

# ► The West African Protected Areas Newsletter



“La lettre des aires protégées en Afrique de l’Ouest”

N°43  
June 2011



## EDITO

■ **From Jean MUGISHAWIMANA,**  
Technical Director of the  
National Institute for  
Environment and  
Conservation of Nature  
(INECN) - Burundi



For a long time, Burundi has been home to a very large biodiversity, of which some animal species have disappeared due to uncontrolled anthropogenic activities (*Loxodonta africana*, *Panthera leo*, *Equus quagga*, *Diceros bicornis* etc.).

It was in 1980 that the government then decided to establish protected areas together with the institute that would be in charge of managing them (Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature "INECN"). Today, Burundi has 14 protected areas divided into 4 categories (National Parks, Nature reserves, Natural Monuments and Protected Landscapes). Some of these PAs are legally recognized (or the recognition procedure is on-going), and others are not legally recognized yet (3 of them are being created); recently in April 2011, five more PAs obtained a legal status. There is also a community protected sacred forest and two private arboretums. Of course, these protected areas are the richest but apart from these areas that are already protected, there are other sites which are potentially rich in biodiversity; however, studies have to be done to determine their biological richness.

Today, when we consider the rate at which natural resources are used in the country, we realize that most of the species are still threatened to disappear or endangered, and the situation is the same for protected sites natural resources. Therefore, the stakes are high, but strategies have already been agreed on in order to deal with them. They are notably about:

- *Involving bordering populations in conservation activities* by recognizing some rights to use natural resources but under control.
- *Fitting the laws to the current situation* in order to fill in the gaps that have been long noticed in the measures taken to punish offenders.
- *Coordinating the activities of many associations working in the field of conservation* by developing synergy between the various stakeholders of national life.
- *Transboundary management* for some protected areas and ecosystems located on and beyond Burundi's borders.
- *Strengthening regional and international cooperation* in terms of nature conservation so that the conservation of natural ecosystems will not be the domain of State institutions only.
- *Strengthening institutional and individual capacities and mobilizing resources* in order to improve the level of funding and the sustainability of protected areas.

These on-going strategies, once successful, will avoid negative returns on population's life and the reduction of the State budget's receipts due to the degradation of biodiversity. Indeed, we notice with bitterness that in the country's forest and savannah areas, cultures clearing combined to non-rational methods of land exploitation has resulted in erosion, water pollution with, as a consequence, the loss of land fertility and the reduction of fish stocks in lakes. In addition, the cutting of upland forests has resulted in the disturbance of the stability of climate and water that feeds among others the hydroelectric dam's system.

It is therefore time that we all stand up to support the strategies of a rational use of our resources while preserving the richness of our biodiversity. This call is launched to all the humans engaged in protecting the earth against climate change effects.

Enjoy the reading!



## Assessing protected areas management effectiveness in Burundi

Burundi is one of the very few countries in Africa where no national park has been established during colonial times, but all the forests have become official reserves under the Belgium colonial authority in 1933. Therefore, it is only from the law-decree of 3 March 1980 creating national parks and natural reserves that the legislation on protected areas has been established. In addition, the forest code of 1985 provides for the creation of protected forests, forest reserves and reforestation areas.

In Burundi, it is the *Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (INECN)* which is in charge of establishing and managing protected areas. It is placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment. It is a public administrative establishment, the directorate-general of which has a secretariat and two departments: (i) a technical department in charge of planning national parks, reserves and natural monuments. It also manages the protected areas that have not yet been legally recognized; (ii) the department of environment, research and environmental education composed of three sections (research, education, monitoring - environmental impact study).

Today, Burundi has 14 protected areas composed of national parks, natural reserves, natural monuments and protected landscapes. At the time of the assessment in September 2010, legally recognized protected areas<sup>1</sup> (or in the process of being recognized), were covering about 1,040 km<sup>2</sup> that is 3.7% of the total surface area of the country. Since April 2011, five more protected areas<sup>2</sup> have been legally recognized, which increases the covering area of protected land to 4.6% of the country.

