

**Environmental Impact Assessment
and
Environmental Management Plan**

Date: 20th of March 2017

CEPF Grant: CEPF-100792

Grantee: Man and Nature

*Demonstrate how Economic Development can boost
Community-based Trans-border Conservation*

Project Location

*Trans-boundary forest: the Kwabre Forest in Southwestern Ghana and the Tanoé forest
in Southeastern Côte d'Ivoire.*

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization

Man and Nature

2. Grant title

Demonstrate how Economic Development can boost Community-based Trans-border Conservation

3. Grant number

CEPF-100792

4. Grant amount (US dollars)

USD 218,000.00

5. Proposed dates of grant

Start: 1st of August 2017

End: 31st of July 2019

6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken

The Kwabre Forest in Southwestern Ghana and the Tanoé forest in Southeastern Côte d'Ivoire.

7. Summary of the project

This project will demonstrate the efficiency of the community-based conservation model and illustrate that synergies can, and need to be created between conservation and economic development of local communities – which is key to ensure a broad support from the population to the forest conservation by improving livelihoods. The proposed project will develop Green Value Chains that adapt global best practices in the local context in partnership with private companies, local communities and government bodies.

8. Date of preparation of this document

20th of Mars 2017

9. Status of area to be impacted

Kwabre and Tanoé forests form one of the largest intact block of swamp forest in the Upper Guinea global biodiversity hotspot. This area of high endemism harbors a host of endangered species - out of which many only occur in this region, including four Critically Endangered primate species: the Roloway Monkey (*Cercopithecus roloway*) one of the World's 25 most endangered primates (Schwitzer et al., 2015), the White-naped Mangabey (*Cercocebus lunulatus*), the White-thighed Colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*), and possibly Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus waldronae*) which may already be extinct (Mittermeier et al., 2009), as well as the Critically Endangered Slender-snouted Crocodile (*Mecistops cataphractus*).

Kwabre forest in Ghana

Kwabre forest is a community land. Each individual Stool (Community) owns an area of the forest. In order to manage the land, 14 communities (Kwabre, Edu, Eleana, Takinta, Nawule, Mansah Nkwanta, Anwiafutu, Mediewie, Nzeleunu, Allowuley, Edobo, New Edobo, Epunsa, and Atwebaso), have created the Ankasa-Tano Community Resource Management Area (CREMA). The CREMA management structure

is composed of a CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) and of Community Resource Management Committees (CRMCs). The CRMCs are formed at the level of each community, while the Executive Committee formed out of the CRMCs, acts to oversee the organization.

It is the role of the CREMA to govern and manage the community forest areas through the elected committee who liaise with the government, local CSOs and traditional authorities. The CRMCs receive a 'Certificate of Devolution', which give them the authority to sustainably manage their land and to apprehend illegal miners, bush meat hunters and chainsaw operators with Wildlife division officers.

Tanoé forest in Côte d'Ivoire

The forest is managed by 9 neighboring communities: Kadjakro, Kongodjan, Ehania, Saykro, YaoAkakro, Nouamou, Atchimanou, Dohouan, Kotoagnuan. Management committees (Associations Villageoises de Conservation et de Développement (AVCD)) were formed in the nine communities with their bylaws officially registered by the national administration. In each of the two districts of the project area, an association comprising the different management committees was officially established (Associations Inter-villageoises de Gestion (AIVG)). The federal association (FAIVG) comprising both umbrella associations is the main interlocutor of the government and, while the two associations play a coordinating role for the field-based activities carried out by the nine management committees.

10. Approach

Today, failing any formal agreement between the Kwabre and Tanoé forests, an increasing number of Ivorians and Ghanaians venture into both forests in order to traffic forest products and bushmeat, while the severe lack of sustainable livelihood options prevents local communities to manage their resources over time. Companies surrounding this site also need support to implement sustainable agricultural best practices. Unless action is taken, the fate of this important trans-border ecological corridor will not only be utter destruction – with four critically endangered primates going locally extinct among numerous other niche species – but resident populations will also become increasingly vulnerable, with migration as the only resort left to them.

Solutions involve the implementation of community-based management systems, and the development of economic alternatives with the support of private companies. The success of the community-based management model depends on the commitment from the population, which in turn highly depends on the economic interest the population may find in its implementation. By improving their income, the local population would accept and support the preservation of the natural ecosystems and adopt a sustainable management of these areas. Furthermore, by working closely with private companies surrounding this site and helping them to change their practices, this project will demonstrate that sustainable models implemented by private companies can have a real impact when applied in the local context.

