

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Fondation d'Entreprise BIOTOPE pour la Biodiversité
Project Title:	Mainstreaming Opportunities for Operationalizing business contributions to Nature in the Mano River Union countries
Grant Number:	CEPF-110576
Hotspot:	Guinean Forests of West Africa
Strategic Direction:	2 Mainstream biodiversity conservation into public policy and private sector practice in the nine conservation corridors, at local, sub-national and national levels
Grant Amount:	\$366,121.66
Project Dates:	February 01, 2021 - July 31, 2022
Date of Report:	March 20, 2023

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

The project was implemented by the Biotope Foundation, Biotope SAS, FFI and Conservation Capital (CC). The Biotope Foundation provided financial coordination between the partners and Biotope provided technical coordination in conjunction with FFI and CC. Biotope led project activities in Guinea and Ivory Coast, including key partnership development processes, a series of multi-stakeholder workshops on conservation agreements as well as targeted trainings on critical habitat assessment, mitigation hierarchy and IFC PS6 and legal gap analysis for Ivory Coast. Biotope coordinated with Climate Chance who led development of a national corridor map for large mammals in Guinea. FFI led project activities in Liberia including: legal gap analysis; development of guidance towards nature positive; multi-stakeholder workshops to inform and validate aforementioned outputs and threat and opportunity mapping, and build capacity in conservation agreements. Training provided to species and technical specialists on critical habitat assessment, mitigation hierarchy and IFC PS6. FFI supported activities in Guinea given the organization's long-standing presence and active role in the conservation of Ziama MAB Reserve in Guinée Forestière and together with Centre Forestier de N'Zérékoré (CFZ) hosted a site visit from Biotope to explore socioeconomic context, opportunities and constraints relevant to conservation agreements around Ziama.

FFI developed the multi-country spatial database and threat and opportunity mapping along with supporting communication outputs. Biotope provided input and review. CC provided a cross-cutting service concerning conservation agreements, with FFI and Biotope providing regional and technical input to all related outputs and delivering training. In all 3 countries, workshops were attended by partners and stakeholders representing public, private and civil

society sectors. Their contribution to project objectives and outputs are elaborated later in this report

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
At least 3 conservation and/or restoration partnerships with the private sector enable production landscapes around protected areas to be managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use on at least 3000 ha	Not yet realized, but in progress with WCS on Simandou and OKKPS areas in Guinea In other parts of the landscape, including in and around Nimba (Guinea / Liberia), in the Ziama landscape (Guinea), and around Sapou NP (Liberia), existing relationships and those developed and/or strengthened through the MOON project will continue to advance this objective moving forwards.

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Additional financial resources are directed towards measurable conservation and restoration, thereby increasing the number and quality of conservation outcomes in at least 3 target landscapes with the groundwork and enabling conditions for these outcomes agreed by the end of the project. These resources will specifically target potential and ongoing private-sector impacts on biodiversity and habitat through avoidance, minimisation, restoration and compensation measures.	Discussions are underway with Rio Tinto to mutualise the compensation of the Simandou mine and the construction of the railway. Some of the compensation measures will be in the "Guinée Forestière" landscape, which is targeted by the Moon project.
Recommendations on mitigation and ecological compensation are made, by June 2022, to governments in Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire for mainstreaming biodiversity in their EIA policies and regulations.	Recommendations on ecological compensation are made to governments in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire and the regulation in both countries is evolving. In the coming months, Biotope will participate in the development of environmental regulations in these two countries as a continuation of the MOON project. A cooperation agreement with the Guinean Ministry of the Environment has been signed in October 2022 with Biotope, in the framework of the Combo + project, to achieve this. Technical assistance for the evolution of the regulations is the key point of this agreement. In Liberia, following the gap analysis of relevant laws and policies, recommendations have been made and were presented during a multi-stakeholder workshop held in Monrovia the 18th and the 19th of May 2022. This was complemented by trainings (IFC PS6 standard on May the 20th) and development of guidance to support individual,

