



# NAPA News from African Protected Areas

Nouvelles des Aires Protégées  
en Afrique

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## Edito

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PAPACO coordinator

### A brand new label...



One year ago, French national parks launched their own brand called “Esprit parc national”, or “National Park Spirit” in English. This is most definitely a good communications stunt, but what are the true reasons behind this move?

The idea is to develop an identity that is not only visual, to which inhabitants in and around parks come in agreement with, and through which they get to differentiate local products. The National Park Spirit brand hence puts forward activities, places and products that are designed, manufactured and marketed by the inhabitants themselves, supporting the conservation of parks locally.

Surely, national parks are places created for the conservation of biodiversity, but they are also home to many communities, and therefore they need to valorise activities that are compatible with the respect of nature, and take part in the preservation of cultural heritage. By creating this brand, parks have shown that they are also able to rally around a shared ambition with local economic stakeholders to promote their products or activities. For the consumer, this brand must be a sign of quality, of originality, of authenticity that builds the confidence and the support of park philosophy. Buying almost becomes an act of activism that aims at reinforcing the cohesion of the territory and helps it to face multiple challenges.

A wide range of products and activities benefiting from local skills are affected: tourist accommodation, outdoor activities such

as hiking, craftsmanship based on raw materials, local farming, regional breeds and specialised products, honey or other wild products harvested in or near the park, organic farming etc. The brand acknowledges typical products that are grass-rooted and shows that nature is not only an ally in production but is also a product itself promoting the sound practices that the park stands for. Beyond the consumables on which it is established, the brand establishes a new spirit between different stakeholders: they are more positive, more inclusive, more united as a dependence between them is set, and the overall quality becomes dependent on the quality of each of them. Craftsmen, farmers, beekeepers, breeders, guides, hoteliers...all of them commit to promote the brand and thereby to witness their passion for the territory on which they live, but also for their professional culture and their knowledge of this unique place and its precious skills.



*Regional parks, which are more or less built on the same model than biosphere reserves (see NAPA #97) also have their own brand, based on the same principle and with similar objectives that aims at local sustainable development with three pillars: social, environmental and economic*



After a month spent in the Cévennes National Park in the South of France, I am, as always, impressed

by people who truly value this land and are willing to build, defend and promote it. They have such a passion, culture and knowledge within them that could be qualified as love for this place, for its nature, its image and its history.

Is such an ambition unrealistic for African parks? I don't think so. It is only a matter of organisation, of good will, and it only takes a spark to ignite the fire. There is no park that doesn't have its own culture, its partners, its specificities, values, strengths, ambitions... and such initiatives already exist in some places of the continent. Such an approach has a supreme virtue: it creates good governance by getting all stakeholders to work together and to trust each other. And as we have already said a couple of times in the NAPA, parks *urgently* need good governance...

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## MOOC on protected areas management... join us!

A new session of our **MOOC on PA management** is starting on the **1<sup>st</sup> October**, on Coursera. More than **6,000 learners** have already joined the course, exchanging on the forum or in our Facebook group and building a new network of African PA lovers. It is **free** and the course is composed of **7 short modules** that have to be done in **3 months** so you can do the course and pass the exams **at your own pace**.

**It will now be available in English!**

Feel free to **join** our community and register on **[www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org)**, page **trainings**.

Also **join the group** on:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/167668443583415/>

## Main PAPACO's events at the Wold Conservation Congress (Hawaiï September 2016)

*All events to be organized in French*

**10943 - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September morning**

**11:00 to 13:00 CONSERVATION CAMPUS:** capacity building on e-learning (with *Oxford University*) and how to prepare, develop and implement a MOOC for conservation (taking the MOOC – GAP as a practical example)

**9750 - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

**14:30 – 16:30 KNOWLEDGE CAFÉ:** Pooling services for African Conservation Trust Funds: towards more efficiency?

*Presentation of the results of a study conducted in 2015 (with WCS) and discussion of the options.*

**10607 Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**8:30 – 13:00 CONSERVATION CAMPUS:** 4 hour session: capacity building on management of protected areas – based on the first module of the MOOC – GAP

**9764 - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**14:30 – 16:30 KNOWLEDGE CAFÉ:** Green-Listed PAs in Africa: 2 years after Sydney, what results and next steps?

