

PAPBIO PROGRAMME

PAPBIO PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

June 2024



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Acronyms and abbreviations

| ANR | Assisted Natural Regeneration |
|------------|--|
| APF | Anti-Poaching Fight |
| AVIGREF | Village Wildlife Reserve Management Association/Association Villageoise de Gestion |
| | des Réserves de Faune |
| BIOPAMA | Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme |
| CBNRM | Community-Based Natural Resources Management |
| CESDP | Communal Economic and Social Development Plan |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora |
| CPM | Word Heritage Centre |
| CREMA | Community Resource Management Area |
| CSE | Ecological Monitoring Centre |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DNEF | National Directorate of Water and Forestry (Mali) |
| DSF | Defense and Security Forces |
| EAGLE | Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| ECU | Ecosystem capability unit |
| EDF | European Development Fund |
| EU | European Union |
| EUR | Euro |
| FSOA | West African Savannah Foundation |
| FYBP | Five-Year Business Plan |
| GAPB | Protected Areas and Biodiversity Management |
| GEF-UNDP | Global Environmental Facility – United Nations Development Programme |
| HQ | Headquarters |
| ICC | International Advisory Committee |
| IGA | Income Generating Activity |
| IMET | Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool |
| INTERPOL | International Criminal Police Organization |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| IUCN-PACO | Central and West Africa Programme of IUCN |
| Kg | Kilogram |
| KTNP | Kaboré Tambi National Park |
| LATF | Lusaka Agreement Task Force |
| MAB-UNESCO | Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO |
| MESDP | Municipal Economic and Social Development Plans |
| MP | Management Plan |
| MPA | Marine Protected Area |
| NCA | Natural Capital Accounting |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NRM | Natural Resources Management |
| OBAPAO | Regional Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa |
| РА | Protected Areas |
| PAPACO | Programme on African Protected Areas & Conservation |
| PAPBio | Support Programme for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems, |
| - | Regional Governance and Climate Change in West Africa |
| PAPBioC1 | PAPBio Component 1 |
| PAPBioC2 | PAPBio Component 2 |
| PAPFor | Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest ecosystems in West Africa |
| РРР | Public Private Partnership |
| RAMPAO | Regional West African Network of Marine Protected Areas |

| RIP | Regional Indicative Programme |
|--------------|--|
| RLUDP | Regional Land Use and Development Plan |
| RNNTT | National Natural Reserve of Termit & Tin-Toumma |
| RRIS | Regional Reference Information System |
| RSC | Regional Steering Committee |
| SELU | Socio-Ecological Landscape Unit |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| TFP | Technical and Financial Partner |
| UD | University Degree |
| UD-PAM | University Degree in Protected Areas Management |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UR – AVIGREF | Regional Union - Village Wildlife Reserve Management Association / Union Régionale des |
| | Associations Villageoises de Gestion des Réserves de Faune |
| VITO | Flemish Institute for Technological Research WA |
| WAEMU | West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) |
| WAP | W – Arly – Pendjari |
| WAPCA | West African Primate Conservation Action |

Photos Credit: PAPBio implementing partners

Front Cover Photo: Some members of the women's association harvesting bourgou (Echinochloa stagnina) in the Gourma Elephant Biosphere Reserve (Mali) Photo verso: Buffalo herd (Syncerus caffer) (WAP)

Executive summary

The Support Programme for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems, Environmental Governance and Climate Change in West Africa (PAPBio) agreed between the European Union and the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions to the benefit of their member countries and Mauritania as part of the implementation of the Regional Indicative Programmeme (RIP) in West Africa (11th EDF) has been implemented in a context of multiple and multifaceted pressures and threats to nature: rampant population growth, endemic poverty, weak governance and natural resource management capacities, climate change with increasingly perverse effects, and more recently, an acute security crisis in some parts of the region, etc. The resulting consequences are undermining the efforts of stakeholders involved in the conservation of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems in West Africa. This situation is leading to the impoverishment, sometimes irreversible, of the natural capital and associated services in the region.

The PAPBio aims at improving the management of large natural ecosystems in West Africa with a view to increasing the resilience to climate change of both ecosystems and populations. The Programmeme covers three ecotypes (desert, savanna and mangrove) and is built on the basis of two components: i) Component 1 "Sustainable management of protected areas and peripheral zones" comprising three results aimed at improving the management effectiveness of major landscapes or protected areas as well as their peripheries, whose activities are implemented at the site/territory level through eight projects; ii) Component 2 "Regional governance and security" aiming in particular at fostering a real regional dynamic for the good governance of natural ecosystems and the promotion of regional policies for conservation. It includes four results whose activities are implemented in the framework of a single project.

The operational phase of the PAPBio started in June 2018 to end in June 2023, then extended to December 2024. The launch of the projects included in the PAPBio Programmeme was spread over time, with some starting as early as July 2018 and others only in December 2019. As a result, project closing dates were spread over time.

The Analysis of PAPBio implementation performance shows significant progress at various levels: 212,754 Km² undergoing concrete sustainable ecosystem management interventions; 49 additional participatory local development plans integrating conservation and sustainable development objectives developed and their implementation is ongoing; about fifteen IMET data collection campaigns carried out and proposing recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the management of the relevant protected areas; 30,197 households already benefiting from integrated natural resource management initiatives and deriving sustainable benefit from PAPBio actions; increase in the number of anti-trafficking interventions systematically leading to legal actions and convictions; etc. As of June 2024, the technical implementation rate of the RBT-WAP | GIC-WAP has almost doubled (171%), pulling the overall rate upwards) and the financial implementation rate at 90%, for an implementation time consumption of around 97%, taking into account the extension to December 2024.

Some difficulties have undermined the implementation of the projects of the PAPBio Programme: the security crisis has limited movements in some areas and even prevented the implementation of activities in other protected areas altogether; the health crisis linked to Covid-19 has disrupted activities during the active phase of the pandemic; administrative red tape, combined with the weak operational capacity of some PA supervisory administrations, has further delayed the implementation of some projects; the recurrent political instability in some countries has weakened the sustainability of the investments and positive impacts generated; etc.

1. Introduction

A population that grows faster than the capacity to provide the necessary basic social services coupled with inequitable access and sharing of generated development benefits, endemic poverty (especially in rural areas), poor governance and management of natural resources, etc. are persistent evils in West Africa. This already alarming picture is worsened by the increasingly devastating effects of climate change. This situation unequivocally leads to the depletion of the natural capital in West Africa, including the ecosystem services on which its people largely depend.

More recently, the security crisis, which is increasingly and inextricably linked to environmental crime, has further complicated the pressure and threats on natural resources and biodiversity in some parts of the region.

In response to with these threats, the European Union and the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions have agreed, as part of the implementation of the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) in West Africa (11th EDF) and specifically in priority area 3: "Resilience, food and nutritional security, and natural resources", the Support Programme for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems, Regional Governance and Climate Change in West Africa (PAPBio). This Programme aims to improve the management of major West African natural ecosystems with a view to strengthening the resilience of both the ecosystems and the population to climate change.

The PAPBio Programme has been implemented in West African member states of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) as well as Mauritania at a total cost of about EUR 55,500,000 out of which EUR 47,000,000 is a contribution from the EDF and EUR 8,500,000 is co-funded by the beneficiaries of grants.

This report presents the final status of the implementation of the PAPBio Programme from the inception of the projects it encompasses till October 2024. It takes stock of the programme in terms of implementation performance, results and impact.

The report has been produced on the basis of information on technical and financial implementation provided by each of the implementing operators of the programme in respect of the project they are leading. Although the PAPBioC2 Governance team responsible for regional coordination of the PAPBio project has compiled the data and information, each operator remains the main contact for the project he is responsible for implementing.

2. Background on the Implementation of the PAPBio Programme

West Africa is home to a population of approximately 350 million inhabitants with about 60% living in rural areas. The region is amongst the poorest areas in Africa. Economic growth, already weak (fluctuating at less than 5%), has been severely strained by the global health crisis linked to Covid-19, although recent projections point to an overall acceleration in the growth rate between 2023 and 2024, and for the years to come. Individually, some countries are struggling to get their economies off the ground but the situation has been compromised recently by an unprecedented security crisis. However, it has been acknowledged that a minimum economic growth rate of 7% per annum is required to reduce extreme poverty by half in this part of the continent. In that respect, natural capital is considered as a pivotal pillar for green, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Indeed, the region is endowed with a tremendously invaluable biodiversity due to the richness of its ecosystems. This biodiversity, sometimes endemic, constitutes not only a global public good but it also serves as a development driver for the population in the region. However, this natural wealth in flora and fauna, as well as the landscapes and habitats which shelter them, are subject to a variety of pressures and threats with aggravating effects on each other.

In view of this alarming situation, it is especially crucial for West African member states, to preserve their natural resources which, when managed effectively, could be a source of development and stability. As a result, the region must urgently equip itself with more effective natural resource management mechanisms.

Concerning environmental public policies, states within the region have ratified most of the bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements for the protection of the environment. Additionally, the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions have developed various environmental policies and strategies which are hardly implemented due to a critical lack of (human and financial) resources and coordination despite the political support.

The stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in the PAPBio Programme are multifaceted in terms of beneficiary groups or others, but they are closely interrelated:

- At the **local level**, many communities live within and around these sites and heavily depend on the natural resources. Their access to natural resources may be exercised as part of their customary rights but fail to be in compliance with state legislation. There are very few alternative livelihood options for these groups.
- At the national level, national governmental institutions tasked with the management of biodiversity are, depending on the States, sectoral ministries or parastatal agencies whose names vary from one county to another. In some countries, specialized agencies are in charge of the management of protected areas, and their decentralized units on the ground have been operationalized.

In addition, various other stakeholders are targeted as follows:

- <u>Decentralized authorities</u>, municipalities in particular are entrusted with some responsibilities related to the management of natural resources through decentralization laws;
- NGOs or international and national organizations and the scientific community;
- International donors involved;
- <u>Mining companies</u> with a view to engaging them in the effort to preserve the natural resources which they contribute to destroying;

- The <u>private sector</u>, through the development of formulae known as PPPs (Public-Private Partnerships) for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity;
- <u>Trust funds</u>.
- At the **regional level**, the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions have directorates dedicated to environmental issues and especially to actions/activities in the area of sustainable management of natural resources. A set of regional interstate institutions with specific thematic mandates also exist.

3. Description of the PAPBio Programme

The PAPBio Programme falls within the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the new Consensus on Development adopted by the European Union. It contributes particularly to the achievement of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 13 "Climate Action "; SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" and SDG 15 "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems."). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocean

3.1. Strategic and operational framework of the PAPBio

The general objective of the programme is to promote endogenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development, in response to the challenges posed by climate change.

The specific objective is to achieve integrated protection of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems, and enhance resilience to climate change.

The expected results apply to all 3 ecotypes (desert, savannah and mangrove):

• Component 1: Sustainable management of protected and peripheral areas

Experience has shown that the integrity of protected areas is more assured when such protected areas are managed together with their peripheries, within real management landscapes. This whole component is based on this logic and includes (i) the conservation of central areas rich in biodiversity (ii) the development of economic activities linked to ecosystem services (iii) well-established governance systems between protected areas and peripheries (iv) the consideration of climate issues.

The expected results and activities underlying component 1 are based on:

Result 1: Result 1: Coordinate socio-economic and sectoral activities in the targeted areas in an integrated manner from a landscape approach which ensures the sustainable availability of ecosystem services to stakeholders.

Activity 1.1: Set up multisectoral consultation platforms to integrate sustainable management of conservation areas into community development plans.

A1.2: Promote alternative economic activities generating decent jobs which will have a lower impact on protected areas and will be resilient to climate change.

A1.3: Ensure cross-border collaboration and ecological connectivity between protected areas.

A1.4: Support environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental research for all development initiatives which may have a decisive impact on targeted ecosystems.

Result 2: Develop and operationalize effective protected areas management systems including that of local populations.

Activity 2.1: Prepare development and management plans in a participatory manner and implement them in an adaptive manner incorporating the results of ecological monitoring and stakeholder engagement in the decision-making process.

A2.2: Establish mechanisms for the sustainable funding of protected areas (decentralized taxation, PPPs, green funds, ...).

A2.3: Provide annual reports at the regional level on the activities and results obtained for each PA (in line with A4.6), including climate change mitigation.

Result 3: Local populations should profit from protected areas and be more resilient to climate change.

Activity 3.1: Encourage the representation of the population in the management, development and monitoring of facilities of protected areas.

A3.2: Promote methods of developing natural resources (ecotourism, game tourism, organic research, non-timber forest products, sector-based approaches...).

A3.3: Capacity-building of local communities for the integrated management of conservation areas and the campaign against climate change.

Activities carried out on the sites/ territories within the framework of component 1 were led by various operators or consortiums of implementing partners.

• Component 2 – Regional governance and security

This component aims to foster a true regional dynamic for good governance of natural ecosystems, the management of protected areas and the promotion of regional conservation policies and sustainable development in general. This regional dynamic will allow relevant stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of management of their operation zones and to exchange knowledge and experiences.

The expected results and activities of component 2 are presented as follows:

Result 4: West Africa should boast of an effective and operational protected areas management system on a regional scale, including the management of climate issues.

Activity 4.1: Create an operational regional system/ framework for coordination, management and monitoring of PAs.

A4.2: Enhance regional conservation and sustainable management mechanisms of coastal ecosystems.

A4.3: Support mechanisms which facilitate the monitoring of management of Protected Areas, the state of the environment and climate change at the regional and national levels.

A4.4: Improve coordination of the management of protected areas by implementing various policies, Programmes and/or regional sectoral strategies.

A4.5: Establish regional capacity in terms of ecosystem natural capital accounting.

A4.6: Develop a harmonized reporting system for use in all protected areas in the region.

Result 5: Knowledge and experience should be shared and built at the local, national and regional levels. **Activity** 5.1: Enhance shared training- and experience-sharing systems.

A5.2: Develop a curriculum and other training systems for wildlife guards in their respective countries, which should be harmonized at the regional level.

A5.3: Set up a regional curriculum (Masters, PhD), for specific training in the field of integrated management of protected areas and in climate change.

Result 6: Cooperation in the campaign against environmental crime should be enhanced and the security of conservation areas should be ensured.

Activity 6.1: Elaborate and provide a regional information system on environmental crime, accessible to management and supervisors.

A6.2: Support the operational and strategic technical capacities of the conservation area control and supervision chain.

A6.3: Harmonize legal frameworks and encourage cooperation between States on the campaign against environmental crime.

A6.4: Reinforce regional mechanisms, capacities and instruments for the protection of threatened and endangered species.

Result 7: Monitoring and management of knowledge from the PAPBio Programme.

Activity 7.1: Harmonize the monitoring framework to ensure the achievement and promotion of results and improve implementation performance.

A7.2: Assist in the monitoring of Component 1.

A7.3: Facilitate the collection, consolidation and analysis of data to measure the contributions of the PAPBio Programme to local development at the operation zones.

A7.4: Communicate and disseminate the results of the PAPBio monitoring.

The activities carried out within the framework of component 2 are implemented under the coordination of IUCN.

3.2. Projects and leading operators of the PAPBio Programme

The table below states the list of projects implemented as part of the PAPBio's portfolio as well as by the leading organizations.

 Table 1: Projects and leading operators of the PAPBio Programme

| PAPBio Component | Project Full Name | Project Abbreviated Name | Targeted Landscapes/Protected Areas | Main Implementation Organization | Project Starting Date | Project Completion Date1 |
|---------------------|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Operational Phase | June 2018 | June 2023 (before extension) December 2024 (after extension) | | | |
| | Management of mangrove forests from Senegal to Benin | EU-Mangroves | Landscapes/ mangrove forests from Senegal to Benin | IUCN | July 2019 | September 2024 |
| | Integrated management of W- Arly-Pendjari Cross-border Complex | W – Arly – Pendjari Cross-border Complex (Benin – Burkina Faso – Niger) | GIZ | July 2018 | May 2023 | |
| Component 1 | ment 1 "DIKWE NI WEOGO" Support project to improve the natural capital of the PONASI landscape and increase resilience of local populations | Po—Nazinga—Sissili Complex (Burkina Faso) | NITIDAE | September 2019 | September 2022 | |
| | Sustainable, participative and integrated management of protected areas and surrounding territories of the Comoe National Park | Integrated management of territories and protected areas | Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) | NITIDAE | December 2019 | December 2023 |

| | Ecosystem conservation of elephants from the Gourma region in Mali by governance which improves the livelihood of the locals, together with the support of planning and application of governmental strategies. | Ecosystem-wide elephant conservation in Gourma of Mali | Gourma Elephant Reserve (Mali) | WILD Foundation | March 2019 | June 2023 |
|-------------|---|---|--|---|------------------|----------------|
| | Savannah Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Initiative | AGN Km² | Mole National Park (Ghana) | Ghana Wildlife Society | December 2019 | December 2023 |
| | Partnership for the sustainable management of natural resources of the Termit and Tin-Touma National Natural Reserve delegated to Noé Conservation and for effective dissemination of the management delegation model in Africa | Termit Tin Touma | Termit and Tin-Touma National Natural Reserve, RNNTT (Niger) | AFD / Noé | December 2018 | June 2023 |
| | Sustainable landscapes & inclusive value chains – PONASI_2 | - | Po—Nazinga—Sissili Complex (Burkina Faso) | NITIDAE | June 2021 | June 2024 |
| | Strengthen the basis for the security, sustainable and concerted management of the PONASI Complex | - | Po—Nazinga—Sissili Complex (Burkina Faso) | Les Anges Gardiens de la Nature (AGN) | Janurary 2023 | December 2024 |
| Component 2 | Regional Governance of Protected Areas in West Africa | Regional Governance and Security | No concrete action in the field Beneficiaries: ECOWAS/UEMOA countries + Mauritania | IUCN | March 2019 | September 2024 |

3.3. Map of sites implementing the PAPBio Programme



Figure 1: Map of sites implementing the PAPBio Programme

4. Monitoring the progress in the implementation of the PAPBio Programme

4.1. Monitoring PAPBio performance indicators

A framework for monitoring Programme performance indicators has been developed to effectively track progress in implementing the PAPBio Programme. This dashboard has been developed with the involvement of all PAPBio operators, so as to take into account the major contributions of each partner (taking into account all the indicators for each of the projects (roughly indicators per project) would have resulted in a table that would have been extremely difficult to handle, and could have diluted key pieces of information). It has made it possible to ensure regular monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the programme objectives.

Attached is the harmonized monitoring framework for the PAPBio Programme, showing the level of achievement of programme indicators from the start date to June 2024.