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<p>Site and corridor-specific biodiversity risk and opportunity maps for mainstreaming are available, by June 2022, for at least 5 key biodiversity areas in the transboundary region of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. These maps will allow private sector, NGOs and Government to select areas that could provide the best return on investment for activities, such as engagement and advocacy, to address risks from private sector activities as well as to pinpoint areas where opportunities exist, such as collaborative restoration projects between several company operations for larger impact across a corridor.</p>	<p>collective and collaborative actions to deliver positive outcomes for nature in Liberia.</p> <p>A spatial multi-country database was created and data were analysed to produce threat and opportunity maps, covering each country. This high level analysis supports initial identification of opportunities for conservation action and private sector engagement and collaboration, and to inform where further detailed analysis and project scoping should be carried out on the ground and in consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>In Liberia, the map outputs were reviewed, discussed and validated by representatives at a multi-stakeholder workshop, and opportunities identified through the maps were the focus of group discussions.</p> <p>In particular, points of interest were identified in the area south of the Gbi protected area which is surrounded by mining and forest management concessions, north of Sapo National Park and also Community forest east of Sapo National Park, close to concessions in the northeast and high density of roads indicating it may be vulnerable to exploitation. This represents 4 KBAs in Liberia. Similar community forests in the north of AOI overlapping mining concessions – a key opportunity for businesses to work with local communities to ensure their natural resources are protected and biodiversity supported.</p>
<p>At least 3 private companies improve their biodiversity management practices in the conservation corridors by June 2022.</p>	<p>2 private companies (WCS and Rio Tinto) expressed their interest in the implementation of conservation agreements in their impact area in “Guinée Forestière” and beyond. Beyond the project, Biotope will continue to engage these companies.</p> <p>FFI has engaged with mining companies in the transboundary Nimba landscape (Guinea / Liberia). Independent of the MOON project, but with complementary objectives, FFI was invited to provide an assessment of feasibility for offset options for SMFG taking into account social, economic and conservation factors. FFI maintains an open dialogue with SMFG and FFI has provided recommendations on the main environmental and social challenges to implement an offsets program based on the current enabling conditions and the different actors present in the area.</p> <p>FFI has participated as a stakeholder in consultations relating to mining developments in the Simandou area of Guinée Forestière with the aim of ensuring that conservation priorities in the landscape are supported and that impacts on</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	biodiversity are avoided and mitigated. This includes meetings with Rio Tinto and Winning Consortium Simandou. FFI has recommended the adoption of approaches consistent with its CALM (Collaborating Across the Landscape to Mitigate impacts of development) framework.
Sectoral guidelines for achieving No Net Loss are made available by June 2022 to inform public policies and/or private sector business practices for biodiversity conservation in at least 3 corridors. These guidelines will provide sector-specific information enabling NGOs, government and the private sector to design activities that will avoid and minimise impacts from private-sector development at specific sites as well as at a corridor level by enabling several institutions to work together. The guidelines will also provide details and allow the planning and implementation of restoration and compensation activities such as biodiversity offsets.	Guidance produced "Mainstreaming opportunities for operationalizing business contributions to nature: Guidance to support individual, collective and collaborative actions to deliver positive outcomes for nature in LIBERIA." Guidance supported by concise briefing papers, as well as the training materials delivered at the multi-stakeholder workshop in Liberia. Two corridors are covered by our guidance : - Lofa-Gola-Mano Complex - Mount Nimba Complex
Sites and corridors-specific biodiversity risk and opportunity in Guinea and connecting to neighbouring countries are identified and provide stakeholders - especially the private sector - with more detailed knowledge and data to inform their decisions, planning and practices.	Sites and corridors-specific biodiversity risk and opportunity in Guinea and connecting to neighbouring countries are identified and provide stakeholders - especially the private sector - with more detailed knowledge and data to inform their decisions, planning and practices. Maps shared with all stakeholders

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

In Cote d'Ivoire, the MOON project and the workshops enabled contact to be made with the Ministry of the Environment's services responsible for the environmental assessment of development projects (ANDE). ANDE would like Biotope's support in integrating concepts related to biodiversity risk management into the new environmental policies framework.

The workshop in Liberia delivered an expanded scope which served to increase the benefits for participants and the project. The workshop was well attended and represented a multistakeholder audience that was more diverse than originally proposed (e.g. including representation of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Bureau of concessions, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, as well as private sector actors from various industries). The design of the workshop enabled FFI to share the findings of several components of the project and to seek input and feedback. It provided an opportunity to trial the high-level threat and opportunity map outputs with groups of stakeholders which generated valuable feedback and an interactive learning opportunity. The workshop further provided training on key concepts relevant to the evolution of national policy and legislation, and on the possible pathways towards nature positive.

In Liberia, the project has catalysed considerable interest in cross-sectoral collaboration whilst also highlighting the need to create spaces for ongoing dialogue to enable and support open communication and relationship building towards collaborative action. The interest expressed by private sector companies in conservation agreements has highlighted a need and opportunity to develop robust guidance specifically for private sector actors in the region and with the aim of ensuring that best practice is adopted from the outset and throughout the process of developing any conservation agreements.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

For each country, we now have an analysis of the gaps between current legislation and international standards for taking biodiversity into account, and recommendations have been made to the authorities to strengthen the legislation so that it better integrates biodiversity issues. In Guinea this work was carried out under the COMBO project, whilst in Côte d'Ivoire following the MOON project, the Ministry of the Environment has requested support in the evolution of the legislative framework relating to biodiversity, in particular as a result of the gap analysis within environmental legislation carried out in collaboration with the "Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire".

