



AFRICAN YOUTH SUMMIT ON BIODIVERSITY

PROJECTS CATALOGUE 2024

FROM PAPER TO ACTION: AFRICAN YOUTH IMPLEMENTING THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN



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FOREWORD

Decades ago, it was easy for many to dismiss biodiversity loss and climate change impacts as a conspiracy or an exaggerated issue. Now, we need only look out our window to see the devastating impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change, and to realize we are living in a time of urgency.

Indeed, the frequent life-threatening floods and droughts of recent years, along with the local extinction of valuable plants and animals, allow all sectors of society to see the environmental crisis in real time. From the bank accounts of businesses to the livelihoods of local communities, the dual climate and biodiversity crisis is hitting everyone everywhere. As a result, there is more awareness than ever that action is needed. But who should take this action? And what does action really look like in a crisis that is so complex?

In Africa, it is crucial to empower youth, who make up about 70 per cent of the population, to take action. We often mention this as a sweeping statement, but it gives us pride to see that the Africa Chapter of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN Africa) is a testament to the sense of urgency and willingness among African youth to take action. The network already mobilises youth from across 30 African countries where there are GYBN national chapters, and through the African Youth Summit on Biodiversity it engages youth beyond the countries where there are chapters.

This new brochure is further testament to the fact that African youth are not just about talk, but also about action. It contains innovative ideas and projects they are championing to implement the GBF (Global Biodiversity Framework), recently renamed 'The Biodiversity Plan For Life on Earth'. It gives a guide on where and how we can support meaningful and tangible youth-led action on the continent. The ideas and projects herein are indeed as diverse as needed to address the complex nature of the planetary crisis.

We encourage you, dear reader, to support this and other initiatives, and thus give life to these transformative, holistic approaches that exemplify the whole-of-society approach we need to live in harmony with nature.



Hugo Rivera Mendonza
Team Leader
Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
EU-Support Project



Prisca Daka
Coordinator
Global Youth Biodiversity
Network - Africa Chapter



Kaddu Sebunya
CEO
African Wildlife Foundation

WHERE DO THE TOP 10 PROJECTS COME FROM?



- BENIN**
BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
- BENIN**
CREATION OF A SHARED ECO-GARDEN
- BENIN**
ENCOURAGING SCHOOLCHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TO CONSERVE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE COMMUNES OF OUIDAH AND KPOMASSÉ
- BURKINA FASO**
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN AGROECOLOGICAL MARKET GARDEN PROTECTION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED STUDENTS
- CAMEROON**
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN BENOUE PARK THROUGH BIO-CONVERSION OF BLACK SOLDIER FLY LARVAE AND BIOGAS PRODUCTION

- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**
ENSURING THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
- CÔTE D'IVOIRE**
COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION OF THE AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT IN THE COMOÉ NATIONAL PARK NORTH REGION
- UGANDA, RWANDA & DRC**
EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION IN THE GREATER VIRUNGA TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPE
- TANZANIA**
JOIN THE MOVEMENT, PROTECTING LAKE VICTORIA BIODIVERSITY THROUGH COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREAS.
- SOUTH AFRICA**
PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION OF THE LUVUVHU RIVER OF THE VHEMBE BIOSPHERE RESERVE

AFRICAN YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVATION

Africa currently faces the unprecedented and disproportionate impacts of three planetary emergencies: biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. If not addressed adequately, this trend will continue to have serious consequences on Africa's development progress and the continent's ability to grow sustainably. Increasing meaningful youth engagement in biodiversity policy and conservation is necessary to achieve the 2050 goal of living in harmony with nature and the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs.

African youth are key actors in the implementation of biodiversity policy and conservation actions and are critical to making transformative change on the ground. Unfortunately, although African youth make up more than half of Africa's population, their continued marginalisation from most policymaking and governance structures often hinders exploration of the full potential of youth to meaningfully contribute to the shared vision of a sustainable, healthier and prospering continent.