*Presentation of the current Green-List process that is going-on in Kenya and how to move forward in new (Francophone) countries.*

**10606 - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**8:30 – 13:00 CONSERVATION CAMPUS:** 4 hour session: capacity building on governance of protected areas – based on the third module of the MOOC - GAP

**10482 - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**14:00 – 14:30 POSTER:** Innovative funding for PA in Africa: a case study in Benin = la fondation des savanes ouest-Africaines (FSOA).

*Short presentation of the FSOA and its activities and impacts.*

**9751 - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**14:30 – 16:30 KNOWLEDGE CAFÉ:** Capacity building for protected areas in Africa: what is the future (2020)?

*Reflection on new tools for training and sensitization to be used in Francophone Africa.*



## Beekeeping in West Africa: local stakeholders share their experience on good practices to boost the sector

By Arsene Sanon, IUCN-PACO

Direction 2 of the Roadmap for African PA



Several projects related to beekeeping development are funded by the Small Scale Initiatives Program (SSIP) of the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM). This is the case namely thanks to the ability of bee farming to generate additional income for communities, and thereby making it possible to mitigate anthropic threats (excessive tree cutting, uncontrolled bushfires, etc.) to forest resources. Beekeeping could thus be one of the relevant means to enable the economic valorisation of the buffer or peripheral zones of conservation areas, since it is able to contribute to the reduction of encroachments on these areas dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity. Moreover, there is a renewed interest in the process of pollination thanks to its ability to improve plant productivity - cultivated plants in particular - and to have a positive impact on food security.

Given the current outcomes of these beekeeping projects (low level of beehive colonisation, lack of technical skills in the area of bee farming, etc.) which in most cases don't achieve the set targets (in terms of honey and by-products production and consequently generated income), a diagnosis assessment was required to identify the main obstacles to the optimisation of the sector and to suggest alternatives and/or solutions that could boost the productivity of apiaries.

In order to increase the chances of local beekeepers to implement the recommendations

from the assessment, it has seemed wise to have beekeeping project sponsors taking part in the identification of obstacles to beekeeping productivity. On the basis of experiences being more successful on other sites, participants would suggest alternatives to the identified obstacles. In this context, an experience sharing trip called "Beekeeping caravan" was organised from 17 November to 3 December 2015, and gathered six NGO representatives (the AFAUDEB from Burkina Faso, the AE2D and the ADT from Togo, the Ghanaian Northcode, the N'Tabet Apicole from Ivory Coast and the Senegalese Nebeday) implementing beekeeping projects supported by the SSIP. An experienced beekeeper technician working in the Albert Schweitzer Ecological Centre (CEAS) in Burkina Faso was recruited to share his expertise in the analysis of beekeeping implementation and during phase of alternative proposals.



Consequently, over the three weeks, sixteen sites where bee farming is implemented were visited in Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast. The conditions of bee farming implementation were investigated on each site (environmental conditions of apiaries, the level and quality of hive maintenance and monitoring, technical skills of beekeepers on the field, current level of hive production, processing level of harvested products, markets conditions, link between beekeeping and conservation of natural resources etc.) in the presence of beekeeper groups who are the final beneficiaries of the projects and beekeepers from local NGOs supporting these beekeeper groups. Then, a time of sharing experiences on good beekeeping practices took place among participants and has allowed to give alternative suggestions in view of eliminating the main identified constraints.