 Table 2: Framework for monitoring PAPBio Programme performance indicators from inception to october2023

| INDICATOR MONITORING TABLE | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------|---|----------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | PAPBio implementation status as at June 2024 | | |
| Objectives and indicators of PAPBio logic framework | Description | Programme/ Project | Unit | Baseline Value | Target Value | Total | % of Target | Total | % of Target | |
| | IMPACT | | | | | | | | | |
| IOG 1 | Existence of an integral development strategy adopted and promoted by UEMOA/ECOWAS and effectively applied on the RIP intervention sites | PAPBio | NA | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.95 | 95% | |
| | | EFI | FECTS | | | | | | | |
| SOI 1 | Area (Km ²) covered by concrete ecosystem management interventions | PAPBio | N/A Mangroves/Senegal | 1,065 | 173,313 | 1065 | 1% | 212,754 | 123% | |
| SOI 2 | Indicators of effectiveness of management and governance of PAs | PAPBio | IMET effectiveness indicator | 60% | 65% | 60% | 92% | 57% | 87% | |
| SOI 3 | Level of engagement of local populations in the management of PAs (Number of joint management conventions signed) | PAPBio | Level of engagement | 54% | 75% | 54% | 72% | 70% | 93% | |
| SOI 4 | Number of agencies applying the policies and strategies produced by ECOWAS and UEMOA | PAPBio | PA Management Agency | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| SOI 5 | Extent of use of the RRIS (Regional Reference Information System) of the Regional Observatory for Biodiversity in West Africa | PAPBio | hit to RRIS/month. | 0 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 | 361 | 36% | |
| SOI 6 | Percentage of anti-trafficking operations that have been prosecuted | PAPBio | Anti-trafficking operations | 8% | 100% | 8% | 8% | 65 | 65% | |
| SOI 7 | Percentage of offenses on PAPBio intervention sites on the decline | PAPBio | Offense | 0 0 | DnA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

| SOI 8 | Level of uptake of sustainable mangrove management practices and measures by the communities | MANGROVE | Level of uptake | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0% | 3 | 75% |
|--------|---|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------|------|---------|------|
| SOI 9 | Crop areas in the Monts Tingui Biodiversity Zone (ZDB) from national land use mapping by CIGN (stable areas) | COMOE | Hectare | 957 | 957 | 957 | 100% | 957 | 100% |
| SOI 10 | Extent of inclusion of marginalized groups (women, youth, livestock farmers, foreigners) in the Local Development Committees | COMOE | Extent of inclusion | 14% | 80% | 14 | 0% | 82 | 102% |
| SOI 11 | Number of conflicts and damage between farmers and livestock farmers | COMOE | Conflict | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0% | 3 | 85% |
| SOI 12 | Number of producers in the area who succeed in integrating new markets and outlets developed by the project | COMOE | Producer | 0 | 900 | 0 | 0% | 1053 | 117% |
| SOI 13 | Number of CBNRM conventions | 80% 13 | Convention | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 191% |
| SOI 14 | Number of elephants in the project intervention area (stable number) WILD PEM | WILD PEM | Elephant | 200 | 200 | 200 | 100% | 200 | 100% |
| SOI 15 | Population trends for key species in RBT-WAP national parks and the giraffe zone (stable populations) | RBT-WAP-GIC | Species | Stability of all key species | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| SOI 16 | Number of people living around RBT-WAP earning additional income through selected value-added chain (VAC) and co-management activities | RBT-WAP-GIC | Person | 0 | 300,000 | 0 | 0 | 403,301 | 134% |
| SOI 17 | Amount of revenue generated by the Mole National Park | SIBCI | Amount in EUR | 84,394 | 109,712 | 84,394 | 77% | DND | DND |
| SOI 18 | Number of instruments or mechanisms effectively established, harmonized, tested and adopted by stakeholders as part of the effective regional operational management of protected areas and their outskirts. | GOUVERNANCE | Instrument | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0% | 7 | 100% |
| | | OU | PUTS | | | | | | |
| I.R.1 | Number of landscapes with participatory Local Development Plans integrating conservation and sustainable development objectives | PAPBio | CDP | 5 | 37 | 5 | 14% | 49 | 132% |
| I.R.2 | Number of households benefiting from the integrated management of natural resources | PAPBio | Households | 7,600 | 20,780 | 7,600 | 36% | 30,197 | 145% |
| I.R.3 | Number of sites where IMET is operational and centralized in the RRIS | PAPBio | Site | 5 | 13 | 5 | 38% | 16 | 123% |
| I.R.4 | Number of PA management agencies in the region which have officially adopted IMET | PAPBio | PA Management Agency | 3 | 6 | 3 | 50% | 9 | 150% |
| I.R.5 | Number of strategies formulated for validation by the ECOWAS/UEMOA Commissions | PAPBio | Strategy | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | &00% |

| I.R.6 | Number of training sessions organized for law enforcement agencies | PAPBio | Training | 0 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 97% |
|--------|---|----------|------------------|---|----------|---|---|---------|------|
| I.R.7 | Number of PAs with updated development and management plans approved by all stakeholders | PAPBio | Protected area | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 63% |
| I.R.8 | Number of identified and proposed sites to be designated as Ramsar sites | MANGROVE | Site | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 100% |
| I.R.9 | Number of organizations (associations, groups and NGOs) receiving organizational and management support | MANGROVE | Organization | 0 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 108% |
| I.R.10 | Number of grants given for sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change | MANGROVE | Grant | 0 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 100% |
| I.R.11 | Number of km of corridor pathways opened | PONASI | Km | 0 | 170 | 0 | 0 | 170 | 100% |
| I.R.12 | Number of wildlife guards recruited and trained | PONASI | Wildlife guard | 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 100% |
| I.R.13 | Number of PONASI complex fora organized | PONASI | Forum | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| I.R.14 | Number of farmers supported in upgrading their farming practices | COMOE | Farmer | 0 | 1,500 | 0 | 0 | 1,787 | 119% |
| I.R.15 | Number of officially demarcated villages | COMOE | Village | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 100% |
| I.R.16 | Number of km of pathways opened | COMOE | Km | 0 | canceled | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| I.R.17 | Number of cooperatives supported in the certification process | COMOE | Cooperative | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 50% |
| I.R.18 | Existence of a regional development and town planning blueprint | COMOE | <u>RSPDS</u> | 0 | canceled | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| I.R.19 | Number of trained and equipped livestock workers and veterinarians | COMOE | TBD | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 130% |
| I.R.20 | Number of water sources completed | COMOE | Water source | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100% |
| I.R.21 | Number of night parks built | COMOE | Night park | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 100% |
| I.R.22 | Number of pasture areas developed | COMOE | pasture area | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100% |
| I.R.23 | Number of designated rest points | COMOE | Rest point | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 100% |
| I.R.24 | Number of vaccination parks built | COMOE | Vaccination park | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 100% |
| I.R.25 | Number of people benefiting directly from CBNRM in target municipalities | WILD PEM | Person | 0 | 60,000 | 0 | 0 | 249,578 | 416% |
| I.R.26 | 15 12 | 80% 13 | 87% R.I.32 | 0 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 85% |
| I.R.27 | Number of km of firebreak established | WILD PEM | Km | 0 | 4,000 | 0 | 0 | 7,049 | 176% |
| I.R.28 | Area (km2) of protected territory | WILD PEM | Km2 | 0 | 640 | 0 | 0 | 944 | 147% |

| I.R.29 | Number of annual incidents between humans and elephants in the project area. | WILD PEM | Incident | 10 | 4 | 10 | 0% | 80% | |
|--------|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|----|----------|----|------|-----|-------|
| I.R.30 | Proportion of communities within the central areas of the elephant reserve which are officially included and abide by management plans, boundaries and legislation on the designation of Banzena Lake as a central protected area. | WILD PEM | Community | 0% | 90% | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100% |
| I.R.31 | Number of land-related contracts signed with the nomadic communities in the RNNTT | NOE PARK | Land contract | 12 | 15 | 12 | 80% | 13 | 87% |
| I.R.32 | Number of user committees organized annually | NOE PARK | User Committee | 1 | 3 | 1 | 33% | 4 | 133% |
| I.R.33 | Existence of a sustainable pastoralism plan within the RNNTT | NOE PARK | Pastoralism plan | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| I.R.34 | Existence of a sustainable financial agreement of the RNNTT with local oil mining companies | NOE PARK | Financing agreement | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1.5 | 50% |
| I.R.35 | Number of national parks with a zone that fulfills the "integrity" criteria of UNESCO | RBT-WAP-GIC | 0 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 80 % | 5 | 100 % |
| I.R.36 | Area of reclaimed degraded lands | RBT-WAP-GIC | N/A Mangroves/Senegal | 0 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 337 | 224% |
| I.R.37 | Availability of a master plan development for the development of the RBT-WAP with an analysis of climate change impacts on the ecosystems and EIAs for planned major investments | RBT-WAP-GIC | Master plan | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 |
| I.R.38 | Availability of an enclave management strategy in the WAP complex | RBT-WAP-GIC | Enclave management strategy | 0 | canceled | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| I.R.39 | Number of agricultural value chains developed by country | RBT-WAP-GIC | Value chain | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 125% |
| I.R.40 | Number of persons trained in agro-ecology | SIBCI | Trained person | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 682 | 136% |
| I.R.41 | Number of additional stakeholders on existing communication platforms | SIBCI | Stakeholder | 0 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 55% |
| I.R.42 | Number of anti-poaching working groups set up | SIBCI | Working group | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 140% |
| I.R.43 | Number of persons trained to develop non-timber forest products | SIBCI | Trained person | 0 | 600 | 0 | 0 | 430 | 72% |
| I.R.44 | Existence of a regional mechanism for coordination and management of PAs | GOVERNANCE | Regional mechanism | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |

| I.R.45 | Existence of a regional strategy for protected marine areas | GOVERNANCE | 30+ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.95 | 95% |
|--------|---|--------------|---|-----|-------|-----|-----|--------|------------|
| I.R.46 | Number of PAPBio operation experts with enhanced capacities in ENCA | GOVERNANCE | Expert | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 (84) | > 1000% |
| I.R.47 | Existence of a community of practice on the conservation and management of protected areas | GOVERNANCE | Community of practice | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| I.R.48 | Number of managers trained in managing protected areas | GOVERNANCE | Trained managers | 240 | 352 | 240 | 68% | 360 | 102% |
| I.R.49 | Number of regional thematic workshops organized for the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and providing recommendations | GOVERNANCE | Thematic regional workshop | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 100% |
| I.R.50 | Existence of a regional information system on environmental crime | GOVERNANCE | Regional information system | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| I.R.51 | Number of centers with enhanced capacity and expertise in ex situ conservation and translocation of threatened species | GOVERNANCE | Center | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 100% |
| I.R.52 | Existence of a harmonized monitoring and evaluation framework | GOVERNANCE | Harmonized monitoring and evaluation framework | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| I.R.53 | Existence of an integrated communications plan | GOVERNANCE | Integrated communication plan | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100% |
| I.R.54 | Number of landscapes with participatory Local Development Plans integrating conservation and sustainable development objectives | PONASI 1 & 2 | Local Development Plan | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 100% |
| I.R.55 | Number of households benefiting from integrated natural resource management | PONASI 2 | Number of households | 0 | 1,500 | 0 | 0 | 1546 | 103% |
| I.R.56 | Number of PAs with up-to-date MDPs validated by all stakeholders | AGN | MDP | 0 | 1 | N/A | N/A | 1 | 100% |
| I.R.57 | Surface area (km2) of territory subject to effective ecosystem management measures | AGN | Km² | TBD | TBD | N/A | N/A | 3331 | TBD |
| I.R.58 | Number of elements grouped by operation, trained and equipped (eco-guards, village supervisors, foresters) | AGN | Trained person | 0 | 56 | N/A | N/A | 1135 | 2684% |
| I.R.59 | Self-generated income (in millions of FCFA) | AGN | Million FCFA | 0 | 100 | N/A | N/A | 0 | 0% |

In light of the analysis from the monitoring of the PAPBio Programme performance indicators, it is possible to state that:

- The implementation of projects as of June 2024 indicates a satisfactory level of achievement for most indicators. However, it should be noted that the targets for some indicators have not been fully met. The implementation context of several projects have evolved between the project development and implementation periods as new developments (security crisis, etc.) have had a profound impact on some projects, preventing certain activities from being carried out. Further, the process of formulating, adopting and implementing strategies and/or policies by the regional integration commissions (UEMOA, ECOWAS) is much longer than planned in the context of the PAPBio and could not have been completed as part of a programme that lasts around 04 years.
- Substantial performance (exceeding initial targets) has been observed at the level of some indicators (Area (km2) of territory subject to concrete ecosystem management interventions; number of CBNRM agreements; number of people living around the RBT-WAP generating additional income from the project; number of landscapes with participatory Local Development Plans integrating conservation and sustainable development objectives; number of households benefiting from integrated natural resource management; area of degraded land reclaimed; number of managers trained in protected area management; etc.). On the other hand, some previous achievements seem to be weakening (effective management and governance indices have decreased from 60% in the baseline situation to 57% in the current report). The lack of adequate management of some protected areas, mainly in the WAP Complex, due to the security crisis, contributes to this decline observed in the effectiveness of the management and governance of these PAs).

In correlation with the framework for monitoring performance in the implementation of the PAPBio Programme, the table below presents the logical framework of the PAPBio Programme as set out in the PAPBio Financing Agreement and gives the level of achievement of the targets set.

Table 3: Logical framework of the PAPBio Programme and progress in meeting the targets

| Outcomes | Indicators | Reference values (including reference year) | Targets (including reference year) | Progress made as of <u>June 2024</u> | Comments |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| OG: Promote endogenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development to meet the challenges of climate change | Integral development strategy (sustainable economic activities/conservation/adaptation to climate change/security) adopted and promoted by UEMOA/ECOWAS and effectively applied on RIP intervention sites (protected areas and areas of influence) | 2017: Lack of harmonized UEMOA/ECOWAS strategy for protected areas and areas of influence | 2024: Existence of a common strategy promoted by UEMOA/ ECOWAS and applied by member countries benefiting from the intervention | June 2024:95% | The draft Regional Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Protected and Conserved Areas in West Africa by 2050 was developed and validated through a participatory and inclusive process at the regional level. The document has been forwarded to the UEMOA Commission for adoption at a forthcoming meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Environment of the Union. |
| SO: The specific objective is to achieve integrated protection of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems, and enhance resilience to climate change. | Area (km2) covered by concrete ecosystem management interventions | 2018:1,065 Km ² | 2024:173,313 Km ² | June 2024:212,754 Km ² (123%) | Area per project (Km ²) PONASI: 1,807 Comoé National Park 36 Gourma elephant reserve: 43,576 Mole National Park: 6,460 WAP: 94,071 RNNTT: 41,000 Mangroves: 5,473 AGN: 3,331 SIBCI: 17,000 |
| R1: Socio-economic and sectoral activities in the targeted areas are coordinated in an integrated manner from a landscape approach which ensures the sustainable availability of ecosystem services to stakeholders. | Number of landscapes with participatory Local Development Plans integrating conservation and sustainable development objectives under implementation | 2018:05 | 2024:37 | June 2024:49 (132%) | 29 additional participatory LDPs integrating conservation and sustainable development objectives have been developed and are under implementation: PONASI: 04 Gourma Elephant Reserve: 23 RNNTT: 05 Comoé: 12 Mole National Park: 01 Mangroves: 04 |

| | 1 | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| R2: Effective protected areas management systems have been developed and are operational | PA management and governance effectiveness indices based on IMET data | 2016: W-BFA Park: 55.5 W-Niger: 55 W-Benin:62 Arly: 62 Pendjari: 62 2021: RNNTT: 63.3 Nazinga: 44.16 PNKT: 36.37 FC Sissili: 27.18 Comoé NP: 65.16 Monts Tingui: 26.98 2022: Gourma BR: 37.30 | 2024 : Improvement of a minimum of 05 reference value points | 2019: W-BFA: 55.73 W-Niger: 69.83 W-Bénin : 57.79 Arly: 73.1 Pendjari: 59.22 2022: W-BFA: 42.2 W-Niger: 51 W-Benin: 75.9 Arly: 34.2 Pendjari: 83.2 2023 SR Estuary: 49.7 Yawri Bay: 37.14 Comoé NP: 66.56 ZBM Tingui: 26.26 Nazinga: 49.16 Mole National Park: 35.03 FC Sissili: 29.24 Gourma BR: 37.3 MN Parc: 68.91% | |
| R3: | Extent of engagement of local population according to IMET data | 2021 Extent of engagement of local population estimated at 54% | 2024: Extent of engagement of a minimum of 75% of local population in operation areas | June 2024:80% | Extent of engagement of local populations in the intervention areas estimated at 80% based on data from IMET campaigns carried out in 2022 and 2023 in landscapes where the implementation of PAPBio is ongoing. |
| in the integrated management of natural resources and gain sustainable benefits from them | Number of households benefiting from the integrated management of natural resources | 2018:6600 | 2024:20,780 | June 2024:30,197 households benefit from integrated natural resource management initiatives and derive sustainable benefits from the PAPBio Programme. | The number of households reached mainly includes families directly benefiting from the socio- economic activities promoted by the projects that have begun their support activities for local populations. The fact that the target was exceeded may be due in part to the fact that some projects were no longer implemented in some PAs (WAP) and focused their actions on the development of value |

| | | | | (145%) | chains on the periphery, which resulted in an increase in the number of beneficiaries of their interventions. |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| R4: West Africa has an operational and effective | IMET operational on sites and centralized under the RRIS | 2019: IMET deployed at 05 sites (W-Bénin, W- BFA, W-Niger, Arly, Pendjari) | 2024: all intervention sites have an IMET sent to the Regional Observatory | June 2024: IMET already operational at 15 sites (W-Benin, W-BFA, W-Niger, Arly, Pendjari, RNNTT, Nazinga Wildlife Reserve, PNKT, FC Sissili, PN Comoé, Monts Tingui, Mole NP, Gourma Biosphere Reserve, Sherbro River Estuary, Yawri Bay) (100%) | The development of the RRIS is ongoing by the Consortium dedicated to this task and it is gradually used to collect IMET data. |
| protected areas on a regional scale. | Number of PA management agencies in the Region that have formally adopted IMET and number of annual uses | 2018: At least 03 PA management agencies in Benin, BFA and Niger implement IMET with project support (BIOPAMA) | 2024: At least 06 agencies | June 2024:06 agencies implement IMET mainly with the support of PAPBio projects (100%) | 06 agencies from Benin, BFA, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Mali, Sierra Leone |
| | Policies developed by ECOWAS, UEMOA on the basis of the information | 2018:0 | 2024: At least 01 policy developed by ECOWAS/UEMOA using information generated by the IMET tool | June 2024:0 | OBAPAO, in charge of collecting IMET data and translating them into informed decision-making tools, is not fully operational. |
| | Number of agencies implementing the policies and strategies developed by ECOWAS and UEMOA | 2018:0 | 2024: At least 05 agencies in PAPBio implementing countries implement the policy | June 2024:0 | Expecting the development of the policies following the operationalization of OBAPAO observatory |
| R5: Experience and knowledge are exchanged and capitalized on at regional, national and local levels. | Level of use of the RRIS <i>(Regional Reference Information System</i>) of the West African Regional Observatory of PAs | 2018:0 hits on RRIS (RRIS not in place) | 2024:1,000 monthly hits | June 2024:400 monthly hits (40%) | Operationalization of RRIS and the West African Regional Observatory of PAs ongoing by BIOPAMA |

| R6: Cooperation in the campaign against environmental crime is enhanced and security in the conservation areas is assured | Number of training sessions organized for law enforcement agencies customs, judges, etc.) | 2018:0 | 2024:08 | June 2024:30+ (375%) | 32 law enforcement officers (judges, police officers, gendarmes, customs officers, foresters and human rights advocates) from the PONASI landscape received 01 training session on the relevant provisions of the forestry code of Burkina Faso relating to the prosecution and punishment of environmental and wildlife offenses. 101 professionals from law enforcement agencies (police, gendarmes, customs, judges, etc.), trained as part of the PAPBioC2 Governance project. In addition, at least 24 training sessions have been organized for 332 eco-guards to strengthen the fight against environmental crime in the landscapes where the PAPBio is being implemented: Gourma elephant reserve: 15 training sessions involving 141 beneficiaries WAP complex: 07 training sessions for 30 beneficiaries RNNTT: 01 training sessions for 21 beneficiaries Finally, the PAPBioC2 Governance project organized two editions of the University Diploma in the Management of Protected Areas (UD-MPA) in collaboration with the Senghor University of Alexandria (Egypt). Forty actors from the region benefited from this capacity building on the issue of the fight against environmental crime. |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Percentage of anti-trafficking operations that have been prosecuted | 2018: function of the sites (see "comments" cell on the right) | 2024: at least 75% of offenses recorded prosecuted according to the law | June 2024: function of sites (see "comments" cell on the right) | Not all PAPBio projects and sites have planned specific contributions to this indicator, and it is not relevant to all of them. WAP Complex: 2018:31% legal settlement rate for Pendjari, compared with 0% for W-Benin, W-BFA, W-Niger and Arly 2019-early 2020:100% of offenses recorded settled according to the law in W-Benin, W-Niger and Pendjari; 15% in W-BFA. |

| | | | | End of 2020:79% on average of offenses prosecuted according to the law (except for Arly NP) 2022 - mid-2023:100% at WAP level, with the exception of the 2 components in Burkina Faso RNNTT: 2018:0%; 2023:100%; 2020:10 poachers arrested without systematically triggering criminal proceedings. PONASI: 50 arrests, including 37 people under arrest from September 2020 to March 2021, 74% of which were law enforcement cases. April - September 2021:67 people apprehended, of whom 37 were arrested, i.e., 55% of law enforcement. |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| # of offenses on intervention sites on the decrease | 2018: Gourma Elephant Reserve 13 offenses/year (2018) RNNTT: 05 arrests/year (2018) PONASI: DND | 2024: Decrease of: Gourma Elephant Reserve <5/year (2023) RNNTT: Improved IMET score PONASI: 50% reduction in poaching cases detected | June 2024: function of the sites (see "comments" cell on the right) | Not all PAPBio projects and sites have planned specific contributions to this indicator, and it is not relevant to all of them. RNNTT: 2020:10 arrests Figure 8: September - 2019:15; 2020:47; January to May 2021:19. Gourma elephant reserve: 01 elephant poached in 2019; 02 in 2020 and 01 in 2021. |

4.2. Levels of technical and financial implementation rates of projects and the PAPBio Programme

The table below shows the technical and financial implementation rates, first for each individual project, then for the whole PAPBio Programme.

| Project | Technical implementati on rate at project level (%) | Financial implementati on rate at project level (%) | Consumption of project implementation time (%) | Estimated technical performance rate - PAPBio (%) | Estimated financial implementatio n rate - PAPBio (%) | Rate of consumption of PAPBio implementatio n time (%) |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| EU-Mangroves (Mangroves from Senegal to Benin) | 91% June 2024 | 82% June 2024 | 95% June 2024 | | | |
| RBT-WAP GIC- WAP (Benin— Burkina Faso— Niger) | 171 % (June 2023) | 100 % (June 2023) | 100 % (June 2023 - Project closed) | | | |
| DIKWE NI WEOGO/PONAS I (Burkina Faso) | 94% March 2022 | 95% March 2022 | 100% (Project closed) | _ | | |
| Sustainable landscapes and inclusive sectors/PONASI 2 (Burkina Faso) | 85% (June 2024) | 100% (June 2024) | 100% (June 2024- Project closed) | 98% | 90% | 100% (as at June 2023 and before extension) |
| Integrated management of territories and protected areas (Côte d'Ivoire) | 100% December 2023 | 100% December 2023 | 100% (December 2023- Project closed) | | | 97% (as at June 2024 and after extension) |
| Ecosystem-wide elephant conservation in the Gourma of Mali | 100% (June 2023) | 97% (June 2023) | 100% (June 2023 - Project closed) | | | |
| SIBCI (Ghana) | 94.6% (December 2023) | 93.9% (December 2023) | 100% (December 202 3-Project closed) | | | |
| Termit Tin Touma | 95% (June 2023) | 100% (June 2023) | 100% (June 2023 - Project closed) | | | |

 Table 4 :1.1 The Level of Technical and Financial Implementation of the Projects and the PAPBio Programme

| Anges Gardiens de la Nature (Burkina Faso) | 90 % (June 2024) | 85 % (June 2024) | 75 % (June 2024) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Regional Governance and Security | 90% June 2024 | 75% (June 2024) | 95% (June 2024) |

The analysis of the above table calls for a few comments:

- Two projects ("Sustainable Landscapes and Inclusive Sectors PONASI II" and "Strengthening the basis for securing and managing the PONASI complex sustainably and collaboratively") started much more recently (in June 2021 for PONASI II and January 2023 for the project with AGN), while several other projects had been completed by June 2023;
- The technical implementation rate of the PAPBio, estimated as of June 2024, is around 98%, for a financial implementation rate of around 90%, while time consumption is around 97%, taking into account the extension of the programme to December 2024. The overall RBAP-WAP technical implementation rate of 98% could be explained by the very high rate of implementation of the "RBT-WAP | GIC-WAP (Benin—Burkina Faso—Niger)" (171%), which pulls the average upwards, given that there are 03 (out of 10) projects still in progress, 02 of which until September 2024 and 01 in December 2024.
- Completed projects show significant implementation performance (technical and/or financial implementation rate> 85%). On the other hand, some projects show technical and/or financial rates below the implementation time consumption even after the extension.