The management effectiveness assessment of Burundi parks has been conducted during a 3-day workshop held in September 2010 at Bujumbura (capital city), followed by a visit of the sites. The methodology used is the one developed by WWF: Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas Management (RAPPAM), combined to the protected areas monitoring tool developed by the World Bank and WWF: Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). Ten (10) PAs are concerned by this evaluation, namely: (i) Kibira National Park (40,000 ha), (ii) Bururi forest nature reserve (3,300 ha), (iii) Monge forest nature reserve (5,000 ha), (iv), Rusizi reserve (5,932 ha), (v) Ruvubu National Park (50,800 ha), (vi) Gisagara protected Landscape (6,126 ha), (vii) Rumonge (600 ha), Vyanda (3,900 ha) and Kigwena (500 ha) forest nature reserves, (viii) natural monuments of Kakera falls

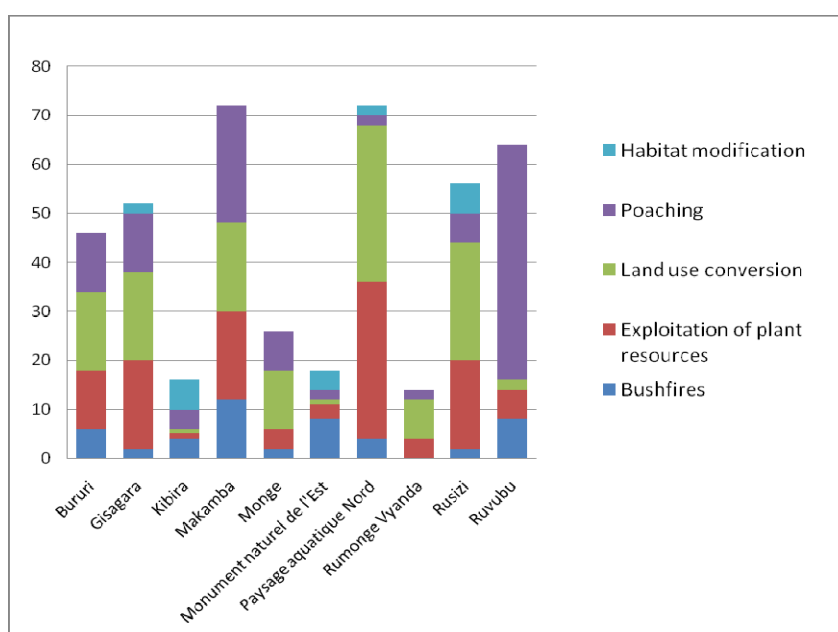
<sup>1</sup> Kibira, Bururi, Rusizi, Rumonge-Vyanda-Kigwena

<sup>2</sup> Monuments naturels de l'Est, les Paysages aquatiques protégés du Nord, la forêt sacrée de Mpotso, le paysage protégé de Gisagara et le Parc National de la Ruvubu

(142 ha) and Nyakazu Fault (600 ha), (ix) Bugesera protected aquatic Landscape (16,010 ha) and (x) Makamba protected Landscape (7,229 ha). These are the legally recognized (or being recognized) PAs.

The assessed PAs are globally representative of the country's ecosystems' diversity (savannah, mountain ombrophilous forests, periginean forests, etc.). However, mountain swamps, some mountain ecosystems and papyrus swamps are little or not represented in the current PA network.

These PAs are subject to many pressures: habitat modification, poaching, land use change, exploitation of plant resources, bushfires. Land use change is the most present pressure in almost all the PAs assessed, and it is the highest in the landscapes of the North and to Rusizi.



The lands of Rusizi are very coveted by various groups of population that come from Bujumbura (the capital city) located at about ten km from the PA. Bordering populations have already transformed most of the northern part of the PA into rice fields and sugar cane plantations. As far as poaching is concerned, Ruvubu seems to be the most affected by this pressure. This could be partly due to the fact that the other PAs already have low residual animal populations and therefore little coveted, whereas Ruvubu has the particularity to have an interesting panel of antelopes coveted by bordering populations, notably those of the neighbouring Tanzania. Bushfires are present in almost all the protected areas. They are very frequent at Makamba, Ruvubu and the East Monuments. Bushfires are made by stockbreeders, hunters or criminals and destroy large surfaces of vegetation. Habitat modification pressure is higher at Rusizi as well as Kibira where the consequences of artisanal mining activities are multiple on the ecosystem: where the quarries are established, the vegetal cover has disappeared and the erosion of soils is

very important; the products used in minerals extraction process (gold, coltan, cassiterite) pollute water courses and disturb freshwater sources. At the East Monuments, the farms that are becoming more and more numerous encroach upon the PA and split up their habitat. At Gisagara, the modification of the habitat was brought about by the introduction of exotic species such as the *Cupressus sp.* and *Calitris sp.*