In Liberia, the gap analysis reviewed relevant laws and policies and highlighted areas that can be improved to strengthen the legal framework including the systematic application of the mitigation hierarchy and principles of No Net Loss/Net Gain. Resultant recommendations for mainstreaming biodiversity, particularly through the EIA process, were presented and discussed at a multi-stakeholder workshop involving government, private sector and civil society. A key focus of discussion was consideration of which laws would need to include>NNL/NG principles to align different sectors towards Nature Positive outcomes. The importance of existing and proposed protected areas as sites to anchor conservation initiatives was also flagged and presents opportunities for private sector to contribute towards conservation outcomes. A national level guidance to advance nature positive through individual, collective and collaborative action across sectors was produced through the project and discussed with stakeholders. Together with the legal gap analysis these outputs provide a strong basis to support the evolution of policy and legislative frameworks moving forward, with support from FFI Liberia and other partners.

High-level mapping to identify threats to biodiversity and opportunities for the engagement and collaboration with the private sector and other stakeholders (e.g. through restoration partnerships) has been undertaken and the resultant multi-country spatial database has been completed and is available. In Liberia, the multi-stakeholder workshop served to inform and validate the high level map outputs and recommendations for the future. The online database is supported by two story maps (for Ziama in Guinea and Sapu in Liberia) produced to communicate how the tool can be applied as a first step in identifying opportunities to advance collaborative conservation action.

Complementary to this high level mapping, site and corridor-specific biodiversity risks and opportunities in Guinea (and connecting to neighbouring countries) have been identified drawing on more detailed national and local knowledge and data to inform stakeholders decisions, planning and practices. This work was conducted with the NGO Climate Chance in Guinea. These maps will be used to build and animate a conservation programme for one of the most important corridors for biodiversity in Guinea, linking the forests of Sierra Leone to the relict forests of southern Senegal, passing through Fouta Djallon.

A training guide on the development of conservation agreements has been produced and is aimed at supporting medium to large NGOs in the focal countries to facilitate the development of conservation agreements among relevant parties. For the three corridors, the project has developed potential conservation agreement 'models' or examples of possible partnership arrangements that may be suited to a conservation agreement approach. They illustrate options that can be further explored with different stakeholder groups and are intended to be live, working resources for supporting ongoing and anticipated collaboration opportunities and processes in the focal landscapes. Importantly, the project has also highlighted both constraints and opportunities for conservation

agreements in the focal landscapes and moving forwards stakeholder engagement processes with communities and other stakeholders will inform the viability of conservation agreements in the different areas.

In Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia multistakeholder workshops were held to share the biodiversity conservation challenges of the three corridors, and to explore the potential for conservation agreements to support ecological compensation or offset implementation. Workshops were well attended by government, civil society and NGO, and private sector including:

- In Liberia: National authorities (Forest Development Authority (FDA), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), National Fisheries & Aquaculture Authority, Ministry of Mines & Energy, Bureau of Concessions), private companies in extractive sectors (AML, Mandra Logging, Sloway Mining Investments, MNG Gold, among others), donors and fund managers (USAID, Tetrattech), and civil society and non-governmental organisations (CI, Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection, Environmental Justice Forum, among others). As noted above, the scope of the workshop was broader than for Guinea and Ivory Coast and covered the legal gap analysis, national guidance and threat and opportunity mapping in addition to conservation agreements. This also reflects that there is already experience with and working models for conservation agreements in Liberia and the aim was to reinforce and support this through the workshop.
- In Guinea: NGO Guinea Ecology, the Guinean Ministry of the Environment, the Guinean Ministry of Agriculture, and major mining groups (ALUFER, Rio Tinto, WCS, GAC, etc.).
- In Ivory Coast: several departments of the Ministry of Environment and private sector (e.g. Côte d'Ivoire Energie).

These workshops served as an important foundation for building a shared understanding of conservation agreements as a tool that may support offset implementation and other conservation opportunities in the corridors. In this way the workshops and the continued relationships and dialogue arising from this will inform a rapidly evolving field of practice, with interest expressed by those represented including both private and public sector stakeholders. . A contract is being signed with WCSr (February 2023) to implement conservation agreements on future offset sites in the various landscapes crossed by the railway, from the mining site to the harbour site.

