



Proposal to the African Elephant Fund

1.1 Country: Guinea

1.2 Project Title: Improving the protection of forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) and reducing human-elephant conflicts at Ziama forest and Ziama-Wenegesi corridor in Southeastern Guinea, West Africa

1.3 Project Location: Ziama forest and Ziama-Wenegesi corridor in South eastern Guinea, West Africa

1.4 Overall Project Cost: US\$153,577
Amount Requested from AEF: US\$120,577

1.5 Project Duration: 12 months

1.6 Project Proponent: The African Conservation and Development Foundation (ACDEF);
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1.7 Name of Project Supervisor: Gondo Gbanyangbe

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1.12 Date proposal submitted: 17th November 2017

2.0 Project Summary: (not more than 250 words)

[A comprehensive Executive Summary of the proposal in French is appended]

This project is designed to improve the protection of forest elephants and reduce conflicts between elephants and people in and around the Ziama Biosphere Reserve South Eastern Guinea (West Africa). Pressure on the remaining population of elephants as well as the conflicts between the elephants and the people at Ziama have increased significantly in recent years calling for additional support to sustain and enhance ongoing efforts. The proposed project has three specific objectives including (i) Consolidate and expand the operational and management capacity of the protection and monitoring team at Ziama and Ziama-Wenegesi corridor; (ii) Consolidate the education and awareness raising program in communities around the reserve in support of the protection of the elephants in light of increasing conflicts between elephants and villages on crop raiding; (iii) Develop a preliminary strategy for the mitigation and management of increasing conflicts between elephants and people in and around the Ziama Reserve

Working with all the key stakeholders, the project will reinforce the current protection system in place to reduce elephant poaching and trade in ivory and establish the basis for the mitigation of the conflicts between the elephants and the farmers. If fully funded and successfully implemented, ACDEF and partners anticipated that the project will lead to the consolidation of the protection and monitoring team with adequate equipment and tools. It will also lead to increased awareness of the local communities on the needs to protect the elephants and establish the basis for the mitigation of the recurrent conflicts between the elephants and the people.

3.0 Which Priority Objectives and Activities (there may be more than one) in the African Elephant Action Plan does this project fall under? (For ease of reference, Priority Objectives are attached under Appendix 1)

This project falls under priority objectives 1 (Reduce illegal killing and trade), objective 3 (reduce Human-Elephant Conflict), Objective 4 (Increase Awareness on Elephant Conservation and Management of Key Stakeholders)

The project is specifically in line with the following activities of the AEF action plan: 1.1.2. Recruit and train staff at all levels to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products; 1.1.3. Equip wildlife authority staff on the frontline of enforcement with appropriate tools; 3.1.1. Establish a database using existing and new data on the types, extent, causes and impacts of HEC and mitigation measures, 3.1.2. Research and pilot different mitigation strategies to reduce HEC and develop guidelines accordingly; 4.1.2. Develop and implement awareness programs, 4.1.4. Build appropriate capacity; 4.3.1. Develop and implement information, education and communication strategies on the conservation of the African elephant.

4.0 Project Rationale – why is this project necessary and urgent? What threats face this elephant population (give, for example, what information you have regarding population details, trends in population (downward or upward), ivory seizure information, details about levels of poaching, human/elephant conflict, etc.).

The Species

The forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) and its savanna counterpart (*Loxodonta africana africana*) are uniquely vulnerable throughout the 13 range states in West Africa, where they account for no more than 4% of the continent total of

known elephants (Blanc *et al.*, 2003). Today the most authoritative accounts on the distribution of elephants and their relative abundance in West Africa indicate that the most viable population ranges are located at national borders (Blanc *et al.*, 2003; Sebogo 2006). There are further indications that more than half of the total population of forest elephants remaining in the subregion moves across the boundaries of two or more countries.

Initially hunted to supply the international demand in elephant ivory, the threats to the survival of elephants in recent years have expanded and include habitat loss and fragmentation due to the growth in human populations. These threats have pushed elephant populations to complete extinction in some areas. In places where elephants and humans are forced to share the same habitats, conflicts between the two groups have become an issue of increasing conservation management concern. The problem is exacerbated in areas subjected to armed conflicts, where fire arms are common and displaced communities often find themselves setting their new bases in elephant habitats or corridors. The Ziama-Wenegesi corridor between Guinea and Liberia is one such area and there is every reason to believe that human-elephant conflict and other threats to elephants' survival will continue unless appropriate conservation management practices are designed and implemented.

