Linking Nature and Development
Man & Nature develops innovative biodiversity conservation approaches, based on the development of natural resource’s supply chains. Man & Nature’s core strategy consists of supporting a sustainable and rational exploitation of natural resources, as well as a fair income for local communities from the South, in partnership with private companies from the North.
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A word from the president

Dear partner from Civil Society Organizations, dear supporters, in 2018 your actions allowed us to achieve the magnificent results of the eighteen projects presented in this report.

Throughout this year, we have been looking for ways to increase the impact of our mission, the protection of nature for the direct economic benefit of local populations, with the support of local CSOs.

To achieve this, we decided to merge Man and Nature with the Noé Association, which runs programs for the conservation of biodiversity and threatened species, the preservation of natural areas, and runs environmental education projects, in France and internationally.

As of January 1st 2019, we pool our capacities to increase our impact and expand areas of intervention.

We have the ambition to become the French association which dedicates the most funds and resources and obtains the best results on biodiversity conservation for the benefit of local communities.

At a time when many alerts are raised concerning the state of the Planet, we must be able to count on you to support us in this collective ambition!
The impacts of the loss of biodiversity are there: they are already affecting our lives and sparing no one. The citizens of the world are now aware of it!

For Man and Nature, one of the solutions lies in the development of the most disadvantaged communities and the conservation and regeneration of ecosystems and species most at risk.

We believe that the activities of green supply chains development set up by our partners are the most effective way to achieve these objectives.

The 2018 Activity Report summarizes the concrete results achieved this year. Thank you to everyone who supported us, especially the financial partners, local associations and Man and Nature employees who worked tirelessly to achieve these results.

**Man and Nature will continue its battle in 2019 within the association Noé! This merger will multiply our impact on the ground. However, we need your support more than ever.**

And remember: “We are never too small to make a difference!”
Since its creation in 2010, Man and Nature has initiated 43 projects in 24 different countries (6 countries in Central and Latin America, 12 in Africa and 6 in Asia) supporting civil society actors in the countries of intervention.

In 2018, 18 projects were supported (see map on page 8). Of these, 4 new projects started during the year:

In Cameroon, within the Bénoué National Park labelled «Biosphere Reserve» by UNESCO, the CERAF-NORD association supports the production, distribution and planting of cashew plants, with the aim of sustainably managing natural resources by and for the benefit of local communities.

In Gabon, the Brainforest association is committed to the preservation of the Minkébé National Park, a substantial refuge of biodiversity in Central Africa. The objective of the project is to support the valorization of the natural environment by local populations through the development of agroforestry based on «zero deforestation» shaded cocoa and non-timber forest products.

Building on its success in Cameroon with the implementation of the innovative model of the ECONOBIO program (conservation of biodiversity based on the development of green value chains), 2 projects have been initiated in Ghana by replicating the innovative model:

Around the Mole National Park, 2 NGOS, Northcode and A Rocha, are developing the sustainable supply of organic shea butter and honey, and are strengthening community governance structures to reduce the pressure on biodiversity.

Around the Kakum Conservation Area, NCRC is developing ‘Climate Smart’ agriculture projects, in particular for cocoa, to ensure long-term sustainable production and local economic development while stabilizing the global supply chain.
In 2018 Man and Nature raised € 765,868.

Our direct contribution to field projects in 2018 amounts to € 560,766.

Our management fees this year are similar to those of last year: € 171,477. With limited staff, few materials, and work provided on a voluntary basis by Bureau members, Man and Nature is able to keep running costs to a minimum.

The French Development Agency contributed 31% of 2018 funds in order to finance the project «Economy at the Service of Biodiversity» in Ghana. The program aims at supporting 3 local NGOs on 4 commodities: shea butter and honey in the north, and cocoa and coco nut oil in the south.

The Maisons du Monde Foundation continued to support 5 projects (DRC, Senegal, Indonesia, Malaysia and India) by contributing 20% of the funds for 2018.

Man and Nature continued its partnership with the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to develop green value chains around the transboundary forest of Kwabre-Tanoe (Ghana-Côte d’Ivoire). CEPF contributed 11% of the funds collected in 2018.

2018 in figures

18 projects supported
560 k€ granted to field projects
12 countries of intervention
Ongoing projects

Projects initiated in 2018

Projects completed in 2018

SAVING THE MALAYAN TIGER BY RESTORING THE ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR OF SANGAI YU P.40

PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE INCOME GENERATION P.34

SUPPORT FOREST COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION OF RATTAN AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF LORE LINDU NATIONAL PARK P.36
The agricultural sector is a key component of Burkina Faso’s economy. Cash crops, especially cotton, require substantial use of pesticides and destroy natural habitats.

The nut of the shea tree can be used to produce a butter that is highly sought after by the cosmetics industry. Sustainable exploitation of shea could generate a higher income than that derived from the conversion of one hectare of natural forest into agricultural crops.

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**Shea and Honey to Safeguard the African Megafauna**

**The agricultural sector is a key component of Burkina Faso’s economy. Cash crops, especially cotton, require substantial use of pesticides and destroy natural habitats.**

The nut of the shea tree can be used to produce a butter that is highly sought after by the cosmetics industry. Sustainable exploitation of shea could generate a higher income than that derived from the conversion of one hectare of natural forest into agricultural crops.

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**Project Details**

- **Full cost**: 10,000 euros
- **Duration**: 1 year
- **Start**: January 2018

**Implemented by**: NatuDev

**Supported by**: Man & Nature

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**Map of Burkina Faso**

- **Location**: Ouagadougou

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**Enforcement of**

**Biodiversity**

**Conservation**

**Sustainable Development**
The site and its biodiversity

The Nazinga Ranch is a protected area of 913 km² located near Pô, in Southern Burkina Faso.

The PONASI (Pô-Nazinga-Sissili) ecological complex is home to a population of over 600 elephants. This density is exceptional in Western Africa!

In addition to elephants, Nazinga has a high density of antelopes, with numerous sable antelopes, as well as Kobus, Defassa waterbucks, bubales etc.

The reserve also shelters buffaloes. Lastly, three species of monkey (baboons, vervet monkeys, and patas monkeys), numerous crocodiles, and an important bird fauna are found there.

A 4,500-ha forest corridor known as the “Elephant Corridor”, ensures the connection between Nazinga and the Kaboré Tambi National Park (previously called Pô National Park) and allows these large animals free movement within this natural habitat.

Major issues

However, this conservation area suffers from on-going degradation due to the attempts of the local population to farm within the corridor, the over exploitation of natural resources (logging, charcoal production, poaching etc.) and the high grazing pressure of domestic livestock.

Forest areas are cleared and replaced by monocultures, including cotton which is highly demanding in terms of pesticides and seen as the main economic opportunity for local populations.

Unless action is taken, the corridor is at risk of disappearing in the coming years, cutting off an ancestral pathway for wildlife and drastically exacerbating human-elephant conflicts.

Committed partners

Nature et Développement (NatuDev) is an association under Burkinabe law whose mission is to promote integrated approaches to nature conservation and the development of local communities.

Its president, Alexis Kaboré, has extensive experience in this area, especially in supporting communities to create and manage Community Resource Management Areas.

The project and the prospects for change

The objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation of the Elephant migration corridor and improve the livelihoods of local communities by valorizing natural resources, mainly by producing honey products and organic shea butter.

The following activities are being implemented by the project:

- Awareness raising among local communities on issues related to harmful practices and the use of pesticides within and on the outskirts of the corridor;
- Implementation of Assisted Natural Regeneration techniques to increase the density of non-timber forest products and ensure the regeneration of the forest;
- Training women in shea butter production in line with international quality criteria and provision of equipment;
- Promotion of beekeeping to foster natural regeneration through pollination and increase the local community’s income;
- Supporting commercialization of the finished products to offer direct outlets to women and ensure their long-term commitment to the sustainable valorization of local natural resources.

Main achievements in 2018

Biodiversity conservation

- 50% of beekeepers supported by NatuDev stopped using chemical pesticides and herbicides in favour of natural products.

Economic development

- 1 business plan designed for the production, sale, and marketing of honey products;
- 1 marketing platform for NTFPs (packaging and sales unit) developed.
AN EXEMPLARY NORTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Third highest summit of Cameroon, Mount Bamboutos is home to a unique biodiversity including a plant with promising potentialities.

Through substantive work done with local communities and the involvement of a French business, the project aims to enhance the value of a new plant species to help protect the local biodiversity.

Full cost: 110,000 euros
Duration: 6 years
Start: October 2012

A project implemented by:

And supported by:

Cameroon
The site and its biodiversity

Overlapping three major regions of Cameroon, Mount Bamboutos stands at 2,740 meters.

Its location gives it special importance: it is one of the country’s richest zones in terms of biodiversity and ecological services to man.

Major issues

Poor management of the Mount Bamboutos forests coupled with unregulated intensive farming in low-lying areas has had negative consequences: the natural vegetation has become severely degraded, springs located on hillsides are drying up, and soil degradation is ever worsening.

The local communities are mostly farmers involved in subsistence farming and cattle-raising. Overall, they oppose the creation of an integral ecological reserve as planned by Cameroonian authorities since 2009.

