



**ACTION PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF  
ELEPHANTS IN THE ZIAMA-WENEGISI  
TRANSFRONTIER CORRIDOR**  
*GUINEA - LIBERIA*



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This document is a product of a technical workshop held from 29 to 31 May 2006 in N'Zerekore (Guinea) to design an action plan for the management of the transfrontier elephant corridor Ziama -Wenegisi, located between Libéria and Guinea.

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## ACRONYMS

ACF	Agence de la Coopération Française
ACT	Action Commune des Eglises
AMEU	African Methodist Episcopal University
AFD	Agence Française pour le Développement
FWA	French West Africa
ADB	African Development Bank
WB	World Bank
HEC	Human-elephant conflict
CI	Conservation International
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
CMS	Convention on migratory species
FCZ	Forest Centre of N’Zérékoré
CU	Cuttington University
CEGENS	Environmental Centre for the Management of Mounts Nimba and Simandou
DNEF	National Directorate of Water and Forests
ECOWAS	Economic Community for West Africa States
ENATEF	National School of Technical Agents of Water and Forests
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
AfESG	IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group
GTZ	German Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agency
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
HCR	High Commission for Refugees
INADER	National Institute for Rural Development Support
IREB	Environmental Research Institute of Bossou
IRAG	Agronomic Research Institute of Guinea
KFW	German Cooperation Agency
KNCF	Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund
LFI	Liberia Forest Initiatives
MIKE	Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Éléphants
ONT	National Office of Tourism
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WFP	World Food Programme
UC	University of Conakry
EU	European Union
UL	University of Liberia
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
UNESCO	United Nations Éducation, Science and Culture Organisation

## I. INTRODUCTION

West Africa lost a great proportion of its elephant populations over the 20th century (Roth & Douglas-Hamilton, 1991), the most recent population to be extirpated being that of Assaba mountains in Mauritania in the 1980s (Douglas-Hamilton, 1979, 1992). Currently, elephant populations in the sub-region account for about 4% of the continent total of known elephants (Blanc et al, 2003)). The main causes of this population decline are usually linked to illegal killing and the loss of habitat due to the rapid human population growth and associated human activities. These problems are common to all the thirteen elephant range states in West Africa.

Against this background, there is a great need to design effective strategies for maintaining, or where possible, increasing the remaining elephant populations. Joint initiatives and close cross-border initiatives are important for the success of such strategies. The West African elephant range States are committed to conserving the remaining elephant populations. This commitment is underscored by the socio-cultural, economic and ecological value of the species for many West African communities.

Given that elephants require very large home ranges and given that most of the remaining relatively large elephant populations in West Africa traverse national boundaries of two or more countries, a tranfrontier conservation approach is urgently needed.

Recognising this need for tranfrontier conservation efforts as a key priority, the AfESG organised in June 2003, a technical workshop to help develop action plans for five of the largest remaining tranfrontier elephant ranges in West Africa. These areas include the Pendjari /W Park/ East-Burkina Faso Reserves complex (located between Burkina Faso, Benin and Niger); the Malian Gourma /Burkina Sahel zone (straddling Mali and Burkina Faso); the Nazinga/ Kabore Tambi Park/North -East Ghana and DOUNG Forest zone (located between Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo); the Bia / Goaso and Djambarangrou zone (situated between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana), as well as the Grebo national Forest / Tai Forest zone (between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire). The documents of these action plans were completed and posted on the AfESG

website (<http://iucn.org/afesg>)

The Ziama-Wenegisi tranfrontier elephant range, which is found on the border of Guinea-Conakry and Liberia, was also identified by the AfESG in 2003 as a key tranfrontier elephant population area. However, at the time no action plan for the conservation of this population could be developed owing to lack of information about the present status of elephants in this area. Recent surveys conducted by the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants Programme (MIKE) in the Ziama Forest Reserve have helped shed more light on the status of the elephant population.

The corridor concept is an idea whose time has come (Sebogo & Barnes, 2003) and provides hope for reversing the deleterious consequences of habitat fragmentation and subsequent isolation of elephant populations. Helping to secure vital space for other species that share these ecosystems with elephants greatly broadens the potential biodiversity conservation benefits of such an approach.

## II. BACKGROUND ON THE STATUS OF ELEPHANT MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

### 2.1 Management issues

West Africa has the privilege of hosting populations of both sub-species of African elephant, namely the savannah elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*) and the forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*). Some scientists believe that the West African elephant may be a different sub-species *Loxodonta africana occidentalis* (Eggert and al., 2002). In classical times, these elephants were distributed from the West African coast up to the fringes of the current Sahara desert (Scullard, 1974). In the 19th century, elephants suffered high levels of illegal killing for ivory, which was initially traded across the Sahara to the North Africa harbours (Wilson & Ayerst, 1976) and at a later stage towards the Atlantic coasts to be sold to European merchants. Ivory trade continued to grow gradually until 1910 when the elephant population collapsed following overexploitation (Roth & Douglas-Hamilton, 1991).

During the 20th century, human population

growth and ensuing developments, such as urbanization, imposed a great demand for land for human activities. This need was met largely at the expense of elephant populations whose range shrunk by nearly 90% during this time period (Roth & Douglas-Hamilton, 1991). These historical factors combined with lack of capacity and resources for conservation and management, have left West African elephant populations in a uniquely vulnerable position. Other main features posing major conservation and management challenges include:

- The geographical distribution of elephant populations: the most viable elephant population ranges are located at national borders. More than half of the forest elephant and two thirds of savannah elephant populations are transfrontier in nature (Blanc et al., 2003);
- The degradation and loss of habitats as a result of a wide range of human activities;
- Illegal killing of elephants exacerbated by lack of capacity for law enforcement and surveillance, widespread availability and cross-border supply of firearms and poor control of internal trade in ivory and other elephant products;
- Lack of management capacity characterised by inadequate skills and financial resources to undertake and implement sustainable elephant management programmes. Most government institutions lack trained staff, logistics and equipment and suffer from the absence of a legislation addressing the current issue of elephant conservation;
- The genetic uniqueness of the West African elephant: while African elephants are divided into two distinct sub-species, the savannah elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*) and the forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), new ongoing genetic studies suggest that West African elephants are different from the other African elephant populations (Eggert et al., 2002). In case scientific research confirms this assumption, there may be long-term implications for conservation and management;
- Human-elephant conflict resulting from a combination of the factors outlined above and especially problematic in West Africa as a result of the high degree of habitat loss and fragmentation, and the subsequent competition between elephants and man for space and resources.