Site and threats

The Ziama Biosphere Reserve is located in the humid forest zone at the far south-eastern corner of Guinea towards the Liberia and Sierra Leone borders. It covers an area of some 110,019 ha between the latitude 8°03' and 8°32' North and the longitudes 9°08' and 9°32' West. Classified as a biosphere reserve in 1981, Ziama is rich in wild species of fauna and flora. One hundred twenty-four species of mammals and 286 bird species have been recorded to date at Ziama, which is also classified as an important bird area. The site is a refuge for several rare, vulnerable or threatened species including forest elephant, western chimpanzee, and pygmy hippopotamus.

There are indications that the natural resources at Ziama and particularly wildlife are under increasing pressure from habitat loss through subsistence farming, hunting by local subsistence and professional outside hunters, and legal and illegal logging. As an example, the 2008 field investigation by Toupou Koighae, then a student at the Garoua Wildlife College (GWC) in Cameroon, documented a string of illegal activities taking place at Ziama, with elephant poaching highlighted prominently on top of the list (Toupou, 2008). At the Ziama-Wenegesi corridor where Toupou established damage assessment transects, he noted that farm encroachment was on the increase due partially to the fact that most refugees from the Liberia and Sierra Leone civil wars did not return home and have settled in the corridors permanently. Furthermore, there are 26 villages in the immediate vicinity of the Ziama forest reserve with well over 29,000 inhabitants. The reserve is divided into two main zones for management purposes, including the protection zone and the production zone. There is a management plan for the Ziama forest, but it is debatable that its provisions are being implemented. With an increasingly narrow corridor and the reduction in elephant poaching, conflicts between elephants and the farmers are on the increase, a problem which must be addressed in order to protect this population of elephants.

Protection of Ziama Biosphere Reserve Elephants to date

The Ziama Biosphere Reserve is probably the only remaining site in Guinea where a viable population of elephants has survived the ivory trade of the last century. The most prominent of the Ziama elephant censuses began in 1991, when the *Centre Forestier de N'Zérékoré* (CFZ) - with support from WWF - commissioned the first survey which estimated the total population at no more than 108 individuals. In 2000,

an independent expert, Wilfried Bützler seconded by Cécé Papa Condé then General Director of CFZ, undertook a second elephant census at Ziama and found that there were approximately 200 individuals. The 2004 survey, undertaken through the MIKE program, found that 214 elephants roam the Ziama forest and are essentially found in the southern part of the reserve in an area estimate at some 452 km² (Barnes & Nandjui, 2005). More recently, a survey of elephants at the Ziama forest by Fauna & Flora International in 2016 indicated a most alarming figure of only 15 elephants left. Overall, the population of forest elephants at Ziama forest has plummeted calling for urgent interventions (Figure 1).