The conservation of the forests of Southwestern Ghana and Southeastern Côte d'Ivoire is based on Government protected areas (national parks and forests reserves), but also on community-managed forests and agricultural lands. The proposed project takes advantage of Ghanaian and Ivorian laws allowing communities to manage and protect themselves defined areas and focuses on community-managed Kwabre and Tanoé emblematic forests and their contiguous agricultural areas. The project will also focus on developing **Green Value Chains (GVC)** with the support of private companies. The development of GVC from production to markets, will give communities new opportunities for revenue in their communities, de facto protecting forest areas.

Specifically, after carefully studying market opportunities and known obstacles, the project will organize training sessions and provide technical support for producers in innovative agroforestry methods, with cocoa and palm tree intercropped with **NTFPs**, using sustainable and ecological practices, in sustainable harvest of NTFPs, in primary processing techniques, in storage, packaging, distribution, and marketing. The project will seek to set up partnerships between local producer groups and private companies, guaranteeing fair market outlets to producers in one hand and sustainable sourcing of high quality products to private companies in the other, through long-term purchase contracts.

To **promote best practices**, producers will exchange experiences on best sustainable practices in experience-sharing workshops. Sensitization programs will also be organized.

The GVC will contribute to the financing of the conservation patrols, through CREMAs (Ghana) and AIVGs (Côte d'Ivoire).

The project will also structure **a buffer zone**. It will plant NTFPs that are considered as marketable by the initial study findings as well as timber species along the forest border within farming plots and community land. Those NTFPs and timber species will enable the delineation of the forest and increase the livelihood of the farmers.

A draft **trans-boundary management plan** will be elaborated including lessons learnt from other trans-boundary reserves and the next steps towards the creation of the reserve. Discussions with local authorities in both countries will ensure the alignment of this plan into local context.

Man and Nature and its partners will organize a conference with key public, private and associative stakeholders to discuss how global best practices and sustainability standards can be applied in the local context and disseminate **lessons learnt** from this project.

The project will be implemented by CSRS and ACB-CI in Côte d'Ivoire and WAPCA in Ghana. These Organizations are well known by Man and Nature, having worked with them in the past.

11. Anticipated impact

Environmental Management Plan of the forests

On the 7th September 2016, thanks to the support of CSRS and ACB-CI, the federal association (FAIVG) comprising both Associations gathering the Management committees (Associations Inter-villageoises de Gestion (AIVG)) was constituted. The FAIVG and its technical partners worked for four months on the delimitation of the forest. This activity entailed the discussion with local communities and with landowners farming at the fringe of the forest. At the end of 2016, the forest was officially delimited and recognized by the local population. The roles and responsibilities of the FAIVG members were determined and rules and regulations to protect the resources including penalties for poachers and illegal wood loggers were decided with the communities. The Ministère des Eaux et Forêts (Forest and Water Ministry) was involved in the process and is now supporting the community patrols to enforce these rules.

A similar process was followed in Ghana to constitute the CREMA with the support of the communities and the Wildlife Division under the Ministry of Forestry.

The project will elaborate a **trans-boundary management plan** and detail next steps towards the creation of the reserve. Setting up common rules and regulations enforced on both side of the river in Ghana and in Côte d'Ivoire will have a positive impact on the conservation of biodiversity. For instance, people violating the trans-boundary regulations in Côte d'Ivoire and caught in Ghana will have to pay penalties, which is not the case at the moment.

Coconut in Ghana

Coconut harvesting is a low impact activity. It is cultivated in soils that are sandy and acidic. No pesticide is used.

Peeled coconuts are sold to traders from Nigeria at a low price. The project will develop a processing plat-form in the village to produce coconut oil and thus increase the revenue of the coconut farmers. The profit of the plat-form will be used by the CREMA through a Conservation Fund, to help finance forest conservation and the implementation of environmental activities such as sensitization programs, planting of endemic species and monitoring of the biodiversity. The CREMA will ensure that the profit will flow back to conservation. The market study we are undergoing shows that there are a variety of markets for coconut products from Ghana: local, regional (dominated by Nigeria) and international (European and US). Indeed, coconut has recently seen a boom in worldwide demand. The community will have no trouble to find markets for its products and will be able in the long run to finance themselves the conservation of their forest, allowing a long-term sustainability of the resource management.

Cocoa in Ghana

In the cocoa value chain in Ghana, M&N will probably work with Yayra Glover Ltd, the only 100% organic Licensed Buying Company in Ghana, which has been building its own certified organic cocoa value chain. Yayra Glover Ltd also imports and proposes bio-pesticides from Germany and Switzerland to farmers, which are harmless to the environment. In the areas that will be covered no pesticides will be tolerated. This consultant will train the Ghanaian farmers to produce organic cocoa decreasing the use of pesticides in the area and increasing the number of shade trees in the farmland. This activity will have an important positive impact on the environment and on biodiversity.

Cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire

Farmers from Côte d'Ivoire will also come to Ghana for training on methods of organic production. They will also undergo training in Côte d'Ivoire with a local consultant to develop agroforestry, reduce pesticide use and increase the number of shade trees in the farmland. This activity will have a positive impact on the environment.

Palm oil in Côte d'Ivoire

Palm oil can have important impact on land use but no extension of palm oil cultivation will take place under the project. This activity will have a neutral impact.

Buffer zone in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana: Planting of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

This activity will have positive impacts on biodiversity. The planting of 15,000 seedlings of NTFPs and timber species will help delimitate the forest area, increase the habitat range for primates and their food provision. No pesticides will be used in the planted areas.

Buffer Zones will protect the forest from encroachment from local population and from the destructive activities that take place outside the forest, in the farmland, but that affect conservation inside. Providing benefits in the buffer zone by planting NTFPs will create an incentive for local people and

provide for their needs; as a result the local farmers will help conserve the forest and its biodiversity. This strategy is regarded as an effective mechanism for resolving any potential conflict between conservation bodies and the local population.

Cassava in Côte d'Ivoire

As elsewhere in the tropics, cassava in the region is generally produced in marginal areas with poor soils. In Côte d'Ivoire, cassava is also produced under coconut trees. The project does not intend to displace or extend any production. Thanks to a clear delineation of the forest by the buffer zone, no forest encroachment from cassava crops will take place under the project. The Community Organizations (AIVGs) will also sell cassava by-products (e.g. gari, attiéke) and the profits will be used to finance conservation activities.

12. Mitigation measures

Palm oil in Côte d'Ivoire:

Man and Nature will discuss with international NGOs, consultants and private companies working in the area to define a way to mitigate the negative impacts of palm oil plantation. Man and Nature and CSRQ will organize several meetings with the palm oil company operating in the area (Palm CI) to inform them on ways to move towards sustainable sourcing. This includes reduction of pesticides application levels, application and dissemination of best management practices through demonstration plots.

The consortium will demonstrate how agroforestry systems could be a strategy for sustainable production of oil palm. The monoculture system of palm oil is considered one of the biggest drivers of deforestation and biodiversity loss. Under the context of producing in a more sustainable way, agroforestry systems stand out as an alternative to mitigate these impacts. The main characteristic is the inclusion of a greater variety of plant in the plantation. Thus, there is in the same production system plants having an annual cycle and perennial plants. Agroforestry system features lower use of chemical inputs, high species diversity, structural complexity, and the shrub and tree component responsible for the conservation of soil and maintaining productivity, and especially the high economic value of intercrop components. The objective of this work will be to develop demonstration plots and study agroforestry systems for sustainable production of oil palm in both regions to demonstrate its positive environmental and economical impacts.

Coconut in Ghana:

Primary processing of coconut oils can be done with lowtech techniques at village or household level, which will be the privileged option.

The consortium will partner with private companies to support the community to produce high quality, fair trade and organic coconut oil. Organic coconut oil will help ensure that the local ecology and people are not put at risk from chemical fertilizers and pesticides. A fair trade process will ensure that farmers will also receive ample compensation, thus they are less likely to overgrow monoculture coconut crops and destroy local biodiversity. Man and Nature is already in discussion with two operators in the region (Savannah Fruits Company and Feanza Industries limited); both interested in supporting the development of this green value chain.

Plus, Man and Nature has studied the options for the sustainable marketing and/or use of residues (husks, etc.), among others: fiber, charcoal. Those options will be reviewed to choose the best under environmental and economic return criteria.

Cassava in Côte d'Ivoire

On top of what was mentioned above, the project will also limit any risk of land clearing by improving the productivity of cassava production. A Charter for Sustainable Management of Cassava will be set up with the farmers, to guarantee long-term sustainability. This chart will include an engagement of farmers not to encroach on the forest.

13. Actions to ensure health and safety

Material that might be needed to ensure the safety of the employee working at the coconut oil processing unit will be provided.

Other activities won't have any health and safety impact on the stakeholders involved.

Regarding waste management, the value chain analysis for all GVC will be from production to waste, and will include analysis of actions to be taken not only to reduce, but also to build value from all possible local production and processing waste.

