

# NaturAfrica.

Afrique de l'Ouest | West Africa

NaturAfrica West Africa regional programme

## Summary progress report (to 31 December 2025)

Regional monitoring meeting  
27 January 2026

Implemented by



in association with



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## Acronyms

<b>AD</b>	Action Document
<b>AGN</b>	Anges Gardiens de la Nature (Guardian Angels of Nature) (NGO in Burkina Faso)
<b>APN</b>	African Parks Network
<b>ArcX</b>	African Regional Center of Excellence
<b>B4Life</b>	Biodiversity for Life - EU facility to improve the quality and quantity of conservation projects
<b>BIOPAMA</b>	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
<b>CDB</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CdSR</b>	Regional Monitoring Committee
<b>CEBio-Eco/WA</b>	Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity and Ecosystems in West Africa
<b>CENAGREF</b>	Centre National de Gestion des Réserves de Faune (Benin)
<b>CF</b>	Financing Agreement
<b>CNR</b>	Cavally Natural Reserve
<b>CSE</b>	Centre for Ecological Monitoring (Senegal)
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUD</b>	European Union Delegation
<b>FDA</b>	Forest Development Authority (Liberia)
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GIZ</b>	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German cooperation)
<b>GKNP</b>	Grebo Krahn National Park
<b>ICRAF-CIFOR</b>	Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry
<b>IMET</b>	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
<b>INTPA</b>	International Partnership (EU)
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>JRC</b>	Joint Research Center (EU)
<b>KE</b>	Key Expert
<b>KLCD</b>	Key Landscape for Conservation and Development
<b>NAAO</b>	NaturAfrica West Africa
<b>NAAO RTA</b>	NAAO Regional Technical Assistance (= Regional Coordination team)
<b>NKNP</b>	Niokolo Koba National Park
<b>NP</b>	National Park
<b>OBAPAO</b>	Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa
<b>OGPRF</b>	Guinean Office for National Parks and Wildlife Reserves
<b>OIPR</b>	Ivorian Office for Parks and Reserves

<b>OKKPS</b>	Outamba-Kilimi-Kuru Hills-Pinselli-Soyah
<b>PA</b>	Protected Area
<b>PAPBio</b>	Support Programme for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems
<b>PAPFor</b>	Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa
<b>PIP</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme
<b>PKNP</b>	Proposed Kwa National Park
<b>RAMPAO</b>	West African Marine Protected Areas Network
<b>RNTT</b>	Termit Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve
<b>RRISS</b>	Regional Reference Information System
<b>RTA</b>	Regional Technical Assistance
<b>SC</b>	Sahara Conservation (formerly SCF - Sahara Conservation Fund)
<b>SCNL</b>	Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia
<b>SNP</b>	Sapo National Park
<b>SMART</b>	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
<b>SNP</b>	Sapo National Park
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TGKS</b>	Taï-Grebo Krahn-Sapo
<b>WAEMU</b>	West African Economic and Monetary Union
<b>WAP</b>	W-Arly-Pendjari Ecological Complex
<b>WCF</b>	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation
<b>WCS</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>WDPCA</b>	Word Database of Protected and Conserved Areas
<b>WNP</b>	W National Park
<b>WWZ</b>	Wologizi-Wonegizi-Ziama

# 1 Summary

This report was produced as the main reference document for the regional monitoring meeting of the NaturAfrica West Africa Programme on 27 January 2026. It covers mainly the period 2024-2025 for activities related to the Regional Coordination and various periods (ranging from 2 months to 24 months) for the five active landscapes as of 31 December 2025.

As this document serves as a reference for a first monitoring meeting at regional level, a significant part is dedicated to the context and description of the NaturAfrica programme, from continental to regional level. The role of Regional Coordination (also known as Regional Technical Assistance - RTA) is also described.

The progress of the programmes signed before 31 December 2025, as well as that of the Regional Coordination, is shared succinctly, as there are also landscape-by-landscape monitoring mechanisms. The main activities planned for the next 12 months are also listed.

Lastly, a programme monitoring mechanism is briefly described, but does not yet include an analysis, as only one programme has been able to provide a technical report.

At the start of the regional programme, only one landscape was active (W-Bénin Pendjari) and it took more than a year for three other contracts to be signed (TGKS, Cross River and Niokolo Koba) and another year for the next one (Nimba). Three other contracts are still awaiting signature (Gola, Gadabedji and PoNaSi), while the last programme (Fazao-Kyabobo) is still in the formulation phase.

These very long delays in signing contracts have in turn caused a delay in the implementation of certain activities assigned to the Regional Coordination. These include technical support for the implementation of contracts, support for the collection of baselines and the indicator monitoring mechanism.

However, progress has been made on a number of fronts:

For the three landscapes that have been under contract for more than a year (W-Bénin Pendjari; TGKS and Cross River), activities in the field of conservation/support for protected areas were quickly put in place and bore fruit, thanks in particular to the fact that the three operators had already been active in their landscapes for several years, so that they were quickly up and running. Law enforcement and bio-monitoring patrols were supported, IMET assessments were carried out, infrastructure construction was started and equipment was handed over.

Major advances have already been made in the green economy:

- Professional training for the development of green industries
- Production of best practice guides
- Support for sustainable cocoa farming (training, technical support, structuring, nurseries, etc.)
- Numerous social infrastructures built or rehabilitated (dams, boreholes, storage areas, public toilets, etc.)
- Restoration of roads/tracks

- Technical and organisational support to various local cooperatives in the management of natural resources (beekeeping, sustainable fishing, vegetable oil processing, market gardening, wild mangoes, etc.).

Activities centred on the programme's governance pillar have led to significant progress in several areas: direct support for cross-border governance (organisation of several cross-border meetings), programme governance (monitoring or steering committees), shared governance (land use plans, business plans) and local governance (support for various community natural resource management committees; support for environmental protection associations). Complaints and appeals mechanisms have also been put in place to give communities the opportunity to report any perceived or actual abuses and to rectify the situation where necessary.

In terms of regional coordination, the main advances include

- The development, finalisation and validation of guidelines for the implementation of the NAAO programme, with a regional meeting organised for this purpose in May 2024
- The organisation of a regional meeting in Brussels in April 2025 bringing together all the EUDs and the WAEMU, as well as resource persons from the European Commission.
- A total of 19 missions were carried out in the region, with two main objectives: support for programming via a field visit and interaction with potential stakeholders, and active participation in various regional meetings organised by WAEMU, OBAPAO or other regional programmes with which the regional coordination unit collaborates.
- Four regional studies have been carried out
  - Diagnosis of the institutional framework of the Nimba landscape (Guinean section) with a view to identifying the interventions to be carried out within the NAAO framework
  - Analysis of the legal and institutional frameworks for the development of cross-border governance in the Niokolo Koba Badiar Boe landscape
  - Documentation and analysis of experiences of cross-border collaboration and management in landscapes in West Africa
  - Identification of around fifty regional programmes relevant to the implementation and establishment of potential collaborations with NAAO.
- The organisation of three regional webinars as part of the Conservation Hub (April, July and December 2025)
- Production and sharing of three newsletters on the NAAO programme
- Establishment of several online communication channels (LinkedIn, Facebook, contribution to the European Union's Capacity4Dev) and various visibility documents
- Collaboration established with the Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity for West Africa / OBAPAO and the CIFOR-ICRAF support programme, with progress on the monitoring of indicators.

# 2

## Context of NAAO implementation

### General context of the NaturAfrica programme

The NaturAfrica initiative is supported by the European Union and its Member States, together with stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa, to promote biodiversity conservation and sound economic development in Africa. This regional initiative is a practical response to the growing pressure on Africa's natural ecosystems from factors such as population growth, climate change, conflicts over access to resources and the illegal exploitation of wildlife and forest products. It is based on 3 pillars:

- I. **Conservation**, to protect key elements of biodiversity in priority conservation and development landscapes.
- II. The **Green Economy**, to promote economic and social activities through improved access to sustainable livelihood opportunities in the green economy, through value chains and through actions focused on sustainable energy and infrastructure, education and health for all members of the community in priority landscapes.
- III. **Governance at local, national and regional levels** for the sustainable management of natural resources, by promoting participatory local development mechanisms, law enforcement and contributing to the maintenance of security.

The NaturAfrica programme, announced in the Green Deal, is based on Priority Sector 3 (Green Transition) of the European Union's Multiannual Indicative Programme, which covers the Biodiversity and Environment sub-sector. The NaturAfrica programme focuses on six windows, including West Africa.

NaturAfrica is essentially financed through three types of funding: 'national' funding mobilised through the budgets of each of the European Union Delegations (EUDs); programmes financed directly by the European Union Member States; and finally the NaturAfrica regional programme, which covers four sub-Saharan regions, including West Africa, and which is the subject of this summary report.

The regional programme is funded by the NDICI instrument (*Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument*) and is planned in two phases, totalling 310 million euros. An initial envelope of €160 million has been approved for the period 2022-2028. A second envelope of €150 million is currently being formulated.

Regional funding will be mobilised on the ground through contracts (indirect management; direct management by mutual agreement; direct management by call for proposals) issued between a delegation and an operator (ideally in a consortium) for the entire landscape; exceptionally, several contracts could be issued to different operators in the countries making up a landscape (as in the WAP, for example). In parallel to the contracts for the implementation of the action at landscape level, a Regional Coordination is set up through a contract managed by the EUD in Burkina Faso.

## Background to the NaturAfrica West Africa programme

The NaturAfrica - West Africa Programme (NAAO) follows on from two regional programmes, PAPBio and PAPFor, which have a relatively similar approach and which ended in 2024 and 2025. The new NAAO regional programme focuses on around ten of the landscapes identified as "Priority Landscapes for Conservation and Development" in the "Beyond Elephants" reference document. These landscapes in West Africa essentially correspond to those of PAPFor and PAPBio, with a few adjustments:

- 4 landscapes in forest zones covering 5 states (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria);
- 4 landscapes in savannah or desert zones covering 8 states (Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Niger).

Another landscape (Gashaka-Gumti - Tchabal Mbabo) is shared between Central and West Africa and, although the Nigerian component is managed from Abuja, the whole of this landscape is part of the portfolio of Central African programmes and is therefore not covered by this document.

Implementation of the NaturAfrica programme is governed by a European Union action document covering all the sub-regions of Sub-Saharan Africa and describing the main areas of intervention.

For West Africa, a financing agreement was signed between the European Union delegation in Burkina Faso and the WAEMU Commission on 3 August 2023.

The NAAO regional programme was presented to all participants at the regional meeting of environment ministers organised by WAEMU and held in Lomé in October 2024.



Figure 1: Presentation of the NAAO programme in Lomé, October 2024

The NAAO programme is a continuation in time and space of the EU's support for the implementation of West African regional environmental policies (WAEMU's Common Environmental Improvement Policy and ECOWAS's Environmental Policy), through the Regional Strategy for the Management of Protected and Conserved Areas in West Africa up to 2050, which will be approved by the Ministers responsible for protected areas and biodiversity in West Africa.

NAAO is also fully in line with community strategic frameworks, in particular the WAEMU 2040 vision and the Impact 2030 strategic plan, which emphasise the need for a holistic approach to environmental issues, with ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, the circular economy and the promotion of the green economy as priorities.

# 3

## Description of the NAAO programme

### 3.1 Objectives, structure and implementation mechanisms

NaturAfrica's Action Document specifies the overall objective, the specific objectives (direct effects) and the products contributing to the direct effects, as shown here:

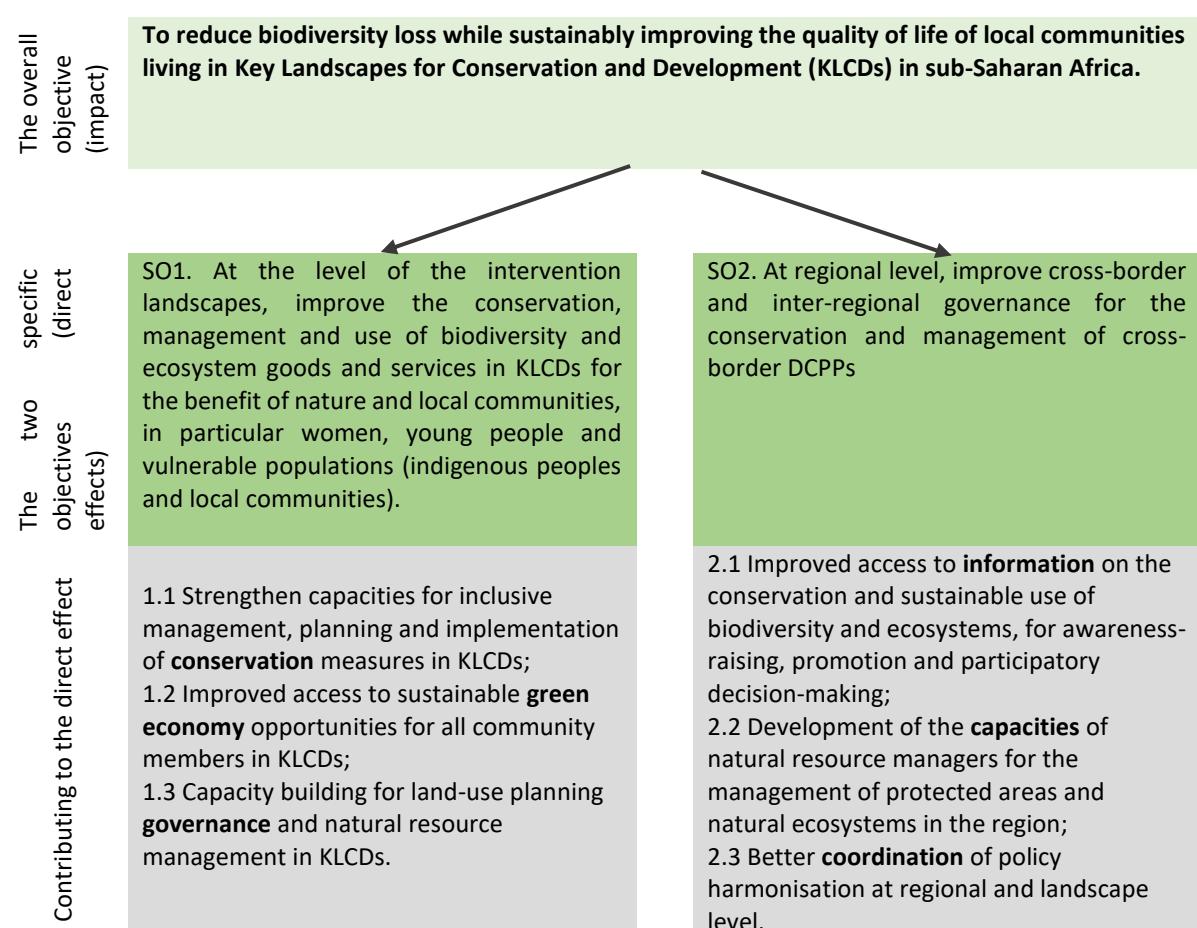


Figure 2: Objectives, direct effects of activities and outputs contributing to direct effects

The project documents detail the activities under these two specific objectives. For SO2, activities will ensure cross-border governance within the landscape: cross-border agreements, cross-border meetings, collaboration between countries sharing the landscape, harmonisation of monitoring methods and information sharing, etc.

