



# NAPA News from African Protected Areas

Nouvelles des Aires Protégées  
en Afrique

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## Edito

**Geoffroy MAUVAIS**  
PAPACO coordinator

### The NAPA

This NAPA may seem very ordinary and yet it is not. This is the first issue of the next decade! ☺

Last month, the letter n°111 marked the end of 10 uninterrupted years of publication, eleven times a year, since October 2007. We've gone a long way since the first issue was launched, on the topic of management effectiveness in Bissau Guinea's parks and on gender equity as a tool to improve PA governance in the region. What a program already! Good news for the latecomers, you can find all past letters, indexed by content, through a keyword search engine on [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org).

Well, let's face it, we may not be here for another 10 years. In any case, this letter is a good opportunity to question what has already been done and where we're heading to.

#### *Is the NAPA useful?*

Certainly. By informing on recognized methods, on good practices validated in particular by the WCPA, by sharing concrete information on what is being done or should not be done, disseminating proven knowledge, suggesting targeted training, promoting brilliant case studies etc., the NAPA fills a niche that few (if any) other publication seeks to cover in this sector and in Africa. The NAPA is not scientific, not overly technical, generally simple, relatively short... in short, it seeks to make knowledge



accessible to the greatest number. From this point of view, its "raison d'être" is not really questionable.

#### *Does the NAPA reach its target audience?*

We hope so. It is sent directly to over 1600 recipients (all of whom have asked to receive it), it is then forwarded by many, shared on Facebook or simply downloaded from [papaco.org](http://papaco.org). Overall, its reputation far exceeds this mailing list. But the NAPA certainly misses a lot of potential readers. How to reach them? That's a mystery.

#### *Is the NAPA beautiful?*

Objectively, no. This is a recurring discussion we have on the letter's format, which many consider artisanal, if not outright amateurish. It is true that in this time of increasingly pervasive communication in increasingly extravagant forms, the NAPA is old-fashioned - if not plain nerdy. We recognize and accept this fact, because the positive dimension of our layout is that it is easy to prepare and diffuse, which is not a mere detail when one has to do it every month.

#### *Is the NAPA popular?*

Hard to say. We receive a lot of positive comments but how could we know if they do not mask the negative opinions, just silent? An interesting indicator though: the NAPA has got an excellent opening rate, once broadcasted. One could think that this reflects rather objectively the interest of its readers.

#### *Should the NAPA go on?*

That's a real question. There are still plenty of subjects and the letter will always find new content, month after month, that is not the problem. But we must think of the future and ask ourselves if it

should not find a new anchor, a new source of energy. The NAPA has never really made its nest into IUCN, accustomed to wider audiences, more “serious” subjects and more professional formats. Its survival is only due to the enthusiasm of the Papaco team. To me, this seems like a valid reason to ask if a partner would not do better and more than us by taking over now? Well, let’s think about it.

When we launched the NAPA, people predicted that the letter would only survive a few months, like so many other letters before (and after!) it. This question is now obviously over so let us now try to imagine what it could or should become, in order to fulfill its role for the friends of African PAs in the future. Good suggestions are welcome...

Papaco is also on:



Twitter = @Papaco\_IUCN  
([https://twitter.com/Papaco\\_IUCN](https://twitter.com/Papaco_IUCN))

And on:



Facebook = facebook /IUCNpapaco  
(<https://www.facebook.com/IUCNpapaco>)

Please also visit the IUCN-GPAP (IUCN global PA program) webpage and read the newsletter:  
<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/newsletter>



The Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) where our MOOC are developed...



...by a professional and committed team!

## OUR ONLINE TRAININGS



Both our current MOOC (**Protected Areas Management** and **Ecological Monitoring**) are **online** and will be open **until mid-December** to allow the learners to follow the course and do the exams **at their own pace**. **It’s all free of course**. You can register on the following links:

### MOOC on Protected Areas management:

Register on:

<http://papaco.org/enroll-to-the-mooc-gap/>

Watch the teaser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10SQ2DRGwoQ>

### MOOC on Ecological Monitoring:

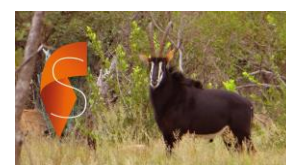
Register on:

<http://papaco.org/how-to-join-the-em-mooc/>

Watch the teaser:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbXrSO5\\_Ktg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbXrSO5_Ktg&feature=youtu.be)

## NEW



On the **15<sup>th</sup>** of January 2018, two new MOOC will be online: **Law Enforcement in Protected Areas** and **Species Conservation**...