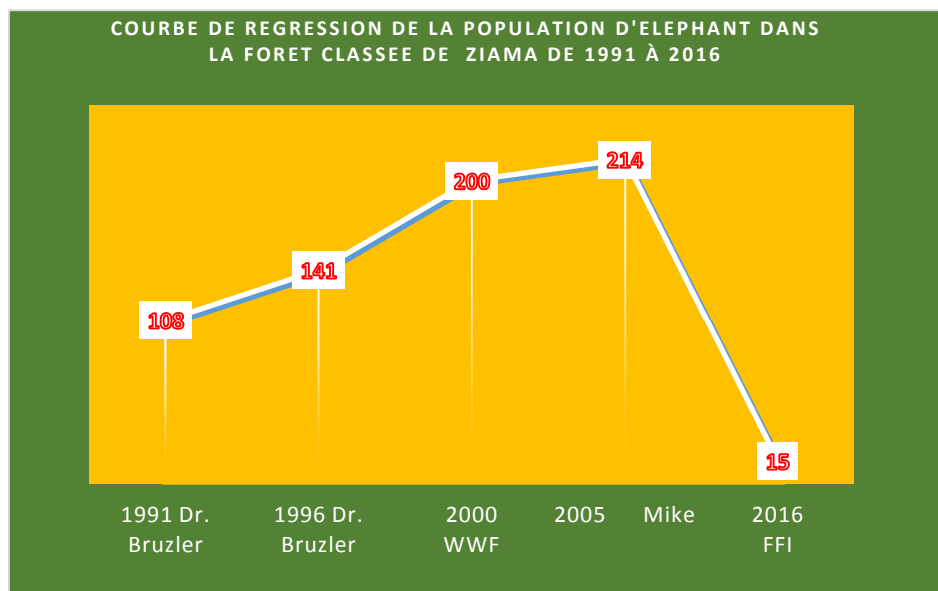


Figure 1: Alarming trends in the population of Ziama elephants

Anti-poaching surveillance units were originally established with financial support from the German KfW, and provided some additional data on elephant populations and the prevalence of poaching. Despite their importance in reducing the rate of poaching, these surveillance units suspended their operations in 2007 due in part to a lack of strategic direction and financial resources. The abandonment of the protection efforts and the recurrent political instability in Guinea led to the escalation of poaching at Ziama and a massive elephant slaughter of 2008 in which members of the military junta in power were apparently involved. In 2009, with the initial support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, FFI in partnership with the CFZ re-established a protection and monitoring presence for the protection of forest elephants at the Ziama Biosphere Reserve. This trial, established in the middle of what could then be described as the “Ziama elephant crisis”, aimed to secure the elephant future through four specific objectives including: (i) enhancing the operational and management capacity of the protection and monitoring team; (ii) developing and putting in place a training program for the protection and monitoring staff; (iii) ascertaining and documenting the current use of the corridor by the local communities to help guide the development or relocation of farms out of the elephant tracks; (iv) develop an education and awareness raising program in communities around the reserve in support of elephant protection.

5.0 Detailed Proposal – including activities to be carried out, milestones (at least quarterly milestones), timelines, equipment to be purchased, reporting procedures, etc. (not more than 1000 words). It will be helpful in evaluating this Project Proposal if you to divide it into Phases such as Planning; Procurement; Implementation; Evaluation and Reporting - Should include anticipated benefits (including benefits to the conservation and management of elephant populations and communities) and outputs from the project, and how the project will be monitored and evaluated.

Project Title: Improving the protection of forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) and reducing human-elephant conflicts at Ziama forest and Ziama-Wenegesi corridor in south-eastern Guinea, West Africa

Overall Objective: To reinforce and expand the protection and monitoring system and reduce conflicts between elephants and the people at Ziama forest and Ziama-Wenegesi corridor

Specific Objectives:

1. Consolidate and expand the operational and management capacity of the protection and monitoring team at Ziama and Ziama-Wenegesi corridor.
2. Consolidate the education and awareness raising program in communities around the reserve in support of the protection of the elephants in light of increasing conflicts between elephants and villages on crop raiding.
3. Develop a preliminary strategy for the mitigation and management of increasing conflicts between elephants and people in and around the Ziama Reserve.

Project Activities and Methods

Objective 1

Activity 1.1: Acquisition of additional equipment for the protection and monitoring of the reserve. This will require refurbishing of the 10 ranger's outposts already constructed by CFZ and spread across the reserve. By equipping these outposts, the team of eco-guards will be more visible in the field and reduce the patrol effort which is currently very high.

Activity 1.2: Pursuance of onsite training of the protection and monitoring team

In addition to the routine training on organizing successful patrols and collecting relevant data in the format amenable to further analysis, this project will train selected team members with aspects of computing. Apart from the project manager, no other team member currently knows how to operate a computer effectively, a situation which puts much strain on the manager's time and needs to be addressed. Also, ACDEF recently acquired the Management Information System or MIST software for data storage and management. It is important that at least 5 team members are able to operate it from data entry to the production of patrol reports, calculation of patrol efforts and production of properly geo-referenced maps that will guide their monthly intervention in the different section of the reserve. The onsite training will entail the manipulation of a computer, data entry into the MIST software, and retrieval and production of various reports and maps.

