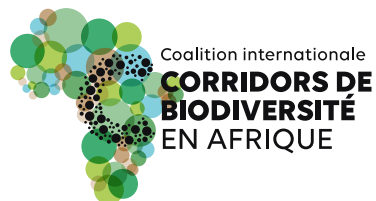




Pilot Project
**BIODIVERSITY
CORRIDORS
IN GUINEA**



Coalition internationale
**CORRIDORS DE
BIODIVERSITÉ
EN AFRIQUE**



**CLIMATE
CHANGE**

AN AMBITIOUS LARGE-SCALE PROJECT LINKING BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Climate Chance's project to define a biodiversity corridor in northern Guinea is **an ambitious initiative based on multi-sectoral planning and support for the development of local communities, which seeks also to mobilise new and innovative funding.**

The project is in line with the ambitions of the biodiversity COP15 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular the 30x30 target to protect 30% of land and oceans by 2030, but also with the mechanisms of the Paris Climate Agreement, concerning forest carbon sequestration, and with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for strengthening the resources of local communities and gender equality.

It is based on the Climate Chance's founding principles: bringing together the climate, biodiversity and development agendas; and in its know-how and method: its ability to bring together and get very different players to work together on a common project, in this case the Guinean government, local authorities, local communities, conservation and development NGOs, and international public and private funders.

● BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS: A CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUE

The risk of biodiversity loss through habitat fragmentation and reduced genetic exchange is now well documented and is one of the major conservation issues, highlighted in all the major international declarations (IUCN, COP) on the protection of biodiversity.

By definition, corridors are places where humans live. Preserving biodiversity corridors therefore means taking an interest in the future of local populations, responding to the difficulties of human-animal cohabitation, and providing sustainable resources for communities to make up for any loss of agricultural income.

This importance of connectivity was the subject of a new specific initiative at COP14 of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (GPEC), of which Climate Chance is a founding member as the organisation providing the secretariat for the International Coalition on Biodiversity Corridors in Africa.





THE CORRIDOR PROJECT IN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

Guinea is home to a unique biodiversity in West Africa, particularly in its remnants of dense rainforest, recognized as a biodiversity reservoir. The main remaining populations of chimpanzees can be found here. However, Guinea has some of the richest mineral deposits, which has led to a large number of mining projects, along with associated transport infrastructure, such as roads and railways. With urban sprawl and hydro-electric dam projects, Guinea is one of the countries where the risks of biodiversity fragmentation are greatest. The country is therefore **a perfect pilot site** for this demonstration project.

The initial aim of the Climate Chance project is to map possible corridors that will not be threatened in the medium term by mining or infrastructure projects

Based in Middle Guinea, in the Labé region, the corridors identified start at the border with Senegal and link the Badiar National Park to the Moyon-Bafing National Park. They cross 10 rural communes and cover almost 62,000 ha.

In a second phase, based on a detailed mapping of the stakeholders working on the ground, the aim will be to convince the local populations of the importance of preserving the corridors, and to define the financial support that can be provided to them. This funding will be part of the innovative mechanisms currently under discussion at international level (biodiversity certificates, biodiversity-carbon credits, etc.). The aim is also to define and test multi-level contractual frameworks (States, local authorities) for support funding and mechanisms for verifying conservation actions.

This project has received support from the Guinean Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and funding from AFD



THE PROJECT'S PROGRESS

● LAUNCH

The pilot project in Guinea was officially launched on May 19th 2023 in Conakry under the patronage of the Guinean Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, in the presence of Mrs Safiatou Diallo, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the relevant Guinean authorities, His Excellency Mr Marc Fonbaustier, French Ambassador to Guinea and Sierra Leone and Mr Ronan Dantec, Senator for Loire-Atlantique, President of Climate Chance.



● BUILDING A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

The project relies on a committed multi-stakeholder and cross-disciplinary technical partnership, which is invited to follow and contribute to the project.

The relevant Guinean institutions involved include the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), the National Agency for the Financing of Local Authorities (ANAFIC), the Guinean Office for National Parks and Wildlife Reserves (OGPNRF), and mining companies grouped together in the Guinean Chamber of Mines; UN organisations such as the FAO, UNDP and UNISS; NGOs that are active on the field: Guinée Ecologie, Guinée 44, and Renascedd; organisations with expertise in their field: Biotope, Ecoact, WCF, Matthieu Wemaere Avocat, WECF, and IUCN.