You can already register on [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org)

Find more information about our **MOOC** on [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org), at the page « trainings »

Also, join our **Group MOOC** on **Facebook**:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/208309996241190/>

And like our papaco **Facebook** page  
<https://www.facebook.com/IUCNpapaco>

Our MOOC are developed in cooperation with the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne



## NOS FORMATIONS EN PRESENTIEL



### The 14th University Diploma on PA management will be organized in Burkina Faso from February to April 2018

A new session of our regional **University Diploma** will take place in **Ouagadougou** (Burkina Faso) from the 19<sup>th</sup> of February to the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2018. This **8-week training course** (of which 2 are done in a park) will welcome **20 PA managers** or other PA related stakeholders (from West Africa) for an in-depth immersion in PA management, governance and related stuff. All expenses are covered (thanks to the **MAVA foundation**) during the training which is done in French.

To know more about the course, follow [this link](#) on [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org) or [this one](#) on Senghor University Register now: <http://continue.senghor.refer.org/>

**Deadline: 26 November 2017**

#### More info ?

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### The 5th promotion of the Master's Degree on Environment has now started in Alexandria at the Senghor University

**34 students** have started on the 24th September their first year of **Environment Master's Degree at the Senghor University** (Egypt) which is the official university of the Francophonie. The second year offers the possibility to **specialize in PA management** with the support of IUCN-Papaco. More to come in the next NAPA...



Creating and managing  
an IUCN National Committee in Europe  
Toolkit

European Coordination Unit, June 2014



### Developing an IUCN National Committee – Guide

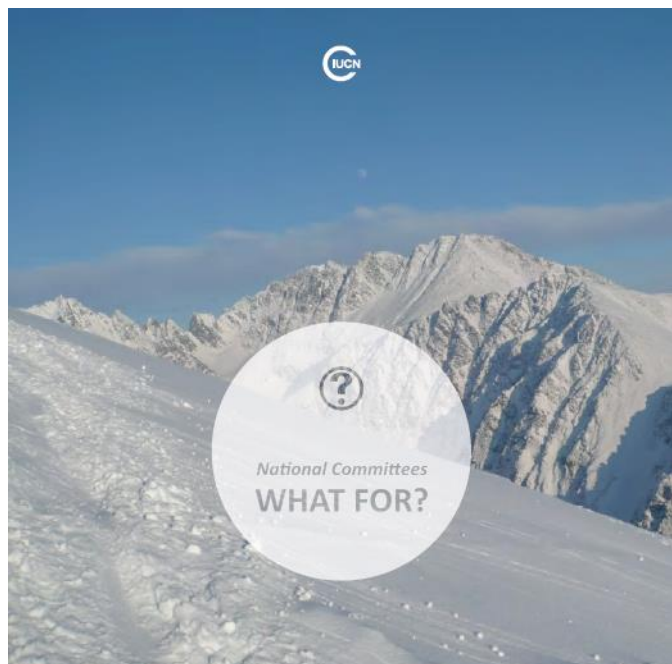
By IUCN (2014). *Toolkit for Creating and Managing an IUCN National Committee in Europe*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 36pp (ISBN: 978-2-8317-1666-4)

*In 2014, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Development of European National Committees, in collaboration with the IUCN National Committees in Europe, produced a guide to accompany the creation and management of National Committees in that region. This may seem unrelated to the topics normally dealt with in our NAPA, yet a National IUCN Committee can play different roles in a country, including with and for individual protected areas and more broadly the PA network. IUCN members from African countries could therefore consider the interest of developing such committees to strengthen their place in and benefit from the Union as well as their influence on national PA management systems. This NAPA presents some excerpts of this guide which can be downloaded at the following link: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/document/s/2014-023.pdf>*

#### National committees: what for?

National Committees (or similar structures) have been established in different countries around the world (and for instance in a bit more than 15 countries in Europe). They are, first and foremost, a way for IUCN Members in one or several countries to come together to coordinate and strengthen their actions at national level, as well as to be better prepared and organized to participate in and

influence broader IUCN processes such as the World Conservation Congress and its Motions process, the development of the IUCN Programme, global or regional institutional reform processes, etc.