Activity 1.3: Consolidation of the database for the protection and monitoring information

The protection and monitoring data are currently stored in an Excel spreadsheet and provide basic information on wildlife sightings, indirect signs, and the presence or not of human activities. The amount of information collected is increasing rapidly and is being transferred to MIST (software for data management). It is an interesting system that answers most of the project needs in terms of information management. It is designed to support law enforcement for adaptive management of natural resources

and provides simple and easy spatial and temporal information that are regularly updated in the forms of reports and maps allowing managers of protected areas to make informed decisions and to evaluate the impact of patrol operations on illegal activities. In addition to helping optimize the performance of the protection and monitoring team, MIST facilitates the coding of patrol information and data storage. This activity will culminate in the consolidation of the project database on the protection of elephants.

Objective 2

Activity 2.1: Production of sensitization materials on the protection of elephants and human-elephant conflicts

A few sensitization materials have been produced in the past, but this particular project will produce a “*the Ziama Farmer’s Manual*”, that highlights the concept of human-elephant conflict, main reasons why elephants visit farms and destroy crops, why elephants attack people at Ziama and what to do to avoid or reduce crop raiding by elephants. Support is also urgently needed to complete, edit, laminate and disseminate all the available sensitization materials as widely as possible as part of the HEC mitigation management strategy.

Activity 2.2: Design and agree on a radio program for the project with local authorities and local communities.

There is radio coverage throughout the entire Ziama forest reserve that broadcasts news in French and in local languages. This rural radio has been used in the past to spread important project news across the region. The messages to be broadcasted by members of the community associations will focus on three main topics that cover most of the current and prospective challenges faced in protecting the elephants at Ziama. These include:

- Current situation on elephant poaching as well as other wildlife species
- Current situation on the distribution of elephants at Ziama, their ranging and migration patterns
- Correct behaviour and farming practices needed to reduce conflicts.

Objective 3

Activity 3.1: Development and testing of an elaborated preliminary HEC (Human-Elephant Conflict) mitigation strategy

Human-Elephant Conflict is an issue of increasing priority at Ziama and the problem has only worsened since 2009. Initially concentrated in the southern part of the reserve, the problem has escalated and elephants have been found in people’s farms in the northern part of the reserve where they have never been sighted and at Kouankan a village located some 10 km outside the official boundaries of the reserve. Due to the widespread nature of the problem, this project will review the status or context of the conflict, provide options and develop a preliminary conflict mitigation strategy. It will also develop a program of activities including identifying data requirements towards the development of a comprehensive HEC mitigation management strategy.

Anticipated Benefits and Outputs

The anticipated benefits and outputs of this project will include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

1. Improved technical capacity of the protection and monitoring team made up of the core 21 ecoguards with 5 of them specifically trained in computing and database management. This will lead to enhanced protection and secured migratory corridor for the elephants at the Ziama forest reserve and the Ziama-Wenegesi transfrontier corridor.

2. Secured vital space for other species of conservation importance that share the same ecosystem with the elephants including the western chimpanzee, pygmy hippos, buffalo, bongo, etc
3. Ziama “Farmers Manual” for the protection of elephants and the reduction of conflict between elephants and the people
4. Enhanced gene flow and increased population viability as the elephant are better protected and able to move safely between the Ziama forest in Guinea and the Wenegesi forest reserve in Liberia.
5. Increased awareness amongst stakeholders on the need for elephant protection, and on ways that elephants and human can more peacefully co-exist
6. Production of a preliminary conflict mitigation strategy that will guide improved relationships between the human population and the elephants at Ziama.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The overall coordination of this project will be the responsibility of the ACDEF Guinea, which will provide the administrative and technical oversight under the direction of Mr Gondo Gbanyangbe. The overall progress in the implementation of the project activities will be monitored through reports and evaluated against milestones agreed with all concerned quarterly and reported to the AEF every six months.

The day-to-day activity at Ziama will be coordinated by the wildlife specialist Toupou Koighae, in direct collaboration with the department of biodiversity at CFZ. Mr Toupou worked as research assistant for ACDEF Guinea and has since continued to sharpen his technical skills in wildlife management via an ACDEF-recommended training opportunity at Garoua Wildlife College.

6.0 Project Timeline – outline the timeline for proposed activities within this project. You may find it helpful to relate the timeline to the Phases identified in Section 5.0 above.