## 2.2 Sub-regional Initiatives

In light of the above, elephant conservation and management in West Africa would greatly benefit from joint efforts at a sub-regional scale, both to address problems common to all countries as well as to pool available resources. The following collaborative initiatives involving two or more countries have already been developed and are being implemented by the respective range states:

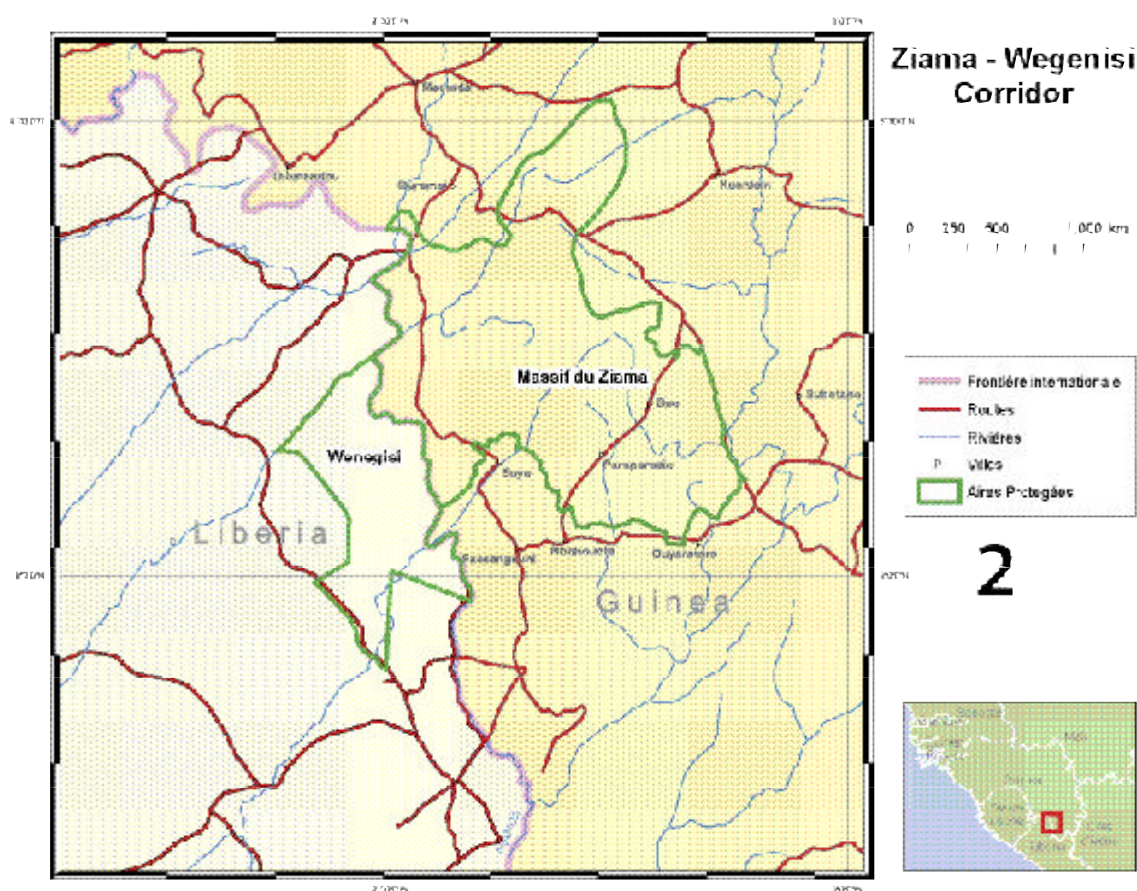
1. Development of a sub-regional strategy for elephant conservation in West Africa in February 1999, which was revised in March 2005. This strategy has become a reference tool for the development of elephant conservation projects and programmes throughout the sub-region.
2. Drafting of an inter-state Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the conservation of West African elephants, which was signed into effect in November 2005 by twelve of the thirteen elephant range states in the sub-region. This MoU was negotiated under the aegis of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in collaboration with the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
3. Preparation of the five action plans (see introduction above) for the management of the trans-frontier elephant conservation and migratory corridors in West Africa in June 2003 with financial assistance of the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) of Conservation International and the Ziama-Wenegisi action plan which is currently being finalized.
4. Preparation and implementation of major transfrontier elephant management programmes between Mali and Burkina Faso and between Burkina Faso and Ghana. These programmes are financed by the Global Environment Facility through the Partnership Project on the Improvement of Natural Ecosystem Management in Burkina Faso, the Elephant and Biodiversity Management project in Mali, and the North East Savannah Biodiversity Conservation Project in Ghana.
5. Ongoing efforts to establish a consultative framework between Burkina Faso and Ghana for the management of the Ghana -Burkina transfrontier elephant corridor. A consultation framework was

put in place at the local level in Burkina Faso in December 2005.

### III. DESCRIPTION OF THE CORRIDOR

The Ziama - Wenegisi corridor includes the Ziama classified forest in Guinea and the Wenegisi natural forest reserve in Liberia, contiguous forest blocks shared between Guinea and Liberia. (See map 1 below). Migration of elephants from Wenegisi to Ziama was noted during the war in Liberia (Sambolah, 2005).

*Map 1: Ziama-Wenegisi Corridor*



#### 3.1 The Ziama classified forest

##### 3.1.1 Geographical location

The Ziama forest was classified by decision n° 3272/SE/F of the Governor of French West Africa (FWA) on 12/9/1942 (National Directorate of Water and Forests, Gazetting Decree) and declared as biosphere reserve on

February 17th, 1981 by UNESCO. It is located between North latitudes 8° 03' and 8° 32' and between West longitudes 9° 08' and 9° 32', near the Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire dense rain forest. It covers an area of 1190 Km². It is characterised by a very uneven relief at the local level interspersed with several ponds.

The climate is moist tropical type with annual rainfall of about 2700 mm and some 170 days of

rain. The rainy season lasts from March to November. Ambient moisture ranges from 81% to 96%. The Ziama area with its combination of hilly landscape and high natural precipitation, plays a key function in the hydrographical system of the region.

The forest is of the dense evergreen type, divided into 50.5% of dense forest, 35.5% of medium forest, 7.0% of clear forest and 6.9% of non-wooded surface area (Atlanta consult, 1989 and PROGERFOR, 1994) and extends over a Precambrian granite base.

### 3.1.2 Biological resources

In terms of biodiversity, the Ziama classified forest features among the most important forest blocks in the entire Upper Guinea forest. It is one of the last refuges for certain rare, threatened or vulnerable species. Surveys of flora and fauna species conducted by the N'Zerekore forest centre have given the following findings:

- Flora
  - ⇒ Trees and small trees: 654 species.
  - ⇒ Grass: 652 species
- Fauna
  - ⇒ Birds: 353 species
  - ⇒ Reptiles: 62 species
  - ⇒ Fish: 15 species

(Source: survey reports, N'zerekore Forest Centre)

### 3.2 The Wenegisi natural forest reserve

The Wenegisi natural forest reserve is located in northeast Liberia in the Zorzor zone, at the border with Guinea. It is adjacent to the Ziama classified forest. It covers an area of 714 Km<sup>2</sup> (Sambolah, 2006). The Wenegisi forest is recognised as having the same climate and ecological characteristics as the Ziama forest. However, because of the last 14 years of civil war, there have been no recent studies and there is inadequate information on the current status of the biodiversity of this area.

## IV. CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS

As part of the long-term management of the Ziama -Wenegisi elephant corridor, some initiatives have been developed in recent years. These

efforts have focused mostly on the Guinean side of the border, Liberian efforts being curtailed by the long standing socio-political instability.