There is an urgent need to recognise African youth as effective agents of change in democratic systems and in the environmental policymaking process. We must also urgently and collectively develop efficient, transformative and collaborative frameworks that prioritise the empowerment of youth and their meaningful participation in leadership and decision-making processes at the local, national and global levels. This is critical for ensuring inclusive, representative and sustainable democratic societies. Our project catalogue showcases some of the innovative ways that African youth are contributing to the conservation of Africa's biodiversity and at the same time creating green jobs for their peers and empowering their communities.

ORIGINS AND OUTCOMES OF THE AFRICAN YOUTH SUMMIT ON BIODIVERSITY

Building upon the achievements of the Youth Leadership Dialogue held in Paris in November 2019, the African Youth Biodiversity Forum was created to develop a continental initiative to foster youth mobilisation on biodiversity.

A first edition of the Forum took place in South Africa in February 2020 to support the development of a cross-constituency African youth network engaged in biodiversity and to replicate the achievements of the Paris Youth Leadership Dialogue. It supported the establishment of a youth policy on the environment and biodiversity, in particular in connection with the South

African presidency of the African Union (AU), the Sustainable Development Goals and the AU's 2063 Agenda. Youth representatives from 19 African countries participated in the Forum to learn about the CBD and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

From this first step, the African Youth Summit on Biodiversity (AYSB) was created in 2022 as an annual event to bring together young leaders, researchers, activists and representatives from diverse sectors, including NGOs, government agencies and the private sector. The inaugural AYSB took place virtually from 21 to 23 April 2022. It was co-convened by GYBN Africa and AWF.

Almost one year after the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the 15th meeting of the Parties (COP15), GYBN Africa and the Moroccan Youth Biodiversity Network association, with support from the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework EU Support project, AWF and the Moroccan Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, organised the 2nd AYSB in Rabat, Morocco from 19 to 21 September 2023. The summit, themed 'From Awareness to Action: Empowering African Youth for Biodiversity Conservation', aimed at empowering

and engaging African young people in the implementation of tangible projects to preserve nature and reverse biodiversity loss.

AYSB 2023 brought together more than 200 participants from across the continent, including youth, experts, representatives of civil society, and national and regional institutions. It created a space for dialogue and a platform for exchange on the involvement of African youth in the implementation of the KMGBF, recently renamed The Biodiversity Plan for Life on Earth, and more generally in the preservation of African ecosystems.

Global Youth Biodiversity Network – African Regional Chapter

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network Africa (GYBN Africa) is a regional chapter of GYBN, an international network of youth organisations and individuals from every region of the globe, who have united together with a common goal: to prevent the loss of biodiversity and preserve the Earth's natural resources.

As the official group for youth in the negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), GYBN is committed to bringing the opinions and positions of young people into the political process, thereby empowering young people to take action. Recognised and supported by the CBD Secretariat, GYBN seeks to inspire global youth and future leaders to work for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, to ensure a healthy global environment and enduring societies.

GYBN Africa seeks to bring the voice of young Africans to biodiversity policy arenas, empower African youth, and raise awareness about the values of biodiversity among African people. To this end, GYBN Africa has supported the development of 38 national chapters, with the hope of expanding to all African countries in the near future.

Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - EU Support Project

Currently in its 2nd Phase, the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework – EU Support project is an EU-funded initiative, implemented by Expertise France.

The project seeks to foster an ambitious implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, The Biodiversity Plan For Life on Earth, through a wide variety of activities: workshops, knowledge products, awareness-raising campaigns, technical assistance and support to decision-makers.

Focusing on supporting key partners in Latin America, Africa and Asia to implement concrete 'transformative actions', the main goal of the project is to move from a strategic vision to operational and actionable changes by: mainstreaming biodiversity across public policy at different levels of governance; engaging all stakeholders across society and sector impacting and dependent on nature;

ensuring transition to sustainable food production and consumption; enhancing the visibility of green cities and their contributions to biodiversity; promoting ecosystem restoration and the sustainable use of genetic resources; fostering landscape and seascape approaches as a vehicle for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The partnership between the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework – EU Support project, GYBN Africa and AWF is an example of a successful outcome. It bears witness to the commitment of youth through the implementation, monitoring, reporting and decision-making processes related to biodiversity conservation and at the same time showcases concrete youth-led actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation efforts across Africa.