Although the name might sound a bit bureaucratic, National Committees are, in fact, very flexible, diverse, and use modular approaches to strengthen IUCN's presence at national level. As expressed by the existing National Committees themselves, the benefits of such structures are diverse:

### **Coordination & Influencing Mechanism**

National Committees are an opportunity for Government and NGO Members of IUCN to meet and discuss conservation issues, agree and work together on a common agenda, including for policy influencing, at national level. IUCN Commission experts in each country can bring a scientific ground to these discussions.

### **Discussion Forum**

National Committees are an opportunity for IUCN Members to bring together a variety of stakeholders to meet and discuss national topics related to the IUCN Programme and keep abreast with IUCN activities and processes.

### **Communication Platforms**

National Committees are a key channel for communication between Members, Commissions and the Secretariat (and vice-versa). They are also an important outreach channel to promote IUCN products and activities at national level.

### **Implementation mechanism**

In some cases, and depending on their capacities, National Committees can lead the implementation of the IUCN Programme at national level, with support from the Secretariat and the Commissions.

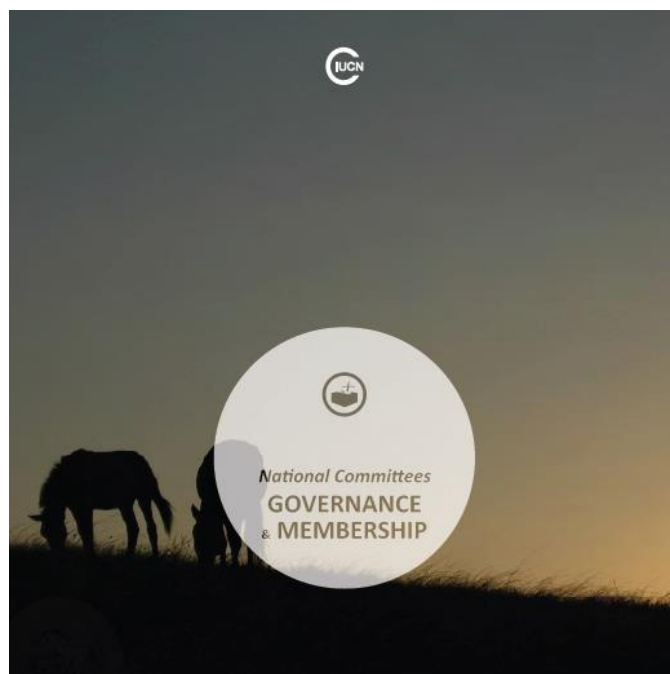
### **Where to start?**

Establishing a National Committee might look cumbersome but the truth is that such a Committee is, *de facto*, created when a majority of IUCN Members decide to regularly get together and coordinate their actions in a country.

From there on, all possible options are available and Members can choose and decide how they want to manage their Committee, if they want to create a legal entity for it (association or other) or not, if they want to give it an operational budget or not, etc.

Some of the existing National Committees have dedicated full-time staff. Others rely on the good will of one of their Members or on the time and efforts invested, on a voluntary basis, by their Chair.

All options are possible, and each will have benefits and disadvantages. It all depends on the capacity of IUCN Members in the country and on what they want to do with and get from their National Committee.



### **Governance of the Committee**

The IUCN Statutes only define two minimum requirements for a National Committee to be officially recognized by the IUCN Council:



- a constitution act and corresponding by-laws and internal procedures;
- a Chair (or equivalent), elected by all members of the Committee.

Additional governance elements might be required by the legal status of the Committee in the country. A nonprofit organisation, for example, will generally require a Board to be established, as well as a President and a Treasurer to be elected.

There is no minimum number of IUCN Members required to establish a National Committee (although it seems logical to think that a Committee might not be needed below three Members), but all IUCN Members in the country should be invited to be part of a National Committee. It is also highly recommended to also invite Commission members in the country.