Trainings aimed at regional and local biodiversity experts were also delivered in the three countries with the aim of increasing participant knowledge of how to take biodiversity into account in development projects by complying with international standards. The workshops focused on the IFC's Performance Standard 6, critical habitat assessments and the mitigation hierarchy and were designed to build capacity in application.

In addition to formal project activities Biotope and FFI have played an active and ongoing role in engaging actors from private, public and civil society sectors throughout the project with the aim of preventing and minimising adverse impacts from large scale development projects, facilitating communication and coordination among the many different actors, and identifying opportunities for collaboration in order to advance biodiversity conservation and restoration objectives in the focal landscapes. The networks, relationships, interest and momentum generated in all three countries will be taken forward by Biotope and FFI respectively beyond this project to ensure that results generated through the MOON Project continue to contribute to long-term conservation outcomes.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Contributing to an enabling environment for mainstreaming	1.1	2 country legal/policy gap analysis reports	To understand the regulatory environment enabling the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity, a review of the legal landscape was conducted. This also helped determine the extant rules in Liberia regarding mainstreaming biodiversity into national planning processes with specific emphasis on the requirements for a NNL/NG outcome.
1.0	Contributing to an enabling environment for mainstreaming	1.2	1 sectoral guidelines document	This guidance introduces the concept of nature positive and explores pathways towards achieving nature positive through individual, collective and collaborative action. The focus is on mainstreaming opportunities for business to contribute to positive outcomes for nature in Liberia. As such, this high-level guidance is intended to be relevant for regulators, businesses, and NGOs and serves as a starting point for considering possible pathways and approaches towards nature positive.
2.0	Brokering partnerships for conservation and restoration in 3 corridors	2.1	1 online spatial multi-country database created in-house, containing key information on the target landscaped including: KBAs, key target companies operating in the landscape,	High-level spatial analysis uses available spatial data to build an understanding of the landscape and identify threats to and opportunities for biodiversity conservation. Spatial data included areas important for conservation (protected areas, key biodiversity areas, proposed protected areas etc.), concession boundaries, deforestation hot spots, forest connectivity and forest

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				integrity. Hyperlink has been added in "spatial data"
2.0	Brokering partnerships for conservation and restoration in 3 corridors	2.2	1 threat and opportunity map per country created, using data from the spatial database and shortlisting key opportunities to work with companies to create PPPs or other mainstreaming opportunities such as landscape restoration. Opportunities will be ra	This high-level mapping has been completed and represents the first step to identify opportunities and can be used to inform where further detailed analysis and project scoping should be carried out on the ground and in consultation with stakeholders.
2.0	Brokering partnerships for conservation and restoration in 3 corridors	2.3	Typology of PPP and PPCP models for conservation / restoration, with associated blueprints and key steps / milestones for the establishment of at least 1 type of PPP/PPCP per country	Conservation Capital drafted the final version of the Conservation Agreement training guidelines, developed to support NGO led training in the development of conservation agreements.
2.0	Brokering partnerships for conservation and restoration in 3 corridors	2.4	Term-sheets for local NGOs and government agencies with key points of attention to follow in the establishment of at least 1 PPCP with the private sector in each landscape.	The Conservation Agreement guidance was developed and includes key points of attention and a process to follow in the development of conservation agreements. This was also a focus of discussion during the workshops.
2.0	Brokering partnerships for conservation and restoration in 3 corridors	2.5	Assessments of training event in English in Liberia for NGOs and government agencies on PPP/PPCP	Training workshop delivered in Monrovia (51 people trained, 12 female and 39 male), Liberia and included stakeholders representing various sectors including: national authorities,

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			typology and implementing the blueprints (the term sheet produced under this component will be used as case studies)	private companies in extractive sectors (forestry and mining), civil society, NGOs, donors, and fund managers. The workshop scope was broadened to enable project outputs to be shared, discussed and feedback gathered, including on the high-level opportunity mapping, legal gap analysis and the nature positive guidance. Conservation agreements were the focus of the second day and prompted active and engaging discussions around the opportunities and challenges, and the enabling conditions that need to be in place for conservation agreements to be effective. The two sessions included online surveys to orient the discussions and also to capture the participants feedback on the different topics.
2.0	Brokering partnerships for conservation and restoration in 3 corridors	2.6	Assessments of training event in French in Cote D'Ivoire for NGOs and government agencies on PPP/PPCP typology and implementing the blueprints (the term sheet produced under this component will be used as case studies)	Two training events delivered for NGO's, local authorities and private sector companies on Conservation agreement guidelines in Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire (30 people trained). These workshops made it possible to show the interest of the stakeholders in this type of tool for implementing ecological offsetting in rural areas, integrating the needs of the local populations as well as the threatened biodiversity.
3.0	Training taxonomic specialists on best practice for private sector	3.1	Assessments of the training event in English, likely held in Monrovia (Liberia)	Training was provided on the International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6 (IFC PS6) and the application of the mitigation hierarchy. A short survey was taken at the

