exports. The organization has achieved Fair Trade certification, which helps secure better prices and funding for smallholder farmers, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and local development.

1. Baseline analysis and gaps

The government of Guinea is currently prioritizing several critical areas: sustainable rural development, food security, rural energy, natural resource management, the expansion and improved management of the country's protected area network, restructuring the environmental sector including decentralization of services, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

To support these initiatives, the international community has extended assistance to national and local stakeholders through a variety of projects targeting different geographic regions. This collaborative effort aims to enhance the country's capacity to address these complex issues effectively.

The section below provides a comprehensive summary of both past and planned projects that concentrate on major forest conservation challenges and related sectors in Guinea. By reviewing previous initiatives and considering upcoming ones, it becomes clear that coordinating with future projects is key. This coordination will ensure that the proposed project build on the results achieved so far, thereby maximizing their impact. Additionally, leveraging synergies with planned projects will enhance the overall effectiveness of conservation efforts, contributing to sustainable development goals and the protection of Guinea's rich natural heritage.

1. Past and planned national actions and projects

Table 7: Child project linkages with past, planned and ongoing projects.

Project name	Project for the Management and Development Plan of the Ziama Biosphere Reserve.
Goal	Implement the Development and Management Plan (PAG) of the Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve (ZMBR), involving and benefiting its neighbouring communities, with a special focus on women. It emphasizes enhancing the resilience of both ecosystems and populations against the effects of climate change.
Duration	2024 - 2029
Donor	AFD
Implementing Agency	Fauna and Flora (in partnership with GRET & Guinee Ecologie)
Scope	Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve
Budget	€ 5 million
Project Description	<p>The project activities are organized into four components aligned with the logical framework of the Management Plan and will be jointly implemented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening RMBZ Integrity: Enhancing the ecosystem integrity of the Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve through effective monitoring, habitat restoration, completion of buffer zone demarcation, participatory zoning, and awareness campaigns. 2. Enhancing Biodiversity Knowledge: Improving knowledge for adaptive management and sustainable financing of RMBZ through hydrometeorological data production, climate change ecosystem sensitivity research, ecological monitoring, and economic valuation of ecosystem services. 3. Local Development in RMBZ Transition Zone: Promoting climate resilient development through agro ecological pathways, village land management tools, development agreements for forest restoration, and income-generating activities aligned with climate challenges and RMBZ conservation. 4. Capacity Building for RMBZ Management: Supporting CFZ staff and local governance institutions in participatory governance establishment, protected area management capacity

building, utilization of monitoring and evaluation data for improved RMBZ management and adjusting management goals based on climate-sensitive conservation research findings.

Relevance **Very High; in close collaboration with the Ziama project executing** organisations, in particular the CFZ, **a number of additional and transforming activities were** identified and elaborated notably with respect to enhanced local, gender sensitive participation in land use and natural resource access plans. Also, the institutional set up - in which the CFZ is a key institute - will guarantee a very close collaboration between the two projects

Company **Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG)**

Initiative Responsibly Developing the Nimba Iron Ore project

Duration 2003 – no end date

Goal The Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) is entrusted by the people of Guinea to develop the Nimba Iron Ore Project responsibly. SMFG's goal is to establish a long-term, sustainable mining project that is harmoniously integrated into the economic and social fabric of the region. SMFG is committed to supporting biodiversity conservation efforts and creating a positive legacy for future generations.

Scope Mt Nimba mining concession area

Project Description The Nimba Iron Ore Project, operated by SMFG, is located at the northern end of the Guinean Nimba Mountain Range in southeastern Guinea, near the borders of Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and covers 625 hectares. The adjacent Strict Nature Reserve covers a total area of over 17,500 hectares.

The Project contains some of the last remaining ultra high-grade hematite ore zones to be found globally. With minimal overburden, minimal waste-rock, and soft ore, very little additional processing is required by its open pit mining operations. These will be conducted over 2 phases, an initial starter operation of 2mtpa, followed by an expansion to around 15 mtpa.

SMFG aims to establish a long-term, sustainable mining project harmoniously integrated into the economic and social dynamics of the region, ensuring a positive legacy for future generations. The Nimba Mountains is home to biodiversity of global significance. The company is committed to ensuring its activities have a positive impact on the mountains' biodiversity throughout the duration of the project.

Since 2012, SMFG, has invested approx. \$8.3 million to support regional community partnership programmes. These initiatives encompass a range of areas:

- Mountain biodiversity support, including fire protection and reforestation, as well as initiatives to address poaching and bushmeat income alternatives. These includes participation in transboundary monitoring programmes with CEGENS and Cote d'Ivoire.
- Infrastructure development, spanning roads, airports, and investments in health and education

facilities and programmes.

- Creation of alternative income generation opportunities, such as piggeries, market gardens, and biogas digestors.

- Contribution to a significant body of research on the Nimba Mountain biosphere, fostering global relationships and understanding. Collaborations include organizations such as Bat Conservation International, Afrique Nature International, Fauna & Flora International, and Missouri Botanical Gardens.

SMFG is actively contributing to the creation of future investment opportunities for local populations. Additionally, the company has spearheaded the delivery of village-level sustainable land-use planning initiatives and is playing a pivotal role in promoting circular economy micro-business opportunities, including initiatives focusing on recycling plastics, metals, batteries, lighting and organic waste.

Relevance **Very High** > To date, SMFG has played an extremely important role in supporting the management of the Nimba Biosphere Reserve and in assisting local activities with nearby communities aimed at reducing pressure on the core areas of the reserve. SMFG remains committed to its objectives and is thus a crucial partner for the reserve's future. With the planned operation of the mine, the financial resources generated from taxes and local contributions will increase significantly. This presents enormous opportunities to provide long-term financing for the reserve and to make a significant contribution to the social and economic development of the region. The project will strengthen cooperation with SMFG as a crucial stakeholder in the landscape. It will actively involve them in the multi stakeholder dialogues through the envisaged local platforms and work with them on exploring financial mechanisms that can sustain inclusive conservation efforts in the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve.

Project name	Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Management project (PGRNME)
Goal	To strengthen institutional capacities for integrated management of mineral and natural resources in Guinea and enhanced benefits from the mining and environment sectors
Duration	2021 – 2027
Donor	World Bank
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Mining and Geology
Scope	National
Budget	\$ 65 million (\$ 28 million for environmental support)
Project Description	One of the primary components of this multi-year programme aims to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) in natural resource and environmental management. The project will focus on several key objectives:

(i) Strengthening the institutional capacity of key MEDD departments, such as BGACE, for effective monitoring of the impacts of development projects on the environment, and OGPR, for enhanced management of the country's protected areas network.

(ii) Enhancing the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) that MEDD applies.

(iii) Providing appropriate tools for improved management of the country's protected area network and piloting them in target areas.

In all instances, the approach seeks to leverage both World Bank operations (e.g., in mining, agriculture, and social projects) and other donor operations (primarily EU-funded work through the United Nations Office for Project Services - UNOPS), which has a longstanding relationship with MEDD.

The activities of this component are organized into two sub-components, as outlined below, with indicative budget allocations:

Project Components related to Environmental Sector	MEDD (US\$ million)
Component C. Environmental and natural resources management	28.00
C1. Institutional, logistical support and ESS management	9.60
C1.1. Institutional and logistical support	2.70
C1.2. ESS and disaster risk management capacities	5.70
C1.3. Operational capacity and coordination of activities	1.20
C2. Protected area management in selected areas	18.40
C2.1. Knowledge, training and management framework	1.70
C2.2. Infrastructures, equipment and facilities	6.70
C2.3. Protected areas participatory and adaptive management	5.00
C2.4. Alternative opportunities for local development and IGAs	5.00

Support the MEDD reform through consolidation of OGPR management and provide direct support to four protected areas in the Guinea forest: Diécké, Mont Béro, Pic de Fon, and **Monts Nimba**. The first three are classified forests managed by the CFZ; the latter is an integral nature reserve with biosphere reserve status, managed by CEGENS. Other actions concern support to territorial planning, consolidation of environmental information, and **develop a sustainable funding mechanism for protected areas** (a trust fund feasibility study is ongoing).

Relevance **High;** the project will closely work with MEDD on developing a sustainable funding mechanism that will also benefit both biosphere reserves. Other very important issues of common interest are the ESS, alternative opportunities for local development and protected areas and participatory and adaptive management.

Project name **SARA project - food security, resilience and agroecology in Guinea**

Goal support the development of several food and market gardening sectors that are crucial for family food and food security in Guinea, by supporting the promotion of peasant innovations and the introduction of agroecological practices.

Duration 2016 – 2019

Donor **AFD**

Implementing Agency GRET, Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development - Terre Solidaire (CCFD-TS), Fédération des Paysans du Fouta Djallon (FPFD) and Maison Guinéenne de l'Entrepreneur (MGE)

Scope Middle Guinea (MG) and Forest Guinea (GF)

Budget ?

Project Description The project supports the production, processing and marketing of rice, potatoes, corn, fruits and vegetables, and palm oil, and contributes to the structuring of these sectors. The project also includes actions to raise awareness of good nutritional practices.

The project will operate mainly in Middle Guinea (MG) and Forest Guinea (GF), with also actions to promote quality mangrove rice in Lower Guinea (BG) and the organization of consultation workshops.

Relevance **Medium:** Project builds on experiences gained by former interventions with respect to sustainable and climate resilient food production initiatives. It envisages to strengthen collaboration with local NGOs and CBOs active around both reserves and involved in the SARA project.

Project name **Support for Landscape and Forest Restoration in Guinea**

Goal The creation of a multi-stakeholder and intersectoral framework facilitating the scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)

Duration 2018 - 2021

Donor **FAO**

Implementing Agency FAO

Scope National and pilot support in the Faranah region for the TCP and Southern Upper Guinea and Guinea Forestière for the future GEF7 project

Budget	\$ 350.000
Project Description	<p>To fulfil the prerequisites for local actions leading to the achievement of its commitments (2 million ha) for forest and landscape restoration (FLR), Guinea has initiated collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This collaboration operates within the framework of a technical cooperation project (TCP), focusing on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing a multi-stakeholder and intersectoral framework to facilitate the scaling up of FLR and sustainable management. This includes capacity building, policy assessment, and fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue. 2. Mobilizing partners and financial resources, primarily through project preparation to scale up FLR actions. 3. Enhancing knowledge about the FLR potential of sites, particularly by implementing processes to evaluate restoration opportunities in the pilot zone of Faranah (Upper Guinea).
Relevance	<p>Medium; Lessons learned from this FAO project on FLR have been elaborated in a follow up project supported by GEF 7 (GEF ID 10600) . This follow up project overlaps partly with both Biosphere Reserves and is therefore highly relevant! The project will therefore harmonize approaches with respect to village land use plans and work towards joint capacity building of various stakeholders in both landscapes. Besides very regular coordination between the projects, gender sensitive exchange and joint learning will be promoted.</p>
Project name	SAVEUR-GF
Goal	Strengthen the skills, organization, and effectiveness of civil society in the forest region to become a significant player in public affairs and improve the quality of its actions for the benefit of the population.
Duration	2020 - 2023
Donor	EU
Implementing Agency	GRET, Acord Guinee & ADC
Scope	The seven prefectures of Forested Guinea: Kissidougou, Guéckédou, Macenta, N'Zérékoré, Yomou, Lola, and Beyla
Budget	€ 1.017 million
Project Description	<p>The objective of the Saveur project was to strengthen civil society organisations' capacity for action, with a view to raising inhabitants' awareness on environmental issues and implementing appropriate practices. In particular, the project aimed to improve dialogue between civil society, public authorities and private stakeholders. It also focused on strengthening civil society's internal capacities in terms of management (administrative, organisational, financial), governance (operation of bodies, leadership, conflicts of interest), and their technical capacities (skills and expertise). A support fund was set up to finance initiatives by around thirty organisations</p> <p>Expected Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify organizations working on selected themes, analyze the functioning of CSOs,

groups, and platforms, and determine priorities to support through diagnostics and a consultation process.

2. Provide capacity building for CSOs in various areas (technical, management, governance, institutional, legal) through organizational and institutional support, training, and exchange visits.
3. Enhance dialogue between civil society and public/private actors at the prefectural and regional levels and strengthen collective reflections and actions of CSOs through support for consultation frameworks, advocacy, awareness, and social mobilization actions, and contributions to local development plans.
4. Ensure CSOs have access to financial resources to develop actions, particularly for women and youth, by establishing a support fund for CSO initiatives aligned with local sectoral and territorial priorities and policies.

Relevance **Medium:** The project will give a concrete follow up to the successful set up of local platforms for dialogues uniting various stakeholders around shared issues of interest. It will also further build on local CSO and NGO capacities concerning advocacy and awareness raising

Project name **Conserving critical forest biodiversity in Guinea through sustainable agricultural livelihoods**

Goal Assist farmers to transition from illegal agricultural practices within the Ziama Massif BR core areas

Duration 2017 -2021

Donor **Darwin Initiative (UK ODA)**

Implementing Agency FFI

Scope Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve

Budget £ 396,869

Project Description Supporting male and female farmers to change from illegal agricultural practices within protected area forest wetlands that are unsustainable and harmful to ecosystems and species (notably elephant and chimpanzee), and that trigger human-elephant conflict, through the use of improved and labour-saving techniques, crops and storage solutions in co-managed transition zones. The relocation and improvement of agricultural practices reduces encroachment and degradation of forest habitats and ecosystems, benefiting elephants, forest resources and biodiversity, while improving the wellbeing of targeted farmers.

Relevance **High; Best practices and lessons learned are integrated in the project and will guide future activities on sustainable and gender sensitive agricultural practices in Ziama as well inform similar activities at Nimba.**

1. Past and planned regional actions and projects (if relevant)

Table 8: Child project linkages with the past, planned and ongoing regional projects

Project name	West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BiCC)
Goal	Improve conservation and climate-resilient, low-emission growth across West Africa
Duration	2015 – 2020
Donor	USAID (WA-BiCC)
Implementing Agency	Various (Guinea FFI)
Scope	ECOWAS Countries
Budget	\$48.9 million (<i>for whole region!</i>)
Project Description	WA-BiCC addressed both direct and indirect drivers of natural resource degradation to improve livelihoods and natural ecosystems across the region. The project worked with partners at the community, national and regional levels to strengthen policies and systems that will improve natural resource management and the health and resilience of selected coastal and upland forest ecosystems.
Relevance	<p>High > For the period 2018 until 2020, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) secured a grant from WABICC to promote innovative collaborative management of the Zياما-Wonegizi-Wologizi (ZWW) Transboundary Forest Landscape between Liberia and Guinea. The aim of the project was to strengthen forest conservation, protect biodiversity, ensure connectivity between sites, enhance forest governance and improve the livelihood of people in the landscape. In order to achieve the above, the project has the following four objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objective 1. Strengthen forest and biodiversity conservation of the ZWW Transboundary Forest Landscape. 2. Objective 2. Support creation of an enabling environment that facilitates forest governance and related law enforcement within the ZWWF landscape. 3. Objective 3. Promote sustainable livelihood activities that contribute to the improved wellbeing of people within the ZWWF landscape and reduce unsustainable forest dependency while striving to identify sustainable forest management approaches. 4. Objective 4. Encourage learning and sharing of inspiring knowledge, responsible attitudes and best practices that strengthen local interventions and enhance national or regional policy initiatives. This should include but not be limited to national government and non-governmental partners, the core WA BiCC regional partners, and the MRU and ECOWAS in particular. <p>Best practices and lessons learned are integrated in the project and will guide future activities. This includes transboundary cooperation in which alignment with (a follow up of) the GEF 4 supported IWRM project by the Mano River Union, was taken into account.</p>

Project name	West Africa Biodiversity Low Emissions Development (WABiLED)
Goal	Promote biodiversity conservation and climate-resilient, low emissions development in West Africa
Duration	2023 - 2025
Donor	USAID
Implementing Agency	Various
Scope	ECOWAS countries
Budget	\$ 49M (for all countries)
Project Description	<p>The WABiLED project has a regional and cross-border focus, with a strong emphasis on implementation and private sector involvement. Funded by USAID, this four-year regional programme operates across all 15 ECOWAS countries. The main objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Combatting wildlife trafficking by supporting the implementation of regional strategies and action plans, 2. Collaborating with stakeholders in transboundary landscapes to reduce deforestation, forest degradation, and biodiversity loss, and 3. Identifying and promoting low emissions development (LED) strategies in collaboration with stakeholders, while also engaging the private sector to leverage funds.
Relevance	High > As a follow-up to the WA-BiCC funding Fauna and Flora obtained support to continue its work on collaborative management of the Ziama- Wonegizi-Wologizi (ZWW) Transboundary Forest Landscape. This grant builds on years of extensive engagement and implementation within the ZWW transboundary forest landscape between Liberia and Guinea. The project will support this work by adding integrated water management - as initiated under the IUCN/Manu River Union GEF 4 Integrated Water Management Project - to the transboundary cooperation.
Project name	Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (PAPFor)
Goal	The aim of the PAPFor programme is to slow – and ultimately halt – the loss of forests, and promote sustainable solutions for their continued existence, with and for the benefit of local communities
Duration	2019 -2024
Donor	EU
Implementing Agency	Various (Guinea – Nimba: UNOPS)
Scope	Six transboundary forest landscapes in West Africa
Budget	€ 20 million
Project Description	PAPFor is active in six transboundary forest landscapes in West Africa, with a coordination unit based in Monrovia, Liberia. Per landscape, an implementing agency manages field activities and supports various initiatives via different partners. PAPFor supports Nimba across 3 countries

(Ivory Coast, Liberia, Guinea). It has a duration of 3.5 years (to Apr-24) and is managed by UNOPS supporting the three management authorities with other partners (incl. SMFG). Total budget for the Nimba landscape is 4 million Euro.

Specific objectives are:

- Integrate development & environmental conservation into territorial planning
- Improving protection of protected areas
- Establishing/updating management plans
- Institutional support
- Sustainable rural development to integrate NRM with livelihoods

FF is discussing with the EU (DUE Conakry) for possible collaboration under future EU NaturGuinée (EU national) programme) or future regional NaturAfrica - which will cover the ZWW transboundary landscape. This should give a follow up to work done under WA-BiCC and WABiLED (USAID) with respect to the transboundary agreements between Guinea and Liberia for landscape management.

Relevance	High; The project builds on a number of interventions supported by PAPfor notably with respect to the need for translating Local Development Plans (LDPs) into village land use plans and to integrate conservation efforts in territorial planning taking into account the broader transboundary context
Project name	Conservation, Minimisation des impacts et compensation au titre de la Biodiversité (COMBO & COMBO+)
Goal	To reconcile economic development with addressing biodiversity issues, by intervening for a better practice of mitigation hierarchy, aiming for no net loss, or even net gain, of biodiversity and achieving the national biodiversity objectives resulting from the COP15 of the CBD
Duration	➤ Phase 1 (2016-2020) in 4 countries ➤ Phase 2: Duration of 4 years (2021-2025) in 6 countries
Donor	AFD + FFEM
Implementing Agency	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Scope	Guinea, Uganda, Madagascar, Mozambique Lao PDR, Myanmar
Budget	COMBO + € 11 million (Guinee € 1.67 million)
Project Description	The Conservation, Mitigation and Biodiversity Offset (COMBO) programme supports countries around the world that are striving to balance biodiversity conservation with economic development. Its core objectives are to achieve: (1) improved national policy and its application , particularly through cross-sectoral coordination.

(2) the availability of **tools and guidance for better use of biodiversity data** to inform impact avoidance and other mitigation actions, including biodiversity offsets;

(3) the development of essential **governance, financing and implementation mechanisms**; and

(4) the necessary **capacity** of governments, industry, financial institutions and civil society to deliver successful outcomes.

Relevance Medium; Project will contribute to Phase 2 by sharing lessons and take advantage of best practices and lessons learned by other participating countries.

Project name The *“Sustainable management of Wonegizi-Wologizi forests landscape in Liberia”*

Goal To contribute to a sustainable and concerted management of the forest landscape of Wonegizi-Wologizi and its periphery, in complementarity with AFD support to the Zياما reserve in Guinea

Duration **Under negotiation:** 2024 -2029

Donor **French Development Agency (AFD),**

Scope Wonegizi-Wologizi landscape (Liberia)

Budget € 9 million

Project Description Based on initial exchanges which took place between the AFD team and the main stakeholders of the forest and biodiversity sector in Liberia, particularly the European Union Delegation (EUD), Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the Liberian Forestry Department Authority (FDA), a preliminary project concept note has been developed. AFD financing (grant) would reach **EUR 9M**, with a project design to be completed and submitted to AFD Board by the second semester of 2024 (targeted completion of appraisal: August 2024; targeted approval by AFD board: October 2024). Additional contribution of up to EUR 2M from the French FFEM may be considered. Project contemplated duration is 5 years.

Relevance **High:** The project will actively align with this initiative specifically for expanding and strengthening transboundary cooperation.

Project name **Mainstreaming Opportunities for Operationalizing business contributions to Nature in the Mano River Union Countries (MOON)**

Goal To enable business to make contributions to nature by brokering partnerships for conservation and restoration, and by supporting the development of conservation agreements in priority landscapes in Guinean Forests.

Duration 2021- 2022

Donor **CEPF**

Implementing BIOTOPE

Agency

Scope Manu River Union countries (Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone)

Budget \$ 342,895

Project Description Create an enabling environment for the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimize, restore, offset) by development projects (especially extractive and agricultural sectors, but also public infrastructure) in conservation corridors of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia. Develop practical and user-friendly guidelines for private sector use in Public-Private and Public-Private-Community Partnerships. Enhance capacity to support international best practices

Relevance **Low**; Project will use guidelines and lessons learned

Project name **Facilitation d'engagement pour la biodiversité (BIODEV2030)**

Goal Facilitate the adaptation and local implementation of the Biodiversity Engagement Facilitation Project (BIODEV2030) in Guinea. Support the commitment of at least two economic sectors towards biodiversity and reducing their pressures by 2030

Duration 2020 – 2022 (pilot)

Donor **AFD**

Implementing Agency IUCN

Scope 16 countries including Guinee

Budget € 1.219,840 (Guinee € 258,608)

Project Description BIODEV2030 is an experimental approach implemented in 16 pilot countries with multiple socioeconomic, environmental and geographic contexts. It aims to provide the governments of each country with the means to identify and initiate, jointly with the private sector and civil society, profound changes in the sectors of the economy having a strategic impact on development and biodiversity of the country.

Relevance Medium; IUCN will ensure that lessons learned and best practices will be incorporated in the project.

Project name **West Africa Nature Transformation initiative (WANTi)**

Goal To address the urgent conservation challenges facing the Guinean Forests of West Africa (GFWA).

Duration 1 year (start in 2024?)

Donor CCI

Implementing **Cambridge Conservatuion Initiative CCI:** BirdLife International (BirdLife); Cambridge University /

Agency	Geography, Plant Sciences, Zoology, Land Economy (UCAM); Fauna & Flora (FF); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Scope	Guinean Forests of West Africa hotspot (including Upper and Lower Guinean Forests Ecosystems); First phase: Southern Upper Guinea and Mount Nimba freshwater ecoregions , plus the Sassandra River catchment.
Budget	£ 70,000
Project Description	<p>The project will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the Guinean Forests' biodiversity threats and livelihoods, involving local stakeholders, identifying research questions, and establishing a participatory foundation for investigating catchment- and jurisdictional-based approaches. The findings will guide future efforts towards transformative conservation actions and economic trajectories in West Africa. First phase will focus on Southern Upper Guinea and Mount Nimba freshwater ecoregions, plus the Sassandra River catchment, (part of the Eburneo) catchment; including some of the most important conservation sites in West Africa in terms of species, ecosystems, and the services they provide. Other sites to be prioritized through ecosystem/species profiling.</p> <p><i>Expected Outputs:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First draft of map of multidimensional biodiversity threats in the region and underlying drivers: the project will analyse and synthesise existing data to develop an understanding of the threats and their causes and identify data gaps. 2. Theory of Change, outlining the pathways and interventions that will be employed to achieve the conservation objectives of the WANTi. 3. Collaborative partnerships established with local organisations, academic institutions, and other stakeholders: the project will foster collaboration and engagement with various entities to support WANTi long-term objectives. 4. Workshop Report, summarising the discussions, outcomes, and recommendations of involved international experts, consortium members, and local stakeholders from collaborative workshop
Relevance	Medium; With a focus on the Mount Nimba region this innovative CCI initiative is very relevant to the project. The project will actively contribute to this initiative by providing data, and support participation of national and local stakeholders in the process.
Project name	NaturAfrica
Goal	To support biodiversity conservation in Africa
Duration	2025 - 2030
Donor	EU
Implementing Agency	divers

Scope	Selection of transboundary landscapes in Africa (all biomes, not just forests); Guinea: Nimba and ZWW landscapes (EU 'Key Landscapes for Conservation and Development - KLCDs)
Budget	Approx. 85M € in 2 phases
Project Description	NaturAfrica is an initiative to support biodiversity conservation in Africa that takes an innovative people-centred approach. It identifies key landscapes for conservation and development where the EU will focus support for job creation, improved security and sustainable livelihoods, while preserving the ecosystems and wildlife that are vital to all. The implementation of NaturAfrica is subject to the local context and national priorities. EU delegations will define and implement NaturAfrica programmes after wide consultation and in agreement with all stakeholders of the landscapes: national and regional government, local communities, civil society and the private sector. Working with indigenous communities and women will be at the heart of the NaturAfrica approach. Priority will be given to development actions in key landscapes identified in Larger than Elephants, and support will be structured around 2 pillars. 1. In the short term, it will develop actions in key landscapes for conservation and development, building on the positive benefits that protected areas bring to society and the economy, encouraging networks of protected areas and knowledge-sharing. 2. In the medium term, it will extend support beyond key landscapes to address the root causes of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and integrate these concerns into other sectors ('mainstreaming biodiversity').
Relevance	High > follow up of PAPFor activities in Nimba KLCD (2025); and support ZWW KLCD in second phase (2027)

Project will actively support the development of the NaturAfrica project for both sites assuring complementary and strengthening transboundary partnerships

Project name	Conserving critical forest biodiversity in Guinea through sustainable agricultural livelihoods
Goal	Assist farmers to transition from illegal agricultural practices within the Ziama Massif BR core areas
Duration	2017 -2021
Donor	Darwin Initiative
Implementing Agency	FFI
Scope	Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve
Budget	£ 396,869
Project Description	Supporting male and female farmers to change from illegal agricultural practices within protected area forest wetlands that are unsustainable and harmful to ecosystems and species (notably elephant and chimpanzee), and that trigger human-elephant conflict, through the use of improved and labour-saving techniques, crops and storage solutions in co-managed transition zones. The relocation and improvement of agricultural practices reduces encroachment and degradation of forest habitats and ecosystems, benefiting elephants, forest resources and biodiversity, while improving the wellbeing of targeted farmers.
Relevance	Medium: Project builds on experiences gained by these Darwin supported interventions

1. GEF interventions

The main GEF intervention projects linked with the current project in Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve are:

Table 9: Linkages with GEF related national interventions linked to Mt Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves

Title	ID	Focal Areas	Type	Agencies	GEF Grant	Co-financing	Status
Guinea Water and Sanitation Project	11575	Climate Change	Full-size Project	The World Bank	1,092,000	200,000,000	Concept Proposed
Protection of wildlife in the Folonigbè reserve through participatory and integrated management	11155	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation	Full-size Project	United Nations Development Programme	8,558,409	24,600,000	Concept Approved
Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea	10600	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation	Full-size Project	Food and Agriculture Organization	9,498,165	43,395,420	Approved (2022)
Increased resilience and adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable communities to climate change in Forested Guinea	10160	Climate Change	Full-size Project	United Nations Development Programme	8,850,000	28,100,000	Approved (Dec 2022)
Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to	8023	Climate Change	Full-size Project	United Nations Development Programme	5,000,000	33,047,300	Project Approved (Mar 2019)

Climate Change in Guinea

Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Targeting Vulnerable Communities of the Upper Guinea Region	5382	Climate Change	Full-size Project	United Nations Development Programme	8,000,000	114,180,000	Approved (Mar 2016)
Developing Market for Biogas Resource Development and Utilization in Guinea	5289	Climate Change	Full-size Project	United Nations Development Programme	2,647,706	11,000,000	Completed (2021)
Strengthening Decentralized Management of the Environment to Meet Rio Convention Objectives	5041		Medium-size Project	United Nations Development Programme	525,000	625,000	Completed (2019)
National Biodiversity Planning to Support the Implementation of the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan in Guinea	4667	Biodiversity	Enabling Activity	United Nations Development Programme	296,091	313,000	Completed (2017)
Increased Resilience and Adaptation to Adverse Impacts of Climate Change in Guinea's Vulnerable Coastal Zones	3703	Climate Change	Full-size Project	United Nations Development Programme	2,970,000	162,885,000	Completed (2018)
National Adaptation Plan of Action	2362	Climate Change	Enabling Activity	United Nations Development Programme	200,000		Completed (2013)
Community-based Land Management	1877	Land Degradation	Full-size Project	The World Bank	7,000,000	34,400,000	Completed (2015)

Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management	1273	Biodiversity	Full-size Project	The World Bank	5,000,000	18,530,000	Completed (2014)
Rural Energy	8	Climate Change	Full-size Project	The World Bank	2,000,000	15,000,000	Completed (2014)

Table 10: GEF Regional Programmes including Guinea

Title	ID	Focal Areas	Type	Agencies	GEF Grant	Co-financing	Status
Mano River Union Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project	4953	Biodiversity, International Waters, Land Degradation	Full-size Project	International Union for Conservation of Nature	6,336,364	56,390,642	Project Approved Ended 2023
Conservation Priority-Setting for the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystems, West Africa	536	Biodiversity	Medium-size Project	United Nations Development Programme	742,000	207,000	Completed (2006)

Table 11: Additional information on three GEF projects of particular relevance

#1 Project name Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project

Goal The conservation and sustainable use of the transboundary water basins and their biodiversity resources within the Mano River Union member states.