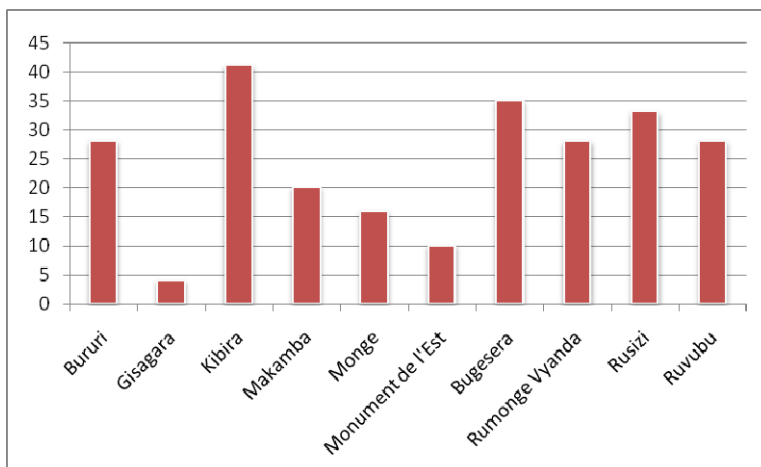
The increasing population around PAs is by far the strongest **threat** on all the PAs assessed. With this threat, one should fear an increase in the needs for natural resources (demand for agricultural lands and wood). In the PAs located near Tanzania such as Ruvubu, Rumonge and Makamba, the mass return of Tanzanian rapatriates adds to the local demographic explosion. In the North Landscape, the migratory flow that is added to indigenous populations mainly comes from the other regions of Burundi where it has become extremely difficult to get access to land. At Rusizi and Bururi, the development of adjoining urban centres that feed the flood of populations around the PA.

The other threats are: land conversion, modification of habitat and mining. Concerning the last one, we notice that today Ruvubu is from far the most threatened PA as there are mining and railways construction projects that are likely to greatly disturb its already extremely fragile balance (seeing the current pressures).



Concerning the **biological importance** of the PAs evaluated, they include species that are threatened nationally and regionally such as the Chimpanzee, the Hippo, the Nile crocodile and the Sitatunga because of poaching. The swamp antelope (*Tragelaphus spekei*) has almost disappeared in the North Landscapes PA, whereas in the East Monuments, plants like *Entandrophragma excelsum*, *Albizia newtonia*, *Cordia africana* are endangered. Only four PAs among the ones assessed have endemic species: the upland forest of Kibira and Bururi are home to some endemic species of the Albertine Rift including the *Kungwe aparis* bird; the north

landscapes count two endemic species of fish (*Barbus acuticeps* et *Synodontis ruanda*); Rusizi is distinguished by its forest with *Hyphaene benguellensis var ventricosa* in its sector of Palm grove.



Biological importance of the PAs assessed

Generally, all the PAs assessed play an important ecological role as they represent the last areas where there still are wild species. These species have almost totally disappeared from the areas outside PAs. Let us notice that some PAs contain unique habitats, such as uplands forests of Kibira and Bururi, some others such as the North landscapes and Rusizi are migratory halts for birds. However, only a few PAs host minimal viable populations of outstanding species such as hippos, crocodiles, buffalos, Defassa cobs and chimpanzees which represent theoretically sufficient populations but remaining threatened by poaching.

In addition to their ecological importance related to their specific richness, protected areas also have a **socioeconomic importance** as they provide bordering populations with various resources of social and cultural importance: at Kibira, one can find necropolis of Burundi former kings as well as the Inangurire grotto which used to be an important kubandwa place of worship, non-timber forest products widely harvested at Gisagara, that is, medicinal plants, edible vegetables, mushrooms, termites and honey. These PAs can also provide jobs for local populations. For example, at Rusizi, the roads are maintained by women from bordering populations and infrastructures (offices, sanitary blocks) are restored by men. Most PAs also host **unusual elements of aesthetic importance** (Karera falls, panoramic view of Kibira from Twinyoni, Musumba and Teza monts, etc), as well as highly social, cultural or economic important species of plants and animals: the plant named umuvugangoma (*Cordia africana*) is used to make sacred drums which embody royalty. It is found in the PAs of Gisagara, the East monuments, Rumonge and



Ruvubu; chimpanzees at Makamba, Vyanda, Bururi and Kibira or Buffalos at Ruvubu are key species for ecotourism.