## Main lessons learnt from the Beekeeping Caravan:

- **The existence of a demand for bee-related products**

There seems to be a persistent demand for bee-related products (mainly honey) at local, national and international scales. In some places, this window of opportunity seems to be all the more open since honey has acquired economic value, probably because of new areas of use such as the cosmetic industry. However, it is sad to see that actual levels of production are still far from meeting the demand.

- **Environmental conditions globally favourable to bee farming**

The investigation of visited environmental settings indicates that these are globally conducive for bee farming, as they have among other things a relative good diversity in honey plants (even though enrichment projects could be encouraged for certain sites in order to fully optimise the productivity of apiaries).

However, it seemed quite early for beekeepers to detect an evident link between beekeeping and the preservation of forest resources, as most of them have just started with the activity.

- **Potential profitability of the sector**

Most of the interviewed beekeeper group members find beekeeping particularly competitive in terms of income generation (beekeeping was indeed globally ranked in first position among several other income generating activities) notwithstanding the low level of productivity and profitability achieved until now. The reasons stated include the easy marketing of honey, the possibility of several harvests per year, an attractive financial investment/generated income ratio, etc.



- **Need of sector professionalization**

There seems to be a need however, to rethink the approach developed by local NGOs that support local communities – they give them hives, while failing to make sure these communities are truly determined to develop a strong business activity in light of the requirements that come with being a beekeeper (additional work, technical aspects, conflict of interest with other activities, etc.). Without this holistic approach to the problem, it is very difficult to optimise apiary productivity.



It is also essential to set a calendar for activities related to beekeeping, in which conducive times for main beekeeping activities are stated (swarming, harvesting etc.) – this will maximize the potential of beekeeping activities. In this case, each beekeeper would be given a timetable that he would be in charge of writing up. Beekeepers also need to be formally trained and encouraged to adopt the good practices of beekeeping.

Another aspect that deserves to be taken into account in this professionalization effort has to do with the sector-based approach; while NGOs provide beekeeper groups with hives, they also need to support them to guarantee the development of the sector value chain (allocating proper equipment required for harvesting, extracting and packaging honey and other by-products, in order to meet the required hygiene conditions, diversifying the added-value options of hive products, supporting the marketing of quality hive products, etc.).

- **“Beekeeping companies” pilot initiatives on the field**

It is interesting and important to highlight the presence on the field of a couple of ‘beekeeping company’ initiatives that operate relatively smoothly and display rather encouraging results (quantity of bee products harvested and marketed, good turn-over, etc.), especially as they are the fruit of individual projects which have not necessarily benefited from external support.

Even better, the fact that these entrepreneurs manage their activity like a real ‘business’ is particularly satisfactory when it comes to the debate on the contribution of beekeeping to the



diversification of the income of household practicing the activity.

In conclusion, despite being in an environment enabling the development of beekeeping, bad practices do persist at different levels of the value chain along with low levels of professionalism that hinder the capitalization of all the possibilities. Indeed, the environmental benefits in terms of better conservation of natural resources are mixed. However, an effective implementation of the recommendations should improve the conditions of bee farming and consequently, boost hive production and the benefits at hand.

The full report of the 'Caravan of apiculture' is available from **Arsene Sanon** ([arsene.sanon@iucn.org](mailto:arsene.sanon@iucn.org)) and the documentary film is posted on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaYbp6Xifjc>

### Ensuring succession to guarantee better environmental protection in the future

*By Cosme Kpadonou, Pendjari National Park  
Direction 2 of the Roadmap for African PA*

Threats to management of the environment in general and to protected areas in particular include the problem of governance, and more specifically the management of human resources. Bad HR management is rarely mentioned as an important threat, even though its effects on management and natural resources are evident. As mankind has a proven influence on the planet's ecological functioning, I agree with the thoughts of one of Benin's renown leaders to say "there is no wealth but men". Working towards having well trained, competent and motivated staff that are also aware of vital challenges, is a major factor of objectivity and sustainability for the entire enterprise.