### 4.1. Guinean efforts

#### 4.1.1 Elephant monitoring

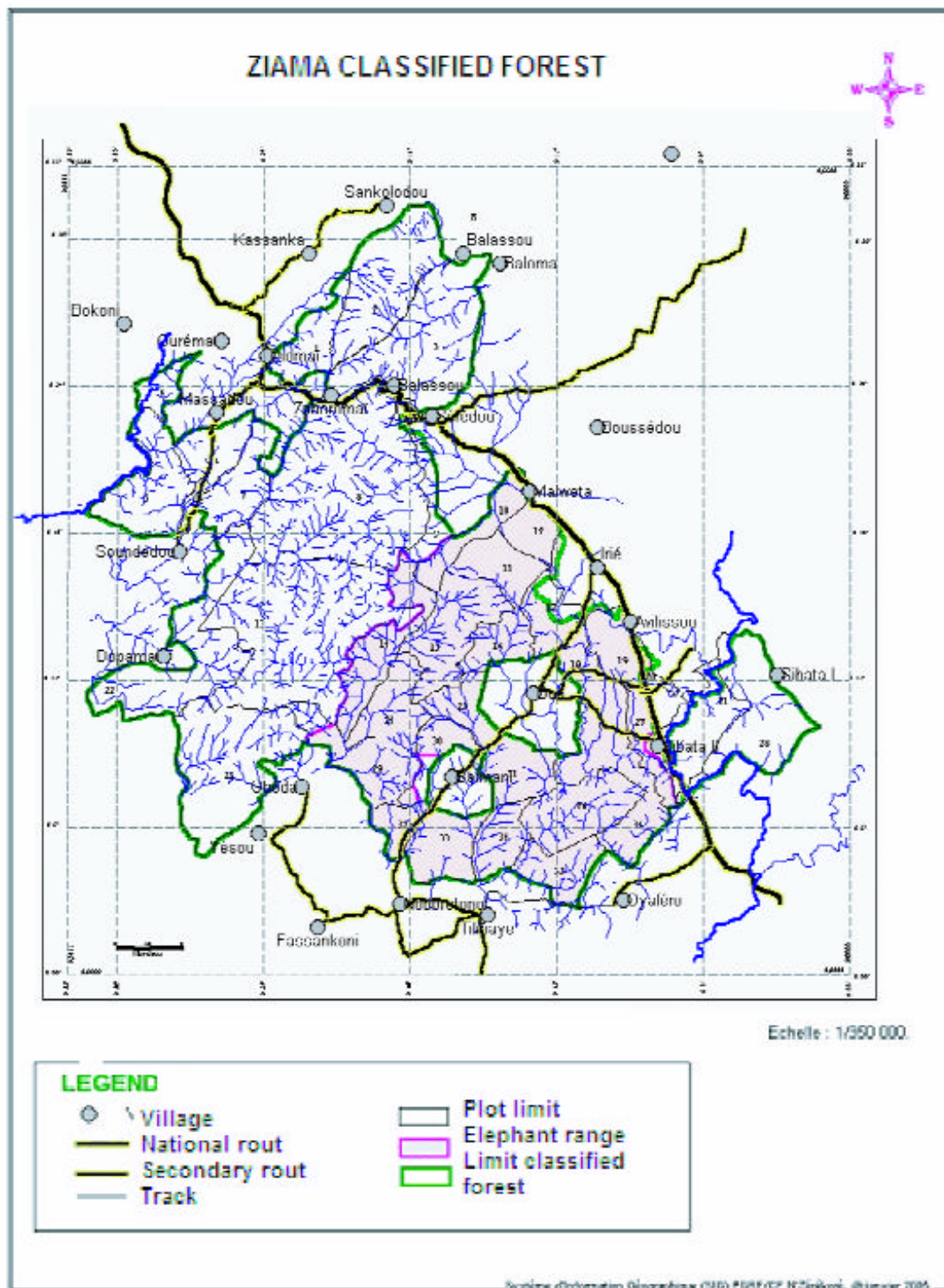
Though other research activities are yet to be developed, efforts have made towards a relative understanding of elephants status in Ziama.

The presence of the elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) in Ziama, was first confirmed during the colonial period and it is believed that both the Savannah Elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*) and Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) occur there (Roca et al, 2001). The Ziama massif, one of the last two remaining moist forests in Guinea, is probably the country's only remaining range with viable elephant population (Blanc et al, 2002). Most recently, various surveys conducted by the Forestry Centre of N'Zerekore with the support of external experts and the MIKE programme have yielded the following results:

1991 : 108 elephants (WWF)  
 2000 : 200 -//- (Dr Wilfried Bützler and Cece Papa Condé)  
 2004 : 214 -//- (Dr Richard Barnes and Nandjui Awo of MIKE)

Based on the above figures, one cannot make comparison or draw conclusions as the estimates were made using different methods. However, some observers believe that the majority of Ziama elephants presumably came from Liberia from where they migrated during the civil war in the country. These elephants do not occupy all the surface area of the forest (See elephant distribution, map.2). They are distributed in the south half, spreading over a surface area of 452 Km<sup>2</sup> (Richard Barnes, Nandjui Awo, 2005).

*Map 2: Elephants Distribution in Ziama*



An anti-poaching strategy was also developed through the establishment of surveillance units with the financial support of KFW. Surveillance patrols are frequently organised with the participation of local communities. In the light of information drawn from monitoring reports of the Forestry Centre (shown below), elephant poaching occurs in the area.

□ The number of elephants killed per village from 1994 to 2005 is summarised in the following table:

Fassankoni	Gboda	Noborotono	Tilibay	Bôo	Malwéta	Irié
3	2	1	1	2	1	4

Source : 1994-2005 Damage Evaluation Report, CFZ

There is no elephant-specific conservation programmes in the area apart from the on-going

MIKE monitoring programme.

#### 4.1.2 Approaches to the resolution of Human-elephant conflict

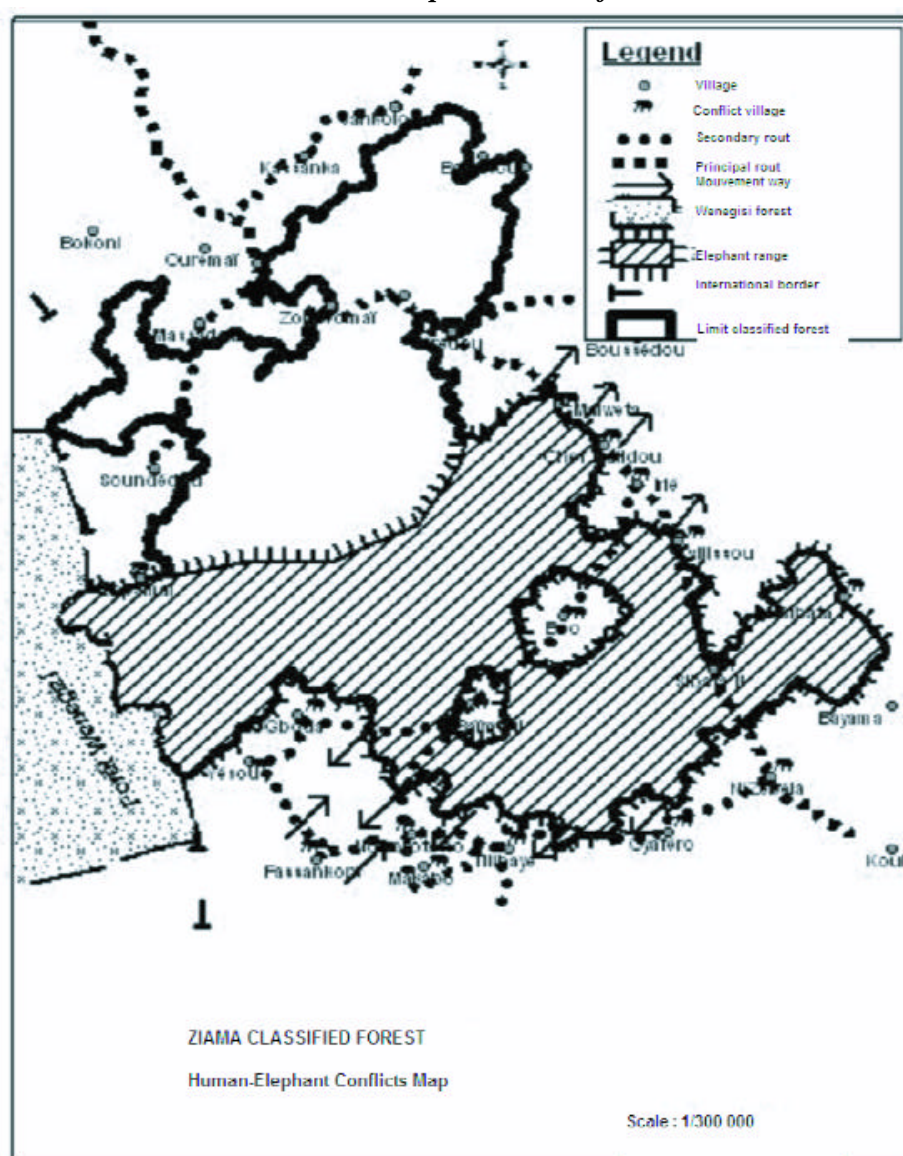
Human-elephant conflict is one of the major constraints noted by local services in the area of elephant management. Out of the twenty-six villages surrounding the forest, eighteen