Duration 48 months (start 2016 – ended 2023)

Donor GEF (GEF ID 4953)

Implementing Agency International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Executing Agency Mano River Union (MRU)

Scope Regional/Multi-country: Mano River Union area (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone)

Budget \$ 6,970,000

Project description:

The GEF-funded “Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project” was implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This project targeted the conservation and sustainable use of the transboundary water basins and their biodiversity resources within the Mano River Union member states. These resources were of paramount importance for the sub-region, which was seriously affected by socio-political problems, leading to displaced and suffering populations that required support under very difficult circumstances.

The project sought to promote holistic approaches to integrated ecosystem management and to design

participatory and community-based strategies, which led to in-situ conservation and sustainable use of soil, water, and biota in the river basins and their watersheds.

Implemented in the Upper Guinea forest, covering Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire, the project's objective was to strengthen the management of transboundary natural resources for sustained ecological benefits and improved livelihoods for forest-adjacent communities. Consequently, the project played a transformational role in the livelihoods of the communities living in the forest area, enabling them to benefit from the ecosystem without threatening it.

The project was consistent with GEF-5 focal area strategies for biodiversity (BD), land degradation (LD), and international waters (IW) as it contributed to the conservation of the Upper Guinea Forest ecosystem through the sustainable management of transboundary water basins.

The Upper Guinea Forest was degrading and disappearing at an alarming rate, with adverse consequences for the quantity and quality of linked ecosystem services that underpin the productivity of the land (LD), forests (BD), and water resources (IW). This had a direct impact on human well-being. Due to the degradation, forest-dependent people struggled to sustain their livelihoods, often resorting to unsustainable techniques such as poaching, logging, slash-and-burn agriculture, and illegal mining.

The project supported local communities in developing alternative means of income generation, which led to an increase in forest coverage and its related benefits both at the local (ecosystem services) and global (biodiversity, enhanced carbon sinks) levels. It enhanced local stakeholders' involvement in the management of the transboundary ecosystem.

The project also reinforced regional coordination among countries with a particular focus on selected ecosystems, thus strengthening the regional regulatory framework for the management of transboundary natural resources under the auspices of the Mano River Union. Through its international waters component, the project supported foundational capacity building and institutional reinforcement for regional ecosystem management of transboundary water systems.

National inter-ministry committees contributed to the development of a regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and subsequently to the preparation of a preliminary Strategic Action Plan. Collaboration on the transboundary basin and the adoption of a Transboundary Water Resource Management approach by cooperating states led to improved community livelihoods and addressed environmental issues. The results included a net gain in forest area, including the recovery of degraded forests, as well as increased consideration and management of transboundary water in regional policies. The transboundary nature of the water resources also fostered regional collaboration, resulting in enhanced regional cooperation and community interactions.

Relevance: Very High

The "Mano River" project has conducted numerous studies, initiated pilot projects for forest restoration, and improved livelihoods in both the Nimba and Ziamia transboundary landscapes. It has also supported the establishment of local, national, and transboundary committees for water management and promoted learning

and knowledge exchange.

A significant output has been the development of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the MRU-member states (Nov 2023)²⁰. The SAP is a regional policy framework that enables MRU member states to collaboratively achieve desired environmental outcomes for the Mano River basins, supporting the socio-economic development of target populations. The long-term objectives are to be achieved within twenty years and are designed within the responsibility of member states, independently defined as components of their National Action Plans (NAPs), and collectively within the mandate of the MRU. The overall cost to implement the SAP is estimated at \$146,051,200 over twenty years.

The Child project will explicitly build upon the achievements of the "Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM)" project. It will focus on further strengthening transboundary cooperation, revitalizing and operationalizing water management committees at various levels, translating identified forest landscape restoration opportunities from the regional to the local level, implementing nature-based solutions, and promoting regional learning and knowledge exchange.

#2 Project name	Strengthening the Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Local Communities in the Guinea Forest Region to Climate Change
Goal	The adoption of climate-smart agro-sylvo-pastoral strategies
Duration	2023 - 2027
Donor	GEF-7 (GEF ID 10160)
Implementing Agency	UNDP
Scope	Municipalities of Koulé, Kokota, Niosomoridou, Diécké, Bignamou, Wassérédou, Gouécké, and Mousadou all in the Guinea Forest Region
Budget	\$ 8.850.000

Project description:

The impacts of climate change in Forested Guinea will disturb rainfall patterns and increase the occurrence and intensity of flash floods and droughts. These climate trends will intensify in coming years and substantially affect water resources, disturb agriculture seasons, spread crop diseases and pests, and reduce biodiversity, in turn impacting food security and social stability.

With the highest rates of poverty in the country and a reliance on rain-fed agriculture, communities in the Forest Guinea region are particularly vulnerable to climate shocks.

²⁰ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of Mano River Union Basins (2023)

The project will introduce climate-smart agro-sylvo-pastoral practices (for example, more sustainable land and water management strategies, and the use of resilient seeds); improve access to adaptation microfinance for communities, community-based organizations, civil society, and local authorities; and improve the availability and use of climate information by local actors. The approach will be piloted in Forested Guinea, with the view to rolling it out at national level after the project ends.

Outcome 1: Climate resilience of vulnerable communities (at least 14,000 farming households) of Forested Guinea area achieved by the introduction of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices on at least 20,000 ha of agro-sylvo-pastoral lands.

Output 1.1: A CSA development platform (involving government authorities, farmers, the private sector, research entities) is formed to guide the formulation and the implementation of CSA investments and support their implementation.

Output 1.2: Context-specific CSA technology packages are implemented in sylvo-agropastoral landscapes covering an area of at least 20,000 ha and benefitting to 14,000 households.

Output 1.3: A sustainable CSA inputs supply system established in the targeted communities.

Output 1.4: A sliding 5-year investment plan for the scaling up of the CSA is developed and embedded into the local development plans (LDPs) of target municipalities.

Output 1.5: A knowledge platform and replication strategy.

Output 1.6: Monitoring system established.

Outcome 2: Access of communities' members, CBOs, CSOs, and local authorities to adaptation finance is enhanced in Forested Guinea.

Output 2.1: Microfinance institutions, local Banks and specialized NGOs (at least one in each prefecture) are supported to develop and submit one climate finance project for accessing financial resources and/or line of credit for CSA investments.

Output 2.2: Training packages on adaptation business models and investments delivered to at least 5,000 people, and at least 100 staff of Microfinance institutions, local banks and specialized NGOs on how to assess CSAs investment credit requests.

Output 2.3: Finance for climate smart agro-sylvo-pastoral technologies extended to up to 2,400 persons representing small businesses, farmers and households.

Output 2.4: Institutional and policy frameworks are developed to enable local communities and authorities accessing finance for CSA and other adaptive practices in the sector of agriculture.

Outcome 3: Climate information products and services for the development of CSA are developed and available for the communities and institutions

Output 3.1: Climate risk informed agro-ecological zoning of the different productive landscape of Forested Guinea developed.

Output 3.2: A training programme on how to use climate information products and services delivered to the local authorities, NGOs / CSOs, and farming communities.

Output 3.3: Tailored Climate information products and services are produced and disseminated to the end-users.

Output 3.4: Local Development Plans of the targeted municipalities include climatic data on potential impacts, hazards and risks, and incorporate in the planning climate change adaptation measures that are discussed with the full participation of key stakeholders, including vulnerable beneficiary groups.

Output 3.5: Replication Strategy and Action Plan developed at a national scale.

Relevance - High:

UNDP-led project also operates in the Guinea Forested region. While its intervention area does not directly overlap with the Nimba and Ziama Biosphere Reserves, the UNDP project addresses highly relevant themes, approaches, and activities that hold significant value for the initiative. There are numerous opportunities for mutual learning, exchange, and direct cooperation on various thematic issues.

#3 Project name Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea

Goal To promote sustainable and comprehensive food systems that are deforestation free and provide ecosystem services, with a focus on palm oil productive landscapes

Duration 2022 - 2027

Donor GEF 7 (GEF ID 10600)

Implementing Agency **FAO**

Scope Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea

Budget \$ 9.498.165

Project description:

Generating socio-economic benefits is not only a desirable outcome of this project but essential for its sustainability. If people do not gain tangible socio-economic advantages from more sustainable food systems and restored landscapes, there is little hope these systems will be adopted in the long run.

The objective of this project is to create a common vision as a guiding principle for the landscape, ensuring that all stakeholders, including traditionally disadvantaged groups such as women and youth, feel empowered and benefit from sustainable landscapes. Developing green and inclusive SMEs and supporting larger enterprises to positively impact the landscape and local livelihoods are key pillars of the project. The benefits of each component are as follows:

Component 1: At the national level, the socio-economic benefit from the project is an enabling environment that includes institutions and coordination mechanisms with a stronger capacity to plan and implement. These enhanced capacities are expected to lead to improved and integrated project outcomes.

The project will also support the development of policies that reach the field level, particularly those related to land tenure. These policies are crucial for communities and farmers to envision a long-term future for the landscape.

Through awareness-raising initiatives at national and local levels, over 300 people will be trained in Integrated Landscape Management planning. These individuals will lead the process in their communes, applying their knowledge to develop participatory integrated land use plans. These plans will be based on multiple criteria, including socio-economic factors. Raising awareness and enabling people to participate in landscape planning empowers them to drive change, transforming unsustainable food systems that overuse natural resources into systems that nurture them for long-term benefits.

As part of the Integrated Land Use Plans, some areas will implement sustainable agricultural intensification to promote sustainable food production practices and responsible value chains. For the transition from traditional agriculture to sustainable intensification to be accepted and integrated into long-term planning, local communities must derive benefits from these practices.

Component 2: Up to 10,000 farmers will be trained through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and lead farmers on sustainable agricultural intensification practices. The exact packages used in each community will be tailored to local conditions and culture, but all options proposed in the project are designed to enhance the economic status of the farmers. This will be achieved through diversified production, crop rotation (enabling multiple crops on the same land without depleting resources), and ensuring crops can adapt to changing weather patterns, thereby protecting farmers from the devastating effects of lost harvests.

The project's linkages with the AGRIFARM project, which supports the development of cooperatives, roads, and market opportunities, will enable farmers to sell their produce more efficiently. The project also focuses on sustainable palm oil development, given its growth in Guinea. Production and processing will be supported to adopt more sustainable practices. Fifteen groups, primarily consisting of women who typically handle this work, will be empowered to improve processing, reduce labor intensity, and increase yield.

In parallel, the project will promote inclusive businesses. Implementing palm oil certification will stimulate demand for sustainable products and generate socio-economic benefits for local communities. Women and youth will gain recognition and direct benefits from their work, providing renewed motivation and energy.

Component 3: Restoration activities outlined in the Integrated Land Use Plans will be implemented to restore threatened ecosystem services and create a healthy environment. Value chains dependent on restored lands will

be supported to ensure a direct economic benefit from restoration efforts.

Four Non-Wood Forest Product (NWFP) value chains will be supported to enhance economic benefits and validate the productivity of restored lands. Additionally, the project will seek new financing options to sustain restored lands, ensuring direct socio-economic benefits.

Component 4: Both national and local project stakeholders will benefit from more robust monitoring and knowledge management systems that generate information participatively, share it in formats suited to the target audience, and disseminate data, information, and best practices relevant to restoration. This will reduce time spent on research and development, facilitating the exchange of innovative ideas among local, national, and international experts (through the IP FOLUR, for example) and practitioners, potentially influencing programme and policy formulation at various levels.

The project's strong focus on gender and youth equity is expected to strengthen social sustainability. By providing equal rights and opportunities for participation and benefit, women, men, and youth can become agents of change for sustained socio-economic development in their communities. All these efforts support Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) and Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) development at local, regional, and national levels, equipping stakeholders with the tools and incentives to continue these practices over the long term. Global environmental benefits will be achieved through reduced land degradation, sustainable agriculture and forest management, improved biodiversity habitat connectivity, and enhanced well-being.

Relevance – Very High:

The FAO-led project, which will be partially implemented in the Guinea Forest region, including sites at Nimba and near Ziama Biosphere Reserves (BRs), aims primarily at forest restoration alongside the development of land use plans and support for local livelihoods. The Child project closely aligns with the issues addressed by this initiative. It is crucial to synchronize efforts with FAO-supported initiatives to ensure alignment of tools and approaches, enhancing complementarity in geographical intervention areas. The FAO project also presents excellent opportunities for cooperation, learning, and exchange.

2. Gaps to be filled

Several projects have recently been undertaken to address threats to biodiversity, forests, and natural resources in the Mount Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves. Despite these efforts, their scale has been limited given the significant challenges these reserves face. Limited resources and capacities have resulted in suboptimal engagement with stakeholders, particularly local communities. Additionally, the lack of long-term management plans for both reserves has hindered coordinated action and resource mobilization.

To address these limitations, enhanced on-the-ground interventions and additional support are necessary to build on and expand existing and past efforts within the project landscapes. While policy and legislative reviews are currently underway with the support of the World Bank, continuous efforts are required to strengthen, establish, and maintain the frameworks essential for sustainable natural resource management and climate change mitigation.

An analysis of past and present initiatives in both biosphere reserves, supplemented by national and regional efforts, reveals several critical gaps that need to be addressed. Targeted interventions, increased stakeholder

engagement, and robust long-term management strategies are essential to overcoming these challenges and ensuring the sustainable conservation of these vital ecosystems.

Table 12: Gaps to be filled by the Guinea Child project

Gaps to be filled	Guinea Child Project contribution
Unclear and sometimes conflicting mandates, roles, and responsibilities among various government agencies operating within the agencies	Establish clear mandates, delineate roles and responsibilities, and foster inter-agency coordination mechanisms among government agencies (Output 1.1.1)
Biosphere Reserves hinder effective management, targeted investment, and coordination among multiple stakeholders.	
The absence of exchange and coordination among stakeholders in both biosphere reserves undermines a collective understanding of shared challenges and hampers the collective pursuit of joint solutions. Improved coordination needs to pay particular attention to gender inequality and a better representation of vulnerable groups.	Establish a permanent, gender sensitive, institutional governance and coordination platform tailored for each area, alongside facilitating multi-stakeholder consultation frameworks to enhance collaboration and coordination among diverse stakeholders. (Output 1.1.1 > Activity 1.1.1.5)
Limited and insecure financing for both reserves poses a challenge	Support initiatives for long-term finance and align with the establishment of a National Trust Fund (Outputs 1.1.3, 4.1.4).
Knowledge gaps regarding the current state of biodiversity (species), forest habitats, ecosystem connectivity, and ecosystem services in the reserves constrain the inclusion of conservation efforts in land use planning and the management of buffer and transition zones in both reserves.	Undertake thorough field surveys, employing tools such as GIS mapping and biodiversity assessment protocols, to inventory and map biodiversity hotspots, key habitats, ecological corridors, and ecosystem services within the buffer and transition zones. (Output 2.1.2)
Weakness of community involvement and gender and socially inclusive participation in land use planning, decision-making processes, and governance concerning the management and use of natural resources in both reserves. Plus, lack of strategic approaches and integration of gender sensitive village level land use plans with Development Plans and planning systems	Support policy reforms by the National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations (output 1.1.2.). Develop community-based land use plans at the local level in Mount Nimba and Zياما Biosphere Reserves (Output 2.1.1), along with multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote coordinated sustainable natural resource management (forests, water, biodiversity) by communities, the private sector, and decentralized government structures (Output 2.1.1; Output 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3.).
Communities in both reserves lack opportunities to develop environmentally sustainable livelihood activities that support conservation efforts.	Improved and diversified livelihoods based on forest restoration (ANR, agroforestry, woodlots etc.), Nature-based solutions, sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, value chain support, and alternative income-generating activities (Output 2.2.1, 2.2.2; Output 3.1.3).
Strong need to strengthen gender sensitive cooperation with Liberia and Ivory Coast to address transboundary issues affecting the	Support local, gender sensitive and socially inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees, and plans (established by the GEF5 IUCN-MRU IWRM). Implement nature-

integrity of the Mount Nimba and Ziama-based solutions to enhance freshwater ecosystem health (*Outputs* Wonegizi-Wologizi (ZWW) landscapes, and to 3.1.1 and 3.1.3)
support regional integrated water resource management.

Limited knowledge and capacity regarding Build and strengthen the capacity of stakeholders (state, private integrated, gender sensitive, conservation and sector, civil society, communities) to implement collaborative and development challenges and opportunities. gender sensitive conservation and development programmes for Inadequate information, education, and sustainable, forest and ecosystem management, green communication about Biosphere Reserves at all development, and community resilience. Enhance gender levels (local, national, regional & international). sensitive learning, knowledge sharing, communication, and dissemination of results and information in Guinea, throughout the region and on the international level (*Outputs* 4.1.1; 4.1.2, 4.1.3 and 4.1.4)

5. Intervention strategy (alternative)

1. Project rationale and expected global environmental benefits

The global environmental problem which the Guinea Child project will address is the rapid and widespread forest loss, habitat degradation and loss of forest biodiversity across the Guinea Forest biome. This in turn threatens the supply and maintenance of ecosystem services (fresh water, sustainable supply of natural resources, climate change mitigation) on which forest-adjacent communities of the region depend.

These losses are the result of over-exploitation by people of natural (forest) resources, especially due to agricultural expansion, overgrazing, unsustainable timber extraction and charcoal production, over-fishing, artisanal and industrial mining, unsustainable hunting (bushmeat and wildlife trade) and infrastructure development, all exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. The underlying drivers of these threats include high levels of poverty and wealth inequality, pressure for economic development, population growth and migrations leading to expanding infrastructure and settlements, inadequate definition and recognition of land tenure and resource rights, gender inequities in natural resource rights and management (women are often excluded from access and decision-making). (see Chapter 3.3 Threats, root causes and barrier analysis).

Failure to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation in the Guinean Forests will result in continued loss of habitats and wildlife and decline in the supply of ecosystem services on which people depend. This loss of natural capital damages the socioeconomic well-being of forest-dependent communities in the short-term and limits the options for future environmentally and socially sustainable economic development.

The objective of the Guinea Child project (which is designed to reverse the current declines in forest extent, habitat quality and biodiversity in two Biosphere Reserves in Guinea) is: *To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mt Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) in Guinea.*

The stakeholder analysis, project baseline and gap analysis and relationship of the proposed project to other ongoing and planned investments are detailed in Chapters 3.4 (Stakeholder analysis) and 3.5 (Baseline analysis and gaps). The project rationale, proposed GEF alternative and consistency of the proposal with national priorities and plans are detailed below under 4.2 Project description; 4.6 Consistency with national priorities and plans; 4.8 Incremental cost reasoning/ GEF alternative and Core indicators. The expected GEF Global Environmental Benefits (with GEF Core Indicators and targets to be achieved by successful implementation of the Guinea Child Project) are listed in Table 18 on page 122.

2. Project description including project goal, expected impact, components, their expected outcomes and outputs and planned activities

Project objective: To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mt Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) in Guinea.

4.2.1 Project Theory of Change

The Theory of Change for the Guinea Child component (of the Guinean Forests Integrated Programme (GFIP)) is based on the premise that:

IF enabling, gender sensitive policies, governance, partnerships and sustainable finance for the conservation management of forest landscapes and PAs, (the Biosphere Reserves: MNBR and ZFBR) are created or improved, **AND** ecosystem connectivity is restored in and around the 2 Biosphere Reserves including the Mt Nimba-Bossou ecological corridor and other key forest adjacent areas,

AND sustainable and gender sensitive livelihoods and green development for communities around the Biosphere Reserves are enhanced, based on maintenance and sustainable management of ecosystem functions and services,

AND forest and watershed management is coordinated and enhanced regionally in transboundary landscapes and PAs/ OECMs (notably within the Moa/ Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Basins)

AND learning, knowledge sharing, management, collaboration and communication are improved through the 3 national and 1 regional Child projects and other Guinea Forest conservation and sustainable development initiatives,

THEN there will be a reduction in forest habitat loss and degradation (and the accompanying loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity) and increases in extent and connectivity of forest in Guinea and sub-regionally in Guinea Forest landscapes, which will benefit community livelihoods, improve human wellbeing and contribute to mitigating climate change nationally, in the sub-region and globally.

The theory of change has the following underpinning assumptions:

1. Government (of Guinea) has the political will to review and strengthen national policies and governance, develop partnerships and source sustainable finance for effective, gender sensitive forest and wildlife conservation, restoration of ecological corridors and sustainable, gender sensitive, community livelihoods
2. Effective gender sensitive partnerships (government, civil society/ NGO, private sector) can be created which adopt best practices and learning for sustainable forest and wildlife management, with gender-inclusive, equitable community development and benefits
3. Individual and institutional gender sensitive capacity can be strengthened, resourced and sustained (government and civil society) for successful implementation of the Child project and beyond
4. Private sector partners and other donors are willing to engage during implementation and support the development of sustainable and gender sensitive finance solutions for long-term impact and sustainability (conservation and development) beyond the life of the project
5. Government (of Guinea) has the political will to collaborate and share in policy commitments to support regional alignment and the GFIP whole-of-biome approach to forest governance and coordinated management (including multi-country collaboration in shared transboundary conservation areas and forest landscapes)
6. Capacity development, communications, learning and knowledge sharing will enhance local and national capacity (individual and institutional) to manage forest, land and wildlife sustainably in and adjacent to PAs and OECMs and in the targeted landscapes

THEN the Guinea Forest Child project will create an enhanced enabling, gender sensitive environment for conservation and sustainable management, through effective partnerships, gender-responsive policy changes and sustainable financing solutions, which will result in improved forest landscape management and governance, reduced forest habitat loss and degradation, (and the accompanying loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity). This will help to maintain the integrity of Guinean Forests (specifically in the 2 targeted Biosphere Reserves: Nimba (MNBR) and Ziama (ZMBR)), support the mitigation of climate change and help to maximise the multiple global environmental benefits related to Carbon, biodiversity, and human wellbeing in Guinea and the Guinea Forest region.

The four components of the Guinea Child project design correspond directly to the **4 principal levers of transformation identified:**

1. Strengthened national policies, governance and partnership for forests and wildlife
2. Enhanced ecological restoration, connectivity, conservation management and sustainable livelihoods/ green development
3. Effectively managed transboundary watershed and forest landscapes (regional policy alignment & collaboration)
4. Capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication






Five components of the Guinea Child project:

1. Component 1: Enhancement and creation of enabling policies, partnerships and sustainable finance mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas: Mont Nimba (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) Biosphere Reserves
1. Component 2: Restoration of ecosystem connectivity (including the Mount Nimba-Bossou corridor) and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods and green development around MNBR and ZMBR
2. Component 3: Strengthened management of transboundary forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins: Mt Nimba complex (Cavally RB: Guinea, Liberia, Côte d' Ivoire) and Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi (Moa-Makona/ Mano RB: Guinea, Liberia)
3. Component 4: Capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication
4. Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation.

The summary (schematic) Guinea Child project theory of change and project description is shown below, followed by the Project Description – Activities narrative plan (by Components 1-5).