### Implementing projects

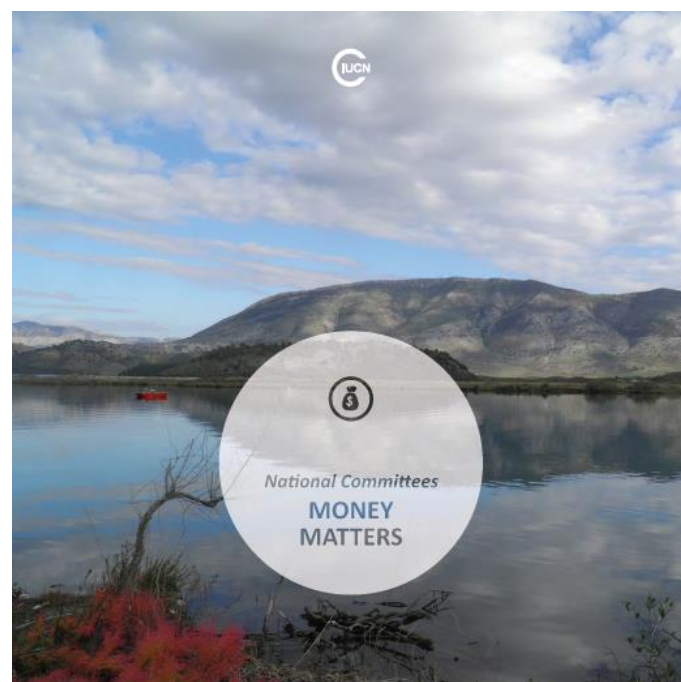
Although National Committees are primarily a mechanism for coordination and exchange of information at national level, several of them also play a role as project implementors, in the framework of the IUCN Programme.

Implementing projects and influencing national policies can be an interesting option for National Committees wanting to have a more active role in their country and diversify their sources of funding. Nevertheless, moving from coordination and information exchange to project implementation also comes with challenges that need to be taken into account.

These include:

- the capacity (human, technical and financial) of the Committee and its consequences on accountability;
- the perceived or real competition between the Committee and its own members, the Committee and the IUCN Secretariat or the Commissions in the country, for funding and activities;
- the vital need to coordinate activities and fundraising with other IUCN components, at national, regional and global level, to avoid competition and mixed messages;
- the fact that project implementation requires full staff dedication, which might have implications on the proper delivery of other basic roles of the Committee (national coordination, communication, etc.).

It is also important to note that only National Committees officially recognised by the IUCN Council are entitled to implement projects on behalf of IUCN.

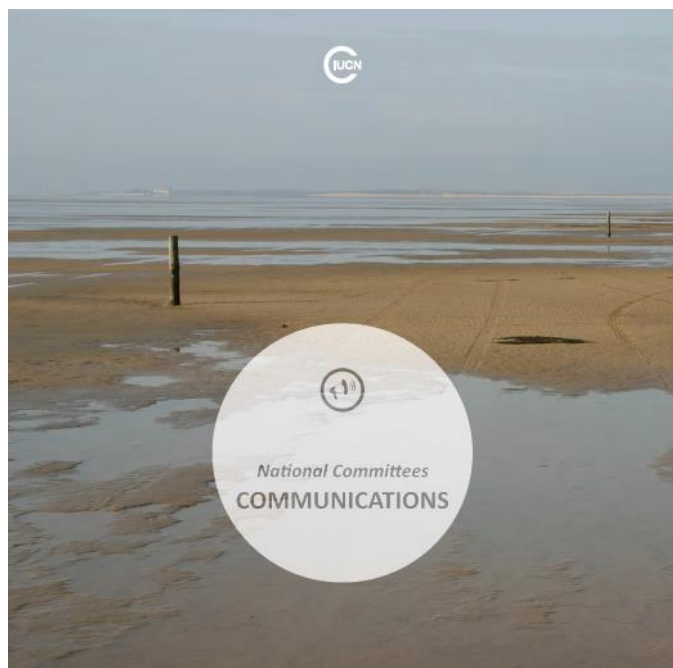


### Funding the Committee

The budget needed to run a National Committee is directly related to the activities and services provided by or required from the Committee. Whether it is the costs associated to the organisation or hosting of a meeting, or the salary costs of having a team of experts working full-time for the Committee, there will always be some costs associated to a National Committee. However, in most of the cases, these costs are fairly limited and

can easily be handled without a specific accounting or budgeting system.