This objective will be supported in particular by the NAAO Regional Coordination in conjunction with the regional policies of ECOWAS, WAEMU and other regional institutions or programmes. The Centres of Excellence programme - in particular OBAPAO but also OFAC - will also support the collection, organisation and sharing of information at regional level.

### 3.2 Field component through programmes in the landscapes

The "field" component will be implemented through field programmes in around ten priority cross-border landscapes (Figure 3 and Tables 1 and 2):

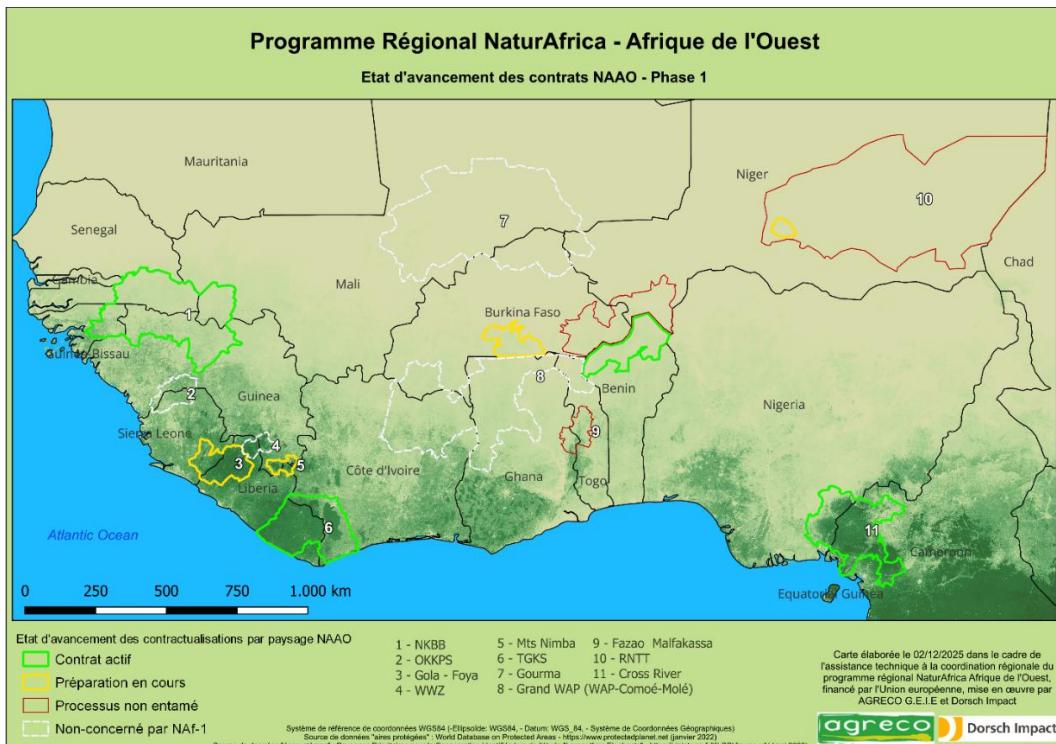


Figure 3: Landscapes that could benefit from support under NaturAfrica phase 1 and/or 2

The state of progress is detailed below in section 4. It should be noted that the process of mobilising funds to landscapes depends on a range of administrative and security conditions and that, as a result, the list of beneficiary landscapes is not fixed but rather dynamic.

For each of the field programmes, a contract is drawn up between an EU Delegation and an operator. Project documents typically include a description of the action, a logical framework and a budget. Contracts generally last between three and five years and budgets are allocated between €1.5m and €6.2m.

The majority of programmes are structured according to NaturAfrica's overall architecture, i.e. around the three pillars of Conservation, Green Economy and Governance.

Paysage	Opérateur	Date début	Date fin	Montant (€)
Niokolo Koba-Badiar-Boé	UICN	Mars 2025	Mars 2028	5.000.000
Tai-Grebo-Khran-Sapo	WCF	Janvier 2025	Décembre 2028	6.200.000
WAP-Bénin: W & Pendjari	APN	Octobre 2023	Octobre 2026	3.100.000
Cross River	WCF	Janvier 2025	Décembre 2028	3.500.000
Monts Nimba	UICN	Décembre 2025	Décembre 2028	2.500.000

Table 2: Contracts issued under the NAAO regional programme. National funding supplements these supports

Paysage	Opérateur	Date début	Date fin	Montant (€)
Gola – Foya – Kpo	RSPB	Mars 2026?	Février 2029?	3.000.000
WAP-Burkina: PoNaSi	AGN	Février 2026?	Février 2029?	3.000.000
WAP-Niger: Gadabedji	SC	Janvier 2026?	Janvier 2029?	1.500.000
Fazao-Kayabobo	tbd	???	???	1.750.000

Table 3: programme currently being formulated as part of the NaturAfrica regional programme

### 3.3 Regional Coordination component

This component coordinates the programme and promotes a regional dynamic.

Regional coordination, led by the EUD Burkina Faso and the WAEMU Commission, is supported by a Regional Technical Assistance team mobilised by the consortium of consultancy firms AGRECO and Dorsch Impact, complementing other Technical Assistance such as B4Life or B4Life-crisis.

The essential role of technical assistance and centres of excellence is to provide support to EU operators and services, as well as to regional integration institutions and beneficiary states, in order to maximise the efficiency, ownership and impact of NaturAfrica actions.

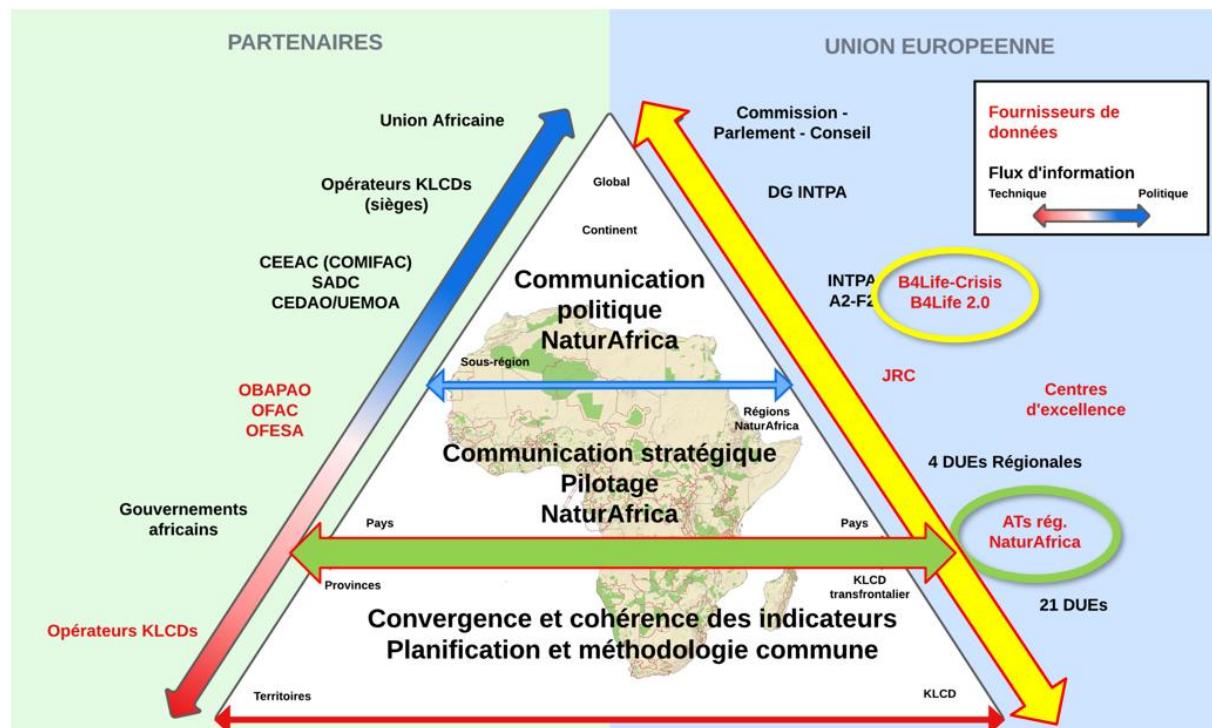


Figure 4: Vertical integration of NaturAfrica interventions

More specifically, the European Union has assigned three specific objectives (OS1 to OS3) to the NAAO Regional Coordination:

**OS1: Monitoring of the achievement of the objectives of the NaturAfricAO Financing Agreement is effective through assistance with the establishment, supervision and monitoring of each Financing Agreement contract.**

Result 1: Adapted contracts are proposed by the coordination to the contracting authorities in line with the Financing Agreement;

Result 2: Monitoring and supervision of the various contracts relating to priority conservation landscapes;

Result 3: Half-yearly progress reports on the various activities, including regional coordination.

**OS2: The networking of protected area managers concerned by the NaturAfricAO Convention, and their integration into the network of protected areas in West Africa, is effective and information is produced and exchanged.**

Result 4: Quality reports and documents relating to West African PAs are available on the OBAPAO website and to political authorities;

Outcome 5: WAEMU Commission departments are informed and strengthened to ensure the sustainability of the monitoring of West African PAs;

Result 6: Steering committees and thematic meetings are organised every six months, helping to strengthen a network of West African PAs.

**OS3: Communication on the NaturAfricAO programme is effective and efficient.**

Result 7: A communication plan is drawn up, implemented and monitored,

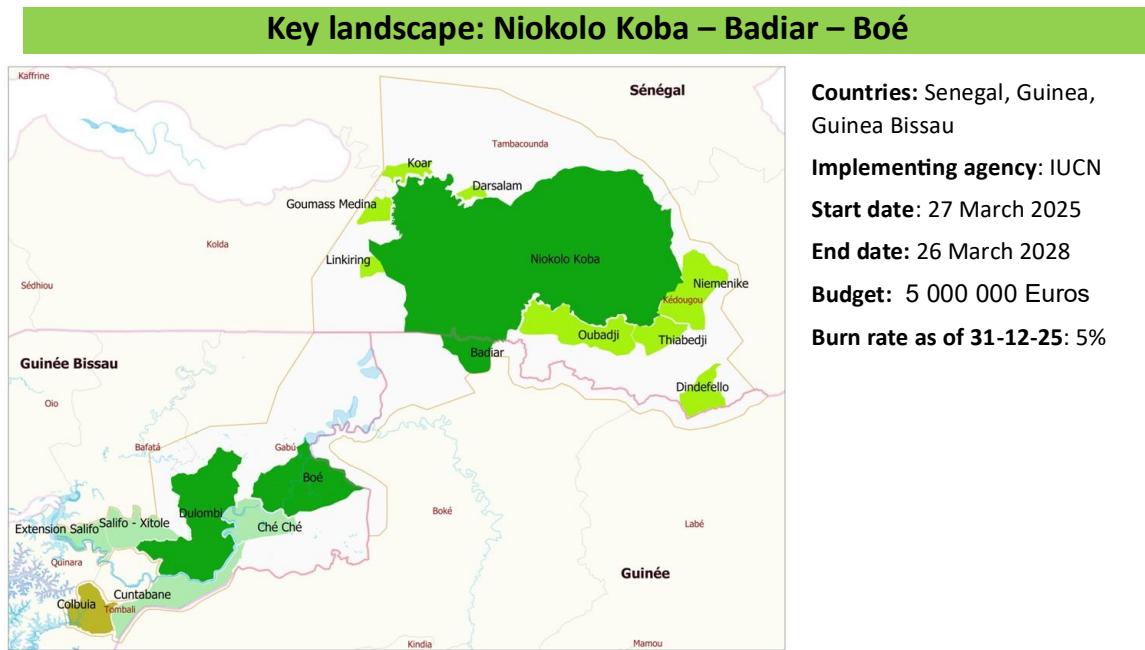
During most of 2024 and 2025, the Regional Coordination worked closely with the WAEMU Commission, the EUD in Burkina Faso and all the contracting EUDs to support the drafting of contracts, with a strong focus on technical content, reporting and monitoring indicators. In particular, the Regional Coordination has produced guidelines for project formulation; these guidelines are largely based on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the PAPBio and PAPFor programmes, as well as experiences in Central Africa.

In addition to supporting the preparation of project documents, the NAAO Regional Coordination's areas of intervention include bringing together different stakeholders within and between landscapes, and promoting the use of common tools, collect and share lessons learned and make economies of scale in the mobilisation of certain expertise, facilitate reporting, and in particular, the consolidation of reporting at regional level, facilitate the monitoring of the programme at regional level and promote communication towards target audiences, in particular the WAEMU and ECOWAS Commissions. The Regional Coordination also acts as secretariat for the preparation of the Steering Committees, chaired by the WAEMU Commission.

# 4

## Progress since the start of the programme : field component

### 4.1 Niokolo-Koba Badiar Boé



#### Conservation" pillar:

- Analysis of the management effectiveness of Badiar National Park using the IMET tool (45% as a synthetic index of management effectiveness)
- Updating of the ecological monitoring protocol (the final document expected by the end of January 2026).