Fig. 4.2.1 Project summary schematic

To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mount Nimba and the Bossou corridor and Ziam Massif in Guinea

Problems/barriers	Components/ activities	First level Outputs	Outcomes	Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak governance, conflicting national institutional mandates for management of Protected Areas and sustainable use of natural resources; lack of long-term management plans and resources for the 2 Biosphere Reserves Absence of integrated land use strategies and functional village Land Use Plans Lack of clarity and good governance – issues of land tenure and land rights (in wider landscapes) Inequalities, lack of inclusive community engagement and gender balance, women not represented in decision-making Insufficient technical capacities, resources and partnerships (government and civil society) Insufficient or poorly managed financial resources for management of land and resources No security of long-term finance for conservation management, sustainable land use and local community sustainable development Information base weak despite decades of research and lesson-learning; data hard to access Weak cooperation and lack of common policies, regulations and agreements for joint working between countries sharing the Upper Guinea forest ecosystems 	Component 1: Enabling policies, partnerships & sustainable finance - for the governance and management of MNBR and ZMBR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy discussions, analysis - national context, local issues (governance, land use planning, sustainable finance) Support to local technical multi-stakeholder platforms & partnerships 	1.1.1: Inter-ministerial agreement signed for inclusive and gender responsive management of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves 1.1.2: Policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender issues 1.1.3: Sustainable, gender sensitive conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves investigated and supported	1.1 Improved gender responsive and socially inclusive, management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves (BRs)  Governance	Enhanced forest landscape connectivity and ecosystem integrity maximise global environmental benefits (GEBs) relating to human development and wellbeing, Carbon and climate change mitigation, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in Guinea Forests
	Component 2: Restoration of ecosystem connectivity & enhancement of sustainable livelihoods and green development in MNBR and ZMBR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory, gender-inclusive stakeholder consultation workshops (land use planning - LUPs) Participatory, gender-inclusive stakeholder training events Field inventories, cartography/ digital mapping (socio-economic; biodiversity, forest ecosystems) Identification and mapping of priorities for forest landscape restoration, riparian ecosystem protection, biodiversity corridors Validation of LUPs with Commune level Local Development Plans & BR Management Plans Implementation of initiatives with local communities + all stakeholders: A: FLR/ habitat restoration B: sustainable land use, green enterprise C: Monitoring (socio-economic & biodiversity/ ecosystems) 	2.1.1: Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities 2.1.2: A gender sensitive inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones (MNBR) 2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored, incorporating gender dimensions 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises 2.2.3: Joint, gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities	2.1: Enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience  Innovation & learning 2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive, livelihoods of local communities  Financial leverage	
	Component 3: Strengthened management of transboundary (TB) forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins: 'Mano' and 'Cavally' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support, training, meetings to revitalise and operationalise TB committees, platforms, joint activities case studies and exchange visits to share experience with Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire (Child projects) pilot (freshwater) ecosystem services and Nature-based projects implementation (TB communities) 	3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighboring countries revitalized and operationalized 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary, gender sensitive, inclusive forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins 3.1.3: Gender inclusive, nature-based solutions implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts.	3.1: Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins  Innovation and learning	
	Component 4: Capacity building, learning, collaboration & communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> technical workshops and field training to support implementation of Guinea Child Components C.1-C.3 virtual webinars, training events coordinated by Regional Child project (RCP) with focus on social inclusion and gender elaborate/ implement project Communications, engagement strategies (gender-inclusive) sustainable finance solutions investigated (national and regional with support, coordination, guidance from the RCP (Regional Child Knowledge & Learning Project) 	4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziam communities and responsible government authorities and institutions 4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategy developed 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender responsive knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems. 4.1.4: Build capacity and share experience for the development of sustainable finance opportunities at national and regional levels 4.1.5: Gender responsive, knowledge management products developed and disseminated at local, national and regional levels	4.1 Enhanced gender sensitive, capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with GFIP/ MRU countries  Governance	
	Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and Implement a comprehensive gender-sensitive M&E system Produce and share with stakeholders quarterly, annual and end of project reports Conduct mid-term and terminal project evaluations 	5.1.1: Gender-sensitive M&E system 5.1.2: Project technical and financial reports produced 5.1.3: Independent evaluations conducted	5.1: Improved project delivery and gender responsive M&E  Innovation & learning	

Key:  Lever of transformation linked to the PFD

Key assumptions:

- Government of Guinea has the political will to review and strengthen national policies and governance, develop partnerships and capacity and source sustainable finance
- Effective partnerships (government, civil society/ NGO, private sector) can be created which adopt best practices and learning for sustainable forest and wildlife management, with gender-inclusive, equitable community development and benefits
- Individual and institutional capacity (government and civil society) can be strengthened & sustained for successful implementation of the Child project and beyond
- Private sector partners, donors engage and support development of sustainable finance solutions (PA management and community green development) for long-term impact beyond the project
- GoG will share in policy commitments and collaborate to support regional alignment and the GFIP whole-of-biome approach to forest governance and management (including multi-country collaboration in restoration of shared transboundary forest landscapes)
- Capacity development, communications, learning and knowledge sharing will enhance local and national capacity (individual and institutional) to manage forest, land and wildlife sustainably in the targeted Biosphere Reserves and transboundary landscapes

Threats to biodiversity and ecosystems:

- Intensity of land and resource use - agricultural expansion (including 'slash and burn'), unsustainable logging and fishing, over-exploitation of wild animals and plants (bushmeat hunting, trade), industrial and artisanal mining
 - climate change
- Root causes/ drivers:**
- high levels of poverty and wealth inequality
 - intense pressure for economic development, expanding infrastructure and settlements (population growth + inward migrations)
 - inadequate definition and recognition of land tenure and resource rights

4.2.2 Project Description – Activities narrative plan

Project objective: To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mt Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) in Guinea

The project will be implemented under 5 main components. Descriptions of each component, with their associated outcomes, outputs and activities are shown below.

Component 1: Enhancement and creation of enabling policies, partnerships and sustainable finance mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas: Mont Nimba (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) Biosphere Reserves

Component 1 of the child project entails enhancing conservation and management of the two Protected Areas –MNBR and ZMBR by the responsible agencies and through partnerships established with stakeholders including civil society (forest-adjacent communities, local NGOs, CSOs and other representative community groups). Also, an enabling policy framework and multi-stakeholder platform will be established, as well as exploring sustainable financing options for effective and long-term management of the two Biosphere Reserves.

Activities carried out under this Component 1 and Outcome 1.1 will facilitate more effective, gender sensitive and integrated conservation management of the 2 Protected Areas (MNBR and ZMBR) by the responsible agencies and through partnerships with stakeholders including civil society (forest-adjacent communities, local NGOs, CSOs and other representative community groups). It will achieve this by helping to remove policy constraints and clarifying management roles and responsibilities, supporting the development of effective and gender inclusive stakeholder partnerships and clarifying the application of national gender sensitive and socially inclusive land use planning and other relevant policies and legislation at local levels. The project will explicitly build on and complement ongoing national programmes of institutional reform in the sector notably through the World Bank led Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Management Project (PGRNME ;2021-27)) and the current work by the National Commission for Land and Housing Reform which was set up by a presidential decree in May 15, 2024. These activities will help to create enabling policy frameworks for the implementation of the 2 Biosphere Reserve Management Plans and integration with Local Land Use Plans (Component 2). Support will also be given to investigating sustainable finance opportunities for long-term management of the 2 Biosphere Reserves, in the context of developing local (Guinea Forestière sites and landscapes) and national sustainable conservation finance initiatives. This support aligns with the current national process of setting up a Conservation Trust Fund as part of the above-mentioned World Bank project.

Outcome 1.1 Improved, gender sensitive and socially inclusive management and conservation of Mont Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves (BRs))

Currently there are various overlapping mandates and responsibilities for conservation management in the Biosphere Reserves and within the different BR zonations (Strict Reserve; buffer zone and transition (or development) zone). This results in confusion over responsibilities and competition between agencies for external funding and resources for ‘conservation management’, ‘forest restoration’ and ‘research’. It does not facilitate good partnership working between different agencies and with local communities and the diversity of externally funded programmes and funding opportunities (donor programmes, research institutes, private sector etc.). In MNBR there are overlapping mandates between several government agencies, aligned under different Ministries. In ZMBR, the situation is less complex but there is lack of clarity and communication between State agencies and adjacent communities (for example about regulations, boundaries, permitted land use activities in different BR zones, and enforcement). The project will collaborate with and complement ongoing national programmes of institutional reform in the sector (World Bank (2021-27) *Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Management Project* (PGRNME)) and other programmes (EU-NaturAfrica starting in MNBR in 2025 and in ZMBR in 2026) to help reduce these conflicts of attribution between the structures that share the roles and responsibility for managing BRs, implementing Management Plans, conservation

management and habitat enrichment/ restoration, enforcing regulations and implementing cooperative programmes with stakeholders. Some efforts have started (Mt Nimba) to try to strengthen coordination of research activities through a 3-way agreement (CEGENS-IREB-Station Scientifique de Monts Nimba (SSMN)) with support of the EU regional PAPFor programme. (Output 1.1.1).

Land use planning (LUP) issues and constraints (including land resource ownership, gender, tenure, rights and certification) are currently under review at national level. A National Commission for Land and Housing Reform was set up by a presidential decree dated May 15, 2024 (Mamadou Saliou Diallo *pers. comm.*). It will be important for the Land Use Planning (LUP) activities and local communities supported by the Child project (see Component 2) to be enabled to understand and contribute local experience and needs to the national processes and contribute to developing local guidance. (Output 1.1.2). Sustainable finance opportunities for long-term management of the 2 Biosphere Reserves will be explored, in the context of developing site-specific and national sustainable conservation finance initiatives (Output 1.1.3).

Output 1.1.1 Inter-ministerial agreement signed for inclusive and gender Sensitive management of Mont Nimba/ Bossou and Ziamas Massif Biosphere Reserves (*local, national and TB*)

The project seeks to lever opportunities and collaborate with ongoing national programmes of institutional reform in the sector notably work done under the World Bank led programme *Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Management Project* (PGRNME). Together with other programmes it will help to reduce conflicts of attribution between the structures that share the roles and responsibility for managing Nimba and Ziamas BRs. Activities will include convening discussions with responsible government agencies and all stakeholders on current wordings of mandates, protocols and responsibilities, identifying overlaps and conflicts and proposing clarifications and overarching agreement/ protocols to facilitate integrated joint working (especially in relation to BR Management Plan implementation). This will need to be confirmed by an interministerial decree signed by the government departments responsible (CEGENS-IREB-MAB-SSMN) for the Nimba BR and (MAB-CFZ) for the Ziamas BR. Permanent local multi-stakeholder platforms will be established for each Biosphere Reserve for coordination, communication, policy advocacy and implementation of joint programmes and projects (e.g. external donor or other investment, including transboundary programmes carried out under the existing transboundary agreements developed under the GEF-5 MRU project, with PAPFor and WABiLED programmes.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 1.1.1.1: Convening stakeholder discussions: Organize inclusive and gender sensitive meetings with responsible government agencies and all relevant stakeholders to review and discuss the current wordings of mandates, protocols, and responsibilities.

Activity 1.1.1.2 Identifying overlaps and conflicts: Analyze the current mandates and protocols to identify any overlaps or conflicts in responsibilities.

Activity 1.1.1.3: Proposing clarifications: Develop proposals for clarifications and overarching agreements/protocols to facilitate integrated joint working, especially regarding the implementation of the Biosphere Reserve (BR) Management Plan.

Activity 1.1.1.4: Securing Inter-ministerial decree: Obtain confirmation and formalization of the proposed clarifications through an inter-Ministerial decree signed by the government departments responsible for the Nimba BR (CEGENS-IREB-MAB-SSMN, other relevant ministries) and Ziamas BR (MAB-CFZ, other relevant ministries).

Output 1.1.2 Policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations

Land use planning (LUP) issues and constraints (including issues relating to land tenure, clarification of land and resource rights, gender disparities, certification of private and community land ownership) are currently under

review at national level. A National Commission for Land and Housing Reform was set up by a presidential decree dated May 15, 2024 (Mamadou Saliou Diallo *pers. comm.*). It will be important for the Land Use Planning (LUP) activities and local communities supported by the Child project (see Component 2) to understand and be enabled to contribute local experience and needs to this national review and reform processes and contribute to developing local guidance.

Activities under this output will support and inform National Reform processes. It includes the provision of expert advice to facilitate engagement and input from local level stakeholders, especially civil society and to promote the need for using local experience (from the Guinea Child and other projects) in land use planning to inform national reforms and to develop best practice guidance. This will require input at national level from the Child project PMU; expert advice and development of gender sensitive and socially inclusive policy briefs; and pilots, guidance and consultations at local level (as part of the LUP processes detailed for the Guinea Child project - Component 2/ Outcome 2.1/ Output 2.2.1 or wider stakeholder consultations). A local level, gender balanced working groups to help civil society engage with these processes will be established for each site (MNBR and ZMBR).

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 1.1.2.1: Provisioning of expert advice: Engage experts to provide guidance on a national gender sensitive and socially inclusive review and reform processes to ensure local stakeholders can effectively participate and contribute.

Activity 1.1.2.2: Developing gender sensitive and socially inclusive policy briefs: Create policy briefs highlighting the importance of incorporating local and gender sensitive experiences and needs into national land use planning reforms.

Activity 1.1.2.3: Developing local pilots and guidance: Conduct gender sensitive pilot projects and develop best practice guidance at the local level, incorporating input from local communities, women, disadvantaged groups and other stakeholders.

Activity 1.1.2.4: Consultations and workshops: Organize gender sensitive workshops and consultations at the local level to gather input from civil society and other local stakeholders on land use planning issues.

Activity 1.1.2.5: Establishment of gender inclusive Local CSO Working Groups: Set up local working groups to facilitate civil society engagement with national reform processes at each site (MNBR and ZMBR).

Activity 1.1.2.6: Stakeholder engagement: Facilitate regular gender sensitive meetings of local civil society working groups to ensure ongoing engagement and input into national reforms related to land rights and land use planning.

Output 1.1.3: Sustainable, gender sensitive conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves investigated and supported

There are various models of sustainable finance under consideration for both Biosphere Reserves, including a mix of ongoing and planned future investments in the same landscapes by various international donors in addition to GEF8. These include the next stage of EU regional forest funding (NaturAfrica – West Africa Forests), support from the French Cooperation (AFD) for implementation of the ZMBR management plan and potential future USAID investments (follow-on to WABiLED and Conservation Works programmes). At the national level the World Bank is supporting the development of a Conservation Trust Fund (an endowment fund to be capitalized from various public and private sources) which will provide long-term sustainable funding for Protected Areas management and local development.

For the 2 Biosphere Reserve landscapes in Guinea there is also huge potential for private sector investment in conservation and local development. This might come principally from the mining sector, through both regulated biodiversity offset and community development programmes (currently under negotiation with

government) and voluntary CSR/ ESG type programmes including 'Nature-based' or 'Nature Solutions' (SMFG – Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée - around the Nimba concession; and Rio Tinto around Ziamá).

The governance /finance situation is different in the 2 Biosphere Reserves and will also need to link to transboundary approaches – including the developing three-country Mt Nimba Master Plan (Guinea-Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire) and transboundary agreements and plans for Ziamá-Wonogizi-Wologizi (Guinea-Liberia).

Principal activities for the Guinea Child project will include PMU's National Coordinator and IUCN engagement with responsible government agencies (including at the local level CEGENS for Nimba, CFZ for Ziamá), other donor-funded programmes and private sector. The aim is to develop coordinated approaches to sustainable finance for the long-term implementation of Biosphere Reserve Management Plans and associated rural development initiatives, in the context of national developments (Conservation Trust Fund, REDD proposals etc.). This will require an expert consultancy to provide advice on the management of both BRs. Expert support and regional sharing of experience will be provided to this aspect via the Regional Child Project (RCP). To support the development of the Conservation Trust Fund, particularly in attracting capital, it is proposed to appoint a consultant who will organize targeted visits to interested governments, multilateral donors and private partners.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 1.1.3.1: Engagement with Government agencies, donors, and private sector: Facilitate regular gender sensitive meetings and consultations between PMU, IUCN & other GEF Agencies, responsible government agencies (CEGENs for Nimba, CFZ for Ziamá), international donors (e.g. WB, EU, AFD, USAID), and private sector entities (e.g., mining sector - SMFG, Rio Tinto) to discuss, develop, and coordinate sustainable, gender inclusive finance strategies for conservation and local development initiatives in and around the Biosphere Reserves.

Activity 1.1.3.2: Development and capitalization of Conservation Trust Fund: Support the efforts to develop a Conservation Trust Fund by appointing a consultant who will work with the CTF governance team to attract capital from governments, multilateral donors, and private partners through targeted visits and presentations specifically for Biosphere Reserves.

Activity 1.1.3.3: Integration with national and transboundary initiatives: Ensure the alignment of sustainable gender sensitive finance strategies with national developments (e.g., REDD proposals) and transboundary agreements and plans (e.g., Mt Nimba Master Plan, Ziamá-Wonogizi-Wologizi).

Component 2: Restoration of ecosystem connectivity and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods around MNBR and ZMBR

Component 2 prioritizes the protection and restoration of habitat connectivity alongside the improvement of local livelihood options. Embracing the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach, the project intertwines ecosystem function restoration with the enhancement of gender sensitive livelihoods in degraded forest landscapes. This endeavor aligns with the outcomes and recommendations of the 'Forest Landscape Restoration Interventions; Mano River Union' (2023) study²¹, utilizing the IUCN ROAM framework²² and supported by the GEF-funded 'Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management' (IWRM) project. The FLR initiatives will inform and be realized through the development of gender sensitive and socially inclusive Land Use Plans (LUPs).

Focusing on communities in the buffer and transition zones of both Biosphere Reserves, the LUPs prioritize sustainable agricultural practices such as agroforestry and agroecology, alongside the establishment of woodlots (small fuelwood plantations). These activities are integral to the LUPs and will receive active support from the project. Additionally, the project will foster the development of green and inclusive small-scale and

21 McBreen, J. and Jewell, N. (2023). Forest landscape restoration interventions. Mano River Union. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

22 <https://iucn.org/resources/grey-literature/guide-restoration-opportunities-assessment-methodology-roam>

medium enterprises, particularly those related to forest restoration (e.g. tree nurseries for native forest tree species and livelihoods – agroforestry), non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and ecotourism where relevant. Value chain support and the introduction of new technologies will further augment local livelihoods and promote green development in the region.

Outcome 2.1. Enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience

Village Land Use Plans (LUP) for the Mt. Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves will be designed to benefit both nature and forest-adjacent communities. These plans integrate sustainable, and gender sensitive land management practices that support conservation of biodiversity while promoting local livelihoods. Additionally, they prioritize forest restoration efforts, aiming to rehabilitate degraded areas, restore or strengthen connectivity, and enhance ecosystem resilience.

By carefully zoning areas for conservation, agriculture, and development, the plans ensure the protection of critical habitats, enhance landscape connectivity, and promote responsible natural resource use. The zoning follows and operationalizes agreements on land use types for core, buffer, and transition zones, as elaborated in the management plans for both Biosphere Reserves.

The planning process for the LUPs will be gender-sensitive and inclusive, actively involving all local stakeholders to ensure that diverse perspectives are respected and incorporated. The elaboration and formalization of the LUPs will support a sense of ownership and encourage community-driven conservation efforts.

The project will coordinate LUP activities with other stakeholders, notably with the GEF-funded FAO project 'Integrated Management of Degraded Landscapes for Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea'²³.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 2.1.1.1: Raise awareness at the village level about the purpose and benefits of gender sensitive and socially inclusive land use plans.

Activity 2.1.1.2: Organize gender sensitive workshops and community meetings to gather input and facilitate discussions.

Activity 2.1.1.3: Develop gender sensitive and socially inclusive LUPs with community participation, focusing on land use mapping and identifying priority areas for conservation, restoration, and development.

Activity 2.1.1.4: Integrate the developed gender sensitive and socially inclusive LUPs into Local Development Plans (LDPs) and the Management Plans for both Biosphere Reserves.

Output 2.1.2: Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities

Output 2.1.1 Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities

Village Land Use Plans (LUPs) for the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve (MNBR) will be developed and agreed upon using participatory and gender-sensitive best practices with forest-adjacent communities in four municipalities: Commune Rurale de Bossou, Commune Urbain de Lola (excluding Lola Centre), Commune

23 <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10600> - GEF 7 - FAO 'Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea'

Rurale de N’Zoo, and Commune Rurale de Tounkarate. (See maps below – section 4.3 - and in Chapter 3, section 3.1.2 Socio-economic Context (3.1.2.2 Lola Prefecture and the Mt Nimba Biosphere Reserve; and 3.1.2.3 Macenta Prefecture and Ziama Massif BR)). These communities are selected based on their significant overlap with the Biosphere Reserve buffer zones and their crucial role in protecting and developing connectivity with the core areas. For Nimba, the 3 cores areas are: Mt Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, Bossou Hills Strict Nature Reserve, Déré Classified Forest. Based on this selection, there are around 15 priority communities with which the project will work to develop LUPs around MNBR (targets and locations to be further refined at inception stage).

In the case of the Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve, the AFD-supported ‘Project for the Management and Development Plan of the Ziama Biosphere Reserve (2024–2029)’²⁴ will sustain 32 forest-adjacent communities across five ‘Communes Rurales’ in developing Land Use Plans (LUPs). The Child Project will offer additional support to address a financial shortcoming, ensuring the comprehensive and coordinated development of the LUPs and especially transboundary coordination and liaison with the ‘sister’ Liberia Child project and target communities around Wonegizi PPA (Proposed Protected Area) in Liberia (see Component 3). With the combined efforts of the AFD investment and the complementary Guinea Child support, this means a total of at least 32 communities will be supported to develop integrated LUPs.

The LUP development process will involve raising awareness at the village level about the purpose of land use plans, organizing workshops and community meetings to facilitate discussions and gather input from residents. Collaboratively, the communities will participate in developing these plans, engaging in activities such as land use mapping and identifying priority areas for conservation (see *Output 2.1.2*), and for restoration and development (see *Outputs 2.2.1 – 2.2.3*; plus, Outputs under Component 3 (*transboundary*)). Digital mapping and recording tools (and training for mandated authorities, local government and civil society stakeholders) will be used to ensure accuracy and efficiency in the planning process.

Subsequently, the developed LUPs will be aligned with and integrated into the Local Development Plans (LDPs) of the various ‘Communes Rurales’²⁵ and the Management Plans^{26,27} for both Biosphere Reserves. This integration will ensure coherence and synergy between different planning frameworks, enhancing the effectiveness of conservation and development initiatives while reflecting the priorities and aspirations of the local communities.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 2.1.1.1: Raise awareness at the village level about the purpose and benefits of gender sensitive and socially inclusive land use plans.

Activity 2.1.1.2: Organize gender sensitive workshops and community meetings to gather input and facilitate discussions.

Activity 2.1.1.3: Develop gender sensitive and socially inclusive LUPs with community participation, focusing on land use mapping and identifying priority areas for conservation, restoration, and development.

Activity 2.1.1.4: Integrate the developed gender sensitive and socially inclusive LUPs into Local Development Plans (LDPs) and the Management Plans for both Biosphere Reserves.

Output 2.1.2: Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities.

24 Étude de faisabilité du projet de conservation et d’aménagement de la RBZ (AFD; 2022)

25 See a.o. Plan de Développement Local de la CR de Bossou (2022-2026); Plan de Développement Local de la CR de N’Zoo (2015- 2019); Plan de développement local de Tounkarata (2022-2026)

26 Plan d’aménagement et de gestion de la Reserve Biosphère de Ziama (PAG 2020-2029)

27 Le Plan d’aménagement et de gestion de la Reserve Biosphère de Mont Nimba est en train d’être finalisée (*pers. comm.* EU- PAPFor/ UNOPS/; mai 2024)

An inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones of the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve will be conducted to assess values and prioritise areas for protection, restoration, and the development of ecological corridors. This activity is crucial for identifying key areas that support high biodiversity and provide essential ecosystem services. By mapping these zones, the project can prioritize areas for conservation and restoration, ensuring the protection of critical habitats and enhancing landscape connectivity. Where applicable, areas that meet Key Biodiversity Area criteria will be assessed and proposed. This activity will also link into national and regional GBIF²⁸ (Global Biodiversity Information) processes and training and capacity development for technicians, scientists and community (village) monitors (see C.4).

To support this effort, gender sensitive workshops and local stakeholder consultations will be organized to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services specifically for the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve. These sessions will solicit input for corridor development and integrate inventory data into the formulation of LUPs at the village level. This participatory approach ensures that conservation priorities and values become an integral part of the LUPs and are aligned with local needs, gender differences and knowledge, bio-cultural values (sacred forests, water sources and streams, animals, plants etc.), fostering community engagement and local ownership.

Activity 2.1.2.1: Biodiversity Inventory: Conduct gender sensitive field surveys to document biodiversity and ecosystem services in buffer and transition zones.

Activity 2.1.2.2: Mapping and data analysis: Develop digital maps to visualize biodiversity values, priorities for restoration, and ecosystem services.

Activity 2.1.2: Stakeholder consultations: Organize gender sensitive workshops to discuss findings and integrate inventory data into Local Land Use Plans.

Outcome 2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive livelihoods of local communities

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This outcome focuses on implementing gender sensitive LUPs in the Mount Nimba and Ziamas Massif Biosphere Reserves through forest landscape restoration and green business development. Key initiatives include enrichment planting, corridor development, biodiversity conservation, agroforestry, and other nature-based solutions. These efforts aim to restore degraded landscapes and enhance ecosystem services. Additionally, promoting green businesses, such as developing, transforming, and marketing non-timber forest products (NTFPs), supporting value chains, and connecting local entrepreneurs, cooperatives and associations with financial institutions for funding and resources, aims to foster sustainable livelihoods and economic resilience in forest-adjacent communities. Local ownership and management will be strengthened by involving communities in monitoring social and environmental progress. This ensures their active participation and investment in realizing the LUPs and supporting broader conservation efforts in the landscape.

Output 2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored, incorporating gender dimensions

Habitat restoration projects in key areas identified within the LUPs are developed and implemented. For the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve, implementation will start at sites already identified and agreed upon in the Local Development Plans, including the Bossou corridor, Bossou Hills Strict Nature Reserve, and various sites in the 'Communes Rurales' of N'Zoo and Tounkarata. If possible and feasible, the same approach will be applied in the Ziamas Massif Biosphere Reserve (in close collaboration with other programmes supporting similar initiatives to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication). Restoration activities include reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, agroforestry, habitat enhancement, and invasive species management. These efforts aim to improve biodiversity, strengthen habitat connectivity, and enhance ecosystem health and resilience.

28 <https://www.gbif.org/>

Communities including the Village Monitoring Committees will be trained in technical aspects and monitoring, ensuring they can effectively participate in and sustain restoration efforts. Additionally, tree nurseries will be established (to produce both native forest trees for enrichment planting and connectivity and 'socio-economic' species, e.g. for agroforestry purposes). Additionally, Farm Field Schools²⁹ will be strengthened and expanded to support these initiatives. These comprehensive efforts will promote local engagement, sustainable land use, and the realization of LUPs, resulting in long-term conservation and social benefits.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 2.2.1.1: Implement habitat restoration projects (reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, agroforestry, habitat enhancement, invasive species management).

Activity 2.2.1.2: Train communities in technical aspects of forest restoration and monitoring incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations.

Activity 2.2.1.3: Establish tree nurseries and strengthen Farm Field Schools.

Output 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and green and inclusive Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

To support forest adjacent communities in developing improved, sustainable smallholder agriculture and green and inclusive SMEs, various initiatives will be undertaken. Workshops will be organized to train local communities in sustainable agricultural techniques, including agroecology, organic farming, and soil conservation practices. Workshops will provide hands-on training sessions on crop diversification, integrated pest management, and water-efficient methods to enhance productivity while minimizing environmental impact. Additionally, efforts will be focused on the establishment and management of community-based enterprises centered on non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Training in sustainable harvesting techniques, value addition, and market access will be provided. Business planning workshops will also be conducted to assist community members in developing sustainable business models. These workshops will offer guidance on market research and financial management, equipping participants with the necessary skills to ensure the success and sustainability of their enterprises. Through these comprehensive activities, forest adjacent communities are empowered to adopt sustainable agricultural practices and create sustainable businesses, leading to improved productivity, enhanced livelihoods, and effective environmental conservation.

The child project will collaborate with the GEF funded: Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea, implemented by FAO in Nimba and near Ziam Biosphere Reserves, on promotion of sustainable local livelihoods and synchronize efforts to ensure alignment of tools and approaches. The child project will also explore opportunities for mutual learning, exchange, and direct cooperation on related thematic issues with the GEF-funded project: Strengthening the Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Local Communities in the Guinea Forest Region to Climate Change.

Further, the child project will build on experiences gained by former interventions with respect to sustainable and climate resilient food production initiatives including AFD -funded SARA project - food security, resilience and agroecology in Guinea, implemented by GRET, Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development - Terre Solidaire (CCFD-TS), Fédération des Paysans du Fouta Djallon (FPFD) and Maison Guinéenne de l'Entrepreneur (MGE).

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

²⁹ Farm Field Schools were set up under the GEF5 (IUCN/ MRU) 'Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project' (2016-2023: GEF ID: 4953) and are also part of the GEF 7 - FAO 'Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea' (2022 -2026; GEF ID 10600)

Activity 2.2.2.1: Workshops and trainings: Organize and conduct gender sensitive workshops to build the skills of local farmers and entrepreneurs in sustainable agricultural practices, product transformation processes, business management, and value chain development.

Activity 2.2.2.2: Technical assistance: Provide ongoing technical and gender sensitive support to local stakeholders in areas such as crop improvement, organic pest control, sustainable harvesting methods, and quality control.

Activity 2.2.2.3: Sustainable business models: Promote gender sensitive business models that integrate conservation efforts with economic benefits, ensuring long-term sustainability, and attract additional investments from private and public sectors (e.g. micro finance) to support local sustainable business initiatives.

Activity 2.2.2.4: Infrastructure support: Identify and support the development of necessary, gender sensitive infrastructure (e.g., processing facilities, storage) to enhance value addition at the local level.