(see map 3 below) experience crop raiding by elephants on a regular basis (Conde, 2005).

Conflict is mainly of two origins: damage caused by elephants to farmers' plantations and the loss of human lives. The Guinean Government has geared up efforts towards finding solutions to conflict

problems, notably through assessments and setting up of a monitoring system with the actual involvement of the communities concerned.

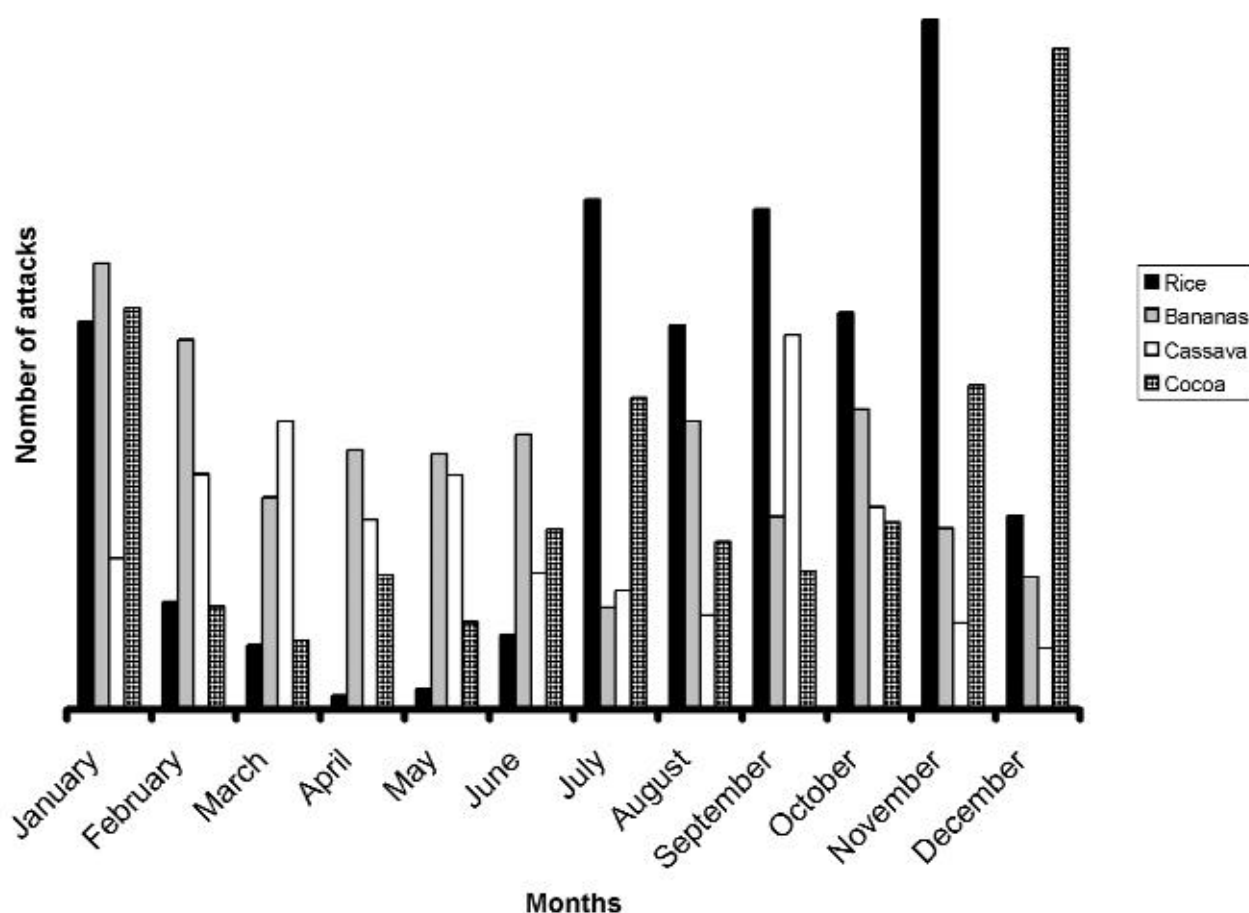
*Map 3: HEC conflicts distribution*



#### □ Assessment of damage

Damage to crops caused by elephants is a relatively new phenomenon but seems to have escalated beyond control between 1994 and 2005. In collaboration with the technical departments of Agriculture, several investigations have been conducted on the frequency of crop-raiding incidents. The crops affected are mainly rice, cassava, cocoa and banana (see fig.1).

**Fig.1 : Summary of crop raiding from 1994 to 2005**  
(Source, evaluation reports, CFZ)



Damage is not always material, and sometimes also results in human casualties. Over the 1994-2005 period, elephants have caused the loss of ten human lives in seven villages around the forest as summarized below.

**Deadly accidents:** (Source, Evaluation reports, CFZ)

Fassankoni	Gboda	Noborotono	Tilibay	Bôo	Malwéta	Irié
1	1	2	1	2	2	1

#### □ Deterrent Programme

This programme was put in place in 1994 and consists of a system run by affected communities.

These communities monitor and manage information relating to elephant crop raiding.