#### Green Economy" pillar:

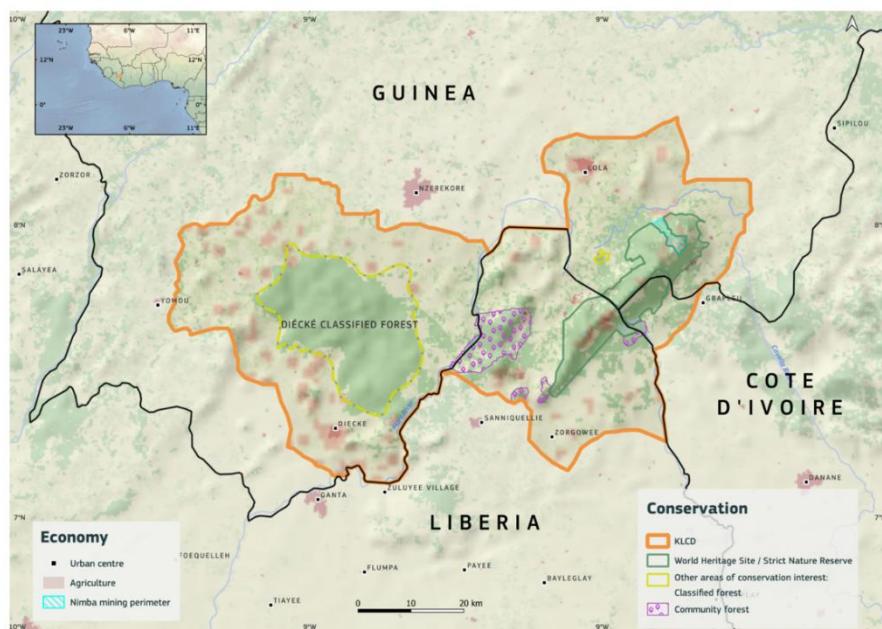
- Interactive models and surveys in 40 villages around the Niokolo Koba National Park
- Identification of value-added non-timber forest products

#### Governance" pillar:

- Appropriation of the two studies produced by the NAAO Regional Coordination:
  - Comparative analysis of approaches to collaboration and cross-border management within NaturAfrica landscapes in West Africa
  - Inventory and analysis of the political, legal, institutional and administrative framework for the management of the Niokolo Koba National Park in Senegal, the Badiar National Park in Guinea and the Boé National Park in Guinea Bissau in the Niokolo Koba-Badiar-Bafing-Boé Landscape.

## 4.2 Mts Nimba - Diécké

### Key landscape: Mt Nimba - Diecké



**Countries:** Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire

**Implementing agency:** IUCN

**Starting date:** 15 December 2025

**End date:** 14 December 2028

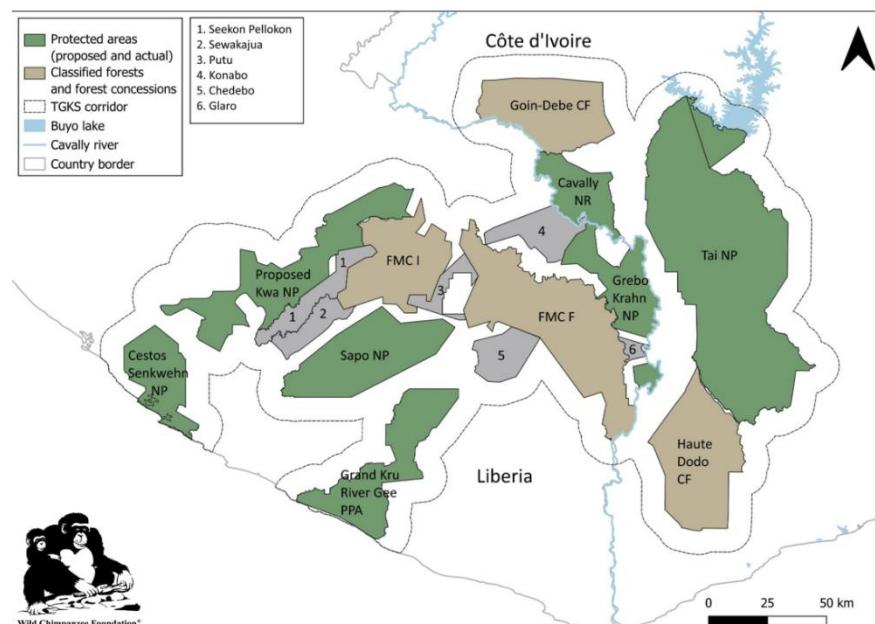
**Budget:** 2 500 000 Euros

**Burn rate as of 31-12-25:** < 5%

The Nimba-Diécké contract was signed on 14 December 2025, so there is not yet any activity to report.

## 4.3 Taï Grebo-Krahn Sapo

### Landscape: Tai – Grebo-Krahn – Sapo



**Countries:** Côte d'Ivoire et Libéria

**Implementing agency:** WCF

**Start date:** 1 January 2025

**End date:** 31 December 2028

**Budget:** 6 200 000 €

**Expenses up to 31 Dec 2025:** Finances for 2025 not yet finalized, but forecast budget for Year 1 (2025) was 34% of total (approximately 2 093 977 €)

### **Conservation pillar:**

- Regular and continuous forest surveillance patrols were carried out throughout 2025, through the hiring of 20 new community eco-guards in Côte d'Ivoire and 59 new community eco-guards in Liberia
- Regular support has been provided to forest rangers and OIPR auxiliaries in Côte d'Ivoire since May 2025, and in Liberia, support was provided to the joint enforcement of the Security Law in the SNP from July to December 2025.
- An annual training session was organised in Côte d'Ivoire for OIPR staff and WCF eco-guards, as well as a session for FDA auxiliaries and WCF eco-guards in the SNP in Liberia.
- Satellite mapping of forest cover and analysis of the most recent dataset provided by the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC), covering ecological corridors and protected areas in the TGKS landscape.
- Evaluations of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) for the GKNP and SNP carried out in August 2025.

### **Green Economy Pillar:**

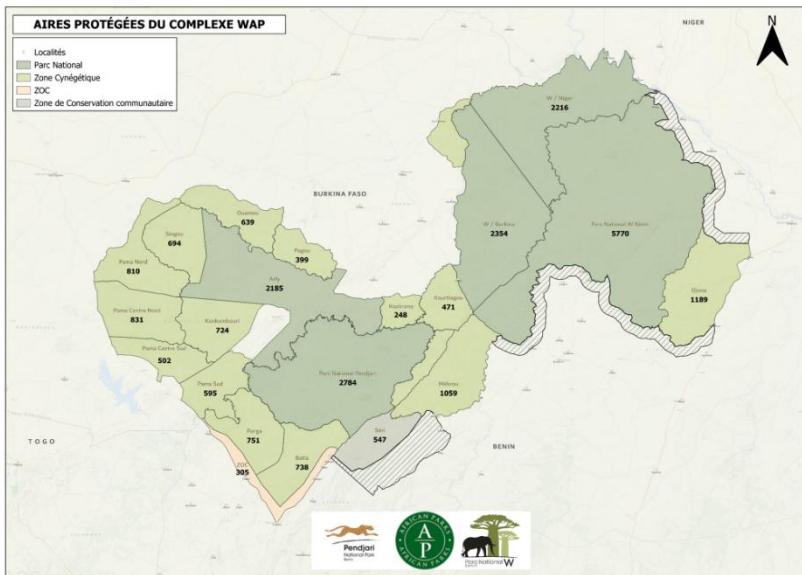
- Six field officers (three in each country) and a regional livelihoods expert were recruited in 2025. They carried out regular field missions to help local community members implement green economy initiatives by sharing their knowledge and technical expertise.
- Two cross-border exchange trips were organised in 2025: an exchange of ecoguides/tour guides between Sapo Ecolodge and Ecotourisme Tai, and an exchange of local women from the two countries to share their knowledge in a number of areas, including the production of energy-efficient stoves, beekeeping techniques, the production of oil from forest seeds and environmentally-friendly agroecological practices.
- A best practice guide for cocoa cultivation adapted to the specific context of south-eastern Liberia was produced for the WCF under a service contract with ID-COCOA.
- Training has been provided to tour guides at Sapo Ecolodge on birds, amphibians, species identification and hospitality, and improvements have been made to the facilities at Sapo Ecolodge.

### **Governance pillar:**

- Support provided for the meeting of the 8th Bilateral Steering Committee for Cross-Border Cooperation in the TGKS Landscape in Monrovia (July 2025), as well as the TGKS Cross-Border Technical Committee on Law Enforcement in Abidjan (December 2025).
- Organisation of a cross-border awareness-raising tour for communities in the TGKS forest complex, reaching around 2,000 people in Côte d'Ivoire at 5 performances and 4,000 people in Liberia at 17 performances in May 2025.
- Partial awareness-raising theatre in Liberia around the PKNP and SNP in December 2025 with 12 performances, reaching 1,865 people.
- Regular outreach to children in local schools and forest edge communities by field officers and community engagement officers since March 2025.
- Raising environmental awareness through radio broadcasts since September 2025, in collaboration with Radio D3 in Sinoe County, Liberia. Weekly broadcasts promote conservation and raise awareness of WCF and FDA programmes.
- Infrastructure developed: four hand pumps built at PKNP and PNS; four schools rehabilitated at GKNP and SPN; rehabilitation of roads around GKNP/River Gee; a public toilet built at PKNP.

## 4.4 Pendjari - W Benin

### Key landscape: WAP, W-Bénin Pendjari component



**Country:** Bénin

**Implementing agency:** APN

**Start date:** 24 October 2023

**End date:** 23 October 2026

**Budget:** 3 100 000 Euros

**Burn rate as of 31-12-25:** around 80%

#### Conservation" pillar :

- Maintenance of the Alfakoara dam in W National Park (WNP) and cleaning of the Boma pond (Pendjari) and replacement of the solar panels and borehole pump.
- Day-to-day management of the Boma for breeding key species - 18 topis to date.
- Formalisation of the classification of the Séri Community Forest as part of the Pendjari Complex on 29 October 2025 by the Council of Ministers.
- Organisation of anti-poaching patrols, without interruption, throughout the year, with 416 rangers dedicated to surveillance patrols, as at 30 November 2025:
  - ✓ Pendjari: 10,325 man-days
  - ✓ WNP: 20,189 man-days
- Deployments and aerial surveillance patrols carried out continuously, using three microlights and a helicopter shared between the two parks.
- Implementation of reforestation plans on the outskirts of the parks:
  - ✓ Pendjari: 9,491 trees planted, still in good condition to date (6,176 planted by 2025)
  - ✓ Parc W: 1,957 trees planted, still in good condition to date (1,093 planted in 2025).
- Ecological monitoring :
  - ✓ 23 GPS collars deployed on elephants in March 2025.
  - ✓ 38 elephants fitted with GPS collars tracked daily to date.

- Bi-annual monitoring of cheetahs and leopards in the PNP (data analysis in progress).
- Implementation of environmental and social management plans :
  - ✓ 2024: Pendjari: 94%; Parc W: 87%.
  - ✓ 2025 (November): Pendjari: 81%; WNP: 64
- Two IMET assessments carried out:
  - ✓ 2023: Pendjari: 77.8%; WNP: 76.8
  - ✓ 2025: Pendjari: 71.79%; WNP: 77.42%.

#### **Green economy" pillar:**

- Rehabilitation of the Batran dam in June and finalisation of the process for the rehabilitation of the Guéné dam in October. Development of two boreholes with solar installations and removable metal structures (Boïffo and Mamassy peul) in the last quarter of 2025.
- Rehabilitation of 13 human-powered boreholes around the Pendjari National Park in 2025.
- 40 young local residents around Parc W have benefited from a vocational training session.
- Vaccination of local livestock living around protected areas:
  - ✓ Pendjari: 22,690 head of cattle vaccinated by 2025
  - ✓ WNP: 27,000 head of cattle vaccinated by 2025
- Mechanism to manage human/wildlife conflicts put in place by 2025:
  - ✓ Pendjari: 142 victims of 78 incidents of human-wildlife conflict compensated in terms of food and livestock.
  - ✓ WNP: 164 victims of 139 incidents of human-wildlife conflict compensated in terms of livelihoods and livestock.
- Parc Pendjari supports 17 local cooperatives, with 396 members, including 183 women:
  - ✓ Beekeeping: seven cooperatives, with 82 beekeepers (including 6 women)
  - ✓ Sustainable fishing: 115 professional fishermen and 22 traditional fishermen.
  - ✓ Vegetable oil processing: two cooperatives with 36 women members.
  - ✓ Market gardening: one cooperative with 31 women.
  - ✓ Shea: a cooperative of 12 women, collecting and processing shea nuts.
  - ✓ Food processing: 5 cooperatives, with a total of 98 women.
- The park has supported 163 farmers in 2024 and 320 in 2025 to develop sustainable farming practices in the Zone of Controlled Occupation.

Activités Génératrices de Revenus		Parc Pendjari		
Revenus estimés pour les communautés locales (US\$)		2023 (Jan. Déc.)	2024 (Jan. Déc.)	2025 (Jan- Oct)
Apiculture	\$ 12 780	\$ 5 270	\$ 6 324	
Karité	\$ -	\$ 1 117	\$ -	
Pêche	\$ 408	\$ 21 838	\$ 17 035	
Huiles végétales	\$ 5 207	\$ 1 668	\$ 1 855	
Baobab	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Agriculture durable - Coton	\$ 60 945	\$ 87 524	\$ 71 723	
Agriculture durable - Autres	\$ 3 723	\$ 40 861	\$ 74 293	
Autres	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Total (US\$)</b>	<b>\$ 83 062</b>	<b>\$ 158 279</b>	<b>\$ 171 230</b>	

Activités Génératrices de Revenus		Parc Pendjari		
Volumes des production		2023 (Jan. Déc.)	2024 (Jan. Déc.)	2025 (Jan- Oct)
Apiculture (Kg)		5 688	2 129	2 345
Apiculture (litre)		3 792	1 419	1 563
Karité (Kg)		-	3 008	
Pêche (Kg)		247	10 180	8 772
Huiles végétales (litre)		1 107	337	350
Baobab (Kg)		-	-	-
Agriculture durable - Coton (Kg)		102 591	176 799	147 732
Agriculture durable - Autres (Kg)		7 050	17 439	153 025
Autres (Kg)		-	-	-

- Park W supports four local cooperatives (268 members, including 99 women) to develop Income Generating Activities for local communities, namely:
  - ✓ Coopérative des Riverains Producteurs des Huiles Végétales du WNP: 47 members
  - ✓ Coopérative des Apiculteurs Riverains du WNP: 57 members
  - ✓ Cooperative of Riverine Baobab Collectors and Processors in Parc W: 67 members
  - ✓ Cooperative of Riverine Fishermen of Parc W: 97 members (inactive in 2025).