5. Major contributions of the projects to the achievement of the results of the PAPBio Programme

In this part of the report, the major contributions of the projects of the 02 components to the achievement of the results of the PAPBio Programme are summarized, in a succinct and non-exhaustive manner.

5.1. Contributions of the PAPBio Component 1 projects (PAPBioC1): Sustainable management of protected and peripheral areas

Result 1: Result 1: Socio-economic and sectoral activities in the targeted areas should be coordinated in an integrated manner from a landscape approach which ensures the sustainable availability of ecosystem services to stakeholders.

• Comoé National Park: 12 (out of 14 planned) Local Development Plans (LDP) from 12 villages have been completed and validated under the supervision of the administrative authorities and the Ministry of Planning. With the validation of these 12 LDPs, the LDP development committees, which have been transformed into local development committees, have been trained in project preparation and fundraising modules in June 2022 and June 2023. The projects resulting from the LDPs have been fully implemented in all 12 villages benefiting from the project. Concerning the funding mechanism of the projects included in the PDLs, a consensus has been reached with the Regional Council to integrate them into the three-year plans. A refresher training workshop was held on June 21, 2023. In addition, 03 buildings including 02 buildings with 02 classrooms + 01 office and 01 building with 03 classrooms have been completed. In addition, 03 teachers' houses in 03 villages and 02 other 4-room houses have been rehabilitated. 07 pumps were also installed as part of the implementation of the project. Furthermore, 01 agrarian diagnosis which has helped to deepen the understanding and characterize the agrarian dynamic and production systems in the periphery of the Comoé National Park has been carried out. The aim of this diagnosis is to initiate income-generating activities that have a low impact on PAs and are resilient to climate change. To that effect, 1,500 farmers received support for the improvement of their farming practices over at least 3,000 ha. A total of 1,922 male and female producers were supported in several activities in the various villages. This support is quantified as follows: 579 cashew nut producers trained in marketing issues and supply-demand dynamics, and sensitized on good cashew nut collection and postcollection practices, including quality issues; 838 producers supported have started marketing their cashew nuts thanks to the fifteen (15) groups that have been structured; 325 producers supported in the rehabilitation of cashew orchards through the pruning, cutting, recutting and plant grafting protocol; 775 women trained in shea marketing; 207 shea collectors and processors supported in the structuring of an organic shea cooperative, in accessing an organic shea collection area, in establishing relations with a final buyer and trained in shea collection and processing practices and organic shea specifications; 17 cooperative members trained in the Internal Control System (ICS) for the organic certification of the cooperative; 20 producers trained in beekeeping in 5 villages; 67 producers benefiting from support in growing maize; 07 groups benefiting from post-harvest treatment machines (the number of users cannot be counted, as it affects almost the entire village, not counting possible leasing of the machine to other users); 98 direct members of the market gardening perimeters, beneficiaries of water developments, trained in good market gardening practices and supervised in the cultivation and marketing of market garden produce. In addition, 3 market garden perimeters of 1 ha, or other relevant facilities have been developed and 2 cooperatives have been supported for the certification and organic value addition of their productions. Besides, a protocol to support the rehabilitation of cashew orchards involving the introduction of ecologically intensive practices in the plantations (pruning, cutting and grafting), including the practice of beekeeping (20 cashew growers have received beehives installed in the orchards). An agropastoral diagnosis is also available in the form of two documents (Tchologo Region, focus on the

Bilimono Subprefecture + Hambol Region, focus on the Dabakala department) since the end of 2020, providing more information on the routes used (and still used) by transhumant and sedentary pastoralists, the reasons for choosing these routes, transhumance periods, related difficulties, etc. This document will help identify the needs of the sector and thus guide the choice of sites for agropastoral infrastructure and facilities. These diagnostics were validated by the relevant stakeholders. It should also be noted that the Tchogolo Regional Council has been provided with IT equipment and a training in geographic information systems (GIS) has been organized for some team members of this local government. In addition, 30 local negotiation committees have been set up in addition to the construction of pastoral facilities, and a number of achievements are worth noting (95 km of negotiated track associated with the marking of certain sections, areas, dams, night parks or vaccination areas, etc.). The support provided to two (2) private veterinarians and to ten (10) community animal health agents has made it possible to significantly improve the health coverage of domestic livestock. In addition, 07 informed debates and 01 transboundary debate were held and made it possible to reach 145 people, including 13 women, who now have a better understanding of the interrelationships between the conservation of natural resources, on the one hand, and the livestock trade associated with its mobility in West Africa, on the other. 400 pupils from the 10 schools visited were sensitized about climate change, the fight against deforestation, waste management, etc. Finally, 24 (out of 12 planned) savings and credit groups (GECs) have been set up and are operational. At the end of the project, a first cycle was completed. As a result, FCFA 20,906,755 were saved and shared.



Figure 2: Gawi vaccination park

• **RNNTT**: 07

land

management contracts on the outskirts of the RNNTT were signed as part of the project implementation, bringing the total to 14 with (i) transhumants in order to sustainably combat wood cutting and promote the preservation of pastures and; (ii) camps and transhumants to combat bush fires and strengthen the preservation of wildlife refuge areas. 03 user committees attached to the Tesker Municipality and covering the Termit massif were supported and animated during the Action, with a focus in 2022 on resolving conflicts and tensions resulting from the inflow of new pastoralists and transhumants. In addition, consultations were held with user committees, defense and security forces, and community leaders on

security and land development issues. Similarly, following the June 26, 2019 decree modifying the boundaries of the RNNTT, as well as the new decree of 8 January 2021, no oil blocks are now overlapping the boundaries of the RNNTT. However, the seasonal presence of Sahelo-Sahelian fauna, including the Addax (critically endangered species in the wild), in the oil blocks encourages continued consultation with the oil industries active in the area. In addition, three (03) municipal development plans have been "greened" and updated by integrating the issues of sustainable management of the Reserve in three municipalities on the periphery of the protected area. One (01) emergency plan for pastoralism in the reserve was developed and implemented with technical support from the Regional Directorate of the Environment, Livestock, prefects and representatives of the Governorate, with the financial support (USD 300,000) from the ReWild Foundation emergency fund in July 2022. In addition, 01 ordinary session of the RNNTT Management Advisory Committee and the RNNTT Board of Directors was held in December 2022. One (01) airborne survey was carried out specifically for the monitoring of the addax thanks to a grant from the Convention for Migratory Species. Finally, 02 follow-up IMET assessments have been carried out in 2021 and 2022.

 PONASI I complex - NITIDAE: 60 master charcoal makers were trained on two types of improved millstones (1 direct-draft and 1 reverse-draft), enabling them to be more efficient in charcoal production by using improved millstones and vents, demonstrating yield improvements between 50 and 100% depending on the type of millstone, a reduction in the duration of carbonization by 2/3 and a substantial increase in the revenues generated by the sector. According to Project forecasts, a trained master charcoal maker will produce an average of 1,656 sacks instead of 850 sacks with the same quantity of wood, thereby increasing his annual income from FCFA 2,337,500 with traditional millstones to FCFA 4,554,650 (2,750 FCFA/sack) with the improved chimney millstone. Also, 01 hulling machine was installed and a drying area of 225 m² developed in the Biéha municipality in order to facilitate the activities of women parboilers. 525 women members of cooperatives of NTFP collectors and processors were trained on good NTFP collection techniques and RNA. 1,089 producers (including 138 women) trained in organic soil fertilization and technical itineraries. One (01) management committee, whose members have benefited from capacity building in accounting and associative life, ensures the sustainable management of investments. A total of 29.9 tons of rice were husked for a revenue of about FCFA 448,500. In addition, 1,089 sesame producers have received training and advisory support on the best techniques for the production, harvesting and post-harvest storage of sesame. Thus, an increase in production of around 25% and improvement in productivity per hectare of about 13% were measured during the 2020 campaign compared with the previous campaign. These producers have also been equipped to use the 321 platform, which allows them to be informed in real time on the evolution of the sesame market price in order to be able to negotiate the best prices. Four (04) participatory diagnostic workshops were organized, and 02 natural resource management plans were developed and are under implementation by the Biéha and Guiaro municipalities in addition to their Municipal Development Plans. One (01) extraordinary session of the regional consultation framework of the South-Center was held with a view to adopting the specifications related to the pastoral areas of Guiaro (6,680 ha) and Gaongho-South (6,762 ha). 299.7 hectares of landscaped areas and 13,969 kilometers of hedges were established. These specifications serve to secure these areas dedicated to pastoral activities following the extent of their occupation for agriculture and traditional gold mining. Finally, 02 natural resource management plans were developed, validated and adopted during municipal sessions; 05 consultations carried out with the stakeholders involved in the management of the PONASI complex and 01 workshop organized to validate in a participatory manner the format of the PONASI Forum and its statutory documents; 02 positive boreholes developed; 01 Management Committee (COGES) established, etc.

• **PONASI II Complex "Sustainable Landscapes and Inclusive Sectors"** - **NITIDAE:** One (01) representative and inclusive steering committee has been set up as part of this project, with a view to creating a momentum for the wise management of natural resources. Six (06) community space management committees (ZOVIC, village forests, etc.) each with a registration document for the governance of conservation areas have been established, with the support of the environmental technical

departments and those of the local governments. In addition, 09 EcoClubs and 04 popular recreation centers have been set up as part of socio-cultural activities to promote the sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, 20 women who process nere seeds into spices (soumbala) have been trained in techniques for sustainable exploitation of the resource (harvesting and maintenance of the resource), improving the seed processing (hygiene, diversity of by-products, etc.) and marketing (packaging, marketing, etc.) as part of the implementation of the action related to the support to income-generating activities. Solar dryers, fermenters and packaging kits have been acquired and made available to strengthen the operational capacities of processors. Lastly, 07 tontine or AVEC groups have been set up in the villages of Sya (01), Boala (03), Tacien (02) and Danfina (1) after a lengthy awareness-raising process on the guiding principles of the AVEC. In total, FCFA 5,033,950 (FCFA 4,766,650 as savings and 267,300 FCFA as solidarity funds) were mobilized by the 07 tontine groups after one year of operation. 350 households benefited from kits with a unit value of 66,200 FCFA/kit for an individual contribution of 11,000 FCFA. A total of FCFA 3,850,000 was raised by the beneficiaries as their contribution to the purchase of the kits.



Figure 3: Improved stove built for a soumbala processor

WAP complex: Nine (09) processing units (soybeans and non-timber forest products) and 02 operational honey factories have been installed by the project in Benin around the WAP Complex, with 7 partnership contracts signed with NGOs and field actors for the development of associated value-added chains. Some fifteen edible mushroom production units have also been set up in villages bordering the Pendjari Park, and around a hundred 3-cubic-meter circular ponds have been installed for the local populations as part of the promotion of fish farming. A digital platform (WAP-Training; www.waptraining.com) has also been set up to ensure effective monitoring of activities on the ground in a fragile security context. Through awareness campaigns, around 81,049 (target of 20,000) students (including 49% of girls) have participated in environmental education sessions. Eighteen (18) local conventions were signed, including 2 between the park managements and the AVIGREF in Benin, 6 in Niger on shea and gallery forests, making it possible, on the basis of collaboration between local governments and organized and private communities, to make investments (advisory support and financing) with a view to sustainably exploiting the community conservation areas and other village areas of interest. While the management structures set up in Niger regularly hold their statutory sessions, this was not the case in Benin, where these structures need to be further revitalized. In addition, 33,708 ha (759 ha in Benin, 1,993 ha in Burkina Faso and 29,956 ha in Niger) of degraded land have undergone various types of development (reforestation, assisted natural regeneration (ANR), anti-erosion works, etc.) as part of the project, with a view to reclaiming them for other uses (agriculture, forestry, pastoralism, etc.). A total of 35 meetings providing a national and transboundary consultation framework for the main conservation stakeholders in the WAP complex (park authorities, organized populations, UEMOA, IUCN) were organized by the project, and at the end of these meetings recommendations were made to improve the performance of the implementation of interventions in the field (project monitoring committees, IMET campaigns and report presentations, regional consultation framework, WAP Complex Protected Areas Week, joint organization of the WAP Complex Council of Ministers in Niamey in April 2022, etc.).). Lastly, several consultations were organized between the TFPs and managers involved in WAP (APN, WAC, WASF, ZSL, ADAPT-WAP, AGN, etc.).



Figure 4: Dry reforestation of baobab trees for giraffe habitat recovery

• Gourma elephant reserve: 23 local agreements on community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), including 15 municipal CBNRM agreements, 3 inter-municipal CBNRM agreements, 04 municipal agreements relating to the Gourma Biosphere Reserve and 01 inter-communal agreement relating to the Gourma Biosphere Reserve were signed thanks to the commitment and motivation of elephant range communities, with the support of local authorities and technical services, despite the persistent fragile security situation in the project area. 118 structures responsible for implementing the agreements, in particular 02 technical monitoring-evaluation committees at "Cercle" level and 116 monitoring committees at "Village" level, have been set up and trained for the operationalization of the agreements. In addition, 12 Municipal Economic and Social Development Plans (PDESC) have been updated in 12 municipalities to incorporate innovations promoted by recently signed local agreements. At this stage, 11 municipalities and 29 communities are independently implementing and supporting the strengthening of local natural resources governance systems through the implementation of local NRM agreements. Significant efforts have been made to lay a sustainable foundation for the empowerment of these local organizations in NRM governance, although for the time being they continue to receive close monitoring and support from the project (necessary to anchor these governance practices in their work plans and thus counteract the disruptions caused by insecurity and weak institutional governance). In total, 8,843 km² are protected, of which 774 km² are in the form of 46 perimeters and 8,069 km² in the form of firebreaks and other facilities set up as part of the municipal agreements. 5,139 km of firebreaks have been built to protect these perimeters. It is also worth noting that additional firebreaks have been built without financial support from the project, demonstrating the gradual dissemination of best NRM practices in the project intervention area. 230 community organizations (of which 120 mix groups, 34 groups of men, 144 groups of women and 4 groups of rangers) have been identified and an evaluation is underway to determine the most efficient and profitable ones in order to support the development of relevant sectors. 5,361 people will be involved in these initiatives, 57% of whom are women. The areas of intervention identified are animal husbandry/fattening, small-scale trade, market gardening, poultry farming, fish farming and handicrafts, depending on the area. The activities identified for the protection of natural resources are the establishment of defenses, the creation of protective firebreaks, bush monitoring and community awareness-raising. The existence of these different groups further underscores the willingness of the communities to get closer to one another and
to better organize themselves to support the development of their municipalities. In this regard, it was noted that women are particularly involved and are increasingly participating in the development of their land.



Figure 5: Location and area protected by communities in the Gourma Biosphere Reserve, GBR (a total of 8,843 km of natural habitat corresponding to about 20% of the total area of the GBR are protected)

Mole National Park a total of 33 stakeholders (05 district assemblies, 11 CREMAs, 05 PAMAUs, 05 • adjacent national parks, 04 universities and 03 NGOs) are involved in the governance of MNP resources through the implementation of project activities such as annual regional forums, experience sharing and exchange with the CREMA, joint meetings between protected area management staff and the integration of protected area issues into the development plan of the district/municipal assemblies. The results of the final evaluation of the project show that the incomes of households living around the MNP have improved thanks to the actions of the SIBCI project, even though there is no readily available data to state exactly whether the project objective of raising the incomes of these households from below GHS 1,314 in 2019 to above the same value by the end of the action has been achieved. To achieve this objective of improving the incomes of households living around the Mole National Park, several training sessions were organized for local populations, reaching 300 people involved in the harvesting and processing of shea kernels into butter on the periphery of the Mole National Park as part of the project. In addition, 100 beneficiaries, including 42 women and 58 men, have been trained in beekeeping, while 40 beneficiaries have been trained in community ecotourism and tourist guiding. Some 50 people (29 men and 21 women) received 100 breeding animals, over 1,000 mango trees were planted for 20 beneficiaries, 100 women were trained and equipped to collect and process shea nuts, and 100 members (from 10 communities) of 04 CREMAs were provided with the equipment they need to start beekeeping (310 hives installed). In addition, 05 sectoral development plans and Programmes of the 5 municipalities covering the park area have been subject to strategic environmental assessments to ensure that these strategic documents integrate the mitigation of negative impacts on the park. Finally, 01 draft monitoring and reporting framework for the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) was developed and submitted to the GWS for assemblies following an extensive consultation and stakeholder engagement.



Figure 6: Overview of participants at the CREMA experience sharing workshop

 Mangrove forests: 04 prospective diagnoses of the environmental, socio-economic and cultural situation in 04 priority conservation landscapes (Rivière du Sud, Grand Mano, Grand Saloum and Mono Volta) have been carried out, resulting in diagnostic reports that have been submitted to relevant stakeholders, followed by their validation. In addition, each of the 04 LSCs has a Priority Conservation Landscape Steering Committee (PCLSC) (Grand Saloum, Rivières du Sud, Mono Volta, Grand Mano). In each LSC, national and/or regional consultation platforms have been set up: in the Grand Saloum LSC (Saloum and Gambia), in the Rivières du Sud LSC (Casamance, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea), in the Grand Mano LSC (Liberia and Sierra Leone) and in the Mono Volta LSC (Ghana, Togo, Benin). Master plans have been developed for the Grand Saloum and Grand Mano LSCs in place of the originally contemplated development plans, following the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation. Indeed, the LSCs as defined could not be equipped with management plans, which are detailed tools much better suited to sites rather than landscapes. For the Rivières du Sud LSC, the aim for Basse Casamance is to support the feasibility study for the establishment of the Casamance Estuaries Biosphere Reserve in partnership with the Directorate of Community Protected Marine Areas (DAMCP) and the Directorate of National Parks (DPN). This study has been conducted. Furthermore, it was also necessary to support the establishment of the Jeta Cacheu Pecixe Biosphere Reserve. For the Mono Volta LSC, it was decided to support the updating of the development and management plan for the Keta Lagoon complex Ramsar site in Ghana. Nine (09) exchange visits were organized, for 4 LSCs. In addition, 27 (out of 12 planned) educational discovery visits for young people were organized as part of the project. Besides, 01 reforestation campaign was organized and made it possible to reclaim 34.6 ha. 11 activities were carried out as part of the implementation of the action. Finally, one (01) regional conference on the future and value of mangrove ecosystems was organized as part of the implementation of the project.