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	management of biodiversity			beginning and end of the session to track the attendants' understanding of the topic. Following the workshop, all questions saw an increase in the selection of the correct answer demonstrating a measurable impact of the workshop. In average, 38% of the participants improved their answers for the four questions part of the survey. The questions were: what do you understand by social safeguards?, what are the three IFC habitat categories ?, according IFC definition, the Upper Guinean Forest is a : and what is the most important stage of the Mitigation Hierarchy ? The results will be attached in the respective section of CEPF portal.
3.0	Training taxonomic specialists on best practice for private sector management of biodiversity	3.2	Assessments of the training in French, likely held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)	Two training events for Local Biodiversity experts (40 people trained) have been done in Abidjan and Conakry. The assessment of the value of this type of training was done. Trainee learned a lot about the requirements of the international standards and this will contribute to a better understanding of the important fauna and flora data to be collected in order to be able to apply the methods for assessing critical habitats, but also the methods for assessing the offsetting needs. Two training events for Local Biodiversity experts (40 people trained) have been done in Abidjan and Conakry. The assessment of the value of this type of training was done. Trainee learned a lot about the requirements

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				of the international standards and this will contribute to a better understanding of the important fauna and flora data to be collected in order to be able to apply the methods for assessing critical habitats, but also the methods for assessing the offsetting needs. Out of 40 people who were trained, about 20 people really participated and gained competence on international standards issues. These people, who are well identified, are regularly recruited by the Biodiversity engineering firms, including Biotope, to provide high-quality services during inventories for impact studies.
4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	4.1	Understanding of gender issues within Biotope's Foundation and its key partners, effectively monitored as evidenced by the submission of Gender Tracking Tools' at project start and end	Gender issues monitored and Gender tracking tools completed
4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	4.2	Stakeholders effectively engaged as evidenced by the programmatic report every 6 months to CEPF	3 Programmatic report have been delivered during the project implementation demonstrating the progress of the project in consultation with stakeholders
4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	4.3	Project impacts monitored and reported online at project end as evidenced by the Final Completion and Impact Reports	Project impact section completed

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4.0	CEPF project management and monitoring for compliance	4.4	Communication materials are shared with the RIT per email or other online data transfer software	All documents have been deposited on the website (Others information section)
5.0	Mapping and identifying the potential ecological corridors and priority of landscapes for biodiversity conservation (strengthening, expanding or creating protected areas and other effective conservation measures) and ecological restoration (e.g. forest la	5.1	Map of the main ecological corridors for biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration in Guinea in GIS format (shp)	Map of the main ecological corridor was built by Biotope and Climate change during spring 2022 and the result was shared during a workshop held in Conakry on March 1st 2022. The map was validated by Guinean Authorities and was presented to private sector companies

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

- Conservation agreements guidelines (developed as a training resource for NGOs) and several supporting examples that illustrate possible Conservation Agreement models that might be applied. These focus on landscapes within each identified corridors and are intended to be illustrative and a basis for supporting discussion among relevant parties on potential options.
- Biological corridors Maps in Guinea and surroundings countries
- Gap Analysis of environmental laws and policy framework in Liberia and Ivory Coast
- High level threat and opportunity maps covering all three countries - serves as a tool for initial identification of potential opportunities for conservation action and private sector engagement and collaboration. This threat and opportunity analysis represented in this mapping process represents the first step to identify opportunities and can be used to inform where further detailed analysis and project scoping should be carried out on the ground and in consultation with stakeholders. This high level tool is supported by a methodology and information to guide its appropriate use.
- Mainstreaming opportunities for operationalizing business contributions to nature: Guidance to support individual, collective and collaborative actions to deliver positive outcomes for nature in LIBERIA. This high level guidance is supported by a series of concise stakeholder specific briefing papers, as well as the training materials prepared in advance of the multi-stakeholder workshop in Liberia.
- Training materials produced to support workshops in Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire.