Our technical partners



The role of Climate Chance

Climate Chance is coordinating the process, with the aim of strengthening the dynamics of the actors involved and encouraging dialogue between all the stakeholders.

● PROJECT RESULTS

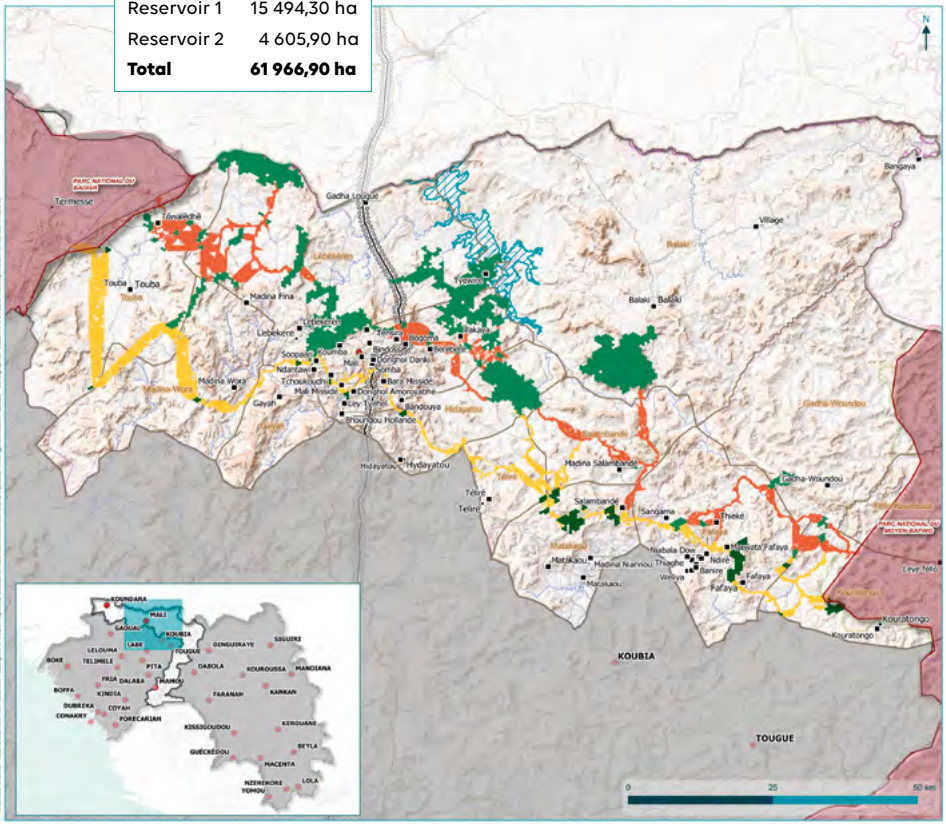
The project is set to run for three years (2023-2025).

In 2023, the main partnerships were set up and the mapping work launched.

The first part of the project ended with the completion of 3 major actions:

- **Development of a robust methodology** to obtain a precise map of the biodiversity corridor and the project areas to be developed.
- **Mapping of stakeholders** to identify all international, national and local initiatives that could have a positive or negative impact on biodiversity in the study area.
- **Identification of key areas**, based on cross-referencing all the data obtained in the first two points.

Surface	
Route 1	15 792,30 ha
Route 2	26 074,30 ha
Reservoir 1	15 494,30 ha
Reservoir 2	4 605,90 ha
Total	61 966,90 ha



Prioritization of corridors for project interventions

Biodiversity corridors in Africa: implementation of a demonstration project in Guinea

- Reference data**
- National Park*
 - Prefectures
 - Rural communes
 - Administrative boundaries
 - Sambangalou dam reservoir (Biotope, 2024)
 - Path of the OMVG HT line
- Project data**
- Study area
- Priority corridors and biodiversity reservoirs**
- Route 1: Touba-Lebekere-Mali-Hidayatou-Salamande-Gadhawol-Woundou
 - Route 2: Touba-MadinaWora-Mali-Hidayatou-Telire-Matakaa-Fafaya-Kouratongo
 - Biodiversity reservoirs linked to Route 1
 - Biodiversity reservoirs linked to Route 2
- *Provisional limits derived from future protected area networks (MEDD, 2023)