Project Activity with Timelines

This project is designed for an initial phase of 12 months, with the implementation planned according to the following timetable

Activities	Timing (Months)											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Objective 1: Consolidate and expand the operational and management capacity of the protection and monitoring team at Ziama												
<i>Activity 1.1.</i> Acquisition of additional field equipment												
<i>Activity 1.2.</i> Pursuance of onsite training of the protection and monitoring team												
<i>Activity 1.3.</i> Training in computer use and MIST database management												
<i>Activity 1.4.</i> Consolidation of the project database												
Objective 2: Consolidate the education and awareness raising program in communities around the reserve in support of the protection of elephants in light of increasing conflicts between the elephants and the villages on crop raiding												
<i>Activity 2.1.</i> Production of sensitization materials on the protection of elephants and human-elephant conflicts												
<i>Activity 2.1.</i> Production of posters on HEC												

mitigation management																				
<i>Activity 2.2. Design and agree on a radio program for the project with local authorities and local communities</i>																				
Objective 3: Develop a preliminary strategy for the mitigation and management of increasing conflicts between elephants and people in and around the Ziama Reserve.																				
<i>Activity 3.1. Situational analysis of HEC at Ziama</i>																				
<i>Activity 3.2. Develop a preliminary HEC strategy</i>																				

BUDGET

7.0 Has this project received or been pledged any other sources of funding (external)? Give all relevant details (for example, amount, source of funds, timetable, any restrictions):

No funding has been pledged from any other external sources for this project

7.1 Please provide a detailed proposed budget for this project (in US\$). You may find it helpful to relate expenditure to the Phases you have set out in Section 5.0

Any other budget lines:
Cost of project: The total cost for this project is: US\$153,577 with US\$120,577 requested from the AEF.

Category/Item	Costs Calculations				Cost Distribution per Funding Sources	
	Unit	Total Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Requested from AEF	Co-funded CFZ
Equipment						
4 WD Vehicle	material	1	30000	30000	0	30000
Motorbike	material	10	2500	25000	25000	0
GPS	material	10	300	3000	3000	0
Compass	material	5	200	1000	1000	0
Digital camera	material	5	400	2000	2000	0
Rain coat	material	25	50	1250	1250	0
Knife	material	25	20	500	500	0
Uniform	material	25	50	1250	1250	0
Beret	material	25	10	250	250	0
Binocular	material	25	100	2500	2500	0
Rucksack	material	25	125	3125	3125	0
Head lamp	material	25	30	750	750	0
Tent	material	5	200	1000	1000	0
Sleeping bag	material	25	50	1250	1250	0
Bed	material	20	20	400	400	0
Mattress	material	20	30	600	600	0
Table	material	10	20	200	200	0
Chair	material	30	10	300	300	0
Security shoe	material	25	50	1250	1250	0

Boot	material	25	50	1250	1250	0
Local medical kit	material	5	300	1500	1500	0
Laptop	material	2	1000	2000	2000	0
Desktop	material	2	800	1600	1600	0
External hard drive	material	1	300	300	300	0
Photocopy	material	1	1000	1000	1000	0
USB Internet connection	Connection	2	400	800	800	0
Sensitization materials (Awareness raising)	Various	1	2500	2500	2500	0
Travels and subsistence						
National (Conakry/Seredou/ N'Zerekore)	Round- trip road	12	100	1200	1200	0
Personnel						
Project Manager (Per diem)	Day	12	700	8400	8400	0
Ecoguard (Per diem 21 ecoguards for 12 months)	Day	252	70	17640	17640	0
Operational costs						
Running cost vehicle	Month	12	500	6000	6000	0
Running cost motorbike	Month	12	700	8400	8400	0
Cost local office at Seredou	Month	12	200	2400	2400	2400
Communication (Internet & mobile phone)	Month	12	500	6000	6000	0
Meetings with key communities (Transport, Refreshment, etc.)	Various	10	300	3000	3000	
Total Direct Project Costs				139615	109615	32400
ACDEF Indirect Costs (10%)				13962	10962	
GRAND TOTAL				153577	120577	32400

7.2 Please specify the proponents' contribution towards the project

This project benefits from in-kind support amounting to US\$32,400 provided by the N'Zerekore Forestry Centre (CFZ) in the form of a 4WD Vehicle (US\$ equivalent) and a premise that would serve as the project office for US\$2,400 per year.

