

## SSIP, TANGIBLE RESULTS OVER 10 YEARS

144 beneficiary CSOs

181 funded projects

2,864 project submissions

4 SSIPs already funded

17 calls for projects

28 African countries concerned

## 8 PRIORITY TOPICS

Conservation of threatened species

Anti-poaching

Human/wildlife conflict resolution

Ecosystem conservation

Protected area creation/management

Sustainable natural resource use  
and socioeconomic development

Combating climate change

Environmental education

## FIELD INITIATIVES

437,110 ha of protected area set up

46 protected area development  
or management plans formulated

56 species survey and monitoring  
protocols developed

11 flagship mammal species whose  
conservation has been improved (great  
apes, elephants, marine mammals, etc.)

3 composting units created: 3,000 t/  
year of household waste recycled and  
7,600 tCO<sub>2</sub>e avoided in 2016—equivalent  
to the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of a French village  
of over 1,000 inhabitants!

More than 50 CSOs strengthened  
60 projects to develop natural product  
marketing chains

77% of partner CSOs still active since  
completion of their SSIP project

## SSIP, A FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY

Since 2006, 144 mainly African CSOs have been supported by FFEM under SSIP, with technical monitoring provided by the French Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its West and Central Africa Programme (IUCN-PACO) to provide CSOs with grassroots support tailored to the specific needs of different organizations.

These organizations act locally to preserve natural resources, while developing their project management expertise. They have created a real field laboratory that has contributed to building a body of experience and methods based on a broad range of local initiatives.

SSIP meets a double challenge:

- preserving ecosystems upon which local communities directly depend
- strengthening the capacities and influence of local CSOs to ensure the sustainability of their project achievements.

Some of the projects and the teams that conduct them are presented here. They are also magnificent success stories of practical skills, solidarity and courage!

Over the last 10 years, 181 projects in West and Central Africa, Madagascar and Mozambique have received €6.3 M in SSIP funding, with an average of €34,000 provided by FFEM over about 20 months. These grants enable beneficiaries to obtain significant field results, and they are scaled specifically to meet the needs of selected CSOs. With €8.3 M in co-funding from the CSOs, beneficiaries and/or other financial partners, a total of €14.6 M were raised between 2006 and 2016.

## SSIP PHASE 5 FOR THE 2016-2019 PERIOD!

From 2016, SSIP projects will continue under a new phase to strengthen the impact of civil society and decentralized communities in West and Central Africa with regard to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation through nature-based solutions. This will involve—in partnership with the IUCN French Committee and IUCN-PACO—implementing and managing conservation and climate change mitigation projects by developing nature-based solutions\* initiated by CSOs, while strengthening the technical, organizational and institutional capacities of CSOs.

SSIP Phase 5 will be funded for 3 years, with a €3 M contribution from FFEM. New partners will be associated with Phase 5, especially the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), IUCN Netherlands Committee and MAVA Foundation.

\*Nature-based solutions (IUCN France, 2015)

## SMALL-SCALE INITIATIVES PROGRAMME

### SUCCESS STORIES

*"We are gradually becoming a benchmark for community management of natural resources in West Africa. With SSIP, we have really learned a lot about project design and management. This has also given us access to greater funding."*

**MARTIAL KOUDERIN**, Executive Director of Centre Régional de Recherche et d'Éducation pour un Développement Intégré, CREDI-ONG, Benin.  
crediongbenin@gmail.com - www.credi-ong.org



*"...the team has acquired certain skills in setting up and implementing conservation and development projects. ERUDEF is now part of a platform devoted to great apes in Central Africa that was set up thanks to SSIP."*

**LOUIS NKEMBI**, Director of ERUDEF, Cameroon.  
louis.nkambi@erudef.org - www.erudefconservation.org



*"RENATURA Congo is now a recognized conservation stakeholder in the Congo. Marine turtles have been fully protected since 2009 and we hope to contribute to setting up a protected marine area in the future!"*