On the whole network, management is often poorly planned and the inputs remain very insufficient. Natural resources management processes are almost inexistent and the law is globally weakly implemented. Managers are also confronted with the reluctance of local administration services (police and legal authorities) and conflicts with bordering populations are sometimes important. Buguri appears as the only exception as far as collaboration with local stakeholders is concerned. In addition, very rarely consulted, communities are not yet involved in PAs' management processes but a law on the new modes of governance will be soon promulgated and should enable a favourable evolution of this tendency.

Most of the PAs assessed (7 on 10) welcome **tourists**, sometimes very numerous (estimated at about 1,500 per year for Rusizi and 3,000 per year for the East monuments according to their respective managers). And yet, bordering populations do not benefit from any significant economic return from PAs. The only benefits are the few jobs created by PAs and sometimes the conservation of the rights to harvest some non-timber forest products. Three PAs benefit from partners' support for the improvement of populations' wellbeing through the promotion of income generating activities that are compatible with the objectives of conservation (developing beekeeping, improved stoves, producing tree nurseries, etc.)

The participants to the evaluation have made the following **recommendations** in order to fill in the above-mentioned gaps:

1. To update the legislative texts on protected areas and provide all the PAs of the network with recognized legal status and delimitation.
2. To develop management plans for all the PAs of the network by fostering the effective participation or bordering populations.

3. To endow the PAs with operating budgets to enable essential management activities
4. To strengthen the capacities of INECN staff on protected areas management tools and increase their number in the field
  5. To revise the national five-year action plan that puts forward the State vision regarding conservation and the resulting strategy
  6. To establish a national inventory programme that highlights the priorities of studies on biodiversity to be implemented in the PA network
  7. To establish a formal collaboration framework between the stakeholders that intervene in PAs nationally and locally (ministries, associations, NGOs, local administrations and bordering communities)
  8. To establish a transboundary collaboration framework for PAs that don't have one yet (Rusizi and Malagarazi, Rusizi and North landscape)
  9. To provide support to the sites which have submitted their application for obtaining an international label (Ramsar, World Heritage)
10. To foster PAs' enhancement through tourism by planning them adequately
11. To optimize the distribution of the data available at INECN to all the staff in the field (ex: through the website for example)
12. To become an IUCN member...

More information on [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org)

## Announcements

- UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA: the Papaco, in collaboration with the Senghor University (Alexandria, Egypt), launches the second and third editions of the training on « *strengthening the competencies in protected areas management* ». This training is meant for PA managers and their partners on the ground, in particular NGOs. The second edition will be conducted from October, 9, 2011 to December 2, 2011, and the third one from February 6, 2012 to March 30, 2012. Registration will be open on the web site of University Senghor <http://continue.senghor.refer.org> starting **15 June 2011**.

**The deadline for registration to the second edition (9 October - 2 December 2011) is 15 August 2011.**

- The Society RIEGONOR (Agadir, Morocco), the University Senghor (Egypt), the *Ecole des Mines de St Etienne (France)*, the *Ecole des Mines d'Alès* and the Association Innovation and Technologie of Sfax (Tunisia) organise from 21 to 24 March 2012, an international conference with a call for communications on « Water, Waste and Sustainable Development » (E3D), at the Palais des Roses Hotel in Agadir.

**More information on the web site of the conference:**  
<http://sites.google.com/site/e3d2012/>

## Example of the Ruvubu National Park (Burundi)



### Main pressures

- Farming in the PA
- Harvesting firewood and lumber
- Poaching (notably by using traps)
- Illicit fishing
- Bushfires
- Grazing of livestock
- Extracting clay

Surface area: 50,800 ha  
international label: none

IUCN category: II;

### Context

**Act and date of creation:** there is a draft creation act developed in 1983 but it has never validated up to the time of the evaluation (September 2010). However this PA has now a creation act since April 2011.