Please submit the completed proposal by:

Email: africanelephantfund@unep.org

You should receive acknowledgement of receipt of your proposal within 14 days. If you do not receive such an acknowledgement, please telephone: (254) 20 7625069 / (254) 20 762 5046

Further details on any of the above details may be requested by the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund.

Proposition au Fond d'Eléphant d'Afrique

Résumé Exécutif du Projet

Pays: République de Guinée

Titre du projet: Amélioration de la protection des éléphants de forêt (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) et réduction des conflits hommes-éléphants vivant autour de la forêt de Ziama et dans le corridor Ziama-Wenegesi dans le sud-est de la Guinée, en Afrique de l'Ouest

1. Justificatif du projet

Ce projet vise à améliorer la protection des éléphants de forêt et à réduire les conflits entre les éléphants et les populations de la réserve de la biosphère de Ziama, au sud-est de la Guinée (Afrique de l'Ouest).

Les pressions exercées sur la population résiduelle d'éléphants ainsi que les conflits entre les éléphants et la population de Ziama ont considérablement augmenté ces dernières années, appelant à un soutien supplémentaire visant à soutenir et renforcer les efforts en cours.

Le projet proposé a trois objectifs spécifiques, à savoir (i) consolider et développer les capacités opérationnelles et de gestion de l'équipe de protection et de suivi du Ziama et du corridor Ziama-Wenegesi; (ii) Consolider le programme d'éducation et de sensibilisation dans les communautés autour de la réserve pour soutenir la protection des éléphants à la lumière des conflits croissants entre les éléphants et les villages sur les razzias; (iii) Élaborer une stratégie préliminaire pour l'atténuation et la gestion des conflits croissants entre les éléphants et les gens dans et autour de la réserve de Ziama.

En collaboration avec toutes les parties prenantes clés, le projet renforcera le système de protection actuellement en place pour réduire le braconnage des éléphants et le commerce de l'ivoire et établir les bases de l'atténuation des conflits entre les éléphants et les agriculteurs. S'ils étaient entièrement financés et mis en œuvre avec succès, l'ACDEF et ses partenaires prévoyaient que le projet mènerait à la consolidation de l'équipe de protection et de surveillance avec l'équipement et les outils adéquats. Cela permettra également de sensibiliser davantage les communautés locales aux besoins de protection des éléphants et de jeter les bases de l'atténuation des conflits récurrents entre les éléphants et les populations.

2. Objectifs et rationnelle de l'intervention sur la protection des éléphants à Ziama

Ce projet est pertinent aux objectifs prioritaires 1 (Réduire les abattages et le commerce illégaux), Objectif 3 (réduire le conflit Homme-Eléphant [CHE]), Objectif 4 (Accroître la sensibilisation à la conservation des éléphants et à la gestion des principales parties prenantes) du Plan d'Action pour l'Eléphant d'Afrique.

De manière spécifique, le projet répond aux activités du plan d'action de l'AEF: 1.1.2. Recruter et former le personnel à tous les niveaux pour lutter contre le braconnage et le commerce illégal de l'ivoire et des produits dérivés; 1.1.3. Faire en sorte que le personnel et les autorités de la faune en première ligne de l'application de la loi dispose des outils appropriés; 3.1.1. Établir une base de données en utilisant les données existantes et nouvelles sur les types, l'étendue, les causes et les impacts des CHE et des mesures d'atténuation, 3.1.2. Rechercher et piloter différentes stratégies d'atténuation pour réduire les CHE et élaborer des directives pertinentes;

4.1.2. Développer et mettre en œuvre des programmes de sensibilisation, 4.1.4. Construire une capacité appropriée; 4.3.1. Développer et mettre en œuvre des stratégies d'information, d'éducation et de communication sur la conservation de l'éléphant d'Afrique.

- **Spécificité de l'espèce en danger**

L'éléphant de forêt (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) et son homologue de savane (*Loxodonta africana africana*) sont particulièrement vulnérables dans les treize États de l'aire de répartition d'Afrique de l'Ouest, où ils ne représentent plus que 4% du total des éléphants connus (Blanc et al., 2003). Aujourd'hui, les publications les plus fiables sur la répartition des éléphants et leur abondance relative en Afrique de l'Ouest indiquent que les aires de répartition les plus durables sont situées aux frontières nationales (Blanc et al., 2003, Sebogo 2006). Selon d'autres études, plus de la moitié de la population totale d'éléphants de forêt restant dans la sous-région traverse les frontières de deux pays ou plus.