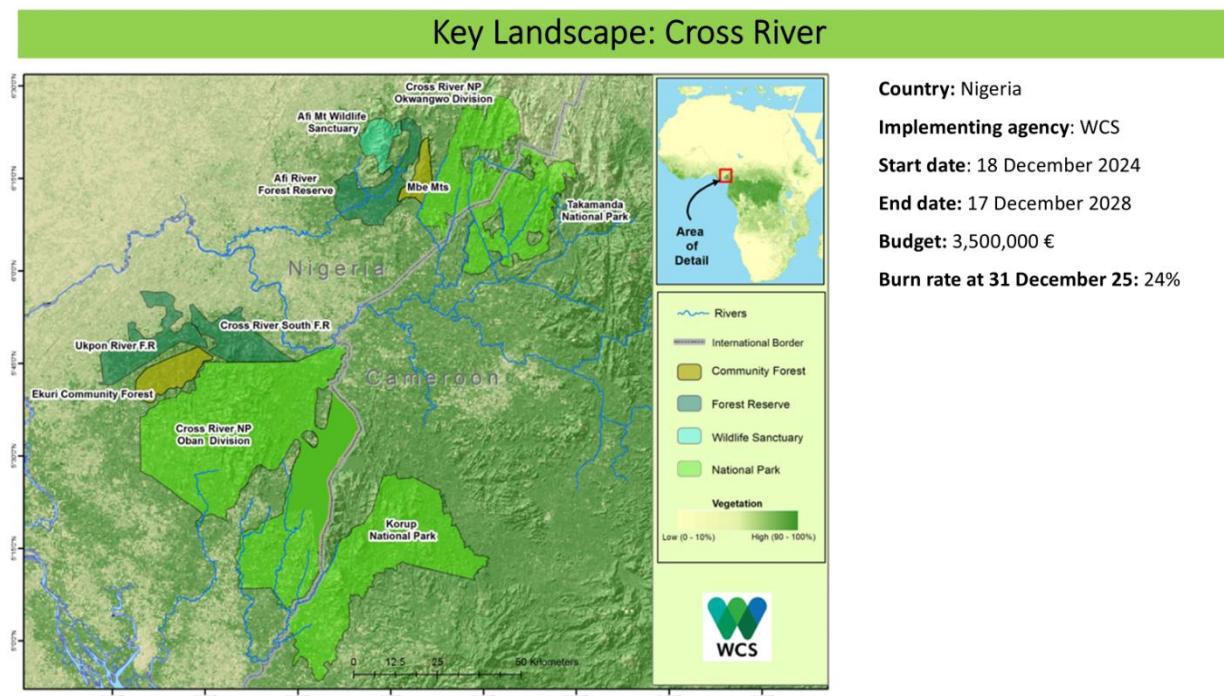
Activités Génératrices de Revenus		Parc W		
Revenus estimés pour les communautés locales (US\$)		2023 (Jan. Déc.)	2024 (Jan. Déc.)	2025 (Jan- Oct)
Apiculture	\$ 668	\$ 1 177	\$ 4 972	
Karité	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Pêche	\$ 26 449	\$ 14 129	\$ -	
Huiles végétales	\$ 269	\$ 949	\$ 3 649	
Baobab	\$ 3 467	\$ 4 167	\$ 5 142	
Agriculture durable - Coton	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Agriculture durable - Autres	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Autres	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Total (US\$)</b>	<b>\$ 30 853</b>	<b>\$ 20 422</b>	<b>\$ 13 763</b>	

<b>Activités Génératrices de Revenus</b>	<b>Parc W</b>		
	<b>2023 (Jan. Déc.)</b>	<b>2024 (Jan. Déc.)</b>	<b>2025 (Jan- Oct)</b>
Apiculture (Kg)	296	443	1 844
Apiculture (litre)	197	295	1 229
Karité (Kg)	-	-	-
Pêche (Kg)	16 028	8 562	-
Huiles végétales (litre)	79	250	515
Baobab (Kg)	5 141	9 000	14 000
Agriculture durable - Coton (Kg)	-	-	-
Agriculture durable - Autres (Kg)	-	-	-
Autres (Kg)	-	-	-

**Governance pillar :**

- Implementation of business plans :
  - ✓ 2024: Pendjari: 91%; WNP: 87%.
  - ✓ 2025 (Nov. 30): Pendjari: 84%; WNP: 83%.
- Update of the long-term management strategy (LTSS) in August 2025.
- Update of the Land Use Plan for Parc W in November 2024 (additional study underway) and November 2025 for Parc Pendjari.
- Organisation of two Management Board and Monitoring Committee meetings / year / park.
- Organise regular meetings with local authorities, local officials, traditional leaders, security and defence forces and local communities.
- Management of the 24/7 complaints management mechanism and reinforcement of human rights training sessions for staff and local communities.

## 4.5 Cross River



### Conservation pillar:

- Training of 50 rangers and eco-guards and provision of essential field equipment to strengthen patrols.
- A total of 185 anti-poaching patrols in Cross River National Park (CRNP), Afi Mountain Nature Reserve (AMWS) and the Mbe Mountains, resulting in the removal of 1,420 wire traps and 40 hunting camps from wildlife habitat.
- More than 60 km of protected area boundaries have been maintained and a ranger station has been refurbished to facilitate law enforcement.
- A grievance and communication mechanism has been developed and implemented at AMWS and in the Mbe Mountains, and an assessment has been carried out with a view to setting up a GRCM in CRNP.
- Support for 132 school conservation clubs in 85 communities, organisation of 80 excursions and exchange visits for school clubs and community youth groups, and conservation education training for seven CRNP education staff.
- Broadcasting 52 episodes of the radio series "My Gorilla My Community" on local radio stations to raise public awareness of conservation.
- Organisation of a workshop for stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned.

### Green Economy Pillar:

- Participatory mapping of 1,134 cocoa farms to improve traceability.
- Support for the rehabilitation of 1,178 existing cocoa farms through the supply of improved cocoa plants and training in good agricultural and agroforestry practices.

- A total of 1,552 women received improved mango seedlings from 54 community nurseries to boost production and income.
- Support for the creation and registration of six new women's cooperatives to improve market access.
- Completion of the construction of two solar-powered boreholes, which should supply 250 households with drinking water; creation and training of water management committees (WASHCOM) in the beneficiary communities.

**Governance pillar:**

- In collaboration with the Cross River State Forestry Commission, strengthening of 20 existing Community Forest Management Committees (FMCs) and creation of five new committees to improve community forest governance and natural resource management. All FMCs have received training in community forest governance and natural resource management.
- Continued support for building the capacity of the Mbe Mountains Conservation Association to improve community management of the Mbe Mountains Community Forest.
- Initiated the process of creating a community conservation association at AMWS to improve community forest governance, building on the successful model of the Mbe Mountains Conservation Association; supported meetings of the 16 communities around Afi to agree a structure for the association.
- Successful implementation of elephant deterrents in the Mbe Mountains and Okwangwo Division of Cross River National Park to mitigate conflict between humans and elephants (HEC), resulting in a reduction in the number of recorded HEC incidents.

#### **4.6 Landscapes without contracts (Gola, PoNaSi, Fazao-Kyabobo and Gadabedji)**

As of 31 December 2025, four landscapes do not have regional NaturAfrica programmes because contracts have still not been signed (Gola, PoNaSi, Fazao-Kyabobo and Gadabedji).

The progress made in formulating these programmes is described below in section 5.1.

# 5

## Progress since programme start-up: regional coordination component

### Start-up activities.

The Regional Coordination team is made up of four long-term experts: a team leader, a savannah/desert biome expert, a forest biome expert and a knowledge management and communication expert.

The team was deployed in stages from November 2023 and has been fully deployed since January 2025, operating from two bases: Ouagadougou and Monrovia.

The start-up activities were largely devoted to setting up the Regional Coordination, both physically and administratively. These activities are not detailed here, but include: identifying and then renting an office in Ouagadougou, followed by the purchase of furniture and office equipment; securing means of communication (telephone and internet); purchasing a vehicle; identifying support staff through an umbrella company, etc. In Monrovia, the Regional Coordination took over the former PAPFor office, which was immediately operational thanks to the continuity of the *hosting agreement* with the *Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia*.

### Implementation activities.

These are presented, result by result, in accordance with the logical framework for regional coordination.

#### **5.1 R1. Adapted contracts are proposed by the coordination to the contracting authorities in line with the Funding Agreement financing**

When the Regional Technical Assistant was set up (November 2023), only one contract had been signed (W-Bénin - Pendjari, in October 2023).

A large part of the Regional Coordination's activities in 2024 and 2025 were therefore devoted to supporting the Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Togo and Senegal EUDs in preparing proposals for the PoNaSi, TGKS, Nimba, Gola, Gadabedji, Cross River, Fazao-Kyabobo and Niokolo Koba Badiar Boé landscapes, respectively.

A summary of the Regional Coordination's work on these eight landscapes is given here, along with an outlook for the coming months for the contracts that have not yet been signed:

##### **i. Niokolo Koba landscape - Badiar - Boé:**

- Field visit April 2024, including meetings with each National Administration of the three countries in support of project formulation.
- Multiple supports for the finalisation of the project documents
- **Contract signed in March 2025.**

- Assumption of duties by the Regional Coordinator of the PICVERT-NaturAfrica Project within the IUCN team, West and Central Africa Regional Office on 04 July 2025, based in Dakar, Senegal.
- Organisation of a study on the current situation and analysis of the political, legal, institutional and administrative framework for the management of Niokolo Koba National Park in Senegal, Badiar National Park in Guinea and Boé National Park in Guinea Bissau in the Niokolo Koba-Badiar-Bafing-Boé Landscape from May to September 2025. Study report available in appendix 3.
- Scheduling of an operational planning workshop in Saly (Senegal) in February 2026.

#### **ii. Gola-Foya landscape**

- **Contract not signed**
- Comments submitted on the concept note.
- Various field missions (on the Liberia and Sierra Leone sides) carried out in support of project formulation.
- Five round trips between RSPB, ATR NAAO and EUD Liberia for comments and revisions of the documents submitted.
- The contract could be signed by the end of the first quarter of 2026.

#### **iii. Mts Nimba Diecké landscape**

- Organisation by ATR NAAO of a field mission to the landscape by KE1 to collect key points to be taken into consideration for the future programme (November 2024).
- Short-term expert mission carried out in January 2025 to support the formulation of the call for proposals to be developed by the EUD Guinea.
- Comments submitted to EUD Guinea on the draft Call for Proposals (April 2025).
- Call for proposals launched by EUD Guinea on 30 April, with a submission deadline of 31 July 2025.
- Pre-selection of a potential operator by EUD Guinea.
- Sharing of detailed comments on the description of the action, the logical framework and the budget of the operator selected by the EUD.
- **Contract signed between EUD Guinea and IUCN in December 2025.**

#### **iv. TGKS Landscape**

- Support for the distribution of objectives and activities between the national programme in Liberia (SUSTAIN) and the regional NaturAfrica programme.
- Detailed comments on the proposal and logical framework

- Three EUD - WCF - Regional Coordination meetings online to share comments
- Sharing and technical advice on mandatory indicators for logical framework development
- **Contract signed in December 2024.**
- Field mission in early May 2025 to make contacts and carry out initial assessments of the programme's progress.
- Participation in the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire bilateral committee in July 2025 in Monrovia and in the meeting of the cross-border law enforcement committee in Abidjan in December 2025.
- Numerous meetings to adjust the logical framework to the NAF indicators.
- Progress meeting between EUD Côte d'Ivoire, EUD Liberia, WCF and ATR NAAO in November 2025, with a view to the departure of the EUD focal point.

v. **WAP Burkina landscape (adjusted to PoNaSi)**

- **Contract not signed**
- Numerous meetings and discussions with EUD Burkina Faso and B4Life on the conditions required to implement the programme in WAP.
- Support for the B4Life mission in July-August 2024, including accompaniment and financial support for the mission to Fada-Ngourma.
- Discussions and meetings on support options and possibilities in the Ponasi Molé Comoé Landscape (PoMoCo), Burkina Faso component.
- Contribution to the ex-post evaluation of the PoNaSi 1 and 2 projects in Burkina Faso and identification of a new action document, carried out from August to October 2025.
- Meeting to present the findings and preliminary analyses of the TA in charge of evaluating and identifying the PoNaSi project, on 01 October 2025.
- Workshop to validate the deliverables of the ex-post evaluation of the PoNaSi 1 and 2 projects in Burkina Faso and identify a new action document on 17 October 2025.
- Concept note for the new PoNaSi 3 project sent by AGN to EUD Burkina Faso.
- Comments submitted by the Regional Coordination
- Complete proposal submitted by AGN to the Burkina Faso EUD on 31 December 2025.
- Field mission by the ATR in January 2026 as part of the formulation of the action.
- The contract could be signed during the first quarter of 2026.

vi. **Paysage W Niger, Termit Tin-Toumma and Gadabedji**

- **Contract not signed**

- Agreement between INTPA and EUD Niger to fund a €1.5m project in the Gadabedji Nature Reserve. The security situation makes funding for W Niger and the Termit Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve by the NAAO regional programme unlikely.
- As a result of discussions between EUD Niger and the national administration, the NGO Sahara Conservation (SC) was identified as the operator to implement the action in the Gadabedji National Reserve.
- The NGO SC submitted a first version of the project proposal on 15 September 2025.
- An analysis and amendments made by the NAAO RTA were forwarded to the EUD Niger.
- Submission by the NGO SC of a second version of the project proposal on 17 October 2025.
- Study, analysis and amendments to the second version by NAAO RTA.
- The contract should be signed by the end of January or February 2026.

**vii. Fazao-Kyabobo landscape**

- **Contract not signed**
- Meetings and discussions with EUD Togo and EUD Ghana on the landscape contracting process and cross-border issues.
- Face-to-face meeting with EUD Togo and the PALC+ programme team to document the intervention context and the synergies to be established between the programmes, followed by an online meeting between the two EUDs and the two national administrations in November 2024, facilitated by the Regional Coordination.
- Preparation of a field mission in March 2025 with the participation of the Regional Coordination and the administrations of the two countries. The mission was postponed due to demands from the Togolese administration, before being cancelled.
- On 27 October 2025, EUD Togo signed a contribution agreement with Lux Dev for the "PA Governance" component of the national PALCC+ programme.
- Pending selection by EUD Togo of the operator for the NAAO regional programme.