However, the village communities are aware of the importance of preserving the mountain and are much more open to actions that combine conservation and development.

The aim of the project is to preserve the Mount Bamboutos’ biodiversity and its ecological role through sustainable promotion of plants of economic interest in the zone.

Indeed, *Echinops giganteus* is a plant that present a potential interest for the perfume industry.

It was identified and located in the region of Caldeira in Mount Bamboutos where it grows in the wild and is used from time to time as condiment in cooking.

The production and marketing of this plant are part of an agricultural diversification integrated into biodiversity conservation.

This effort will offer an excellent opportunity to promote in Cameroon the Access and Benefit Sharing process derived from the Nagoya Protocol.

The development of this plant will serve as an incentive for the ecological restoration of Mount Bamboutos.

The project will catalyse the local communities’ response to the issues of deforestation, intensive farming and water management.

Therefore, the project objectives are the following:

- Further understanding of plant resources in the zone;
- Develop a sustainable, fair and traceable supply program with interested businesses.
- Formalize procedures on Access and Benefit Sharing among concerned partners.

The project also aims at replicating the approach at the outskirt of Tofala Hill Sanctuary, with another plant species, *Mondia whitei*.

Main achievements in 2018

Conflicts related to the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, which started in 2016 and intensified at the end of 2017, have significantly slowed the implementation of activities in the field. It has been particularly difficult to mobilize beneficiaries in this context of tension.

Economic development

- 1 literature review of the sustainable harvesting, domestication and uses of *Mondia Whitei*;
- 1 experiment to identify optimal method for cultivation, regeneration, and harvest of *Mondia Whitei*;
- 1,300€ worth of *Mondia Whitei* roots collected to date (equivalent to 730 kg of fresh roots);
- 1 map of *Mondia Whitei* repartition in the area.
Implementing an innovative conservation model based on the development of economic sectors for the benefit of the local communities would create a trend for the sustainable management of forests outlying directly the reserve.

The collect of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) is carried out by women, in particular by the Baka Pygmies. Revenue generated are essential for the survival of the community.
The site and its biodiversity

Established in 1950 by the colonial administration, the Dja Biosphere Reserve (DBR) covers 18% of Cameroon’s National Protected Areas network.

With its unique wealth, the reserve is home to many species: over 109 species of mammals, 361 species of birds (white-necked rockfowl, African grey parrot, Dja river warbler, etc.) 62 species of fish and 207 species of trees such as Moabi (IUCN - VU)

Major issues

This conservation area suffers from ongoing degradation due to the increase in the rural population and overexploitation of natural resources (timber, charcoal, poaching, fishing, non-timber forest products for food and pharmacopoeia).

The constant pressure on natural resources results in loss of biodiversity, at the expense of the poorest rural communities that lead traditional lifestyle.

The Baka (Pygmies), have no longer access to many products from the forest, that they used to harvest, collect or hunt.

Many activities are nowadays forbidden like: subsistence hunting, medicinal or food plant collect, or any other products from the forest that serve to build their houses or places of worship.

Committed partners

The NGO AAFEBEN works in the eastern outskirts of the reserve with 10 community forests. It supports 10 groups comprising of 350 women from the Baka (Pygmies) and Bantu ethnic groups to collect and sell forest products such as bush mangoes and Moabi.

It aims primarily to encourage women entrepreneurship projects with a strong component focusing on ethnic minorities.

The project and the prospect of change

The project is working on products of the forest value chains, focusing on:

- Mbalaka seeds (Pentaclethra macrophylla): The Baka Pygmies traditionally collect and use the mbalaka seeds for food or as a medicinal plant. The mbalaka seeds are bought by the Bantu who then sell them to nigerian wholesalers, large consumers of NWF. Furthermore, Mbalaka oil hold interesting cosmetics properties that can attract the western oil seed industry.

- Bush Mango almonds (Irvingia gabonensis) are sold for food on local markets and to nigerian wholesalers. They are the main ingredient of a traditional sauce in Cameroon and Nigeria called N’dó.

- Moabi almonds (Baillonella toxisperma): Oil-rich, the Moabi almonds are traditionally used in central Africa for food and cosmetics.

In addition to that, Moabi is a tree sought after for its wood by the forestry industry for the international market. In the long run, the population can earn a revenue that can be much higher than the revenue earned by logging, that benefit mainly to forest industry.

- Depending on demand and production, the project is also looking at other NTFPs. Allanblackia floribunda, Monodora myristica, Tetrapleura tetraptera...

The generated revenues from collecting seeds are very important for women and their families.

This activity can be a largest source of income ahead from the revenues from agriculture.

However, the Baka women have a little access to the market of NTFPs, as they live deep inside the forest.

Living nearest transportation paths, the Bantu women buy the products directly to the Baka women and resell them, recovering major part of the added value.

The structuration of women’s groups including Baka women, and the improvement in the collect and drying methods, permits products flow and provides substantial revenues to the communities.

By according to local population, the right to access natural resources, by framing agreed natural resources management systems, and by enhancing the economic value of local products, this project contributes to the conservation of Dja reserve and improve livelihood of local population.

Main achievements in 2018

Economic development

- Development of an innovative partnership between the Pallisco forestry company, AAFEBEN and the women’s cooperative, to develop the collection of NTFPs and stunt poaching activities in Forest Management Units
- € 90,000 turnover generated by the collection of NTFPs by the women’s cooperative:
  1. 1.3 tons of Moabi seed (Baillonella toxisperma) collected.
  2. 1.6 tons of Wild Mango (Irvingia Gabonensis).
  3. 22.9 tons of Mbalaka (Pentaclethra macrophylla) sold.
  4. 19 tonnes of Rondelles (Afrostyrax lepidephyllus) sold.
- 1 ton of Prekese pods (Tetrapleura Tetraptera) sold;
- 10,000 nursery seedlings, including 6,000 cocoa trees and 4,000 NTFP seedlings (Moabi, Wild Mango, Njansang and Mbalaka);
- Realization of a market study with the support of the GIZ to analyze the economic markets of neighboring countries.

Social

- 19 new women’s groups, currently involved in the NTFP sector were formed, accounting for ~ 300 women, including 155 Baka women included in the collection and bundling of NTFPs.
- NTFP locations were mapped by 150 participants, including 90 women.
With the variety of melliferous plants that it shelters, this unique forest allows for producing high quality honey. The development of beekeeping can reverse the trend of destruction and reduce the threats to biodiversity by creating new sources of income for local communities.
The site and its biodiversity

The 18 community forests of Mount Kilum Ijim cover an area of 20,000 hectares that surround a beautiful crater lake located at an altitude of 3,011m in northwest Cameroon.

They are home to endemic species such as the Bannerman’s Turaco and Bamenda Batis, two bird species particularly threatened by habitat loss.

Flora in this high-altitude area comprises many various species such as Prunus africana and Pittosporum veridiflorum whose products are highly sought after by the pharmaceutical industry.

The existing combination of melliferous and medicinal species allows for marketing the products on the local market.

Major issues

The area around Mount Kilum Ijim is one of the most densely populated in Cameroon: 300,000 people live within less than one walking day from forests that are vulnerable to many threats such as the extensive agricultural and animal-farming development, deforestation and bush fires that endanger the ecological balance.

On site, the communities organise themselves: a first cooperative of 1,200 beekeepers was created a few years ago.

Beekeepers place their traditional hives in the forests and contribute to enhancing the value of the exceptional forest biodiversity and to its protection as honey and beeswax products represent a significant share of their income.

Since 2013, Oku white honey has even been benefiting from Protected Geographical Indication (PGI).

Activities planned include:

- Training of beekeepers in the relevant villages on improved production techniques;
- Structuring of cooperatives and provision of initial working capital;
- Development of guidelines for proper management of production areas;
- Enriching the forest by planting melliferous species.

By organising and supporting beekeepers to create four new cooperatives able to produce quality honey and wax, and by better marketing these products (on national, regional or international markets), it is expected to increase the income of the local communities and thus offer them more incentives to protect the forest.

The project aims to support farmers in 25 villages to develop economic subsectors that are favourable to biodiversity conservation.

Main achievements in 2018

Conflicts related to the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, which started in 2016 and intensified at the end of 2017, have significantly slowed the implementation of activities in the field. It has been particularly difficult to mobilize beneficiaries in this context of tension, and exchange visits between beekeepers’ cooperatives had to be cancelled.

Biodiversity conservation

- 100,000 bee loving trees produced by the nurseries;
- 3,313 trees planted by CAMGEW in the in the Nchiiy and Emfve-Mii Community Forest;
- 41 beehives successfully colonized.

Economic development

- Apiculture equipment distributed to the 5 new cooperatives: 175 buckets, 5 weighing scales, 40 protective suits and smokers;
- 2 two-day trainings for 51 bee farmers on the handling of honey and wax after harvest;
- 1 wax and honey boutique continues to sell products in Bamenda.