**NATHALIE BREHERET**, Director of RENATURA, Congo.  
nathalie.breheret@renatura.org - www.renatura.org



*"These grants, in addition to that of IUCN Netherlands, have enabled us to establish our credibility and turn BEES into a pioneer NGO in Benin involved in bird conservation and promoting ornithology."*

**MAXIMIN DJONDO**, Coordinator of the Benin Environment and Education Society (BEES).  
bees@hotmail.fr - www.bees-ong.org



### FRENCH FACILITY FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT (FFEM)

FFEM has been devoted to promoting protection of the global environment in developing countries for more than 20 years. It is among the French development assistance proponents whose activities are devoted exclusively to environmental issues in developing and emerging countries, including natural resource conservation and economic development.

It contributes to the financing of development projects that have a significant sustainable impact on major global environmental issues—biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation (including desertification and deforestation), pollutants and the ozone layer. This highly flexible and unique tool is able to innovate, take risks, test funding solutions tailored for projects coordinated by a range of partners—public, private NGOs, citizens' groups and the scientific community.

www.ffem.fr/lang/en/accueil-FFEM

FFEM is also active on social networks.

@FFEM\_Fr

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo0G523AIPdwsdpill47hA



### IUCN FRENCH COMMITTEE

Since 1992, the IUCN French Committee has served as a network of organizations and experts of the International Union for Conservation of Nature in France. It is a pivotal platform for expertise and dialogue on biodiversity challenges, which includes IUCN members in France—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, 13 public agencies, 41 NGOs, over 250 experts—while also involving local communities and businesses.

The Committee's two main missions are to address biodiversity issues in France and promote French expertise abroad. Its programmes are focused on various topics—biodiversity policies, protected areas, overseas issues, species, ecosystems, environmental education and international cooperation.

www.iucn.fr

IUCN France-SSIP is also active on YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfRfUu7L0wTl2t0HhB0yww



### IUCN West and Central Africa Programme (IUCN-PACO)

The IUCN West and Central Africa Programme (IUCN-PACO) concerns 25 African countries. In January 2013, there were 99 members in 21 countries, including 13 States, 9 government agencies, 77 NGOs, 5 national committees, 1 regional committee, 339 volunteer experts pooled in 6 topic groups, and about 200 agents.

http://www.iucn.org/regions/central-and-west-africa



## SMALL INITIATIVES FOR A FULL-SCALE PROGRAMME

## 10 YEARS OF SUPPORTING African civil society active in environmental conservation



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



## LOCAL INITIATIVES TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Since 2006, the **Small-Scale Initiatives Programme (SSIP)** of the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) has been supporting civil society stakeholders involved in biodiversity preservation and climate change mitigation in Africa through grants of less than €50,000.

## RECONCILING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

Slowing down or stopping biodiversity loss and protecting the planet's living fabric to ensure that the Earth will remain sustainably liveable are goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Earth Summit in Rio. Communities in developing countries rely more than anywhere else on services supplied by a diversified, productive and balanced natural environment. It is absolutely crucial to preserve this balance, which is also one of the best ways of combating poverty.

Africa hosts exceptional biodiversity that is essential for local communities, whose livelihoods are largely based on the derived ecosystem services. Associative networks in Sub-Saharan Africa—especially in French-speaking countries—cannot

yet provide sufficient support for the still limited conservation policies and techniques. African civil society does nevertheless have a highly promising potential for action. Civil society organizations (CSOs) solidly rooted in local African socioeconomic and cultural realities encourage participatory approaches and concrete field actions, enabling them to become drivers of change and innovation.

With SSIP, FFEM has developed a technical and financial tool devoted to strengthening the capacity of African civil society to carry out concrete biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation projects.

**SSIP is currently the only French cooperation tool that funds CSOs directly in developing countries for specific conservation initiatives.**



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# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS ARE EMERGING THANKS TO A STRENGTHENED AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY

SSIP helps strengthen the capacities of African CSOs through regular tailored support implemented by IUCN-PACO. The different projects empower local people with regard to adopting the many nature-based solutions able to enhance their livelihoods while protecting the environment.