**viii. Cross River Landscape**

- Several exchanges with EUD Nigeria and WCS to offer technical support (May-November 2024).
- Transmission of documents and technical advice on mandatory indicators for the logical framework (2024).
- Coordination with B4Life to provide comments on the logical framework.
- **Contract signed in December 2024.**
- Field visit in May 2025 by EP3 and EP4, for visits to Cross River National Park, Mbe and Afi Mountains.

A summary of the progress made in issuing the regional NAAO contracts is shown in table 3 below, as at 31 December 2025.

Paysage	Pays concernés (lead et autres)	Opérateur défini (ou présent)	Attribution du contrat	Engagement et réunions avec DUEs	Note conceptuelle	Proposition d'action draft	Proposition d'action finale	Contrat signé	Visite de terrain pour formulation	Date de signature de contrat	Date probable signature contrat
<b>Paysages inscrits dans le DA de la phase 1</b>											
WAP-Bénin: W & Pendjari	<b>Bénin</b>	APN	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1-10-2023						
Tai-Grebo-Khran-Sapo	<b>Ivory Coast, Liberia</b>	WCF	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	déc-24						
Cross River	<b>Nigeria</b>	WCS	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	déc-24						
Niokolo Koba-Badiar-Boé	<b>Sénégal, Guinée, Guinée Bissau</b>	UICN	Contribution de subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	mars-25						
Monts Nimba	<b>Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée, Liberia</b>	UICN	Appel à proposition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	déc-25						
RN Gadabedji	<b>Niger</b>	SCF	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Janvier 2026?					
PoNaSi (PoMoCo)	<b>Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana</b>	AGN	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mars 2026?	
Gola – Foya – Kpo	<b>Liberia, Sierra Leone</b>	RSPB	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mars 2026?	
Fazao Malfakassa-Kayabobo	<b>Togo, Ghana</b>	?	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	?	
WAP BF: W & Arly	<b>Burkina Faso</b>	?	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	?	
WAP Niger: W	<b>Niger</b>	?	Subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	?	
RN Termit Tin-Toumma	<b>Niger</b>	?	Contribution de subvention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	?	

Table 3: Status of contract signature as at 31 December 2025

## 5.2 R2. Monitoring and supervision of the various contracts relating to priority conservation landscapes

As regards the preparation and monitoring of the contracts, most of the work of the Regional Coordination in 2024, and to a large extent also in 2025, focused on Result 1, rather than Result 2. In fact, the long delay in signing the contracts meant that there was no need to monitor the contracts signed.

From the first quarter of 2025, when three new contracts were signed, activities under Outcome 2 began to develop and will expand even further in 2026. Support for these three new contracts is described here.

For the **Niokolo Koba Badiar Boé** landscape, support has been relatively limited because the project coordinator (IUCN) only took up his post in July 2025 and during his first few months in his new post, priority was given to preparing and signing agreements with the partners identified in the project proposal. However, the ATR worked with IUCN to convert the logical framework into a spreadsheet for monitoring indicators.

In addition, special support for this landscape was provided through the short-term support mission focused on Niokolo-Koba Badiar Boé, in order to help IUCN establish a regional consultation (and ultimately governance) mechanism. The Regional Coordination also facilitated consultations between the WCF in charge of Natura-Guinée and IUCN in order to strengthen collaboration in the implementation of the actions of the two programmes in and around Badiar NP.

Support for the implementation of the **Tai Grebo-Krahn Sapo** programme consisted of numerous online and face-to-face meetings (Monrovia), a field mission to the Liberian section and a mission to the Ivorian section in December 2025. Among the various contract monitoring activities, the NAAO ATR worked with WCF to adjust the logical framework (in consultation with the EUD Côte d'Ivoire) to ensure better alignment with NaturAfrica's core indicators.

For **Cross River**, an initial support and contract monitoring mission was carried out in May 2025. It was coupled with a visit and a meeting with EUD Nigeria.

### **5.3 R3. Half-yearly progress report on the various activities, including regional coordination**

After the start-up report, the Regional Coordination produced the first four six-monthly reports, the latest covering the period from May to October 2025.

In addition to these reports detailing its activities, the Regional TA keeps the Burkina Faso EUD and the WAEMU very regularly informed through formal meetings at the respective offices of these two institutions. For each meeting, a report is produced by the Regional TA to facilitate the follow-up of decisions taken.

All of the Principal Experts' mission reports provide a wealth of information on the progress of the various activities within the landscapes, highlighting various recommendations, directed at the operator, the managing EUD, the WAEMU or the ATR. Where possible, an extract from the mission reports is shared with the operator (section concerning them).

### **5.4 R4. Quality reports and documents relating to West African PAs are available for the OBAPAO website and for the political authorities.**

The Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBAPAO) was launched in November 2019, in Dakar, under the aegis of the WAEMU Commission, in collaboration with IUCN. The process of setting it up and making it operational has been entrusted to a consortium made up of the Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), the Réseau des Aires Marines Protégées d'Afrique de l'Ouest (RAMPAO), the University of Ghana and the AGRHYMET Centre, with the CSE acting as consortium leader. From a technical point of view, the Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) is based on the Joint Research Centre (JRC) model and can be accessed at [www.obapao.org](http://www.obapao.org).

In line and synergy with NaturAfrica's dynamic, and in continuation of its support for regional biodiversity monitoring centres, the European Union has launched a programme on Centres of Excellence for Biodiversity and Ecosystems in West Africa (CEBio-Eco/WA), which supports the professionalisation and promotion of the role of these centres.

OBAPAO therefore naturally occupies an important place in the NAAO dynamic.

The Regional Coordination has worked closely with the Centre of Excellence/OBAPAO since the start of the programme. Numerous meetings were organised and various missions carried out (Dakar, Accra, Nairobi), too many to be detailed here.

The NAAO Regional Coordination, through its EP1, joined the coordination group for the Centres of Excellence programme in West Africa and took part in the first coordination meetings. This has enabled significant progress to be made in identifying complementarities between the Centres of Excellence programme in West Africa and the NAAO Coordination.

After a phase of identifying mutual needs and opportunities, and following technical meetings, a significant investment of time was made by the Regional Coordination in 2025.

Various approaches and activities were developed to achieve the desired result:

- Stronger and more formal links between the NAAO RTA and the CIFOR-ICRAF programme in WA through the participation of EP1 in the monthly coordination meetings of the CE-BIO programme in WA led by CIFOR-ICRAF, with systematic comments from the RTA on planned activities.
- Sharing of actions carried out or planned by the RTA, in particular short-term assignments in progress during this period and those in preparation; sharing of ATR action plans.
- Development by the RTA of a spreadsheet listing concrete action points for collaboration and regular updating with deadlines, persons responsible and status (overdue, in progress, finalised).
- Deployment of missions for the active participation of the NAAO RTA in the CIFOR-ICRAF programme:
  - Mission EP3 and EP4 to the CIFOR-ICRAF CE-Bio AO workshop in Accra in July 2025
  - Mission EP1 to Nairobi for the ArcX Forum in Nairobi in September 2025
  - Mission EP3 to Dakar for joint OBAPAO-ATR-OFAC meetings on the development of indicator monitoring platforms, in October 2025
- Formalization of the collaboration between OBAPAO and NAAO RTA for the organization of Conservation Hubs (webinars) with sharing of lists, calendars, harmonization of topics and agreement for a common visual and communication. This was implemented in November 2025.
- Inclusion of EP3 in the drafting committee for the future document on the State of Guinean Forests to be produced by CIFOR-ICRAF.
- Development of the basic principles for NAAO's contribution to the future document on the State of Protected Areas in West Africa, by drawing up technical sheets on the PAs covered by the NAAO programme. A further development is planned from the next reporting period by studying the possibility of establishing a direct link with WCMC and WDPA (now called WDPCA).
- Agreement on the contribution of the NAAO RTA to the development of the first five-year Action Plan (2026-2030) of the strategy on biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa, led by the WAEMU.

## 5.5 R5. WAEMU services are informed and strengthened to ensure the sustainability of PA monitoring in West Africa

The NaturAfrica Programme - Phase 1 West Africa - was the subject of the signature of a Financing Agreement on 3 August 2023 between the WAEMU and European Union Commissions within the framework of the NDICI. Although ECOWAS is not a formal signatory, it should be noted that there is an agreement in principle whereby ECOWAS delegates the management of Protected Areas and Biodiversity to WAEMU.

WAEMU is therefore not only the natural regional entity for NaturAfrica's commitment to the West African States, but also a key partner for the work on regional policies and dynamics, which represent an important part of the Regional Coordination's work.

The Regional Coordination has thus ensured close collaboration with the WAEMU. This collaboration has taken several forms: firstly, regular exchanges by email, WhatsApp or other means of communication, in order to regularly discuss the progress of the programme and the support requested by the Coordination or the WAEMU. Face-to-face meetings were then organised on a regular basis at the WAEMU offices, often with the participation of the Burkina Faso EUD.

Finally, the Regional Coordinating Office responded to requests from WAEMU for various documents or information; it also made a major contribution to the regional meeting of Ministers responsible for the Environment in West Africa (Lomé, November 2024), where several presentations were made and support for reporting was provided.

WAEMU has been invited to take part in the regional NAAO meeting in Brussels in April 2025. The Protected Areas Officer and the Director of Environment and Water Resources (Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and the Environment) both took part. WAEMU's priorities were presented, in particular the Regional Reference Framework for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas in West Africa. The meeting also enabled WAEMU to gain a better understanding of the European Union's priorities, not only for the current phase of NAAO but also for phase 2, which is currently being prepared.

During the second half of 2025, the NAAO RTA organised online and face-to-face meetings with the Cellule de Gestion des Opérations sur Ressources Extérieures (CG-ORE) in order to agree on the monitoring of the implementation of the NAAO Financing Agreement within WAEMU. To this end, WAEMU submitted a monitoring form which had been pre-filled in May 2025 and which the NAAO RTA proposed to modify in order to make it more user-friendly, in line with the information that could be collected by the RTA, and more relevant to West Africa, as the initial version was modelled on the Action Document at continental level. A proposal for a new format, with updated data, was produced and shared with WAEMU and EUD Burkina Faso; this version was approved and is updated regularly.

The ATR NAAO also organised two face-to-face meetings with the focal point of the PARCI III programme (Programme d'Appui au Renforcement des Capacités Institutionnelles) of the WAEMU Commission and the West African Development Bank, within the EUD, as well as with the Technical Assistance based at the WAEMU for this programme. Discussions led to agreement on regular meetings so that the NAAO RTA could provide PARCI III with technical advice on the work of the WAEMU Protected Areas Unit.

Finally, in response to a request from WAEMU, the RTA has specified its role as technical advisor for the development of the first five-year Action Plan (2026-2030) of the strategy on biodiversity and protected areas in WAEMU. This work will be carried out under the leadership of OBAPAO.

## 5.6 R6. Steering committees and thematic meetings are organised every six months, helping to strengthen a network of West African PAs.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee, planned for 2025, has not materialised.

Pending final validation of the decision - within WAEMU - to create the Steering Committee, WAEMU, EUD Burkina Faso and Regional Coordination have decided to go ahead and organise a first regional follow-up meeting on 27 January 2026, the subject of this reference document.

With regard to thematic meetings, as a continuation of the activities initiated by the PAPBio programme, the NAAO RTA has continued its activities to organise "Conservation Hubs" webinars.

The approach of organising fewer webinars but making them more professional and linking most of them to knowledge sharing and capitalisation efforts is being maintained.

A Short-Term Support Mission will be mobilised to support the organisation of these Hubs throughout the project. Most of the webinars will be linked to the production of a technical note for wider distribution.

Three Conservation Hub webinars have already been organised by NAAO RTA (April, July and December 2025).

It was agreed to organise these webinars in close collaboration with RAMPAO and OBAPAO in order to pool efforts and offer continuity (one webinar per month on average) and harmony (sharing of topics to be presented) to participants.

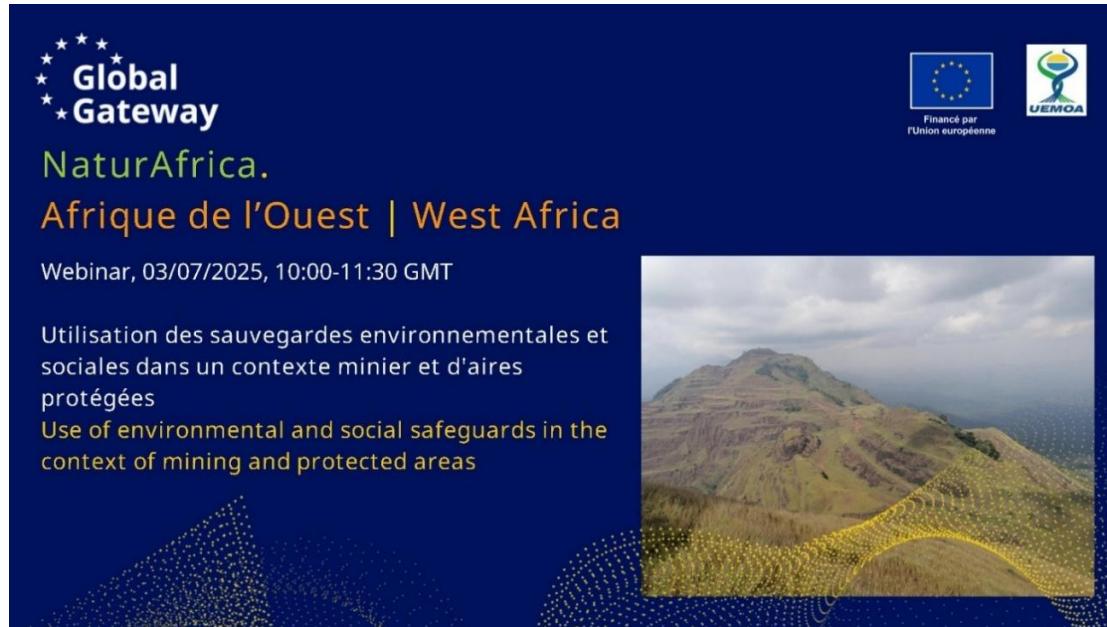


Figure 5 Example of an invitation to a webinar (here, on environmental safeguards in the mining sector).

A potential list of topics is given below.

