

Biodiversity Action Plan for the Boké Préfecture, Northwestern Guinea

Source: A Rapid Biological Assessment of Boké Préfecture,
Northwestern Guinea: 100

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Biodiversity Action Plan for the Boké Préfecture, northwestern Guinea

Following the biological survey by the Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) for the Boké Préfecture, a workshop was held in order to discuss the results of the RAP survey, identify existing pressures on the region's biodiversity, and explore opportunities for conservation in the area. The workshop was held June 22nd and 23rd in Conakry, Guinea, and sixty-five individuals participated from a broad spectrum of stakeholder groups: community representatives; local and national government officials; local, national, and international community-based and non-governmental organizations; and ALCOA representatives.

This preliminary Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is based on the stakeholder input given at that workshop and the data collected during the RAP survey. The intention of this BAP is to catalyze biodiversity conservation efforts in northwestern Guinea's Boké Préfecture region. It is expected that this plan will evolve and strengthen as the biological and socio-economic dynamics of the Boké Préfecture are better understood, and to this end, feedback on the plan is welcome.

THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Boké Préfecture, in the westernmost fringe of the Upper Guinea Forest ecosystem, is part of Guinée-Maritime, one of Guinea's four regions that includes Guinea's coastal zone. Within the Boké Préfecture, several significant threats to biodiversity currently exist; as discussed in the Executive Summary and Introduction chapter of this report, habitat fragmentation and natural resource exploitation (hunting, logging, unsustainable agriculture) are the most apparent ones. Many of these threats to biodiversity are likely to intensify as human population growth and migration increase demand for bushmeat, agricultural land, and other resources.

Key Conservation Objective, Milestones and Activities

The results of this RAP survey show that while the Boké Préfecture ecosystem faces a number of threats to biodiversity conservation due to human activity, it contains unique and threatened terrestrial species; has some intact connections between habitat, flora, and fauna; and important coastal mangrove habitat that provide critical ecosystem services. Based on the results of this study, the overall conservation objective of this Biodiversity Action Plan is to improve natural resource management in the Boké Préfecture by reducing threats to biodiversity, promoting and implementing sound production practices, educating and informing the surrounding communities and developing sustainable alternatives for communities that rely heavily on the forests and natural resources of the region. We identified six key conservation milestones to achieving the conservation objective, and several activities for each:

1. Vegetation cover in the Boké Préfecture is protected and rehabilitated.

- Restore areas that have been cleared of forest cover;
- Prevent grazing on already degraded and ecologically sensitive areas;
- Strengthen monitoring and enforcement capacity of protected areas;
- Promote the use of renewable alternative energy sources to avoid loss of forest cover to fuel wood;

- Organize and develop reforestation awareness campaigns;
- Create communal protected areas;
- Create village committees to manage forest ecosystems and ensure adequate protection; and
- Update and enforce forest management regulations within a sustainable management framework.

2. Sustainable and 'best practice' agricultural practices are implemented.

- Plan and implement grazing routes;
- Educate local farmers and increase awareness of sustainable agricultural practices;
- Promote fire ecology and sustainable fire management practices;
- Promote agroforestry practices like planting nurseries with native species;
- Encourage sustainable waste management and disposal like composting;
- Implement a hydro-agricultural infrastructure; and
- Promote creation of community and private forests.

3. Extractive industries, like mining, adopt sustainable practices.

- Strengthen management control capacities of managers;
- Restore and rehabilitate mines and quarries;
- Increase awareness and train commercial and traditional miners;
- Support harmonization of all extractive industry regulations and promote their implementation;
- Promote agroforestry practices to rehabilitate old mine and quarry sites; and
- Support proper waste management practices and disposal.

4. Awareness and communication about biodiversity conservation issues to local communities is improved.

- Promote communication means that are accessible to communities;
- Use media to disseminate information and make readily accessible;
- Organize education and awareness campaigns to promote understanding;
- Organize rural activities groups; and
- Promote and support local literacy campaigns

5. Poaching is reduced

- Organize education and awareness campaigns on sustainable wildlife management;
- Update, promote and enforce hunting regulations;
- Offer sustainable alternatives to poachers;
- Support enforcement of hunting regulations through

increased forest station surveillance; and

- Create and support village committees for wildlife management.

6. Sustainable fishing practices are implemented.

- Increase awareness and train traditional fishermen on sustainable practices;
- Protect fish reproduction zones;
- Support standardization of sustainable fishing equipment, like nets;
- Promote sustainable fish farming practices; and
- Support and promote harmonization of fishing standard and regulations

More species-specific conservation recommendations are summarized in the Executive Summary.