Within the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve, this principle is increasingly better understood and its

implementation is reflected in the diversification of stakeholders involved in the management of the reserve. Thus, training the people that will guarantee a good succession is one of the key strategies in the Pendjari management, and to do so, different actions are undertaken with the stakeholders (neighbouring populations, NGOs, socioeconomic players, decision-makers and learners at different levels etc.) to improve capabilities to promote the interest for nature preservation in the decision-making process.



Management of the Pendjari National Park and Jura Afrique (an NGO) are therefore working towards leading joint interventions for the sustainable protection of the environment in general, and of the Reserve in particular. The latest effort was the organisation of a poem or poster contest to raise awareness for the conservation of nature, targeting students of the schools around the reserve. For Jura Afrique, the idea of this initiative is to implement activities related to the promotion of good environmental governance in schools of Tanguiéta and Boucoumbé. The aim of this contest is to make students and young people aware of the deterioration of natural resources in their towns and to involve them in the conservation of nature.

After the selection process that took place in May/June 2016, the 10 best candidates were named ambassadors for the preservation of nature (see photo). The local jury gathered for this effect was made up of faculty advisors, school principals and teachers, and was won over by the simplicity, the originality and the relevance of the messages produced by the candidates, proof of their clear understanding of threats to the environment. In addition to the many gifts they were given, a touristic visit to the Pendjari Reserve was organised for them on 6 July 2016, in to encourage them in the commitment to their new mission. The

park management and Jura Afrique have benefited from this opportunity to once more call out students of primary and secondary education, as well as all users of the environment and visitors of the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve, to work towards the preservation of natural resources around in their respective towns.

The idea after the organisation of this contest is to follow the ambassadors through the apprenticeship program which will enable to better equip them for the promotion of the environment. I take this opportunity to thank all the financial partners who have supported this initiative, but also the technical team of Jura Afrique, the principal of Père Chazal Catholic primary school as well as all the teachers who have understood the relevance of such an activity, by bringing their relentless support.

### Physical and anthropic threats to the Koutal Forest Reserve, and risks of loss (Kaolack, Senegal).

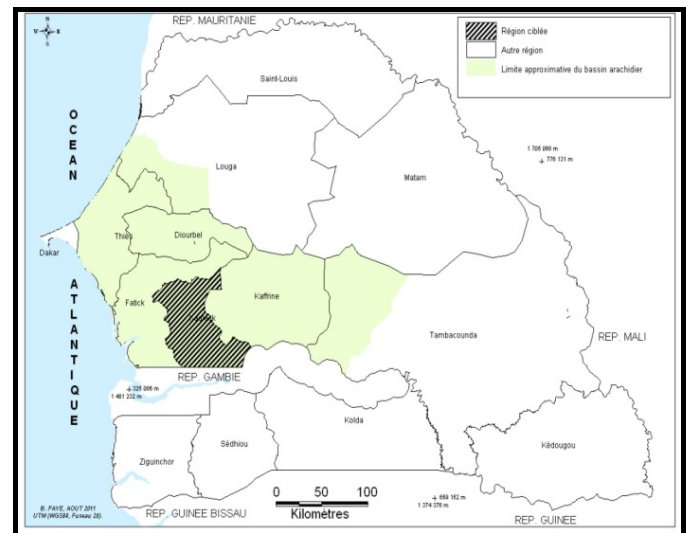
*By Babacar Faye, History and Geography lecturer, Senegal  
Direction 3 of the Roadmap for African PA*