Social

- 1 exchange visit and a 2-days workshop on capacity building organized for 13 executive members of cooperatives;
- Paperwork deposited for the legal creation of 4 cooperatives;
- 150 children participated in environmental education events, broadcasted on the radio.
PALM OIL PRODUCTION TO SAVE THE CROSS-RIVER GORILLAS

The Lebialem is a vast mountainous forest area which houses 20% of the remaining population of the Cross-River gorilla, one of the world’s most endangered primate species.

By encouraging the development of income generating activities such as sustainable production and certified palm and palm kernel oil, pressure on the fauna and flora will be progressively reduced.
The site and its biodiversity

The project is located at the outskirts of Tofala Hill Lebialem, in the South West region of Cameroon. The intervention area covers about 15,000 hectares.

The remaining forests are home to a rich biodiversity. Several endangered species are present and among them, one of the rarest primates in the world: the Cross River gorillas.

This is also the case of a chimpanzee subspecies known under the name of the Chimpanzee of Nigeria.

The diversity of habitats in the area has created a shelter of a considerable number of birds, reptiles, amphibians and butterflies’ species with one of the highest endemism in the region.

Thanks to the presence of an exceptional fauna, this reserve was officially recognized by decree in September 2014.

Major issues

Fauna and flora of the Tofala sanctuary is at risk because of the proliferation of illicit activities: poaching, illegal logging, and deforestation for the development of new agricultural parcels.

The sanctuary remains extremely vulnerable pending the implementation of a robust development plan.

The local population is particularly poor. Introduced by the Germans at the beginning of the last century, the extensive planting oil palm is one of the local products that still generate some income.

However, farmers extract oil under very difficult conditions; they use manual extraction, plant marginal varieties, suffer from the extreme isolation of the farms and the poor transportation system that reduce market access.

Committed partners

The NGO ERuDeF is a Cameroonian association that has been working for several years in the area. The association works for the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of fragile ecosystems through research, training, education and community involvement.

Thanks to ERuDeF hard work, the Sanctuary Tofala Hill was created by decree.

In the last 3 years, ERuDeF has been working with local communities to improve palm oil production and has assisted them in the creation of 3 cooperatives of producers / processors.

The project and the prospects for change

The establishment of three mechanized presses has helped produce quality oil with a much better performance than traditional presses.

Although local communities are now using these tools, considerable work remains to be achieved to improve the supply chain and obtain a fair price for the produced oil.

The project aims to strengthen the existing producer groups and create a social enterprise responsible for the marketing of the products.

These will include:

- To better organize the collection of palm fresh fruit bunches to increase the profitability of the presses;
- To provide technical support during pressing activities, and improve clarification and effluent discharge into the natural environment;
- To equip groups with efficient equipment in order to significantly improve the collection, packaging of the final products;
- To support the marketing of the final products on local and national markets;
- To create a social enterprise responsible for inventory management, quality control, marketing products and possible export.

Main achievements in 2018

Conflicts related to the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, which started in 2016 and intensified at the end of 2017, have significantly slowed the implementation of activities in the field. It has been particularly difficult to mobilize beneficiaries in this context of tension.

Economic development

- 500 new producers and members sensitized to the management of cooperatives;
- 1 three-wheeled scooter provided to transport the palm nuts to the Essoh Atta Cooperative;
- 760 litres of palm oil sold on local markets;
- 4,200€ of turnover related to the sale of palm oil produced the previous year.
MOABI, BUSH MANGO AND COCOA: VEGETABLE BUTTER SERVING CONSERVATION OF DJA RESERVE

In the northern outskirts of Dja Reserve densely populated, threats linked to human activities are increasing every year: poaching, collecting firewood, making charcoal, overexploitation of wild forest products, clearing for extensive agriculture... Pressure on the natural reserve is reduced by boosting a sustainable production of cocoa.

The establishment of a transformation platform of non-wood forest products and cocoa into vegetal butters increases added value of the products, and significantly improves the producer’s revenue. The creation of a social business for commercialisation, ensure a sustainable production, traceable and fair.
The site and its biodiversity

Established in 1950 by the colonial administration, the Dja Biosphere Reserve (DBR) covers 18% of Cameroon’s National Protected Area network.

With its unique wealth, the reserve is home to many species: over 109 species of mammals (lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, forest elephant, etc.), 360 species of birds (white-necked rockfowl, African grey parrot, Dja river warbler, etc.) 62 species of fish and 207 species of trees such as Moabi.

Major issues

TFRD works on the northern outskirts of the reserve in an area of 30,000 hectares with 15 villages.

This conservation area suffers from ongoing degradation due to the increase in the rural population and overexploitation of natural resources.

The cocoa has been cultivated in this region for a long time.

This culture underwent economic liberalisation programmes implemented at the end of the 90’s, resulting in decrease of prices and the end of support programmes to farmers.

Committed partners

The objective of TFRD (Tropical Forest and Rural Development) is to protect the wildlife reserve and help farmers to increase the cacao production and promote the products in this area. TFRD is providing support to 160 farmers, 100 women doing harvesting, by structuring these farmers in cooperatives groups and improving production methods.

TFFC (Tropical Forest Food and Cosmetics) is a social business created in order to transform raw products into oil, powder and other products found on the transformation platform in Yaoundé. TFFC also does the marketing of the products on local, regional and international markets to ensure the profitability of the products value chains.

The project and the prospect of change

The economic sectors supported by the project:

- Non-wood forest products: moabi, bush mango, njansang, allanblackia... Traditionally used by the communities for food or as medicine, their harvest generates additional revenue for 150 women, useful to send children to school.
- Cocoa which now accounts for up to 50% of the income of some farmers in the area, with the establishment of a rational agroforestry system and the “Rainforest Alliance” certification.
- Oil-rich, almonds and beans are transported to Yaoundé, where they are pressed and packed to be marketed as butter, food powder and soap.

By establishing a sustainable resources management system at all levels in the value chain, the project will contribute to the preservation of the reserve as well as improve the local communities’ livelihoods.

The creation of a social business aims at enhancing social economy in Cameroon ensuring a fair distribution of profits between the stakeholders in the value chain.

Main achievements in 2018

Economic development

- 80 women and 10 men sensitized in 9 training courses on how to create and manage cooperatives;
- 1 completed exchange trip between women producer groups (12 participants);
- 2 production units (PU) of NTFPs created, 6 PUs accompanied in total, 1 cocoa cooperative created and fully functional, 8 validated business plans;
- 200 women and 25 men sensitized in 18 training courses in the collection, drying, processing and packaging of products;
- 1 fully operational storage transformation warehouse;
- 1 strategy for the marketing and the implementation of tools for the Dja Safari Shop;
- 1 Inventory with GPS location of the saplings of Njansang, Moabi, and Wild Mangoes;
- 40 people sensitized through 6 trainings in the operation of nurseries and planting methods;
- Plantation of 10,000 cocoa plants, 2,100 citrus fruits, 1,000 avocados, 1,000 wild mangos, 2,400 plantains, 500 Mbalaka plants;
- 7,000 cocoa seedlings planted and 10,000 saplings distributed to regenerate old plantations.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO PROTECT EMBLEMATIC SAVANNAH SPECIES

Many flagship species of African savannas seek refuge in the Bénoué Park. Despite its protection, the preserved biodiversity is vulnerable to many pressures, including the inflow of refugees fleeing regional conflicts. Thus, the human factor must be placed at the center of the land use planning in order to guarantee the sustainability of local development models.

The development of profitable economic sectors, through the cashew nut (Anacardium occidentale) group comprising 300 producers on the periphery of the Park, considerably reduces the pressure on the biodiversity to be protected.

Full cost: 10,000 euros
Duration: 1 year
Start: January 2018

© Dirk Rüter

A project implemented by:

And supported by:

Man & Nature
The site and its biodiversity

In Northern Cameroon, among three National Parks, the Bénoué Park is one of the oldest protected areas of the country. At the foot of the Adomaoua Plateau, the 180,000-ha park is declared « Biosphere Reserve » by UNESCO and hosts many mammal species classified as «Vulnerable» by the IUCN, including the African savanna elephant (Loxodonta africana), the Leopard (Panthera pardus), and the Hippopotamus (Hippopotamus amphibius).

Major issues

The influx of refugee populations has resulted in a great increase in the local population, of which 68% live below the poverty line, making Northern Cameroon the region with the highest poverty rate in the country.

With low incomes, communities living near the park are all the more tempted to draw resources from the reserves.

Connectivity between the park and hunting areas is increasingly compromised by the important arrival of pastoralists in search of farmland on the west side of the Park.

Committed partners

Created in 2003, the CERAF-NORD (Center for Agroforestry Resources, Forestry and Continuing Education - North) aims to promote sustainable development based on the effective participation of rural and urban communities.

In recent years, CERAF has provided local civil society organizations with technical assistance and training to restore ecosystems.

The project and the prospects for change

This project is part of a broader work on the territorial governance of Protected Areas in Northern Cameroon.

While the hunting sector is losing momentum and demographics are still soaring, it is important to integrate the economic development of green value-chains into regional planning in the periphery of the Bénoué National Park.

As a pilot supported by the PPI-IUCN, the Bénoué National Park Conservation Department has already begun to support the production and distribution of cashew trees on the outskirts of the Park.