## TAILORED SUPPORT FOR NGOS

More than 50 CSOs have been supported and strengthened despite difficult institutional and financial conditions. Some of these partner CSOs have gradually become prime movers in their respective countries, currently participating in national commissions, carrying out advocacy initiatives, sharing expertise, etc.

SSIP has also led to the emergence of networks and alliances between stakeholders in the same sector or region. These partnerships are sometimes created on an international scale, generating positive synergy between civil society organizations in developing and developed countries.

### AFRICAN REGION

#### NETWORK OF PROPONENTS OF SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION IN AFRICA RASTOMA

The RASTOMA Network was founded in 2012 at the initiative of field operators to address the need for exchange, coordination and capacity building. Until 2015, it served as a platform for exchange between sea turtle conservation NGOs. Through SSIP support, the network then gradually gained momentum by taking on a more formal structure (a board of directors appointed, an action plan developed, etc.). Three priority areas of action were defined: (i) network structuring, (ii) stakeholder training and capacity building, and (iii) promoting protected marine areas. RASTOMA is now a torch bearer with regard to defining and implementing a regional sea turtle conservation strategy.

Project budget: €165,362 (€120,000 from FFEM)  
ALEXANDRE GIRARD, alexandre.girard@rastoma.org  
www.facebook.com/seaturtleafricanteam/?fref=ts



© Paul Estève



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## STRONGER CSOs, BENEFIT LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Projects eligible for SSIP funding involve income-generating activities that will directly benefit local communities and enhance their socioeconomic development.

Paid jobs for local community members are being created (ecoguides, guards, beekeepers, livestock farmers, cooperative managers, etc.) via the development of ecotourism and commercial sectors associated with the sustainable use of natural products or handicrafts, thus enhancing the self-sufficiency of these communities. Such activities are often replacing harmful practices that threaten ecosystems and natural resources, such as poaching, deforestation and resource overuse. The economic impacts achieved are essential to ensure the success of initiatives to promote the empowerment of local communities with respect to their environment and sustainable business development in SSIP projects.

### CAMEROON

#### WHITE HONEY FROM OKU – HOW A NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCT CAN SAVE AN ENTIRE FOREST NGO CAMGEW, Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch



© Nicolas Salatin

### BENIN, CAMEROON, CONGO, GABON, GUINEA, KENYA, UGANDA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, SENEGAL, TOGO

#### AN NGO NETWORK TO COMBAT POACHING

EAGLE Network, Eco Activists for Governance & Law Enforcement

Illegal trade of wildlife species ranks 4<sup>th</sup> on the list of illicit trafficking worldwide, with annual earnings estimated at US\$19 billion. Although laws exist that prohibit the killing and trade of some species, their application is presently ineffective and fails to prevent the development of these activities.

Given this situation, the founders of EAGLE have pledged to firmly enforce these laws through a process involving surveys, arrests, legal monitoring of the enforcement of sentences and media coverage of wildlife trafficking. The network is now active in 10 African countries and has already led to the arrest of over 1,000 traffickers, most of whom have been sentenced to prison terms.