#### The problem

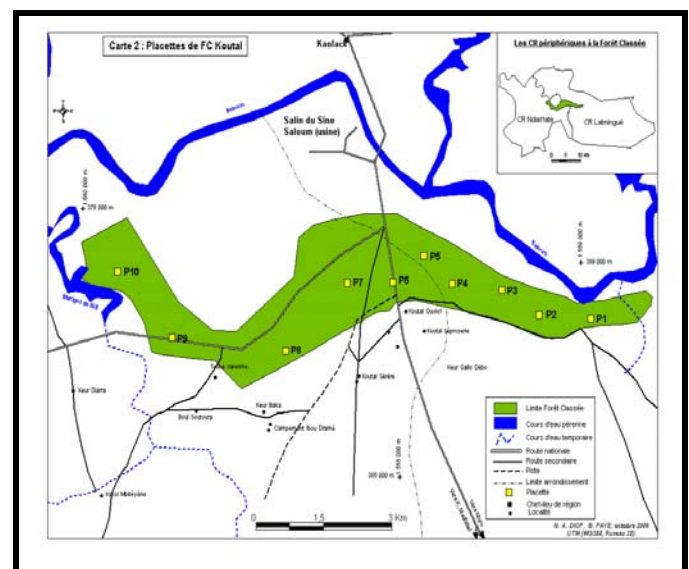
The deterioration of the forest canopy in Senegal has been an undeniable reality for decades. This process that is more apparent in the groundnut basin regions, is the result of a combination of several factors with consequences on land property and plant resources. Evidently, with population growth and rainfall and crop yield shortages, forests are most definitely threatened. Because of this situation, neighbouring communities are increasingly pressuring forest reserves, in particular the Koutal Forest Reserve. Located near Kaolack and about 20 other villages, this reserve displays regressive changes that escape the eyes of local forest authorities and communities.

**Objective of the study:** given the nature of changes to the environment for some time now, we have deemed necessary to study the threats to this geographical space where the relationship between forest and anthropogenic areas is constantly evolving.

**Presentation of the studied zone:** the reserve was classified by decree in 1936 and expanded in 1950. It is located on the left bank of the Saloum River, immediately adjacent to the saline soils of Kaolack, and it covers around 3,900 acres. It was reorganised for coal mining.



*Sine Saloum*



*The Koutal Forest Reserve*

Located between farm lands and the river, the reserve has also played a role in fixing the soils. Because of its proximity to Kaolack, one could have hoped for a respectable income generated from this zone, and for the maintenance and improvement of the area's forested condition (gazettement file). Since its classification as a Forest Reserve, the area has undergone some modifications due to natural and anthropogenic factors. Over time, the management has changed with the arrival of post-colonial authorities, under the leadership of the Water and Forestry Department (*Direction des Eaux et Forêts*). This change is key due to differences in practices between the administrations.

#### Materials and methods used

To conduct this study, several materials were used, including a GPS, measuring tape, software (Sphinx and Map Info), surveys etc. Surveys of actors,





room for farming, the beneficiaries breach agreements pretexting they don't have space for crop production and that this is the only way for them to get some, the duration of cultivation remains undetermined for farmers...

## Conclusion

The evolution of habitat and of farmlands is very significant in the context of the Koutal Forest Reserve. This has implications on the community forests and on the Forest Reserve, leading to both its legal and its abusive occupation. All these changes have taken place mainly because of man and his farming and residential needs. The progression of human settlement and of their areas of operation reflects the threats to forest and land resources in Koutal Forest Reserve. There are different consequences to these pressures as they end up threatening the existence of the entire area.

Taking into account social needs leads us to understanding the need to study these parameters before Koutal ends up being degazetted. It has become urgent to reconcile the social needs of the populations, namely their property needs and the conservation of the Forest Reserve, to avoid premature decisions in favour of the populations at the expense of the forest. Consideration ought to be given for proper decision-making that leads to solving the actors' social problems. This would help taking on the land problem without compromising on the conservation of the Forest Reserve that plays a big part in this environment.

## Man vs Elephant conflict around the Waza National Park (WNP): scope and challenges

*By Thomas Bacha, IUCN-PACO  
Direction 3 of the Roadmap for African PA*

The WNP elephant conservation project's aim is to contribute to the peaceful and harmonious coexistence between humans and elephants around PAs and areas visited by elephants in the far north of Cameroon. It was implemented in 2012 by the following NGOs: Des éléphants et des hommes ("Elephants and people" in English), Sitatunga and ACODED, in partnership with the WNP Conservancy service, and with the support of the IUCN. The WNP has three components: environmental education, the fight against poaching and Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) which we will be looking into here.