Figure 7: Provision of nursery facilities

• **PONASI** - **AGN**: First of all, 02 project kickoff workshops (1 national and 1 regional), 45 meetings to present the project to authorities (3 Governors + 06 High Commissioners + 03 Regional Directors of the Environment + 06 Provincial Directors of Culture + 06 Provincial Directors of Culture + 03 Regional Directors of Youth + 06 Provincial Directors of Youth) were organized. Secondly, the project supported 06 Provincial Consultation Frameworks (CCP) in 06 provinces. In addition, 16 Municipal Consultation Commissions for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CCEDD) have been set up. On January 31, 2023, 01 framework agreement setting out the terms of collaboration between AGN and the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Sanitation (MEEA) was signed for the implementation of the project. Thus, 02 draft orders (01 establishing the COPIL + 01 establishing the framework for consultation and Programmeming of activities) were prepared and submitted to the General Directorate of Water and Forestry (DGEF), which made it possible to conduct the activities and the organization of one session of the project COPIL. In addition, 13 CSOs and 02 NGOs in 16 municipalities bordering the complex were subject to a diagnosis and capacity building on governance, social cohesion and peaceful management of protected areas.

Finally, 802 km of internal and perimeter tracks were opened and maintained for securing activities. 25 water sources (micro-dam dikes, level crossings, bouli, etc.) have been installed.

Result 2: Effective management systems for protected areas, including local populations, have been developed and are operational

• **WAP complex**: Five (05) parks in the cross-border complex have a Development and Management Plan (DMP) each, including zoning that complies with the UNESCO-MAB criteria for each of the 05 protected areas in the WAP complex. In fact, 02 of the 05 parks received payment agreements. 07 payments were granted to the Pendjari for surveillance, 04 to W-Benin implemented by APN. The procedures for allocating the benefits for the management of Burkina Faso NPs are hampered by the absence of the managers in the field. In Niger, the procedures for the establishment of an agency with independent management status have been stagnating at political level for over a year. It should also be noted that the Arly National Park has been recognized by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve since 2018, and the entire WAP Complex as a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in October 2020. Nevertheless, a persistent problem of insecurity has been noted in Burkina Faso and Niger and mentioned in the decision of the JPC at its 44th session in July 2021. The level of implementation of the recommendations was assessed at the 45th session in October 2023, and it is likely that the site will be included on the list of properties at risk. In addition, six (06) co-management agreements have been signed, including 02

partnership agreements between the Pendjari and W-Benin national park authorities and the AVIGREF and UR-AVIGREF, and 04 agreements signed in Niger (02 in the shea butter sector and 02 on gallery forest management), which enables to further involve and empower local communities in natural resources conservation efforts. The 05 WAP parks have management tools (PAG, business plans, etc.) that have been developed to make it possible for these protected areas to meet the criteria for accessing the WASF funding, and their membership of this trust fund is now effective (although Burkina Faso and Niger were yet to finalize their obligations so that their national parks can benefit from the WASF funds at the time of reporting, unlike Pendjari and W-Benin National Parks, which have received payment orders). A total of 11 payment agreements have been signed with the two parks (07 for the Pendjari National Park and 04 for W-Benin). The texts for the establishment of an autonomous PA management organization in Niger have been validated, but the process of adoption of the deeds of establishment was still ongoing as of June 2023 (end of the GIC-WAP project). It is important to note that an MoU was signed in 2019 between the supervisory administration of the PAs in Niger and the NGOs Wild African Conservation (WAC) and African Parks Network (APN), allowing for the possibility of delegating the management of the W-Niger Park. The WAC/APN consortium is also in charge of implementing the priority intervention plan in the W-Niger. Support has been provided to the management units of the WAP complex parks in the form of grants. Niger has also obtained multi-donor funding to implement its Priority Intervention Plan (PIP) and several pieces of equipment have been purchased (04 vehicles, 02 motorized canoes, 01 drone, etc.). As for Burkina Faso, another approach aimed at securing the protected areas of the complex beforehand seems to have been preferred by the supervisory administration. Moreover, a feasibility study of the publicprivate partnership has been carried out for the protected areas in Burkina and the results are yet to be validated. Further, equipment has been made available to the management units of the relevant parks in Burkina Faso, although it has not yet been fully deployed in the field. IMET campaigns were initiated in May 2022 in the parks of the WAP complex in collaboration with the Regional Governance and Security project implemented by IUCN and the results of these campaigns are presented in the section dedicated to the Governance project. Three (03) Anti-Poaching units (72 operational rangers in W-Niger, 150 in Pendjari and 120 in W-Benin) have been trained, equipped and fully operational. At the present stage, all offenses are adjudicated in accordance with the regulations in W Benin, Pendjari and W-Niger Moreover, the lack of monitoring in the W-Burkina and Arly did not make it possible to record offenses and their management. Various facilities have also been developed (1,356 km of seasonally passable track, i.e., 256 km in Benin, 728 km in Burkina Faso and 372 km in Niger) and various topographic sheets of the map of the Property at 1/50,000 produced. In 2021, many large mammal and carnivore counts were conducted: 4,056 elephants counted in 2021 (excluding the Burkina Faso PA) compared with 8,911 for the whole complex in 2019; 187 individuals counted in 2021 in the Pendjari NP and W-Benin compared with 350 for the whole complex in 2019. Finally, 01 WAP Development Master Plan incorporating the climate change dimension has been drawn up, but the environmental impact studies have only been carried out in Benin, as the security situation has prevented access to the other compartments of the WAP.

• **PONASI I complex** - **NITIDAE:** 30 eco-guards recruited, trained and provided with Anti-Poaching equipment thanks to the deployment of a training, supervision and strategic orientation system, bringing the total number of eco-guards carrying out missions independently or in coordination with other FDS units in the complex to 45 in the country. As a consequence, 157 routine patrols were carried out by the eco-guards; 52 joint patrols mobilized eco-guards with foresters and 2 joint patrols brought together the military, foresters and eco-guards, corresponding to about 105,962 km covered within the entire PONASI complex, with a surveillance coverage rate reaching 95% for the Nazinga Ranch, 60% for the Sissili classified forest and 40% for the Kaboré Tambi Natural Park (KTPN). The average monthly patrol effort reached 304 man-days. In addition, 32 persons including judges, police officers, gendarmes, customs officers, foresters and human rights activists from 4 provinces—Nahouri, Zoundwéogo, Kadiogo and Bazèga—were also trained in the relevant provisions of Burkina Faso forestry code for the prosecution and punishment of environmental and wildlife offenses. One (01) radio, 01 Internet connection kit and 01

operational center for SMART data collection and processing is set up as part of the ecological monitoring and surveillance of protected areas. Encroachments and other acts of poaching have been prevented and/or punished, and arrests of offenders resulting in court cases and jail terms occurred. Effective collaboration with Water and Forestry agents and the military in the Sissili and PNKT has considerably reduced the anthropization process that was ongoing in these 2 protected areas and, overall, has made it possible to heighten security in the area. From the 2nd year of implementation, the ranks of the eco-guards were upgraded and logistics improved, resulting in an increase in the average patrol effort shifting from 220 to 310 man-days/month. A further 30 aspiring eco-guards (including 03 girls) were recruited in the periphery of the complex, trained and equipped to protect and monitor ecosystems. One (01) special brigade of 10 eco-guards is currently in place, and collective and individual equipment has been improved accordingly and 01 DELTA-QUAD MAP PRO drone has been acquired for the mapping and ecological monitoring of protected areas. In addition, 80 joint patrols were carried out with the Water and Forestry agents and the military in the Sissili and the KTPN. Besides, 151 km of tracks were opened and rehabilitated using the high-intensive labor (HIMO) approach, including 111 km of track in the KTPN and Corridor 1, and 40 km of track in Corridor 2. The establishment of a network of indicators during year 2 of implementation made it possible to dismantle two ivory trafficking networks and one crocodile skin trafficking network. Finally, 41,458 seedlings, all species included (21,820 cashew trees, 6,900 Acacia nilotica, 6,400 baobab, 2,400 moringa, 820 Acacia senegal, 710 Leucaena leucocephala, 708 Albizia lebbeck, 700 nere trees, 200 mango trees, 800 Senna siamea) were planted in the four (04) target municipalities of the project on approximately 300 hectares and/or 14,000 km of hedges for the delimitation of community spaces.

 PONASI II Complex "Sustainable landscapes and inclusive sectors" - NITIDAE: Six (06) community natural resource management committees have been set up and this has created a momentum for the wise management of natural resources in each of the villages involved in the project. As a result, the capacity of management committee members has been strengthened through training, mainly in the development of plans to combat late fires, nursery seedling production techniques, participatory mapping (the demarcation of conservation areas and the identification of degraded areas), the role and responsibility for setting up a plantation and the opening of firebreaks. In addition, 01 charter for the community management of conservation areas was developed and amended by direct and indirect stakeholders at a workshop in the municipalities of Biéha and Guiaro. One (01) development and management plan (DMP) has been drawn up and approved by the local authorities for each site, a usufruct pact, specifications for the sustainable exploitation of forest products and a five-year management plan were drawn up, validated and presented to stakeholders at meetings attended by the supervisory administrations, local authorities, natural resource user groups, the private sector, etc. These actions are essentially aimed at achieving the operationalization of community forestry beneficial to the community and the sustainability of ecosystems through the establishment of a community regulation mechanism accepted and applied by all. One (01) forest inventory was carried out at the project's five (05) community sites, namely the Danfina village forest and the inventory report.



Figure 8: Village consultation workshop on community management of natural resources

• Comoé National Park: Two (02) diagnoses (agrarian and agropastoral) carried out in the project area are available. The agropastoral diagnosis is available in two documents (Tchologo Region, focus on the Bilimono Subprefecture + Hambol Region, focus on the Dabakala department) since the end of 2020. This diagnosis, which complements the agrarian diagnosis carried out by Nitidæ on farming systems (which includes a certain number of data on family livestock), provided the opportunity to guide the selection of sites for the installation of agropastoral infrastructures and facilities, in line with the need to facilitate livestock mobility and reduce the pressure of livestock on the CNP. In addition, participatory diagnoses have been carried out and validated in the 12 target villages of the project, and priority action plans (based on the participatory diagnoses) and 12 Local Development Plans have been finalized and validated. 164 village territories have been officially demarcated according to the method defined by AFNOR for the delimitation of village territories, marked off and 16 maps produced, and the reports have been provided and validated. Sixteen 1(6) maps produced and 12 LDPs validated in 12 of the 16 villages. 170 km of cattle tracks have been secured, 5 water points built, 4 night parks constructed, 5 grazing areas and 3 rest areas developed and 2 vaccination parks constructed) for the livestock sector. All these social agreements were signed with landowners for 8 grazing and rest areas (3 in Bilimono and 5 in Dabakala). They have been demarcated, marked out and georeferenced for a total of 671 hectares to be managed sustainably by local stakeholders. The areas have been used a lot since their creation.



Figure 9:Service area map

• Gourma elephant reserve: 96 forest rangers have been mobilized for the Anti-Poaching Brigade from the Army and the National Directorate for Water and Forests (NDWF), which made it possible to maintain the patrol effort at an average of 9 days/month (more frequent than the project target of 4 days/month) for a total distance of about 6,302 km (or 900 km/month) covered inside the Gourma Reserve as part of the implementation of the project. 175 people have been trained on anti-poaching fight. The maintenance of this performance over time will depend, however, on the evolution of the security situation, on the one hand, and on the capacity of the NDWF to ensure the operational and financial management of the Anti-Poaching Brigade, on the other hand. In that respect, 01 workshop was organized to discuss the future of the anti-poaching brigade, in the presence of the Ministers of Defense and the Environment and the European Union Ambassador to Mali. Since the effective start-up of the GEF-UNDP project in November 2021, the management of the anti-poaching unit has been entirely the responsibility of the NDWF. In addition, 1,468 eco-guards in 17 municipalities provide support to the surveillance of elephants. 268 community eco-guards and young volunteers for the surveillance, collection and sharing of information on elephant movements, monitor poaching incidents and raise community awareness on human-elephant conflict have received support as part of the action. In addition, 01 census of the elephant population was carried out in June 2023 using a walking count by community eco-guards combined with analysis of high-resolution satellite images, and the finalization of the results is ongoing currently (estimated at around 209 elephants in 2022). However, it is important to note the continued migration of elephants to the south-west off their pre-conflict migration route and this trend translates into a higher risk of human-elephant conflict, as the southern areas frequented are the most densely populated. In addition, 08 incidents involving the destruction of crops or equipment were reported in 2022 (number on the decrease compared with 2021 when 14 incidents were reported). A total of 467 people, including 67 community eco-guards and animators, and 400 local community members were trained in humanelephant conflict management and bushfire management. One (01) community survey to assess local attitudes towards elephants was carried out as part of the project. In fact, 01 bill relating to the establishment of the Gourma Biosphere Reserve was adopted by the Council of Ministers in May 2020. Afterwards, the law establishing the reserve was unanimously approved by the National Assembly and promulgated on December 14, 2021. Moreover, the successive socio-political unrest has somewhat delayed the process of implementing the law. 01 workshop was organized by the project for the parliamentarians of the Transition Assembly to inform them of the prevailing situation and request their support. 3,891 ha of the area covered by the project is considered to be stable, thanks to the extension of the community natural resource management area (pastoral and forest areas) and the efforts made to protect the Gourma Biosphere Reserve by means of set-asides, the recovery of degraded land and the regeneration of the plant cover, the creation of firebreaks, etc. 01 exchange visit of 04 days was organized for communities, the administration and technical services (50 participants) to reinforce their knowledge of the techniques used for the restoration of degraded land. In addition, 01 water well was constructed as part of the implementation of the hydraulic management plan developed to facilitate the resettlement of populations affected by the demarcation of the core area as part of the newly established Biosphere Reserve. Zoning agreements to facilitate access to water for pastoralists pressing on the waterhole located in the central zone of the reserve are being negotiated with affected communities.



Figure 10: Elephant monitoring by eco-guards



Figure 11: Location of potential mining sites in the Gourma Biosphere Reserve

• **RNNTT**: 02 operational tools (Five-Year Business Plan (FYBP) 2021–2025 + 01 Annual Operational Work Plan 2021) have been submitted and validated by the governance bodies of the RNNTT. As a result, the 2022–2026 FYBP and its annual operational work plan were submitted to the Niger authorities for comment to the RNNTT Management Advisory Committee in November 2021, and for validation by the RNNTT Board of Directors in December 2021. All the departments in the reserve were assigned a manager by 2021: Administration and Finance, Operations, Community Support, Biodiversity, Law Enforcement. In fact, 53 water and forestry agents have been made available by the Water and Forestry Administration to support the 20 community agents already on the job. In addition, 01 collaboration agreement was signed between RNNTT/Noé and the Zinder Regional Directorate of the Environment, to which the 02 Departmental Directorates of the Environment of Tesker and Tânout report, to formalize the support to the RNNTT during patrol activities. To this end, the administration has been further provided with rolling stock, communication resources and financial support, and the staff benefit from continuing professional

development. Consultation frameworks are promoted between Noé, the administration and the RNNTT manager, and the oil industries neighboring the PA in order to propose a formal framework for the monitoring of ecological actions in the oil blocks that still serve as habitat to Sahelo-Saharan fauna (presence of 30 to 50 addax in the Agadem part of the oil block). An anti-poaching strategy has been put in place and has been adapted in 2021 following the delivery of the HQ allowing for the establishment of the workforce in the reserve. The RNNTT "Camp MENA" HQ/Live Base and its operations room have been operational since March 2022 and the HQ provided with a perimeter wall since July 2022 and benefits from continuous improvements. The Park's existing infrastructure has been rehabilitated, in particular the Headquarters (HQ), including a water supply system (2,100 m-deep boreholes) and a complete overhaul of the electrical network powered by solar panels and a generator (22 KVa). An eco-guard center close to the HQ has been built to accommodate 30 people, with a common area and separate sanitary facilities for men and women, powered by solar energy. In terms of logistics, 2 new Landcruiser cars were purchased, as well as 1 used Hilux car, 4 motorcycles, 2 outboard engines (40 HP) and 2 drones. It has been possible to ensure the protection of the park with a total of 5,537 man-days of patrol in 2022, with between 409 and 589 man-days per month, carried out by a team of 30 people, spending on average 20 days in the field per month. The team was supported by the canine unit of the Jane Goodall Institute for an average of 4 days per month. The results of these patrols show that seizures of poached animals remain high throughout the year, despite the awareness-raising efforts. These are animals slaughtered and transported to the city for trade, and do not include those hunted for the subsistence of the local population. Mehari patrols are organized in the Tin-Toumma for the conservation of the addax. In the same vein, the patrol and anti-poaching strategy is operational. In this regard, a number of incidents were reported: two (02) security incidents leading to gun fire exchanges with poachers using automatic weapons, two (02) fuel caches destroyed, one (01) poacher's camp destroyed, two (02) vehicles and two (02) motorbikes seized, Dorcas gazelles poached and a shipment of wood from illegal logging seized, etc. Finally, the RNNTT and the conservation actions carried out by Noé Parks were presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseilles in September 2021. These events were attended by the President of the Republic of Niger as well as the Minister of the Environment and Desertification Control.



Figure 12: Fennec (Vulpes zerda) at the exit of its burrow within the RNNTT

• **Mole National Park**: A (01) protected area management plan for the Mole National Park has been developed and validated as part of the project implementation, and a (01) business plan has been designed. Inventories were also carried out to characterize the diversity of the species of small mammals, entomofauna, herpetofauna, avifauna and flora in the park, as well as a socio-economic profiling of the landscape. The biodiversity health indices established as a result of these inventories were monitored throughout the project, and measures to mitigate biodiversity erosion were proposed accordingly. In addition, 32 participants, including law enforcement officers, benefited from theoretical and practical capacity building on the SMART (*Spatial Monitoring and Reporting*Tool) in April 2022. Finally, 30 CREMA members from different ecological landscapes were trained to conduct participatory biodiversity monitoring and assessment of threats related to the biodiversity of the Mole NP.

• Mangrove forest: 12 MDPs, including the one of Yawri Bay (Sierra Leone), Ramsar site Alon Keta Lagoon Complex, CREMA Dusomu (Ghana), ACCB Bouche du Roy, ACCB Lac Toho, ACCB Lac Ahémé, AMP Bouche du Roy (Benin), Jukadu National Park, Niumi National Park (Gambia), Kassa Balantacounda, AMP Sokone (Senegal), Tristao (Guinea) have been developed or updated and validated by all the stakeholders respectively as part of the action. In addition, 295.1 ha of degraded mangrove ecosystems have been restored and made operational thanks to numerous mangrove reforestation campaigns organized by the project. A total of 15 scholarships (05 master's scholarships, 03 doctoral scholarships, 04 bachelor's scholarships and 03 undergraduate thesis scholarships) have been awarded under the project. However, to date 02 doctoral students have not yet defended their theses and 01 master student resigned after 04 months of internship. As a result, 21 research reports on mangrove issues were produced and validated during the implementation of the action. In addition, 02 sites have been identified for classification as RAMSAR sites: Yawri Bay and Sherbro River Estuary. As of June 2024, the designation files for the two sites have been received and technically validated by the RAMSAR Secretariat. Only the official letters of request for designation from the Sierra Leone government are awaited to finalize the process and formalize the inclusion of the sites on the RAMSAR list. In addition, 02 sites (the Jeita Peixice Biosphere Reserve and the Casamance Estuaries Biosphere Reserve) have been identified for the creation of a Biosphere Reserve. In fact, the support for the creation of the Jeita Peixice Biosphere Reserve in Guinea-Bissau is ongoing. However, in Senegal, support for the feasibility study to create the Casamance Estuaries Biosphere Reserve has been completed and the report shared with stakeholders, notably the DAMPC and DPN. Also, 02 areas with community management and governance have been identified and mapped, and proposed for classification. These include the Dusomu CREMA in Ghana, which was set up in the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site, and the creation of the ACCB Lac Ahémé in Benin, in the Mono Biosphere Reserve. 03 sites or areas (Guinea Bissau, Republic of Guinea and Gandoule MMA in Senegal) have sustainable financing mechanisms thanks to the action. Finally, 30 regional experts benefited from capacity building in mangrove ecosystem management (i.e. 200% of the project target).



