

PROJECT BRIEF

SAVANNAH INTEGRATED BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (SIBCI)



This project is funded by the
European Union

Background

Savannah Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (SIBCI) was initiated by the Ghana Wildlife Society in collaboration with partners to support the implementation of Sustainable Management of the Mole National Park and peripheral areas, implemented under the auspices of the European Union's PAPBio Programme which aims at sound management of large landscapes of high biodiversity value. SIBCI has emerged as a priority in the context of rapid demographic growth, poverty, weak governance of natural resources and increasingly frequent climate change, which are leading to the impoverishment of natural capital in Northern Ghana, including ecosystem services on which the Ghanaian population largely depend. SIBCI engenders harmony between green economic activities towards improvement of livelihoods of selected communities surrounding the Mole National Park, and conservation of biodiversity within and around the Park. SIBCI is further supporting sustainable management of protected areas within the PoCoMo complex [Po, Nazinga and Sisili (PoNaSi) / Comoé / Mole] comprising different savannah ecotypes, and the corridors joining them. The SIBCI Project contributes to fostering sectoral and trans-frontier cooperation with neighbouring protected areas (Comoé National Park in Côte d'Ivoire and the Nazinga Ranch in Burkina Faso) and contributes to ensuring sustainable financing mechanism for the management of the Mole National Park.

Objectives

The project long-term goal is to contribute to the achievement of endogenous, sustainable and inclusive economic development that responds to the challenges of climate change. In the medium-term, the objective is to improve sustainable, participatory and integrated management of the Mole National Park (MNP) towards biodiversity conservation and resilience to climate change.

- Socio-economic and sectoral activities relating to the Mole National Park are well coordinated and integrated.
- Protected Area Management systems are developed and operational.
- Resource dependent communities participate and derive benefits from the integrated management of natural resources.

Activities

1. Coordination and Integration of socio-economic and sectoral activities

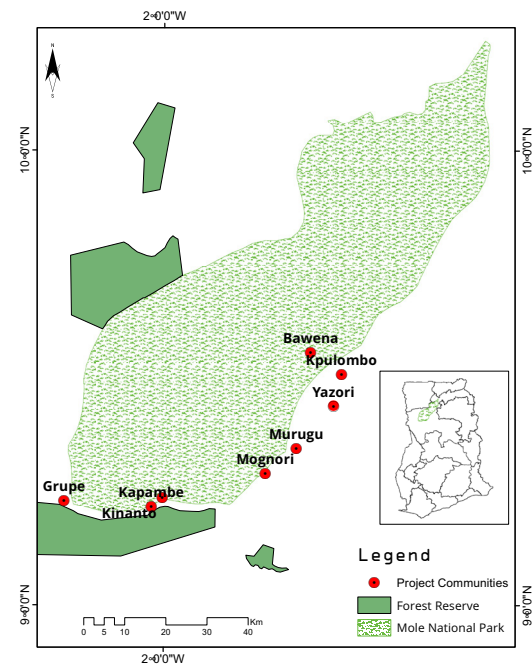
- 1.1. Promote biodiversity and climate-friendly economic opportunities that create decent jobs.
- 1.2. Establish structured participatory processes towards adoption of best practices in protected area management and mainstreaming of sustainable management of conservation areas into District/Municipal Development Plans.
- 1.3. Promote knowledge sharing on protected areas through dialogues, exchange visits across sectors, and cross-regional platforms for sharing best practices.
- 1.4. Foster trans-boundary collaboration to establish ecological connectivity between MNP and adjoining protected areas.
- 1.5. Support strategic environmental assessment for policies, development programmes and sector plans to mitigate negative impacts on the MNP.

2. Operationalization of Protected Area Management systems

- 2.1. Update the PA Management plan for MNP.
- 2.2. Report annually at the regional level the activities and results achieved by MNP.
- 2.3. Operationalize anti-poaching systems and intelligence, annual monitoring of management efficiency and budgets and creation of tourism infrastructure.
- 2.4. Pilot and scale-up sustainable funding mechanisms for MNP.

3. Participation of communities in integrated management of natural resources

- 3.1. Develop the capacity of community groups towards integrated management of conservation areas.
- 3.2. Roll out community-driven natural resource development models.
- 3.3. Promote the representation of the populations in the structures of control, development and monitoring of MNP.



Map of Mole National Park indicating some project communities.

Project Duration

36

months

1st January 2020 - 31st December 2022

Project Cost and Funding

€1,551,745.80

with financial contributions of 74% from the European Union; 12% from the Ghana Wildlife Society; 8% from other project partners; and 6% from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Target Groups and Beneficiaries



Project Partners

Ghana Wildlife Society leads the project. The other partners include University for Development Studies (UDS), Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) and Cooperazione Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Paesi Emergenti Onlus (COSPE).



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