Output 2.2.3: Joint, gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities

Forest-adjacent communities will be actively engaged in collaborative ecological and socio-economic monitoring initiatives. These efforts will focus on various critical areas, including forest restoration, conservation, sustainable farming, and the enhancement of local livelihoods, with a strong emphasis on gender and inclusiveness. By ensuring that both men and women, as well as marginalized groups, are represented and have a voice, the monitoring activities promote equitable participation, ownership and empowerment of disadvantaged groups in decision-making processes.

Land use plans serve as the leading framework for these monitoring efforts, guiding comprehensive initiatives related to conservation, restoration, sustainable agriculture, and other natural resource uses. Monitoring involves assessing the impact of forest restoration projects, evaluating sustainable farming practices, and tracking the progress of green businesses to ensure they provide economic opportunities while preserving the environment, coupled with knowledge-exchange and learning.

The primary aim of these efforts is to foster local ownership and enable communities to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes. By being involved in monitoring and evaluating ecological and socio-economic factors according to the land use plans, community members can influence decisions that affect their environment and livelihoods, leading to sustainable and equitable outcomes.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 2.2.3.1: Establish and support inclusive and gender sensitive Village Monitoring Committees.

Activity 2.2.3.2: Provide inclusive and gender sensitive training in biodiversity surveys, habitat assessments, socio-economic surveys, and participatory mapping.

Activity 2.2.3.3: Organize regular joint, gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation sessions.

Component 3: Strengthened management of transboundary forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins: Mt Nimba complex (Cavally RB: Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire) and Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi landscape (Moa-Makona/ Mano RB: Guinea, Liberia)

This component responds to the regional and transboundary landscape objectives of the Guinea Child project, in the context of the broader objectives of the regional GEF8 GFIP (Guinean Forests Integrated Programme)³⁰ and the component Regional Child Project ('Guinean Forests Regional Coordination and Learning Project')³¹. In particular, Component 3 builds on the results of the GEF5 (IUCN/ Mano River Union (MRU)) 'Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project' (2016-2023: GEF ID: 4953)³². This was implemented by IUCN and MRU in the Upper Guinea Forest region (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire) with the objective of strengthening the management of transboundary natural resources for sustained ecological benefits and improved livelihoods for the forest adjacent communities. The Guinea Child project will operate in the 2 MRU Water Basins and transboundary landscapes relevant to the Biosphere Reserves (MNBR and ZMBR) which are the focus of the Child project (respectively the Cavally and Moa-Makona/ Mano River Water Basins) (see below – section 4.3 Project Map) to revitalise and implement the transboundary framework agreements and technical committees set up under the IWRM and other regional forest conservation programmes, as well as the new 3-country Nimba Mountains Master Plan (in preparation by the 3 countries).

Outcome 3.1: Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins

The Guinea Child project will strengthen capacity of Guinean stakeholders (State and civil society) to collaborate on transboundary watershed management, working with the other national Child projects and the RCP to revitalize and operationalize transboundary agreements, local committees and local plans; to support the application of applied research on decision-making for transboundary management and to trial Nature-based solutions targeting improvements in freshwater and riparian ecosystem health and community resilience in transboundary river basin forest ecosystems. Interventions under this Component will build on the transboundary collaboration aspirations of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia outlined in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of Mano River Union Basins (MRU, 2023)³³. They are also aligned with the GEF-8 Programming directions under the International Waters (IW) Thematic Area (Objective 3: Enhance water security in shared freshwater ecosystems)³⁴.

The Guinean Forests Regional Coordination Project (RCP), working closely with the 3 Child Country projects, will coordinate support to the revival of the Transboundary Committees established under the MRU at ministerial, national and community level, namely the MRU Ministerial Council, the National Consultative Platform for Water Users and the community-based Basin Management Committees. Each country will convene national and community level meetings to determine transboundary issues that are priority at local and national level based on the SAP, to inform regional engagements.

30 <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11142>

31 [GEF project reference for RCP?](#)

32 <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/4953>

33 Mano River Union, 2023. Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of Mano River Union Basins. The Mano River Union Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management Project implemented by IUCN, with the Mano River Union (MRU) as the executing agency. Project GEF ID 4953.

34 https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/GEF-8_Programming_Directions.pdf

Output 3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighboring countries revitalized and operationalized.

Two international multi-lateral agreements have been signed relating to the wider transboundary landscapes and Water Basins within which the MNBR and ZMBR are the key Guinea Protected Areas. These are the trilateral Nimba Mountains Governance Platform (2012)³⁵ and the bilateral ZWW (Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi) Forest Landscape Framework Agreement (2019)³⁶. Other transboundary agreements and protocols are under development (Nimba 3-country 'Master Plan' between Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire) to improve management of shared transboundary forest landscapes and ecosystems. In this context, operationalisation of the Transboundary Committees established under the IUCN-led GEF5 IWRM Project and ensuring their sustainability will lay the foundation for implementation of the Mano River Union SAP (2023). Linkages under the wider Guinea Forests Integrated Programme (GFIP) and with other GEF IPs (*including Côte d'Ivoire for the Ecosystem Restoration IP*) will be made via the RCP (*see Component 4*).

Initial activities will include support to the revitalisation and capacitation of local level platforms and committees through recruitment of committee members, review of wording or drafting of terms of reference/ operational procedures; regular meetings, training, convening of technical committees and workshop technical discussions - for effective transboundary collaboration and operations in the Nimba and Ziama transboundary landscapes. Ongoing support will then be required to assure continued operation of the Transboundary Committees and technical sub-committees which will function to coordinate consultation/ gap analysis and reviews to determine priority community level watershed management interventions; develop strategies and guide management, implementation and monitoring (with transboundary counterparts) at local levels. (See *Output 3.1.2* for enabling activities and capacity building for implementation).

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 3.1.1.1: Streamlining transboundary committees: Recruitment of committee members, review and drafting of terms of reference and operational procedures, convening initial and regular meetings, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations.

Activity 3.1.1.2: Integrated gender sensitive training and capacity enhancement: Combine workshops and training sessions for committee members with technical assistance on transboundary management protocols, ensuring these are practical and directly applicable to their roles.

Activity 3.1.1.3: Enhanced gender sensitive operational support: Coordinate priority interventions based on technical committee discussions in watershed management, leveraging local capacities.

Output 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary, gender sensitive and inclusive forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins

35 (2012) 'Platform for the Transboundary Governance of the Nimba mountains: Framework Agreement on the trilateral and sustainable conservation of the Nimba mountains between the Governments of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia'.

36 (2019) 'Bilateral Framework Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi Transboundary Forest Landscape between the Governments of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia'.

Technical and institutional capacity building will be necessary to enable stakeholders to use results of applied research in decision making processes for collaborative transboundary natural resource management. Activities under this output will include capacity needs assessment (government and civil society), stakeholder participation in tailored and gender-sensitive training events, exchange of knowledge and lessons learned (e.g. through exchange visits and shared learning between Child projects), specific training in the application of applied research to decision-making in the context of transboundary landscapes and watersheds. The Guinean Forests RCP will address this from a regional point of view by providing tailored technical assistance and capacity-building content and tools to meet national needs of the three MRU countries participating in the GFIP. Each country/ Child project will determine national technical support and training needs; these are likely to include priorities such as protocols and strengthened operations for joint transboundary patrols and enforcement; technical guidance and tools for transboundary management and monitoring (e.g. in wildlife corridors); sharing of country- and basin-level information for use and monitoring impacts of the MRU IWRM SAP and national Water Basin Action Plans (see 2023 'RAP' - National Guinea Action Plan and references: *Output 3.1.3 below*); guidance related to gender and inclusion, such as strategies to target women as recipients of technical assistance and capacity building (see Component C.4 and RCP).

In addition, the child project will incorporate lessons learned and best practices from other initiatives including the SAVEUR-GF, and AFD-funded project: Facilitate the adaptation and local implementation of the Biodiversity Engagement Facilitation (BIOIDEV2030) in Guinea; AFD+ FFEM funded: Conservation, Minimisation des impacts et compensation au titre de la Biodiversité (COMBO & COMBO+), 2016-2025, implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to improve national policy and its application, particularly through cross-sectoral coordination; USAID West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BiCC) and West Africa Biodiversity Low Emissions Development (WaBiLED) on transboundary forest management.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 3.1.2.1: Comprehensive gender sensitive capacity assessment and training: Perform capacity needs assessment followed by targeted training sessions, designed to address identified gaps, and incorporating gender-sensitive approaches and practical applications of research in forest management.

Activity 3.1.2.2: Gender sensitive tool development and dissemination: Develop and disseminate integrated technical guidance and monitoring tools, including protocols for joint transboundary patrols and enforcement, ensuring these tools are user-friendly and widely accessible to both men and women.

Output 3.1.3: Nature-based Solutions (NbS) implemented in an inclusive and gender sensitive manner to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts

Under this output, a sub-set of the projects identified and developed under Land Use Plans (see above *Outcome 2.2; Outputs 2.2.1 & 2.2.2*), will be identified and implemented with communities as 'Nature-based solutions' (NbS) pilot projects. These will specifically target the achievement of improved riparian (riverbank) or wetlands management for enhanced ecosystem health and maintenance of ecosystem services. These approaches will result in local community benefits (including for downstream stakeholders in the same catchment) including strengthened ecosystem and community resilience to the impacts of climate change. Activities to achieve this will include the identification of key zones for ecosystem services provision and protection (e.g. water sources, lowland gallery forests, riparian zones and wetlands, other identified vulnerable/ high value biodiversity sites (for animals, plants, ecosystem services)). Secondly, stakeholder consultations (Guinea and Liberia) and review of priorities and project proposals in transboundary strategies and Protected Area plans including outputs from the GEF5 MRU IWRM project (including the 2023 IUCN RAP - National Guinea Action Plan³⁷); and Ziama and Nimba Biosphere Reserve Management Plans). This will be followed by the development of collaborative community-led projects with a focus on transboundary

37 2023 IUCN RAP - Version finale Plan d'Action National Guinée – see outline priority project themes pp. 38-48. 5.1 Long-term objectives for environmental quality (OLTQE 1-11)/ Specific ecosystem objectives for Nimba (Diecke) and Ziama-Wonegizi.

ecosystem services, community benefits and resilience, (including attention to gender inclusivity and vulnerable groups). The Guinean Forests RCP will provide regional technical assistance and capacity-building support for the three MRU countries participating in the GFIP. Note alignment with Component 2/ *Outcome 2.2/ Output 2.2.1: Implementation of forest landscape restoration activities*).

The Child Project will collaborate with the EU NaturAfrica initiative aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation in Africa using an innovative people-centred approach. Specific areas of collaboration will be on job creation, improved food security and sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening transboundary cooperation.

Below is the key activity that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 3.1.3.1: Implement restoration and rehabilitation/protection of forests around of water sources, and protect lowland wetlands

Component 4: Capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication

(with regional support and coordination from the Regional Child Project, RCP)

This component responds to the training, capacity development, learning, communication, knowledge management and dissemination needs of the other Guinea Child project components (C.1 to C.3) at both local and national levels in Guinea and, linking through the GFIP Regional Child Project (RCP), to regionally coordinated activities and outputs. The RCP supports and links the 3 national Child projects (Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia) through provision of advice, guidance and expertise on topics to be determined during implementation and defined by the 3 national Child projects' needs.

In addition, the RCP provides for the national Child projects: regionally coordinated events, support to regional policy and sustainable finance initiatives and links to external opportunities and institutions (e.g. regional/ international conferences, conventions; regional knowledge platforms and institutions - CBD, IUCN-WPC, MAB/ UNESCO; BIOPAMA/ OBAPAO³⁸ etc.). It also provides links between the 3 initial national Child projects and other countries which will join GFIP in future phases and with projects and MRU countries under other Critical Forest Biome Integrated Programmes (e.g. the Congo Basin IP; the Ecosystem Restoration IP – and notably under the latter - the Côte d'Ivoire Child project).

The project will foster learning through development of knowledge management products (e.g., Policy briefs, land use plans, fact sheets, documentaries, project progress reports, success stories, lessons learned, best practices, etc.) that will be disseminated to stakeholders at local, national and regional levels via the GEF-8 Regional Coordination Project. In addition, the project will collaborate with other Child projects in Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Regional Coordination and Learning Project (RCP) on technical and capacity building initiatives, knowledge exchange and dissemination of innovations, and facilitation of transboundary forest landscape management and regional policy dialogues

Outcome 4.1: Enhanced gender sensitive, capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development

Under this single Outcome, the project will build and enhance capacity of stakeholders (State and civil society) to implement collaborative conservation and development programmes for sustainable forest and ecosystem

38 Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBAPAO) - https://biopama.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/OBAPAO_Brochure_V-Eng.pdf

management, green development and community resilience (in Guinea and with other stakeholders and partners in transboundary River Basins and watersheds). It will also contribute to enhanced learning, knowledge, communication and dissemination of results and information, in Guinea and within the wider region. Levels of environmental awareness are relatively low in the project area. It is therefore essential to integrate environmental education and information at all levels of formal education (as well as through wider community awareness programmes) to broaden the reach of the project and foster a sense of responsibility and awareness among the youth.

Through the RCP, regional partners and institutions, the Guinea Child project will support the exploration and development of sustainable solutions for ecosystem and community resilience at national and regional levels as well as sustainable financing solutions and innovation for the targeted Protected Areas (MNBR and ZMBR) and adjacent communities. The RCP will establish a Guinean Forests knowledge-sharing portal to serve as the basis of a peer-learning platform, and also as a digital channel for information-sharing and the use of social media to reach wider audiences (including improved knowledge sharing and coordination with other GEF IPs and including topics such as social inclusion and gender). Guinea Child will contribute knowledge and expertise and benefit from these regional platforms.

Output 4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziama communities and responsible government authorities & institutions on topics such as conservation, management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc.

Capacity will be increased among Nimba and Ziama communities and responsible government authorities and institutions for technical aspects of projects and financial management for:

1. Conservation management, forest restoration and connectivity;
2. Sustainable land and ecosystem management for green enterprise and business;
3. ecological and social/ socio-economic impact monitoring and important themes of social inclusion, equity, human rights and gender.

Many training activities specific to Guinea stakeholders and in-country Child project implementation are planned and budgeted under the (Guinea Child) Components to which they refer and according to the needs of the target sites, communities and government actors (see above: local training workshops and field skills training for 'Nimba' and 'Ziama' stakeholders under each component 1 to component 3).

Under component 4, activities will include a combination of virtual (webinars) and in-person training events offered and coordinated by RCP – with a particular focus on social inclusion and gender - with other topics and needs identified by stakeholders and the Guinea Child PMU team and consultations. In addition, regional 'learning and exposure trips' will be coordinated by the RCP for exchange visits between GFIP countries, projects and stakeholders.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 4.1.1.1: Virtual and in-person training: Organize and participate in gender sensitive webinars and in-person workshops on topics such as conservation management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender.

Activity 4.1.1.2: Gender sensitive knowledge development and skills transfer regarding human rights, social safeguards, gender, inclusivity, land and access rights, community engagement, conflict resolution, and cultural sensitivity.

Activity 4.1.1.3: Study tours and exchange visits: Coordinate gender sensitive learning and exposure trips between GFIP countries for sharing experiences and best practices.

Activity 4.1.1.4: Knowledge and capacity building: provide scientific, gender sensitive training and education opportunities related to biodiversity data collection, inventory and monitoring.

Output 4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategy developed

An effective Communication and Education Strategy, targeted project communications and specific environmental education programmes will raise awareness and mutual understanding – and share and disseminate Guinea Child project information and learning. This will be achieved locally, nationally in Guinea (and with neighbouring countries and stakeholders in transboundary Water Basins – *Guinea Child Component 3*) with the support, input and guidance from RCP as required.

The PMU Communications Officer, other staff and partners will prepare and implement a comprehensive, gender-inclusive national Guinea Child Communications Strategy (as part of the regional GFIP Communications Strategy) and associated materials (website, publications, case studies, reviews). In-country training and support will be provided as required for the Guinea Child PMU staff and partners from the RCP through virtual (webinars) and in-person training, with a particular focus on social inclusion and gender in relation to effective communications, information dissemination and lesson learning.

At both project sites (MNBR and ZMBR), levels of environmental awareness are relatively low. It is therefore essential to integrate environmental education and information to enhance the project's impact. Focusing specifically on primary and secondary schools, the project will implement tailored educational programmes that teach students about environmental stewardship, conservation, and sustainable practices. This will broaden the reach of the project and foster a sense of responsibility and awareness among the youth. Engaging teachers and students through workshops, interactive sessions, events, monitoring, and concrete conservation actions ensures that environmental education becomes a core part of the curriculum. Additionally, public awareness will be raised through radio broadcasts, village events, and social media campaigns. This comprehensive approach ensures that the next generation is well-informed and actively participates in conservation and development activities in both reserves, thereby fostering a culture of sustainability and ownership.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 4.1.2: Communication and education strategy: Develop and implement inclusive and gender sensitive Guinea child project communication and education strategy.

Activity 4.1.2.2: Environmental education programmes: Integrate environmental education into primary and secondary schools at MNBR and ZMBR to raise awareness among youth about conservation, climate change, gender and inclusivity, environmental rights and sustainability.

Activity 4.1.2.3: Gender sensitive community awareness campaigns: Use radio broadcasts, village events, and social media campaigns to increase public awareness.

Activity 4.1.2.4 Training for teachers and students: Organize gender sensitive and interactive workshops and training sessions for teachers and students on sustainable practices, social dimensions of conservation (e.g. gender and inclusivity) and human and environmental rights.

Output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge sharing events held.

Guinea Child Project participants will take part in regional training events and attendance at relevant international and regional fora (including conferences and conventions), coordinated by the RCP. This will support the national Child projects in relation to regional policy and sustainable finance initiatives and links to external opportunities and institutions (e.g. regional/ international conferences, conventions; regional

knowledge platforms and institutions - CBD, IUCN-WPC, MAB/ UNESCO; BIOPAMA/ OBAPAO³⁹ etc.). It also provides links between the 3 national Child projects, other MRU countries and other Critical Forest Biome Integrated Programmes (e.g. the Congo Basin IP; the Ecosystem Restoration IP). The last includes the Côte d'Ivoire Child project which is especially relevant to Guinea Child and the GEF International Waters Component (Component 3 shared transboundary Water Basin' Component in Guinea Child).

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 4.1.3.1: Participation in regional and international events: Organize gender sensitive participation of Guinea Child stakeholders in regional and international conferences, workshops, and forums.

Activity 4.1.3.2 Coordination with RCP for sustainable finance opportunities: Participate in gender sensitive multi-stakeholder dialogues, donor round tables, and regional partnerships to explore sustainable finance options.

Activity 4.1.3.3: Coordination with RCP for transboundary watershed management: Participate in gender sensitive dialogue and training on management of shared ecosystems and watersheds.

Output 4.1.4: Capacity is built, and experience shared for the development of sustainable finance opportunities for men and women at national and regional levels.

This output focuses on building the capacity of stakeholders, including men and women to identify and develop sustainable finance opportunities at both national and regional levels. Through targeted training sessions, workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms, participants will gain essential skills and insights to access funding, implement sustainable practices and foster inclusive financial solutions that promote economic resilience and environmental sustainability.

Below are the key activities that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 4.1.4.1: Case studies and best practices: Organize gender sensitive webinars and training sessions on case studies of sustainable finance from other countries to share successful models and strategies.

Activity 4.1.4.2: Facilitation of coordination and joint efforts of conservation trust funds: Hold bilateral, gender sensitive dialogues and collaborative efforts with the World Bank for establishment of a conservation fund and explore financial capitalization options, specifically for biosphere reserves.

Activity 4.1.4.3: Multi-stakeholder dialogues and round tables: (Co-)organize and support gender sensitive multi-stakeholder dialogues with governments, regional institutions, donors, and the private sector to develop and implement sustainable finance mechanisms.

Activity 4.1.4.4: Development of regional partnerships for sustainable finance: Establish and strengthen gender sensitive partnerships with national conservation funds and the private sector to support long-term sustainable finance solutions for ecosystem and community resilience in the Nimba and Ziama Biosphere Reserves.

Output 4.1.5: Gender sensitive knowledge management products developed and disseminated at local, national and regional levels

A gender-sensitive communications and education strategy will be developed for the project at the very beginning of the project and will: identify the different target groups and the type of information the project needs/wants to communicate to them; comprehensively review of existing knowledge and knowledge created

39 Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBAPAO) - https://biopama.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/OBAPAO_Brochure_V-Eng.pdf

by the project; peer-review of communication tools (factsheets, radio talks, etc.), and communication channels specially adapted to the target audience (radio, written support, social networks, etc.)

Good practices and lessons learned from the project will also feed into the GEF Integrated Program global platform, will critically serve to leverage South-South cooperation with other Integrated Program beneficiary countries in West Africa and beyond. Synergies will be sought especially with the regional coordination project and other child projects in Liberia, and Sierra Leone

The project will engage with global, regional and national networks, platforms and initiatives of relevance to share experiences and allow for cooperation and networking among peers, awareness raising and ultimately upscaling. Networks and initiatives such as Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) will be targeted, thus, the project will benefit from a wealth of learning opportunities (regional / global workshops and trainings, online Communities of Practice) on selected topics.

Several tools and approaches will be used to foster learning, knowledge exchange and cooperation among practitioners. At landscape level, the project will use proven methods for participation and engagement of local stakeholders, such as the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) in developing integrated landscape management plans. The project will also rely on participatory, people-centered methods for learning, e.g. Farmer Field Schools (FFS), and for disseminating information. More classic approaches, like exchange visits, will be used to strengthen linkages with ongoing efforts (baseline projects) within and outside Guinea.

Lessons learnt from local implementation will be institutionalized in the integrated program planning processes and will feed into the national cross-sectoral platforms and into the regional and global online Communities of Practice, that will uptake and further disseminate within their own countries the fruits of those exchanges.

Below is the key activity that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 4.1.5.1: Development of gender sensitive communication plan for knowledge management and sharing including e.g. policy briefs, land use plans, fact sheets, documentaries, project progress reports, success stores, lessons learned and best practices.

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

This component entails the establishment of a Project Management Unit and the development and roll-out of a gender-sensitive M&E system to track progress of project implementation.

Outcome 5.1: Improved project delivery, and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation

This outcome focuses on ensuring effective delivery of the project and implementation of a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation frameworks. By incorporating gender-specific indicators and participatory approaches, the project will ensure that the diverse needs and perspectives of both women and men are integrated into all the stages of the project cycle. This will include regular assessments of project progress, stakeholder feedback mechanisms, and adaptive management practices.

Output 5.1.1: A gender-sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation

The child project will develop a gender-sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation system to serve as an accessible repository for data and information and other knowledge products. The M&E system will also track progress of the project, as well as generate the materials that will inform knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and with interested parties within and outside of Guinea. The quarterly and annual project implementation reports will provide information on the status of implementation of the gender action plan and other relevant dimensions.

Below is the key activity that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 5.1.1.1: Develop a comprehensive and gender sensitive M&E system.

Output 5.1.2.: Project technical and financial reports produced

The child project will produce quarterly, annual and end of project project implementation reports that will be shared with stakeholders, especially the government OFP, IUCN-GEF Agency and GEF. Also, success stories, best practices and lessons learned will be documented.

Below is the key activity that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 5.1.2.1: Produce technical and financial reports and share with relevant stakeholders

Output 5.1.3: Independent evaluations conducted.

Independent mid-term and terminal evaluations for the child project will be conducted to assess the extent of achievement of project objective and outcomes.

Below is the key activity that will be implemented to achieve this output.

Activity 5.1.3.1: Conduct mid-term and terminal evaluations.

Table 13: Summary of project components, outcomes outputs and activities

Component	Project outcomes	Project outputs	Project activities
1: Enhancement and creation of gender enabling policies, and partnerships and inclusive sustainable finance management mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas: Mont Nimba (MNBR) and Ziam Massif (ZMBR) Biosphere Reserves	1.1 Improved gender sensitive ministerial agreement signed socially for inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mont Nimba/ Bossou and Ziam Massif Biosphere Mount Nimba/Reserves	Output 1.1.1: Inter-Activity 1.1.1.1 Convening Stakeholder Discussions: Organize gender inclusive meetings with responsible government agencies and all relevant stakeholders to review and discuss the current wordings of mandates, protocols, and responsibilities.	<p>Activity 1.1.1.2 Identifying Overlaps and Conflicts: Analyze the current mandates and protocols to identify any overlaps or conflicts in responsibilities.</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1.3 Proposing Clarifications: Develop proposals for clarifications and overarching agreements/protocols to facilitate integrated joint working, especially regarding the implementation of the Biosphere Reserve (BR) Management Plan.</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1.4 Securing Inter-Ministerial Decree: Obtain confirmation and formalization of the proposed clarifications through an inter-Ministerial decree signed by the government departments responsible for the Nimba BR (CEGENS-IREB-MAB-SSMN, other relevant ministries) and Ziam BR (MAB-CFZ, other relevant ministries).</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1.5 Establishing Local, Gender sensitive Multi-Stakeholder platforms: Set up (or strengthen) permanent local multi-stakeholder platforms for each Biosphere Reserve to ensure coordination, communication, and implementation of joint programme</p>
		Output 1.1.2: Gender	Activity 1.1.2.1 Provisioning of Expert Advice: Engage experts to provide

sensitive and socially inclusive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations

guidance on a national gender sensitive and socially inclusive review and reform processes to ensure local stakeholders can effectively participate and contribute.

Activity 1.1.2.2 Developing gender sensitive and socially inclusive policy briefs: Create policy briefs highlighting the importance of incorporating local and gender sensitive experiences and needs into national land use planning reforms

Activity 1.1.2.3 Developing Local Pilots and Guidance: Conduct gender sensitive pilot projects and develop best practice guidance at the local level, incorporating input from local communities, women, disadvantaged groups and other stakeholders.

Activity 1.1.2.4 Consultations and Workshops: Organize gender sensitive workshops and consultations at the local level to gather input from civil society and other local stakeholders on land use planning issues.

Activity 1.1.2.5 Establishment of gender inclusive Local CSO Working Groups: Set up local working groups to facilitate civil society engagement with national reform processes at each site (MNBR and ZMBR)

Activity 1.1.2.6 Stakeholder Engagement: Facilitate regular gender sensitive meetings of local civil society working groups to ensure ongoing engagement and input into national reforms related to land rights and land use planning.

Output 1.1.3: Sustainable conservation finance

Activity 1.1.3.1 Engagement with Government Agencies, Donors, and Private Sector: Facilitate regular gender sensitive meetings and

opportunities for the MNBR consultations between PMU, IUCN & other GEF Agencies, responsible and ZMBR Biosphere government agencies (CEGENS for Nimba, CFZ for Ziama), international Reserves investigated and donors (e.g. WB, EU, AFD, USAID), and private sector entities (e.g., mining supported sector - SMFG, Rio Tinto) to discuss, develop, and coordinate sustainable, gender inclusive finance strategies for conservation and local development initiatives in and around the Biosphere Reserves

Activity 1.1.3.2 Development & Capitalisation of Conservation Trust Fund: Support the efforts to develop a Conservation Trust Fund by appointing a consultant who will work with the CTF governance team to attract capital from governments, multilateral donors, and private partners through targeted visits and presentations specifically for Biosphere Reserves.

Activity 1.1.3.3 Integration with National and Transboundary Initiatives: Ensure the alignment of sustainable gender sensitive finance strategies with national developments (e.g., REDD proposals) and transboundary agreements and plans (e.g., Mt Nimba Master Plan, Ziama-Wonogizi-Wolegizi).

<p>2. Restoration of ecosystem forest connectivity (including the Nimba-Bossou corridor) and enhancement of sustainable</p>	<p>Enhanced ecosystem gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1 Integrated, Activity 2.1.1.1 Raise awareness at the village level about the purpose and benefits of gender sensitive and socially inclusive land use plans. Activity 2.1.1.2 Organize gender sensitive workshops and community meetings to gather input and facilitate discussions. Activity 2.1.1.3 Develop gender sensitive and socially inclusive LUPs with community participation, focusing on land use mapping and identifying priority areas for conservation, restoration, and development</p>
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livelihoods and
green
development
around MNBR and
ZMBR

Activity 2.1.1.4 Integrate developed LUPs into gender sensitive Local Development Plans (LDPs) and the Management Plans for both Biosphere Reserves.