Figure 13: Monitoring of mangrove ecosystems



Figure 14: Collection of biological data in mangrove ecosystems

• **PONASI - AGN:** With the establishment of the consultation framework by MEEA memo N°023–615/MEEA/SG/DGEF dated October 17, 2023, and following the first meeting of the framework, the subdivision of the complex into seven (07) surveillance blocks was decided (PNKT: 05 blocks; Sissili: 01 block and Nazinga: 01 block). The complex has 40 AGN-PONASI 1 eco-guards, 100 community supervisors, 32 contact or indicator officers, 20 OFINAP eco-guards and around 60 foresters, many of whom have already taken part in joint operations to secure the PONASI complex and received basic training. Only the eco-guards are continuously involved in the PONASI 2 project, and they benefit from continuous professional development (anti-poaching techniques, etc.).

Several equipment packages have been acquired to facilitate anti-poaching activities. These include equipment for the Operations Center (OC), as well as communications/navigation equipment and rolling stock (motorcycles and cars).

Several actions were carried out, including joint patrols with the army as part of the patrol and security operations.

Further, a 2022–2025 action plan for securing the area classified under management has been produced, a collection of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide the conduct of security activities within the framework of the project has been produced, 01 crisis management plan and identification of resource persons to part of the crisis management unit is in place, 01 medical emergency plan is being implemented; guides on mission preparation or movement preparation are available. During the first quarter, several patrol operations were launched from the eco-guards operational base. A total of 22,893 man-days of patrols were carried out, resulting in the arrest of 31 offenders under the project...



Figure 15: Map of infrastructure to be built in the PONASI complex

Result 3: Fringing populations derive sustainable benefits from protected areas and are more resilient to climate change

• WAP complex: 646,309 (target 200,000) WAP peripheral beneficiaries (78% women) from the three countries (217,510 in Benin, 259,252 in Burkina Faso and 169,547 in Niger) of the WAP Complex have been trained in the best techniques for producing, processing and conserving products made from Mung bean, baobab leaves and leaf powder, honey, sesame, peanuts, squash, Moringa, fodder, etc. In addition, 646,309 people have been trained in value-added chains for organic farming. Besides, 646,309 people have been trained in value-added chains for organic agricultural production, and around 30% of these producers use neither pesticides nor chemical inputs, according to a survey carried out in March 2023. Each time, the beneficiaries are trained according to the training of trainers' approach (in order to increase the number of trained persons in an efficient way) and provided with work equipment (individual or collective such as wells, etc.) depending on the sector. Some thirty agro-sylvo-pastoral centers have been set up in almost all the project municipalities, along with agroforestry training and production centers that serve as demonstration centers for all the innovative technologies being promoted, and as learning centers for local communities. In these centers, local residents learn how to produce seedlings for reforestation and forage species, small-scale livestock farming, beekeeping, market gardening, etc. In addition, 403,301 beneficiaries out of the 646,309 people supported in various sectors were able to generate a total income of around 72,768,807 euros in the intervention area in 2022. Specifically, 58,194 beneficiaries (14%) earned additional income above the poverty line for a total of around 28,210,778 euros, and 131,100 beneficiaries who adopted value-added chains (VACs) (33%) earned additional income above 50% of the poverty line in their respective countries, for a total of 44,713,552 euros.



Figure 16: Training in soya cheese production good practice

• **Gourma elephant reserve**: 80,949 (+134%) persons, of whom 49.5% of women, benefited directly from the effects (not immediately financial for some initiatives) of the 86 <u>NRM</u> projects promoted and financed under local agreements, and 183 members of beneficiary associations have been trained in record-keeping, accounting, equitable profit sharing and reinvestment. These initiatives aim at developing resources and spaces that the populations consider strategic, i.e., useful to humans, domestic herds and elephants (pastures, forests and their plant biodiversity used for food or pharmacopeia, etc.) but which are subject to pressure and threats (abusive cutting, uncontrolled fires, clearing, overgrazing, etc.). The baseline situation of these initiatives has been defined and projections in terms of human and financial investment required, results (level of protection of the natural habitat) and subsequent financial returns defined. At this stage, some of the initiatives are already generating additional income through the levying of taxes on pastureland; grain production; the sale of fodder, milk, fruit, Arabic gum, etc. In addition, 06 initiatives benefiting 308 people (66 men and 242 women) have been financed through the youth stabilization fund, aimed at facilitating the installation of able-bodied young people in the project intervention area, to combat the radicalization of young people, create jobs for young people, combat the exodus and migration of young people to cities and other countries, and strengthen social ties.



Figure 17: Creation of firewalls by eco-guards

• **Mole National Park**: 01 plan for the development of a community forestry enterprise has been developed for the local communities of the MNP thanks to the SIBCI project. In addition, 01 training workshop on community ecotourism and the MNP tourism guiding (as a means of contributing to the endogenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development of the Mole landscape) was organized in

collaboration with the *Wildlife Division* (park management unit). A total of 40 people (07 women and 33 men), including 17 tourist guides from the Mole National Park and 23 community ecotourism operators from Magnori, Larabanga and Murugu, benefited from this training to further improve the quality of their services. Besides, 01 draft ten-year strategic business plan developed for the MNP was submitted and validated by the relevant stakeholders with a view to operationalizing a sustainable financing mechanism for the Mole National Park. In addition, the capacities of 300 women have been strengthened in the collection of almonds and their processing into shea butter, which resulted in a marked improvement in the quality of the product marketed and, consequently, in the income generated. 80 beneficiaries from five (05) communities were selected and trained in improved ruminant production (sheep and goats). Finally, 252 producers (165 men and 87 women) from seven peripheral communities of the park were trained in sustainable agriculture and the extension agents in charge of the training were tasked with the regular monitoring of the implementation of best practices by the learners. The training made it possible to increase internal revenues by more than 100% between 2020 and 2022.



Figure 18: Handing over of equipment for collecting and processing shea kernels to project beneficiaries

• **RNNTT**: Two (02) vaccination campaigns have been carried out each year, which provided the pastoralists of the reserve with the opportunity to sell their livestock at the Tesker livestock market. Some 290,884 heads of livestock were dewormed and vaccinated, which limits the risk of zoonoses spreading and enables to strengthen the pastoral sector on which communities largely depend. In addition, a network of 20 para-veterinarian auxiliaries is operational to provide local support to the sector. In addition, the first alternatives to logging were deployed, including the promotion of metal-structured tents, improved stoves, biodigesters, pilot sites for assisted natural regeneration experiments, etc. In addition, a mission was organized and provided dental care to 406 persons (249 women and 157 men). Finally, 35 children (18 girls and 17 boys) benefited from schooling support provided to pupils from the reserves as part of the project. A total of 10 wells have been identified for restoration in synergy with Bunkassa Kiwo for the benefit of the communities bordering the RNNTT as part of the implementation of the project.



Figure 19: Vaccination campaign for domestic livestock

• PONASI I complex - NITIDAE: 05 multi-stakeholder consultations (administrative authorities, deconcentrated technical services, local authorities, umbrella organizations of rural producers, women and youth organizations, private PA managers, projects and Programmes operating in the landscape, TFPs including NGOs, associations and CSOs, etc.) were held and provided the opportunity to suggest and validate 01 consultation framework (PONASI Forum) for the shared governance of the complex, as well as the statutory documents of the forum. As a consequence, the first session of the Forum was held in Manga (Burkina Faso) in August 2022 on the theme "Sustainable management of the resources of the PONASI ecological complex in a difficult security context: issues and challenges" under the chairmanship of the Governor of the South-Centre Region of Burkina Faso. It was attended by 55 people (including 13 women) from all socio-professional and administrative backgrounds in the three (03) regions. In addition, 02 natural resource management plans have been drawn up, validated and adopted for the municipalities of Biéha and Guiaro, involving community leaders from the periphery in all activities related to the development of the community and the strengthening of the consultation frameworks. Peripheral local authorities were involved in the development of natural resource management plans and the decentralized administrative authorities were involved in the implementation of project activities. 1,985.25 ha were cultivated by 1,089 sesame producers (producers who were also trained in the best sesame production practices) and production is estimated at 794.2 tons, i.e. about 516,230,000 CFA francs in expected market value. On the whole, the IGAs promoted (sesame and rice sectors) suggest the possibility of wealth creation to settle the communities in the periphery and reduce the pressure on the resources of the PONASI complex.



Figure 20: Project family farm advisor in sesame producer training session

• PONASI II Complex "Sustainable landscapes and inclusive sectors" - NITIDAE: A

total of 2,000 ha of degraded areas were identified and reforested at a density of 80 plants per ha in ZOVICs, forest management sites and village forests. Five (05) market garden sites with a total area of 13 ha have been developed with boreholes, a solar pumping system with a water storage tank and a piping system. Finally, 02 strips (firebreaks) have been opened, including a strip approximately 5.5 km long and four (4) m wide for a reforested area of 27.5 ha in the Boala and Tacien ZOVICs in 2022, and a strip approximately 5 km long and 4 m wide in the Tacien and Kounou ZOVICs in 2023. furthermore, 110 ha of intensive agroforestry plots have been planted with Acacia auriculiformis and Anacardium occidentale at a density of around 600 plants/ha. Eight (08) sites have also been developed with a surface area of twentysix (26) ha for the benefit of 147 women (47 in Boala, 20 in Danfina, 20 in Sya; 30 in Tacien and 30 in Nobéré) and 46 men (15 in Boala, 06 in Danfina, 05 in Tacien, 05 in Sya and 15 in Nobéré) who are active on the market garden perimeters; five (05) of these developed sites are operational, autonomous, and self-sufficient. In addition, 4.2 km of Acacia nilotica hedges were installed on the Boala, Danfina, Sya and Tacien market gardening perimeters to replace the wire fencing, which was deteriorating over time. In 24 cropping seasons (3 years), the market gardeners produced 91,425 tonnes of vegetables and earned 21,218,500 FCFA (see Annex 07). Individual market gardeners' revenues per season vary from FCFA 40,000 to FCFA 400,000. Lastly, 150 farmers, including 100 sesame producers and 50 soybean producers, received 600 kg of sesame seed for 200 ha and 2,500 kg of soybean seed for 100 ha.



Figure 21: Distribution of market gardening equipment



Figure 22: Market gardening plots

 Comoé National Park: 02 cooperatives have been supported in the certification and organic development of their production, but only the one operating in the shea butter sector has obtained its certification. Concerning the shea sector, a cooperative of women collectors and processors, known as SCOOPS Nankakoumina, has been set up and formalized in the areas of Ouandérama Dioulasso, Ouandérama Bambarasso and Toro Léwera. It obtained Organic Agriculture certification in 2022 and applied for Fair for Life certification in 2023. The results of the ECOCERT audit were expected by the end of 2023. With regards to the cashew nut sector, the potential for supporting an organic cooperative was not possible given the context of the area (pervasive use of herbicides), all the more since the survey of cashew nut buyers did not make it possible to identify a reliable partner willing to pay the price for organic products and take pre-campaign commitments (definition of the amount of the organic premium and sponsorship of the certification). The one of the shea sector benefited from the construction of a shea nutprocessing center financed by the project jointly with a private operator and a shea butter processing center (figure 21). The 2022 campaign for shea nuts collection, processing and butter production was successfully completed, as the samples taken from the butter for certification were compliant and the organic certification was awarded by ECOCERT. For the 2023 campaign, the mechanism was launched again with an early start of almond collection from May 2023 (earlier than in 2022, in order to take advantage of the early ripening of the shea fruit and get more volumes). The volumes of almonds to be collected in 2023 (35 tonnes already before the end of the collection campaign) could be higher than those

of 2022 (18 tons for the whole collection campaign), and this is already fueling some enthusiasm among processors in view of the recent increase in the purchase price of butter agreed with the buyer Savannah Food Company, SFC. A total of 04 tricycles with a capacity of 1.5 tons have been acquired and made available to SCOOPS Nankakoumina to improve their operational capacity. This would undoubtedly enable the cooperative to thrive autonomously after the project, with a minimum of support on the part of the buyer. 579 cashew nut producers trained in market issues and supply-demand dynamics, and sensitized on best cashew nut collection and post-collection practices, including quality issues. In addition, 838 producers have been supported to enter the cashew nut market, thanks to the fifteen (15) groups that have been structured. As a consequence, 301 tons of raw cashew nuts were marketed, including 206 tons in group sales thanks to the establishment of these structured groups. In addition, 20 volunteer beneficiary producers were trained in beekeeping and provided with starter kits (hives, outfits, small beekeeping equipment, etc.) for beekeeping production in cashew orchards as part of the project. Besides, 03 market garden areas have been developed and supported, in the villages of Yondolo, Wendènè and Tédiala. The selection of sites for these market gardening areas is based on three pillars, namely access to water, site development and structuring, and market outlets. In fact, 02 solar-powered boreholes (Yondolo and Tédiala) and 01 motorized pumping system from a nearby water point (Wendènè) have been installed to ensure continuous irrigation (at least 15 m³ per day) and to enable off-season cultivation on an area of 0.5 ha at least. Each site was equipped with 5 drums of 1,000 L capacity (for a total of 5,000 L) supplied by PVC pipes connected to the water source. In general, this activity was a great success, and the excitement of the beneficiaries was palpable. Off-season market gardening, makes it possible to sell products that are currently scarce on local markets. The income obtained, compared with the operating costs of the sites (inputs, seeds), makes this a highly profitable activity, and enables the groups to be autonomous thanks to the establishment of a common fund and working capital. It is also worth noting that agro-ecological practices have been introduced (compost pits, mulching, crop rotation, keeping trees on the sites) to keep the soil fertile and ensure the sustainability of crops. As a consequence, 98 direct members of the market gardening areas, beneficiaries of the water schemes, have been trained in best market gardening practices and supported in the cultivation and marketing of market garden produce. In addition, 07 groups were supported in the mechanization of post-harvest processing through the acquisition of 07 machines (03 peanut shellers, 01 maize-rice husker, 01 maize grinder, 01 maize-rice-peanut grinder and 01 rice thresher) by the project in order to strengthen the support to post-harvest processing for the rice, maize and peanut sectors, to increase the added value of the product marketed by the villagers, as it is pre-processed and therefore commands a higher price. This has made it possible to increase income for the same area of farmland and thus reduce deforestation, thanks to intensification of work and a first stage of processing at local level. Last but not least, 12 official groups (285 people) will receive a financing of FCFA 28,500,000 for income-generating activities (IGAs), obtained from the microfinance institution ADVANS in Côte d'Ivoire. This has built trust in the beneficiaries concerning the adequate sustainability of the PAPBio Comoé project which set up 12 Savings and Credit Groups (GECs).



Figure 23: Post-harvest processing machine installed by the project

Mangrove forests: 05 multidisciplinary pilot studies have been carried out to determine the economic, social and cultural values of the services and goods provided by mangrove ecosystems. In addition, 11 (out of 5 planned) profitable business sectors have been developed under this project through grants given to partners in the field for the implementation of concrete conservation actions. These are coconut oil: Sherbro (Sierra Leone); beekeeping: Casamance, Joal (Senegal) and Cacheu (Guinea-Bissau); oyster farming: Joal, Casamance (Senegal), Cacheu (Guinea-Bissau); arches: Joal (Senegal); market gardening: Gandoule (Senegal) and Ouidah (Benin); poultry farming: Gandoule (Senegal); salt production: Cacheu (Guinea-Bissau), Ouidah (Benin); improved stoves: Ouidah (Benin), Cacheu (Guinea Bissau); Fallie town and Sembenhun Town (LPMUR, Liberia), fish processing: Sherbro, Yawri Bay (Sierra Leone), Ouidah (Benin), Joal (Senegal), Pointe Saint Georges Casamance (Senegal) ; fish farming: Casamance (Senegal); ecotourism: Casamance (Senegal). A total of 105 (out of 03 planned) environmental education actions were implemented under the project. In addition, 3,125 (out of 400 planned) people from local communities were trained in sustainable practices. These people were trained in a variety of topics and/or tools: mangrove regeneration techniques, regulations governing the Cacheu River Mangrove Natural Park, manufacture and use of improved stoves, manufacture of garlands for catching oysters, savings and credit management, organizational capacity building, mangrove inventory techniques and the use of biological data collection tools, sustainable production and/or harvesting practices for oysters, bees and fish, assisted natural regeneration (ANR), village forest establishment, etc. In addition, 48 grants were awarded as part of the project to support on-the-ground conservation actions in the 4 LSCs where the project was implemented. However, it should be noted that out of the 48 grants awarded, 02 were suspended for failure to comply with administrative procedures. It should also be noted that seven (08) (out of a target of 08) municipalities benefited from investments in processing and marketing facilities for various value chains (honey, solar salt, processing of fishery products, oyster farming, etc.). Lastly, 65 (out of a target of 50) civil society organizations active in the project implementation areas have benefited from capacitybuilding from the project.



Figure 24: Making a Kenyan beehive



Figure 25: Making garlands

PONASI - AGN: One (01) diagnosis within AGN was carried out and focused, among other things, on the need for capacity building for the mobilization of internal resources, with a view to ensuring its financial autonomy to take charge of anti-poaching activities in its area of intervention and at the same time strengthen the resilience of communities through the development of IGAs as part of the project. This is how AGN has targeted agricultural production as a means of increasing its financial resources, by choosing to develop the cassava sector through the strengthening of the production and processing of cassava into by-products (attiéké, tapioca, gari and placali), one of the major activities of result 4 of the PONASI 2 project. With the aim of providing more raw material to the cassava processing unit, the project has put in place a strategy of inclusion and support for communities fort he production of cassava tubers. This was activity was implemented through exchange meetings with stakeholders (provincial departments in charge of agriculture, producers, processors and traders, as well as the umbrella organizations in the cassava sector). During these meetings, a diagnosis (Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats, SWOT) of the cassava sector was established with the aforementioned stakeholders. This diagnosis highlighted producers' needs in terms of seeds, capacity building and equipment, not only for the production but also for the processing of cassava into by-products, as well as the level of organization of the stakeholders. In addition, the following activities were carried out: demarcation of one (01) plot of land for the production of tubers and cuttings for AGN and to support the sector; negotiation and demarcation of one (01) plot of land for the processing unit; study trips to Côte d'Ivoire to fine-tune the collection of technical information; search for and selection of partners to support the cassava sector; etc. As a prelude to the start of the production season, the project set up a 10 ha production area in Ouallem, followed by the acquisition of production equipment (motor pump, fencing, etc.). Finally, 500,000 cuttings of variety 94/0270 (V5 variety) were acquired from seed producers in Sissili and Banfora for planting on 50 ha for producers in the Sissili (Léo, Bieha, Koumbo, Neboun, Boura, Bori) and Nahouri (Tiébélé, Ouallem, Pô, Tiakané and Guiaro).

This initiative has enabled the installation and support of 100 farmers with inputs for the successful production of cassava tubers and cuttings. It will eventually enable to produce 1,500 tons of cassava tubers at a rate of thirty (30) tons per hectare, according to estimates for this type of variety by the Environmental and Agricultural Research Institute of Burkina Faso (INERA). In addition, 01 cassava by-product processing unit has been set up to mobilize cassava tuber producers, processors and marketers from all 6 administrative provinces in the PONASI complex. The installation of this unit has created 60 direct jobs, and 3,000 indirect jobs are expected according to project forecasts.

Finally, equipment including a stainless-steel grinder, a cassava paste spin dryer, a semolina grinder, a rapping machine, a stainless steel lump breaker, a dryer and two cookers have been purchased for the unit.



Figure 26: Equipment acquired for cassava processing unit

5.2. Contributions of the PAPBio Project Component 2 (PAPBioC2): Regional Governance and Security

By way of reminder, Component 2 of PAPBio includes only one project entitled Regional Governance of Protected Areas in West Africa. This section presents the major and brief contributions of this project to the results of the entire programme.

Result 4: West Africa has an operational and effective protected area management system at the regional level, including climate risk management

01 regional system for the coordination, management and monitoring of protected areas in West Africa has been set up. The role of this mechanism is to pool experience and knowledge on PAs, to contribute to the improvement of regional sectoral policies and to deploy advocacy in favor of PAs and wildlife conservation. Thus, on the basis of a participatory, inclusive and consensual process, it was agreed to operationalize the mechanism according to the associative institutional model, in order to involve as fully as possible the diversity of stakeholders committed to the cause of conservation of protected areas and biodiversity in West Africa. To give the network every chance of becoming effectively operational (buy-in and ownership by stakeholders, dynamism and vitality, sustainability, etc.), a pre-formalization operating phase was agreed upon to reinforce the learning process of operations of the network, the co-creation of a common identity and a genuine dynamic of dialogue and cross-border cooperation. A Restricted Network Coordination Committee has been set up to lead this preparatory phase, which should lead to the formalization and official registration of the network.