Launched in December 2012, this component has started with localising zones visited by elephants and of conflict, and it has identified mitigation

strategies used by populations to provide them with more innovative and accessible methods. Surveys in 142 villages in the far northern region of Cameroon were carried out in this context.

As opposed to previous studies, changes in itineraries and movements were noted. Indeed, through the deterioration of water resources and the quality of vegetation in the



WNP after the construction of the Maga Dam in 1979 and the drought of the 1970s and 1980s, three groups of elephants were identified: a first one migrating towards the north of the WNP, another one moving towards the south and a third one that spends its year in the park. The 2013 survey shows that today, there are only two migration groups left as the third one has joined the other two after the deterioration of elephant living conditions outside the WNP. Also, the elephant migration corridors have changed, the principal reasons being insecurity in the zone of the Lake Chad, urbanisation and the creation of the Maltam-Fotokol trade route towards the north of the WNP and the use of the corridors by local communities in the south.

Migration is currently moving in two directions: from WNP to Kalamaloué National Park (KNP) in the north from December to January, and returning to the WNP in June and July, and towards the south in the agro-pastoral triangle of Mindif-Moulouvoudaye-Kalfou. The elephants that migrated from the WNP to the Kalfou forest reserve in the south in 2008 haven't returned yet, which confirms the thesis according to which the deteriorations of resources in the NP have worsened.

Elephants leaving the WNP generate conflicts given the increasing number of local populations that occupy migration corridors and elephant grazing areas. Generally speaking, there are several problems between humans and elephants face as they coexist in the surveyed zone: damages to crops, to granaries, to water installations and to forestry plantations, social disorder, and even offence against people and cattle including cases of injury and death.



Damages to farmlands are the main problem, especially in areas on the outskirts of the PA. This is logical given the opportunistic nature of elephants and the fact that farmers, in their quest for lands of culture, take over fields near these areas, as shown by many surveys.

Despite efforts inspired by traditional means (fire, shouts, tam-tams, lucky charms, prayers, crop monitoring etc.), farmers of the Kalfou area are relatively powerless and exhausted by the efforts made to protect their crops. In October 2013 for instance, the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) has estimated that damages caused by elephants have affected 103 acres of crops around Kalfou.

By insisting in protecting their crops and infrastructures, farmers have sometimes succeeded in pushing elephants away, leading to the creation of new corridors, in a smaller vital space that thereby increases the chances of contact points between humans and elephants, and consequently of potential conflict.

The contact between elephants and populations in areas where elephants are present sometimes gives way to deadly encounters, for albeit elephants and humans. Between 2010 and 2015, seven persons were killed, among which six in 2015 alone (four casualties in the Logone Birni area and two in Kalfou). Five persons were injured by elephants in the Kalfou area among which one in 2012 and four in 2013, and five elephants, essentially calves, were killed.

Unfortunately for victims' families, the forestry bill governing the management of fauna does not provide compensations for damages caused by fauna on people or on their goods.

The causes of elephant deaths given by conservancy officers are mainly the trampling of adult elephants and the intense heat. Others believe populations are at fault, either to avenge the losses caused by elephants, either for their meat. We have hence recorded the case of a calf who died three metres away from a recently opened field. In another case, communities have killed a calf by machete blows for, according to them, trampling their crops which they were trying to protect. After investigating and according to the law in force, forestry administration fined the people who consumed the calf's meat.

Beyond the damages to crops and the direct confrontations with communities, elephants also destroy water installations and structures, especially water pipes for market gardening, mango orchards along the Logon river, fishing canals and cattle waterholes.