African Wildlife Foundation

The African Wildlife Foundation is the primary advocate for the protection of wildlife and their habitats as an essential part of a modern and prosperous Africa. Founded in 1961 during the African independence movement in order to build the capacity of Africans to steward their natural resources, AWF articulates a uniquely African vision, bridging science, education, public policy, and field programmes to demonstrate the benefits of conservation and build a future for Africa where people and wildlife thrive.

AWF is focused on mainstreaming conservation as an essential part of Africa's future, growing nature-based economies at the local and national levels, and providing resources for wildlife conservation to partners on the ground. The foundation integrates this work across three approaches: Leading for Wildlife, Living with Wildlife, and Caring for Wildlife. Together, they represent emphasis on driving an African-led conservation agenda across Africa and the world, creating opportunities for people living on the frontlines of conservation and ensuring wildlife thrive across Africa.

As an Africa-based, African-led global conservation organization, present in 10 countries and 17 landscapes, AWF is uniquely positioned to work effectively at all levels of decision-making to lead and advise from an authentic, trusted perspective. The foundation's repertoire of professional networks, tools, and practical experience, built through partnerships and more than 60 years of implementation, demonstrates how conservation and development can and must be delivered together.

Today, AWF is building on this legacy to spearhead an African-led conservation movement. Leveraging its relationships and networks, the foundation is investing in leaders at all levels to drive progress and decision-making that benefits people and wildlife.

The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) demonstrates its commitment to youth engagement through various youth engagement initiatives including a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) Africa. As key partners to the first and second Africa Youth Summit on Biodiversity since its inception, AWF actively supports and empowers young leaders in biodiversity conservation. This partnership underscores AWF's dedication to fostering a new generation of conservationists, ensuring that youth voices are integral to shaping Africa's conservation agenda and driving sustainable development across the continent. Learn more about AWF's youth fellowships and partnerships: <https://www.awf.org/news/awf-charles-r-wall-fellowships>

Picture: © Bohlemedia

From paper to Action: Unveiling 10 projects shaping a sustainable future

In the spirit of empowering young people to champion biodiversity conservation, this catalogue proudly presents the outcomes of the Youth-Led Innovative Projects Pitch Competition, an initiative stemming from the 2nd AYSB of 2023. We invite you to embark on a journey of discovery, where each page reveals the passion, creativity and boundless potential of African youth in championing biodiversity conservation.

The top 10 projects featured in this catalogue underwent meticulous selection from a pool of 18 submissions, with each project evaluated against a comprehensive set of criteria. These criteria were carefully crafted to ensure alignment with the KMGBF goals and targets and to promote tangible implementation activities for biodiversity conservation. The projects encompass the necessity for meaningful youth engagement and leadership. They demonstrate innovation in tackling biodiversity conservation challenges and illustrate how a complex issue can be feasibly and sustainably designed to lead impact. The projects also stood out for fostering partnerships and collaboration in their implementation plans as well as for demonstrating robust monitoring and evaluation plans. Through this rigorous evaluation process, the selected projects demonstrate a commitment to moving beyond rhetoric to tangible actions, as they champion real-world solutions for the preservation of our planet's biodiversity.

While these projects only represent four regions of Africa (West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa), they stand as a testament to the huge spirit of commitment and tangible action led by young people across the continent. They represent just a glimpse of the many possibilities that exist in Africa. They make a case for the urgent need to invest in empowering young people to continue championing biodiversity conservation efforts, as they hold the key to shaping a more sustainable future for Africa and the planet as a whole.

The projects showcased here invite us to appreciate the diverse landscape of innovation that has developed across the African continent. From the sun-kissed shores of Benin to the sprawling savannahs of Burkina Faso, and from the dense rainforests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the bustling urban landscapes of South Africa, each project represents a unique beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards a brighter, more sustainable future.