A total of 20 informal network events were held:

- (i) **Animation #1** organized on February 18, 2022 on the theme: "Conservation Actors in West Africa: how to encourage networking and cross-border cooperation?";
- (ii) Animation #2 held on March 16, 2022 on the theme "The Virtual Hub for Conservation in West Africa: a crossroads to strengthen cross-border cooperation between professionals committed to safeguarding biodiversity in the region";
- (iii) Animation #3 organized on April 28, 2022 on the theme "European Union Programming 2021–2027 in West Africa: what place for biodiversity".

- (iv) Animation #4 organized on June 23, 2022 on the theme "TThe challenge of implementing management and monitoring operations in conservation areas in a fragile security context: what contributions of digital solutions?" ";
- (v) Animation #5 held on July 29, 2022 and focused on 'The public-private partnership in the field of conservation in West Africa: what contribution to the effectiveness of management and sustainable financing of protected areas?' ";
- (vi) Animation #6 organized on September 30, 2022 on the theme: "the participatory approach: for a more inclusive and sustainable management of biodiversity in and around protected and/or conserved areas";
- (vii) **Event #7** on "Tools for evaluating the effectiveness of protected area management and links with their labeling" held on October 28, 2022.
- (viii) **Animation #8** held on November 25, 2022 on the theme "Evaluation of protected and/or conserved areas management effectiveness: several tools for the same objective? ";
- (ix) Animation #9 held on February 28, 2023 with the themes "World Heritage sites: an opportunity to strengthen the effectiveness of the management of natural conservation landscapes in Africa" and "Towards the creation of a transboundary natural World Heritage site between Cameroon and Nigeria: update and lessons learned";
- Animation #10, held on March 30, 2023, on "The economic evaluation of the biodiversity: what contribution to a better management effectiveness of protected areas in West Africa?";
- (xi) **Animation #11** organized on April 27, 2023 on the theme "Economic valuation of biodiversity for better management of protected areas: some results and lessons learned".
- (xii) Animation #12 organized on May 31, 2023, with the theme: Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) and the30*30 targets of Global Biodiversity Framework: What contributions of ICCASs? ";
- (xiii) **Animation #13** held on July 31, 2023 on the theme: "The Banc d'Arguin National Park observatory: an ecological monitoring tool for more effective biodiversity management"
- (xiv) Animation #14 held on August 30, 2023 on the theme: "The Marine and Coastal Domain Monitoring Information System (SIDMC), an information tool to support the sustainable management of marine and coastal biodiversity in West Africa".
- (xv) Animation #15 organized on September 29, 2023 on the theme: "New management strategy 2023–2037 and system for monitoring the management effectiveness of the protected area system in Côte d'Ivoire: challenges and prospects."
- (xvi) Animation #16 held on October 26, 2023 on the theme: "Improving knowledge, supporting governance and strengthening the management of your AMCEs: discover the IMET - AMCE tool!";
- (xvii) Animation #17 organized on November 29, 2023 on the theme: "The environmental crime Information System: A decision-making support tool for the sustainable management of protected areas and biodiversity conservation in West Africa";
- (xviii) Animation #18 organized on February 28, 2024 on the theme: "Safeguarding endangered marine and coastal species (sea turtles and cetaceans) in Benin: how to involve communities to amplify conservation results?";
- (xix) Animation #19 organized on April 12, 2024 on the theme: "European Union support for biodiversity conservation: opportunities with the NaturAfrica West Africa (NAAO) Programme;
- (xx) Animation #20 organized on July 15, 2024 on the theme: "The role of nature-based solutions in strengthening the resilience of ecoregions and marine protected areas in West Africa."

Three (03) regional coordination meetings were also held physically. These meetings provided the opportunity for the conservation stakeholders in the region to discuss in more concrete terms major issues relating to biodiversity conservation in the region: i) the first workshop held in Ouaga in May 2022 focused on *"Managing protected areas in a fragile security context: what challenges for conservation in West*

Africa? "; ii) the second held in October 2022 in Niamey focused on "The participation of the region in major global forums on biodiversity conservation: what impacts on the improvement of the effective management of protected area in West Africa? "The third meeting was held in July 2023 in Cotonou and focused on the following theme: "What conservation in a context of security, humanitarian, economic and community crises?".

The project also played an active part in the 1st African Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Kigali (Rwanda) in July 2022, by financing the participation of 10 stakeholders (including 03 women) involved in conservation in West Africa to showcase various events organized by the project.

Attached is a screenshot of the testimonial on the LinkedIn page of a young conservation professional who received a Master's scholarship funded by the project, following her participation in the APAC, which was also funded by the project.



Figure 27: Testimony of a recipient of a Master's scholarship awarded as a result of her participation in APAC

Further, the action co-organized a public conference with the National Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters of Burkina Faso (ANSAL-BF) and the Ministry of the Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation of Burkina Faso, on the theme "What future for protected areas in Burkina Faso?". Held on July 28, 2022 in Ouagadougou; the objectives of the conference were, among others, i) to inform the public opinion in Burkina Faso about the role and importance of protected areas in the environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the country; ii) to inform the public about the scale and impact of terrorism in protected areas; iii) to contribute to the sensitization of Burkina Faso citizens of the benefits of protected areas; iv) to inform the general public about sustainable management methods of protected areas; v) to inform the Burkina Faso public about regional interconnections for strengthened management and governance of the country's protected areas; vi) increase the visibility of ANSAL-BF, the MEEEA, the PAPBio Programme and its partners.

In addition, 03 regional mechanisms received support through grants awarded by the Governance project, namely the Regional West African Network of Marine Protected Areas (RAMPAO), the Regional Marine Conservation Partnership (PRCM) and the Ecological Monitoring Centre (CSE).

The implementation agreement between IUCN and RAMPAO has enabled:

- ✓ The Extension of the Senegal national MPA network: two new MPAs have been created in Senegal (the Kaalolal Blouf Fogny MPA and the Gorée MPA), with their own Development and Management Plans (PAG);
- ✓ The Benin first MPA, the Bouche du Roy MPA, was created and endowed with a MDP, in collaboration with the Benin Ministry of the Environment and the Abidjan Convention. This action is jointly supported by the Integrated Management of Marine and Coastal Areas (GIZMaC) project;

✓ The 03 new aforementioned MPAs joined RAMPAO at the General Assembly of the network held in Dakar in March 2022.

The implementation agreement with PRCM aimed to contribute to the organization of 02 regional forums on the conservation and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems. The first forum was held from March 29 to April 1, 2022 in Senegal, and gathered some 400 participants concerned with the sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems. In addition to the PRCM 2022 forum and the side event on updating the regional MPA strategy, the PRCM received support to organize a side event to present and disseminate information on the development of an additional protocol on MPAs to the Abidjan Convention. The 2nd PRCM Forum supported by the action took place from April 23 to 26, 2024 in Bissau (Guinea Bissau). During this forum, a first side event was also organized in collaboration with the Abidjan Convention, PRCM, RAMPAO and the UEMOA Commission to review progress since the previous forum. A draft Additional Protocol to the Abidjan Convention on MPAs has been drawn up and is currently being analyzed by the Abidjan Convention's sister conventions (the Nairobi, Cartagena and Barcelona Conventions). Once this technical validation has been secured, the draft protocol will be sent to the Abidjan Convention focal points in member countries for their input.

Also, 01 information system for the monitoring of the marine and coastal area (SIDMC) was first designed and is available and freely accessible via the url <u>https://sidmc.obapao.org/fr/</u> before the organization of a virtual workshop to present the SIDMC that gathered some 40 participants from the region on February 13, 2023, as part of the implementation of the agreement signed with the CSE. Subsequently, two SIDMC familiarization sessions were organized (February 27, 2023 for French speakers and February 28 for English speakers) for some thirty stakeholders in the region. In addition, a workshop was organized in May 2023 in Lomé (Togo) to train regional stakeholders in the SIDMC and its functionalities, with a view to better disseminating the tool in the region. This training provided the opportunity to strengthen the capacities of some twenty participants from coastal countries, and enabled them to make suggestions for the for improvement of the platform. SIDMC will subsequently be integrated into the West African Regional Observatory of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (OBAPAO; <u>www.obapao.org</u>).



Figure 28: Mapping of the marine and coastal coastline between 2000 and 2020 at the level of Sierra Leone extracted from the SIDMC (April 2023)

In order to improve the coordination of protected area management with the implementation of various regional sectoral policies, programmes and/or strategies, a consultancy mission was carried out to produce several deliverables as listed in the project document. The reports produced cover the following: i) Analysis of the integration of PAs and biodiversity in sectoral policies, strategies and programmes; ii) Common regional reference framework for the coordination and monitoring of the integration and application of PA management measures in the implementation of regional sectoral policies and/or strategies. As for the last study, on the Common Regional Reference Framework, it was developed in the form of a Regional Management Strategy for Protected and Conserved Areas (PCAs) in West Africa by 2050, which is the indicator for the overall objective of the PAPBio (Promote endogenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development, responding to the challenges of climate change). Finally, a scientific article on the results obtained from phase 1 of the CECN is published in the MDPI (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute) journal, and a book on the process of building regional CECN capacity is currently under publication.



Développement d'une capacité régionale en comptabilité du capital naturel des zones protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest



Figure 29: IUCN publication on CECN in grey literature currently being finalized

All of the data, results and information resulting from the implementation of the Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounts (CECN) component of the project is made available to experts and political decision-makers in the region through OBAPAO (https://www.obapao.org) in order to enable them not only to assess the impacts of the programmes and projects implemented, but also to develop and define new actions and strategies with a view to strengthening the effective management of biodiversity in the region. In the process of their dissemination, the results were presented during the session on "Data for decision-making" during the virtual African Forum on Green Economy held in July 2020 and at APAC in July 2022. The CECN Sys4ENCA platform and ecosystem accounts were also presented at the third ESP Africa Conference held in hydride format in Kigali (Rwanda) in June 2022. In addition, 01 policy brief has been developed as an awareness-raising and advocacy tool for the wider use of ecosystem accounting. Finally, 01 scientific article on the results obtained from the phase 1 of the CECN has been submitted for

publication in the MDPI (Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute). Another book in French and English on the CECN component of the project has been on line since July 10, 2024 (English: https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/51494 and French: https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/51495). With regard to capacity-building for stakeholders, as part of the synergy established with OSS through the Copernicea project, 35 stakeholders from the region benefited from awareness-raising/training on CECN concepts and the Sys4ENCA tool during the regional exchange workshop on AFRIK'ENCA accounts for ecosystem valuation at the continental level held in September 2022 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). The national committee in charge of accounts creation in Burkina also benefited from training on account creation at national level. This team was also mobilized and reinforced for the creation and analysis of TIER-2 and TIER-3 ecosystem accounts at the WAP complex as part of the action.

For phase 2 dedicated to WAP, an initial training session on analyzing the results of the tool was held in April 2023 in Cotonou (Benin) with 15 participants, including 2 women. The meeting analyzed the results of the four (4) ecosystem accounts created (water, carbon, infrastructure and land use). These Tier 3 accounts, based on global data, enabled the stakeholders to appreciate the level of precision of the semi-automatic SYS4ENCA tool, by comparing the results obtained with the existing situation (reality in the field). The Total Ecosystem Capability (TEC) and TEC trend were also produced to measure the level of ecosystem restoration and degradation.

To facilitate the dissemination of the tool, a technical training was provided for protected area stakeholders in the WAP Complex, Bafing and OSS countries in October 2023. This training enabled the creation of tier 3 accounts for protected area conservationists and national accounts for stakeholders from OSS countries. These trained stakeholders are expected to become trainers of trainers to facilitate the dissemination of the SYS4ENCA tool in the region.

Finally, with a view to improving the effective management of the protected areas in the region in a sustainable manner, and in complementarity with the BIOPAMA programme, 14 stakeholders (12 men and 02 women from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo) in the region selected following a call for applications were trained in the use of the IMET tool (*Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool*). Subsequently, in April 2022, a further 21 people (of whom 02 women), including site managers from the WAP complex, took part in a refresher workshop on the IMET 2.0 tool. A total of 35 PA managers, including 4 women, benefited from capacity building in the use of the IMET 2.0 tool by the project.

Fourteen (14) IMET data collection campaigns have already been carried out in the landscapes in which the PAPBio is implemented:

- 05 IMET campaigns in Burkina Faso (Nazinga Classified Forest and Game Ranch, Sissili Classified Forest, Kabore Tambi National Park, W Burkina NP and Arly NP);
- 02 in Côte d'Ivoire (Comoé NP and Monts Tingui);
- 02 in Benin (Pendjari NP and W NP Benin);
- 01 in Niger (W NP Niger);
- 01 in Ghana (Mole National Park);
- 01 in Mali (Gourma Biosphere Reserve);
- 02 in Sierra Leone (Sherbro River Estuary and Yawri Bay marine protected areas).

The next figure shows the IMET data collection results.

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| Nazinga Classified Forest and Game Ranch | | | | | |
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Workshops were organized to report the results of the IMET campaigns to the PA supervisory administrations. These meetings were an opportunity to present to the administrations the current state of management effectiveness of the relevant PAs, to highlight the main challenges facing the PAs and the recommendations made during the IMET campaigns to improve the situation.

In addition, the workshop for the presentation of the WAP Complex IMET campaign provided an opportunity to assess the level of implementation of the recommendations from previous IMET campaigns.

It is important to note that some PAPBio implementation landscapes benefited from second IMET data collection campaigns after an interval of 2 years from the previous campaign (Nazinga Game Ranch, FC Sissili, PNKT, Comoé NP, Monts Tingui biodiversity area and Mole National Park).

Result 5: Experiences, knowledge and skills are exchanged and capitalized at territorial, national and regional level

27 stakeholders (including 02 women) involved in conservation from 09 West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo) selected following a call for applications were trained in the capitalization and sharing of information, with a view to creating a momentum for the sharing, exchange and consolidation of collective experiences for the emergence of Page | 66

a community of practice on the conservation and sustainable management of protected areas in West Africa. 01 learning and experience-sharing network has been set up through the publication of best practice stories on visibility and knowledge-sharing platforms (papaco.org; panorama.org; WCPA Newsletter, etc.).

In addition, 20 more actors from the PAPBio Component 1 project implementation teams were also trained in capitalization in October 2021. In addition to this training, participants also participated in the identification and documentation of best practices as part of the implementation of the project.

Additionally, 01 virtual hub has been set up and can be accessed at <u>https://conservationhub-wa.org/</u> as part of the action, and will soon be integrated into OBAPAO (integration delayed pending full operationalization of OBAPAO). In fact, the virtual hub is a computer application that provides a meeting point for exchanging and sharing experiences between stakeholders involved in the conservation of biodiversity and protected areas in West Africa. More than forty publications and information disseminations were issued on the virtual hub, while over 100 documents are available for download on the virtual hub. Finally, concerning its use, over 1,000 downloads (hits) have been made on the virtual web.



Figure 31: Report on the use of the virtual hub through Google Analytics (April 2023)

Also, two (02) best practice guides on the sustainable management of biodiversity and protected areas in the PAPBio implementation landscapes have been produced and their finalized versions are available.

The first guide contains best practices on (i) Community development on the outskirts of the Pendjari National Park: the experience of participatory management of protected areas in Benin; (ii) Civil society at the initiative of a multi-stakeholder platform for the protection of fauna and flora: the experience of the National Nature Reserve of Termitt-Tintoumma (RNNTT) in the regions of Agadez and Zinder and (iii) The establishment and management of an Area and Territory of Indigenous Community Heritage (ICCA): the Kawawana experience (Casamance, Senegal).

The second guide focuses on best practices on (i) community management of conservation areas (CREMA); (ii) Biodiversity conservation through the organic certification of shea collection areas by women in the Comoé National Park and (iii) Local conventions for the community management of natural resources at the future Gourma Elephant Reserve in Mali.

The next step concerns the layout of the 2 guides by a graphic designer for their edition into finished documents and the production of a few hard copies of the guides.

Finally, 03 workshops were organized to exchange experiences and formulate recommendations:

The first workshop was organized in November 2021 in Niamey (Niger) on the theme of "Protected areas and peripheral zones: the need to reconcile conservation issues and the socio-economic development objectives of territories". The meeting gathered about thirty participants from public administrations or government agencies in charge of protected area management, non-governmental organizations, civil society and community associations from West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal). A final communiqué was issued at the end of the meeting, setting out recommendations for improving biodiversity management through more inclusive approaches.

The second regional experience-sharing workshop was held in May 2023 in Cotonou (Benin) on the theme of "Ex situ conservation and translocation of endangered species in West Africa." The meeting gathered 28 participants from 8 West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo). The workshop report, including recommendations for supporting ex situ conservation and translocation initiatives to make a greater contribution to saving endangered species, was shared with stakeholders.

The third regional experience-sharing workshop was held from November 28 to 30, 2023 in Cotonou (Benin) on the theme: "Regional experience-sharing workshop for PAPBio Programme grantees in West Africa." 33 people took part in the workshop, representing 7 of the 10 projects in the PAPBio Programme. The report has been finalized and shared with stakeholders. Each meeting made it possible to bring around the same table some thirty participants from public administrations or government agencies in charge of the management of protected areas, non-governmental organizations, civil society and community associations from West Africa.

This result 5 of the project also aims to achieve the establishment of i) a harmonized curriculum and training arrangements for eco-guards; ii) a regional training curriculum, supported by a system of funding for eco-guard training, and iii) an accreditation and certification system for the training of protected area managers and professionals. As part of the implementation of this activity, several actions have been carried out. These include:

A harmonized curriculum and training materials were validated in December 2020 during a regional workshop. They include i) List of key competencies for the "Eco-guard" function; ii) Job description for the "Eco-guard" function; iii) Assessment of the capacities required for the "Eco-guard" function; iv) Priorities for strengthening the capacities of Eco-guards; v) Curricula and training Programmes for eco-guards; vi) Proposals for eco-guard training centers; vii) Proposals for accreditation/certification modalities; viii) Recommendations for the implementation of the training.

As a result, the West African region, including the WAP and RAMPAO networks, has a Profile 1 trade repository (according to WCPA global register of competencies).

- The content of the modules and the training plan have been developed and are available.
- 42 eco-guards trained: The pilot phase of the RAMPAO network eco-guard training took place from April 7 to July 31, 2022 at the Dalaba Training and Research Centre and the Toubakouta Military Training Centre (Senegal). Forty-two participants (including 13 women) from Senegal, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania were trained as eco-guards.

The worsening of the security situation on the outskirts of WAP has disrupted the WAP eco-guard training schedule (some supervisory authorities have subsequently decided not to hold the training in the training centers initially targeted).

The project objective was to build the capacities and expertise of conservation stakeholders in the region on issues of protected area management effectiveness and conservation planning, mainly through the updating of the training modules on PA management, supported by a system of training grants. As part of the implementation of this activity, several actions were carried out:

Updating of the training curricula for the Master's degree in Protected Area and Biodiversity Management (Master PABM) and the University Diploma in Protected Area Management (UDPAM) jointly administered

by Senghor University in Alexandria, the IUCN African Protected Areas and Conservation Programme (PAPACO) and IUCN-PACO.

To finalize this action, a validation workshop was held to discuss the proposals put forward and, on the basis of their feasibility, select the most relevant. In terms of major innovation, two (04) thematic UDs have been proposed: i) UD-Protected Area Management; ii) 02 UD-Protected Area Management, with a major in Fight against environmental crime and iii) UD-Protected Area Management, with a major in Biomonitoring.

Following the calls for applications, the Master scholarships were awarded to students (24 men and 06 women) in the region (from eight (08) countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo) enrolled in various Master's Programmes in protected area management and/or climate change. Furthermore, out of the 30 scholarships awarded to students, all 30 recipients have already defended their Master's theses as of October 2023



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Social factors explaining poor fishing practices on Buyo Lake in N'zo Partial Wildlife Reserve, Côte d'Ivoire

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Figure 32: Scientific publication from the dissertation of a student from Senghor University who benefited from the Master's scholarship scheme set up by the PAPBioC2 Governance project

Result 6: Cooperation in combating environmental crime has been strengthened and the security of conservation areas improved

01 information system on environmental crime (ISEC) is available and it includes i) a dynamic database providing access to the information necessary for informed and timely decision-making and action on environmental crime and ii) a master plan for data sourcing, exploitation, investigation and analysis to provide a framework and guidance for systematically feeding the database with information on environmental crime in West Africa. The database, integrated into OBAPAO, is already available and can be consulted <u>here</u>. The conceptual model was previously presented and validated by the region's actors involved in the fight against environmental crime during a virtual workshop held in November 2020. This database was also presented to the participants of the cross-border meetings of stakeholders involved in

the fight against environmental crime around the WAP Complex in April 2021 in Cotonou and around the PONASI-Mole-Comoé (PoMoCo) complex in August 2021 in Ouagadougou (see below) to assess its operationality and make the necessary improvements for full ownership of the tool by the stakeholders in the region. Finally, the tool was also presented at the global virtual meeting of the AIRCOP project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which brought together, on October 7, 2021 more than 200 participants from several institutions involved in the fight against fraud and illegal trafficking around the world.