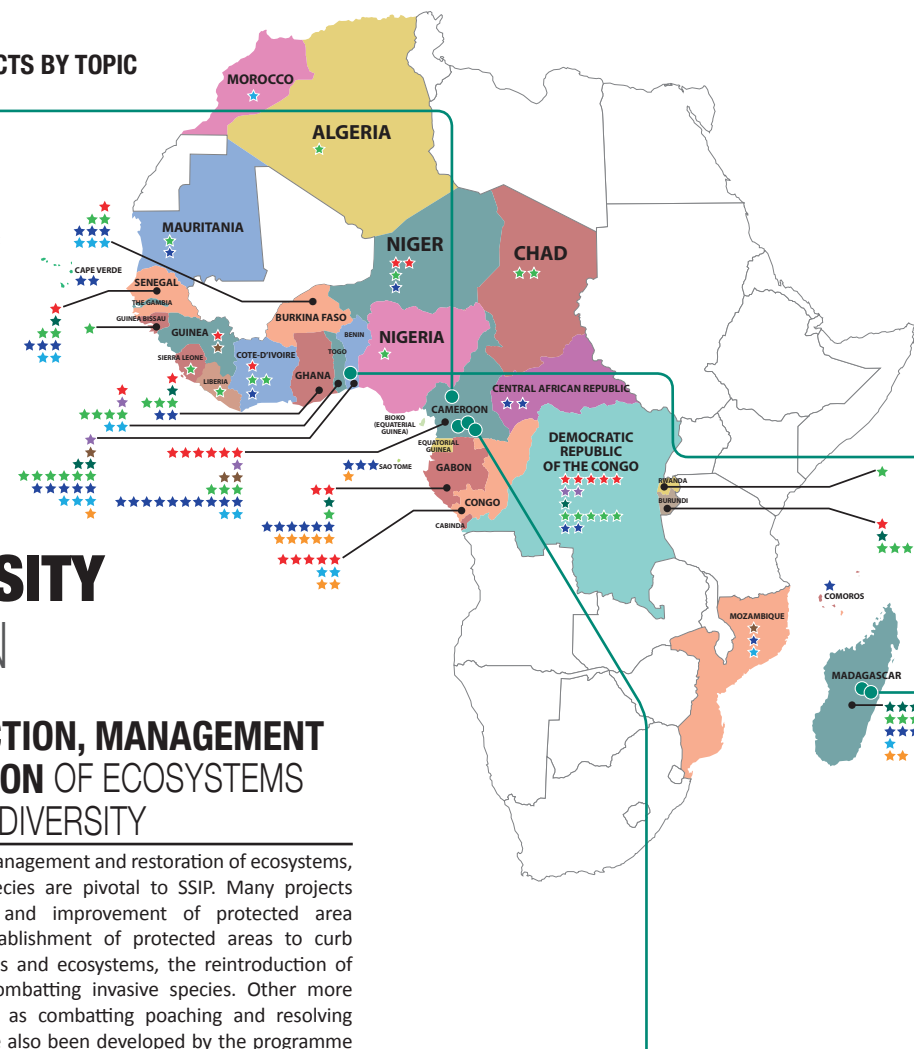
Project budget: €457,838 (€120,000 from FFEM)  
LUC MATHOT, lucmathot@yahoo.fr  
www.eagle-enforcement.org



© Eagle

### ATLAS OF SSIP PROJECTS BY TOPIC

- ★ Conservation of threatened species
- ★ Anti-poaching
- ★ Human/wildlife conflict resolution
- ★ Ecosystem conservation
- ★ Protected area creation/management
- ★ Sustainable natural resource use and socioeconomic development
- ★ Combating climate change
- ★ Environmental education



## BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

### BETTER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION OF ECOSYSTEMS TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY

Projects for the protection, management and restoration of ecosystems, habitats and remarkable species are pivotal to SSIP. Many projects thus involve the creation and improvement of protected area management plans, the establishment of protected areas to curb pressure on natural resources and ecosystems, the reintroduction of threatened species, while combatting invasive species. Other more innovative approaches, such as combatting poaching and resolving human-wildlife conflicts, have also been developed by the programme to help protect elephants in Cameroon and hippos in Burundi, etc.

Putting an economic value on natural resources and rare ecosystems is a further means to contribute to their protection. In this way, these SSIP projects have helped develop the local economy at the edges of protected areas—mangrove conservation also promotes the preservation of fish spawning areas, tree planting enables the production of non-timber forest products, setting up protected areas in Madagascar rebuilds octopus stocks, etc.

## ENHANCED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Community management is an emerging land and natural resource management model based on the decentralization of responsibilities, negotiation and local stakeholder involvement. This enables local communities to (re)take control of their lands through the institutionalization of decentralized and/or community governance processes. This tightens social bonds around common issues, while establishing them as prime movers in local development. SSIP has selected partner CSOs involved in setting up these stakeholder groups and building their capacities so as to promote sustainable management of natural resources and associated ecosystems.