Amidst this diversity, some of the featured projects are still in the idea stage, where seeds of creativity are just beginning to sprout, awaiting nurturing and support to

blossom into full-fledged initiatives. Others are at the inception stage, where the groundwork is laid and plans are taking shape, ready to be cultivated into impactful actions. And yet, there are those at the scale-up stage, where successful endeavours are expanding their reach, amplifying their impact and inspiring others to follow suit.

In Benin, initiatives are taking root in Ouidah and Kpomassè, to educate and empower children and parents to safeguard vital mangrove ecosystems. Meanwhile, the concept of collective gardens is fostering community cohesion and resilience and championing inclusive biodiversity spatial planning in the village of Maréborou – a testament to the power of grassroots action.

In the heart of Burkina Faso, amidst the verdant beauty of the W-Arly-Pendjari complex, internally displaced students find solace and purpose. Through agroecological production, the project promises to forge connections with the land, thereby contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in villages bordering this precious ecosystem.

In Cameroon, a clarion call echoes through the lush forests of Bénoué National Park, rallying young minds and communities to protect their natural heritage. Armed with knowledge and innovation, they confront threats to biodiversity head-on, embracing sustainable solutions such as Black Soldier Fly technology. Together, they stand as guardians of a cherished legacy, forging a path towards harmony between humanity and nature.

In Goma, North Kivu, a city renowned for its striking natural scenery and its lively music scene, an ongoing project seeks to strengthen the inclusion and participation of youth with disabilities and indigenous peoples in biodiversity-related decision-making. This initiative aims to ensure that these often marginalized groups have a voice in managing and protecting North Kivu's biodiversity by educating them about biodiversity and environmental protection, training them in sustainable agricultural practices, and actively involving them in conservation efforts.

Across the rugged terrain of Comoé National Park in Côte d'Ivoire, an idea is brewing to unite local communities in safeguarding the majestic African golden cat from the perils of hunting and the bushmeat trade. Through a community-driven conservation plan, they are forging bonds of solidarity that help ensure the survival of the species and of traditions for generations to come.

In the Greater Virunga Transboundary Landscape (GVTL), spanning the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda, an ongoing project underscores that biodiversity knows no boundaries, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts. This initiative aims to strengthen youth involvement in regional conservation programs by mobilizing youth, gathering diverse ideas, and guiding impactful projects and plans for the Greater Virunga Landscape's benefit. It seeks to create a space for youth integration with a common goal of GVTL conservation.

In Thohoyandou, within the Thulamela Local Municipality of South Africa, a new phase of a project is enhancing the ecological health of the Luvuvhu River within the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO-recognized site known for its rich biodiversity. The project focuses on mitigating plastic pollution, promoting sustainable waste management, and fostering community engagement. By revitalizing the river's ecosystem, reducing plastic pollution, and initiating upcycling projects, the community is driving a shift towards sustainable practices and a circular economy.

In the shimmering waters of Lake Victoria, a call to action reverberates – a call to protect a vital lifeline for countless communities. Inspired by the urgent warnings of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a project is taking shape to reverse the tide of ecological decline. By promoting sustainable fishing practices and empowering local communities to become stewards of their shared heritage, they are embarking on a journey of restoration and renewal, safeguarding not only the lake's biodiversity but also the livelihoods of those who depend on it.

Beyond these stories lies an invitation – to immerse yourself in the tales of change-makers, to champion the voices of tomorrow, and to stand as guardians of our planet's precious biodiversity. Let these stories inspire you to action.

Navigating through the catalogue is designed to be

intuitive and informative. Each project is presented across two pages, offering comprehensive insights into its objectives, strategies and potential impact. Within each project profile, you will find essential information, including the project's title, stage of development (whether it's new, at inception or at scale), a brief background of the context, the problem the project addresses, the proposed solution, and how it aligns with the KMGBF.