Most of the National Committee do not have an operation budget. They simply rely on their members to voluntarily provide a meeting space and some staff time to run the Committee. In some other cases, and in order to ensure the minimum management of the Committee, IUCN Members agree to contribute financially to a specific budget for their Committee. All options are possible, but there is a common baseline: National Committees cannot incur any financial or legal obligation for IUCN.



### Communication

One of the basic functions of National Committees is to ensure a proper flow of information between the Committees and its members at national level, and between the national and international levels of IUCN. In this sense, National Committees are an important gateway between IUCN Members and the Secretariat, and a vital link between individual Members and the broader institution.

Each National Committee has developed its own tools and strategy for improving communications but some common features emerge:

- Newsletter (usually sent electronically)
- Website
- Social media (Blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Google+, etc.)
- Direct mailing (to IUCN Members and contacts in the country).



### Commissions

IUCN Commissions are the scientific body of the Union and play an important role in the implementation of the IUCN Programme. There are six thematic Commissions and Commission experts in nearly all countries in the world.

Keeping a close link with Commission experts in their country can be very important for National Committees, especially in the development of projects or programmes. While Commission members in one country are not de facto members of the National Committee, it is strongly recommended to invite and involve them in the life of the National Committee, in the spirit of the One Programme Approach to the IUCN Programme.

The list of Commission experts in each country can be found on the Union Portal. This list should be consulted regularly as Commission membership changes frequently and is fully renewed after each World Conservation Congress.

**More on [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)**

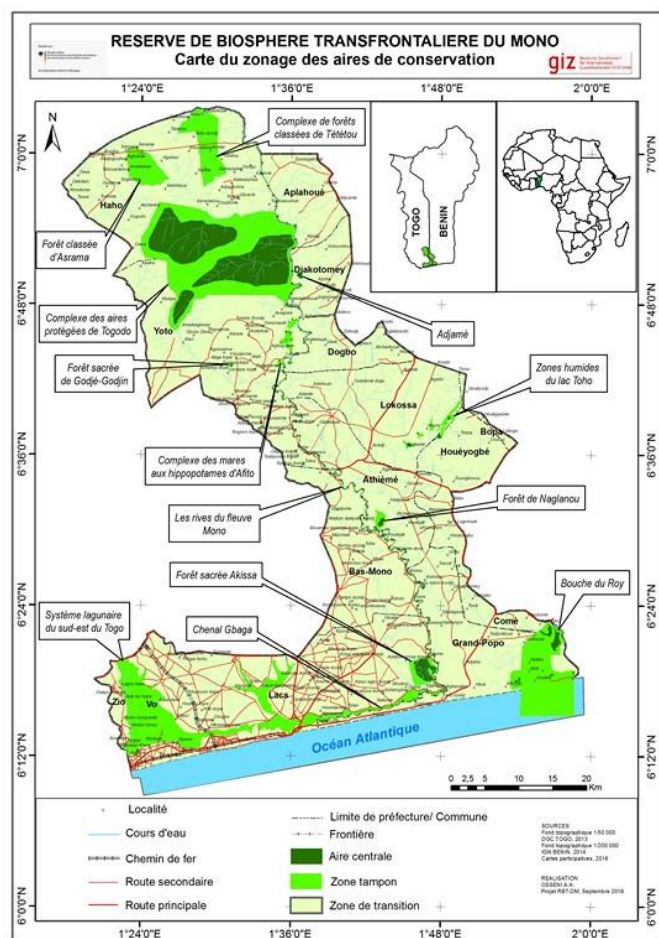
### The Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, a big step for sustainable development in Benin and Togo

*Author: Pishum MIGRAINE, GIZ Togo*

Located between Benin and Togo, the Mono delta clusters habitats and ecosystems that are unique in West Africa and which are known as the Dahomey gap. Forests, savannahs, lakes and ponds border the Mono River all the way to a coastal lagoon that



flows into the Atlantic Ocean. The area is home to several threatened animal species, such as the hippopotamus, the red-bellied monkey (endemic species), the African manatee as well as several species of marine turtles and dolphins.



