

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund:
Final Project Completion Report

A TRANSNATIONAL FOREST NETWORK
FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION BETWEEN
COTE D'IVOIRE AND GHANA

PROJECT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

ACCRA, GHANA 30 -31 OCTOBER 2002

Report

by

Marc Parren

1. A proposal to establish elephant corridors between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

1.1 Introduction

West African forest elephants live in small and isolated forest fragments and as a result there exist the risk of inbreeding. Ideally a population of c. 1,000-5,000 should form a metapopulation, in which sub-populations can still wander from one sub-population to another. However, free migration of animals over large areas is no longer possible to counterbalance the low local population levels. Corridors, which aid dispersal, thus enlarging effective population sizes should be created. The creation of a forest network would encourage animal movement and in consequence stimulate gene flow between isolated populations. This network should consist of the elephants home ranges, presently restricted to parts of the permanent forest, in conjunction with corridors. The key components are establishment of connectivity, channelisation and movement.

1.2 Proposed transnational corridor network

Establishment of two interlinked corridor networks will be essential. The one connecting the Bettié forest block, consisting of four large forest reserves with elephants present in FC Songan, in eastern Côte d'Ivoire with the Ghanaian populations along the Bia river.

- 1) The Goaso and Bia populations upstream of the Bia river should be connected by establishing a riparian corridor along the Bia river. Bia NP should also be connected with FC Songan through FC Diambarakrou on the border with Ghana following another stream. This component could be funded by ITTO.
- 2) Following the Bia river upstream from FC Songan at the Ghanaian border another corridor network should start. That one is going south via Dadiaso ideally up to Cape Three Points connecting the elephant populations at Nini-Suhien – Ankasa and the one at Kakum with those in Côte d'Ivoire and the Bia-Goaso populations. This component could be funded by CI through their cocoa protection programme.

1.3 Workshop

A first meeting took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire 10-11 October in which the Ivorian forest service with their German GTZ counterparts and Conservation International representative Leonie Bonnehin gathered to discuss the planning at the Ivorian side. This was followed by a workshop in Accra where representatives of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire gathered to discuss further cooperation and planning with the objective to formulate a joint project proposal. It was agreed upon that in Côte d'Ivoire field activities would be executed by SODEFOR's regional office in Abengourou where there exists a joint project with the German GTZ which is most effective. The Ivorians and Germans showed a strong interest in such a proposal at an earlier stage. Since ITTO funding is looked for it would imply that SODEFOR in Côte d'Ivoire and the Forestry Commission represented by the Wildlife Division in Ghana would be the leading agencies. ITTO prefers transnational projects and has funded two corridor proposals in Central Africa and SE Asia before. A proposal to ITTO would ideally be proposed at the 34th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council in May 2003 in Panama City to allow the first field activities to start by the beginning of 2004. The project should preferably consist of two phases: 1st Phase to establish stepping stones, villages who are interested to participate and will be the demonstration sites (4 years), 2nd Phase to connect the stepping stones and assure that the corridors will be complete in their design (4 years). The two leading agencies will first find out the procedures to follow for ITTO funding by their respective governments. However, transnational cooperation including movement of people is envisaged to be frequent and lasting for longer periods of time by the participants at the workshop. This should allow for better exchange of experiences in

the field and to create a mutual feeling towards project commitments. This will imply that project costs will be higher than average so this will be reflected in the budget.

Agencies and persons to be involved in the core of the Songan-Bia-Goaso corridor network would apart from the leading agencies be several NGOs already active in the planned corridor creation regions, some national ones and Conservation International with its West African approach as for corridor creation already coordinating such activities. The research component needed to assess effective use of created corridors as a way of passage for wildlife and the development of a biomonitoring tool and database analyses would most likely be coordinated by the Tropenbos-Ghana Programme, a research agency with experience in both countries and the wider region. The workshop also advised that Marc Parren would become project coordinator to supervise the activities. Stimulating the field workers, adjusting plans, communicate fluently in both languages for transnational activities and for financial accountability. Afterwards a visit was made to the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) who showed a keen interest to fund the external project coordinator post as well as some additional activities as long as they will fall under the umbrella of the RNE supported Wildlife Division Support Project operating since 2001. So the situation looks very promising to get such a project funded.