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Figure 33: Screenshot of the English version of SICE

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Figure 34: Screenshot of the android version of SICE

A total of 07 data sharing protocols have been signed with law enforcement agencies (General Directorate of Water and Forestry (DGEF) in Niger, National Office of Protected Areas (OFINAP) in Burkina Faso, Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR) in Côte d'Ivoire, Federal Department of Forestry in Nigeria, General Directorate of Water, Forestry, and Hunting (DGEFC) in Benin, Guinean Office of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves (OGPNRF) and the Directorate of National Parks (DPN) in Senegal, thanks to a data-sharing agreement that has been designed and suggested to potential data suppliers. In addition, an information and exchange campaign on SICE and the data sharing protocol was carried out with 14 national administrations and institutions in charge of wildlife conservation and law enforcement in the West African region. An information article was also published in the October 2022 issue of *Nouvelles des Aires protégées d'Afrique* (NAPA) (202210_NAPAFR.pdf (papaco.org)) to increase the visibility of the SICE. As planned, SICE should gradually receive the data made available by field stakeholders, and the characterizations of pressures and threats to biodiversity defined on a regular basis. SICE is currently available in two languages (French and English) to facilitate the mobilization of all countries in the region.

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| PAPBIO CRIMINALITÉ EN | VIRONNEMENTALE |
| LE SYSTÈME D'INFORMATION RÉGIONALE SUR LA AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST : UN OUTIL DE PRISE DE DÉ LA CRIMINALITÉ LIÉE AUX ESPÈCES SAUVAGES ET | CRIMINALITÉ ENVIRONNEMENTALE (SICE) EN CISION INTELLIGENTE POUR LA LUTTE CONTRE LA CONSERVATION DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ |
| Ogoudje Isidore AMAHOWE, PhD ; <u>ogoudje.amahowe@iucn.org</u> Souleymane TIEMTORE <u>; souleymane.tiemtore@iucn.org</u> https://www.iucn.org/our-work/region/west-and-central-africa | |
| CONTEXTE Le Système d'information régionale sur la criminalité environnementale (SICE) en Afrique de l'Ouest a été mis en place par le projet Gouvernance régionale des aires protégées en Afrique de l'Ouest dans le cadre du Programme indicatif régional (PIR) 11 ^{ème} FED de l'Union européenne. Il | Faciliter le renseignement des indicateurs nationaux sur les menaces sur la biodiversité, le rapportage des convention internationales telles la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique ainsi que les mécanismes et intruments internationaux tels les rapports de l'IPBES, etc. |

Thus, operational units involved in the chain of control and surveillance of conservation areas, as well as their needs in terms of technical capacity building and intervention (equipment) were identified in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Senegal thanks to an institutional audit of the relevant institutional, champion and professional organizations and stakeholders to be supported as part of actions to combat environmental crime in the countries most affected. The aim of this support is not only to optimize the operational efficiency of the champions identified in the fight against environmental crime, but also to facilitate their networking and equip them with the capacities needed to handle environmental crime cases. The five champions identified are as follows: General Directorate of Water, Forestry, and Hunting (DGEFC, Benin); National Office of Protected Areas (OFINAP, Burkina Faso); Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR, Côte d'Ivoire); Directorate of Wildlife, Hunting, Parks and Reserves (DFC-PR, Niger); Directorate of National Parks (DPN, Senegal). Thus, equipment for the fight against environmental crime (equipment identified by the beneficiaries on the basis of material needs identified during the aforementioned institutional audit), worth approximately 30,000 euros each, was donated to them.

| Champion's name | Items of LCE equipment donated |
|----------------------|--|
| DGEFC, Benin | 02 laptops |
| | 02 desktop computers |
| | • 04 printers |
| | 04 Blackview smartphones |
| | 06 Cross motorcycles |
| OFINAP, Burkina Faso | 10 motorcycles |
| | • 10 GPS |
| | 09 trap cameras |
| | 10 bivouac and camping kits |
| | 05 survival and first-aid kits |
| | 05 laptops |
| | 08 smartphones for data collection |
| OIPR, Côte d'Ivoire | 05 laptops |
| | 04 desktop computers |
| | 05 Blackview smartphones |
| | 05 trap cameras |
| | 05 motorcycles |
| DFC-PR, Niger | • 05 laptops |

| Tahlo | 5 · List | ofthe | equin | ment r | vovided | to ' | the cham | nions |
|-------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|------|-----------|-------|
| Iavie | J. LISU | or the | equipi | nent p | noviueu | ιυ | the chain | JIOUS |
| | 01 desktop computer |
|--------------|--|
| | 08 Cross bikes |
| | • 05 GPS |
| | 07 Android tablets |
| | 06 binoculars |
| | 05 trap cameras |
| | 50 kits (military outfits, shoes, backpacks) |
| | 04 tents, each with 4 places |
| DPN, Senegal | 05 Cross motorcycles |
| | 10 Walkie Talkies |
| | 12 laptops |
| | 02 desktop computers |
| | 04 video projectors |
| | 20 rechargeable mobile Fly Bow |

In the same vein, a training was organized for 10 forestry officials (two agents from each of the five agencies identified above) on wild species surveillance and monitoring techniques through the UAV technology (*Unmanned Aerial vehicle*) including drones, in December 2021 in the Bandia Reserve (Senegal) on the basis of preliminary identification of needs. This training was specifically aimed at i) supporting the anti-poaching efforts of forest agents through reconnaissance of the terrain by drone to search for and provide clues by limiting their exposure and endangerment and ii) improving the management of peripheries and illegal activities in particular, thanks to precise mapping through drone imagery; etc.

At the end of the training, each national agency was equipped with a drone.

From November 6 to April 2022, six (06) series of training sessions were carried out for 101 professionals (including 18 women) from 16 West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo). In addition, three (03) cross-border networking meetings of actors involved in the fight against environmental crime (LCE) within and around the WAP complex, the PoMoCo complex, the PONASI complex (Burkina Faso), the Mole National Park (Ghana) and the Comoé National Park (Cote d'Ivoire) and the marine protected areas and Marine and coastal ecosystems of West Africa were organized, respectively in April 2021 in Cotonou (Benin), August 2021 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and October 2023 in Dakar). At each meeting, around thirty stakeholders, including the champions identified above, shared their working methods and experiences, the difficulties encountered, mechanisms for collaboration and networking, etc. The technical reports also mention that at each meeting, WhatsApp groups were created to facilitate networking and information sharing.

Finally, the project took part in the second dialogue on illicit economies, instability and violent terrorism around and within protected areas, held in Cotonou in October 2022. The dialogue was organized by the German Foreign Office and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, and brought together some 50 participants from the world of biodiversity conservation and protected areas, as well as research institutions on armed conflict and terrorism, from the 15 ECOWAS countries, Cameroon and Chad.

In the implementation of this activity, the project was heavily involved in finalizing the process of development of the "Strategy on combating wildlife crime in West Africa (LSCES)", led by the ECOWAS Commission with the support of the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme (WABiCC). The project team participated successively in the technical validation workshop and the ministerial validation workshop.

In addition, a consultant recruited for this purpose was tasked with harmonizing national legal frameworks and developing a community legal instrument on environmental crime in West Africa. The mission produced deliverables that were reviewed and technically validated by wildlife conservation administrations in the region at a regional workshop held in Cotonou, Benin, in September 2022. Following this workshop in June 2023, IUCN forwarded the community legal instrument (Community Directive on Combating Environmental Crime within the ECOWAS region) to the UEMOA Commission for adoption at a forthcoming Council of Environment Ministers of the Union's member countries.

In addition, collaboration has been intensified with the Task Force of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora to facilitate the accession of West African States to the agreement.



Figure 36: Participants at the regional workshop for the validation of the reports of the mission to harmonize national legal frameworks for the fight against environmental crime in West Africa

In addition, 09 West African countries (Director General of Water, Forestry and Hunting of Benin; Deputy Director of Hunting, Wildlife Protection and Wetlands of Côte d'Ivoire; Operations Manager of the Wildlife Division of Ghana; Director General of the Nature Conservation Corps of Guinea; Confiscation & Anti-Smuggling Manager, Forestry Development Authority (FDA) of Liberia; Director General of Water and Forestry of Niger; Conservator of Parks, National Park Service, Nigeria; Deputy Director of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Soil Conservation of Senegal and Head of Protected Areas and Wildlife Division, CITES National Focal Point of Togo) participated in the 13th Governing Council of the Parties to the Lusaka Agreement held in March 2022 in Zambia in order to strengthen their knowledge of the agreement with a view to facilitating their accession thanks to the support of the project (of the 9 countries that participated, only Liberia has already acceded to the agreement). This participation provided participants with the opportunity to better understand the objectives, the statutory bodies, the member and signatory states, the operation of the agreement and the conditions for accessing the agreement.

Finally, 04 projects aimed at strengthening the conservation status of endangered species were implemented. These include support for ex situ conservation centers and the award of scholarships for doctoral research on wildlife translocation and reintroduction projects. The objective of this activity is to establish a regional capacity for reception, translocation and ex situ conservation of critically endangered species resulting from seizures as part of the fight against environmental crime.

Table 6: List of grants awarded to ex situ conservation centers

| Name of beneficiary | Title | of | the | initiative | Amount | of | the | Implementation |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-----|------------|----------|-------|-----|----------------|
| organization | suppo | orted | | | grant aw | arded | ł | status of |

| | | | the project |
|---|---|--|----------------|
| West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) - Ghana | Conservation translocation of captive bred white-naped mangabeys, <u>Cercocebus</u> <u>lunulatus</u> , to reinforce wild populations in western Ghana | EUR 48,000 (total budget of EUR 99,450) | Completed |
| Nature Tropicale ONG - Benin | Ex situ conservation and reintroduction of endangered marine turtles (Lepidochelys olivacea, Dermochelys coriacea, Chelonia mydas and Eretmochelys imbricata along the Atlantic coast of Benin | EUR 48,000 (total budget of EUR 264,304) | Completed |
| Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) - Niger | Restoration of the North African ostrich (<i>Struthio</i> <i>camelus camelus</i> L., 1858) in Niger | EUR 48,000 (total budget of EUR 104,270) | Completed |
| Regional Center for Research and Education for Sustainable Development (CREDI-ONG) - Benin | Project to Support ex situ Conservation and Natural Translocation of the Dwarf Crocodile (<i>Osteolaemus</i> <i>tetraspis</i>) (VU, IUCN Red List) and West African Crocodile in the sitatunga Valley (Benin) | EUR 46,263 (total budget of EUR 60,000) | Completed |



Figure 37: Care of a dwarf crocodile specimen before its ex situ conservation (CREDI ONG)



Figure 38: Transport of two (02) ostriches to their enclosures in the Gadabédji biosphere Reserve (Sahara Conservation Fund NGO)

08 threatened animal species have benefited from actions to improve their conservation status. In addition, two (02) doctoral research grants have also been awarded following several calls for applications:

| Title of the doctoral research project | Country of origin of the doctoral candidate | Amount of the scholarship awarded | Implementation status of the project |
|---|---|--|--|
| <i>Conservation of the lion</i> (Panthera leo Linnaeus, 1758) in West Africa: Feasibility study of lion reintroduction in the Comoé National Park | Benin | EUR 48,000 (total budget of EUR 60,000) | Project started in June 2021 and defended on 31 October 2023 with 03 scientific publications |
| Translocation of the dama gazelle (<i>Nanger dama</i>) from the Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve to the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve in Niger | Niger | EUR 48,000 (total budget of EUR 60,098) | Started in February 2022, the research is at a very advanced level with field work completed, the dissertation drafted and two articles submitted (Pending the Decisions of the reviewers). The defense of this PhD dissertation will be defended beyond the duration of the action. |





Figure 39:Building capacities of the beneficiaries of the doctorate scholarship dedicated to the translocation of lion on capture and care techniques to big carnivores (lion and Lycaon) at Zambia Carnivore Programme au South Luangwa National Park (Zambia)

Figure 39: Building capacities of the beneficiaries of the doctorate scholarship dedicated to the translocation of lion on capture and care techniques to big carnivores (lion and Lycaon) at Zambia Carnivore Programme au South Luangwa National Park (Zambia) Thus, the doctoral research grants supported will make it possible to strengthen the conservation status of two (02) additional threatened species.

In addition, 01 mission to analyze relevant national legal frameworks that could contribute to the reduction of extinction risks in six (06) countries most affected by extinction problems or which constitute important relays in the trafficking of live protected animals (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Niger and Senegal) was ordered by the project. Proposals for improving and harmonizing legal frameworks were made in a report.



Figure 40: Cover page of the synthetic executive summary developed for awareness-raising and advocacy with political authorities and decision-makers in the region



Figure 41: Awareness-raising and advocacy with the Minister of Environment and Fight against Desertification of Niger



Figure 42: Awareness-raising and advocacy with the President of the Rural Development and Environment Committee of the Niger National Assembly



Figure 43: Awareness-raising and advocacy with the Minister of Living Environment and Sustainable Development of Beni



Figure 44: Awareness raising and advocacy with the Director General of the National Center for Wildlife Reserves Management (CENAGREF) of Benin

Result 7: Monitoring the PAPBio Programme

A harmonized monitoring framework for the PAPBio (used at the beginning of this report to present the PAPBio performance framework) was developed through a participatory process that involved all PAPBio component 1 operators. This framework is filled in on a regular basis by all operators with a view to producing semi-annual reports on the overall monitoring of the PAPBio.

Further, the PAPBio Programme has been provided with an impact measurement system to document the Programme's contribution to the well-being of communities and their resilience to climate change.

02 reports are available, one establishing the baseline situation and the other the socio-economic impacts of the PAPBio implementation landscapes. The table below shows the socio-economic indicator values at the beginning (2019) and at the end (2024) of the PAPBio Programme.

Furthermore, the results of the socio-economic impact assessment report show that most of the values achieved by the socio-economic indicators of the PAPBio Programme indicate improvements, particularly in terms of:

- PA related agricultural income and businesses of households
- yields of various crops;
- assets owned by the household compared to the baseline;
- beneficiary populations in integrated PA management;
- application of PA related agricultural and business management practices;
- social cohesion, resulting in fewer conflicts of all kinds within beneficiary communities.

In general, the socio-economic performance is satisfactory. It should be noted, however, that the fragile security situation at several PAPBio sites has prevented the programme from maximizing its positive impacts and meeting all expectations, mainly in the East of Burkina Faso (W and Arly park sites), North of Benin (W and Pendjari park sites), North of Côte d'Ivoire (Monts Tigui and Comoé sites) and Mali (Gourma elephant site).

Table 8: Overview of socio-economic indicators' baseline values at the PAPBio implementation landscapes at the beginning (2019) and at the end (2024) of the Programme

| | | | Benchmark value of the indicators in 2019 (baseline) | | Final value of inc 2024 (end | dicators in line) | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|--|--------------------|---|--|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|---------|
| Wordin | g | Calculation method | Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment |
| 1. Average income per household | | Simple average (SUM (Household_vegetable_ income (i); Household_livestock_in come (i); Household_fishing_inco me (i)) | 678298 | 598,117 | 1,341,810 | 1,200,33 1 | 61,298 | |
| 2. Percentage of households/families benefiting from integrated natural resource management in protected areas (PAs) | | A/n A=Number of households reporting income-generating activities directly linked to PA resource exploitation n=Total number of households surveyed | 50.89% | 42.78% | 56.10% | 46.30% | 2% | |
| | Not involved | | 4.17% | 25% | 17% | 31% | | |
| 3. Level of involvement of local populations in | Fairly involved | | 33.33% | 50% | 25% | 15% | | |
| conservation activities | Perfectly involved | | 62.50% | 25% | 58% | 54% | | |

| | | | | | Benchmark value indicators in 2019 (l | Benchmark value of the indicators in 2019 (baseline) | | icators in ne) | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---------------|-------------------|--|--|
| | Wordin | 3 | | Calculation method | Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment |
| 4. Areas (km ²) sustainably (wit | managed e hin PAs) | ffectivel | y and | The sum of effectively and sustainably managed areas declared by PA managers | Impact | <u>NA [1]</u> | <u>15,217</u> | <u>NA</u> | 15,217 | |
| 5. Area degrac PAs (ha) | led and reh | abilitate | d within | The sum of degraded and rehabilitated areas within PAs (ha) declared by PA managers | | | 327.5 | <u>NA</u> | 327.5 | Concerns protected areas adjacent to the beneficiary populations only. |
| Number of have participat (LDPs) that development of | communiti cory Local integrate bjectives | es that Develop conserv | reported to ment Plans vation and | | 12 | 4 | 12 | 4 | 0 | |
| 7. Number | | | PONASI | | 5 | N/A | 4 | | | Concerns |
| and types of wildlife/plant | Wildlife | low | WAP/Burk ina | Number of species with extinction level (i) | 5 | N/A | 6 | | 1 | protected areas adjacent to the |
| species whose risk of Wildlife Lc | /ildlife Low E pecies level / | Elephants / Gourma | ranging from Low, | 2 | N/A | 6 | | 4 | beneficiary populations | |
| extinction is reduced | | | Mangrove s/Senegal | | 0 | N/A | 1 | | 1 | only. This figure represents the |

| | | | | | Benchmark value indicators in 2019 (b | Benchmark value of the indicators in 2019 (baseline) | | icators in ne) | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|------------------------------|---------|------------|---------------------------|---|--|--|-------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | Wording | 5 | | Calculation method | Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment |
| (wildlife/plant -specific | | | Mangrove s/Benin | | 1 | N/A | 0 | | -1 | number of species (see |
| index) | | | Monts- Tigui/Com oé | | <u>ND [2]</u> | N/A | 0 | | | tables 25 and 26 above) |
| | | | PONASI | | 7 | N/A | 5 | | -2 | |
| | | | WAP/Burk ina | | 4 | N/A | 0 | | -4 | |
| | | Mediu | Mangrove s/Senegal | Number of species with | 2 | N/A | 0 | | -2 | |
| | | m level | Mangrove s/Senegal | extinction level (i) ranging from Low, Medium to High | 1 | N/A | 0 | | -1 | |
| | | | Mangrove s/Benin | | 6 | N/A | 1 | | -5 | |
| | | | Monts- Tigui/Com oé | | ND | N/A | 5 | | | |
| | | High | PONASI | Number of species with | 2 | N/A | 2 | | | |
| | | level | WAP/ | extinction level (i) | 5 | N/A | 0 | | -5 | |

| | | | | Benchmark value of the indicators in 2019 (baseline) | | Final value of indicators in 2024 (endline) | | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|------------------|--------------|------------------------------|---|--|---------------|--|---------|--|---------|
| Wording | 3 | | Calculation method | Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment |
| | | Burkina Faso | ranging from Low, Medium to High | | | | | | |
| | | Mangrove s/Senegal | | 0 | N/A | 0 | | | |
| | | Mangrove s/Senegal | | 5 | N/A | 1 | | -4 | |
| | | Mangrove s/Benin | | 5 | N/A | 4 | | -1 | |
| | | Monts- Tigui/Com oé | | ND | N/A | 3 | | | |
| | | PONASI | | 8 | N/A | 5 | | -3 | |
| _ | | WAP/Burk ina | Number of species with | 5 | N/A | 5 | | 0 | |
| Plant species | Low level | N/A Mangrove s/Senegal | extinction level (i) ranging from Low, Medium to High | 2 | N/A | 10 | | 8 | |
| | | Mangrove s/Senegal | | 0 | N/A | 2 | | 2 | |

| | | | | Benchmark value of the indicators in 2019 (baseline) | | Final value of indicators in 2024 (endline) | | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|---------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|--|--|---|--|
| Wording | : | | Calculation method Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment | |
| | | Mangrove s/Benin | | 0 | N/A | 0 | | 0 | |
| | | Monts- Tigui/Com oé | | ND | N/A | 3 | | | |
| | | PONASI | | 4 | N/A | 5 | | -1 | |
| | | WAP/Burk ina | | 0 | N/A | 0 | | 0 | |
| | Mediu | Elephants / Gourma | Number of species with | 3 | N/A | 0 | | -3 | |
| | m level | Mangrove s/Senegal | ranging from Low, Medium to High | 0 | N/A | 0 | | 0 | |
| | | Mangrove s/Benin | | 7 | N/A | 1 | | -6 | |
| | | Monts- Tigui/Com oé | | ND | N/A | 7 | | | |
| | | PONASI | | 2 | N/A | 2 | | 0 | |