Main achievements in 2018

Economic development

- 3 plant nurseries installed, containing a total of 14,000 plants;
- 150 kg of seeds acquired;
- 13,530 pots planted by the nursery gardeners and community members living at the outskirts of the park;
- 15 individuals - including 6 women - trained to set up and manage a nursery;
- 296 producers sensitized to the management of the fields;
- 104 individual contracts signed with producers;
- 12,103 plants distributed in 6 villages in the periphery of the Park.
RECONCILING BONOBO CONSERVATION WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL POPULATIONS

The Bolobo territory, considered a high priority area for biodiversity conservation, is home to a wealth of plant and animal species. Elephants and the famous bonobo (IUCN: EN) can be found there. It is also home to an abundant population of Wenge (IUCN: EN) and several species of Entandrophragma.

This biodiversity is endangered by deforestation and the use of fire during the harvesting of honey from natural beehives. The creation of income sources that allow for forest regeneration will contribute to the conservation of the bonobo while guaranteeing sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Full cost: 90,000 euros
Duration: 3 years
Start: April 2017

A project implemented by:
And supported by:

Photos © François Nègre
The site and its biodiversity

The Bolobo territory harbours populations of bonobos and elephants and is classified by ICCN (Congo Institute for Nature Conservation) as a high-priority area for biodiversity conservation. The bonobo population density is the highest observed in DRC (2.1 individuals/km²), just 300 km away from Kinshasa.

In addition, the site has been proposed for inclusion on the list of wetlands of global significance. It is indeed located on the cross-border axis of Lake Télé - Lake Tumba, the largest inland freshwater body of Africa.

The conservation of this body of water significantly contributes to the supply of the Inga3 hydroelectric complex which, subject to the implementation of extension projects, could allow for clean energy development on the African continent in the 21st century. Its role in regulating the water supply of the complex alone justifies the protection of the forests of this territory in particular, and of the Mai-Ndombe Province in general.

Major issues

The Forest Code of DRC authorizes local communities to create Local Community Forests (LCFs) to reinforce their participation in the sustainable management of forests and thereby develop income-generating activities that enable them to become key actors in poverty reduction.

However, indigenous populations need technical and financial support to secure their traditional territory and means are lacking. Furthermore, fire setting during honey harvesting causes regular fires and bush fires that destroy large stretches of forests, harming the habitat of the bonobo and its biodiversity.

Although honey is highly sought for sale, for consumption for medicinal purposes, and especially to meet the demand from nearby towns such as Kinshasa and Brazzaville, no beekeeping project has yet been initiated in the rice field of the forests belonging to local communities.

In addition, the level of fairness in the management of natural resources is still low. Women and other vulnerable or minority groups are rarely involved in decision-making relating to land use.

To address these two key challenges, the project plans to develop a beekeeping pilot project using modern hives. This will promote the economic development of the local population and create and safeguard Local Community Forests (LCFs).

Additionally, this project will conduct activities in relation to the organization, structuring, and reinforcement of communities, allowing for good governance in natural resource management and improving the involvement of women and minority groups for social, economic and environmental justice.

Committed partners

Created in 1997 by university officers and villagers, the non-governmental organization Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT) works in environmental conservation and local development in DRC.

Broadly supported by traditional authorities and local communities, many of which are members of the NGO, MMT will collaborate with Local Development and Conservation Committees to develop the project.

The project and the prospects for change

The present project will support local people in creating community forests to secure their traditional territory, limit poaching, and develop income-generating activities such as beekeeping.

Our local partner, already strongly involved, will support and coach village trackers on the monitoring and habituation of bonobos in future community forests. This activity will improve knowledge of the behaviour and location of bonobos, so as to better protect them.

Moreover, by equipping each local association with modern beehives and the elements needed for their management, local partners will be able to advance beekeeping in the region.

The beekeeping project will generate additional resources for the riparian populations of the local community forests and will make a significant contribution to limiting intrusions in conservation areas.

The project will also allow the forest to rapidly regenerate after the destruction caused by searching for natural beehives, owing to the recovery of pollination by bees. In the same way, the planting of melliferous plants around the conservation area will contribute to reforestation and natural forest conservation.

Various training sessions facilitated by moderators and attended by beekeepers will highlight the importance of natural resource conservation.

This direct awareness-raising will spread among riverside communities.

Main achievements in 2018

Biodiversity conservation

- The number of animal traps detected since 2016 has dropped by 70%, partly due to regular patrols against poaching activities.

Economic development

- 21 hives have been manufactured since the beginning of the project;

- 2 MMT staffs were trained in beekeeping for 3 months;

- Members of 6 CLDCs received 3 trainings on hive manufacturing, modern beekeeping, and cooperative education:
  1. 60 members were sensitized on the environmental impact of wild honey collection;
  2. 90 members trained in the production of bee hives.

- The communities were trained in the management of ecotourism revenues (catering, accommodation, guide, local crafts);

- Acquisition of equipment for the production of solar energy: 6 panels of 100 W each, 4 batteries of 130 amps and 4 converters of 300 A;

- Improved commercialization infrastructure with the strengthening of 4 bridges, a 1km dike, and the renovation of 20+ km of the main road.

Social

- 40 women organized in 6 groups to access savings and credit schemes were trained in financial management, microfinance and leadership;

- Half of the CLDCs have integrated at least 30% of women into their management committee.
COCOA UNDER SHADE: PILLAR OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WOLEU-NTÉM

In northern Gabon, the 8000-km² Minkébé National Park is part of the TRIDOM landscape, a significant reservoir of biodiversity considered as the “green lung” of Africa. It is of critical importance to support populations living in its periphery towards a sustainable economic development and to fight against deforestation.

The climate in this region is particularly conducive to cocoa cultivation. The objective of the project is to support farmers in implementing a «zero deforestation» agroforestry, associating cocoa and shade trees species having an added economic value.
The site and its biodiversity

In northern Gabon, the Woleu-Ntem province has seen its working population depleted due to rural exodus.

In this territory covered by equatorial forest is located the Minkébé National Park; a vast protected area of 8,000 km² of forest punctuated by isolated hills and marshy glades.

The Minkébé Park forms with the Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo and the Dja Wildlife Reserve in Cameroon, the TRIDOM landscape (TRInationale of Dja, Odzala and Minkébé), which is recognized as key for the conservation of the Congo Basin’s dense forests.

Major Issues

Agriculture is the main activity in the Woleu-Ntem province. The development of cocoa cultivation in the 1970s allowed many families to assert themselves socially and economically. Today, cocoa cultivation in the region is stagnating or even in decline.

New government policies support the exploitation of natural resources such as timber, neglecting agriculture.

Producers have no technical support, and the Stabilization and Equalization Fund (CAISTAB), which collects cocoa on credit, lags far behind - up to 7 months - before paying its debt to producers...

Many of them have abandoned cocoa cultivation in the province, but some persevere despite the difficulties encountered.

On the other hand, unbridled logging by large operators causes the destruction of ecosystems, directly impacting people who are almost never consulted and do not benefit from economic spinoffs.

Committed partners

Created in 1998, the NGO Brainforest is a major player in the Gabonese civil society working on forest and environment issues.

Brainforest’s «On Mange Local» department’s mission is to preserve food security by promoting local agriculture based on healthy and environmentally-friendly production.

The NGO Brainforest has an in-depth knowledge of the target area and its communities, with which they have already worked for several years.

The project and the prospects for change

To fight against deforestation and poverty, the project aims at improving the productivity of cocoa farms and encouraging agroforestry for a high quality and sustainable cacao production without deforestation.

Shade-grown cocoa is recognized for its superior quality, which will allow producers to access a reliable and profitable market.

The specific objectives of the project are the following:

• Improve productivity by rehabilitating 100 ha of old plantations and creating 4 hectares of new agroforestry plantations associated with timber and non-timber forest products.
• Promote profitable and quality production through the provision of equipment and plant material and the capacity building of 50 producers on best agricultural practices.
• Structure producers by setting up 2 cooperatives and train them on management and marketing.
• Analyze non-timber forest products available in the park and its periphery, which can be processed into oil or butter and which have significant outlets on local and international markets.

Main achievements in 2018

Economic development

• 1 mission led to identify producers interested in the production of under shade cocoa;
• 780 fruit trees were purchased, distributed to beneficiaries, and planted;
• 8 hectares of fallows that used to be cocoa farms were rehabilitated;
• Agricultural equipment (maches, wheelbarrows, protective tools) were purchased and distributed to beneficiaries;
• 1 exchange trip to Cameroon with the Cameroonian partner TFRD to train beneficiaries in the production of Rainforest Alliance cocoa, and the collection and processing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP);
• Continuous training course for 16 farmers were organized to improve their knowledge on cocoa planting processes.
The creation of a trans-border community-managed protected area on the initiative of local communities offers a unique example of positive partnership between two countries and should allow for the protection of the entire area.

The swamp forests of Kwabre in Ghana and Tanoe in Ivory Coast are a unique sanctuary, home to three endangered flagship primates. Caught between deforestation, forest product trafficking, and bush meat trade, their survival hangs by nothing more than a thread and... the will of human beings!