Liste indicative des sujets qui pourraient être traités lors des webinaires des Hubs de Conservation en Afrique de l'Ouest	Date prévue
Présentation du documents sur l'Etat des Forêts Guinéennes et des AP forestières d'AO	03-04-25
Sauvegardes environnementales du secteur minier dans les aires protégées	03-07-25
Présentation des résultats de l'étude sur les expériences de collaboration transfrontalière en AO	27-11-25
Etat des lieux sur le cadre juridique, la gouvernance et les modalités de gestion durable des Forêts Communautaires en AO	Mars/avril 2026
Principes de mise en place et de suivi des mécanismes de recours/gestion plaintes	Q2 2026
Bio-monitoring en AO (à préciser: nouvelles techniques et/ou "comment harmoniser")	fin 2026
Modèles innovants/émergents de gestion des AP	
Identification des potentialités de financement novateurs basés sur l'économie verte (PES), les crédits carbone, les concessions de conservation et autres	
Survol des principes CLIP liés à la création de nouvelles AP et/ou renforcement de la loi dans et autour des AP	
Chaînes de valeur : Principes sur le développement de filières de chaîne de valeur (pilier Green Economy)	début/mi 2027
Intelligence artificielle : quels apports pour améliorer la conservation et la gestion des aires protégées	
Gouvernance/gestion des AP en zones de conflits armés	
Les corridors écologiques : négociation, délimitation, gestion et succès	
Production du cacao et gestion durable des forêts en Afrique de l'Ouest : coexistence et développement respectueux de l'environnement.	
Aires protégées transfrontalières pour la paix et la coopération	
Des analyses régionales sur la dynamique de la criminalité faunique	
Mise en place d'un système d'alerte lors de dégradation d'habitats	
Business plans pour AP, Sites touristiques et Forêts Communautaires	
Gestion des forêts communautaires : rentabilité financière des activités promues.	

Table 4: Possible topics for Conservation Hub webinars

## 5.7 R7. A communication plan is drawn up, implemented and monitored

A Regional Coordination communication plan has been drawn up. It aims to contribute to the results of the programme by promoting awareness and understanding of the funding agreement between the EU and WAEMU, including how it contributes to each other's environmental policies and commitments; supporting the EU and WAEMU in their communication and visibility by providing content to the programme. It must also contribute to the coordination, design support and implementation of the communication plans provided for in the contracts for each landscape. The target audience includes users of natural resources in the priority landscapes, landscape managers, regulators and influencers. A proposal for communication products has been developed (awaiting validation) to support the implementation of the Plan.

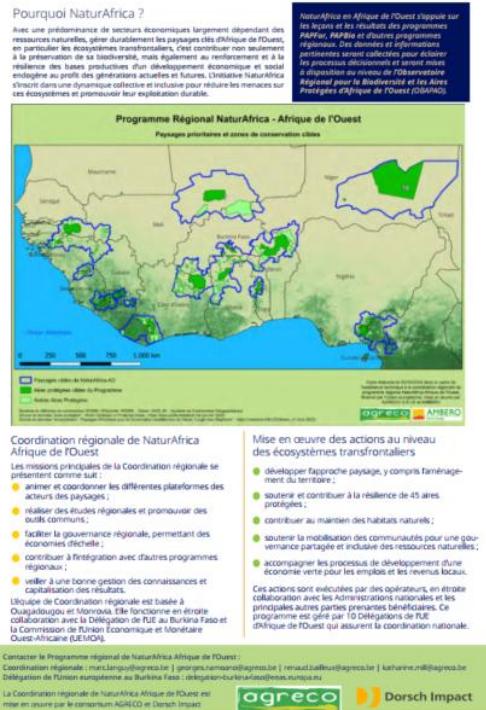
In order to operationalise the plan, NAAO RTA held face-to-face meetings with communications officers from WAEMU, OBAPAO and certain EUDs (Burkina Faso, Liberia, Senegal and Togo).

Social networking platforms have been developed. These include LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/naturafrica-ao>) and Facebook. Other platforms will be added in the future.

The first communication materials have been produced and/or translated to support meetings with the Liberia Forest Development Authority, and for the meeting of WAEMU national environment experts in Lomé.

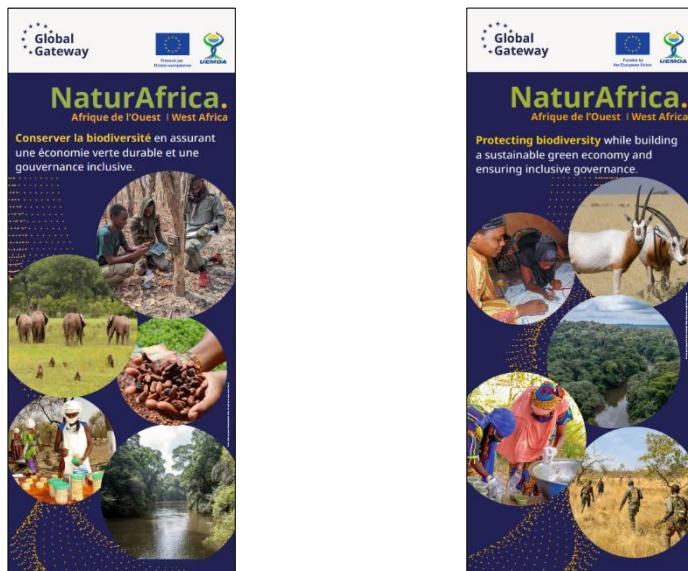
## i. Programme sheets and kakemonos

A fact sheet on the regional programme was drawn up and validated by the EUD Burkina Faso and the WAEMU, and published in French and English (virtual publication, in PDF).



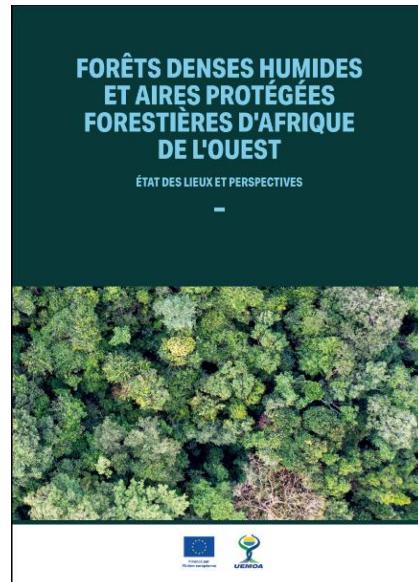
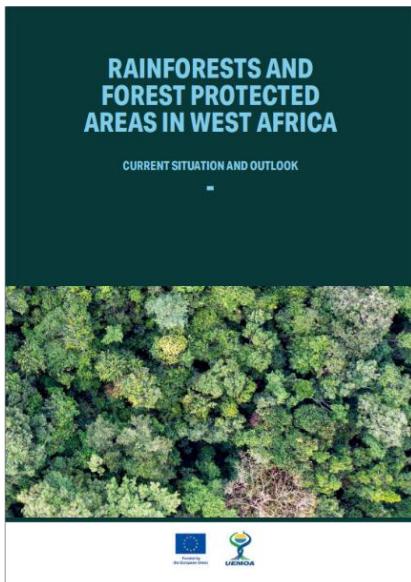
An initial landscape sheet for information and internal use (EUD) has been produced on the TGKS landscape.

Two kakemonos (in FR and EN) were designed and produced for the regional EUD meeting in Brussels in April 2025.



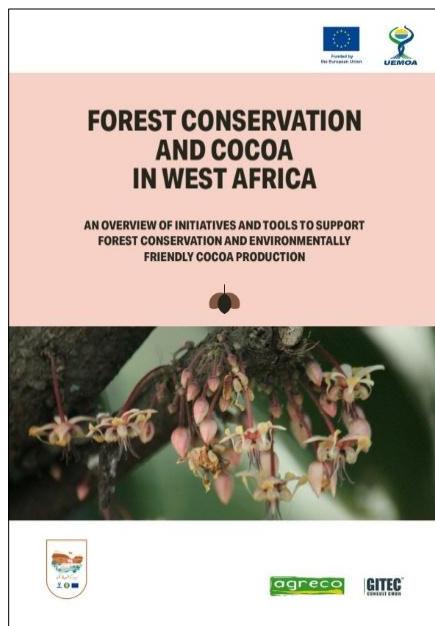
## ii. Promotion of PAPFor's achievements and integration into the NAAO programme

The printing and distribution of the book on Guinean forests, produced under the PAPFor programme, was organised at the end of December 2024 in Ouagadougou (200 copies - 100 FR, 100 EN) and Brussels (100 copies - 50 FR, 50 EN).



The quantity requested by WAEMU was delivered to their offices for dispatch to member country government ministries. ATR experts sent quantities to Liberia and Sierra Leone for distribution by these EUDs. In addition, shipment of two copies per EUD was organised from Brussels to the EUDs of Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea for receipt before 21 March 2025, World Forest Day.

The report on sustainable cocoa and forest protection in West Africa was printed in Brussels for distribution at the EUD meeting in Brussels.



### iii. Landscape files in preparation

A concept for fact sheets on current projects in the NAAO landscapes was developed, the first texts prepared and a short-term assignment contract launched with a graphic designer for the layout.

### iv. Gathering information in the field and from the EUDs

A great deal of information about the NAAO programme is gathered and shared during missions by the principal experts, including the communications expert.

### v. Online media-based communication

Online sharing has been ongoing to raise awareness of the programme's objectives. The following were shared: information about the programme (webinar announcements, newsletters, information about landscapes, missions), publications to promote biodiversity protection in the region following international dates (either about the people who work there, such as rangers, or species or habitats - for which a calendar has been drawn up). Publications of interest from other partners and stakeholders were also shared to reinforce the ATR's position as a source of relevant information and knowledge.

### vi. NAAO newsletter

Two programme newsletters were produced and distributed during this period, in June and December 2025. These newsletters are produced in French and English. They can be downloaded from the links below:

[Newsletter 1 FR](#)

[Newsletter 1 EN](#)

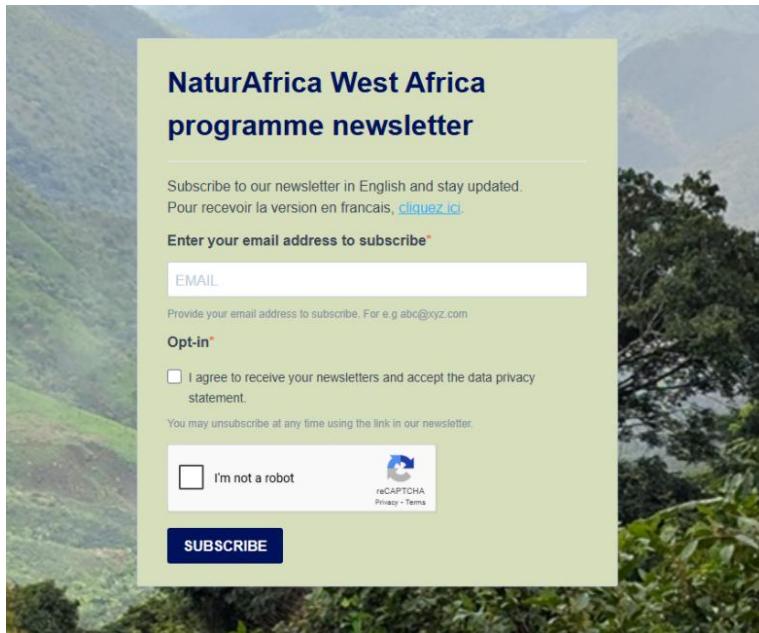
[Newsletter 2 FR](#)

[Newsletter 2 EN](#)

The **NAAO distribution list has** been strengthened and new pages have been created to allow subscribers to join the mailing list.

EN <https://tinyurl.com/mwr57v89>

FR <https://tinyurl.com/32yp8eh3>



# 6

## Work priorities for the next twelve months

The main activities for 2026 are listed below, landscape by landscape, and are presented pillar by pillar.

### 6.1 Niokolo Koba Badiar Boe

#### Main activities for the next 12 months

##### **Conservation pillar :**

- Rehabilitation of two checkpoints in the Niokolo Koba National Park (NKNP)
- IMET assessment in the Niokolo Koba National Park
- Revision, updating and validation of protected area management plans (NKNP, Badiar National Park, Bulombi National Park and Boé National Park)
- Acquisition of anti-poaching equipment and ecological monitoring
- Installation of an Operations Control Centre in Tambacounda and creation of the Earthranger platform for the KNP
- Aerial counting in NKNP and development of an annual fire management plan
- Feasibility study for the reintroduction of elephants to NKNP
- Study and categorisation of ecological connectivity
- Support for the restoration of degraded habitats

##### **Green Economy" pillar:**

- Diagnosis of available natural resources
- Organisation of the supply of raw materials: identification and mapping of suppliers (individuals, groups)
- Training farmers in climate-smart, agroecological and agroforestry practices
- Surveys of the Economic Interest Groups in the target villages and selection of promising sectors
- Carrying out tests on innovative products
- Developing non-timber forest products

##### **Governance" pillar :**

- Setting up a multi-actor dialogue framework for NKNP stakeholders
- Environmental education in schools around NKNP and Badiar National Park
- Creation of a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform involving mining companies, protected areas and local communities
- Organisation of awareness-raising meetings with mining companies

- Promotion of participatory and inclusive governance mechanisms to ensure collective and equitable decision-making around natural resources
- Building the capacity of local managers in the planning, management and monitoring of community protected areas
- Setting up cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and a framework for dialogue to strengthen cross-border ecological connectivity.

## 6.2 Mts Nimba Diécké

### Main activities for the next 12 months

#### **Conservation" pillar :**

- A.1.1.4. Support the physical demarcation of the boundaries of the Integral Reserve in Guinea, prioritising its southern section.
- A.1.2.1. Support the reform, popularisation or application of legal texts relating to biodiversity conservation, including local regulations on the use of natural resources.
- A.1.2.2 Implement joint local and cross-border patrols in collaboration with communities in PAs to prevent pressure and strengthen ecological security.
- A.1.3.1 Identify and map ecological corridors, critical areas and degraded spaces to be restored in a connected landscape approach.
- A.1.3.2 Co-design technical and community plans for ecological restoration using appropriate nature-based solutions (NBS) (ANR, agroforestry, etc.).
- A1.4.1 Carry out the IMET assessment of the protected areas of the Nimba-Diécké landscape during the different phases of the project including the EAGLE training.
- A.1.4.2 Integrate the protected areas of the Nimba-Diécké landscape into the certification process for the IUCN green list of protected areas (Liberia).
- A.1.4.2 Integrate the protected areas of the Nimba-Diécké landscape into the certification process of the IUCN green list of protected areas (Liberia)
- A.1.4.3 Support the implementation of the state of conservation indicators and government action plans for the removal of Mount Nimba from the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- A.1.4.4 Facilitate sub-regional experience sharing in the implementation of activities related to the achievement of the desired State of Conservation indicators for the removal of Mount Nimba from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **Green Economy" pillar :**

- A.2.1.1 Carry out a participatory diagnosis of economic opportunities and local know-how to identify sustainable agricultural, fish farming, pastoral and forestry sectors (including the exploitation of PFNL), social and gender dynamics, and the identification of economic stakeholders in the Nimba-Diécké landscape.
- A.2.1.3 Implement development plans integrating water resources (development of fish ponds) and community forest management (creation of wood energy parks).