**Management institution :** *Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (INECN)*

**Boundaries of the PA:** it was delimited by boundary markers in 1982, maintained in 2008. Today, the boundary is discontinuous as some markers have been removed. There are conflicts between managers and former owners of cultivable lands regarding territories which are now integrated to the park. These farmers have claimed for expropriation indemnities that they never received.

**The PA regulations:** The PA does not have its own legal texts enacting its rules. These are found in general texts such as the law-decree n°1/6 of 3 March 1980 creating protected areas, the environment code and the forest code.

### Inputs

#### Human means

Staff of the PA: 48 employees in total including: 1 curator, 1 person in charge of monitoring, 3 heads of areas, 1 secretary-accountant, 4 tourist guides, 31 forest rangers and 7 watchers.

#### Research

No scientific research in progress, but there are data on migratory movements of birds of prey and on Ruvubu fishes that have been collected during previous research activities.

### Planning

**Current management objectives:** to save the last biological resources of the park and notably the big mammals; but there is no management document available.

**Design of the PA:** The PA is managed uniformly, there is no internal zoning specifically intended for management.

**Management plan:** there is no management plan.

**Work plan:** There is no specific work plan for the park. The activities planned are directly drawn from the INECN biennial work plan developed in 2009, which is normally updated every five years. Unfortunately, these activities are not implemented due to lack of means.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** there is no monitoring and evaluation system.

### Financial means

There is no operation budget allocated by the State. It only pays the salary of the park's staff. Tourist receipts, money collected from fines and the selling of seizures are the only financial incomes of the PA.

### Management process

#### Natural resources management

The park's programme for burning savannahs intervenes twice during dry season. There is no daily ecological monitoring in the parks but the

guards note down the animals they meet during their patrol.

### Law enforcement

Pursuant to the article n°133 of the environmental code, the rangers who have the status of criminal investigation officers regarding environment take note of infractions and present reports. But law enforcement is very insufficient and examples of infractions are numerous because the managers' mission is made difficult by the lack of means for patrols.

### Inventory of resources

Bird survey in 2009 (results not yet published). The few base data available come from former studies; there have never been inventories of the habitats or the socioeconomic activities around the PA. There is no data available on big mammals.

### Managing the staff

We notice that the staff is not enough skilled in certain fields of the PA management, the lack of equipment for patrols and difficulties of collaboration with armed forces. Guards and tourist guides need training in fauna identification and the rules in force in the PA.

### Budget management

There is no operation budget allocated by the State. All the receipts made by the PA are sent to the Directorate-general of INECN; however a part is used to cover some few operation costs (fuel for motorbikes, communication, missions and patrols expenses, office stationery).

### Infrastructure and equipment

Infrastructures: Two guardhouses to control entries, a park office (a hut) near one of these guardhouses, a four-room equipped and functional shelter. The network of internal tracks is about 163 km long.

Equipment: two motorbikes, 4 walkie-talkie radios, one laptop, one telescope with tripod, 8 binoculars and a digital camera.

### Education and awareness raising

January 2010: an awareness workshop on poaching organized for administrative officers, local elected authorities, environmental police and the park managers. Also a few sporadic and occasional talks, the most recent of which took place in June 2009.

### Interactions with the users of neighbouring lands (public and private)

Collaboration with communities is very limited. Bordering populations who had been expelled from their lands in the 80's at the creation of the park are very uncooperative with managers.

### Place of local communities in making decisions on PA management

Communities' opinion and wishes have never been collected since the creation of the PA up to the park's management, but steps have been taken in this direction recently.

### Tourism

The PA welcomes 150 to 200 tourists per year but is isolated and sometimes submitted to problems of crime, preventing tourist activity from development.

## Outcomes

### Welcoming visitors

There is a functional shelter, very basic, able to welcome 8 persons. A project for installing a camping in the PA is being formalized between INECN and the National Tourism Office.

### Duties and taxes

Visitors pay entrance fees. The fines and the receipts made from the selling of the products seized in case of arrest generate revenues. All the receipts are sent to INECN central direction.

### Current situation

The numerous anthropogenic pressures (poaching, fires) have strongly degraded the park's animal and vegetal resources. According to a study undertaken in 2007, many species of mammals have disappeared and some others are endangered. According to the testimony of former rangers, the last elephant and the last black rhino were killed respectively in 1971 and 1979. The last lion, apparently coming from Tanzania, was killed in 1991.