Prioritization of project corridors

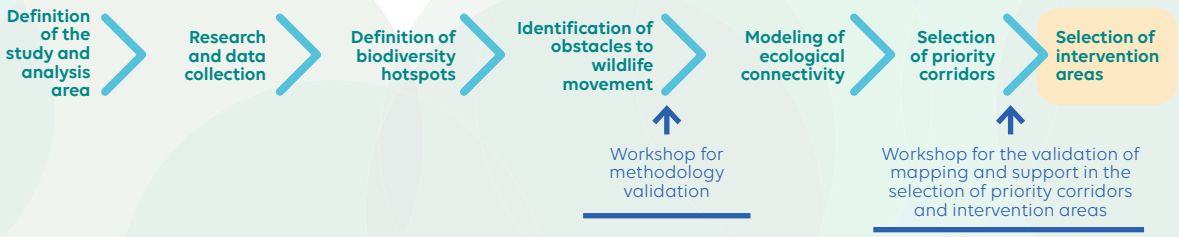
Mapping the territory

The year 2024 was an opportunity to finalise the mapping, following a well-defined methodology: meetings with institutional actors, data collection, creation of the geographical information system (GIS) space with the synthesis of all existing data. These mapping activities are based on work carried out by the Biotope consultancy and its subsidiary Biotope Guinée.

The detailed mapping of the corridor is accompanied by the identification of the stakeholders involved and the actions being taken, followed by a division of the corridor into project areas according to local issues and contexts.

This initial map will be discussed further with the Guinean government, economic stakeholders and conservation NGOs before final approval is given.

Biotope methodology



Mapping the actors

The essential work of raising awareness among the project's various stakeholders was conducted by the team in Guinea. Numerous bilateral discussions and meetings were held as part of the stakeholder mapping process, involving various local NGOs and CSOs as well as international organisations such as Kew Gardens and the World Bank, to ensure that the project was included in the wider range of initiatives undertaken in Guinea (NaturaGuinée, Combo+, etc.).

Stakeholder mapping means that a total of **107 projects and initiatives have been identified in the study area** - of which 41 are underway, 56 have already been completed and 10 are planned - **100 stakeholders** are involved: NGOs, local communities, government departments, technical and financial partners, and work is being done with the administrative authorities throughout the corridor area: prefectures, sub-prefectures, rural communes, villages, etc.

The ground-truth phase

In 2024, Guinée Ecologie embarked on the ground-truth phase to refine the mapping and ensure a more precise understanding of the issues and needs in each area. Individual surveys, socio-economic studies and focus groups at different scales (from prefectures to local communities) were used to validate satellite data and assess the territories involved.



Identifying project areas

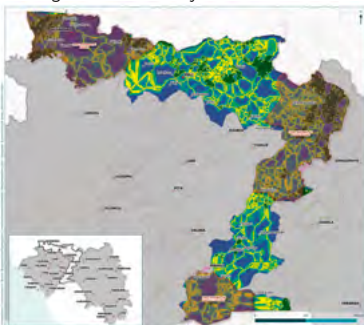
Key areas were identified by cross-referencing the following data:

- Location of biodiversity reservoirs
- Calculation of the degree of ecological continuity
- Identification of resistance to wildlife movement
- An inventory of current and future infrastructure projects
- Identification of areas with high restoration potential
- Type of land use

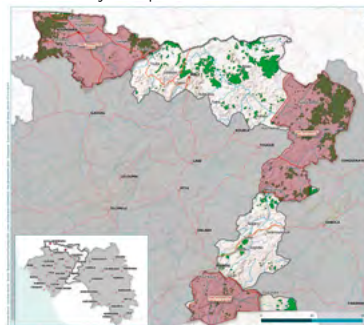
Based on the additional work of stakeholders mapping, contact has been made with the authorities in the rural communities crossed by the corridor.

This will make it possible to work on setting up a series of projects at local level to ensure that the communities themselves take ownership of the restoration work, which is essential if the corridor is to be sustainable in the long run.

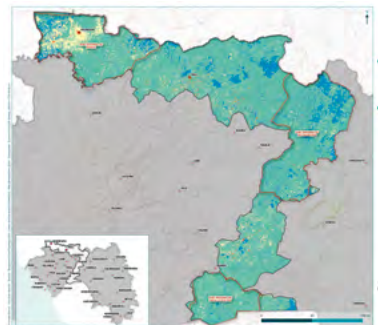
Ecological connectivity



Biodiversity hotspots



Resistance to wildlife movement



● THE SECOND PHASE

Continuing the mobilisation and dividing the corridor into project areas

On the basis of the mapping of the actors and the ground truths, it now involves dividing the corridor into project areas where contracts can be established with local stakeholders. This is very detailed work, combining administrative boundaries, biodiversity issues, mobilisation of local communities, actions already developed by NGOs, etc.