- A.2.1.4 Strengthen the technical capacity of farmers, cooperatives/youth and women's groups in the priority sustainable production practices identified and processing techniques through a long-term local agricultural advisory service.
- A.2.1.6 Set up school fields
- A.2.1.5 Provide at least 30 women's and youth organisations with quality inputs, production, processing and packaging equipment adapted to each targeted sector
- A.2.2.3 Identify the distribution channels for the products supported by the project and the associated added value
- A.2.3.2 Facilitate consultation frameworks with other regional stakeholders on sustainable agricultural, fish farming, forestry and pastoral sectors.
- A.2.3.5 Support the creation of community mutuals for inclusive solidarity financing.

**Governance" pillar :**

- A.3.1.1. Organise training and capacity-building sessions for local authorities, stakeholders and community consultation frameworks on the governance of natural resources and the co-management of PAs.
- A.3.1.2. Set up a framework for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) including a complaints management mechanism
- A.3.1.5. Organise a sub-regional workshop (Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia) on the integration of the Guide and toolbox for impact assessments in a World Heritage context into national legal frameworks on environmental and social impact assessments.
- A.3.2.2. Support the structuring/strengthening and official recognition of cross-border governance committees by drawing up appropriate mandates and legal frameworks.
- A.3.2.3. Facilitate political consultation between the three countries to harmonise policy/practice for shared management of the landscape
- A.3.3.1. Analyse the landscape management policies of the three countries with a view to harmonising practices to promote cross-border management of PAs.
- A.3.3.3. Set up a joint system for monitoring human rights, conflicts of use and conservation results on a cross-border scale.
- A.3.3.4. Develop a regional digital platform for exchanging data and good practice on the management of PAs and transboundary conservation, including a mechanism for continuous updating and capitalisation.
- A.4.1.1. Carry out an assessment of the financial needs of PAs based on IMET results and management plans
- A.4.1.3. Organise and lead regular consultation mechanisms with national, local and regional stakeholders through regular consultations.

## 6.3 Taï Grebo-Krahn Sapo

### Main activities for the next 12 months

**Conservation pillar :**

- Biomonitoring work planned in Côte d'Ivoire in the Cavally Natural Reserve (CNR) and Taï National Park (TNP), and in Liberia in the Sapo National Park (SNP).
- Re-analysis of satellite data for 2025 when these are made available by the JRC in the second quarter of 2026.
- IMET assessments for the CNR and TNP, and for the Proposed Kwa National Park (PKNP) once it has been designated a national park.
- SMART workshop for WCF technical staff and partners, including OIPR and FDA.

**Green Economy" pillar:**

- Contracts have already been signed with local businesses to deliver training in beekeeping, permaculture and improved stove production techniques from Q1 2026 to local community members in villages around TNP and CNR.
- Launch of a call for proposals in Liberia for the production of ecological/energy-efficient cookstoves and agricultural improvements.
- Development of simplified business plans to estimate the fair selling price of non-timber forest products (seeds, honey, makoré and permaculture products).

**Governance pillar:**

- Support for a new meeting of the technical committee on law enforcement and for the 9th meeting of the TGKS steering committee.
- Continuation of local awareness-raising tours organised in Liberia by Eddie Theater Production
- Continued awareness raising through radio broadcasts in Liberia, working with existing local radio partners and making additional arrangements for specific programmes.
- Continued support for infrastructure development in local communities, such as road rehabilitation, school rehabilitation and hand pump construction.
- Construction of forestry camps in the SNP and PKNP.

## 6.4 Pendjari W-Benin

### Main activities for the next 12 months

**Conservation pillar :**

- Implementation of anti-poaching patrols.
- Management of the Boma for the reproduction of key species.
- Drawing up an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).
- Implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).
- Implementation of reforestation plans around the parks (June to October).

**Green Economy" pillar:**

- Strengthening of IGAs and support for local cooperatives (training, purchase of equipment, etc.).

- Training of 20 young local residents per park and support for the implementation of their professional project.
- Opening of a community fishing season, security situation permitting.
- Finalise the additional study on the WNP LUP and launch implementation in the two parks.
- Vaccination of local livestock (July and November).
- Rehabilitation of the Guéné community dam (January to June).

**Governance pillar:**

- Implementation of the business plans and the various management strategies and mechanisms underway.
- Develop a management plan for the Séri area.
- Organisation of Management Board and Monitoring Committee sessions in April/May.
- Maintain contact with the managers of the WAP complex in Burkina Faso and Niger.

## 6.5 Cross River

### Main activities for the next 12 months

**Conservation pillar :**

- Support ranger patrols at all sites.
- Develop management plans for two sites (CRNP and AMWS).
- Complete the development of social safeguards and the complaints and redress mechanism for Cross River National Park and begin implementation.
- Implement conservation education activities at all sites.
- Develop and maintain infrastructure.

**Green Economy Pillar:**

- Support farm mapping and monitoring to improve traceability.
- Support the renovation of existing cocoa farms and promote cocoa farming and agroforestry adapted to the climate.
- Support women's groups and cooperatives and build warehouses for wild mango trees.
- Create nurseries for wild mango trees.
- Rehabilitate 12 boreholes and create and strengthen 12 WASHCOM committees.

**Governance pillar:**

- Create a conservation association within AMWS.
- Continue to support community-based conservation management of the Mbe Mountains by the Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains.
- Implement measures to mitigate the negative effects of human activities on the environment

- Support the strengthening of community forest management committees at all sites

## 6.6 Gadabedji

Contract not signed. Formulation in progress. Documents not yet finalised.

## 6.7 Gola

Contract not signed. Formulation in progress. Documents not yet finalised.

## 6.8 PoNaSi

Contract not signed. Formulation in progress. Documents not yet finalised.

## 6.9 Fazao Kyabobo

Contract not signed. Operator not identified; formulation not yet begun.

## 6.10 Regional Coordination

For 2026, the most important activities of the Regional Coordination are as follows:

- Continuing to support the design of the operators' action documents (Gola, PoNaSi, Gadabedji)
- Working closely with the implementing agencies to ensure more effective monitoring of the Financing Agreement indicators.
- Coordination and support for training in the IMET tool and its use in as many Protected Areas as possible
- Support the WAEMU in organising steering committees
- Organise support visits in the field
- Undertake regional studies
- Coordinating with the CIFOR-ICRAF programme on Centres of Excellence and OBAPAO in particular
- Sharing information via social networks, newsletter etc.
- Organisation of webinars, in collaboration with OBAPAO/RAMPAO.

The more detailed activities included in the coordination work plan for the six-month period from November 2025 to April 2026 are set out in tables 5a and 5b below.

Plan d'action pour les 6 mois de novembre 2025 à avril 2026	Novembre	Décembre	Janvier	Février	Mars	Avril	Lead
<b>Résultat 1 : Soutiens aux engagements spécifiques pour chaque paysage de conservation - Des contrats adaptés sont proposés par la coordination régionale aux autorités contractantes</b>							
Activité A1.1 : Aide aux bénéficiaires identifiés en attribution directe pour la rédaction de propositions de contrat et aide aux autorités contractantes à initier un processus compétitif pour sélection selon les modalités prévues dans la CF							
Appui technique à la finalisation des documents d'actions et l'établissement des contrats pour le paysage Gola-Foya							E3
Mission de terrain en vue de la préparation des documents d'actions dans le paysage PONASI							E2
Appui technique à la finalisation des documents d'actions et l'établissement des contrats pour le paysage PONASI							E2
Accompagnement à l'analyse, évaluation de l'offre et à l'établissement du contrat pour le Fazao-Kyabobo (si l'option d'un contrat pour ce paysage est							E2
Mission de terrain en vue de la préparation des documents d'actions du deuxième contrat WAP Bénin							E2
Appui technique à la préparation des documents d'actions et l'établissement du deuxième contrat pour le paysage W-Pendjari (Bénin)							E2
Commentaires détaillés sur la proposition retenue pour le paysage Nimba							E1
Appui technique à la finalisation des documents d'actions et l'établissement des contrats pour Gadabedji							E2
Activité A1.2 : Echanges avec les DUEs (autorités contractantes) pour harmonisation et synchronisation optimale							
Rencontres mensuelles sur l'état d'avancement du programme avec la DUE Burkina Faso							E1, E2
Réunions d'échanges avec les DUEs et opérateurs							E1, E2, E3, E4
Mission d'appui et de suivi auprès de la DUE Niger							E2, E1
Organisation et tenue de la réunion régionale des DUE (à confirmer)							E1, E2, E3, E4
<b>Résultat 2 : Soutien au monitoring et encadrement des différents contrats relatifs aux paysages prioritaires de conservation</b>							
Activité A2.1 : Les opérateurs sont formés et sensibilisés au modèle de reporting et aux méthodes de communication							
Mission spécifique d'appui à la collecte et analyse des données sur les indicateurs terrain au niveau des communautés							E1
Appui à la finalisation et/ou mise à jour des cadres logiques des paysages actifs (W Bénin-Pendjari, PoNaSi, Fazao-Kyabobo, NKBB, TGKS, Cross River)							E1, E2, E3
Activité A2.2 : Des appuis et conseils pour une mise en oeuvre optimale des contrats sont réalisés							
Développement d'une plateforme de suivi des contrats, harmonisée avec celle d'Afrique Centrale							E1
Production de recommandations dans les rapports de mission							E1, E2, E3
Organisation et tenue de la réunion régionale des DUE (à confirmer)							E1, E2, E3, E4
<b>Résultat 3 : Un reporting de la coordination et de la CF et réalisé semestriellement</b>							
Activité A3.1 : Des rapports de suivi de la CF sont produits semestriellement et discutés avec les DUEs et le partenaire régional							
Révision de la fiche UEMOA de suivi du programme NAAO							E1
Mise à jour de la fiche UEMOA de suivi du programme NAAO							E1
Préparation du rapport technique et autres documents de référence pour le 1er Comité de Pilotage du programme (date indicative)							E1, E2, E3, E4
Activité A3.2 : Un rapport semestriel spécifique de la coordination est produit et diffusé, selon un format établi par la DUE à Ouagadougou et l'UEMOA							
Finalisation et remise rapport semestriel n°4							E1
Préparation rapport semestriel n°5							E1

Table 5a: Regional coordination timetable, November 2025 to April 2026: Results 1 to 3

Plan d'action pour les 6 mois de novembre 2025 à avril 2026	Novembre	Décembre	Janvier	Février	Mars	Avril	Lead
<b>Résultat 4 : Etudes spécifiques aux paysages sont disponibles pour l'observatoire régional et pour les autorités politiques</b>							
Activité A4.1 : Réalisation d'études thématiques et valorisation des résultats (y compris le site web OBAPAO)							
Valorisation des deux études sur la collaboration transfrontalière et sur le cadre NKBB (webinaire + présentation à l'atelier de lancement)							E2, E4
Valorisation de l'étude sur les programmes régionaux lors du 1er CoPil							E1, E2, E3
Revue du contenu du futur document sur l'Etat des forêts d'AO et participation à la rédaction							E3
Préparation des TdRs, mobilisation et debriefing ATCT sur les forêts communautaires							E3
Préparation des TdRs et mobilisation sur la documentation des AP prioritaires de NAO							E1
Préparation des TdRs , mobilisation et debriefing ATCT sur les CFCs							E1, E2, E3
Préparation des TdRs , mobilisation ATCT sur l'harmonisation des méthodes de bio-monitoring							E1, E2, E3
Activité A4.2 : Visite des sites et prise d'information – suivi des IMET							
Appui à la coordination des évaluations IMET							E1, E2, E3
Mission de suivi dans les sites: NKBB (en lien avec atelier de lancement)							E2, E1
Mission de suivi dans les sites: Gola Liberia							E3
Mission de suivi dans les sites: Gola Sierra Leone							E3
Mission de suivi dans les sites: Nimba (si contrat émis en 2025)							E3, E1
Mission de suivi dans les sites: TGKS, Côte d'Ivoire							E3, E4
Mission de suivi dans les sites: TGKS, Liberia							E3
Mission de suivi dans les sites: PoNaSi (si contrat émis fin 2025, début 2026)							E2, E1
Activité A4.3 : Proposition de recommandations et sensibilisation en vue de l'amélioration de la qualité de gestion et de la qualité de décisions politiques							
Développement de recommandations spécifiques lors de chaque mission de terrain + partage et suivi (Voir visites de terrain sous activités A1.1 plus haut)							E1, E2, E3
Activité A4.4 : Organisation conjointe avec des programmes partenaires							
Mise en place d'un cadre de collaboration avec RAMPao/OBAPAO pour l'organisation conjointe de webinaires en AO							E4
Collaboration avec IP GEF-8 sur Forêts Guinéennes							E3
Tenue de rencontres avec la FSOA et coordination des appuis							E2
Rencontres d'échanges avec le PARCI III sur l'appui à l'UEMOA							E1
Participation aux rencontres du comité de suivi du RBT-WAP/GIZ							E2
Coordination avec RainForest Trust							E3
<b>Résultat 5 : Information et renforcement de l'UEMOA</b>							
Activité A5.1 : Echanges réguliers avec l'UEMOA pour la définition des besoins et échanges d'information							
Rencontres régulières sur l'état d'avancement du programme avec l'UEMOA							E1, E2
Activité A5.2 : Formations et renforcement selon les thèmes définis							
Appui au développement du plan d'action de la Stratégie UEMOA sur la conservation et les AP d'AO							E2, E3
<b>Résultat 6 : Comité de pilotage et réunion thématiques et animation réseau régional d'experts</b>							
Activité A6.1 : Définir le format le plus adéquat, former les opérateurs sur les templates de présentation de leurs réalisations							
Développement des templates pour rapport succinct en vue de la tenue des CoPils							E1
Compilation et consolidation des matrices des indicateurs des cadres logiques en vue d'une remontée vers CoPils							E1
Activité A6.2 : Réunions périodiques du hub d'experts régionaux							
Préparation des TdRs, mobilisation et debriefing ATCT hubs virtuels							E4
Organisation/animation de Hubs thématiques							E4
Activité A6.3 : Organisation semestrielle de comité de pilotage de la Convention de Financement NaturAfricAO							
Préparation du premier CoPil du programme							E1
Tenue du premier CoPil du programme (date indicative)							E1, E2, E3, E4
Rapportage du premier CoPil du programme et suivi des recommandations							E1
<b>Résultat 7 : Un plan de communication relatif à la Convention NaturAfricAO est établi et appliqué</b>							
Activité A7.1 : Inventaire des activités de communication prévues dans les différentes subventions							
Mission de suivi pour appui aux activités de communication : Gola Liberia							E4
Mission de suivi pour appui aux activités de communication : TGKS Liberia							E4
Collecte d'information sur activités de comms avec contrats en cours							E4
Maintien des contacts réguliers avec les experts de communication de l'UEMOA, DUE Burkina et OBAPAO							E4
Activité A7.2 : Etablir un plan de communication relatif à la Convention de Financement							
Réviser et mettre à jour le plan de communication							E4
Activité A7.3 : Mise en œuvre et suivi du plan de communication							
Préparation des TdRs, mobilisation et debriefing ATCT hubs virtuels							E4
Préparation de deux bulletins d'infos sur le programme							E4
Préparation de 4 fiches paysage selon contractualisation							E4
Publications sur pages NAAO sur les médias sociaux (LinkedIn, Facebook) selon calendrier et en collaboration avec partenaires du programme							E4

Table 5b: Regional coordination timetable, November 2025 to April 2026: Outcomes 4 to 7

# 7

## Monitoring of the NAAO Financing Agreement

### 7.1 NaturAfrica programme monitoring framework

The progress of the NAAO Programme is monitored through various elements, including the technical reports of each Implementing Agency and the Regional Coordination Unit, which are submitted to the European Union Delegations with which the respective contracts are established.