- Online spatial multi-country database on the target landscapes:
<https://ffi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=962ab0c254984813801a58b48896428a>

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
2a	Number of hectares within production landscapes are managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use (target: At least 100,000).	100,000	Large-scale agriculture such as palm oil can frequently have concessions sizes of over 100,000Ha which are often interspersed with natural forest and thus present opportunities for restoration and protection as well as wildlife corridors.		<p>The project has engaged with private sector actors with direct and indirect influence over vast areas of land in the focal countries. This includes mining, agribusiness and logging operations, each at different stages of development. However it is not possible to assign a hectare value to the impact of this engagement.</p> <p>FFI has engaged with both agribusiness and mining entities in Guinee Forestiere, whilst logging companies were represented at the multi-stakeholder workshop in Liberia. Dialogue with entities in Guinea relating to conservation and restoration opportunities in agricultural landscapes in Guinee Forestiere is ongoing.</p>

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2b	Number of conservation corridors with public policies and/or private sector business practices incorporating provisions for biodiversity conservation (target: at least 6).	2	One of the key project aims is to improve landscape, or corridor-scale, policy interventions and business practices by developing specific blueprints for private sector partners, government, and NGOs in these corridors to work together.		<p>The project brought together key stakeholders in the Sapo landscape in SE Liberia to progress a multi-stakeholder dialogue around Nature Positive and to explore potential opportunities for partnerships to support implementation of the Park Neighbours Policy.</p> <p>In Guinea, the blueprint developed under this project will inform the continued dialogue and development of conservation partnerships in the Ziama landscape – to be taken forward with separate funding (already secured).</p> <p>In Guinea, there is interest in developing context appropriate options for developing conservation agreements in the Simandou Area, drawing on the learning and examples generated through the MOON Project.</p> <p>FFI has participated as a landscape stakeholder in</p>

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					consultation meetings with relating to mining developments in the Simandou area of Guinea Forestiere with the aim of ensuring that conservation priorities in the landscape are supported and that impacts on biodiversity are avoided and mitigated.
2.1	Number of conservation-related policies of national governments are informed or influenced by research, analysis and outreach supported by CEPF grants (target: At least 5).	1	We aim to strengthen conservation-related policies to better account for and track avoidance, minimisation, restoration and compensation of impacts caused by private-sector projects. This will follow a similar approach to the COMBO project in Guinea.	0	In progress in Guinea with the new Ministry of Environment. An agreement with the Ministry of Environment has been signed in October 2022 to do this work under the Combo+ Project In Liberia, a gap analysis of relevant laws and policies was completed and FFI brought together key stakeholders to share and discuss the findings and recommendations. FFI Liberia continues to work closely with the relevant ministries to support efforts to strengthen conservation-related policies and laws. In Ivory Coast, The policy gap analysis was done with the "Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire". Contacts

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					<p>have been made with the Ministry of the Environment to try to initiate a follow-up and to make environmental legislation evolve, but no recent development has been made (update février 2023)</p> <p>In Côte d'Ivoire, a gap analysis of the environmental legislation in relation to international standards was carried out and contacts were made with the Environment Agency to have the environmental legislation revised.</p>
2.2	Number of key biodiversity areas with locally-relevant information on natural ecosystems generated and used to influence political and economic decision-making in favor of their conservation (target: for at least 20).	2	This action will generate information to guide and develop specific actions to improve the contribution of the private-sector to avoid and reduce their impacts on KBAs, as well as to develop opportunities for increased action, investment and collaboration	5	Through the MOON Project, the threat and opportunity mapping resource provides a high level assessment method for identifying areas and opportunities to target finer scale analysis and ground truthing, in consultation with stakeholders. This was road-tested with stakeholders at a workshop in Liberia and the information generated can inform next steps at the local level. In particular,

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					<p>points of interest were identified in the area south of the Gbi protected area which is surrounded by mining and forest management concessions, north of Sapu National Park and also Community forest east of Sapu National Park, close to concessions in the northeast and high density of roads indicating it may be vulnerable to exploitation.</p> <p>key Additional locally-relevant information has been generated to guide and develop specific actions to support the contribution of the private-sector to conservation and restoration outcomes in Guinee Forestiere (Guinea) including for the Ziama MAB Reserve (under this Project) and for the transboundary Nimba landscape (through complementary activities undertaken with separate funding). At the scale of the whole of Guinea, the mapping of corridors for large fauna carried out with Climate chance and Biotope has made it possible to</p>

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					aggregate a great deal of information that is very useful for defining project or management areas in the framework of biodiversity conservation programmes
2.3	Number of partnerships are formed or strengthened among civil society, government, private sector and communities to promote best practices in mining, sustainable forestry and agriculture by private companies (target: At least 20).	2	Cross-sector partnerships are necessary to ensure that appropriate conservation plans are developed, and more importantly implemented on the ground, across the project area by facilitating access to financial and technical resources.	3	<p>Biotope is progressing partnerships with 3 mining companies in Guinea. These partnerships are ongoing, and Biotope is committed to continuing the actions initiated with the MOON project, through the COMBO project, as well as through the discussions held directly with the mining companies on the matter of ecological compensation.</p> <p>FFI has engaged with also 3 others mining companies in the transboundary Nimba landscape (Guinea / Liberia). Independent of the MOON project, but with complementary objectives, FFI has contributed to an assessment of feasibility for offset options for SMFG taking into account social, economic and conservation factors. FFI maintains an</p>

