



PROGRAM: WEST AFRICAN CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT IN SENEGAL AND GUINEA

Project: Construction and equipment of the Agroforestry School of the Dindéfelo Community Reserve, Senegal

Summary:

The main goal of this project is to improve agroforestry management skills among local communities. This School, located at the Dindéfelo's Natural Reserve, managed by the local community, will become a reference in West Africa for biodiversity, agroforestry and natural resource management, and food security improvement. This center will hopefully contribute to the endangered chimpanzees' survival in the region.

Context and problem:

The subspecies *Pan troglodytes verus* (West African Chimpanzee) is endangered in the region and presents reduced numbers in Senegal (ranging between 200 and 500 individuals), while numbers in Guinea are higher (between 17 and 22,000 individuals, IUCN, 2004) although with an extremely high fragmentation of the habitat.

While the presence of the chimpanzee in Senegal is strategic to secure its northernmost habitat, plus the possibility of studying the behavioral adaptations to the savannah conditions, it is also crucial to protect and restore if necessary the IUCN's priority area for chimpanzee conservation of the Fouta Jallon in Guinea. The main threats faced by the chimpanzee in this territory are: 1) deforestation, 2) habitat degradation by human activities on top of logging (agriculture, farming, wild fruit gathering, and pollution of water courses). The Fouta is not only home to the biggest population of chimps in West Africa, but it is also considered the water tower of the region. The three main rivers in the region have its source on the Fouta Jallon massif: the Gambia, the Senegal and the Niger river, providing the water needed in many countries from Mauritania to Nigeria to guarantee the subsistence of millions of Africans. Protecting the Fouta's forests is without doubt the most urgent priority in terms of human subsistence and biodiversity conservation in the region. Among other important species, chimpanzee's survival is especially critical due to several reasons. To start with, chimpanzees attract tourism, which is an essential activity to improve life standards for the communities in the long term. Secondly, chimpanzees are one of the best indicators of the conservation status of the forests and the ecosystem in general. Finally, the Dindéfelo's Community Reserve, a protected area managed by the local population, is becoming one of the most important centers for nature research in the region and that will enhance the arrival of professors and students that will increase local capacities for better management of the environment.



The recently created (2010) 13300 ha Community Reserve of Dindefelo, and its future cross border enlargement to reach around 74,000 ha on the Guinean side will help achieve both goals, for chimpanzee conservation and ecosystem protection and restoration.

The present project is integrated within the “Conservation of the West African Chimpanzee and Local Sustainable Management of the Natural Resources” program, aligned with the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa (UICN, 2004) and developed by the Jane Goodall Institute and the local NGO Neene Ladde (Mother Nature) in the Communauté Rurale de Dindefelo, in the Kedougou region, southeast of Senegal, on the border with Guinea. The program is executed under the supervision of the local and national authorities in Senegal and Guinea.

Description

The main goal of the program is to make biodiversity conservation sustainable through a better management of agroforestry related activities and products. This particular project seeks to achieve two goals: 1) building the research and training facilities, and 2) equipping them with the basic equipment to function.

While the first goal will hopefully be accomplished by the month of April 2013, the second one, equally important is not funded yet. Coming down to the minimum equipment to function, solar panels are the first priority, to allow setting up a regular calendar of trainings and classes with all guarantees (lights at evening classes – the most common ones-, use of projector, charge of batteries for GPS, walkie talkies and other instruments used in the field sessions, small fridge to keep antivenom for snake bites, etc).



Beneficiaries

Direct trained beneficiaries: 90 West African farmers per year (agroforestry improvement), 80 women per year (fruit gathering, tree nursery, horticulture, ...), 30 local, national and sub-regional authorities and technical services per year (norms and regulations, technical trainings, water conflicts...), 25 west African university students (biology, ecology, agroforestry and diverse matters) and 300 local students (mostly sensitization).

Other beneficiaries: the whole population of the territory, through an improved environment and sustainable activities.

Budget

Categories	Cost
Solar panels, batteries, regulators, transformers, etc	2.400€
Electrical installation	1.500€
TOTAL	4.900€