Output 2.1.2 A gender sensitive inventory and surveys to document biodiversity and ecosystem services in buffer and transition zones
Activity 2.1.2.1 Biodiversity Inventory: Conduct field gender sensitive surveys to document biodiversity and ecosystem services in buffer and transition zones
Activity 2.1.2.2 Mapping and Data Analysis: Develop digital maps to visualize biodiversity values, priorities for restoration, and ecosystem services
Activity 2.1.2.3 Stakeholder Consultations: Organize gender sensitive workshops to discuss findings and integrate inventory data into Local Land Use Plans

Outcome 2.2:
Improved inclusive
and gender
inclusive sensitive
livelihoods of local
communities

Output 2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored, incorporating gender dimensions
Activity 2.2.1.1 Implement habitat restoration projects (reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, agroforestry, habitat enhancement, invasive species management)
Activity 2.2.1.2 Train communities in technical aspects of forest restoration and monitoring incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations
Activity 2.2.1.3 Establish tree nurseries and strengthen Farm Field Schools.

Output 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities
Activity 2.2.2.1 Workshops and Training: Organize and conduct gender sensitive workshops to build the skills of local farmers and entrepreneurs supported to develop gender in sustainable agricultural practices, product transformation processes, sensitive and sustainable business management, and value chain development.

smallholder agriculture and green and inclusive SMEs Activity 2.2.2.2 Technical Assistance: Provide ongoing technical and gender sensitive support to local stakeholders in areas such as crop improvement, organic pest control, sustainable harvesting methods, and quality control.

Activity 2.2.2.3 Sustainable Business Models: Promote gender sensitive business models that integrate conservation efforts with economic benefits, ensuring long-term sustainability, and attract additional investments from private and public sectors (e.g. micro finance) to support local sustainable business initiatives

Activity 2.2.2.4 Infrastructure Support: Identify and support the development of necessary, gender sensitive infrastructure (e.g., processing facilities, storage) to enhance value addition at the local level.

Output 2.2.3: Joint, gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities

Activity 2.2.3.1 Establish and support gender inclusive Village Monitoring Committees.

Activity 2.2.3.2 Provide inclusive and gender sensitive training in biodiversity surveys, habitat assessments, socio-economic surveys, and participatory mapping.

Activity 2.2.3.3 Organize regular joint, gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation sessions.

3. Strengthened management of forest landscapes in the shared transboundary collaboration and coordination

Output 3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary operational procedures, convening initial and regular meetings, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations

Activity 3.1.1.1: Streamlining Transboundary Committees: Recruitment of committee members, review and drafting of terms of reference and

Activity 3.1.1.2: Integrated gender sensitive training and capacity

Guinea Forest (Guinea, Liberia, transboundary agreements) enhancement: Combine workshops and training sessions for committee members with technical assistance on transboundary management and protocols, ensuring these are practical and directly applicable to their roles.

River Basins: MtSierra Leone and with neighbouring countries (Côte d'Ivoire) for revitalized and operationalized roles.

Nimba complex (Cavally RB: enhanced operationalized roles).

Guinea, Liberia, conservation

Côte d'Ivoire) and management of the

Ziama-Wonegizi- shared Moa-

Wologizi landscape Makona/ Mano and

(Moa-Makona/ Cavally River Water

Mano RB: Guinea, Basins.

Liberia)

Output 3.1.2: Support Activity 3.1.2.1: Comprehensive Gender Sensitive Capacity Assessment and Training: Perform capacity needs assessment followed by targeted training sessions, designed to address identified gaps, and incorporating gender-sensitive approaches and practical applications of research in forest management.

decision making processes

for transboundary, gender

sensitive and inclusive forest

management and ecosystem

conservation in shared

Water Basins

Output 3.1.3: Gender Activity 3.1.3.1 Implement restoration of gallery forest, inclusive, nature-based rehabilitation/protection of forests around of water sources, and protect solutions (NbS) implemented lowland wetlands to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to

Activity 3.1.1.3: Enhanced gender sensitive Operational Support: Coordinate priority interventions based on technical committee discussions in watershed management, leveraging local capacities

Activity 3.1.2.2: Gender sensitive Tool Development and Dissemination: Develop and disseminate integrated technical guidance and monitoring tools, including protocols for joint transboundary patrols and enforcement, ensuring these tools are user-friendly and widely accessible.

climate change impacts

4. Capacity4.1: Enhanced **Output 4.1.1:** Technical *Activity 4.1.1.1 Virtual and In-Person Trainings: (Co-)organize and building, learning, capacity learning, capacity built among Nimba participate in gender sensitive webinars and in-person workshops on collaboration, and collaboration and and Ziama communities and topics such as conservation management, social dimensions of communication communication responsible government conservation, rights-based approach and gender.*
- among State and authorities & institutions on *Activity 4.1.1.2 Gender sensitive knowledge development and skills non-State actors/topics such as conservation, transfer regarding human rights, social safeguards, gender, inclusivity, civil society in management, social land and access rights, community engagement, conflict resolution, and Guinea and with dimensions of conservation, cultural sensitivity*
- other Guinea Forest rights-based approach and *Activity 4.1.1.3 Study Tours and Exchange Visits: Coordinate gender (GFIP)/ MRU gender, etc. sensitive learning and exposure trips between GFIP countries for sharing countries and experiences and best practices.*
- stakeholders *Activity 4.1.1.4 Knowledge & Capacity Building; provide scientific, gender for conservation sensitive training and education opportunities related to biodiversity data and development collection, inventory and monitoring.*
- Output 4.1.2:** Inclusive and *Activity 4.1.2.1 Communication and Education Strategy: Develop and gender sensitive implement a gender sensitive Guinea Child Project Communication and communications and Education Strategy.*
- education strategy *Activity 4.1.2.2 Environmental Education Programmes: Integrate developed environmental education into primary and secondary schools at MNBR and ZMBR to raise awareness among youth about conservation, climate change, gender and inclusivity, environmental rights and sustainability.*
- Activity 4.1.2.3 Gender sensitive Community Awareness Campaigns: Use*

radio broadcasts, village events, and social media campaigns to increase public awareness.

Activity 4.1.2.4 Training for Teachers and Students: Organize gender sensitive and interactive workshops and training sessions for teachers and students on sustainable practices, social dimensions of conservation (e.g. gender & inclusivity) and human and environmental rights.

Output 4.1.3: *Regional and international collaboration*
Activity 4.1.3.1 Participation in Regional and International Events: *Organize gender sensitive participation of Guinea Child stakeholders in and gender sensitive regional and international conferences, workshops, and forums knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems.*

Activity 4.1.3.2 Coordination with RCP for Sustainable Finance Opportunities: *Participate in gender sensitive multi-stakeholder dialogues, donor round tables, and regional partnerships to explore sustainable finance options.*

Activity 4.1.3.3 Coordination with RCP for Transboundary Watershed Management: *Participate in gender sensitive dialogue and training on management of shared ecosystems and watersheds.*

Output 4.1.4: *Capacity built and experience shared for the development of sustainable finance opportunities at national and regional levels.*

Activity 4.1.4.1 Case Studies and Best Practices: *Organize gender sensitive webinars and training sessions on case studies of sustainable finance from other countries to share successful models and strategies.*

Activity 4.1.4.2 Facilitation of Coordination and Joint Efforts of Conservation Trust Funds: *Hold bilateral, gender sensitive dialogues and collaborative efforts with the World Bank for establishment of a conservation fund and explore financial capitalization options, specifically*

for biosphere reserves.

Activity 4.1.4.3 Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues and Round Tables: (Co-)organize and support gender sensitive multi-stakeholder dialogues with governments, regional institutions, donors, and the private sector to develop and implement sustainable finance mechanisms.

Activity 4.1.4.4 Development of Regional Partnerships for Sustainable Finance: Establish and strengthen gender sensitive partnerships with national conservation funds and the private sector to support long-term sustainable finance solutions for ecosystem and community resilience in the Nimba and Ziama Biosphere Reserves.

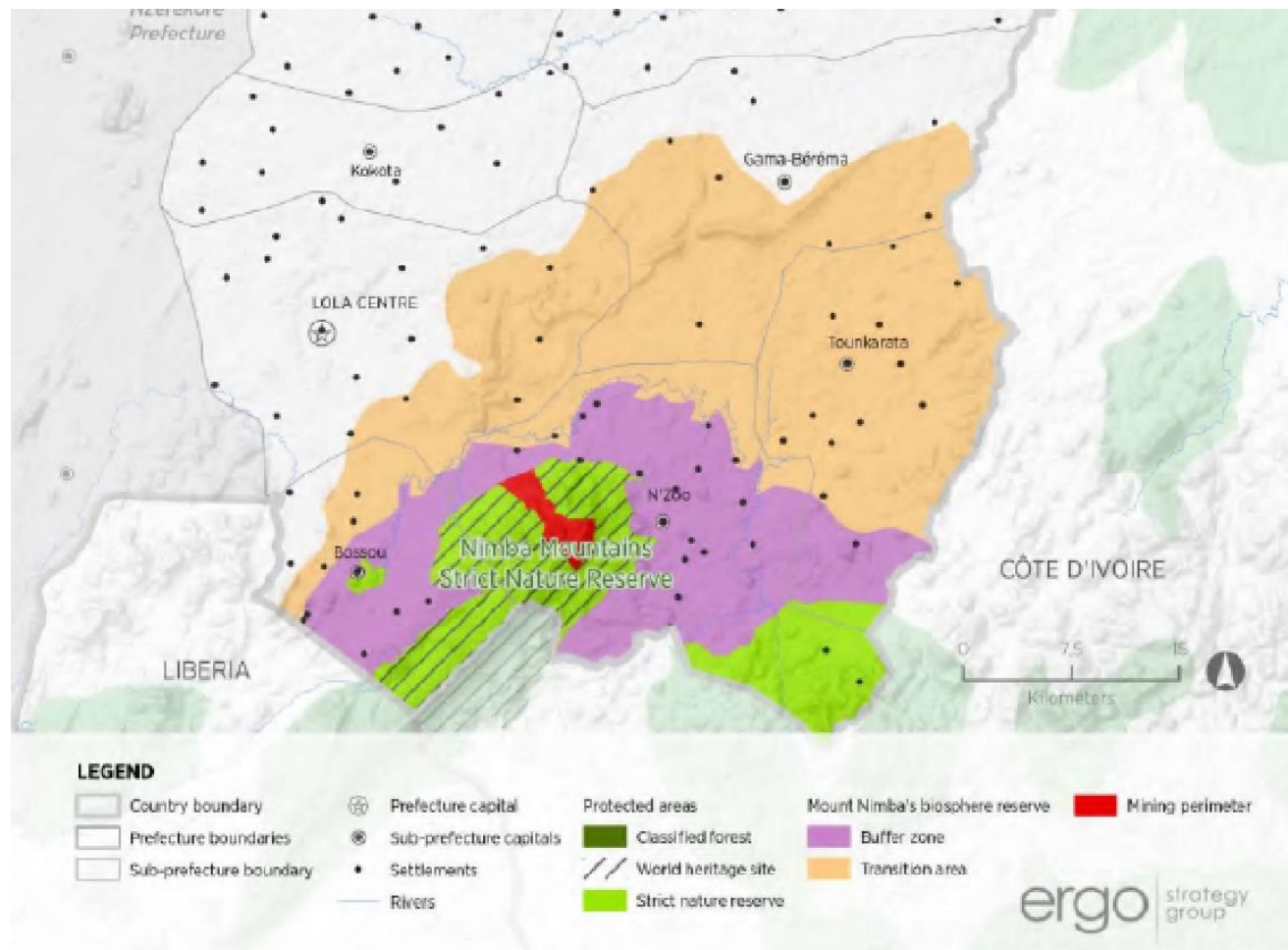
Output 4.1.5: Gender sensitive knowledge management and sharing including e.g. policy briefs, land use products, plans, fact sheets, documentaries, project progress reports, success stories, developed and disseminated lessons learned and best practices at local, national and regional levels.

<p>5. Programme Outcome</p> <p>Management, Improved Monitoring and delivery, Evaluation monitoring evaluation</p>	<p>5.1:Output 5.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyse and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation.</p>	<p><i>Activity 5.1.1 Develop a comprehensive and gender sensitive M&E system.</i></p>
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Output 5.1.2.: GenderActivity 5.1.2 Produce technical and financial reports and share with sensitive project technicalrelevant stakeholders
and financial reports
produced

Output 5.1.3: IndependentActivity 5.1.3 Conduct mid-term and terminal evaluations
and gender sensitive
evaluations conducted

1. Project map and coordinates



Map 4.3.1 Southern part of Lola Prefecture with Mount Nimba Biosphere showing core/ Strict Nature Reserve (green), buffer (purple) and transition zone (light brown). The project focuses on villages in the buffer zone and a number of villages in the transition zones (see coordinates table 14).

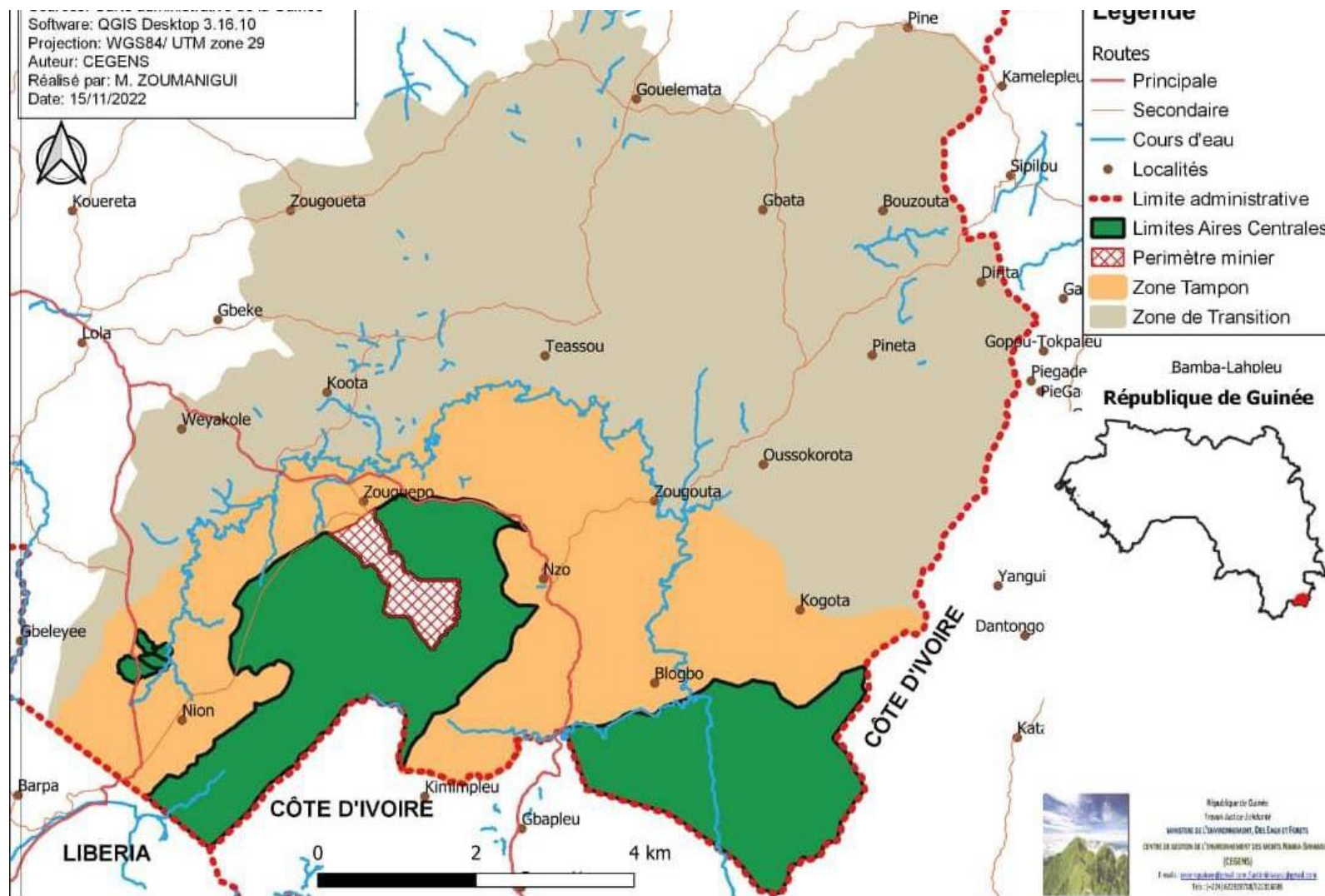
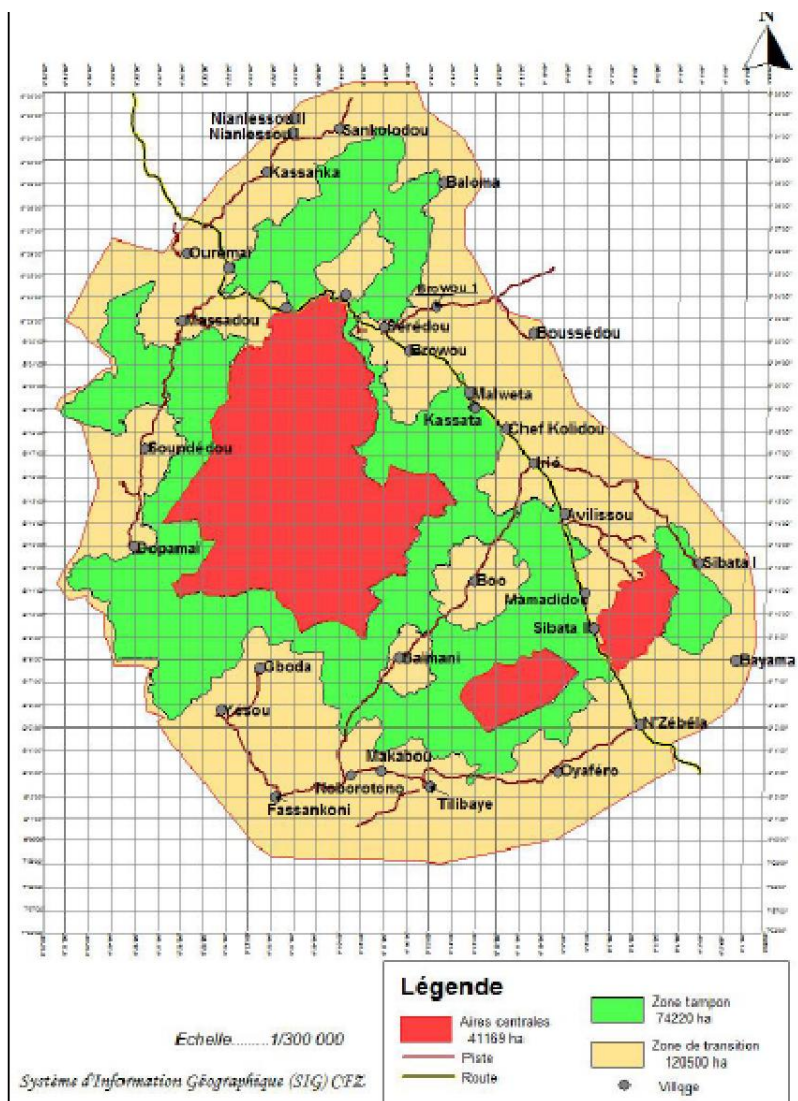


Table 14: MNBR Coordinates

Geo Name ID	Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Location Description
<i>Required field if the location is not an exact site</i>	<i>Required field</i>	<i>Required field</i>	<i>Required field</i>	<i>Optional text field</i>
https://www.geonames.org/11185121/bossou.html	Bossou	N 7°39'00"	W 8°31'00"	MNBR- third-order administrative division
https://www.geonames.org/11185126/n-zoo.html	N'Zoo	N 7°40'46"	W 8°18'51"	MNBR - third-order administrative division
https://www.geonames.org/11185127/tounkarata.html	Tounkarata	N 7°37'00"	W 8°21'00"	MNBR - third-order administrative division
https://www.geonames.org/2595304/lola.html	Lola	N 7°50'00"	W 8°20'00"	MNBR - second-order administrative division



Map 4.3.2 Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve showing core areas/ Strict Reserve (red), buffer zone (green) and transition zone (light brown). Targeted 32 villages are situated in the transition zone (See coordinates in Table 15)

Table 15: ZMBR coordinates

Geo Name ID	Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Location Description
<i>Required field if the location is not an exact site</i>	<i>Required field</i>	<i>Required field</i>	<i>Required field</i>	<i>Optional text field</i>
https://www.geonames.org/11185136/n-zebela.html	N'Zébéla	N 8°05'00"	W 9°06'00"	ZMBR - third-order administrative division
https://www.geonames.org/11185133/fassankoni.html	Fassankoni	N 8°02'00"	W 9°22'00"	ZMBR - third-order administrative division
https://www.geonames.org/11185137/ouremai.html	Ourémai	N 8°26'00"	W 9°26'00"	ZMBR - third-order administrative division
https://www.geonames.org/11185140/sengbedou.html	Sengbédou	N 8°34'00"	W 9°19'00"	ZMBR - third-order administrative division
https://www.geonames.org/11185141/seredou.html	Sérédou	N 8°23'00"	W 9°18'00"	ZMBR - third-order administrative division

Basins / MRU countries	Moa-Makona	Cavally	Great Scarries-Kolenté	Sub-total
Côte d'Ivoire	-	16 300	-	16 300
Guinea	8 800	1 500	5 300	15 600
Liberia	1 700	12 400	-	14 100
Sierra Leone	9 500	-	2 700	12 200
Sub-total	20 000	30 200	8 000	/

Table 4: Population (number of inhabitants) in the national portions of the basins. Source: BRLI (Data from the UN database, 2010).

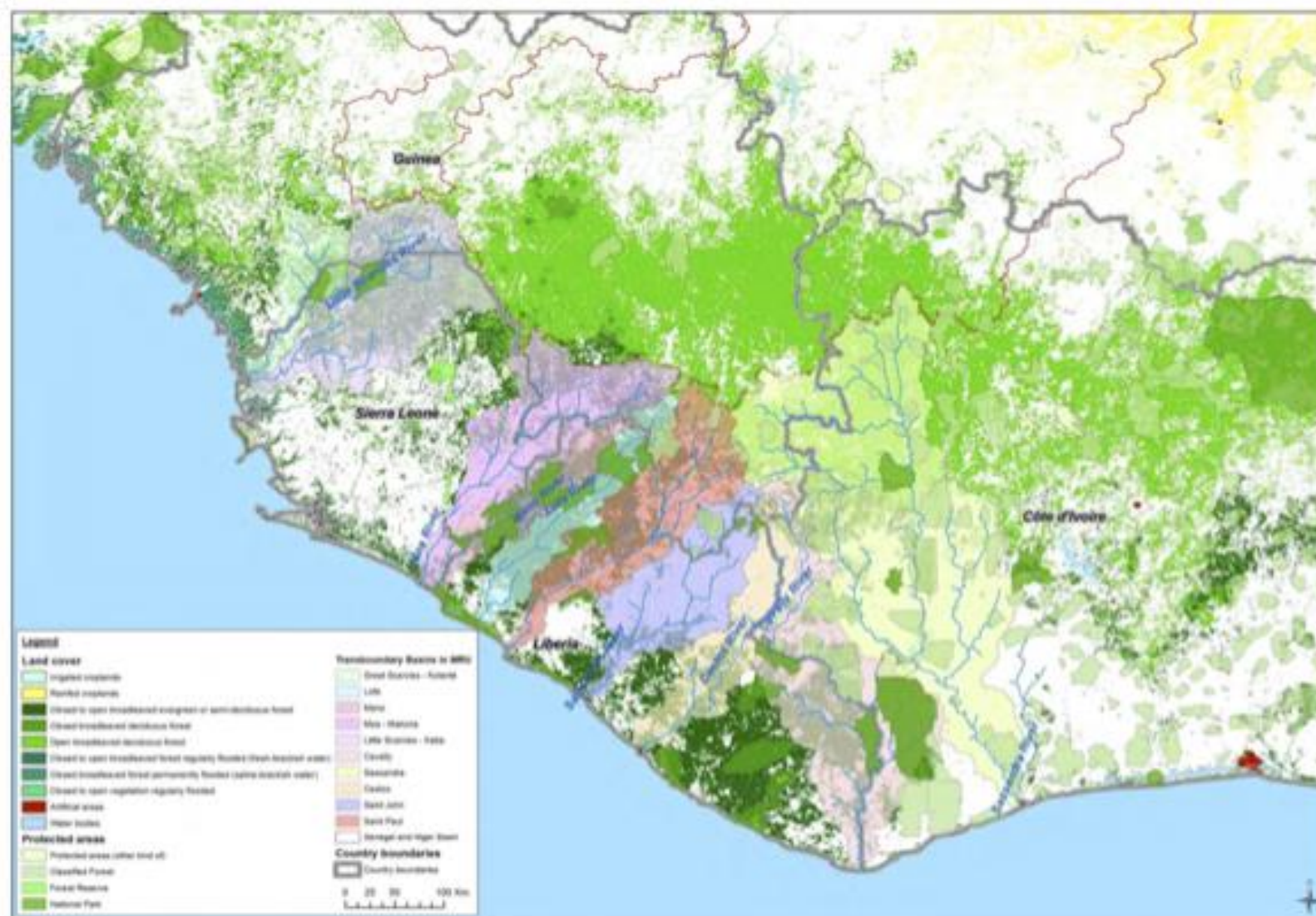
Basins / MRU countries	Moa-Makona	Cavally	Great Scarries-Kolenté	Sub-total
Côte d'Ivoire	-	610 000	-	610 000
Guinea	552 000	72 000	211 000	835 000
Liberia	16 200	334 000	-	350 200
Sierra Leone	627 000	-	649 000	1 276 000
Sub-total	1 195 200	1 016 000	860 000	/

Figure 6: Location map of the 3 targeted transboundary basins



Source: BRLI, SRTM/UEMOA 2011 and ProtectedPlanet.net

Figure 1: Map of the transboundary watersheds and protected areas within the area covered by the four Member States of the Mano River Union.



Source: BRLI, SRTM/UEMOA 2011 and ProtectedPlanet.net

2. Project geographical scope (for IUCN contribution platform) *IUCN does this?*
1. Do you have GIS (Geographic Information Systems) polygon data documenting the project's area? *NO*].
2. If YES, please upload the relevant shapefile(s) here.
3. If NO, please upload a jpg (or other format) map of the project's area here. The maps of the project areas have been developed
1. Risk analysis and risk management measures

Several risks have been identified for this project, including external risks, technical and operational risks, and environmental and social risks. To address these, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project design, as shown in the table15 below.