Map of the different sites where the project works  
©GIZ/Osseni

Nowadays, this biodiversity is being challenged by uncontrolled agriculture, fishing and hunting activities as well as unregulated forest exploitation, all exacerbated by population growth. To invert these tendencies, Benin and Togo have joined forces towards a concerted management of the area's natural resources, building on a cooperation agreement signed in 2012 in the domains of the environment and natural resource management. Both countries have chosen to implement this agreement following the "biosphere reserve" model developed by UNESCO. The official recognition by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), on 14 June 2017, of the Mono River inundation plain as a Biosphere Reserve, was the result of that cooperation. The Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (MTBR) is now part of a worldwide network regrouping 669 model sites for the study and demonstration of

approaches combining biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development.

This recognition also means a lot for the project "Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mono Delta", implemented since 2014 by the German technical development cooperation agency (GIZ<sup>1</sup>) in partnership with public institutions in charge of protected area management from both countries. This five-year project is being financed by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection, Construction and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). Since its inception, the project focused on the capacity building of the locals living on both sides of the Mono River (Togolese and Beninese) who had shown interest in the sustainable management of their natural resources. This approach is thus described as "opportunistic".

The creation of the Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve is the result of an inclusive process of technical and financial support provided by the project on the field, benefiting stakeholders at all levels (local, regional, national) and stemming from different sectors (public, private and the civil society).



Fishermen on the lake Afi in Togo ©GIZ

The GIZ project has built on dialoguing, concerting and negotiating with all these stakeholders and most particularly with the direct users of the wild animals, wood and other natural products. It supported locals in the creation of natural resource management associations, and in the designing of effective tools for community management of protected areas at sites of high ecological and heritage value. Having then secured from

<sup>1</sup> Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

competent public authorities a management mandate, each of these associations were able to collectively define and adopt, in a pilot process called “participative cartography”, a set of rules that are specific to their particular ecological and socio-economic context. The enforcement of these rules is then guaranteed by local populations at the level of the sacred forest, mangrove, national park or wetlands that entails the transboundary biosphere reserve. Traditional beliefs are also widely taken into account. In some sites, such as the Naglanou forest in Benin, voodoo priests play an important role in guaranteeing that the consensually adopted rules for hunting and collecting other forest products are being respected.



Participatory mapping © AMN-ONG

Like any other biosphere reserve, the Mono Transboundary Biosphere Reserve includes three types of interdependent zones, each with a specific function. In core areas (14 496,4 ha), no human activity other than research and education is tolerated. In buffer zones (43 378,27 ha) around or adjoining these core areas, natural resources are managed so as to ensure they can be sustainably used; while transitional areas (288 411,63 ha) include agricultural territories and conurbations where socio-economic development is encouraged.

With the acquisition of the status of a biosphere reserve, the southern Mono basin has gained greater exposure at national and international levels. Today, the project is focusing on strengthening the budgetary and operational autonomy of the different management structures –

be them community- or government-based. The reserve's Permanent Secretariat, a binational body, is being legally constituted by competent authorities from both countries. This structure will be responsible for coordinating the concerted management of the reserve. At some sites already, the rationalised management of land and other resources (wild animals, fish, wood and forest products) has already allowed for their increased abundance. It is the case for instance in the Afito swamps, in Togo, where hippo conservation and the regulation of fishing activities have already allowed for a repopulation of the fish communities.



The local Vodoun priests play a key role in the management of core areas such as the Godjé-Godjin forest. ©ONG AGBO ZEGUE

On the longer term, the sustainable management and economic valuation of natural resources should not only help further reduce anthropogenic pressure on them, but also finance the ecological monitoring, surveillance programme and the reforestation and other conservation activities at each site. It is hoped that this will ultimately allow for a further improvement of the livelihoods of the 680 000 people living in buffer and transitional zones, and the sustainable development of the region as a whole.

For more information: [pishum.migraine@giz.de](mailto:pishum.migraine@giz.de)

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