### CAMEROON

#### A SANCTUARY TO PROTECT THE LAST CROSS RIVER GORILLAS

ERUDEF, Environment and Rural Development Foundation

This project aims to protect the habitats of 35 Cross River gorillas—a species on the brink of extinction—and 460 remarkable bird species living in Bechati-Lebialem forest.

Initiatives by the NGO ERUDEF have led to the classification of this forest as the Tofala Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. It is linked with the Takamanda National Park and the Mone Forest Reserve to promote the movement—and thus genetic mixing—of animal and plant populations. The sanctuary is co-managed by a forest council made up of associated village committees and by the Cameroonian Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.

Alternative income generated by beekeeping, small livestock farming and guarding of the sanctuary has halted poaching and led to the conversion of poachers (especially into ecoguards). Surrounding schools benefit from environmental education courses and *The Green Vision*, a newspaper that deals specifically these issues, is now distributed throughout Cameroon

Project budget: €103,393 (€40,000 from FFEM)  
LOUIS NKEMBI, louis.nkemb@erufed.org  
www.erufedconservation.org

### MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

On a small scale, SSIP supports concrete initiatives to combat climate change, by encouraging communities to apply low-carbon alternative solutions—use of improved stoves, installation of domestic biodigesters, setting up of composting platforms, urban waste recycling and reforestation initiatives.

## EDUCATE, PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE

Training on environmental issues is an essential component in SSIP projects. Educational programmes targeting local communities—especially children—are available in work/exchange workshops or in technical training courses, thus enabling various local stakeholders to get informed, exchange and share their knowledge and skills. These programmes are complemented by many awareness initiatives (information panels, disseminated leaflets, radio programmes, local newspaper articles, etc.).

Scientific studies and research have also benefited from data from surveys, monitoring and collections carried out in the framework of SSIP projects to gain insight into threatened species such as manatees in Cameroon and marine turtles in the Congo.

### MADAGASCAR

#### SMALL PROTECTED AREAS – THE LAST BASTION FOR NATIVE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF MADAGASCAR

NGO MV, Madagasikara Voakajy

Anosibe An'Ala district is characterized by the presence of medium-elevation dense rainforests that have been highly degraded by slash-and-burn farming and illegal logging. SSIP funding has helped enhance the capacity of eight rural communities with regard to natural resource management, while supporting them in creating three new protected areas. In 2015, the latter were given a definitive protection status and are now co-managed by communities in partnership with the State (the NGO MV will soon be its representative).

The inhabitants, with MV assistance, have participatively developed management plans and a map of natural resources, while establishing a *Dina*—which pools the rules and sanctions set by traditional laws—approved by the Moramanga Court and valid at all intervention sites in the district. MV also conducts flora/fauna surveys and studies on key species (especially *Mantella aurantiaca*, a frog threatened with extinction, see opposite picture, and *Calumma tarzan*, an endemic dwarf chameleon) and their habitats.

Project budget: €102,000 (50,000 € from FFEM)  
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www.madagasikara-voakajy.org

### BENIN

#### COMPOSTING WATER HYACINTH FROM LAKE NOKOUÉ

ACED, Actions pour l'Environnement et le Développement durable

Water hyacinth is one of the 100 most invasive plant species in the world, and is proliferating to an alarming extent in Lake Nokoué—a site designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The high growth rate of this species has led to eutrophication of the lake waters, with a concomitant negative impact on fish stocks upon which the economy of the region is dependent, as well as on the survival of 150 lake bird species. Moreover, water hyacinth contributes to climate change via methane emissions when it decomposes in the lake sediment.

ACED has developed various means to curb the expansion of this plant while making effective economic use of it—production of hyacinth-based compost by local market gardeners, marketing of hyacinth-based handicrafts made by women, etc. The greenhouse gas emissions avoided in this way are converted into certified Gold Standard carbon credits.

The hyacinth-based compost serves as a substitute for expensive and hard to find chemical fertilizers, which will enable market gardeners to save FCFA 5.4 M over the project period.

Project budget: €54,701 (€40,341 from FFEM)  
FRÉJUS. S. THOTO, contact@aced-benin.org  
www.aced-benin.org



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