14. Monitoring and Evaluation

A robust Monitoring and Evaluation system will be put in place by the consortium to track key outcomes overtime:

- A common monitoring protocol shared by both teams in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire will be elaborated to ensure a greater trans-border monitoring system.
- The local teams in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire will assess the impacts of the agroforestry systems for oil palm and cocoa. They will monitor over time the environmental impact and the productivity of the plantations in the demonstration plots. Similar work will be done in the cassava plots in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Local CSOs and Man and Nature will monitor closely the buffer zones by visiting regularly the areas and by tracking down the number of trees planted and matured. This data will be collected for every visit.
- The Community Organizations with the help of the consortium will set up Conservation Funds. The agreements will enclose a detailed financial management plan specifying how the money will flow back to conservation and what outcomes and indicators are expected. Once agreements are in place, Man and Nature and its partners will be able to monitor their implementation and impacts.
- Man and Nature will develop detailed log frames focusing on program inputs, detailed activities and outputs to monitor closely the project. Man and Nature will hire a local coordinator based in Ghana to oversee the project and to keep track on activities. If any issues occur, Man and Nature Program Manager based in Paris will help resolve the problem. This Program Manager will travel at least twice a year to do a global overview of the project.

Additionally, at the end of the project, Man and Nature will provide a final evaluation, analyzing and reporting on each deliverable and key indicator. Plus, Man and Nature is currently in process of securing co-financing for this project from AFD, from January 2018 to December 2020. The AFD project framework makes an independent audit mandatory. As CEPF will be co-funding for AFD, the result of this audit will be provided to CEPF. Thus a complete evaluation of the impacts of the proposed intervention, including environmental impact, will be communicated to CEPF. The evaluation process includes an ex ante and an ex post audit.

15. Permission of the landowner:

In the project area of Côte d'Ivoire and in communities located along the Southern border of the Kwabre forest in Ghana, the majority of farmers are landowners, whereas farmers located along the Northern border of the Kwabre forest are mostly using community land. In any case, no GVC development or other activity will be implemented without the permission of the landowner. Where the farmers do not own the land, Man and Nature with the support of the local NGOs will ensure that the required permits to undertake any work are in place.

16. Consultation:

The Small-Scale Initiatives Program of the FFEM and Man and Nature share a similar approach on environmental conservation. So in July 2013, Man and Nature decided to partner with SSIP to support Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in Africa. Following this alliance, Man and Nature and SSIP supported technically and financially ABC-CI and WAPCA, the two local CSOs engaged in the program. Man and Nature has been working closely with them for the past three years but on two separate projects. CEPF will give Man and Nature the opportunity to develop a global trans-border project and improve the conservation of the forest. Over these three years program, SSIP and Man and Nature consulted regularly with local NGOs, evaluated the progress on the ground and met with the Community Organizations and its Members.

In May 2016, SSIP and Man and Nature organized in Accra a workshop on the construction of a collaborative project on GVCs to design with other key stakeholders (public and private sectors) the strategy of the proposed project. This workshop gave the opportunity to SSIP and Man and Nature to travel to the project site to meet again with local stakeholders and disclosed the exchange of the workshop with the communities.

The latest face-to-face consultations of Man and Nature with local and national partners in Ghana and Ivory Coast were done in January 2017. This three weeks trip was the opportunity to meet with key stakeholders such as local CSOs, Community Organizations in both countries, the Environmental Protection Agency, key consultants on the projects (Yayra Glover Ltd), Local Representative (Sous-Préfet of Noé in Côte d'Ivoire), the Wildlife Division, etc.

At the end of the field mission, a two days workshop was organized in Accra to work on detailed activities of the project. In February and March 2017, while local CSOs were disclosing those exchanges on the field with the communities, Man and Nature contacted several private companies including Savannah Fruits Company and Feanza Industries limited to seek their interest in supporting the development of the project.

17. Disclosure

Every detail of the project has been discussed and disclosed with local communities. As mentioned above, from 2013 to now, Man and Nature and local CSOs have been working closely with Community Organizations. They provide feedback and key recommendations for the implementation of the project. As the project aims at protecting biodiversity while improving the livelihood of the local population, it has a strong support from the communities. Plus, as explained above, the project will have a positive environmental impact.

18. Grievance mechanism

Prior to the implementation of the project, a steering committee meeting will be organized to disclose once again the objectives and detailed activities of the project to the local communities. The communities already have the contacts of the coordinator and local CSOs involved in the project in the area. During the steering committee, contact information of Man and Nature, the local CSOs (WAPCA and CSRS/ACB-CI), the Regional Implementation Team for CEPF (Birdlife International) and the CEPF Grant Director will be provided to the local population. Signboards in the implementation areas will be disposed. The dedicated email account for CEPF (cepfexecutive@conservation.org) will be mentioned, for grievances sent by email. Grievances raised by the grantees will be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response. This project aims at developing GVC and economic value added for communities. Hence very few grievances should be observed.