THE KWABRE-TANOE TRANS-BORDER RESERVE TO SAVE THREE AFRICAN PRIMATES FROM EXTINCTION

Ghana / Ivory Coast

The KWabre-TaNoe TraNs-border reserve To save Three africaN priMaTes froM exTiNcTioN

Full cost : 185,000 euros
Duration : 3 years
Start : September 2017

A project implemented by :

And supported by :
The site and its biodiversity

The forests of Kwabre in south-western Ghana (2,500 ha) and Tanoe in south-eastern Ivory Coast (12,000 ha) extend on both side of the Tanoe River.

They are home to an exceptional biodiversity with 1,600 endemic plant species, 31 bird species, 35 mammal species, and 49 amphibian species.

They are also the last habitat of the Roloway monkey (Cercopithecus roloway), one of the 25 most endangered primates of the world, as well as the White-Naped Mangabey (Cercocebus lunulatus), and possibly Miss Waldron’s Red Colobus (Piliocolobus waldronei) which may already be extinct in the wild.

Major issues

These exceptional spaces are endangered by the deforestation associated with the large-scale development of cocoa, rubber tree, and oil palm plantations.

Today, failing any formal agreement between Kwabre (Ghana) and Tanoe (Ivory Coast) forests, an increasing number of people venture into the forest to traffic forest products and bush meat.

For several years, biologists are alarmed by the risks of extinction of the endangered primate species sheltered by these forests and have encouraged governments and the civil society to tackle this issue.

Unless action is taken, the fate of these forests is at stake and the local populations will become increasingly vulnerable.

Committed partners

Created in 2001, WAPCA (West African Primate Conservation Action) aims to conserve endangered primate species in Western Africa.

WAPCA has supported the communities on the outskirts of Kwabre forest in establishing a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA), a local governance structure aiming at ensuring a community-led sustainable management of natural resources.

On the Ivorian side, the activism of the association ACB-CI (Action pour la Conservation de la Biodiversité en Côte d’Ivoire), with the support of CSRS (Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d’Ivoire), has already protected Tanoe forest against a project of palm oil plantation.

With the support of both NGOs, the communities have set up a community-led organization (Association villageoise de gestion) and have created in 2016 the very first community-managed Voluntary Natural Reserve in Ivory Coast.

The project and the prospects for change

The project aims at ensuring the sustainable management of Kwabre and Tanoe forests by and to the benefit of local communities, by setting up alternative income-generating activities and strengthening the community-led governance structures (CREMAs).

The specific objectives are the following:

- Contribute to the development of sustainable economic sectors (certified organic cocoa, organic coconut oil, cassava and non-timber forest products). These green value chains will benefit to the communities by increasing their income and to biodiversity conservation by decreasing anthropic pressure.
- Ensure a better trans-border biodiversity conservation by:
  1. initiating the creation of the first African community-managed trans-border reserve with Ghanaian and Ivorian authorities;
  2. strengthening the community-led governance structures and setting up a Conservation Fund to ensure their self-financing in the medium run;
  3. planting trees of economic-interest to delineate the forest and create a buffer zone.
- Contribute to the development of sustainable economic sectors (agroforestry, and 9,490 to regenerate and delineate the buffer zone).
- Protect the forest and create a buffer zone.

Main achievements in 2018

Biodiversity conservation

1- WAPCA
- 38,285 seedlings produced in total, with 35,180 seedlings planted (5,690 in agroforestry, and 9,490 to regenerate and delineate the buffer zone).

2- CSRS
- 13,960 seedlings produced in total, with 5,605 seedlings planted (4605 in agroforestry, and 1,000 in the buffer zone).

Economic Development

1- WAPCA
- 251 farmers registered in the CREMA underwent trainings on organic production and fair trade;
- 1 cocoa business plan elaborated;
- TOR elaborated for the construction of the processing centre;
- Contracts signed between coconut farmer groups and the SFC company.

2- CSRS
- 1 Cassava GVC analysis and business plan;
- 120 people attended workshops to develop the cassava and NTFP business plans;
- Farmers trained in best practices to produce high-yield Cassava;
- Installation of crushers and presses for Cassava processing.

Social

1- WAPCA
- 2 sub executive committees of CREMAs elected.

2- CSRS
- 1 capacity building training delivered to the AVCD (village level community organization);
- First training on good agricultural practices focused on organic cocoa production and agroforestry;
- 2 new AVCDs (village-level communal associations) and 1 new AVG (inter village-level communal association) installed.
CLIMATE-SMART COCOA INNOVATION TO STEM DEFORESTATION

Ghana’s Cocoa Forest landscape has one of the highest deforestation rates in Africa at 2.9% per annum. Driven mainly by the expansion of cocoa farms to compensate for a decline in productivity, contributing factors include the upsurge of illegal logging, small-scale farming, and mining.

With the implementation of climate-smart cocoa practices, the project aims to stem the conversion of forests to agricultural land by increasing cocoa yields and improving the livelihoods of farmers.

Full cost: 170,000 euros
Duration: 3 years
Start: January 2018

A project implemented by:

And supported by:

© Jacobudmen
The site and its biodiversity

The Kakum Conservation area which includes Kakum National Park and Assin Atandanso Forest Reserve located in the Assin South District of Ghana’s Central Region covers 375 km² of moist evergreen forest and raffia swamps.

It is home to numerous important species of mammals, birds and reptiles including the Diana monkey (Cercopithecus diana, UICN: VU), the Bongo antelope, Yellow-backed duiker, the densest population of Forest elephants (Loxodonta cyclotis, UICN: EN) in Ghana (over 200), and endangered Turtle species.

The park is also an important bird area and dominant ecotourism destination, due to its world-renowned canopy walk, though very few benefits from tourism reach the surrounding communities.

Major issues

100,000 people reside in the Assin South District, one of the poorest districts in the region and in southern Ghana.

Over 80% of households are involved in agriculture, with the majority of people engaged in small-scale cocoa farming, food crop farming, and oil palm production.

Limited livelihood options and low cocoa farming yields compel neighboring communities to enter the park to undertake illegal activities such as poaching, hunting, land encroachments and logging.

Human-wildlife conflicts occur around the park due to elephants damaging the agricultural crops of the farmers.

To prevent raids on the agricultural fields by elephants during the cropping season, farmers have adopted the practice of building pepper fences around their lands to protect their farms.

Committed partners

Established in 1996, the NCRC (Nature Conservation Research Centre) is a leading conservation NGO registered in Ghana.

NCRC has been a strong advocate of local ownership in conservation processes. The Centre works with communities, traditional leadership, governments, civil society and private sector to develop conservation initiatives that are owned and managed by forest dependent communities.

The Centre has deep experience in conceiving and developing community-based institutional platforms for operating such projects.

The project and the prospects for change

In light of the current environmental and human pressures affecting the Conservation area (including unsustainable land use and climate change), climate-smart cocoa offers an alternative to achieve long-term sustainable production and local economic development while stabilizing the global cocoa supply chain.

The global objective of this project is to develop and test replicable models of how landscape governance platforms and diversified natural resource management approaches, which leverage public-private partnerships, can positively impact biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

The project will address deforestation caused by unsustainable cocoa farming practices by:

- The diversification of green value chains exploited by farmers;
- The implementation of climate-smart cocoa practices;
- The establishment of a learning platform to share best practices.

Main achievements in 2018

Economic Development

- 1 baseline survey report completed on the production capacity of green value chains: cocoa, voacanga and griffonia;
- 1 guide on best Climate Smart Cocoa practices drafted;
- 1 CREMA assessment report completed;
- 191,000 US$ of co-funding secured from the private sector.

Social

- Field mapping of CREMA communities accomplished;
- Trust Fund formally established and seeded with 37,500 € of capital investment;
- 1 landscape socio-cultural baseline assessment study of the project area and communities.
HOW ORGANIC SHEA BUTTER AND HONEY VALUE CHAINS CAN BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES?

The largest National Park of Ghana, Mole National Park, is also one of the richest in terms of biodiversity with numerous elephants, monkeys, antelopes and other species. But these amazing species are threatened by poaching and deforestation caused by anthropic activities.

The project will strengthen local participation in the sustainable management of the periphery of this emblematic protected area, and will support the local population in increasing their revenue thanks to the production of organic shea butter and honey.

Ghana

A project implemented by:

- AFD
- ROCHA

And supported by:

- PHYTODESS

Full cost: **150,000 euros**
Duration: **3 years**
Start: **January 2018**
The site and its biodiversity

Located in northwestern Ghana, the Mole National Park was created in 1971 after being a hunting reserve from 1958. Covering a land area of 4577 km² of savannah, it is the largest protected area of the country.

It is known for its rich biodiversity, sheltering numerous fauna species such as elephants, buffalos and monkeys, and has one of the biggest concentrations of antelopes in Africa. This is also an important touristic site of Ghana.

Major issues

Created with the aim to protect its abundant fauna and flora, the National Park is still threatened by the hunting of game around and within the Park, mainly antelopes for provision of bush meat.

The Park though well protected has in recent times suffered from targeted well planned incursions to log Rosewood, a species of high timber value in Ghana.