Table 16: Project risks and mitigation measures

Risk Categories	Rating	Planned mitigation measures
Climate change: Guinea faces significant climate change risks, including increased temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events, which threaten agriculture, water resources, forests and biodiversity.	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate climate risks into landscape-level conservation, land-use planning (e.g. climate resilient agriculture), and Biosphere Reserve management. This will ensure that local land use plans and Biosphere Reserve management plans include climate considerations (Outcomes 2,3,4) 1. Enhance the capacity of institutions responsible for the conservation and management of ecosystems and natural resources, such as CEGENS and CFZ, enabling them to effectively incorporate climate change into their activities (Outcomes 2, 3 & 4). 2. Promote habitat connectivity in the landscape: protect extensive, intact landscapes and key representative habitats within these landscapes to ensure their preservation and resilience against climate change impacts. (Outcomes 2&3).
Mining & Infrastructure: If not well planned and implemented mining poses a significant risk, including environmental degradation, water pollution, and social displacement.	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue and enhance the existing positive collaboration with SMFG (Nimba Ore Project) and explore partnerships with NDC (potential newcomer). (Outcomes 1 & 4) 1. Dedicate resources to support a thorough and compliant Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). and invest in mitigation measures (Outcomes 1,2,3, 4) 2. Raise awareness of local communities on mining-related changes through forums and feedback mechanisms. (Outcome 4)
Government instability: High Government instability in Guinea is marked by frequent changes in leadership and political unrest, resulting in inconsistent policies and governance challenges. This instability hampers long-term	High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in training and capacity building for government officials to ensure consistent and effective policy implementation. (Outcomes 1 & 4) 2. Promote multi-stakeholder cooperation in the reserves to enhance ownership of the project by various actors (Outcome 1, 3 & 4)

planning and development, affecting various sectors including environmental conservation		3. Invest in local structures and organizations, as they are typically more resilient to changes in national political leadership. (Outcomes 1, 2,3 & 4).
		4. Promote adaptive management and development of contingency plans
Competition between government agencies: In both reserves, there is often unclear delineation of responsibilities and accountability. This ambiguity in mandate hampers coordination and effective collaboration. Additionally, a reorganization of the environmental sector, supported by the World Bank, is underway. This may result in changes to the protection status of certain areas, as well as the roles and mandates of institutions like CEGENS and CFZ, which are currently responsible for management.	Medium	5. The project will collaborate with and complement ongoing national programmes of institutional reform in the sector and other programmes to help reduce conflicts of attribution between the structures that share the roles and responsibility for managing Nimba and Ziama BRs. (Outcome 1)
		1. It is crucial for project management to maintain close communication with high-level political contacts and, along with other partners such as GEF, the World Bank, the EU, and AFD, advocate for a pragmatic change process.
		2. In capacity building, it is important to involve all potentially competing governmental agencies. This also applies to their participation in multi-stakeholder platforms. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)
Exclusion of Women & Vulnerable Groups: Gender inequality in Guinea presents risks such as limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for women, as well as very limited rights and lack of representation, exacerbating poverty and hindering sustainable development.	Medium	1. Gender aspects will be integrated into all project outcomes, supported by a gender analysis and action plan (Inception phase). This analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of gender issues in the targeted areas, including the participation of women and men in agriculture and community decision-making. It helps address women's specific challenges and priorities in designing alternative livelihoods and identifies opportunities for greater equality and empowerment. (outcomes 2, 3 &4)
		2. Activities targeting women and women's groups are designed as to guarantee equal participation and benefit sharing. The PMU will make use of a Gender Specialist to develop and manage the effective implementation of the Gender Action Plan. All further screenings, assessments, and management during implementation will consider this risk. (Outcomes 2, 3, 4 +PMU)
Violation labor standards: In Guinea, the violation of labor standards poses significant risks, including exploitation, unsafe working conditions, and lack of legal protections for workers, which undermine human rights	Medium	The project will ensure compliance with labor standards by selecting service providers based on strict criteria, providing training on best practices, and diligently monitoring working conditions. (Outcomes 2 & 4 + PMU)

and economic stability.

Adverse impacts of improving agricultural production:

Investment in agriculture and small businesses risks environmental harm, including deforestation, soil degradation, and increased pollution.

Delays in procurement processes:

IUCN has strict procurement regulations that must not compromise speed. Additionally, there is the challenge of large distances between the physical offices (PMU local, IUCN National Conakry, IUCN Dakar/Cameroon), which limits face-to-face consultation and coordination.

Relatively low institutional capacity for implementation:

National and local capacities are limited, affecting both government agencies and Civil Society Organizations. This limitation leads to inefficiency, inadequate policy enforcement, and challenges in executing development projects effectively.

Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement

- | | | |
|--------|----|--|
| Low | 1. | The project will develop or update Local Land Use Plans (LUP) of targeted municipalities to include a prospective vision and address concerns linked to forest, biodiversity, water and climate change. Through training and awareness raising, the project will promote environmentally friendly practices like organic pest control, waste management etc. (Outcomes 2,3, & 4) |
| Medium | 2. | When hiring staff for the PMU, prioritize candidates with extensive experience in procurement regulations to ensure compliance and efficiency in project implementation. |
| | 3. | Conduct comprehensive training sessions for all partners involved in project activities to ensure they understand and adhere to procurement policies. This will enhance their ability to navigate procurement processes effectively and minimize errors and delays. |
| | 4. | Limit the use of individual consultancies and promote working with consortia through service agreements that cover multiple tasks and activities. This approach will foster collaboration & reduce administrative tasks at the level of the PMU |
| Medium | 1. | By encouraging cooperation and working through consortia, knowledge and expertise will be pooled. Proper coordination and alignment with similar projects (e.g. UNDP, FAO, WB) that rely on the same agencies and organizations is essential to avoid overburdening existing capacities and to use resources (human, financial, technical etc.) as efficiently as possible. |
| | 2. | Active support for capacity building through training, education, exchange programs, and coaching is crucial. Where necessary, consulting firms can be hired to fill gaps that cannot be addressed nationally or locally. |
| Medium | 1. | The project will be executed directly by the IUCN, adhering strictly to IUCN procedures for fund disbursement, monitoring and transparency. |
| | 2. | Stakeholders responsible for implementing activities will receive funds in stages, contingent upon justifying expenses and presenting completed work. |
| | 3. | Additionally, project staff will be hired independently by the IUCN. |
| | 4. | Yearly audits and the midterm evaluation are additional procedures for control and adjustment |
| | 5. | Training of staff and partners on ant-fraud and anti-bribery, |

conflict of interest etc.

Overall Risk Rating

Medium

1. Consistency with national priorities and plans

The gap analysis in Section 3.5 identifies the threats to biodiversity, forests, and natural resources in the Mount Nimba and Ziamas Massif Biosphere Reserves and shows how the Guinea Child project will fill some of the identified gaps and help to address the significant challenges (in relation to resources, policy, capacity and need for targeted, coordinated solutions) facing attempts to achieve conservation and sustainable development for communities in the 2 Biosphere Reserves. Targeted interventions, policy reforms, increased stakeholder engagement, and robust long-term management strategies are essential to overcoming these challenges and ensuring the sustainable conservation of these vital ecosystems.

The current legal, institutional and policy context is detailed in section 3.1.3 (with consideration of the National Environmental Policy (PNE), The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), the Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity and the National Sustainable Development Strategy (SNDD)). The relevance and proposed project responses to various challenges are detailed here along with their consistency in relation to national priorities and plans.

The National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) addresses issues of ‘people and Nature’ and makes the link between policies, sectoral programmes and any programme or project aimed at development approaches based on nature and society such as the Guinea Child project. The PNDES mentions that the environment today stands out as an essential dimension of economic and social development in Guinea, due to the pressures exerted on natural resources and the threats posed to the framework of life. The major issues in this area are: (i) preservation of the environment; (ii) optimization of natural resources; and (iii) addressing issues of adaptation to climate change.

The PNDES is considered the sole reference framework for development action, intended to serve as a strategic or programmatic framework of reference for all policies, strategies, reforms, programmes and development projects initiated at the national level. Through the strategic options attached to each expected effect, different stakeholders have entry points to define development objectives and make strategic choices. Through priority actions, they have a basis for programming, while the development targets provide them with benchmarks to establish their own performance measurement frameworks.

Specifically, the PNDES is the strategic benchmark for the programmatic frameworks of technical and financial partners (TFPs) which must be aligned with it in accordance with the principles of the Paris Declaration. The PNDES is also intended to serve as a support for political dialogue between the TFPs and the Government, and for the exercise of mutual responsibility in matters of development management.

The PNDES also aims to provide a coherent response to major development challenges, by basing its strategies on four pillars:

Pillar 1: promotion of good governance for sustainable development

Pillar 2: sustainable and inclusive economic transformation

Pillar 3: inclusive development of human capital

Pillar 4: sustainable management of natural capital.

Under pillar 4, the PNDES states that legal, institutional and operational capacities in terms of sustainable environmental management will be strengthened. Two options are considered to achieve this effect: (i) the effective application of legal and regulatory provisions as well as some other institutional arrangements in force in the field of the environment and natural resource management; (ii) the implementation of the strategic and programmatic framework defined by the National Environmental Policy, the National Biological Diversity Strategy, the National Environmental Action Plan, the PNADAD.

To this end, priority will be given to: (i) updating the legal and institutional environmental framework; (ii) strengthening technical and human capacities in environmental protection; (iii) the development of an

effective environmental education system; (iv) promotion of environmental compliance. To date, progress has been made in the legal aspects of the laws (codes), however this still requires additional effort regarding the regulatory texts that these laws mention in some of their articles.

In its **Sustainable Ecosystem Management** chapter, the first intermediate objective is to preserve and restore terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, with the expected effects that:

1. The underlying causes of biodiversity loss are addressed at all levels of society
2. Direct pressures on biological diversity are reduced and its sustainable use encouraged
3. The state of biological diversity is improved by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity
4. The benefits derived for all from biological diversity and the services provided by ecosystems are enhanced
5. Implementation is strengthened through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

In addition, the PNDES adheres to the vision of the **National Strategy for Biological Diversity 2016–2025 (SNDB)**, for the implementation of the Aichi objectives in Guinea, of: “biological diversity restored, conserved, valued and used wisely by all stakeholders, by maintaining the ecosystem services provided, conserving ecosystems in good condition, guaranteeing essential benefits to current and future generations of Guinea”. Specifically, to achieve this effect, the PNDES articulates its strategic options around strategic goal “A” of the SNDB which is stated as follows: “Manage the underlying causes of the impoverishment of the biological diversity by integrating biological diversity into all programmes of government and society”.

The PNDES plans as a priority for the period 2016-2020, the following actions: (i) the promotion of awareness by individuals of the value of biological diversity and the measures they can take to conserve it and 'use sustainably'; (ii) integration of biological diversity values into national and local development planning processes, into national accounts and into reporting systems; (iii) the reform or progressive reduction or even elimination of incentives, including subsidies harmful to biological diversity, in favour of positive incentives in favour of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity consistent with the obligations international; (iv) taking measures or implementing plans to ensure sustainable production and consumption as well as maintaining the incidence of use of natural resources within ecologically safe limits. The PNDES further adheres to the vision of the SNDB around its strategic goal “D”, which calls for “Strengthening the benefits derived for all from biological diversity and the services provided by ecosystems”.

1. Accelerated Programme for Food and Nutritional Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development (PASANDAD)

This programme, as an integral part of the PNDES, constitutes the orientation framework for achieving the expected effects in this area. PASANDAD is both a strategy and a programme, based on a multisectoral and multidimensional approach to the integrated fight against undernourishment, malnutrition and food insecurity. It intends to ensure the necessary conditions for an acceleration of local plant, animal, fish and forestry production, an improvement in the marketing, conservation and processing of food to reduce lean periods and eradicate hunger. Furthermore, reversing the country's dependence on imported food imports is a fundamental option of PASANDAD which also integrates the issue of sustainability in agriculture with the objective of promoting the sustainable management of forest ecosystems. and wildlife in Guinea with a view to combating environmental problems and climate change.

1. Project alignment with GEF8 Programming Strategies

The Guinea Child project is aligned with the GEF-8 Programming Directions as a component of the GFIP (The Guinean Forests Integrated Program), which is itself a component of the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program, one of 11 IPs in the GEF-8 Programming Cycle. The IP and all component projects will support local communities and CSOs as a central strategy for achieving the larger regional goal of protecting and maintaining intact forest landscapes. There is a focus on corridor and landscape-level interventions, expansion and improved management of intact forest landscapes and protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) (identified through the GEF-supported CEPF portfolio and the Guinean Forests of

West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot⁴⁰). It will channel investments in sustainable land use outside protected areas, to improve connectivity, promote sustainable livelihoods and ensure better delivery of ecosystem services. Transboundary corridors and building on innovative financial mechanisms that have proven successful are particular priorities.

The IP strategy is to address key drivers of forest loss and degradation, protecting and restoring critical ecosystem services and habitats, complemented by policy-level support to enhance national and regional coherence and capacity, helping the region's countries move towards more sustainable, resilient economies that are better able to respond to priorities for addressing climate change (NDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs, etc)⁴¹.

With respect to GEF-8 Focal Area strategies defined in the GEF-8 Programming Directions, the program is closely aligned with Objective 1 under the Biodiversity Focal Area (To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems). This includes work on financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of PAs, as well as biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors, including local applications with demonstrated practical relevance (e.g., land use planning). Under the Climate Change Focal Area, the program's investment in expanding and strengthening PAs as well as forest management and restoration outside PAs correspond to Pillar I, Objective 1.4 relating to Nature-based Solutions. This area of work also is relevant to Objectives 1 and 2 of the Land Degradation Focal Area, through the promotion of regenerative/climate-smart agriculture (guided by spatial planning) and restoration of degraded productive lands, including strengthening of community-based natural resource management as well as tenure rights recognition and safeguards. The GFIP also converges with the Ecosystem Restoration IP, given the importance of restoration of productive lands as well as fragmented and degraded forests to enhance the health of Guinean Forest landscapes. The GFIP also aligns closely with the Wildlife Conservation for Development IP given its focus on securing wildlife populations and key landscapes and ensuring that countries and communities derive socioeconomic benefits from wildlife as a natural asset; shared themes include habitat protection, sustainable wildlife use, ecotourism, and human-wildlife conflict. Finally, with respect to the International Waters Focal Area, transboundary work under the program (e.g., along the Mano River shared by Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone) will further Objective 3 (Enhance water security in freshwater ecosystems). Specific program components and their alignment with GEF-8 programming strategies and regional objectives include:

1. Land use planning
2. Expanding and improving the management of protected areas
3. Sustainable land use outside protected areas
4. Policy engagement
5. Regional cooperation and learning and a regional level platform

The Guinea Child project was selected against criteria established for the IP, in particular ensuring that investments help maintain the integrity of the Guinea Forest Biome's globally important critical forests; and maximize multiple GEBs, co-financing opportunities, contributions to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and to the IP goals including transboundary/regional connectivity. Policy alignment for the Guinea Child project includes:

The Government of Guinea has demonstrated commitment to forest protection at different levels, from engaging communities in capacity-building activities for sustainable land management to equipping and funding park rangers and anti-poaching programs. Reforestation campaigns and restoration actions have been rolled out through a Presidential Initiative. Further work has recognized the rights of private forest owners and updated legal texts of various codes (forest code, wildlife code, and hunting regulations, environmental code, water code, livestock code) whose sanctions against offenders were previously very weak. National policies and strategies that support the protection of the environment, the conservation of biodiversity, the preservation of the integrity of forests, and the restoration of land include the National Environmental Action Plan (PNAE) of 1994 and the Guinea National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy adopted in 2015.

40 <https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots/guinean-forests-west-africa>

41 FINAL_PFD_Guinean Forests (1) (1).pdf

The Guinea Child project will support a number of MEA goals, as well as regional goals, such as those established under the AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge (aim to restore 100 million hectares of land in Africa by 2030). The Guinea Child project (together with other national and regional Child projects under GFIP) will contribute to:

1. **the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** by advancing Goals A and B (relating to conservation and sustainable use respectively), particularly Targets 1-5 (spatial planning, biodiversity conservation and management, including the 30x30 target), Target 8 (climate change), Target 9-11 (sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystem services), Target 14 (policy and planning), Target 19 (capacity building), Target 20 (financing), Target 21 (data availability), Target 22 (IPLCs) and Target 23 (gender).
2. Under GBF Target 8, the project supports the objectives of the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** through increased mitigation and resilience measures related to spatial planning, ecosystem protection and restoration and the strategic objectives and likewise the expected impacts of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**.
3. Under the GBF, the overall GFIP will help advance the regional AFR100 aims to restore 100 million hectares of land in Africa by 2030. Collectively, the IP target countries including Guinea have committed to restoring 26.7 million ha to both AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge, with a restoration target of over 27,400 ha. GFIP will also coordinate with the Ecosystem Restoration IP to explore potential synergies in the implementation of field activities and policy engagement.

1. Incremental⁴² cost reasoning (for GEF projects)

1. Baseline or business-as-usual scenario (without the GEF project)

The Global problems which the Guinea Child project seeks to address are detailed in section 3.2 (Global environmental problem), 3.3 (Threats, root causes and barrier analysis) and summarised above in relation to alignment with the GEF-8 Programming Objectives. Guinea Child project is one of several national Child projects comprising (with the Regional Child Project), the larger GFIP (Guinean Forests) Integrated Programme.

In summary, the global problems which Guinea Child is addressing (nationally and in the Guinea Forest biome region, with other Child projects – especially in the Mano River Union countries: Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire) are as follows. The rapid and continuing loss and degradation of forests and forest biodiversity, the concomitant losses and risks of continuing declines in the value and provision of ecosystem services and 'natural capital' on which regional populations depend for livelihoods, future development and survival. In the 'business-as-usual scenario' (without the GEF project), continued failure to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation in the Guinean Forests will result in continued loss of habitats and wildlife and decline in the supply of ecosystem services on which people depend. This loss of natural capital damages the socioeconomic well-being of forest-dependent communities in the short-term and limits the options for future environmentally and socially sustainable economic development.

2. Incremental reasoning

Under the 'GEF alternative' scenario, the Guinea Child project will address both the underlying root causes or drivers of many of these problems and the specific gaps where GEF interventions and finance can help to find inclusive, equitable and realistic solutions to allow people to achieve sustainable development around the 2 Biosphere Reserves (Mt Nimba MNBR and Ziama ZMBR) and in wider (transboundary) landscapes with neighbouring countries and stakeholders, for regional impacts.

The PPG stage has identified the root causes, barriers and particular intervention gaps where GEF intervention may have the largest positive impact in rectifying problems, in collaboration with (but not duplicating)

⁴² For climate change adaptation projects to be financed under the GEF, this section will be replaced by an analysis of the "additional cost reasoning".

programmes already operating in the same (Guinea Forest) biome and with compatible conservation and sustainable development objectives. Analysis of past and present initiatives in both Biosphere Reserves, supplemented by national and regional efforts, reveals several critical gaps that need to be addressed. Targeted interventions, increased stakeholder engagement (with attention to gender and inclusivity), and robust long-term management strategies are essential to overcoming these challenges and ensuring the conservation in perpetuity of these vital ecosystems. This in turn is essential to underpin the resilience of the human populations dependent on the two Biosphere Reserves and the continued provision of natural capital which they provide (biodiversity and ecosystem services such as clean water supply and Carbon sequestration). See Table 16 below.

Table 17: GEF incremental reasoning

'Business-as-usual' GEF project)	(without GEF alternative/ (Guinea Child Project)	incremental benefit Guinea Child Project Component/ Outcome
Weak governance, unclear conflicting mandates, roles, and responsibilities among government agencies responsible for management of input to national policy reform and Biosphere Reserves; policy and sustainable finance; strengthened gender other barriers; - hinder effective inclusive management, targeted investment, collaboration between multiple stakeholders in conservation management of 2 Biosphere Reserves	& Gender sensitive policy reforms (Ministerial agencies ZMBR), strengthened local partnerships and Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziamas Massif Biosphere Reserves (BRs) sensitive and socially inclusive community co-management of biodiversity/ ecosystems and people	<u>Outcome 1.1: Improved gender management and conservation of</u>
Weak community involvement and participation in land use planning, decision-making processes, and governance concerning the management and use of natural resources both Reserves. In particular, women are poorly represented in decision-making and lack access to land and resources. Plus, lack of strategic approaches and integration of village level land use plans (LUP) with landscape scale Local Development Plans (LDP) and planning systems	Development of gender sensitive community-based land use plans (LUPs) at the local level in Mont Nimba and Ziamas Massif Biosphere Reserves coupled with gender sensitive multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote coordinated sustainable natural resource management (forests, water, biodiversity) by communities, the private sector, and decentralized government structures	<u>Outcome 2.1: Enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience</u> <u>Output 2.1.1: Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities</u> <u>Output 2.1.2: A gender sensitive inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones (MNBR).</u>
Communities in and around the 2 Biosphere Reserves continue to lack opportunities to develop technical and financial support to improved livelihoods of local communities	Guinea Child project provides gender sensitive and socially inclusive training, inclusive and responsive, technical and financial support to improved livelihoods of local communities	<u>Outcome 2.2: Improved gender</u>

environmentally sustainable and diversified livelihoods based on forest livelihood activities and restoration (agroforestry, ANR, woodlots business/enterprise etc.). Nature-based solutions, sustainable development that also supports agriculture, value chain support, and other conservation efforts. income-generating and green and inclusive business development activities

Output 2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored, incorporating gender dimensions

Output 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and green and inclusive SMEs

Output 3.1.3: Gender inclusive nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts

Cooperation with Liberia and Guinea Child project supports local gender Outcome 3.1: Strong Ivory Coast (to address sensitive transboundary platforms, technical transboundary collaboration and transboundary issues affecting committees (including ones established coordination (Guinea, Liberia, the integrity of the Mount under the GEF5 IUCN-MRU IWRM project) Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for Nimba and Ziama-Wonegizi- and regional sharing/ knowledge exchange enhanced conservation Wologizi (ZWW) landscapes and and training. Including implementation of management of the shared Moa- regional integrated water Nature-based solutions to enhance Makona/ Mano and Cavally River resource management), freshwater ecosystem health and gender Water Basins continues to be weak and poorly inclusive community benefits coordinated

Output 3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighboring countries revitalized and operationalized

Output 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for

transboundary, gender sensitive and inclusive forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins

Output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems.

Knowledge gaps regarding the Guinea Child project undertakes thorough Outcome 4.1: Enhanced gender current state of biodiversity field surveys, GIS mapping and biodiversity sensitive, capacity building, forest habitats, connectivity and assessment to inventory biodiversity learning, collaboration and ecosystem services in the 2 hotspots, key habitats, ecological corridors, communication among State and Reserves constrain the effective and ecosystem services within the buffer and non-State actors/ civil society in inclusion of conservation efforts transition zones and build capacity of State Guinea and with other Guinea in land use planning and the and civil society conservation managers and Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and management of buffer and monitors (in areas including conservation stakeholders for conservation and transition zones in both management, social dimensions, rights-development Reserves. based approaches and gender)

Output 4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziama communities and responsible government authorities and institutions on topics such as conservation, management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc.

Output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge sharing events

Limited knowledge and capacity Guinea Child will build and strengthen the Outcome 4.1: Enhanced gender to meet integrated conservation capacity of stakeholders (state, private sensitive, capacity building, and development challenges sector, civil society, communities, women, learning, collaboration and and opportunities. Inadequate youth) to implement collaborative communication among State and information, education, and conservation and development programmes non-State actors/ civil society in communication about Biosphere for sustainable forest and ecosystem Guinea and with other Guinea Reserves at all levels (local, management, green development, and Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and national, regional & community resilience. With the Regional stakeholders for conservation and international).

Child Project (RCP) this will also enhance development

gender sensitive learning, knowledge

sharing, communication, dissemination of

results and information in Guinea,

throughout the region & internationally.

Output 4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziama communities and responsible government authorities and institutions on topics such as conservation, management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc.

Output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems

Output 4.1.4: Capacity is built and experience shared for the development of sustainable finance opportunities at national and regional levels.

3. Core Indicators

Table 18: Project Core Indicators Expected at CEO Endorsement

GEF Core Indicator (and Sub-indicators)

Project target

Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas (PA) created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares) 264,539 ha

1.2: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness

(ha)

C. Ind. 3: Area of land restored (hectares) **7,000 ha**

2.1 800 hectares of degraded forests restores

2.2 6,200 hectares of degraded agricultural land restored

C. Ind. 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding PAs) **At least 115,000 ha**
(hectares)

2.2 At least 115,000 hectares under sustainable land management in production systems

C. Ind. 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO₂e) **1.5 million tons of CO₂ eq**

6.6 Carbon sequestered, or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (indirect)

C. Ind. 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-**10,000 individuals**

benefit of GEF investment. Sub-targets:

(at least 50 % of women, 20% of

- Total farmers beneficiaries of FLR intervention: 2,500 (Ziama); 3,500 (Nimba) youths)
- Young students around two PAs: 2,000 (primary, secondary and university level for social communication (training, sensitisation, communication)
- Personnel of CFZ, IREB, CEGENS, OGPRNF, including staff from the sectoral ministries at the national level: 500

Each of the Core Indicators listed will be achieved through implementation of specific components and activities under the Guinea Child Project. See also Chapter 2 (Project Results Framework) for full analysis of the more detailed indicators of success and targets under the Guinea Child Project.

Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas (PA) created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares).

This indicator will be met through support (under **Project Component 1**) to the improved management of the two Biosphere Reserves (MNBR and ZMBR), with a combined total area of 264,539 ha. Management effectiveness will be monitored using the IMET management effectiveness tool, already deployed under other programmes in the same sites.

Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (hectares) (broken down into 2 sub-indicators for agricultural and forested lands), and:

Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (4.1: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity)

The targets for both indicators will be achieved through forest restoration and enhancement activities across the projects sites, identified as priorities through integrated land use planning (LUP) and implemented as community-led activities under Component 2 (Outcome 2.1: Land Use Plans supporting Mt Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves benefitting nature and local communities). And secondly, (Outcome 2.2: Implementation of Land Use Plans through Forest Landscape Restoration Activities and Green Business Development), also as community-led activities and Component 3 (transboundary collaboration and coordination with other Guinea Forest stakeholders for enhanced conservation management of the Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins).

Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO₂e) *Carbon sequestered, or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (indirect)*

This target will be achieved as an indirect consequence of the successful achievement of activities under components 1 – 3 and specific targets for improved management of protected areas; land and forest restoration and conservation, more sustainable land management in agricultural and community areas, resulting in increased forest cover and maintenance, forest loss avoided (and Carbon sequestered) and more sustainable land management practices on farmland, lowering the levels of GHG emissions.

Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment. Community, civil society and government personnel beneficiaries will benefit under all Guinea Child Project Components, with specific targets achieved under Components 2 and 3 (Forest landscape restoration, green business development, land use planning, transboundary activities and targeted relevant training and capacity building) and all categories of direct beneficiary under component 4 (farmers, communities, students and government agency personnel) under specific programmes of education, awareness raising, training, sensitisation, communication under Component 4).

2. Sustainability

The project aims to guarantee institutional and financial sustainability through several developed strategies:

4. It will enhance the capacity of governmental and non-governmental organizations via training and collaboration.
5. A National Conservation Trust Fund, supported by the World Bank, will secure long-term financial resources for protected areas and government agencies will be trained in fundraising activities.
6. Governance structures are strengthened to ensure management continuity beyond the project.
7. Local communities are capacitated in sustainable land and resource management, ensuring ongoing support and implementation of project objectives.

1. Institutional sustainability

The project is designed to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders and institutions at multiple levels incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations. It includes a comprehensive set of activities aimed at building the institutional capacity of both government and non-governmental stakeholders. The project will facilitate gender sensitive workshops, training sessions, and multi stakeholders' meetings that promote knowledge exchange and capacity building among different stakeholders.

To enhance coordination and effectiveness at the site level (Output 1.1), the project will engage in national policy processes that bring together various governmental and non-governmental actors to align strategies and actions. This alignment is crucial for creating a cohesive framework that supports the sustainable management of protected areas.

Cross-border cooperation and learning (Outcome 3 & 4) will be emphasised, recognizing the transboundary nature as well as challenges of both Biosphere Reserves. The project will support initiatives that promote collaborative and gender sensitive management practices, shared research, and joint forest restoration efforts between neighbouring countries. These activities will be critical in addressing issues that transcend national borders and require a united approach such as care for shared rivers basins.