According to the people living in a village at the north of WNP, destroyed fishing canals are found buried in the elephant migration zone. The direct losses (canal construction costs) and shortfalls (through the opportunity cost of uncaught fish) were estimated to several millions of CFA Francs per casualty, in a region that is already strongly affected by rural poverty. Within the Kalfou area, cattle waterholes are also destroyed, and according to inhabitants, elephants infect water with their urine, making it unfit for cattle.



Regarding damages to domestic animals, surveys have allowed to identify the deaths of eight cows killed by elephants between 2011 and 2012. The losses are estimated to be around 3,200,00 CFAF. Outside direct attacks on cows, surveys have shown that elephants consume grass stored in water for cows in the Logone Birni area, which represents a shortfall for poor breeders in addition to direct losses, and a new potential risk for the conservation of elephants.

If some breeders have a negative perception of elephants, others on the contrary, said that in the Kolara zone, elephants contribute to the resolution in their favour of agro-pastoral conflicts. The presence of elephants has indeed freed the transhumance tracks from farmers, thereby reducing cropping spaces and compelling some to leave their farm.

Beyond these economic aspects, there is also a social cost for inhabitants of the region. Considerable efforts are made for the protection of crops, goods and lives. Disruptions affect daily activities such as farming, breeding and the free circulation between villages and the fear of injury or death are an important social disturbance. Indirect damages are also noted which sometimes lead to children leaving school to monitor the crops.

With the depletion of the plant cover and hence of the natural habitat of fauna and the demographic

boom around PAs, the HEC are at risk of continuing to grow if the conditions required for the survival of elephants in the WNP are not quickly recovered.

While waiting for substantial means to be mobilised in order to rehabilitate the ecological functions of the WNP to reduce the scope of the problem, the ACODED, with the help of its technical and financial partners (IUCN-PACO and CF-IUCN), is continuing its work. Training populations around the PA to the manufacturing and use of chilli dung bricks to repel elephants, environmental education of primary school students focused on nature classes and the extension of wildlife legislation are also undertaken. Population knowledge of the law is indeed just as important and contributes not only to the fight against poaching, but also to the mitigation of HECs. With this in mind, the ACODED has trained facilitators and members of communities in HECs area around the WNP.

Elephant conservancy actions undertaken by ACODED and its partners is now bearing fruit, since no case of elephant poaching has been noted in the region. The main threat to elephant conservation remains the HECs, source of sporadic cases of elephant deaths. It is therefore urgent to develop means to mitigate these conflicts in the region, such as the use of chilli dung bricks currently tested by the ACODED, combined with other forms of chilli uses such as the growth of alternative crops. Meanwhile, the ACODED intends to pursue their actions aiming at increasing the level of tolerance of elephants such as the nature classes and the development of ecotourism through local tourism. The “Elewatch” program developed by the partner Des éléphants et des hommes, is in these regards a new opportunity of partnership for the ACODED.

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### **Local NGOs in Central Africa join forces to contribute to the conservation of great apes and their habitat in the Sub-Region**

*By Thomas Bacha – IUCN-PACO  
Direction 6 of the Roadmap for African PA*

From 19 to 21 April 2016, six national NGOs from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and Gabon met in Nkala (DRC) in order to create an innovative alliance which aim is to strengthen the contribution of civil society to the conservation of great apes and their habitat in Central Africa.

In spite of some successes in specific areas, the general situation of biodiversity in the sub-region has degraded over the years. The populations of great apes in the region are still threatened by anthropogenic activities such as poaching, trafficking and the deterioration of their habitat posing a serious problem to their conservation. The political situation in the region and the governance in place do not contribute sufficiently to the conservation of these threatened species.

Apart from the role played by the governments of the different countries in the sub-region in the conservation of threatened species, local NGOs have been contributing a lot to the conservation of great apes. Yet in spite of their efforts, they are facing several challenges such as insufficient staff and/or funds.