Limited livelihood options compel neighboring communities to enter the park to access Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), which is an important source of income during the lean season.

Surrounding areas of the park are under threat from the increasing production of charcoal, clearing for agriculture and bush fires.

Committed partners

A Rocha and Northcode, partners already strongly involved in the area, work since several years with local populations to improve their livelihoods and protect Mole National Park.

The NGO A Rocha Ghana has a strong experience in establishing Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) – local governance structures – on the outskirts of protected areas in Ghana, including the Mole National Park where it has set up four CREMAs.

Located in the southwestern area of Mole National Park, Northcode supports the empowerment of women by strengthening their economic capacities. Its specific focus is the development of beekeeping and the reforestation of degraded areas.

The project and the prospects for change

The project will ensure the sustainable and community-led management of Park periphery, through the development of green value chains benefitting communities and strengthening the local governance structures (CREMAs).

The objectives of the project are the following:

• Contribute to the development of sustainable economic sectors. These green value chains will benefit to the communities by increasing their income and will participate to the protection of the Park.

The sector of certified shea butter will be supported by setting up a shea-processing unit to produce organic butter and create an economic added value. Beehives will be provided and beekeepers trained to generate additional income; the honey of this region is highly sought for its taste and its particular properties.

• Ensure a better biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources by (1) strengthening the CREMAs already in place and creating a new one in the southwest area of the Park; (2) setting up a Conservation Fund aiming at ensuring the long-term self-financing of the CREMAs; (3) reinforcing the forest patrols; (4) restoring degraded areas.

• Ensure the capacity building of civil society and disseminate the project lessons-learnt.

Main achievements in 2018

Biodiversity conservation
1- A Rocha
• 24 farmers trained in landscape restoration and tree planting;
• 35 men trained in biomonitoring and patrolling to improve law enforcement.

Economic Development
1- A Rocha
• 1 fully functional nursery holding 30,000 seedlings fitted with basic facilities (irrigation, shade, etc.);
• 1 business plan for the shea green value chain developed;
• 420 hives and metal stands distributed to 140 beekeepers;
• Essential beekeeping equipment provided (overall suits, smokers, veil, boots and gloves).

2- Northcode
• 100 complete beehives (Kenyan model, with iron stands) delivered;
• 1 green business plan for honey developed;
• 20 producer groups formed.

Social
1- A Rocha
• over 45 Schools within the landscape engaged to increase environmental stewardship.

2- Northcode
• 400 beneficiaries identified, including 75% of women;
• 1 baseline survey report on the honey value chain and the local socio-economic context developed.
This trend may be reversed by developing income-generating activities which benefit local communities and contribute to the regeneration of the threatened ecosystems and to the preservation of the Slender Loris.
The site and its biodiversity

Ayyalur forest is a protected area governed by the Tamil Nadu forest department. This forms part of the Eastern Ghats, which are a chain of small hills and forested highlands stretching across a distance of more than 200 km.

This ecologically important region hosts the largest number of species of animals and plants in India. The forest is home to the endangered red slender loris along with other important species like wild boar, panther, jackal, Indian gaur, spotted deer, elephant, monkey, Indian porcupine as well as many species of reptiles and birds.

The richness of the region’s flora is attested to by the significant presence of: teak, ebony, white teak, and medicinal plants (sandal wood, swietenia mohogani).

Major Issues

The slender loris is threatened by poaching. The tribal communities living in the forest use the animal for meat and medicinal purposes. These tribes are allowed to collect and sell minor forest products, with the exception of timber. But the income from this activity is small, so they poach and hunt wild animals for supplemental income.

Poaching is not the only factor: neighbouring communities involved in small farming use high doses of pesticides which kill the fragile loris, due to water and soil toxicity levels.

Logging also destroys the habitat of the Loris and affects all other mammals and species in the forest.

In the long run, this may endanger the balance of the entire ecosystem of Ayyalur and its local population.

Committed Partners

The Social Education and Environmental Development Scheme (SEEDS) Trust has successfully carried out several development activities in the Tamil Nadu State in India since its creation in 1997.

The objective of SEEDS is to help the poorest communities achieve autonomy and improve their livelihoods by developing a holistic approach towards nature conservation.

SEEDS works closely with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department to set up projects in the region.

The project and the prospects for change

The past experience of The SEEDS Trust and the support of stakeholders like the Forest Department has established trust with communities and a solid and promising starting point for project implementation.

The project’s innovative approach to tackling the main causes of loris extinction relies on promoting environmental, social and economic development simultaneously, and thereby reducing the impacts of poverty and lack of awareness.

The project will be implemented in 3 communities (Paliyar, Pulaiyar and Arndathiyars) and 24 villages situated in or around the Ayyalur forest.

It will directly benefit 450 families and improve the slender loris population through conservation and habitat regeneration.

The project aims to develop income-generating activities for the communities living in and around the forest in order to preserve its biodiversity.

To that end, SEEDS has developed activities addressing the three factors responsible for loris extinction (poaching, pesticides, and logging):

- Development of income-generating activities with the tribal communities living within the forest. This activity will support the collection and sale of non-timber forest products (crafts, honey, tamarind, nuts etc.). 150 women will be trained in developing products to be marketed (bamboo baskets, brooms etc.).
- Training of 300 farmers in agricultural activities without the use of pesticides.
- Setting up of tree nurseries for reforestation activities.

Throughout the life of the project, workshops will be conducted to ensure experience is shared among peer groups and to promote an increase in scale.

Main achievements in 2018

Biodiversity conservation

- 300 farmers trained in organic agriculture;
- 75,000 trees planted (including 1,000 sandalwood trees) on 240 ha.

Economic development

- 278 women trained in the manufacture of forest-sourced products: bamboo basket, brooms, and honey;
- 33 bank accounts were opened, enabling 450 women from 15 groups to access micro financing schemes.

Social

- 30 groups constituting 447 producers (including 15% of women) whose capacity is strengthened through training and monthly monitoring;
- 150 tribal women organized in 15 women-only groups.
SUPPORT FOREST COMMUNITY-MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION OF RATTAN AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF LORE LINDU NATIONAL PARK

Today, illegal logging leads to an overexploitation of natural resources and represents a real threat to Indonesian forests and their rich biodiversity.

By promoting the management of the forests by the local communities and the sustainable exploitation of rattan, it becomes possible to reconcile economic development and biodiversity conservation.
The site and its biodiversity

The Lore Lindu National Park is a 229,000-ha conservation area, rich in biodiversity with many species of trees such as Uru, Casuarina, Wanga palm tree, etc.

The fauna is also very diverse; in addition to 64 species of snakes and 96 of endemic birds, it shelters an endemic terrestrial turtle (Indotestudo forstenii), and endangered species of Anoas (Bubalus depressicomis and Bubalus quarlessi).

Major issues

Indonesia is the biggest rattan supplier in the world, with 85% of rattan global resources growing in Indonesian tropical rain forest.

Before 2012, there was a massive and uncontrolled harvest of rattan for export (especially to China), but at the end of 2011 the Indonesian government banned export of raw rattan.

Now, rattan can only be exported in the form of finish products (furniture, crafts, etc.), and not as raw material.

However, rattan has a high economic value and is often overexploited.

The outskirts of the Lore Lindu National Park is also suffering from illegal logging of rattan.

If adjacent villages like Namo want to secure over time their income from rattan exploitation on which they highly depend, the sustainable management of the resource needs to be established.

Committed partners

The project was implemented during the first year by PUPUK (the association for advancement of small business), an independent non-profit organization established in 1979, which purpose is to stand for small businesses’ interests, as well as to develop integrated small business empowerment activities in all sectors of the economy.

As of the second year, the project will be in the care of FOSTER (Rattan Stakeholders Collaborative Forum), an NGO that brings together the stakeholders involved in the rattan industry.

In Lore Lindu National Park’s periphery, FOSTER is working with the local NGO called Jambata. Together, they provide training on nurseries and sustainable resource management, and develop income generating activities with the local communities.

The project and the prospects for change

This project, supported by Maisons du Monde, takes place in the village of Namo, in Sigi district, in the north of Sulawesi.

The project seeks to ensure an ecological and economic benefit by fostering a sustainable community-management of the forest and its natural resources.

Rattan is a non-timber forest product with a high economic value used as a tool for forest conservation in particular as this species requires the presence of other trees to grow up.

Therefore, the following activities will be implemented:

• Increase of the rattan resource in the community forest by planting rattan;
• Promotion of the sustainable use of the resource by training small rattan producers;
• Implementation of a community-based forest management plan;
• Awareness raising of local populations on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development;
• Support to the commercialization of rattan and other finished products developed.

Main achievements in 2018

The actions listed below took place before the 7.5 magnitude earthquake that hit the Sulawesi region on September 28th, causing 2,000 deaths. Palu, the city of Foster’s office, was hit hard by the tsunami that followed. Electricity and telecommunications were interrupted for more than a week, many roads were destroyed, entire neighborhoods were «liquefied» with homes buried underground. As a result of this disaster, our partner has stopped all project activities in order to provide emergency assistance to the victims.