### Access

The current monitoring devices do not enable controlling the authorized tracks (also called "passages") that cross the park. Some areas of the park are totally out of the guards' control.

### Economic returns for communities

The returns for bordering populations are meaningless: only about fifty permanent jobs (the PA's staff) and very few temporary jobs on the occasion of isolated works (tree planting to delimit the PA). No percentage of the little tourist receipts made by the PA comes back to populations.



## Experience of developing ecotourism as a nature conservation tool in Pendjari (continuation): towards sustainability

By **Cosme KPADONOU**

Tourism promotion

Pendjari National Park – e-mail : [colnis4@yahoo.fr](mailto:colnis4@yahoo.fr)

Created at the colonial time, just like the other reserves of West Africa, the partial fauna reserve of *boucle de la Pendjari* was aiming at meeting colonizers' need in areas for their leisure activities. Its abundant fauna enabled it to get this first status that has changed through time thanks to the political context and the awareness of the necessity to preserve this potential. This was the same for the various forms of tourism that existed since the advent of the first status. Thus, since 1999, tourism is progressively developing in the park, thanks notably to vehicle safaris which are presently the major tourist offer (see the graph below). The average number of visitors has been stabilizing around 6,500 for four years, and during the tourist season 2010, 6,834 tourists have visited the park. The effects of this progress have been immediate: amongst others through the creation of jobs in the park administration, guiding, rent of cars, transport, accommodation, catering, and selling of various tourist services. By considering only the park administration and the Pendjari local guides association (AGPL), respectively 10 and 15 seasonal jobs strictly related to game seeing tourism, and directed to bordering populations are created every year. These two sub-sectors enable about thirty families of more than 200 persons to directly live with the incomes of sightseeing tourism. Globally in the park, all the sub-sectors that are strictly related to sightseeing tourism directly generate revenues for about 200 families, for a total of about 1,500 persons concerned.

In the context of Atacora which is an essentially agricultural region and where there is no money-making activity for the whole dry season, the financial flow generated by all the sub-sectors related to game seeing tourism gives a fairly eloquent image of the protected area's positive implications in the improvement of the standard of living of bordering populations. Among other impacts, we can cite the increasing success of conservation actions, the improvement within communities of the level of acceptance of the use constraints related to the existence of the reserve and mostly an increasing level in the appropriation of the co-management of the reserve. The result is that apart from the employees of the reserve and the other actors of NGOs and various institutions, the circle of the "friends and defenders" of the reserve expands in the bordering population, and this is source of hope for its sustainable management in view of preserving it for the present and future generations.

It has to be noted that these encouraging results have been got thanks to the technical and financial efforts made by the park's management and its partners. The last are aware that that a frank and sustainable collaboration will not be got from bordering population unless they benefit from the direct financial outcomes. The association for the tourist development of Pendjari as well as a tourism office called Maison Pendjari has been created within this framework.

In comparison with the tourist sites of the same kind and considering the redistribution of financial benefits, the Pendjari National Park is among the most important parks of West Africa and the encouraging results of this experimentation are promising for the sustainable conservation of the protected area's resources if we stay on course.

## FFEM supports conservation through better governance and livelihood in Liberia



By **Timothy Kortu**, project officer,  
**VOSIED NGO, Liberia**

[vosiedafrica@hotmail.com](mailto:vosiedafrica@hotmail.com)

The Wonegizi proposed protected area, (37,906.5 hectares) is situated along Liberia's borders with Guinea in Lofa County, northwestern Liberia. This Trans-boundary forest block is one of the significant remaining forest blocks of West Africa's Upper Guinea Forest in Liberia. It is amazing with biodiversity and provides ecological and socioeconomic services to surrounding communities and serves as sources of river systems that directly benefit thousands of communities within the Mano River Basin. However, despite its importance to ecosystem services, shifting agriculture and unsustainable exploitation of the forests are primary causes of deforestation, soil degradation, water pollution, meager economic returns from forest resources, and overall biodiversity loss. Nevertheless, destruction of the Wonegizi would threaten not only Liberia, but the entire Mano River Basin.

The goal this project is pursuing in Liberia is to help strengthen local democratic governance, increase the community's standard of living, improve gender balance in resource management, and help provide women with greater income and independence.