These areas will be treated as special cases in terms of stakeholders, local governance, human-animal cohabitation, conservation issues, existing and future funding and legislation. The aim is to **provide an appropriate response**, particularly in terms of funding, to the specific challenges of these areas, which do not all present the same problems.

Building funding channels

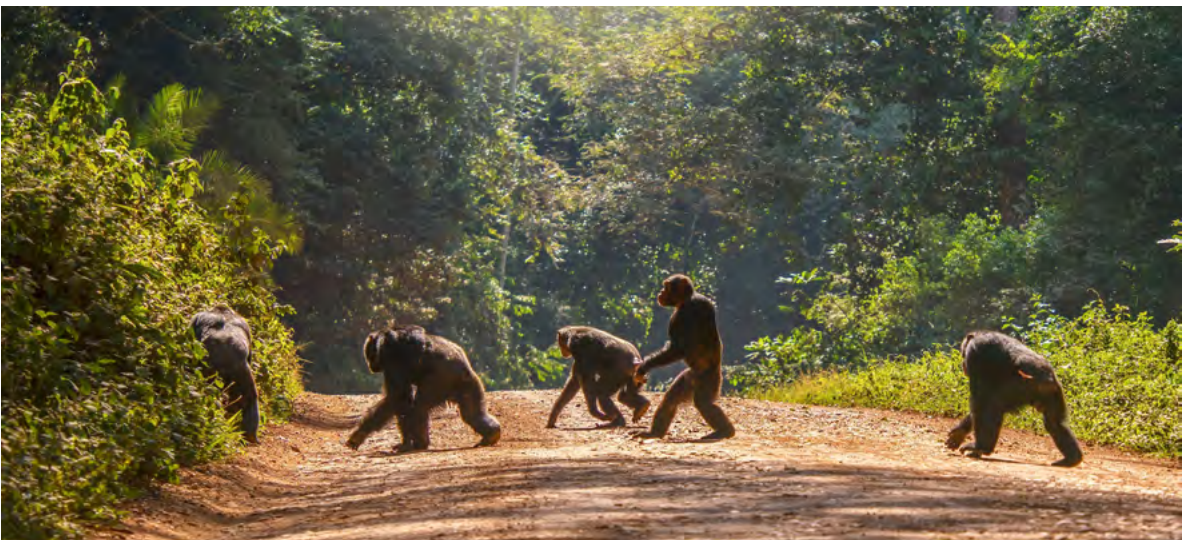
In addition to robust mapping and accurate, shared territorial planning, the project aims to secure significant long-term funding for local communities and authorities committed to preserving the corridor.

This central aspect of the project is based on Climate Chance's ongoing study of the development of innovative financing for biodiversity (biodiversity certificates, hybrid climate-biodiversity financing, subsidies, philanthropy, etc.), and the desire to define the most appropriate form of support for each project area.

In addition to defining the most appropriate types of certificates/credits, with their robust certification methods (gains in terms of biodiversity and local development, including gender equality), the aim is to propose operational frameworks for distributing the income generated, a 'sharing of the benefits' that will ensure the long-term support of all parties.

This also means identifying the most appropriate governance bodies and carrying out a major training and capacity-building initiative.

By securing large-scale funding, then divided between the project areas, the aim is both to give credibility to the overall impact and to reduce structural costs. A quick calculation suggests that, for a total area of 60,000 hectares, between 10 and 20 million dollars a year in regular funding will be required for local actors, which means a high degree of robustness in terms of both contracts with local populations and verification/certification processes.



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Since its creation in 2015, **CLIMATE CHANCE** has supported the central role of local actors in climate action and the inseparable link between the climate, biodiversity and desertification agendas, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is the only international association seeking to bring together all non-state actors in Europe and Africa: local governments, businesses, civil society organisations, as well as the media, researchers and citizens, working to accelerate local action. At the end of 2022, at the COP15 Biodiversity Conference, an ambitious initiative was launched: the International Coalition on Biodiversity Corridors in Africa, bringing together climate and conservation actors. The 'Biodiversity Corridors in Guinea' pilot project, an on-the-ground connectivity project, is a concrete step in this direction, bringing together and promoting dialogue between all the actors concerned by this issue.

www.biodiversity-coalition.org

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