Biodiversity conservation

• 10,000 rattan seedlings produced by local nursery groups were planted on 15ha, and replaced if the trees had died.

Economic development

• 60 workers equipped with metal poles for sustainable rattan harvesting;
• 3 action plans and workshops carried out to improve farmers’ production, processing and marketing capacities.

Social

• 1 forum organized during the project launch to raise basic awareness about sustainable management of rattan;
• 3 awareness workshops enabled 120 students and a dozen teachers understand sustainable development issues around the Lore Lindu National Park;
• Contribution to the Regional Development Plan of the Central Sulawesi Province to include the management of the rattan sector in the planning of forestry activities.
World Natural Heritage, the Ranomafana National Park hosts a density of amphibians 2,000 times higher than in the United States, as well as the Great Bamboo lemur thought to have disappeared in the mid-80s.

Living on the outskirts of the park are some of the poorest human populations on earth. For these communities, slash and burn remains the only form of agriculture...
The site and its biodiversity
The Ranomafana National Park is incredibly rich in biodiversity, hosting 98 species of amphibians and 62 reptile species on 416 square km.

The ecosystem of the villages of Vohitra-rivo, Vohimarina and Sahofika, located at the border of the park, is extremely degraded.

Fortunately, bamboo, which is the main food of the great bamboo lemur, is one of the first plants to grow back after the land has been burnt.

Almost a quarter of the population of this species of lemur (150 specimens) are to be found in this degraded habitat.

Major issues
The issues are twofold. First, destruction of the forest cover in the park is a real disaster.

In addition to the plants which are disappearance, a third of the 115 bird species and the majority of the frogs in the park are strictly forest dwelling.

If the human populations around the park remain in absolute poverty (currently at the level of undernourishment), it would be impossible to stop them from further destroying the forest.

The regrowth of bamboo after the fires is equally threatened since as the communitie have no other choice but to burn the land again in the hope of to producing a meagre harvest.

Committed partners
Emergency field actions were initiated by biologist Delphine Roullet, who was in charge of the European captive breeding programme to save the great bamboo lemur from extinction.

The Bamboo lemur project is a tripartite management programme, composed of the NGO created by Roullet (Helpsimus), the representatives of the three villages and the Ranomafana National Park.

The project and the prospects for change
The local communities live in extreme poverty, and the destruction of the habitats corresponds to very low-income generation.

This site contains some natural products of international interest (the Longoza has been highlighted as Dior’s flagship product), but also crops such as ginger which could be developed for the local market.

Local coordinators from Helpsimus and the Ranomafana National Park have had very enthusiastic feedback from the village communities, which are seeking assistance and are ready to follow a management plan to ensure the conservation of the great bamboo lemurs.

The aim of the project, therefore, is to help the local communities lift out of extreme poverty and, at the same time, to implement a land management plan covering the area of the three villages that would conserve the habitat of the bamboo lemur, key to the species’ survival.

The project activities will be as follows:
- The implementation, by scientists and the local community, of the land management plan to intensify agriculture in certain areas, while conserving key areas for the lemurs.
- The improvement of agricultural production, especially through the development of ginger and coffee plantations (these products are adapted to the area and are profitable on the local market), and the setting up of a storage facility.
- The construction of infrastructures (a bridge to facilitate access to school during rainy season) and sensitization to sanitation and disease prevention.

Main achievements in 2018

Biodiversity conservation
- 60 births of greater bamboo lemurs, amounting to a population of now over 400 individuals;
- 2 guides were recruited, joining a team of 28 in total, who now monitor the 11 groups of greater bamboo lemurs and 3 other lemur species;
- 2 forest nurseries created under the reforestation project;
- Inception of a water and waste management improvement project in two camps;
- 100 school children made aware of the need for environmental protection and lemur conservation through educational workshops;
- 2 training sessions for more than 50 villagers on the protection of lemur habitat;
- 2 fire brigades created.

Economic development
- 64 beneficiary families used the improved irrigation system for rice fields for the 2018 off-season (4 times more than in 2017);
- 1 pilot rice field of 700 m² grown under improved irrigation system;
- 1 trail and 4 visits organized as part of the ecotourism project.

Social
- Inauguration of a new school building financed by the project;
- 100 people sensitized on water and waste management.
SAVING THE MALAYAN TIGER
BY RESTORING THE ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR OF SANGAI YU

Estimated at 3,000 in the 50’s, the tiger population from Malaysia is now reduced to less than 300 individuals. Due to deforestation, poaching and the construction of roads passing through primary forests, this trend is increasing.

By raising environmental awareness among local communities and by involving them in biodiversity conservation, it is possible to restore forest corridors for the benefit of both animals and people.

Full cost: **95,000 euros**
Duration: **3 years**
Start: **June 2016**

A project implemented by: [Image]
And supported by: [Image]
The site and its biodiversity

The Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*, IUCN: EN) is on the verge of extinction, with less than 300 individuals remaining. The Sungai Yu corridor is the last connection between Malaysia's two largest tiger landscapes: Main Range (20,000 km²) and Greater Taman Negara (4,343 km²), together forming the fifth largest tiger conservation zone in the world.

It also shelters several other wild animal species such as elephants, deer, leopard cats, etc.

This wildlife corridor enables migration between the two protected forests therefore contributing to the exchange of genetic material, especially between the large mammals.

**Major issues**

Today, Taman Negara forest is almost cut off from the rest of the forested landscape in the west of Malaysia, and increasingly becoming a “habitat island”.

The highway constructed between Taman Negara and Main Range constitutes an ecological bottleneck that hinders the movement of wild animals, especially of predators and their preys.

Sungai Yu ecological corridor has been created by installing a viaduct below the highway allowing wildlife passage beneath it.

Yet this long underpass cannot serve as a fully functioning eco-viaduct unless it is restored with native vegetation in order to provide a safe passage to tigers and other wildlife.

Besides, poverty level is high in the surrounding communities (about 30% of the population live below the official national poverty line) and the numerous wildlife conflicts create constant fear among these villages.

Crop and livestock loss from tigers’ attacks is a common issue and increases the risks of human encroachment onto the forests.

**Committed partners**

The Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) has been a pioneer of preservation in the country for 7 decades, due to its actions for housing environments’ conservation and environmental education.

The efforts deployed by its members, its partners and its supporters transformed MNS into a platform renowned for the protection of the natural heritage of Malaysia. MNS works hard to ensure that this heritage and the wealth of the Malaysian biological diversity are protected, well managed and kept by and for the local communities.

**The project and the prospects for change**

The project focuses on the most endangered apex predator; the Malayan Tiger.

To ensure that wildlife can cross the Sungai Yu corridor to go from one national park to another, awareness must be raised on the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Besides, local communities should be involved in monitoring and restoring the wildlife corridor to reduce poaching and human conflict with wildlife.

**Planned activities include:**

- Nurseries’ establishment and reforestation of the Sungai Yu wildlife corridor with local communities and volunteers;
- Monitoring of the corridor involving local “Tiger Watch Groups” and “Tiger Walks” with volunteers, as well as research on endangered species with the setting up of camera traps;
- Development of handicraft activities to diversify community members’ revenues;
- Awareness raising, participation and education of local communities on the importance of the wildlife corridor.

Both forest monitoring and restoration activities have the potential to boost local economy through sustainable ecotourism, nature guiding and homestay activities.

**Main achievements in 2018**

**Biodiversity conservation**

- 40 rubber producers are involved in the community action group “Friends of the Tiger” (FOT-CAG);
- 11 meetings organized in 2018 to plan patrolling activities, reforestation, and development of economic alternatives;
- 20 members regularly monitor the Sungai Yu biological corridor;
- 15 patrols conducted jointly with the MYCAT consortium;
- Workshops conducted for the use of camera traps, drones, and mapping tools;
- An additional 5 ha have been identified to improve the corridor’s forest cover;
- 9,000 plants were produced in the community nursery + 7,000 plants by the MNS team.

**Economic development**

- 6,000 seedlings were sold by the community at € 3 a piece;
- Rehabilitation of ~ 5 hectares of the corridor with 5,000 cuttings of *Gliricidia Sepium* (leguminous plant);
- Development of 2 products sourced from the Hevea tree: rubber leaf handicrafts and pastries.

**Social**

- 1,000 individuals from local communities were made aware of the objectives of the projects;
- A dozen of events organized by MNS brought awareness to 6,500 individuals.
SUPPORT ARGAN OIL PRODUCERS TO SAFEGUARD THE SAHARAN BEE

Morocco’s argan oil is very popular on the international market. The argan tree ecosystem is under constant pressure making it particularly vulnerable, which, in turn, affects the communities who make their livelihood from this tree.

Diversification of economic activities, through the development of beekeeping, is a way to address both environmental and economic issues in the region.

Full cost: 120,000 euros
Duration: 4 years
Start: April 2015
A project implemented by:
Rabat
Casablanca
Marrakech
Agadir
Western Sahara
And supported by:
Melvita
The site and its biodiversity

The project is being implemented in a UNESCO-classified biosphere reserve; the argan forest area in the Moroccan region of Souss-Tensift between Essaouira and Agadir.