Initialement chassées pour répondre à la demande internationale en ivoire d'éléphant, les menaces pesant sur la survie des éléphants ces dernières années ont accru et incluent la perte et la fragmentation de l'habitat dues à la croissance des populations humaines. Ces menaces ont poussé les populations d'éléphants à disparaître complètement dans certaines zones. Dans les endroits où les éléphants et les humains sont forcés de partager les mêmes terroirs, les conflits entre les deux groupes sont devenus récurrents et représentent une préoccupation croissante de gestion de la conservation. Le problème est exacerbé dans les zones soumises à des conflits armés, où les armes à feu sont courantes et où les communautés déplacées se retrouvent souvent à poser leurs nouvelles bases dans des habitats ou des couloirs d'éléphants. Le corridor Ziama-Wenegesi entre la Guinée et le Liberia en est un exemple et il y a tout lieu de croire que le conflit homme-éléphant et les autres menaces à la survie des éléphants se poursuivront à moins de concevoir et de mettre en œuvre des pratiques de gestion appropriées.

- **Site et menaces**

La réserve de la biosphère de Ziama est située dans la zone de forêt humide à l'extrême sud-est de la Guinée, en direction des frontières du Libéria et de la Sierra Leone. Il couvre une superficie d'environ 110 019 ha entre les latitudes 8°03' et 8°32' Nord et les longitudes 9°08' et 9°32' Ouest. Classé en réserve de biosphère en 1981, Ziama est riche en espèces sauvages de faune et de flore. Cent vingt-quatre espèces de mammifères et 286 espèces d'oiseaux ont été recensées à ce jour à Ziama, qui est également classée comme zone importante pour les oiseaux. Le site est un refuge pour plusieurs espèces rares, vulnérables ou menacées, notamment l'éléphant de forêt, le chimpanzé de l'Ouest et l'hippopotame pygmée.

Il y a des indications que les ressources naturelles à Ziama et particulièrement la faune sont sous la pression croissante de la perte d'habitat par l'agriculture de subsistance, la chasse par les résidents et les chasseurs extérieurs professionnels, ainsi que les exploitations légales et illégales. À titre d'exemple, l'enquête menée en 2008 par Toupou Koighae, alors étudiant à l'École de Faune de Garoua au Cameroun, a documenté une série d'activités illégales à Ziama, le braconnage des éléphants figurant en tête de liste (Toupou, 2008). Dans le corridor Ziama-Wenegesi où Toupou a fait des inventaires des dégâts, il a noté que l'empiètement des exploitations agricoles villageoises par les éléphants augmentait en partie du fait que la plupart des réfugiés des guerres civiles libérienne et sierra-léonaise ne sont pas rentrés chez eux. En outre, il y a 26 villages dans les environs immédiats de la réserve forestière de Ziama avec plus de 29000 habitants. La réserve est divisée en deux zones principales à des fins de gestion, y compris la zone de protection et la zone de production. Il existe un plan de gestion pour la forêt de Ziama, mais il est

discutable que ses dispositions soient mises en œuvre. Avec un corridor de plus en plus étroit et la réduction du braconnage des éléphants, les conflits entre les éléphants et les paysans sont en augmentation, un problème qui doit être traité afin de protéger cette population d'éléphants et aussi sauver des vies humaines.

- **Les plans existants de protection des éléphants de la réserve de la biosphère de Ziama**

La réserve de la biosphère de Ziama est probablement le seul site en Guinée où une population viable d'éléphants a survécu au commerce de l'ivoire du siècle dernier. Le plus important des inventaires d'éléphants de Ziama a commencé en 1991, lorsque le Centre Forestier de N'Zérékoré (CFZ) - avec le soutien du WWF - a commandé le premier inventaire qui a estimé la population totale à pas plus de 108 individus. En 2000, un expert indépendant, Wilfried Bützler, secondé par Cécé Papa Condé, alors directeur général de CFZ, a entrepris un deuxième recensement des éléphants à Ziama et a constaté qu'il y avait environ 200 individus. L'étude de 2004, réalisée dans le cadre du programme MIKE, a révélé que 214 éléphants parcourent la forêt de Ziama et se trouvent essentiellement dans la partie sud de la réserve dans une zone estimée à environ 452 km² (Barnes & Nandjui, 2005). Plus récemment, une enquête sur les éléphants dans la forêt de Ziama réalisée par Fauna & Flora International en 2016 a révélé un chiffre alarmant: seulement 15 éléphants sont restés. Dans l'ensemble, la population d'éléphants de la forêt de Ziama a chuté et réclame des interventions urgentes.