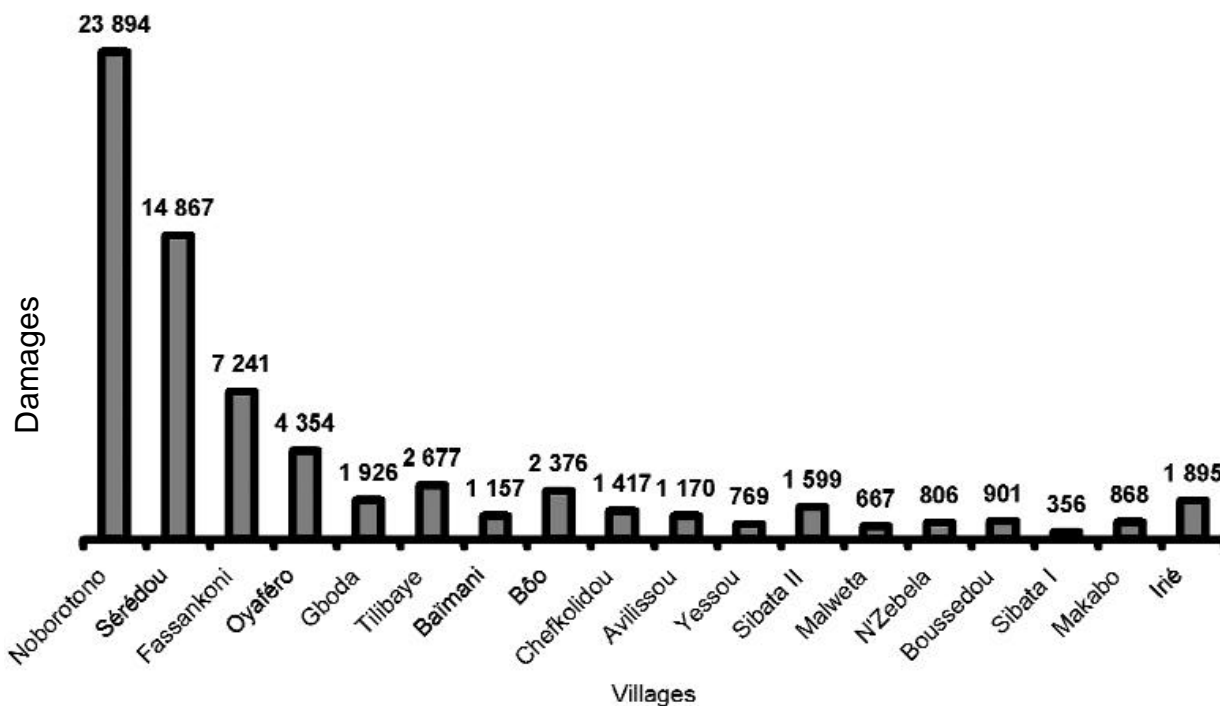
In organizational terms, local villagers have formed Crop Safeguard and Protection Committees (CSPC) composed of nine members including a representative of the local administration. These

Committees have evolved into Human-Elephant Cohabitation Committees comprised of five members from communities and two representatives from the administration. These committees are present in the eighteen villages affected by elephant damages. The Committees are responsible for organizing the management of human-elephant conflicts with the assistance of the

administration.

The Committees operate through an information system put in place as a conflict-monitoring tool. When raiding by elephants occurs in the fields, the victims inform the Cohabitation Committee, which in turn sends the information to the relevant authorities. Local mitigation efforts practiced to deter elephants from entering field include use of fire, making noise, disturbance shooting, and driving away elephants. (See Figure 2 for a summary of damage incidents reported by village).

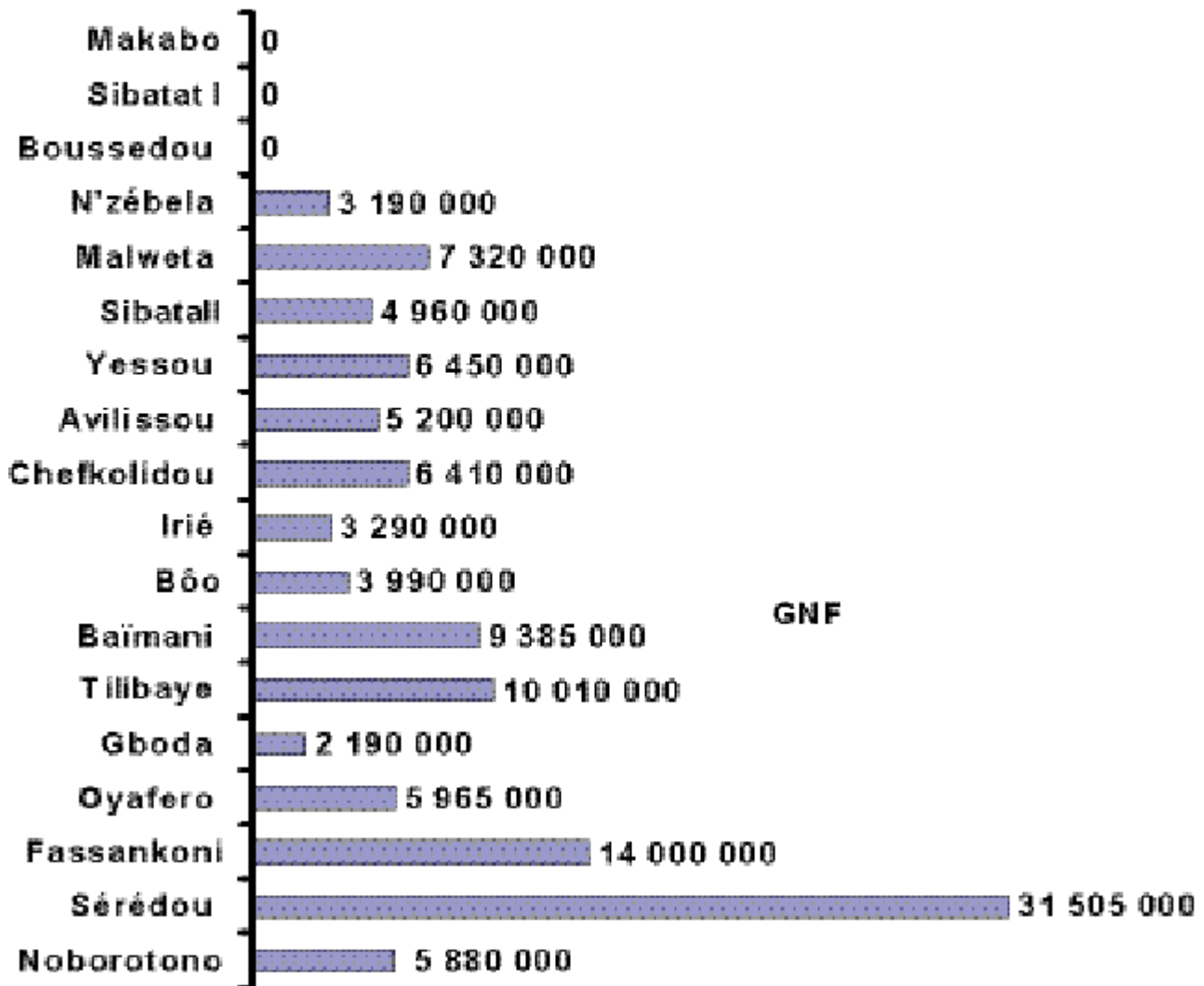
**Fig 2: Number of damage incidents by elephants declared per village between 1994 and 2005**  
(Source, evaluation reports, CFZ)



#### □ Mechanism to assist victims of damages

The Cohabitation Committees have put in place a self-insurance system to assist farmers affected by elephant damage. This system functions using bank accounts, which are opened and managed by the Committees themselves. Funds are deposited by the farmers in each village. The local administration also contributes to replenishing the accounts. In case of an incident, the Committees make an evaluation of the extent of the damage and assist the person affected in proportion to the level of the damage and depending on the resources available. This is applicable only to individuals who have accepted to contribute to the accounts (see Fig 3.)

*Fig 3 : Amount allocated to victims per village in 2005  
(Amount in Guinean Franc)*



#### **4.2. Liberian Efforts**

While successive Liberian governments have recognized the ecological value of the Wenegisi forest area, no particular efforts have been undertaken so far to protect the area because of the long-running civil war. However, a rapid survey of the fauna in Wenegisi was conducted during 2002-2005 (Sambolah, 2005). This survey was aimed at collecting information and signs of pre-

sence of fauna species and making a comprehensive appraisal of the integrity of the ecosystem. The survey indicated that the Wenegisi forest has remained relatively intact and that the majority of Liberian fauna species is represented in this forest (Sambolah, 2005). Human settlements and poaching are the main threats. In fact, it appears from the information gathered that intense poaching is going on in the forest. An eminent hunter named Kollie has declared having killed

nearly thirty elephants between 2000 and 2002, and another hunter said he killed about ten elephants between 2000 and 2005 (Report by Richard Sambolah, 2006). Based on the study conducted, the Liberian authorities have decided to gazette the forest as a national park; the process is underway at present (Sambolah, 2006).