The area is home to the iconic *Argania spinosa*, an endemic species from which argan oil is produced.

Argan oil is a commodity produced since antiquity and traditionally used in Morocco for cosmetic and culinary purposes.

Argan forests represent an original and unique ecosystem that holds a high cultural and heritage value.

Local communities demonstrate strong commitment to the argan tree despite all the constraints associated with its exploitation, whether natural or socio-economic.

Historically, argan forests provided honey, produced with care by a bee subspecies (*Apis mellifera sahariensis*).

This species became threatened by locust control treatments and by voluntary introduction or transhumance of Tellian bees or “black bees”.

Major issues

The argan forest ecosystem has become highly sensitive due to the loss of biodiversity, soil degradation and the overexploitation of natural resources.

In the past, this forest constituted a dense natural forest in the Mediterranean coastal area.

The preservation of this exceptional heritage that represents almost 10% of Morocco’s forest area is crucial for the ecosystem and the rural communities of the Moroccan High Atlas, and in particular women farmers, that rely on its resources.

Argan fruits produce an oil that is highly sought after on the national and international markets.

It is estimated that the argan forest region has lost half its surface area over the last century due to increasing pressure resulting from demand and human activities. Maintaining biodiversity in this environment is therefore fundamental to addressing both environmental and economic issues in the region.

Committed partners

The UCFA is the first union of women’s cooperatives in Morocco, that aims to support cooperatives by strengthening the marketing of the member cooperatives’ TISSALIWINE brand products, which cover the entire argan forest area: Agadir - Idaoutanan, Tiznit, Taroudant, Chtouka Ait Baha and Essaouira.

It supports women living in the RBA Arganeraie biosphere reserve and their families, by generating income while ensuring the supply and sale of healthy, high quality products on the national or international market.

The project and the prospects for change

The project aims to reduce pressure on the argan forest by diversifying the sources of income of argan producers, notably through the promotion of beekeeping (training in marketing).

Indeed, rural communities in southern Morocco remain poor despite the encouraging development that the argan sector brings for women in the region and honey is one of the very few other business opportunities for these communities.

As such, the development of beekeeping will diversify income while reducing pressures on the ecosystem and allowing for the replenishing of Saharan bee populations.

The project objectives are:

- To support the women who are independent honey producers in the Berber village of Tafdena (Essaouira) and to promote conservation of indigenous melliferous plants in the area;
- To develop beekeeping to enable women working for cooperatives based in Taroudant to diversify their resources;
- To boost the local economy in the village of Zaouia Nahlia by enhancing the historical and cultural heritage strongly associated with beekeeping.

Main achievements in 2018

Economic development

- Installation of 120 new colonized hives;
- Support the recolonization of 58 vacated hives;
- Support the training of women and monitoring of the collection within the 6 cooperatives;
- Organization of an exchange visit with the women of the 6 beneficiary cooperatives and the expert women beekeepers based in Ouarzazate.
ENCOURAGE WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE SALOUM DELTA

Southern Fatick region is home to some of the last wooded areas of the groundnut basin in central Senegal. Unsustainable agricultural practices, overgrazing, bush fires and abusive logging have been resulting in environmental degradation and gradual disappearance of many endemic species.

Establishing rational exploitation of natural resources and developing marketing by and for the benefit of women’s groups will reduce pressure on these areas and on the emblematic species that find their homes there.
The site and its biodiversity

Located along the Saloum Delta National Park, the site includes three classified forests (Sangako, Djilor and Keur Sambel) and community forests (Nema Bah), totalling nearly 7,000 hectares.

These forest areas are still home to unique flora and fauna that are found nowhere else in West Africa.

In addition to several endangered endemic plant species, they shelter the endangered red colobus (Simia badius, IUCN: EN), the green monkey (Chlorocebus sabaeus) and the black duiker (Cephalophus Niger).

The proximity of mangrove ecosystems located in the outskirts of the forests also make them a favourite refuge for wildlife and biodiversity that are particularly abundant in this area: Spotted Hyena (Crocuta crocuta), Warthog (Phacochoerus aethiopicus), Royal Tern (Thalasseus maximus) and Royal Stork (Ciconia nigra).

Major issues

Senegal’s population is still largely dependent on natural resources.

As two thirds of the community members living around the park live below the official poverty line, their main priority is to earn an income and to contribute to their families’ well-being even if their activities result in environmental degradation.

Slash and burn farming, extensive farming and bush fires are major plagues for these last forest patches. Soil becomes less fertile, erosion increases and desert gradually settles in.

It is really difficult to implement conservation initiatives as very often, local communities are not involved in the management processes of these areas, and forest authorities lack resources.

Thus, it is key to develop economic alternative for the local communities.

Committed partners

Nebeday is a Senegalese NGO that promotes participatory management of natural resources by and for the benefit of local communities.

Its objective is to help people protect resources and to enhance resources’ value by developing environment-friendly income-generating activities.

With the help of Man and Nature, the association has successfully worked on the Sangako classified forest in the Saloum Delta over the last three years.

Nebeday supported the formal transfer of management of the forests concerned to 15 surrounding villages (8,000 people), enhanced the value of several non-timber forests products such as straw charcoal, moringa, hibiscus, bouye coffee, honey, etc. and participated in setting up the Jappo Liggey cooperative with 850 women and provided them with equipment.

The project and the prospects for change

Neighbouring communities, including women, are aware of overexploitation of the forest and would like to make their livelihood from rational exploitation of the resources by contributing to reforestation and by working on the development of sustainable sub-sectors.

The project aims to encourage the development of women’s entrepreneurship with over 1,200 women, working on two existing sub-sectors that will be strengthened and on two new sectors that will be developed:

• Straw charcoal and moringa (Moringa oleifera). Nebeday developed an innovative technique for charcoal production that uses pyrolysis of bush straw. Collection of straw on firebreaks located on the outskirts of the forests reduces the risk of bush fires and produces an alternative fuel that is earning good reputation. At the same time, the moringa trees planted in the firebreaks and the agroforest areas provide leaves that are collected and dried to produce a powder that is sold and used mainly for malnutrition control.

• The culture of tiger nuts (Cyperus esculentus) will also be explored and agronomic tests will be conducted in view of commercialization to the cosmetics industry.

• Finally, the project should also confirm whether it is possible to conduct rational and sustainable exploitation of santang bark (Daniella thurifera).

Main achievements in 2018

Biodiversity conservation

• 2 PAG (management plans) outlined for the forests of Djilor and Sangako;

• 320,209 trees planted, with 71.01% recovery rate in Sangko and 59% in Djilor;

• 560 Moringa planted within the perimeters, and 578 in nurseries.

Economic Development

• 187 kg of Moringa powder produced, yielding 3,865€ to the women of the perimeter;

• 39 women trained during 2 training sessions on the new pyrolysis technique (Biochar) and motorized press;

• 1 solar Moringa kiln manufactured, 1 grinding room installed and equipped;

• 1 marketing strategy, implementation of tools for the marketing of products;

• 1,562 Moringa saplings recorded;

• 37 nursery workers trained;

• 30 community nurseries installed;

• More than 3,000 € turnover from the sale of Moringa in the women’s shop.

Social

• 10 monthly reunions organized to support the structuration of co-operatives.

187 kg of Moringa powder produced, yielding 3,865€ to the women of the perimeter;
On January 1, 2019, Man and Nature has merged with Noé, a non-profit public interest association created in 2001. Noé’s mission is to safeguard biodiversity in France and abroad. Noé runs programs for the conservation of endangered species and the preservation and restoration of natural habitats and Protected Areas. The association also carries out educational actions aimed at developing behavioral changes that are more respectful towards the environment.

Noé thus acquires the 8 years of Man and Nature experience in support of communities living in and around 25 Protected Areas. Noé & Man and Nature has implemented 55 projects and presents a unique skill set that covers Protected Area management, biodiversity conservation and community economic development involving civil society and the private sector.

With a cumulative budget of 1.8 million euros in 2018 dedicated to the countries of the Global South, Noé is the main French CSO dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity. At the heart of its philosophy, it implements its projects directly on the ground, or through local CSOs chosen for their legitimacy and their long-term investment in communities. It has a unique network of partner companies supporting the implementation of projects.

**PRIORITIES FOR INTERVENTION**

Noé deploys its expertise and adapts its interventions based on local stakeholders’ needs following three main areas for action:

- **Effective management of Protected Areas and conservation of threatened species.** While conservation has always been in Noé’s DNA since its inception in 2001, the organization now innovates and changes scale by starting an ambitious delegated management program of Protected Areas. In 2018 it endorsed the delegated management of the Termites Park in Niger.

- **Socioeconomic development for biodiversity.** This is the core competence brought by Man & Nature in 2019. It consists of an innovative model for biodiversity conservation based on the development of economic sectors for the benefit of local populations living in and around Protected Areas. Communities thus have an interest in protecting PAs over time, and along with them the biodiversity they contain.

- **The support of civil society.** Noé focuses on reinforcing the capacity of local civil society in order to amplify the impact of the project in the long term, and allow its local partners to be key players engaging the dialogue with public and private actors and influence biodiversity protection policies in the Global South.