*Members of local NGOs in Central Africa gathered in Nkala (DRC) to create the Alliance for the Conservation of Great Apes in the Sub-Region*

It is in regards to the latter that, with technical and financial support from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature through its Small Grant Program (IUCN-PPI), the Mbou Mon Tour (MMT) welcomed the following organisations at its headquarters in Nkala (Maï Ndombe, 300 km from Kinshasa): the Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) and Tropical Forest and Rural Development (TF-RD) from Cameroon, the Association Protectrice des Grands Singes de la Moukalaba (PROGRAM, or Great Apes of the Moukalaba Protective Association in English) from Gabon, Endangered Species International - Congo (ESI-Congo) from Congo Brazzaville and the Groupe d'appui à la conservation des écosystèmes de Basankusu et Bolomba (GACEBB or the Basankusu and Bolomba Ecosystem Conservancy Support Group in English) from DRC.

The idea of this strategic workshop was to think about ways for civil society to strengthen and better contribute to the conservation of great apes and their habitat in Central Africa. During these three days of collective work, small working groups were



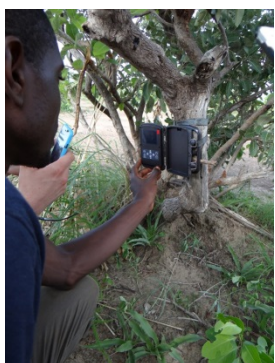
formed and focused on specific themes to help define the mission, the strategic objectives and a six-month road map for the network. Activities to be carried out within this timeframe were apportioned to team members.

The mission of this collective action is to strengthened the contribution of local NGOs in Central Africa to the conservation of great apes and their habitat, through four strategic objectives: strengthening the competence of members of the network, valorising the work and results of members of the network, mobilising funds in favour of members and promoting good governance within the network and amongst its members.

For more information about the Alliance-GSAC network: **Louis NKEMBI**, ERUDEF Executive Director, [louis.nkembi@erudef.org](mailto:louis.nkembi@erudef.org)

## Connected services serving conservation

*By Cosme Kpadonou, Pendjari National Park  
Direction 4 of the Roadmap for African PA*



More than ever before, new technologies are taking all lines of business up to a whole new level. After the fields of medicine, mechanics, scientific research, finances etc., the idea of adapting new technologies to the conservation of nature is increasingly explored.

The management staff of the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve does not remain inactive on the whole issue of modernising its approaches and management tools, instead they are considering the use of new technologies for the benefit of nature conservancy. After organising a workshop in January 2016 on the use of drones in the management of the reserve, last June, the Pendjari held a workshop on the application of connected solutions to conservation. By connected solutions, we mean all the positive interactions between man

and things thanks to the Internet, in such a way as to enhance the flow of information and increase the responsiveness and the capacity for action. Connected solutions are important for more than one reason, and applied to conservation, they could allow for the acquisition of data that was inaccessible until now, or to reduce repetitive tasks and thereby leave more time for staff to deal with missions requiring more decision-making capacity.

This workshop was an initiative of IUCN-PAPACO aiming at testing, within the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve, the most adapted connected solutions to upgrade



the management level. It is therefore a pilot programme aiming at confronting the conservation challenges that the Pendjari is facing. It is expected that the relevance of the obtained results would allow to improve the tested solutions if needed, and in case of success, to include them in the Pendjari management approach.

The first step of the mission consists in organising a diagnosis of the problems encountered on the field (Pendjari). The next step, during the implementation phase, consists in drawing up a report that will present the applicable solutions according to the results of the field study. A selection will then be made in cooperation with the Pendjari staff to identify the most adapted connected solutions, by taking into account their effectiveness, feasibility, availability, sustainability and their cost.

Once this step completed, the connected solution(s) that are most adapted to the Pendjari will be available, and it will be up to Park management to research, in cooperation with its financial partners, the necessary funds for their implementation at a larger scale - a new challenge for the park and IUCN-PAPACO... So, the matter is to be continued!

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