3. Objectifs généraux et spécifiques du projet

Objectif général consistera à renforcer et étendre le système de protection et de suivi et réduire les conflits entre les éléphants et les populations de la forêt de Ziama et du corridor Ziama-Wenegesi.

Les objectifs spécifiques consisteront en:

- a. Consolider et développer les capacités opérationnelles et de gestion de l'équipe de protection et de suivi du Ziama et du corridor Ziama-Wenegesi;
- b. Consolider le programme d'éducation et de sensibilisation dans les communautés autour de la réserve en faveur de la protection des éléphants à la lumière des conflits croissants entre les éléphants et les villages sur les cultures d'assaut;
- c. Développer une stratégie préliminaire pour l'atténuation et la gestion des conflits croissants entre les éléphants et les gens dans et autour de la réserve de Ziama.

4. Méthodologie d'intervention

La réalisation des objectifs se fera par l'acquisition d'équipements appropriés pour la protection et le suivi de la réserve. Cela nécessitera la remise en état des avant-postes des 10 Rangers déjà construits par CFZ et répartis dans la réserve afin de les rendre plus visibles sur le terrain et augmenter leur efficacité sur le terrain en réduisant l'effort de patrouille qui est actuellement très important.

La Poursuite de la formation sur site de l'équipe de protection et de suivi des patrouilles permettra la collecte des données pertinentes dans le format se prêtant à une analyse plus approfondie, avec pour bénéfice la formation des membres de l'équipe sélectionnés avec des aspects de l'informatique. Ceci viendra en appui des équipements nouvellement acquis par l'ACDEF (logiciel Management Information System ou MIST) pour le stockage et la gestion des données.

En plus le projet permettra d'aider à optimiser les performances de l'équipe de protection et de surveillance, MIST facilite le codage des informations de

patrouille et le stockage des données. Cette activité aboutira à la consolidation de la base de données du projet sur la protection des éléphants.

5. Résultats attendus du projet

- a. Amélioration de la capacité technique de l'équipe de protection et de suivi composée des 21 écogardes dont 5 spécialement formés en informatique et en gestion de bases de données;
- b. Sécurisation des espaces pour d'autres espèces d'importance pour la conservation et partageant le même écosystème avec les éléphants, y compris le chimpanzé de l'ouest, les hippopotames pygmées, le buffle, le bongo, etc;
- c. "Le Manuel du Paysan du Ziama" pour la protection des éléphants et la réduction des conflits entre les éléphants et le peuple;
- d. Amélioration du flux génétique et augmentation de la viabilité de la population;
- e. Sensibilisation accrue des parties prenantes à la nécessité de protéger les éléphants ainsi qu'une meilleure coexistence et cohabitation ;
- f. Production d'une stratégie préliminaire d'atténuation des conflits qui guidera l'amélioration des relations entre la population humaine et les éléphants à Ziama.

6. Suivi et évaluation du projet

La coordination globale de ce projet sera la responsabilité de l'ACDEF Guinée, qui assurera le contrôle administratif et technique sous la direction de M. Gondo Gbanyangbe. Les progrès globaux dans la mise en œuvre des activités du projet seront suivis au moyen de rapports et évalués en fonction des jalons convenus avec tous les parties prenantes et communiqués tous les six mois à l'AEF.

7. Durée d'exécution et Budget

Les activités du projet s'étaleront sur 12 mois et le budget propose qui inclus la participation de l'ACDEF pour la réalisation des activités pertinentes est de: US\$153.577 (Cent cinquante-trois mille cinq cent cinquante-sept dollars américains) dont US\$120.577 attendus du Fond d'Eléphant d'Afrique.