At the local level, the project will concentrate on gender and socially inclusive land use planning, forest restoration, and improving livelihoods (Outcome 2). By working directly with communities, the project aims to develop and implement sustainable land use plans that balance conservation efforts with economic needs. Involving communities in the planning process ensures that local knowledge and priorities are integrated into local development and conservation strategies. Additionally, the project will support forest restoration efforts that not only enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services but also provide economic benefits to local populations.

The project aims to equip communities with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable and equitable land and resource use. Empowered communities will be able to implement the agreed-upon land use plans,

ensuring long-term investments that align with the conservation objectives of both reserves. The project will establish and enhance gender sensitive governance structures designed to remain effective beyond its timeline, securing lasting impact.

By involving relevant government ministries at every stage, the project will cultivate their buy-in and ongoing commitment, crucial for ensuring long-term success and sustainability. This comprehensive approach ensures that conservation efforts are integrated with local economic development, fostering a resilient and sustainable future for both the environment and the communities involved.

Furthermore, the IUCN, acting as the GEF Implementing Agency, will foster collaboration with local, national, and international stakeholders to implement on-the-ground activities. The IUCN will guide and support these stakeholders, building their capacity through project staff and technical guidance. This approach will ensure that relevant stakeholders take ownership of the project activities, thereby promoting the continuity of these activities beyond the project's duration.

2. Financial sustainability

The project is dedicated to securing the financial sustainability of the Mount Nimba and Ziamas Massif Biosphere Reserves by leveraging support through the Guinean national Conservation Trust Fund (CTF). This national trust fund, currently being developed with assistance from the World Bank, aims to ensure long-term financing for all protected areas in Guinea. The CTF will feature endowed, revolving, and sinking fund components, with sub-accounts tied to individual protected areas to facilitate targeted funding. By serving as a channel for diverse conservation finance sources, the CTF will attract funding from biodiversity offsets associated with Guinea's mining industry, as well as payments for ecosystem services like REDD+ transactions.

In anticipation of the CTF's full establishment, several mining companies are proactively engaging in biodiversity offsets, carbon sequestration (REDD+), and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The Nimba and Ziamas reserves are central to these efforts. Rio Tinto is finalizing plans to support sections of the Ziamas reserve, while SMFG has been actively supporting the Nimba reserve for many years. SMFG's contributions include forest protection and restoration, biodiversity research, and the development of economic alternatives for local communities, enhancing both conservation and livelihood opportunities.

The project also emphasizes traditional fundraising (Output 1.3), offering robust support to the management entities of both reserves—CEGENS for NIMBA and CFZ for Ziamas. This support extends to other relevant government agencies, enhancing their capacity to contribute effectively. The Regional Child Learning and Coordination Project (RCP) will further bolster financial sustainability through targeted capacity-building initiatives. This approach ensures that financial strategies are integrated with ongoing regional and transboundary cooperation, exemplified by EU (PAPFor) and USAID (WABILED) projects.

Moreover, the economic activities supported by the project (Output 2.2) are designed to provide local communities with sustainable opportunities. These activities prioritize self-sufficiency, ownership, financial profitability, and independence, ensuring that conservation efforts are aligned with local economic development. By fostering sustainable livelihoods, the project aims to create a resilient community base that supports and benefits from conservation efforts. This holistic approach ensures that the reserves are not only protected but also contribute to the well-being of the surrounding communities.

2. Replication

The project offers significant opportunities for replication. The stakeholder capacities built on land use planning (Outputs 1.1.2 & 2.1.1) will be utilized in the long term, as land use plans (LUP) will require regular review and updates. The development of community land-use plans aims to enable replication across a broader range of communities in both the Ziamas and Nimba landscapes, with decreasing costs facilitated by peer-to-peer training and experience sharing between communities. This will be done in close collaboration with GEF-funded projects implemented by FAO and UNDP, which also invest in LUPs and operate in the same geographical area. The knowledge generated under Outputs 1.1.2 and 2.1.1 will provide an evidence base to

identify, prioritize, and design appropriate and cost-effective interventions for land restoration/forest conservation and improved land-use planning in other parts of Guinea.

Through Components 2 and 3, the project will develop capacities in landscape restoration and improved livelihoods, support climate-resilient agriculture, and strengthen small businesses. The livelihoods developed in Output 2.2.2 are expected to benefit more than just those directly participating in training and support activities. It is envisaged that other community members will be motivated to replicate activities through experience sharing and the economic dynamics and benefits generated by the project initiatives.

Transboundary activities under Component 3, particularly the support for transboundary committees for improved shared water resource management and nature-based solutions, are innovative approaches that will generate knowledge and create learning opportunities. The Guinean Forests Regional Coordination and Learning Project will provide a framework to capitalize on these experiences and support their replication and upscaling in other parts of (West) Africa.

Additionally, the project will include learning on the development of the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) (Outputs 1.1.3 & 4.4.1), which will be a critical component for ensuring sustainable financing for conservation efforts. The insights and best practices derived from the establishment and management of the CTF will be shared widely to support similar initiatives in other regions.

Through Component 4, the project supports learning, education, communication, and capacity building targeting a wide variety of actors at all levels. All information generated, including education materials, guidelines, studies, technical reports, progress reports, evaluation reports, and lessons learned from the project, will be made available to participants and other interested parties by various means (website, prints, radio, social media etc.). This will support and enhance the sharing of information between national and local government authorities, project managers, private sector, NGOs, CSOs, and community groups. The Regional Coordination and Learning Project will support coordination of these efforts, as well as sharing the Guinean experience more widely. These combined efforts will promote the replication and upscaling of project activities beyond the project's intervention areas and implementation phase.

The combination of multi-stakeholder platforms, land-use planning, investment in sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, conservation of natural resources, and addressing social issues such as gender, inclusiveness, and human rights offers great potential for replicability and scaling up. By integrating these diverse elements, the project creates a comprehensive approach that can be adapted and expanded to other contexts, ensuring broader impacts and long-term sustainability.

3. Communication and knowledge management

Project communication and knowledge management will primarily be undertaken in Outcome 4: 'Capacity building, learning, collaboration, and communication for conservation and development enhanced among State and non-State actors/civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/MRU countries and stakeholders. Output 4.1.1 focuses on supporting technical capacities, including gender sensitive learning and knowledge exchange among Nimba and Ziamas communities and responsible government authorities and institutions. Output 4.1.2 encompasses all activities related to gender sensitive project communication, awareness raising, environmental education, and the sharing and dissemination of Guinea Child project information and learning. Communication activities and tools will target a wide variety of stakeholders, including different levels of government officials, international and local NGOs, and local communities (children, youth, women, etc.). Finally, Output 4.1.3 enables Guinea Child staff, stakeholders, and partners to participate in and contribute to regional events and opportunities for gender sensitive collaboration and knowledge sharing, including those focused on transboundary water basins and ecosystems.

The communication and education materials will be tailored to specific target audiences, considering varying education levels and gender sensitiveness, and will integrate traditional and scientific knowledge. These materials will include both digital and non-digital formats, utilizing a diverse range of media and events. The project's knowledge management activities will be largely coordinated and supported by the Regional Coordination Project (RCP) team, which will provide mechanisms, best practices, tools, and methods.

Additionally, the project will actively align its communication and learning activities with other national child projects, particularly those involving transboundary work under Outcome 3, as well as with related national GEF projects led by FAO and UNDP. Coordination will also extend to other national conservation initiatives such as PAPFor (and its successor NaturAfrica) and the AFD-supported work for the Zياما Massif Biosphere Reserve. By fostering these collaborations, the project aims to create a cohesive and comprehensive approach to conservation and development, enhancing the overall impact and sustainability of its initiatives.

With support of the RCP, regular updates and feedback loops will be established to maintain transparent communication channels. Workshops, training sessions, and seminars will be organized to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building. By leveraging these diverse methods, the project will not only disseminate information effectively but also foster a sense of ownership and active participation among all involved parties.

4. Environmental and social safeguards

The main risk issues identified in the screening relate to potential access restrictions. Additional risks include potential marginalization of vulnerable groups, including certain ethnic groups such as Fulani nomadic herders, and women. Some potential safety and security risks linked to community workers were also identified, as well as human rights-related risks linked to working with law enforcement agencies. To address these risks and mitigate impacts a number of activities are foreseen during the inception phase amongst others (1) the development of a Gender Analysis and Action Plan (GAP), (2) the elaboration of an 'Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework' followed by an 'Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restriction', and (3) set up of 'Grievance Redress Mechanism' (or at least a design document). This process will be further supported by the application of an 'Environmental and Social Management Plan' (see *also ESMS screening form*).

8. Institutional framework and implementation arrangements

1. Regional Decision making and planning (if relevant)

At the regional level (Guinea forest countries and forest landscapes), the Guinea Child Project is part of the GEF8 Guinean Forests Integrated Programme (GFIP) – one of the biome-specific IPs under the global Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes IP (one of 6 global IPs in 2023 *Work Programme for the GEF Trust Fund*). Under GFIP, Guinea Child will respond to and collaborate with the other 2 country projects in the immediate region and transboundary landscapes (Sierra Leone and Liberia Child projects) and will contribute to and be coordinated by the Regional Child Project (RCP) for some elements of implementation. This is relevant especially for Guinea Child Component 3 (activities in shared transboundary landscapes and regional Water Basins - with Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire Child projects – the last under the separate *Ecosystem Restoration IP*). Secondly, for Guinea Child Component 4 and the RCP which coordinates elements of GFIP regional cooperation, knowledge sharing and learning (e.g. joint regional communications; ensuring coherence and synergy; sustainable financing guidance; regional policy harmonization).

2. National decision making and planning

The majority of decision making for the Guinea Child is at the national level (see organogram for details). Regional coordination with RCP at the oversight and strategic level will be achieved at the level of the Guinea Child Project Steering Committee and at the operational level via the respective Project Management Units PMUs (e.g. coordination and logistics for regional training or guidance proposed by the RCP or requested by the Guinea Child project from the RCP). Transboundary activities (Component 3) will be coordinated via existing or new transboundary agreements and committees in the 2 Guinea landscapes (Mount Nimba (trilateral) and Zياما-Wonegizi-Wologizi (bilateral) and managed at the level of the 2 respective sub-offices of the Guinea Child PMU.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC): The PSC will be the main decision-making platform of the project. It will be responsible for guiding the project implementation, providing vision, advising the National Project Coordinator and the Project Management Unit (PMU) when needed, and validating reports, financial and technical reports in particular. Chaired by a representative of the Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (MEDD), proposed PSC members will include Directors of the relevant Ministry divisions (environment, forests, Protected Areas and conservation, GEF focal point), representatives of other ministries (including Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Public Works, Ministère de l'Administration du Territoire et de la Décentralisation (MATD), Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation (MESRSI), Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage (MAGE), representatives of local government (Prefectural and Commune level) and representatives of the co-financiers.

IUCN will participate as an observer. The final list of PSC members will be completed during the project inception phase, but no later than three months after project kick off. The PSC will meet every 6 months to review progress in project execution, and to review and approve annual work plans and budgets. The main responsibilities of the PSC members are to:

- Ensure alignment of the project with other regional and national initiatives (in particular in the framework of the Guinean Forests Integrated Programme);
- Oversee project progress and take timely actions to resolve implementation constraints;
- Receive and review annual substantive and financial reports on project activities;
- Review and approve annual work plans; and
- Ensure monitoring and evaluation of project activities.

In addition, additional stakeholders – such as community leaders, private sector or other ministry representatives – will be invited to participate on an *ad hoc* basis when their input is deemed necessary.

Implementing Agency: IUCN (PACO/ Forest Programme HQ) is the GEF Implementing Agency for the project. It will ensure execution of administrative and financial matters and will assist in key technical and scientific issues. Its role will also be to consolidate results, directly facilitate workshops and the convening of key stakeholders (consistent with its comparative advantage in capacity building), and secure financial resources to complement project activities. Wherever possible, the project will take advantage of the opportunities for synergy and complementarities with other projects or other GEF Agencies (FAO, UNDP, CI). Opportunities will be explored during project implementation to secure partnerships for follow-up investments for on-the-ground activities.

The Implementing Agency will be the primary responsible for:

- Supervising project implementation;
- Monitoring and evaluating project performance, and preparing implementation review;
- Solving implementation issues that cannot be sorted out internally;
- Providing technical backstopping to executing agencies at national and provincial levels; and
- Ensuring quality control of the project work plans, budget and reports.

Executing Agency: The execution of the project will be under the responsibility of the IUCN, through the IUCN Guinea Project Office as the Executing Agency. The EA will work directly in partnership with the following MEDD entities:

Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (MEDD), through:

1. CEGENS: the Centre for the Management of the Environment of the Nimba and Simandou Mountains - for Mt Nimba Biosphere Reserve (BR),
2. CFZ: Nzérékoré Forestry Centre – Ziam BR (*forêts classées de la région forestière*),
3. OGPNNF Guinean Parks and Reserves Office - all National Parks and Reserves.

Other Ministries, departments and research agencies currently involved in conservation management, research, forest restoration and community engagement in and around the 2 Biosphere Reserves are listed below. At the PPG stage, these have various statutes, overlapping mandates, and responsibilities (at national and transboundary levels) and in relation to the 2 landscapes. Some existing sub-agreements for collaboration

exist⁴³. Activities are proposed in the project (under C.1, *Outcome 1.1*) to help clarify roles, responsibilities and partnerships (including in relation to implementation of the new BR Management Plans and the forthcoming Nimba Massif (trilateral 3-country) Master Plan). Other institutions, Ministries and NGOs/ CSOs identified as potential co-executing partners (at the final PPG stage) are listed below under 5.3: PMU.

Potential Institutional arrangements were discussed extensively during project preparation, through the development of the Child Project Concepts and the PPG phase. Stakeholder consultations, including with Government partners, highlighted some critical risks which could be a constraint on good project progress and the achievement of objectives during implementation. The following identified risks (detailed in Section 4.5 Risk analysis and risk management) were taken into consideration in selecting the most appropriate institutional arrangement for this project:

1. the high level of fiduciary and corruption risk.
 1. the limited choice and number of reliable partners on the ground with capacity to guarantee the adequate execution of the project with secure financial management and reporting.
 2. the weak institutional capacity for implementation at both national and local levels.

The main challenge to address was to select an agency that is willing and has the capacity to undertake the lead executing function. IUCN, the Guinea Government and the project design team explored various options, with the final recommendation to propose IUCN as the project executing agency. While this falls into the exception outlined in the GEF project and programme cycle policy which advocates for separate agencies to undertake the implementing and executing functions respectively, this set-up was assessed as the only one suitable for having both the project operations run efficiently and mitigating the identified risks.

The proposal to include IUCN as EA (executing agency) is also supported by the following arguments.

- **Adequate fiduciary controls:** IUCN, as a GEF partner agency, has robust and transparent fiduciary standards. It has a track record of operating complex projects in the region, including managing project grants for other GEF agencies (when IUCN was not yet accredited as a GEF Implementing Agency).

- **Firewall:** As per the GEF policy, IUCN has the capacity of establishing a firewall between the part of the institution which will play the role of Executing Agency and the one that will be in charge of the oversight function (in its role as a GEF Implementing Agency). The executing function for this project will be hosted in the IUCN Guinea country programme based in Conakry, Guinea. The oversight function for this project (Implementing Agency role covered by the GEF agency fees) will be shared among the IUCN Headquarters and the IUCN Regional Office for Western and Central Africa (PACO) based in Dakar, Senegal. This distribution of responsibilities will ensure that there is sufficient expertise on the operational and fiduciary side for both the executing and the oversight functions.

1. **Capacity building:** IUCN and the GEF Child project will support strengthening the capacity of government institutions as well as civil society; including technical capacities for project and financial management at various levels. This has been discussed with other major programmes of donor support which also include capacity development with many of the same institutions (including World Bank, EU, AFD, UNDP). The RCP also brings regional support to capacity building under various components (with CI as the overall GEF Implementing Agency). Within these national and regional frameworks, for the Guinea Child project management, IUCN and the Government of Guinea will jointly recruit the PMU staff members (see proposed list below). The staff hired for the purpose of this project will have IUCN contracts and will be hosted or seconded to CEGENS or CFZ. The PMU staff will be based in Guinea Forestière as part of the PMU under the overall supervision of the IUCN programme in Guinea (Head of Programme).

Table 19: Lines of responsibility, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability within the GEF Agency between the project implementation and execution functions.

43 e.g. (2023) 'Convention de partenariat tripartite' between MEDD and MESRSI – to establish and reinforce fruitful collaborations between Guinean and international research institutions (on the one hand) and those of other Ministries with similar missions (on the other hand). *Signed by CEGENS/ IREB/ SSMN*

**IUCN Headquarters in Gland, IUCN Regional Office for Central and IUCN Guinea Office
Switzerland West Africa in Senegal**

Implementation role:	Implementation role:	Execution role:
a) Oversight function (Partner Agency Role covered by the GEF Agency Fees);	a) Oversight function (Partner Agency Role covered by the GEF Agency Fees);	a) Adequate fiduciary controls in the field
b) Reports to GEF Secretariat	b) Reports to Headquarters (Quality control of reports received from IUCN Regional Office in Senegal. Guinea. Office.	b) Reports to the IUCN Regional Office in Senegal
c) Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of activities on the field executed by IUCN Guinea Office.	c) Monitors and evaluates the implementation of activities in the field executed by IUCN Guinea Office.	c) Executes project activities in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, CEGENS? CFZ, (OGPRNF)
d) Accountable to GEF Secretariat	d) Accountable to IUCN HQ	d) Reports to the IUCN Regional Office in Senegal
		e) Accountable to the IUCN Regional Office in Senegal

1. Project coordination and management

The project coordination and management include the Implementing and Executing Agency roles as laid out above. A variety of potential partners, including local partners, are proposed for involvement in project implementation and carrying out project activities, under supervision and in collaboration with the PMU, as presented here (see also 'Project execution' diagram 1 below).

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established by IUCN and will provide a management structure for the development and implementation of the project, in accordance with the rules and procedures of GEF/ IUCN and consistent with directions provided by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The PMU will be located in Nzérékore, hosted by CFZ, or in Lola (Zalia) hosted by CEGENS. The National Coordinator will be recruited by IUCN and GoG/ MEDD and seconded to (CEGENS?). All other PMU staff will be recruited jointly by IUCN and the National Coordinator? And will be based in either the central Guinea Child Project Office or one of 2 satellite offices (for Ziamba (Sérédou) and Nimba – see below). The project will provide the necessary financial support to operate this infrastructure.

The PMU will consist of 4 or 5 permanent staff:

2. A **National Project Coordinator** with an expertise in conservation and protected areas, natural resource management and the environment. The Project Coordinator will be appointed by IUCN and government, from national applicants, based on academic and professional profile, and suitability for the role (experience and expertise). She/ he will be in charge of ensuring the project is executed, with various partners and stakeholders and ensuring necessary reports are drafted.
3. A second **Deputy Project Coordinator** (in order to have a dedicated coordinator for each site and satellite office – Ziamba and Nimba). This person could also take a specific role in technical support to the whole project (e.g. gender relations and women's empowerment or communications).
4. A Project **Finance and Administrative and Procurement Officer**
5. A **Technical Assistant/ Deputy Finance and Administration/ Communications Officer**

6. Two specialists: Gender and Safeguards Mainstreaming Officer (gender/ inclusivity and womens' empowerment and social safeguards) and **Communication and Outreach Officer** are also recommended (services which may need to be provided as TA sub-contracts, not as full-time staff)

The PMU will be the primary responsible for:

7. Planning project activities and the annual and quarterly budgets, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, and communication of project achievements.
1. Ensuring proper financial management and reporting of the project resources;
2. Ensuring fluid communication with the executing and implementing agencies;
3. Ensuring compliance with GEF and IUCN project management procedures and standards, and with the Environmental and Social Management System requirements;
4. Preparing bid documents;
5. Procuring any necessary equipment and supplies;
6. Administering contracts;
7. Consolidating reports;
8. Providing reimbursements for expenses (e.g., daily allowance for meeting participation, transport costs, etc.).
9. Other duties as defined

The PMU will ensure project activities are implemented. Some activities will be implemented directly by the PMU, but most will be at least partly implemented by partners. Executing partners include government entities and national/ local partners, as well as regional or international external consultants and service providers (e.g. NGOs, consultancy groups). Tenders (including single tenders) will be put out for these by the PMU, according to IUCN/ GEF procedures. Contracts will be signed between IUCN and the partners implementing activities. The funds for implementation will flow from the IUCN Guinea office to the PMU and to the appointed contractors, according to IUCN procedures. See Organogram and *Project execution figure 2 below (potential responsibilities for executing specific activities)*.

Some other institutions, Ministries and NGOs/ CSOs identified as potential co-executing partners (at the final PPG stage and validation workshop) included:

Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation (MESRSI) through:

10. IREB: the Bossou Environmental Research Institute - Mt Nimba landscape (Bossou corridor only)
11. SSMN: the Station Scientifique des Monts Nimba - Mt Nimba Biosphere Reserve
12. MAB (Man and Biosphere): Both Biosphere Reserves: (MAB: service attached to the DG Scientific Research/ MESRSI)

Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage (MAGE):

13. Ziama landscape: IRAG/ CRRA-S: Institut de Recherche Agronomique de Guinée/ Centre Régional de Recherche Agronomique de Sérédou.

Figures 2 and 3 below show the project's implementation and execution arrangements and institutional arrangements respectively.

Figure 2: Project implementation arrangements.

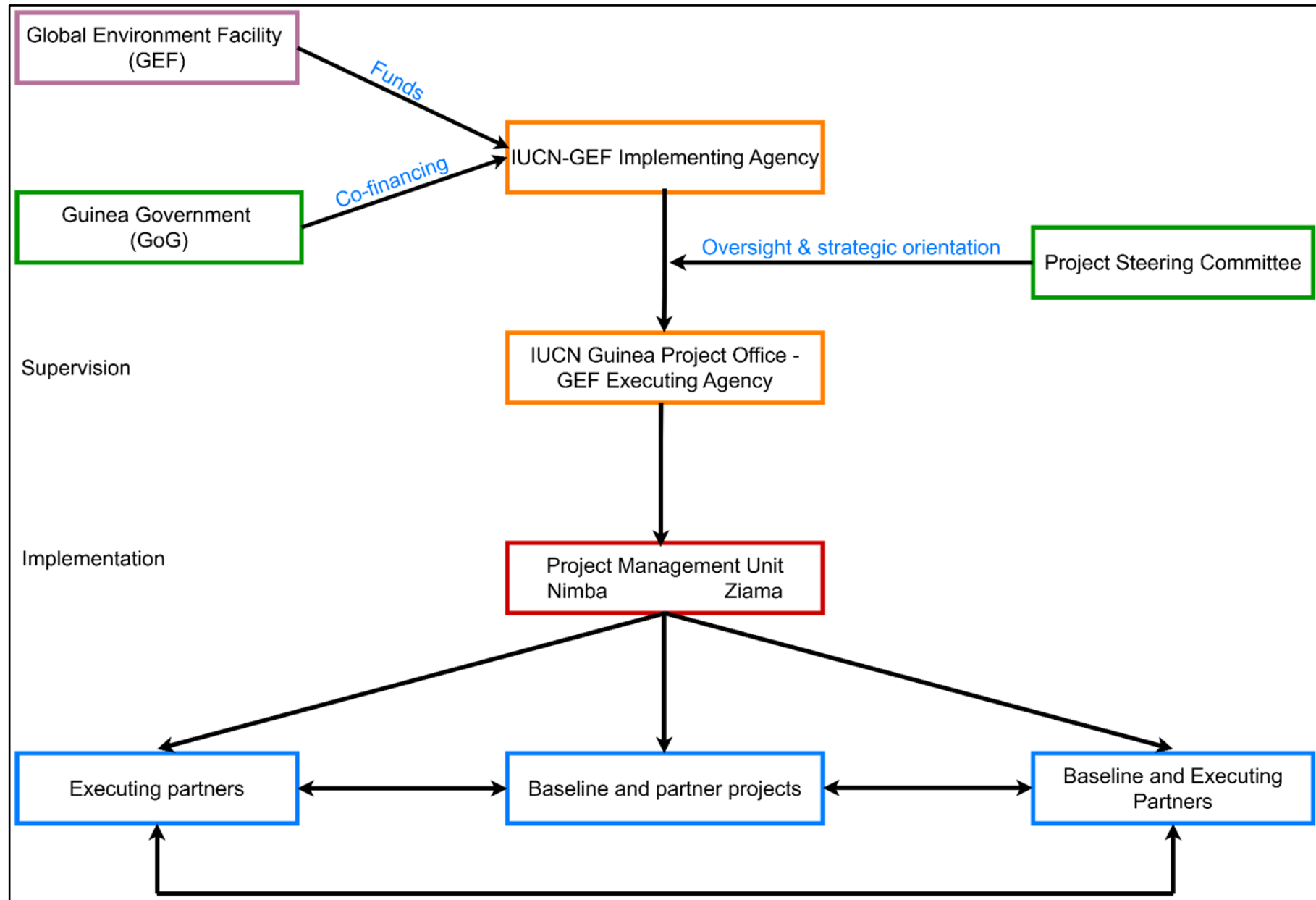


Figure 3: Project execution arrangements.

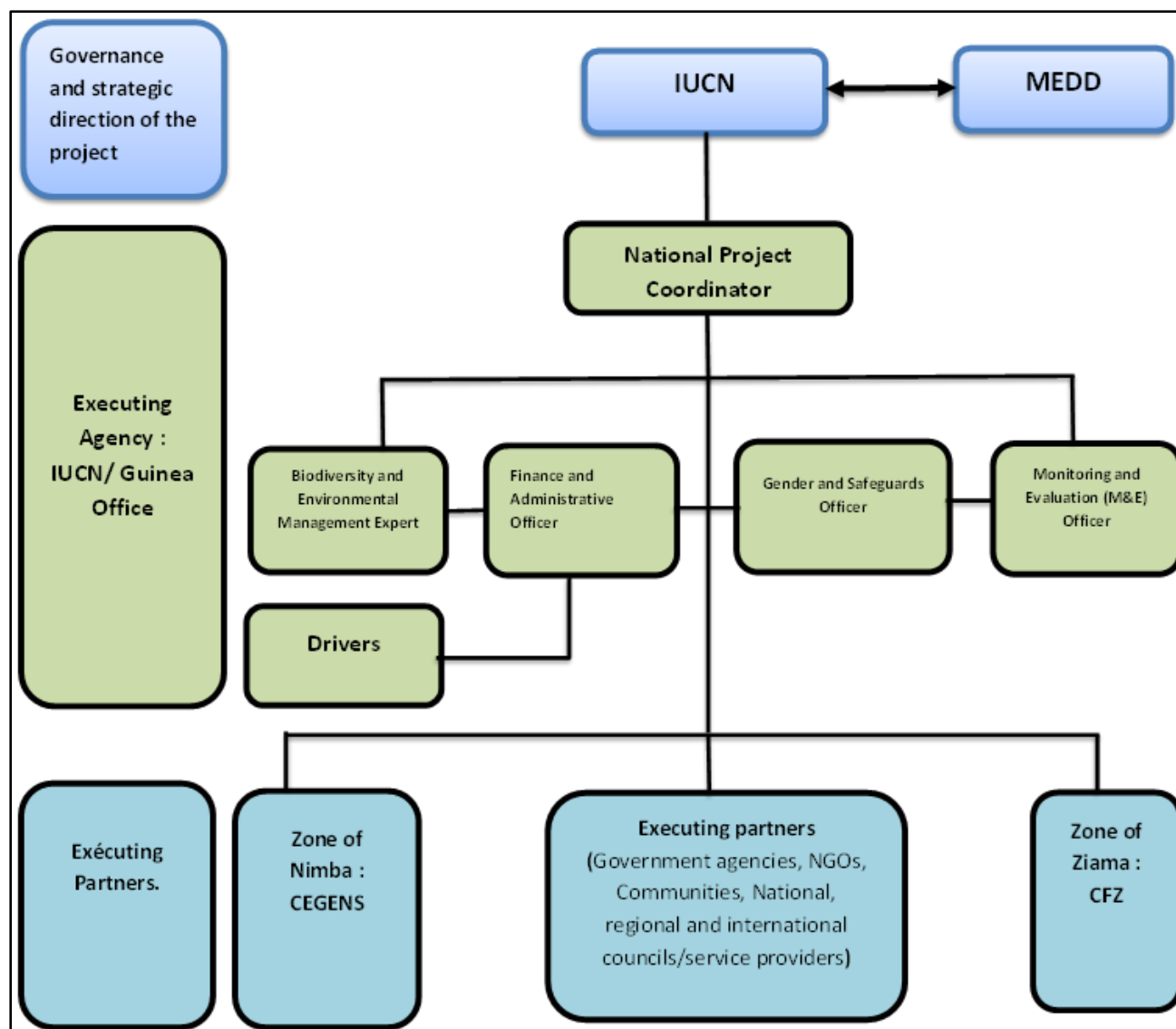


Table 20: Project execution (executing partners)

A number of executing partners will be involved in ensuring project implementation and carrying out project activities, under supervision and in collaboration with the PMU, as presented in the table below. (PMU = Project Management Unit – see organogram) (RCP = Regional Child Project, GFIP).