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					<p>open dialogue with SMFG and will continue to engage where appropriate to secure biodiversity conservation outcomes in the landscape.</p> <p>Actions under the MOON project in Liberia and in Guinee Forestiere, where FFI has longstanding country programmes, have further contributed to foundational stages of partnership development – bringing key stakeholders together from a range of sectors (including mining, logging, conservation), opening dialogue, and stimulating interest in cross-sectoral collaboration.</p> <p>Dialogue with mining companies in Guinea relating to conservation and restoration opportunities in extractive and agricultural landscapes in Guinee Forestiere is ongoing (Rio Tinto & WCS)</p>
2.4	Number of private companies adopt new management practices consistent with biodiversity	2	Large extractives and agricultural companies control vast areas of land and significant, long-	0	In progress with three companies (WCSr, Predictive Discovery, Alufer) in Guinea with Biotope Guinea.

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	conservation at operations in the conservation corridors (target: At least 5).		term, and stable conservation gains can be achieved by improved biodiversity management practices on land controlled by and adjacent to these concessions.		FFI has provided recommendations relating to offset feasibility to SMFG. FFI has participated as a stakeholder in consultations relating to mining developments in the Simandou area of Guinee Forestiere with the aim of ensuring that conservation priorities in the landscape are supported and that impacts on biodiversity are avoided and mitigated. This includes meetings with Rio Tinto and Winning Consortium Simandou during which a series of recommendations were made (see above). For these specific cases, further engagement is needed to confirm the level of adoption of FFI's recommendations.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention

Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
83	27	Guinea : PS6 standards and EIA & Conservation agreement Liberia : Country legal/policy gap analysis reports, Multisectoral Nature-positive and No Net Loss guidelines aimed at different stakeholders, Opportunity map to identify areas of potential collaboration (PPPs or other mainstreaming opportunities such as landscape restoration), Conservation agreement guidelines and typology of models and their implementation & PS6 standards and the mitigation hierarchy

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the topics column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
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Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
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Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Biotope partnership in progress with Winning Consortium	2022	Guinea	Yes	Partnership to implement Biodiversity Offset management Plan of WCSR (Simandou project) with the implementation of conservation agreements for the setting up of ecological compensation on territories ranging from "Guinée forestière" to the Guinean

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				coastline. WCS participated actively to the MOON workshop on Conservation Agreement in Conakry.
Biotope partnership in progress with Predictive Discovery	2022	Guinea	Yes	Predictive Discovery attended the workshop on conservation agreements and would like to implement this tool for the compensation of their gold mine in Bankan, located in the Upper Niger watershed. Partnership to be finalised
Biotope partnership in progress with Alufer	2022	Guinea	Yes	Alufer attended the workshop on conservation agreements and would like to implement this tool for their compensation needs. Partnership to be finalised
Cross-sectoral network of actors operating around Sapo NP	2022	Liberia	No	Under the MOON project FFI has brought together key stakeholders in the Sapo landscape in SE Liberia to progress a multi-stakeholder dialogue around Nature Positive and to explore potential opportunities for partnerships to support implementation of the Park Neighbours Policy... FFI is currently working in partnership with the EcoHealth Alliance, Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection, Partners in Development, and Solimar International as part of the Conservation Works (CW) activity, a five year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) designed to protect threatened and endangered species by strengthening Protected and Conserved Areas while promoting economic growth in Liberia
Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG)	2021	Guinea	No	Aligned with the MOON project objectives, FFI has engaged with SMFG in the Nimba landscape to inform studies on the feasibility of biodiversity offset options intended to achieve net positive for biodiversity and

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				contribute to conservation priorities in the landscape taking into account social, conservation and economic factors. FFI maintains an open dialogue with SMFG and will continue to engage where appropriate to secure biodiversity conservation outcomes in the landscape.
Rio Tinto & Winning Consortium Simandou	2021	Guinea	No	Given FFI's presence and role in Guinea (more specifically in Ziama Massif forest), FFI has participated as a stakeholder in consultations in Guinee Forestiere relating to mining developments in the Simandou area. This includes meetings with Rio Tinto and Winning Consortium Simandou. To date, these consultations are not part any partnership.