## V. THREATS IDENTIFIED

Despite the efforts made by the two range states, many threats that could in the long-term affect the viability of elephant populations and the existence of conservation areas of the corridor still persist. Most of these are due to anthropogenic factors, but some are linked to the absence of a sound ecosystem management policy because of factors beyond the control of the relevant authorities, such as civil war and lack of management capacity. The main threats identified include the following:

- Human-elephant conflict
- Lack of benefits derived from elephants for socio-economic development
- Absence of concerted management actions for the corridor
- Inadequate knowledge of the status of elephants and their habitats
- Inadequate operational capacity by the wild life authorities
- Illegal killing

## VI. STRATEGIC OPTIONS

Guinea and Liberia have both put in place national strategies for the conservation of their elephant populations. While such strategies deal with the problems in a much wider framework as they address the issue at the country level and not at the level of a particular site, the action plan appears as an operational tool for the implementation of these strategies. This plan will help to achieve the objectives of these strategies, specifically by taking into consideration the management priorities of the Ziama and Wenegisi sites. The actions that were identified constitute a res-

ponse to the threats identified and directly relate to the objectives and goals of the strategies.

For every action identified in this Action Plan, a description is made to support the relevance of the action (see below the section on the justification of actions). One or several actions may contribute to resolving a problem. The activities to be implemented in order to achieve the action, as well as the methods of implementation are described (see logical framework, §6.2 ). Performance indicators have been developed to measure progress with the implementation of the activities. One or more indicators may serve to measure progress in the implementation of a given activity.

### 6.1 Actions to be undertaken

#### Action 1 : Mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict

##### *Justification*

Human-elephant conflict is a major concern for the local populations residing in the elephant corridor area, especially on the side of the Ziama reserve. Conflicts seldom occur in the Wenegisi side. Frequent crop raiding causes considerable loss of daily income of the farmers who are already poor and depend mostly on agriculture. These conflicts generate ill feeling by the communities towards the pachyderms and in the long term, this may jeopardize the mobilization of the population around the conservation of this species unless appropriate measures are put in place to curb raiding by elephants. The political authorities have indeed taken steps and local communities themselves have got involved by setting up conflict resolution committees and an insurance scheme to assist victims of elephant damage. However, much more comprehensive and integrated initiatives to back local efforts would be helpful. One of the possible causes of damage is the closeness of farms to elephant range areas which provide the main interface at which conflict occurs. This can be corrected through a better land use planning. Nevertheless, the location of human settlements cannot be the only reason for damage. To better understand the main factors, it is also important to make a link between the frequency and severity of damage and some other parameters such as the surface area of fields, the location of fields in relation to other

fields and crop varieties (Barnes et al, 2005). To understand the phenomenon as a whole, including its spatial and temporal characteristics, a detailed study on the main causes of conflict is needed and this requires regular monitoring for a given number of years of sample fields, including non-raided fields. This would help to further understand the reasons why certain fields are raided more than others. Suggestions to mitigate conflicts are made and the expertise and tools of the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group are available for the implementation of such suggestions (see table 1 Action 1).

## **Action 2 : Development and implementation of a strategy to increase benefits derived from elephants to local communities**

### *Justification*

One of the current issues that affect conservation in general and elephant conservation in particular, is the lack of interest often shown by the local population and policy makers. This lack of interest is due partly to the lack of benefits, especially financial profit, derived from the existence of elephants. While farmers experience on a regular basis, damage caused by the pachyderms in their settlements and thus bear all the costs of living with elephants they seldom receive any of the benefit. Given that this corridor is among the richest ecosystems in West Africa in terms of biodiversity, with a sizeable elephant population in the West African context, promoting eco-tourism with the elephant as an entry point may be one strategy that could contribute to optimally enhance the value of the species. However, it should be mentioned that there is no accommodation infrastructure to host the tourists on the site. In addition, Ziama is located at 1000 km away from Conakry, the probable entry point of visitors. The trip by road is very long and tiresome, especially when one has to travel in one day. Airline connections are not regular. In this light, to make Ziama a viable tourism destination, accommodation infrastructures should be built for tourists en route from Conakry as well as in the Reserve itself, alongside with the development of cultural and handicraft tourism. These suggestions should be taken into consideration among other things, when developing a strategy to promote tourism. (see table 2, action 2)

## **Action 3 : Improving knowledge about the elephant population**

### *Justification*

The best options for the management of the corridor and its resources should be guided by reliable scientific and socio-economic data. Though baseline information on the numbers and distribution of elephants is available in the Ziama side, such data are virtually non-existent for the natural forest reserve of Wenegisi. No scientific data are available on the elephant numbers and distribution throughout the corridor. Similarly, data on elephant seasonal movements, potentially between the two entities of the corridor, are not available. Furthermore, information on the state of the elephant habitats and their use does not exist at present. This baseline information and many more data are required to guide management options. Considerable efforts should be made to collect information on the entire area and not just in the Ziama portion of the transfrontier range. Recommended approaches to collect such information have been summarized in table 3, Action 3.

## **Action 4 : Improving management capacity**

### *Justification*

Capacity building occurs at three levels: human, material and financial. The two countries concerned with the management of the corridor lack adequate human resources for management. Though efforts have been made to transfer conservation staff to Ziama from other parts of Guinea, these transfers have been inadequate in number and the staff transferred does not often have the required technical knowledge. On the Wenegisi side, no staff is present at all. In the majority of cases, this lack of capacity requires the involvement of foreign experts. Therefore, the technical staff needs to be appropriately trained to be able to respond to the current management requirements. Similarly, the equipment necessary to conduct effective field surveillance and monitoring is insufficient in Ziama and completely lacking in Wenegisi. Furthermore, given the budgetary constraints and the socio-political unrest over the past ten years, the two countries do not have financial resources to purchase basic equipment. As a result, key management components, such as surveillance, programme

development, research, monitoring and many other components are adversely affected. Some suggested approaches to address these issues are outlined in table 4, action 4.

### **Action 5: Protecting elephants against poaching**

#### *Justification*

Elephant poaching is one of the most direct threats, and in the absence of effective anti-poaching measures, can lead to the disappearance of an elephant population in a relatively short period of time. Small populations such as the one in Ziama-Wenegisi numbering approximately 214 elephants in Ziama (Barnes & Awo, 2006) and thirty elephants on the Wenegisi side (Sambolah, 2006) are particularly vulnerable to extinction. Poaching is exacerbated by the uncontrolled flow of war arms following the civil war in Liberia during the past decade. Over the years, the corridor area has become an unsafe zone, used by refugees fleeing the war in Liberia and arm traffickers. The political and social instability, and associated lack of control of illegal activities in both countries, puts elephants at risk. In addition, legislation governing elephant conservation, drafted during or before political independence, is out of date and no longer suitable in the current context. There is also very little awareness of the regulations that are currently in force. Although both countries are signatories to the Convention on Illegal Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), very few provisions have been made to control domestic unregulated ivory trade, identified recently as a major factor driving illegal killing of elephants (Hunter and al., 2004). An approach taking on board concerns that can be resolved within the framework of this action plan is provided in table 5, action 5.