1.4 Next steps to be taken

No	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
01	Finalize log frame, budget and timetable	Leonie and David	End of Nov 02
02	Feedback on ITTO procedures to be sent to Marc Parren	SODEFOR & FC	End of Nov 02
03	Finalize the draft proposal	Marc and Dirck	End of Dec 02
04	Search for additional funding sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International • Local 	Marc and Dirck SODEFOR and FC	End of April 03
05	Commitment for potential partners	Marc	End of April 03
06	Organigram of the project	Marc	End of Dec 02
07	Submit the proposal to ITTO	SODEFOR, FC	May 03

Wageningen, 25 November 2002

LOGFRAME

Project title : A transnational forest network for biodiversity conservation between Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana			
Description	Indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Project purpose: Forest fragments within the corridor are interconnected and species isolation avoid	Wildlife population increases and their genetic viability ensured (?)	Scientific reports	
<p>Outputs and Activities</p> <p>1 Evaluation of the current situation in the proposed corridor</p> <p>1.1 Undertake socio economic surveys 1.2 Review existing policy frameworks 1.3 Assess the land use practices in the region 1.4 Consult stakeholders in the region 1.5 Undertake biological surveys 1.6 Organize workshops to validate the information</p> <p>2 Corridor management plan developed (12 months)</p> <p>2.1 Identify the location of the corridor 2.2 Develop the land use plan for the corridor 2.3 Negotiate with the relevant stakeholders to build on a consensus for the location of the corridor 2.4 Identify alternative livelihoods 2.5 Organize workshops to validate the management plan</p> <p>13 Management plan for biodiversity conservation implemented.</p> <p>3.1 Demarcate the boundaries of the corridor 3.2 Reforest the degraded areas 3.3 Protect und improve the utilization of the remaining forest fragments in the corridor buffer zone</p>	<p><i>Maps, biological, ecological and socio economics information updated Local population interests identified</i></p> <p><i>Corridor action plan</i></p> <p><i>Biodiversity corridor established and operational</i></p>	Reports	

<p>4 Management plan for community development implemented</p> <p>4.1 Build capacity for the implementation of the management plan</p> <p>4.2 Support local communities with appropriate (micro) projects</p> <p>4.3 Support local communities to improve agroforestry and agricultural practices</p> <p>4.4 Promote marketing for agricultural and NTF products</p> <p>4.5 Develop Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA)</p> <p>5 The monitoring system established for the corridor (ecological and socioeconomic)</p> <p>5.1 Review the different biomonitoring systems in use with an emphasis on West Africa</p> <p>5.2 Implement harmonized biomonitoring system</p> <p>5.3 Improve capacity for biomonitoring and data management at local and professional levels</p> <p>5.4 Develop and implement socio economic monitoring strategy for local populations</p> <p>5.5 Undertake research on selected wildlife species</p> <p>5.6 Monitor and manage human – wildlife conflicts</p> <p>5.7 Undertake research and training on hunting activities to promote sustainable use of wildlife</p> <p>13 Financial and institutional mechanism for the sustainable management of the corridor established</p> <p>6.1 Establish the legal status of the corridor</p> <p>6.2 Define and establish a management strategy</p> <p>6.3 Implement IEC strategy</p> <p>6.4 Develop a framework for collaborative transfrontier management of the corridor</p> <p>6.5 Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the corridor</p>	<p><i>Biodiversity corridor established and operational</i></p> <p><i>Biodiversity corridor ecological and socio – economic sustainability demonstrated</i></p> <p><i>Biodiversity corridor institutional and financial sustainability demonstrated</i></p>		
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List of potential Partners

Ghana

- WD
- FSD
- FC
- MLF
- Min. of Food and Agriculture
- Traditional authorities
- District Assemblies
- Environmental NGOs: RC (Italian), GACON, FoE, CF,GWS, Tropenbos-Ghana Programme, CARE (livelihood)
- MIL Consultants (socio – economic)

Côte d'Ivoire

- DPN
- MECV (Min of Envir.)
- MINEF (Ministry of Water and Forest)
- SODEFOR
- Conseils Généraux (District Assemblies)
- Local Communities
- Environmental NGOs (to be determined)
- CRE (Center for Environmental Education)
- Conservation International, Côte d'Ivoire
- Min of Agriculture

List of participants

Name	Organization
1 Moses Kofi Sam	Wildlife Division, Accra
2 Dirck Byler	CI-West Africa Program , Washington DC
3 Richard Barnes	CI – Africa and Madagascar Division
4 N.K.Ankudey	Wildlife Division, Accra
5 Marc Parren	Larenstein University, The Netherlands
6 Paul Gbanzai	SODEFOR Abengourou , Côte d'voire
7 Peter Boateng	Forestry Commission
8 Noble Wadzah	Friends of the Earth – Ghana.
9 Leonie Bonnehin	CI – Côte d'Ivoire
10 David Kpelle	CI – Ghana
11 Yaw Osei-Owusu	CI - Ghana
12 Bruno Achana	CI – Ghana