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
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Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
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LESSONS LEARNED

The first lesson is that the COVID period, which covered a large part of the project duration, did not allow for frequent travel to Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire as originally anticipated, creating challenges in meeting objectives within the specified time frame of the project. The project did, however, benefit from the permanent presence of staff from FFI and Biotopé based in focal countries (FFI in Guinea and Liberia, Biotopé in Guinea) which enabled the project to proceed despite challenging conditions presented by the global pandemic. Restrictions on travel both within individual countries and internationally did, however, contribute to delays in organizing workshops which were designed to facilitate the exchange of specific technical expertise and capacity building. With restrictions easing during the latter part of the project, it has been possible to bridge the gap by delivering workshops with all the stakeholders and thus be on the right track to partially achieve the impacts of the project initially planned.

The second lesson is that it is difficult to achieve ambitious goals in such a short time frame, especially in politically unstable countries (coup in Guinea in September 2021). This is particularly true when the project aims to change practices. It is therefore important to be able to foresee follow-ups to the project, in particular through partnerships in the framework of impact studies and ongoing engagement of stakeholders through complementary programmes of work, to ensure the continuity of projects initiated by the CEPF grant.

It is important to facilitate more spaces of interaction and articulation between multiple actors and sectors: government, private sector and the civil society. Additional activities to involve, empower and support local communities to be engaged in these discussions is also crucial.

High level tools are important as a first step in the identification of conservation and restoration opportunities and potential partnerships. It is critical that capacity is developed to enable the appropriate use of such tools, which are a first step only and must be supported with ground truthing, local datasets and engagement of relevant experts and stakeholders. National data on biodiversity is fundamental to inform and improve high level tools and their utility.

The process underpinning the development of any conservation agreements is key and for such instruments to be viable it is necessary to establish or strengthen the enabling conditions to support their effectiveness. Allowing time for processes conducive to building strong partnerships that take into account the respective needs of each actor, including capacity building to enable effective participation in the process, is essential.

Additionally, although a conservation agreement model is relevant to build a perspective and a conceptual framework, it is a tool that must be sensitive to context-specific components, therefore conservation agreements are a bottom-up instrument that need to be developed with inclusive participation of local stakeholders.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

The tools and products developed through this Project can be applied and taken forward by stakeholders beyond the end of the project. Much interest was expressed by the represented economic sectors in maintaining cross-sectoral dialogue and, in the case of several mining companies in Guinea, in the potential for conservation agreements to be developed as one instrument supportive of collaborative actions to achieve specific and mutually agreed conservation and community objectives. Both Biotopé and FFI, with their

respective presence and ongoing work in the focal landscapes, are well placed to continue to support the continued progress towards long-term goals moving forward.

The Moon project has generated momentum among the stakeholders engaged to progress long-term objectives, bringing together stakeholders to discuss cross sectoral approaches for conservation and development challenges, relationship building, high level mapping as a starting point for identifying opportunities for private sector collaboration, interest in legal/policy improvements expressed by focal countries and appetite for improving biodiversity protection through the ESIA process. These elements are the building blocks for advancing the project objectives in a sustainable way.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

The purpose of a grievance mechanism is to provide a fair, transparent, and accessible process for addressing grievances related to the environmental impact of the project. The mechanism is designed to encourage constructive dialogue between the project team and affected parties to find solutions to any issues or concerns. The project as such was at an early stage of possible impacts on local populations and stakeholders. We therefore did not set up a proper grievance management system. However, during the construction of the guidelines on conservation agreements, we consulted a large number of stakeholders in the territory who could give us their comments. No complaints were made during these consultations.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommend to develop guidance for Conservation Agreements specifically for private sector actors in light of interest expressed and importance of establishing a best practice process for engaging stakeholders and ensuring the necessary social safeguards and processes are in place.

A second phase working specifically with communities in order to provide conceptual resources on the same topics towards future engagements with other stakeholders.

A capacity building program with national agencies to internalize and include in the legal framework concepts such as the mitigation hierarchy, no net loss and net gains and on how future development projects can deliver outcomes based on those principles.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$10,000.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	Counterpart funding: US\$10,000 Co-founder: Conservation Works Activity – USAID (grant awarded to FFI) The Conservation Works Activity is a grant from EcoHealth Alliance through USAID funding. CWA is a 5-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development with the objective of conserving threatened and endangered species by strengthening Protected and Conserved Areas. Simultaneously, the project will support communities to

	rely less on forest resources by providing livelihood alternatives, including sustainable agriculture and ecotourism. The focal landscape is the southeast of Liberia, which overlaps with the focus of the CEPF Grant.
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INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

Fondation d'entreprise Biotope pour la biodiversité. Email : fondation@biotope.fr