Since July 2010, this project, funded by the FFEM Small Grants Programme started with activities from a governance perspective, a necessary step in building confidence to population to government. So people were informed about laws and their application. Once citizens understand the law, conservation stakeholders may improve dialogue and advocacy for improved Natural Resources management and conservation-related texts and applications.

The Public Information (PI) outreach component of the project supports democratic governance in community based protected area management, weakening corruption, and improving citizen access to information. The project has produced and distributed versions of the forest and wildlife codes of Liberia to facilitate comprehension and application of fundamental conservation principles and legislation by rural citizens around the Wonegizi.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources component is improving local service delivery while reducing poverty and hunger by providing training in soil conservation and fertility management based on sustainable farming practices (lowland and aquaculture farming system, agro forestry), which is promoting sustainable livelihoods dependant on sound biodiversity conservation.

To reverse negative trends concerning inadequate respect and application of laws dealing with natural resources, VOSIED, the Liberian organization implementing the project, brought together in September and October 2010 people specialized in natural resources management to discuss with stakeholders the use, comprehension and application of the legislative texts related to resource management. This effort included a series of workshops held in the Wonegizi region along the Guinean border. Participants included hunters, stockbreeders, fishermen, chain-saw operators, loggers, bee-keepers, traders, baked brick manufacturers, local councilors, and CBOs among others. Key result is the formation of five community based natural resources management groups and the development of five inland valley swamp (100m X 40m) and five fish ponds.

During the meeting in Zaikeda (see picture above) stakeholders including the District Development Committees (DDC), Town, Clan and Paramount Chiefs; CBOs, NGOs, women and youth groups, hunters, farmers and ordinary community members are represented. Topics discussed included: 1) Importance of community based natural resources management and compliance with forest laws and principles; 2) Land Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities in the Wonegizi; 3) Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Forest use; 4) Benefits from the Forest; 5) Negative Environmental Impact Currently being Experienced; 6) Maintenance of Natural Forests; 7) Climate Change and 8) The Creation of a community based protected area.

In another meeting (September 2010), stakeholders were informed and engaged to discuss the future of natural resources development trends related to community-based natural resource planning and uses, especially with regards to current destructive farming practices, uncontrolled bushfires, unregulated timber extraction, excessive poaching

and hunting for commercial bush meat, inappropriate mining schemes and human-elephant conflicts.

More and more women are actually involved in the project field activities because, in addition to fostering biodiversity conservation, VOSIED is also trying to reduce poverty among the most vulnerable households. Lofa was the most devastated county in Liberia due to its proximity to Guinea and Sierra Leone. During Liberia's civil wars, most of women lost their husbands in Lofa, and they are often marginalized.

In addition, VOSIED is also seeking to promote gender equality in natural management around the Wonegizi. In all committees set, women are fully represented.



**The Small Grants Programme (PPI)** is financed by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and aims at supporting the civil society's organizations in West and Central Africa and Madagascar in their initiatives in favour of biodiversity conservation and fight against global warming. The third project contest of the PPI second phase has been closed on 15 February 2011. In total, 187 proposals have been received, of which 82 from West Africa and 105 from Central Africa, Madagascar and Mozambique.

The best 12 projects regarding the programme's criteria have been selected by a selecting committee to be granted a total amount of 400,000 €. **In West Africa, four projects will benefit from a PPI grant: BEES and CREDI ONG in Benin, JVE in Togo and CERCOPAN in Nigeria.** The selected projects aim at conserving biodiversity while granting an important place to participatory governance of resources and the creation of money-making activities for local populations.

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**Contacts :** [geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org](mailto:geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org)  
[bora.masumbuko@iucn.org](mailto:bora.masumbuko@iucn.org)  
[beatrice.chataigner@iucn.org](mailto:beatrice.chataigner@iucn.org)  
[gabrielle.couailac@iucn.org](mailto:gabrielle.couailac@iucn.org)  
[youssouph.diedhiou@iucn.org](mailto:youssouph.diedhiou@iucn.org)  
[lacina.kone@iucn.org](mailto:lacina.kone@iucn.org)  
[souleymane.konate@iucn.org](mailto:souleymane.konate@iucn.org)



IUCN, Programme Afrique du  
Centre et de l'Ouest – Aires  
protégées  
BP 1618, Ouagadougou 01  
BURKINA FASO

TEL: (226) 50 36 49 79

[www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org)

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