| | | | | | Benchmark value indicators in 2019 (b | of the baseline) | Final value of ind 2024 (endli | icators in ne) | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---------------------|--|-------------------|---|---|
| Wording | | Calculation method | Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment | | |
| | | | WAP/Burk ina | | 0 | N/A | 0 | | 0 | |
| | | | Elephants / Gourma | Number of creation with | 2 | N/A | 0 | | -2 | |
| | | High | Mangrove s/Senegal | extinction level (i) | 6 | N/A | 0 | | -6 | |
| | | level | Mangrove s/Benin | Medium and High | 5 | N/A | 3 | | -2 | |
| | | | Monts- Tigui/Com oé | | ND | N/A | 0 | | | |
| 8. Percentage sustainable nat agriculture goo training receive | of people th ural resourc d practices a d | nat imp ce use a as a res | lement nd ult of the | A/n A=Number of people applying one of the Good Agricultural Practices n=total number of households surveyed | 92.70% | 88.10% | 87.88% | 59.18% | 24% | |
| 9. Number of businesses, gro cooperatives th generate additi | local ups and nat onal | Numb busine and co | er of local esses, groups ooperatives | Number of businesses surveyed | 122 | NA | 98 | | | Concerns only beneficiary populations |

| | | | Benchmark value indicators in 2019 (k | of the baseline) | Final value of ind 2024 (endli | icators in ne) | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------|
| Wording | | Calculation method | Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment |
| income from natural resources in protected areas | Average income generated in FCFA | | 253535 | NA | 2,243,443 | | | ldem |
| 10. Percentage of the community households that live above the poverty line | | Income per asset>=Poverty threshold of the country in which the household is surveyed Income per asset=Total household income/Number of assets | 36.10% | 29.22% | 47.50% | 44.80% | -4.18% | |
| | Cashew | | 241.57 | 261.13 | 258.44 | 154.96 | 123 | |
| | Peanuts | | 560.83 | 661.7 | 1031.90 | 1020.15 | 113 | |
| 11. Yield (in Kg/Ha) of | Cotton | Declared cron | 1233.67 | 1581.41 | 1755.39 | 1990.28 | 113 | |
| the main agricultural | Yam | production/Declared | 4308.71 | 3325.61 | 2149.44 | 2200.00 | -1034 | |
| crops produced by the | Maize | crop area | 1067.32 | 947.38 | 1511.32 | 1592.56 | -201 | |
| households | Millet | | 657.33 | 648.8 | 730.19 | 841.67 | -120 | |
| | Rainfed rice | | 929.11 | 796.48 | 1282.99 | 720.34 | 430 | |
| | Sorghum | | 686.83 | 622.99 | 682.82 | 702.74 | -84 | |

| | | | Benchmark value of the Final value of indicator indicators in 2019 (baseline) 2024 (endline) | | | | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|---------------|-------------|---------|--|---|
| Wordin | 3 | Calculation method | Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment |
| 12.1 Proportion of anti-trafficking interventions (anti-fraud/poaching/other illegal activities) leading to legal sentences | | A/ B A=Number of anti- trafficking interventions (anti- fraud/poaching/other illegal activities leading to legal sentences) B=Total number of anti- trafficking interventions (anti- fraud/poaching/other illegal activities) | 8% | | 8.6% | | -0.6% | Punishments inflicted in case of offense |
| 12.2. Number of on-site | Number of interventions | Sum of interventions by the various PAs | 500 | | 289 | | -211 | Indicator 12. 2 is not part of the dashboard of |
| interventions and violations | Number of offenses (40) | Sum of infringements for the various PAs | 40 | | 25 | | -15 | indicators, but it has been deemed useful to document it |
| 13. Number and types of use of the RRIS (Regional | Number of uses of the RRIS | Sum of Pas using the RRIS | 0 | N/A | 1 | | 1 | |

| Wording | | Calculation method | Benchmark value of the indicators in 2019 (baseline) | | Final value of indicators in 2024 (endline) | | Impact (calculation method to be included) | |
|---|---|--|--|---------------|---|---------|--|---------|
| | | | Beneficiary | Indicat or | Beneficiary | Control | (Beneficiary_En dline value- Control_Endline value)- (Beneficiary_ Baseline value- Control Baseline value)- | Comment |
| Reference Information System) of the West African PA Regional Observatory | Types of uses of the RRIS | List of uses of the RRIS | 0 | N/A | To get a global picture Prioritizing and solving problems To assess the effectiveness of PA | | | |
| 14. Number of PA management agencies in the Region that have formally adopted IMET and number of annual uses | Number of PA management agencies in the region | Sum of PAs using the IMET | 5 | N/A | 2 | | -3 | |
| | Number of annual uses | Simple average of the number of PAs using them | 3 | N/A | 1 | | -2 | |

A communication strategy and plan, as well as a knowledge management and advocacy plan, have been developed to support the implementation of the PAPBio. The implementation of these communication plans and visibility, as well as collaborative learning tools, is gradually taking shape with the support of private firms DAI/BENNETT under contract with the European Union Delegation in Ouagadougou. The project team facilitated the relationship between the firms and the PAPBio operators and ensured the regular monitoring of the production of expected deliverables. The EU Delegation in Ouagadougou ensured the ultimate validation of the production of deliverables.

During the implementation of the Programme, the following deliverables were produced and made available to the EU delegations in charge of monitoring PAPBio grant contracts, to the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions, and to PAPBio project implementation operators:

- Result 1:300/300 stickers, 300/300 flyers, 100/100 posters and 40/40 kakemonos;
- Result 2:03/09 stories/visual narratives already elaborated (PONASI, WAP, mangrove areas);
- **Result** 3:03/16 podcasts produced (PONASI, WAP, mangrove areas);
- **Result** 4: 30/40 visual pieces developed in connection with the global environmental calendar (international days), animation of the digital communication of the Programme, organization of major events by the Programme, etc.);
- Result 5:03/08 photographic banks established (PONASI, WAP Benin and mangrove areas in Benin);
- **Result** 6:0/01 advertorial on the Programme achievements on completion of its implementation;
- **Result** 7:30+/16 beneficiaries from the PAPBio projects have been trained on 03/03 media training modules;
- **Result** 8:20/20 animations of the West Africa conservation professionals network organized.

Also, the PAPBio website (<u>https://www.papbio.org/</u>) is online and updated on a regular basis to give greater visibility to the activities Programme.



Figure 45: Screenshot of the PAPBio Website

A total of 04 sessions of the PAPBio Regional Monitoring Committee (CdS-R) have been held to date. It should be noted, however, that a fifth and final session of CdS-R is scheduled for September 2024.

The 1st session of the Regional Steering Committee (R-SC) of the PAPBio was organized virtually in November 2020. The supervisory administrations of the PAs in the ECOWAS/UEMOA + Mauritania States; the EU Delegations of the PAPBio implementing countries; the ECOWAS/UEMOA Commissions; the PAPBio, PAPFor and BIOPAMA implementing partners; the beneficiaries of the grants; the Abidjan Convention and the WASF; etc. participated in the meeting. The R-SC reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the funding agreements executed by the PAPBio implementation partners. The levels of implementation were very discrepant between projects, because they started at different times (some projects started as early as 2018 while others were launched only in 2020). Moreover, most of the projects were still in the start-up phase, with the exception of the GIZ project which started in 2018.

On the sidelines of this R-SC, a coordination meeting of the PAPBio implementing partners was organized in order to harmonize the understanding of the need for networking of operators, to present the harmonized tools and frameworks planned as part of the monitoring of the Programme, to agree on the modalities of implementation of joint actions requiring coordination at the level of the PAPBio Programme, etc.

In addition, a 2^{2nd} PAPBio regional coordination meeting was organized in September 2021. It provided an opportunity to review potential needs for improvement of the PAPBio global monitoring report as at June 2021; to agree on the steps for producing the next PAPBio global monitoring report and the CdS-R 2021; to present the Environmental Crime Information System and encourage PAPBio stakeholders to contribute to its operationalization (sharing data on the LCE, etc.); etc.

The 2nd CdS-R of the PAPBio was held in December 2021 in hybrid, face-to-face and virtual mode. The supervisory administrations of the PAs in the ECOWAS/UEMOA + Mauritania region; EU Delegations;

ECOWAS/UEMOA Commissions; operators implementing the PAPBio, PAPFor and BIOPAMA Programmes; grant beneficiaries; the Abidjan Convention and WASF participated in the meeting. The CdS-R provided an opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the grants awarded to implementing operators.

Then, a 3rd PAPBio regional coordination meeting took place in September 2022 in virtual mode. It provided an opportunity to review potential needs for improving the PAPBio global monitoring report; to agree on the steps to be taken to produce the next PAPBio global monitoring report and to organize the next session of the CdS-R PAPBio committee; etc.

The 3rd CdS-R of the PAPBio took place in January 2023 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in hybrid mode. The PA supervisory authorities from the ECOWAS/UEMOA + Mauritania region; EU Delegations; ECOWAS/UEMOA Commissions; representatives of grant beneficiaries; and operators implementing the PAPBio, PAPFor and BIOPAMA Programmes attended the meeting. The CdS-R provided an opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the grants awarded to implementing operators and to make recommendations for better implementation performance.

Finally, a 4th session of the PAPBio CdS-R was held in December 2023 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in hybrid mode. The meeting was attended by PA supervisory authorities from the ECOWAS/UEMOA + Mauritania region; EU Delegations; ECOWAS/UEMOA Commissions; representatives of grant beneficiaries; and operators implementing the PAPBio, PAPFor and BIOPAMA Programmes. The CdS-R provided an opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the grants awarded to implementing operators and to make recommendations for better implementation performance.

A mission to visit and monitor the achievements of projects financed under the PAPBio Programme was organized in June 2023 in Togo and Ghana. The aim of the mission was to provide the donors (EU and UEMOA) the opportunity to see for themselves the achievements of operators involved in implementing the PAPBio Programme, in order to ensure that they are in line with national policies and local needs, and to make recommendations where necessary. For this trip, the implementation sites of the PAPBioC1 Mangroves project implemented by IUCN in mangrove landscapes in Togo and Ghana as well as the sites of the SIBCI project on the outskirts of Mole NP were visited. Significant results and achievements have been recorded in the field, some of which resulted from considerable effort and ingenuity on the part of operators.



Figure 46: Participants to the visit and monitoring mission of PAPBio achievements

6. Challenges, difficulties and constraints related to the implementation of the PAPBio Programme projects

The implementation of the PAPBio Programme took place in a context marked by a global health crisis, accentuated by an acute security crisis in some parts of the region. While the negative impact of the health crisis on the implementation of the activities of the programme continues to fade progressively, the persistent security crisis in some parts of the region further handicaps some field operators on a daily basis.

The table below lists, in a non-exhaustive manner, the major challenges and constraints faced by the PAPBio implementing partners, according to their location. It establishes their potential impact on the performance of the project, identifies the alternatives promoted to continue implementing the activities and presents possible support needed to improve the intervention context.

Table 9: Major challenges and constraints affecting the implementation of the PAPBio Programme projects

| Major challenges/constraints | Level of impact | Impacts on the implementation of PAPBio activities | Solutions (and/or alternatives) developed | Possible needs for support |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | (1–3 ¹) on | | | |
| | affected | | | |
| | projects | | | |
| Security Situation | 3 (for relevant sites) | Limited access to certain areas of intervention, greatly reducing the scope and performance of projects Constant threat to the project teams as well as the beneficiary populations that requires more precautions, and consequently more time and financial resources Context that makes project implementation more difficult, mobilizing significant human resources for each trip and activity Virtual organization of meetings and postponement or cancellation of some field activities in heavily impacted areas Limited (in-country and international movements (especially by road), which has an impact on project implementation The presence of armed groups in the main elephant refuges, forcing the animals to be more frequent in the village settlements, resulting in an upsurge in human-elephant conflicts. This situation requires urgent action to | Continuously adapt the intervention strategy (adaptive management) to achieve the expected objectives and results Strengthen the security policy to protect employees and local partners (for example, the community eco-guards) Promotea "hands-on" approach by developing collaborations with local NGOs active in the periphery (limit the movement of external actors into fragile security areas) Use of digital solutions (especially the monitoring of activities) Adapt the pace and frequency of implementation of activities to the situation on the ground Promote recruitment in local communities where | As a matter of urgency, implement the aerial anti- poaching plan for the whole WAP complex. Ideally, expedite the effective operationalization of the Tripartite Agreement between Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger Initiate the process of formal recognition of the function of "Eco-guards" (Niger), which could eventually legitimize the bearing of automatic weapons by the latter Develop national legislations for the recognition of the status of the eco-guards, or even to harmonize legal frameworks for the Eco-Guards' profession at the regional level. Allow the projects to ensure a flexible and adaptive management address situational emergencies (changes in work locations or priority actions to be carried out). |

¹ Impact level scale on project implementation: 1: slightly impacted; 2: moderately impacted et 3: strongly impacted

| | prevent further deterioration of an | qualified human resources | • Financial support to ensure |
|--|---|---|---|
| | Security incidents involving exchanges of fire with automatic weapons against poachers and traffickers from the communities | are available The project activities are reoriented towards these areas in order to promote the project model for less conflictual cohabitation | continuity of service and provision of the reserve with the resources required to respond effectively to changing security challenges |
| | Activities were canceled on the outskirts of the Comoé National Park (SRADT, development of ecotourism activities) at the end of the 1st quarter of year 2, due to the extension of the insecurity zone in the north of the country. | Consultation and mobilization of regional, local and traditional authorities for them to condemn the attacks on RNNTT staff Implementation of a law enforcement strategy adopted for the period 2023–2027. New activities have been introduced, taking into | |
| | | account the strategic nature of the project area in terms of stability and peace- building. | |
| Limited capacity and lack of willingness/responsiveness on the part of some 3 project partners (government departments/organizations awarded grants, etc.) | ○ Delay in the implementation of field activities | Encourage state actors to take responsibility, and possibly compensate for the lack of capacity Capacity-building for partners to improve their operational capabilities (activities not always initially planned and sometimes requiring additional costs and timeframes) | TFP support to improve institutional governance |

| Administrative red tapes/ strict and inflexible requirements of some donors | 3 | Delay in the implementation of activities Significant delays in the fulfillment of commitments, in particular by certain PA supervisory authorities Risk of reducing the effectiveness of an existing community engagement model that works, based on trust and rooted in the local culture, with the introduction of insufficiently adapted safeguard measures that subject the relationships with community partners to a contract. | 0 | To compensate for delays in the response from some donors in connection with their decision to fund (or not) actions, several requests had to be made to different organizations to obtain emergency funds strengthening of the dialog and consultation with the administrative authorities in charge of the PAs, and finding strategies to speed up the fulfillment of commitments on both sides. Engagement with donors to present the model in place and make the necessary adaptations in the safeguard measures (time- consuming process) | 0 0 | Manage the fulfillment of commitments, bearing in mind the implementation schedule or the duration of the project Taking into account possible major constraints arising in the field, and where justified, donors should consider making the rules more flexible and adaptive. Donors: flexibility and adaptation of safeguard measures to specific contexts |
|--|---|---|---|--|-----|---|
| Covid-19 pandemic | 3 | Although pre-pandemic habits have returned to almost normal, Covid-19 had a substantial impact on project implementation during the active phase of the pandemic: Impact on all activities related to movement, meetings, etc. (gradually declining) Impact on the implementation schedule of some activities (gradually decreasing) Delay in the provision of some additional funds requested | 0 | Postponement or modification of the formats (use of virtual mode) of some activities to adapt to the health situation. Moreover, the virtual format has not proven to be effective enough in some cases, and above all, it limits the financial consumption capacity of the projects. | | |
| Political instability | 2 | Delay in the provision of some additional funds requested from other donors | | | | |

| International sanctions (following political instability) Geopolitical outlook | 2 (for the affected sites) 3 (for the affected sites) | Risk of suspension or significant delays in the implementation of activities on the ground (cash deficit due to the impossibility of transferring funds to countries under sanctions) Difficulty in securing financing for projects in high-risk areas (security in particular): little visibility on the stability and sustainability of interventions | Find other donors willing to finance projects in high-risk areas. | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Illegal mining | 2 | Risk of jeopardizing conservation actions and investments Potential resurgence of poaching and other wildlife-related activities Sources of unsustainable use of natural resources (water, land, etc.) and multiform pollution (cyanide, mercury, etc.) | Heightening of the security of PAs and other intervention sites dedicated to conservation | Support for the securing of PAs through the use of more deterrent means (involvement of DSF, etc.) |
| Weather conditions (flooding, etc.) | 2 (for the affected sites) | Inaccessibility of some sites for long periods resulting in delays in the implementation of planned activities Major and extreme meteorological hazards damaging property, equipment and infrastructure Drought had a negative impact on the planting of certain food crops grown by the project. | Anticipate in the implementation of activities that may be affected by possible flooding Securing an infrastructure upkeep and maintenance fund, and need to adapt acquisitions in response to extreme weather conditions (hail, wind, sandstorms) Other sites have benefited from irrigation equipment | Inclusion of a dedicated envelope or dedicated emergency fund for affected projects |

7. Conclusion

This report presents the status of implementation of the PAPBio Programme projects and provides details on the progress made as at June 2024.

In view of the analysis of progress made in the implementation of the projects, it is clear that there is a disparity in the level of implementation of individual projects, which is mostly attributable to the fact that the signing of grant agreements between the donor and each individual implementation operator is spread over time.

Notwithstanding this state of affairs, progress is noticeable in the implementation of the programme, with more tangible achievements and impacts to be attributed, obviously, to operators who have been active for several years. Several other projects have had late starts, with some starting only 2021 (even later), i.e., a delay of more than a year compared with some projects.

In general, the implementation performance of the PAPBio Programme is estimated at 98% for its technical implementation and 90% for its financial implementation with an implementation time consumption of 100% (before the extension) compared with about 97% after the extension of the operational phase of the Programme.

In terms of notable progress, it is important to note the following:

- Identification and validation of the operational model for anchoring the regional system (associative format), followed by twenty (20) monthly virtual animations of the informal network of conservation stakeholders in West Africa;
- Establishment of a West African Virtual Conservation Hub that offers various services to conservation managers and professionals in West Africa;
- Provision of the region with an operational information system on environmental crime;
- Establishment of a regional Marine Protected Area (MPA) strategy;
- Provision of the region with a Community Directive on Combating Environmental Crime in the ECOWAS region;
- Provision of the region with a regional strategy for the sustainable management of protected and conserved areas in West Africa by 2050 and its transmission to the UEMOA Commission for adoption by relevant bodies;
- Implementation of major actions on the ground to strengthen the sustainable management and governance of protected areas and their outskirts, combat wildlife crime and improve international recognition of this heritage;
- Provision of multifaceted support (technical, material, operational, institutional, etc.) to protected
 area management units in the region in order to strengthen their operational capacity and the
 effectiveness of the management of these landscapes, but also the security and/or integrity of the
 sites. The development of tools geared towards influencing environmental public policies in the
 region should also be highlighted;
- Implementation of initiatives to strengthen and/or diversify the livelihoods of the communities living near protected areas, some of which are already generating substantial additional income for the communities. Beyond the financial aspects, some initiatives have addressed other dimensions of social life (education, human and animal health, etc.);
- Strengthening of the dialogue with the supervisory authorities of the protected areas and/or the diversity of relevant stakeholders with a view to making the management of PAs more inclusive and participatory, to better link the economic development desired with nature conservation objectives, and even for the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation.

Moreover, important challenges limited the performance of the operators implementing the PAPBio, including:

- The security crisis spreading in West Africa has limited movement in some areas while it has completely prevented the implementation of planned activities in some protected areas. In addition to serving as rear bases for many armed groups, the low level of security in some protected areas also facilitates the spread of illegal activities (mining, poaching, etc.), very often linked with the existence of armed groups (but not always).
- The Covid-19 health crisis disrupted the activities of several operators at the peak time of the pandemic. Worse, it delayed operators' access to additional funding.
- Administrative red tape, combined with the weak operational capacity of some PA supervisory administrations, further delayed the implementation of some projects.
- Finally, recurrent political instability in some countries has undermined the sustainability of hardwon positive impacts in some protected areas.



Sustainable management of Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa

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