Project Outputs/ activity groups	Executing partner(s)
Outcome 1.1: Enabling policies and partnerships for forest conservation and management of MNBR & ZMBR	
Output 1.1.1 Inter-ministerial agreement signed for MEDD (CFZ, CEGENS, DNFF, OGPRNF), MESRI (MAB, inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mont IREB, SSMN) other relevant government authorities Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves (MATD, MUAT, MAE, MEHH), supported by IUCN/ PMU	<i>Note: Activities/tasks to be delegated to consultant and/ or consortium of NGOs/ interested experts</i>
Output 1.1.2 Policy briefs developed for National IUCN/ PMU with direct support from MUAT, MEA, Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating MEDD (CEGENS, CFZ) and other relevant social inclusion and gender considerations	IUCN/ PMU with consortium of expert NGOs or consultants
Output 1.1.3 Sustainable, gender sensitive conservation IUCN/ PMU with activities delegated to expert finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere NGOs or consultancy Reserves investigated and supported	
Outcome 2.1: Enhanced Forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience	
Output 2.1.1 Integrated, gender sensitive and socially IUCN/ PMU with consortium of expert NGOs or inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively consultants developed with forest-adjacent communities	In partnership with (decentralized) government services (e.g. ANAFIC, MUAT, MATD) and Rural Communes (municipalities)
Output 2.1.2 A gender sensitive inventory and mapping of IUCN/ PMU with support specialized NGOs/ biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and consortium and/ or consultants transition zones, (MNBR)	
Outcome 2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive, livelihoods of local communities	
Output 2.2.1 Degraded agricultural land restored, IUCN/ PMU with CEGENS/ CFZ/ IREB/ with support incorporating gender dimensions	specialised institutes like IRAG and/ or consortium expert NGOs
Output 2.2.2. Forest adjacent communities supported to IUCN/ PMU with support CEGENS/ CFZ/ IREB/ + develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder other government institutes (ANAFIC, MATD) with agriculture and green and inclusive SMEs	specialised institutes like IRAG and/ or consortium

expert NGOs/ Consultants

Output 2.2.3. Joint, gender sensitive ecological and socio-GEENS, CFZ, communities supported by IUCN/ economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent PMU through specialized NGOs/consultants communities

Outcome 3.1: Strengthened transboundary collaboration and coordination for enhanced conservation management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins

Output 3.1.1 Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive MEDD (CEGENS/ CFZ/DNFF, OGPRNF) and MEHH transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans supported by IUCN/ PMU under transboundary agreements with neighbouring countries revitalized and operationalized

Output 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders IUCN/PMU with MEDD (CEGENS/ CFZ, DNFF, (government and civil society) to use results of applied OGPRNF), MEHH other relevant (decentralized) research in decision making processes for transboundary, government authorities and CSOs gender sensitive and inclusive forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins

Output 3.1.3: Gender inclusive, nature-based solutions MEDD (CEGENS, CFZ, DNFF) and NGOs/consortium (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem supported by IUCN/PMU health & mitigate or help local communities adapt to climate change impacts

Outcome 4.1: Enhanced gender sensitive, capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development

Output 4.1.1. Technical capacity built among Nimba and IUCN/ PMU with support specialized government Ziama communities and responsible government institutes (e.g. (IRAG, IREB, SSMN, MAB) and authorities & institutions on topics such as conservation, specialized NGOs or Consultants management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc

Note: part training & learning via Regional Child Project (RCP)

Output 4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive IUCN/ PMU with MESRI (IREB, SSMN, MAB) + communications and education strategy developed MEDD (CEGENS, CFZ) and consortium NGOs

Note: part training & learning through RCP

Output 4.1.3: Regional and International collaboration and IUCN/ PMU with MESRI (IREB, SSMN, MAB) + gender sensitive knowledge sharing events held on MEDD (CEGENS, CFZ) and consortium NGOs transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems..

Note: part training & learning through RCP

Output 4.1.4 Capacity is built, and experience shared for IUCN/ PMU with support ANAFIC + MEDD the development of sustainable finance opportunities at (CEGENS, CFZ) + MEHH + MESRI (MAB, IREB, SSMN) national and regional levels. (with support from the + MAE RCP)

Note: part training & learning through RCP

Component 5: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) – see organogram

6-month Project Inception period

Project Management Unit (PMU) established and IUCN/ PMU supported by MEDD, CEGENS, CFZ; functioning: National Coordinator appointed, staff of other relevant Ministries and technical agencies; recruited; office(s) and hosting arrangements in place and decentralized local government authorities operating. Project launched officially.

Oversight, governance and financial management

established and functioning (Steering, technical committees); finance flows, procurement, management, reporting, M+E processes in place; communications plan, materials, website; detailed Stakeholder engagement; M+E plans; Steering Committee appointed, 1st meeting held.

Inception period - studies and baseline information gathering.

Studies to include detailed socio-economic and biodiversity baselines for project target locations and communities; information gathering for assessment/ forecasting of climate change impacts (communities and ecosystem resilience); policy reviews (case study examples from elsewhere in Guinea) additional baselines, safeguard/government institutes (e.g. (IRAG, IREB, SSMN, mitigation plans and protocols as indicated by the PPG MAB) and specialized NGOs or Consultants Stakeholder analyses and IUCN ESMS screening process).

42-month Main Project period

IUCN/ PMU supported by MEDD and agencies; technical and strategic oversight by Project Steering Committee (PSC) and sub-committees

Project management: PMU functioning; coordinating Steering + technical committees; implementing project activities; financial management/ disbursements and sub-contracts; reporting (technical and financial). Mid-term Review and Final Evaluations.

MTR and Final evaluation: contracted consultants

A specific recommendation arising from consultations under the PPG phase is that there are very effective national Guinean NGOs and national consultancy groups and individual consultants which are already working effectively on other (donor) programmes at the same sites or landscapes and with the same stakeholders. They can be a very effective model for working with both government agencies and local civil society and CSOs (including local level CSOs which are representative of local communities and groups but may lack capacity for independent project and financial management without external support and guidance at local level). These entities should be invited to take responsibility for elements of project execution where they clearly have developed good relations with local communities and State agencies and can bring their strengths to complementary programmes. The NGO consortium FF, GRET and Guinée Ecologie (national NGOs with offices and teams in Guinée Forestière) implementing the AFD initiative in Ziamia is a good current example of such a working model.

1. Procurement plan

This section will provide details on the main procurement item, methods used according to IUCN procurement policy, timeframe and budget.

Table 21: Procurement plan

Goods / Services/ Equipment to be purchased	Description of Procurement Process	Estimated Budget	Budget Line	Estimated date / period of procurement
Consultancy for facilitation and Strategic Guidance in Reviewing and Harmonizing Government Mandates and Protocols for BR Management	Request for quotes (price quotes)	4,200	National Consultant	Year 1
Consultancy to provide guidance and develop policy briefs on national land use issues and reform processes	Request for proposals	14,000		Year 2
Consultancy to develop the gender-inclusive Project Communication and Education Strategy, further supporting integration of environmental education into primary and secondary schools at MNBR and ZMBR to raise awareness among youth about conservation and sustainability	Request for proposals	21,000		Year 1
Consultancy for the development of M&E System design and implementation	Request for proposals	25,760		Year 1
Consultancy for Facilitator and speakers	Request for quotes (price quotes)	4,000		Year 1
Expert Consultancy on Sustainable Financing for Biosphere Reserves: To provide expert advice on sustainable finance mechanisms and assist in the management of both the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve (MNBR) and Zياما Biosphere Reserve (ZMBR).	Request for proposals	93,500	International Consultant	Year 2
Materials for (joint) patrols: Eco-guards' uniform & kits, GPS, smartphones, & trackers, Photo & video equipment	Eco-Request for proposals	200,000	Goods	Years, 1,2,3,4
Restoration Equipment and Materials	Request for proposals	26,850		Years 2,3, 4

4x4 vehicle e.g., Toyota Hilux Double Cab	Request for proposals 9,000		Year 1
Motorbike e.g., Yamaha DT125	Request for proposals 80,000		Year 1
Drones and Remote Sensing Equipment	Request for proposals 40,000		Year 2
GIS/Mapping Software Licenses and Tools	Request for proposals 5,000		Year 2
Consulting Firm for Midterm Evaluation	30,000	Contractual services	Year 2
Consulting firm for final evaluation	Request for proposals 40,000		Year 4
Legal Advisory and Documentation Services to draft and review legal documents and protocols to clarify mandates and responsibilities, ensuring they are legally sound and enforceable & prepare the legal framework and required documentation to facilitate the issuance of an inter-Ministerial decree by the responsible government departments.	Request for proposals 5,000		Year 2
Feasibility studies for sustainable financing on the most relevant options and/or specific studies identified to unlock financing mechanisms	Request for proposals 40,000		Year 2
Technical Assistance for CFZ Mapping Service and Physical Reproduction of Maps for Ziam and further integrating developed LUPs into Local Development Plans (LDPs) and the Management Plans for both Biosphere Reserves	Request for proposals 70,000		Years 2 &3
Development and maintenance of online resource portals: IT Consultancy to develop an online archiving system for storing all documentation related to Nimba/Ziam and providing access to key stakeholders, develop a protocol	Request for proposals 7,000		Years 2, 3, &4

and monitoring system for proper filing and archiving of anticipated reports during the implementation of the management plan, and ensure all high-level documents are available on the CFZ website (<https://cfzguinee.org/>)

Communication Supports & Request for proposals			Year 2
Guidance Document on results of applied research to support decision making processes for transboundary forest management & ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins, including protocols for joint transboundary patrols and enforcement	20,000		
Training program development and execution, focusing on SMART and other joint monitoring protocols, field identification methods, skills development, and training on technologies	17,500		Year 2
Implementation of Nature-based solutions e.g., Restoration of gallery forests, Rehabilitation/protection of forests around water sources, Wetland protection	174,000		Years 2, 3 &4
Radio broadcast & social media campaign for public awareness (price quotes)	3,000		Years 1,2&3,
PMU office supply	Request for quotes (price quotes)	4,000	Project Management cost
Computers & accessories	Request for proposals	6,000	Year 1
Other equipment (data show, printer, scanner, etc.)	Request for proposals	6,200	Year 1

System Audit at Inception	Request for proposals		Year 1
[Conduct a comprehensive system audit at the beginning of the project to evaluate and ensure that all processes, systems, and controls are in place and functioning as intended. This includes reviewing project management systems, financial controls, and compliance with relevant regulations and standards in particular the IUCN-GEF procedures.	7,000		
Expenditure Audit at Project End	Request for proposals	10,000	Year 4
[Perform an expenditure audit at the end of the project to verify that all expenses were incurred according to the project plan and budget. This involves examining financial records, ensuring proper allocation of funds, and confirming that expenditures comply with IUCN financial guidelines and GEF requirements.			
Sub-grant to NGO (or consortium of NGO) for raising awareness, gather community input through workshops and meetings, and develop land use plans (LUPs) with community participation, focusing on mapping and identifying priority areas for conservation, restoration, and development, focussing on Nimba Biosphere Reserve [Co-financing for Ziama BR] c. \$15,000 per LUP all-inclusive + \$5,000 per village awareness campaign + 13% Grant Management	Request for proposals	452,000	Grants
			Years 2,3&4

Sub-grant to Local Organization with International Technical Assistance (e.g., KBA Secretariat) for incorporating data into project frameworks, conducting a comprehensive biodiversity inventory, and organizing local level workshops and consultations, update of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) for Ziama and Nimba Biosphere Reserves, including moderation and convening of the National Coordination Group	Request for proposals 123,396	Grants	Years 2,3&4
Sub-grant to a (consortium of) tree planting/restoration specialized NGO(s) to develop and implement comprehensive habitat monitoring and restoration activities. These activities include developing and validating a habitat monitoring protocol, implementing habitat monitoring with data analysis and report writing, identifying priority areas for restoration using monitoring results, assessing previous restoration efforts, and developing and validating an action plan for managing nurseries and conducting restoration activities. Additionally, the sub-grant will ensure the regular evaluation of the success of these restoration efforts.	Request for proposals 1,316,060	Grants	Years 2,3&4
Sub-grant to a consortium of local NGOs, supported by service providers, to enhance local capacity, foster sustainable business models, and develop value chains benefiting both the environment and local communities. This initiative leverages the expertise of an international NGO to support projects like the EU-CBI initiative	Request for proposals 950,000	Grants	Years 2,3&4

for Ziama coffee.

Sub-grant to a national NGO to establish and conduct training and joint monitoring sessions using the Site-Support Group Approach, Biodiversity Surveys, Habitat Assessments, Socio-Economic Surveys, Participatory Mapping, Miscellaneous Expenses, Contingency Fund & Training and Joint Monitoring Sessions	Request for proposals 200,000	Grants	Years 2,3&4
Sub-grant to a consortium of local NGOs, supported by service providers, to enhance institutional capacity and local communities on human rights, social safeguards, gender, inclusivity, land and access rights, community engagement, conflict resolution, and cultural sensitivity.	Request for proposals 203,400	Grants	Years 2,3&4

14. Stakeholder engagement and participation

1. Stakeholder engagement during project preparation

This section describes the stakeholder engagement activities carried out during the PPG phase and how these helped to improve the Guinea Child project design.

From the start of the project planning stage in December 2023, the PPG team, supported by BirdLife and the IUCN Guinea office, compiled a preliminary list of stakeholders. This list included individuals and organizations at international, regional, national, and local levels who possessed knowledge of, involvement in, or potential interest in the targeted areas or related initiatives. The list was refined during a one-day inception workshop held in Conakry on February 29, 2024. The workshop was attended by most national and local key stakeholders, including representatives from locally operating government agencies, particularly the N'Zérékoré Forestry Center (CFZ), the Environmental Management Centre for Mounts Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS), and two local mayors of Bossou (Mount Nimba) and Sérédoué (Ziama). Additionally, representatives from international multilateral and bilateral partners (EU, UNDP, AFD) and international NGOs were present at the launch meeting.

Stakeholder consultation occurred through various channels, including online meetings, email exchanges, and a field-scoping mission from March 28 to April 16, 2024. The scoping mission, conducted by a team of international and national consultants with support from the local IUCN office, involved visits and discussions with communities and other local stakeholders at both project sites. Additionally, bilateral discussions were held with relevant government agencies at both national and local levels, as well as with national directorates,

multilateral and bilateral technical-financial partners, research institutes, civil society organizations, and private sector representatives. Throughout these interactions, stakeholders shared their ideas, needs, and expectations regarding the project, providing valuable input to the project preparation team.

During the consultations, the PPG team identified and discussed several important issues. They noticed and highlighted a general lack of coordination and cooperation among stakeholders in both biosphere reserves, particularly among government agencies operating with unclear and often overlapping mandates and regulations. The team also observed challenges related to enhancing local community involvement in decision-making processes, specifically to address gender disparities, support to disadvantaged groups in particular the semi-nomadic Fulani , and promote sustainable economic activities.

Ownership of and access to land and resources, combined with the lack of land use planning, was another frequently raised issue. Finally, the PPG team noted that although several local NGOs are active around both sites, their capacities are relatively low. This limited their involvement in project conception and implementation, as well as in decision-making processes.

The engagement strategy led to significant improvements in the project design. Based on the feedback, specific measures were incorporated to ensure greater local, gender sensitive and socially inclusive community involvement in decision-making processes, notably through supporting land use plan (LUP) processes and creating multi-stakeholder platforms for the 2 Biosphere Reserves. Recommendations from discussions and studies on gender dynamics, vulnerable groups and environmental and social safety guards were integrated into the project design. To address gender disparities, the project proposed to develop a gender action plan and add a gender specialist to the project implementing team. Recognizing the capacity limitations of local NGOs, the project includes provisions for capacity-building initiatives to strengthen their roles in project conception, implementation, and participation in decision-making processes, including with support from stronger (national) NGOs and consultants. By engaging stakeholders throughout the project preparation phase, the project team addressed key concerns and incorporated valuable feedback.

Table 6.1 below summarizes the various stakeholders consulted and the topics discussed. More detail of the stakeholder engagement process, including methodologies, full lists of consultees, consultations and stakeholder analysis, can be found in Chapter 3 (3.4) and Annexes 1-4. The report on local stakeholder engagement (Lola and Sérédou) and socio-economic analysis carried out in April 2024⁴⁴ and full lists of civil society and government agency consultations, discussions and attendance lists are included as a separate Annex.

Table 22: Stakeholder consultations

Key government stakeholders: Ministry/ Directorate/Relevance/ consultation Service

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development Secrétaire Générale MEDD.
(MEDD)

- National Directorate of Forests and Wildlife (DNFF) national and decentralized services responsible for MNBR and ZMBR

- General Directorate of Nature Conservators (DGCN) -
Corps paramilitaires des Conservateurs de la Nature

Under MEDD autonomous public services of high importance:	1.	Explanation of the GEF8 Guinea Child project importance:
The N'Zérékoré Forestry Centre (CFZ)	2.	Discussion of relevance (Guinea Child) to the organisation and its other programmes;

44 Report: 'Rapport préliminaire des consultations des parties prenantes autour du Nimba et Ziama' (2-11 April 2024) Fauna Flora Guinea.

The Environmental Management Centre for Mounts Nimba and Simandou (CEGENS)

The Guinean Office of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves (OGPNRF)

Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (MESRSI) – most relevant services:

4. The Bossou Environmental Research Institute (IREB)
5. The UNESCO - National Service of the programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB - Guinea) attached to the General Directorate Scientific Research)
6. The Scientific Station of the Nimba Mountains (SSMN)

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAGE) – most relevant service:

The Agronomic Research Institute of Guinea (IRAG)/ Centre Régional de Recherche Agronomique de Sérédou (CRRAS)

1. Direction Préfectorale de l'Environnement de Lola
2. Direction Préfectorale de l'Agriculture et Elevage de Lola
3. Maire de la Commune Rurale de Bossou
4. Maire de la Commune Rurale de Sérédou

International and Bilateral – technical & financial partners

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| 1. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | 9. | Major donors in the field of conservation, climate change, food security etc. |
| 2. EU (PAPFor) | 10. | Important implementing/technical partners for national and sub regional programmes |
| 3. UNOPS (EU PAPFor implementation) | 11. | Discuss other national and regional initiatives (GEF, EU, PAPFor, WABiLED, REDD+, CTF etc.) |
| 4. World Bank | 12. | Exchange on Protected Areas governance |
| 5. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | 13. | Ideas around sustainable finance |
| 6. USAID (WABiLED project) | 14. | Discussion on Value Chains (coffee) |
| 7. Agence Française de Développement (AFD- Ziam) | 15. | Identifying knowledge & capacity gaps |
| 8. Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI) | | |

engagement and collaboration with Guinea Child including as co-executing partners

Discussion of gaps and needs – for conservation and development action in relation to the Nimba and Ziam Biosphere Reserves

Discussion of need and opportunities for Guinea Child to fill gaps and complement other programmes

Discussion of capacity gaps and needs of the organisation

Possibilities of co-finance for Guinea Child

Private sector organisation**Relevance**For Mont Nimba Biosphere Reserve

1. The Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG)
2. Nimba Development Company (NDC)

1. Mining companies with a highly important environmental and social footprint
2. Biodiversity offsetting and voluntary programmes of biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation and adaptation, social and economic development to meet social and environmental stewardship responsibilities

For Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve

1. Rio Tinto/ SIMFER

3. Sources of (baseline) information from environmental and socio-economic studies (ESIA) and existing support programmes
4. Co-finance; long-term sustainable finance and Nature-based solutions

International and National non-government organizations - NGOs Relevance

1. Conservation International (CI)/(GEF 1. Implementing Agency GFIP)
2. BirdLife International (co-lead with CI on GFIP Regional Child Project – RCP)
3. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
4. Flora & Fauna (FF)
5. GRET - Group for Research and Technology Exchanges
6. APDRA Pisciculture Paysanne
7. Biotope
8. Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF)

1. Technical assistance, capacity building, project management for existing programmes in MNBR, ZFBR and Transboundary; long-term support to Guinea forests conservation
2. Scientific, socio-economic, biodiversity conservation knowledge and best practice expertise
3. Support to local CSOs for empowerment, ownership and capacity building
4. Potential collaborators, co-executing partners and provision of technical assistance to Guinea Child
5. Potential co-finance for Guinea Child (with financial partners/ donors/ private sector)

National and local non-government stakeholders – civil society organisation Relevance

1.	Guinée Ecologie – national & local	National NGOs and CSOs involved in national lobby and policy influencing
2.	GRET and FF local offices (Nzérékoré, Lola, Sérédou)	NGOs/CSOs supporting community groups in conservation and sustainable development, business management linked to sustainable use of forest and natural resources and the Guinea Child project objectives in and around MNBR and ZMBR
3.	Association-Consultant for Development Actions	
4.	(ACAD)	
5.	Guinean House of Entrepreneurs (MGE)	
6.	IBGRN (Initiative de base pour la gestion des ressources naturelles)	Potential co-executing partners (local CSOs) if provided with technical assistance and capacity development support
7.	Natural Resources without Poverty (RENASP)	
8.	United Actors for Rural Development (AUDER)	Potential for wider networking and support from international and national organisations to development of value chains, business models
9.	Association pour le développement du café Macenta (ADECAM)	
10.	Cooperatives Woko and Diani (Ziama- Macenta Coffee)	Strongest mechanisms – national and local NGOs, CSOs and networks for capacity building for conservation and development
11.	Regional Federation of Oil Palm and Rubber Planters of Forested Guinea (Féréppah)	
12.	Association for Community and Agro-Pastoral Development (ADCAP)	
13.	Centre Agropastoral Sainte Ursule du Mont Ziama	

Local Communities

Relevance

6.	Community Groups from Wéyakoré, Gbakoré and Bossou with <u>specific sessions with women groups</u> (Nimba)	Key stakeholders and target group for Child project Presentation of the project
7.	Gender balanced Community Group from Boo (Ziama)	Discuss challenges and needs of communities & vulnerable groups Exchange on past experiences with interventions linked to both reserves and current activities in which communities are involved Discuss expectations concerning project

1. Stakeholder engagement plan

The project will work in close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including forest-adjacent communities, local, district, provincial, and national government agencies and departments, civil society organizations, national and international organizations, and the private sector in Guinea. This collaboration between stakeholders had already started under ongoing initiatives at Ziama and Nimba, as well as under other national and sub-regional initiatives. This cooperation has been further developed and expanded during the

PPG phase. Various methods for participation and information exchange, such as online calls, one-on-one consultations, group sessions, and the organization of inception and validation workshops, were used to gather input for the project setup. Details of the stakeholder analysis, consultation, and engagement process during the design phase, as well as the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for project implementation, are presented in Annexes 1-3, 4, 5.

13. Monitoring and evaluation plan

Table 23: Monitoring and Evaluation plan

M&E activity	Frequency	Responsible	Budget (GEF funded) in US\$
Inception workshop and report	Within three months of signing of grant agreement	1. Project Team 2. Executing Agency 3. IUCN GEF	5,000
Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes and Outputs)	Annually (data on indicators will be gathered according to monitoring plan schedule shown on Appendix IV)	4. Project Team 5. IUCN GEF	25,760
GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	6. Project Team 7. Executing Agency 8. IUCN GEF	500
Project Steering Committee Meetings	Annually	9. Project Team 10. Executing Agency 11. IUCN GEF	15,000
IUCN-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions	Approximately annual visits	IUCN GEF	500
Quarterly Reporting	Progress Quarterly	12. Project Team Executing Agency	2,000
Annual Implementation (PIR)	Project Report Annually for year ending June 30	13. Project Team 14. Executing Agency 15. IUCN GEF	2,000
Project Completion Report	Upon project operational closure	16. Project Team 17. Executing Agency	500
Independent External term evaluation	Mid-Approximate mid-point of project implementation period	1. IUCN Evaluation Office	30,000

		2.	Project Team	
		3.	IUCN GEF	
Independent Evaluation	Final Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion.	1.	IUCN Evaluation Office	40,000
		2.	Project Team	
		3.	IUCN GEF	
Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation	At least annually	1.	Project Team	470
		2.	Executing Agency	
		3.	IUCN GEF	

4. Project financing and budget

Table 24: Planned project budget by items and by component

Expenditure Category	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub total	M&E	PMC	Total (USD eq.)
National Consultant	18,200	0	4,000	26,000	48,200	25,760	0	73,960
International Consultant	104,650	0	0	0	104,650	0	0	104,650
Staff costs	0	22,620	18,096	31,666	72,382	0	0	72,382
Travel	7,560	0	16,170	157,070	180,800	320	0	181,120
Trainings, workshops, meetings	69,200	0	103,400	110,350	282,950	25,650	0	308,600
Goods	6,000	288,000	57,450	12,400	363,850	0	0	363,850
Contractual services	45,000	70,000	218,500	3,000	336,500	70,000	0	406,500
Other operating costs	3,263	51,875	91,244	13,472	159,854	0	9,961	169,815
Grants	153,000	2,838,456	0	203,400	3,194,856	0	0	3,194,856

Project Management Cost	12,414	20,690	12,414	16,552	62,070	39,373	224,505	325,948
Grand Total	419,287	3,291,641	521,274	573,910	4,806,112	161,103	234,466	5,201,681

5. Appendix

List of appendices:

6. *References and bibliography*
7. *Project work plan timetable (see example of spreadsheet which can be inserted as appendix or separately)*
8. *Project M&E work plan (see example of spreadsheet which can be inserted as appendix or separately)*
9. *Detailed project budget (see example of spreadsheet which can be inserted as appendix or separately)*
10. *Procurement plan (see example of spreadsheet which can be inserted as appendix or separately)*
11. *Detailed costed M&E plan (can be an excel spreadsheet)*
12. *GEF tracking tools*
13. *Signed co-financing letters*
14. *GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsement Letter*
15. *Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and other mitigation plans such as Indigenous Peoples Plan (where applicable) including provisions for monitoring the ESMP*
16. *Gender Action Plan and/or Gender Analysis*
17. *Climate Risk Analysis*
18. *TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance*
19. *Data for IUCN contributions platform (see table below)*

Data for contributions platform

IUCN Member identity [linked to CRM]

Classification of conservation actions [drop-down menu from <https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/conservation-actions-classification-scheme>] and of climate change mitigation activities [drop-down menu]; in both cases “select all that apply”

Anticipated start date and completion date [date fields]

Total project budget and budget needed [numeric fields]

Number of female staff and number of male staff [numeric fields]

Number of female direct beneficiaries and number of male direct beneficiaries [numeric fields]

Narrative description [text field; 2,000 character limit]

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