### **Action 6 : Creation of a consultation framework between Guinea and Liberia for the management of the corridor**

#### *Justification*

Liberia and Guinea have similar problems concerning the management of their elephant populations and need to coordinate their efforts towards the conservation of the Ziama-Wenegisi corridor. The institutions in charge of wildlife

management in both countries need to share views on key issues such as transfrontier poaching, the control of cross-border ivory trafficking. A consultation framework between the technical staff of the two countries would be useful for an exchange of views, but also for promoting a consistency in the implementation of conservation activities. Such a consultation framework would help to develop a common vision for the management of the corridor and would probably raise more donor interest in supporting the initiatives that will be launched. A consultation framework is also advisable to support the implementation of the sub-regional agreement on the conservation of elephants in West Africa, signed in November 2005. The AfESG may be able to assist such efforts by facilitating dialogue and contacts (See Table 6, Action 6.)

### **Action 7: Harmonization of management approaches and tools**

#### *Justification*

Given the transborder movement of elephants between the two sides of the border, it is necessary to manage the entire ecosystem as a single entity with collaborative management approaches and tools, including harmonized legislation concerning key issues such as protection status. An inappropriate management approach developed in either country can easily affect elephants throughout the corridor because of transfrontier movements. The two countries therefore need to harmonize management programmes and tools and make them consistent. More particularly, the legislation on elephant conservation and habitat management should be updated and harmonized. Intervention methods should also be made coherent to make sure that the same initiatives are developed in both Ziama and Wenegisi. In this regard, an action is being suggested (see Table 7, action 7)

## 6.2 Logical framework

**Table 1 Action 1 : Mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict**

Activities	Implementation method	Expected results	Performance indicators
Studying the causes of conflict	<p>Undertake a literature review, especially through an assessment of available documents and reports</p> <p>Monitor damages in sample fields during a minimum period of three years</p> <p>Conduct surveys or investigations on human elephant conflict, using AfESG data collection protocols</p> <p>Organize meetings with victims to collect their views on the causes and extent of elephant damages</p> <p>Consult field-based project staff on elephant damages assessment</p> <p>Evaluate the crop species most vulnerable to elephant predation</p>	A better understanding of the factors driving crop-raiding is achieved	A HEC monitoring programme is put in place and is operational by 2007
Developing human-elephant conflict mitigation approaches	<p>Train local farmers on elephant deterrent methods</p> <p>Develop active and passive measures against damages to crops</p> <p>Enhance traditional methods for controlling damages to crops</p> <p>Improve existing conflict resolution mechanisms</p> <p>Develop a policy for land use planning</p> <p>Promote development of income generating activities</p>	<p>Losses of crops due to elephant damages are reduced</p> <p>Human-elephant co-existence is improved</p> <p>Local communities adhere to elephant conservation</p>	<p>Elephant raids into farms are reduced by 50% in 5 years</p> <p>At least 60% of the population concerned have developed a more positive vision of elephants within 5 years</p> <p>At least 5 conflicts mitigation strategies are tested within 5 years</p>

**Table 2 Action 2 :** *Development and implementation of a strategy to increase benefits derived from elephants to local communities*

Activities	Implementation method	Expected results	Performance indicators
Identifying elephant range	Elephant population surveys  Collect from local people information relating to elephant range and their period of presence	Elephant range is identified	A timetable of elephant presence is established in at least 3 zones within 5 years
Developing zones for elephant tourism	Creation of observation miradors  Development of areas for camping purposes  Establishment of a tourist circuit	Elephant observation zones are made available	At least 2 observation zones are developed within 5 years in every identified site
Sensitising private operators to invest in eco-tourism	Contacting hotels  Identifying potential private sector operators in the tourism industry  Setting up an office for tourism operators  Promotion of study trips to tourist sites in Africa	Investment in tourism is increased	At least 70% of the required infrastructures are made available within 10 years
Developing partnerships between tourism operators and local communities	Identify potential tourist guides amongst local communities  Organisation of training sessions for tourist guides and operators  Organisation of study and exchange of experience trips  Establishment of service delivery contracts between guides and private operators  Establishment of a distribution system of income generated from tourism with the local population	Capacity in tourism sector is developed.  Collaboration is established among actors of the tourism sector	100% of tourist guides identified have participated in at least 2 training sessions within 5 years  A collaboration contract among different actors is established for every site within 5 years
Promoting eco-tourism	Conduct of a publicity campaign on elephants, using national and international medias  Production of leaflets, posters and projection of films  Identification of a locality and creation of a tourist stop-over facility half way between Ziama and Conakry  Building of suitable tourist infrastructures in the villages and the reserve	The number of visitors of elephants increasing year by year	At least 50 tourists visit the corridor per year as from 2010  Increase in tourist earnings by 30% by year 5 and by 100% by year 10

**Table 3 Action 3 : Improving knowledge about the elephant population**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Implementation method</b>	<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Performance indicators</b>
	Capitalising on existing information  Establishment of a comprehensive elephant research programme	Knowledge of the status of elephants and their habitats is improved	At least one survey using the MIKE method is conducted every two years
Collecting information necessary for management	Identify collaborative research institutions at the national and international levels  Establish partnerships with research institutions and independent experts  Search for the required technical documentation  Implementation of the research programme		2 research projects are implemented every year  At least 2 articles are published per year on elephants
Putting in place a database on elephants	Identification of needs in terms of human resources and logistics  Acquisition of materials for the creation of the database  Training of a database manager	A functional database is made available	60% of scientific information requests are met within 5 years and 80% within 10 years

**Table 4 Action 4 : Improving management capacity**

Activities	Implementation method	Expected results	Performance indicators
Ensuring the training of technical staff	<p>Identify training needs and staff to be trained</p> <p>Identify training topics</p> <p>Identify training schools at the national and international levels</p> <p>Establish a training programme</p> <p>Make available appropriate technical documents for the use of staff</p> <p>Facilitate the registration and participation of staff in specialized courses in the area of wildlife management</p> <p>Organize seminars and training sessions with assistance of national and international experts</p> <p>Organize study trips</p>	Technical capacities of staff are improved	<p>At least 2 training sessions for the technical staff are organized per year.</p> <p>At least 5 people per year have attended specialized courses on wildlife management</p>
Ensuring the training of local communities	<p>Organize communities into associations or use committees already in place</p> <p>Identify and define training needs</p> <p>Identify trainers and hold training sessions</p>	Community participation in management activities is further strengthened	At least 10 villagers in every village participate in a training session per year
Acquiring necessary equipment for conservation and management	<p>Carry out an inventory of existing equipment</p> <p>Identify additional equipment required</p> <p>Evaluate the cost</p> <p>Request support from the national budget or from donors to order equipment.</p>	The equipment needed to carry out routine conservation and management is made available	The required basic equipment for the management is made available at 80% in 5 years and 100% in 10 years