**It is therefore important to note that the monitoring of landscape contracts is carried out by the EUDs in charge of each contract.**

With regard to progress on the Financing Agreement (FA), the main monitoring tool should ideally be the logical framework for this agreement. However, there is no logical framework specific to West Africa, but rather a very general logical framework for the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.

A monitoring sheet specific to the WAEMU Commission was drawn up in November 2025 and will make it possible to monitor the programme's progress by means of a set of indicators to be filled in from January 2026. This monitoring sheet contains a "performance measurement framework for the NAAO programme" which is shared in Annex 1 of this document. This framework has been partially completed as of December 2025, although it should be noted that only one programme has submitted a technical report. The information provided therefore mainly concerns activities linked to Regional Coordination.

In addition to the elements included in the EU Action Document for the entire NaturAfrica programme at continental level, a set of 16 "core" indicators has been produced and is common to all NaturAfrica programmes.

The indicators, organised by pillar, are as follows:

NaturAfrica core indicators		Mandatory (M)	Field data (F)
		Optional (O)	Remote (R)
Conservation	Effective management of protected and conserved Areas	M	F
	Wildlife population trends	O	F
	Protected area territorial integrity	M	R
	Conserved and protected areas connectivity	M	R
	Natural habitat integrity	M	R
Green economy	Sustainable use of natural resources	O	F/R
	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises performance	M	F
	Investments in the green sector	M	F
	Food security	M	F
	Competitiveness and socio-env. Responsibility	O	F
Governance	Participatory governance of NRs	M	F
	Local communities implication in conservation	O	F
	Peaceful governance	M	F
	Sustainable Financing	O	F
	Human well-being	M	F
	Number of people trained on human rights	M	F

Table 6 Core indicators for the NaturAfrica programme

For each of these indicators, a methodology sheet has been prepared and shared with the EUDs and operators.

Some of these indicators will be monitored by the European Union Commission's Joint Research Centre; these are indicators measured by remote sensing. The other indicators ("field" indicators) will be monitored by the operators.

## 7.2 Alignment of logical frameworks with NaturAfrica core indicators

It is important to note that operators were not asked to include all the core indicators in their logframes, but at least the eight mandatory field indicators (shown in bold in Table 6).

Although significant support was given to ensure that all mandatory indicators were included in the logical frameworks, this was not effective for each landscape.

An analysis of the logical frameworks of the five signed contracts and three in the process of being finalised was carried out in order to study their alignment with the NaturAfrica core indicators. This analysis is therefore independent of the progress of the programmes.

The colours in table 7 indicate the extent to which the core indicators are included (green) or not included (red) in the logical frameworks of the implementation programmes. Yellow indicates that a similar indicator exists or that activities contributing to the indicator are planned but have no corresponding logical framework. Blank cells correspond to indicators that are absent but not compulsory.

Code	NAF Core Indicator	NKBB	Gola	Nimba	TGKS	WAP Bénin	Gadabedji	Cross River	PoNaSi
C1	<b>Effective management of protected and conserved Areas</b>	C1	C1						
C2	Wildlife population trends	C2	C2						
C3	Protected area territorial integrity	C3	C3						
C4	Conserved and protected areas connectivity	C4	C4						
C5	Natural habitat integrity	C5	C5						
GE1	Sustainable use of natural resources	GE1	GE1						
GE2	<b>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises performance</b>	GE2	GE2						
GE3	<b>Investments in the green sector</b>	GE3	GE3						
GE4	<b>Food security</b>	GE4	GE4						
GE5	Competititvity and socio-env. responsibility	GE5	GE5						
GOV1	<b>Participatory governance of NRs</b>	GOV1	GOV1						
GOV2	Local communities implication in conservation	GOV1 et 2	GOV1 et 2						
GOV3	<b>Peaceful governance</b>	GOV3	GOV3						
GOV4	Sustainable Financing	GOV4	GOV4						
GOV5	<b>Human well-being</b>	GOV5	GOV5						
GOV6	<b>Number of people trained on human rights</b>	GOV6 (HR)	GOV6 (HR)						

Table 7 Alignment of the landscape logical frameworks with the core indicators of the NaturAfrica programme

**Important note:** the logical frameworks for the Gola, Gadabedji and PoNaSi landscapes have not yet been validated in their final version and may still evolve between now and the signing of the contracts.

This analysis, coupled with the reading of the logical frameworks, brings out some important conclusions:

1. Alignment is good for the Conservation pillar, particularly for monitoring the effectiveness of protected area management using the IMET tool. However, it will be necessary to ensure that the landscapes and the Joint Research Centre work closely together to monitor remote sensing indicators.
2. The alignment of indicators for the Green Economy, on the other hand, is average, if not poor.
3. The alignment of indicators for the Governance pillar is average.
4. From a geographical point of view, we can see that some landscapes have achieved good alignment (Niokolo Koba, TGKS and PoNaSi in particular), while for others the alignment is generally poor to very poor (Nimba more specifically). WAP Benin's poor alignment can be explained by the fact that the contract was signed in October 2023, before the core indicators had been shared.
5. Another observation is that, for most of the logical frameworks, the baselines are missing or not quantified. It is therefore essential that the programmes set about documenting the baselines through the various biological or socio-economic inventories proposed.
6. Generally speaking, the proportion of the budget allocated by operators to the collection, analysis, evaluation and monitoring of indicators is inadequate and needs to be adjusted.

It should be noted that, during the first half of 2026, the NAAO Regional Coordination will carry out a mission to support operators in the preparation, collection and monitoring of three field indicators requiring socio-economic surveys.

# 8 Annexes

## 8.1 Appendix 1: NAAO programme performance framework

NAAO PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK					
	Indicators	Unit	Baseline value	Target (end of project)	Achievement
<b>Networking of PA managers concerned by the NaturAfrica Financing Agreement</b>	An Action Plan for the regional strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa is validated and implemented by the countries of the sub-region under the aegis of WAEMU.  2. West African PA stakeholders exchange and benefit from a virtual hub on biodiversity and PA conservation.	Plan  Hubs (Webinars)	Strategy exists, but no action plan  Hubs under PAPBio suspended	Five-year Action Plan validated  At least 10 hubs organised, with technical note produced	Preparation in progress  3 hubs organised by NAAO; 2 hubs organised by OBAPAO
<b>R1 Regional ATR (Adapted operator contracts)</b>	Number of contracts for which the coordination has made concrete proposals with specific comments on the proposed action  Indicators of the logical frameworks of the various contracts are harmonised and in line with those of the FC	Number  Number	0  0	8  8	8  4
<b>R2 Regional ATR (Monitoring and supervision of contracts)</b>	Format for reporting landscape actions to the Copil is harmonised	Number	0	8	NA
<b>R3 Regional ATR (Technical)</b>	Half-yearly technical reports produced and	Number	0	7	4

NAAO PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK					
	Indicators	Unit	Baseline value	Target (end of project)	Achievement
<b>and monitoring reports)</b>	shared on time and meeting the expected standards  Matrix for monitoring coordination and implementation agency indicators developed, adopted and updated for each Copil	Number	0	3	0
<b>R4 Regional ATR (Studies and technical documents available)</b>	Number of specific studies carried out and published  Number of quality documents and reports submitted and available on the OBAPAO website  Number of visits to programmes to obtain information from the co-ordinator  Number of recommendations produced by regional coordination to improve the management of PAs and supporting programmes	Number Number Number Number	0 0 0 0	5 15 12 30	3 0 8 20
<b>R5-R6 Regional ATR (WAEMU monitoring and support)</b>	Number of Steering Committees actually held, with at least 2/3 of expected participants	Number	0	3	0
<b>R7 Regional ATR (Communication and capitalisation)</b>	A communication plan is developed and adopted, with the participation of all FC stakeholders  Newsletters on the NAAO programme	Number Number	0 0	1 8	1 draft 3

NAAO PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK					
	Indicators	Unit	Baseline value	Target (end of project)	Achievement
	produced and shared  Visitor/audience index for websites, newsletter and Facebook page increases over the months  Number of posts on Capacity4Dev	Index  Number	0  0	To be determined  120	To be determined  44
<b>Overall objective:</b> Reduce biodiversity loss while improving the sustainable quality of life of local communities living in Key Landscapes for Conservation and Development (KLCDs) in WA	1a and 1b Improved indices of 1) well-being (1a) and 2) Food Consumption Score (1b) of communities in PCCDs, as determined by basic needs surveys.  2 Rate of change in target animal species (annual average)	1a Index  1b SCA  %/year	1a and 1b To be determined for each PCCD in 2026  2. Variable rate depending on species and landscape	1a and 1b. To be determined for each PCCD at baseline intake  2. At least one maintenance (stop population decline)	NA  NA
SO1: At the landscape level, improve the conservation, management and use of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services in CDDCs for the benefit of nature and local communities, and in particular women, young people and vulnerable populations.	1.1 Number of IMET assessments carried out with the support of the action  1.2 IMET scores for conservation area management effectiveness  1.3 # ha of PCCD where ecosystem health (measured by vegetation cover and above-ground carbon) has improved or at least remained stable  1.4 Increase in the average income of small-scale food producers, disaggregated by gender, in CDP	Number  Score  Ha  XOF equivalent/month	0  To be determined for each PA at the start of the programme  To be determined by the Joint Research Centre for each conservation area  To be identified during baseline surveys	20  Average improvement of 7%.  To be determined for each PCCD at the time of its creation  Average increase of at least 15% in target populations	3  NA  NA  NA

NAAO PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK					
	Indicators	Unit	Baseline value	Target (end of project)	Achievement
	target communities				
R11: Strengthened capacity to plan and implement inclusive conservation management in PCCDs	1.1.1 Number of collaborative management partnerships for protected areas supported by EU-funded intervention  1.1.2 Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under protection with EU support	Number  Km <sup>2</sup>	0  To be determined by the JRC	5  Same level	NA  NA
R12: Improved access to sustainable green economy livelihoods for all community members in CDPs	1.2.1 Number of people having benefited from training, financial resources, or other increased resources for sustainable and secure food production, sustainable energy and clean water sources, for family consumption or for productive uses with EU support (disaggregated by gender)  1.2.2 Area of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support (ha)  1.2.3 Number of green jobs created with the support of the action	Number (sex ratio)  Ha	0  0  0	To be consolidated on the basis of logical frameworks, once established  To be consolidated on the basis of the logical frameworks, once established  To be consolidated on the basis of the logical frameworks, once established	NA  NA  NA
R13: Capacity-building in land-use governance and natural resource	1.3.1 Area (ha) where CBNRM agreements at community level are implemented	Ha	To be determined at outset	To be determined for each PCCD at	NA

NAAO PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK					
	Indicators	Unit	Baseline value	Target (end of project)	Achievement
management in PCCDs	with the support of EU-funded intervention  1.3.2 Number of PCCD land use plans developed through participatory planning with support from EU-funded intervention	Number	To be determined at the outset	the time of its creation  To be determined for each PCCD at the time of its creation	NA
SO2: At regional level, improve cross-border and trans-regional governance, coordination and capacities for the conservation and management of cross-border DCCPs.	2.1 Number of cross-border agreements for landscape management, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management (intergovernmental memoranda of understanding, agreements, treaties)	Number	To be determined at the outset	To be determined for each PCCD at the time of its creation	NA
R21: Improved access to information on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems for the purposes of awareness-raising, advocacy and participatory decision-making.	2.1.1 Number of awareness-raising documents (fact sheets, toolkits, state of conservation reports, surveys, etc.) published each year with the support of the intervention financed by the EU.	Number	To be determined at the outset	To be determined for each PCCD at the time of its creation	NA
R23: Strengthen coordination of policy harmonisation at regional and landscape level	2.3.1 Number of cross-border or interregional events (meetings, exchange visits, workshops, training) organised each year	Number	To be determined at the outset	To be determined for each PCCD at the time of its creation	NA

## 8.2 Appendix 2: Presentation of the NaturAfrica Programme

File attached separately.

**8.3 Annex 3: Study of the legal framework for transboundary collaboration in the Niokolo-Koba Badiar Boe Landscape**

[Legal study NKBB](#)

Password: EtJurNKBB25FR\*

**8.4 Appendix 4: Study on experiences of cross-border collaboration in West Africa**

The report of this study can be downloaded in French or English:

[Study on cross-border experiences FR](#)

[Study on cross-border experiences EN](#)