**Table 5 Action 5 : Securing elephants against poaching**

Activities	Implementation method	Expected results	Performance indicators
Raise awareness of legislation governing the protection of elephants and the control of ivory trade	<p>Identify target population</p> <p>Make copies of relevant texts</p> <p>Organize information and sensitisation meetings at the local level and in urban centres</p> <p>Publish information through national medias</p> <p>Organize TV and radio discussions on relevant topics</p>	<p>Awareness of key legislation is improved at the national level</p>	<p>At least 5 TV and radio programmes are broadcasted every year during 5 years</p> <p>50% of the target population is aware of the law on elephant protection within 5 years</p>
Strengthen surveillance capacity	<p>Identify potential surveillance staff</p> <p>Train surveillance staff in anti-poaching techniques</p> <p>Set up surveillance teams constituted by technical staff in every site</p> <p>Create informer networks in the surrounding villages</p> <p>Acquire surveillance equipment</p> <p>Organize joint patrols and law enforcement activities</p> <p>Create a cross-border intelligence network on poaching and ivory trade</p> <p>Prepare and implement sensitisation activities on poaching</p>	<p>Pressure on elephants and their habitats is alleviated.</p> <p>The capacity of surveillance staff is improved</p> <p>Information on poaching is collected on a regular basis using MIKE methods</p>	<p>At least 4 joint patrols are organized every year in Liberia and Guinea.</p> <p>A surveillance brigade is put in place and is operational in every local community within 5 years</p> <p>At least 2 training sessions are organized per year for surveillance teams and village brigades</p>

**Table 6 Action 6 :** *Creation of a consultation framework between Guinea and Liberia for the management of the corridor*

Activities	Implementation method	Expected results	Performance indicators
Organize a consultation meeting	<p>Appoint focal points for the management of the corridor in Liberia and in Guinea</p> <p>Define the terms of reference of the two focal points</p> <p>Select the country for organizing the meeting</p> <p>Identify participants of the consultation meeting in each of the two countries</p> <p>Determine the venue of the meeting</p> <p>Define a funding mechanism for the meeting</p> <p>Identify a facilitator for the meeting</p> <p>Prepare the agenda of the meeting including the creation of the framework as an agenda item</p>	A consultation framework between Liberia and Guinea is put in place for the management of the corridor	The conclusions of the meeting are disseminated in the two countries and to all stakeholders concerned 3 months after the meeting
Formalize the consultation framework	<p>Define the terms of reference and the mechanism of funding for the consultation framework</p> <p>Draft a memorandum of understanding for the operation of the consultative framework and negotiate its signature by relevant authorities in both countries</p> <p>Disseminate relevant documents in the two countries and to all relevant stakeholders</p>	Official documents of the consultation framework are made available	Periodical meetings as part of the management of the corridor take place at least twice per year as of 2008

**Table 7 Action 7: Harmonization of management approaches and tools**

Activities	Implementation methods	Expected results	Performance indicators
Finalize national strategies for elephant management in Guinea and Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect the conclusions of national strategy development workshops</li> <li>Identify competent experts to write and /or edit strategy documents</li> <li>Print and disseminate strategy documents</li> <li>Present strategies to donors involved</li> </ul>	Reference documents are made available for elephant project and programme preparation	Liberia and Guinea have each a national elephant strategy in 2007
Implement national strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify activities relating to the management of corridors in the strategies</li> <li>Prepare a joint programme for implementing the action plan</li> <li>Identify internal and external funding sources and submit the programme to donors</li> <li>Raise the necessary funds</li> <li>Define a coordinated implementation mechanism</li> <li>Prepare a joint timeline for the programme implementation</li> <li>Organize joint workshops to measure progress in implementation</li> </ul>	A management programme is put in place and implemented	At least 3 corridor management projects are under implementation in 2 years
Harmonize legislation governing the management of the corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect existing documentation on Wenegisi and Ziama and analyse it</li> <li>Revise existing laws relating to elephant conservation</li> <li>Organize a workshop to discuss harmonization of relevant legislation</li> <li>Update relevant legislation</li> <li>Encourage the adoption of legislation by relevant authorities</li> </ul>	Harmonized legislation for the corridor is made available and applicable	Relevant legislation for the management of the corridor are jointly adopted by the two countries before 5 years

## VII. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### 7.1 Concerned sites

The implementation of the action plan will take place in two sites of the corridor, namely Wenegisi in Liberia, Ziama in Guinea as well as their peripheral zones. The implementation of the activities on the sites will be coordinated by focal points that will be appointed under the supervision of Directors in charge of wildlife conserva-

tion. The actual involvement of NGOs and local communities as well as partner institutions that are actively operational is required to undertake the identified actions.

### 7.2 Funding mechanism

The implementation of the action plan will require mobilization of funds to carry out the activities. In this connection, a big forum of partners will be organized to present the action plan

once the document is available. This forum will have the following objectives among others:

- To bring together technical and funding partners around the issue of the management of the Ziama - Wenegisi corridor elephants
- Present the activities in the action plan requiring technical and financial support
- Canvass the interest among partner agencies in supporting the action plan

Each of the two States should appoint a focal point that is essentially in charge of strengthening collaboration for the implementation of the action plan.

Project proposals will be developed by the focal points, with support from the technical partners, and submitted to donors.

In addition to external financial assistance, certain activities are planned to be included in the routine programme activities of government ins-

titutions and will be registered as budget contributions from the States.

Grants obtained from NGOs and conservation organizations, as well as funds available in wildlife departments that have already received partner support, will be used for implementation of the activities.

### ***7.3 Actors and their roles in the implementation***

The implementation of the action plan requires the involvement of several stakeholders with a wide range of skills. Some of these actors are already active in the field and others that may be able to contribute to the implementation of the action plan have been identified. Rather than listing the large number of potential stakeholders individually, these were categorized in broad groupings in the following table.

<b>Types of actors</b>	<b>Roles</b>
Political actors	Give the required political support and create an enabling environment for the implementation of the activities, notably by adopting the action plan and endorsing its implementation to development partners.
The Ministry for Water and Forestry and partner Ministries	Government departments in charge of wildlife should coordinate the implementation of the action plan in collaboration with decentralized services of other technical ministries. In addition, they are responsible for raising funds.
Decentralized structures	Integrate the wildlife reserve management dimension into the overall land development scheme at the local level
Local communities	Support the government authorities in the implementation of actions and become accountable for the management of elephants and for the benefits derived
Local NGOs	Play a key role in communication/sensitization of local communities and provision of guidance to the local communities. Assist with collecting socio-economic and technical information in the field.
National and International Research Institutions	Collaborate in the preparation and execution of a research programme. Make available to managers, useful information to guide intervention options.
Specialized institutions	Develop management tools and make them available to stakeholders. Support the implementation of monitoring programmes. Facilitate information exchange and consultation among stakeholders. Assist in the preparation of project proposals.
Development partners	Provide financial assistance for implementing the action plan.
International and inter-States Organizations	Advocate the implementation projects to donors and assist in fund raising; assist in harmonizing the legislation and facilitate consultation among stakeholders.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

This action plan does not claim to have exhaustively included all the threats facing the conservation of elephants and of their habitats in the Wenegisi-Ziama area, nor the potential solutions for these threats. Rather, the focus is on the potential threats and solutions that can be addressed within the framework of an action plan. In case the implementation of this initiative is successful, the plan could be revised after ten years. This will help to take account of the evolution of the management context and to integrate other important management issues that have not been identified as priority themes at present.

The development of this plan as a reference framework for action is a necessary first step. However, the successful implementation of the plan through concrete actions will largely depend on the commitment of the countries concerned.

At the political level, it is important that both countries adopt the plan and urgently appoint focal points for implementation.

Given the limited financial resources and the time it takes to mobilize external funds, it is recommended that the relevant technical departments of the two countries integrate the activities in their annual work programmes and use available resources from local donors or from Governments. Local NGOs should play an active role in the implementation of field activities and in mobilizing funds.

Finally, we call upon local and external funding partners to support the efforts of the two Governments by financing subsequent project proposals. Technical partners can participate in these efforts by writing and revising project proposals as well as by providing guidance in the implementation of field activities.

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