Furthermore, the profile details the geographical area where the project aims to make an impact, key stakeholders involved, strategies to achieve objectives, expected outcomes, sustainability plans, and the project's budget. Additionally, you will find contact information for the project lead, providing an avenue for further engagement or support. With this structured approach, you can easily navigate the catalogue, enabling you to gain valuable insights into each project's innovative approach to biodiversity conservation and to identify opportunities for collaboration and support.

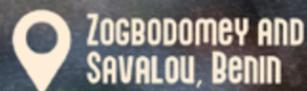
We therefore invite you, as you read through the innovative projects, to see yourself as part of these initiatives. May these projects inspire you to explore opportunities, move you to help spread the word, and trigger you to think of ways you can get involved. May they motivate you to reach out to the project leads to learn more and stay informed on progress, and perhaps urge you to use this as inspiration to start your own project or partner with these projects. It is our hope that you will be moved to support these projects either through funding or by offering partnership. To us, these are not just calls to action, but invitations to become active participants in the journey towards a more sustainable future, where innovation and passion pave the way for lasting change. After all, it will take the whole of the government and the whole of society to urgently reach the ambitious goals of the Biodiversity Plan For Life on Earth, so that we can all live in harmony with nature.

Happy reading!



Picture: © Ismail El hassani

BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN BENIN



Zogbodomey and
SAVALOU, Benin



EDUCATIONECOLO@GMAIL.COM



IMPLEMENTED BY:
EDUC'ECO
(EDUCATION À L'ENVIRONNEMENT)

SUPPORTED BY:

- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN FARMERS OF BENIN
- GRAND NOKOUÉ WASTE AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Picture: ©Ismail Salad

>>> Background

Benin is home to a rich and diverse biodiversity, essential for healthy ecosystems, food security and human well-being. The country faces challenges such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, overgrazing, unsustainable agricultural expansion and the effects of climate change, all of which threaten the sustainability of natural resources. Agriculture plays a crucial role in Benin's economy, contributing significantly to GDP, employment and food security.

However, it faces sustainability challenges due to unsustainable practices and pressure on natural resources. Preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable agricultural practices are among Benin's priorities in terms of sustainable development and the fight against poverty.

Our project seeks to address these issues through the awareness-raising and empowerment of young people. It provides education on biodiversity and sustainable agricultural practices, thereby contributing to the preservation of biodiversity and food security. According to the sixth national biodiversity report, the areas with the highest rates of forest cover loss between 2000 and 2017 are the cotton-growing areas in the north, centre and far south of the country. The project will be carried out in the Zogbodomey and Savalou municipalities, which are highly threatened areas. It will reach at least 540 people in Benin, including rural children, adolescents and young people.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

- Target 10 (**Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry**): The project aims to raise the awareness of young people and empower them to promote biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, in line with Goal A (**Protect and Restore**) of preserving global biodiversity as set out in the Kunming-Montreal Framework.

- Target 20 (**Strengthen Capacity-Building**) and Target 22 (**Ensure Participation in Decision-Making**): By providing education and training to young people, the project builds local capacity for the sustainable management of natural resources. This corresponds to Goal C (**Share Benefits Fairly**) of strengthening human and institutional capacity.

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project will last 8 months.

>>> What are your objectives?

Ensure the protection of biodiversity in the Zogbodomey and Savalou municipalities through biodiversity education and the empowerment of young people through sustainable agriculture by:

- educating children, teenagers and young people about the importance of biodiversity and environmental protection, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- training young rural people in agroecological production techniques;
- training young rural people in the production of ecological fertilisers.

>>> Where will the project impacts occur?

In rural agricultural areas, schools and training centres in Savalou and Zogbodomey, Benin.

- **At local level:** improvement of food security, job creation and youth empowerment, biodiversity conservation, and preservation of local ecosystems and indigenous species;
- **At regional level:** strengthening of resilience to climate change through adapted sustainable agricultural practices and sharing knowledge and good practice with other regions facing similar challenges,
- **At national level:** contribution to national policies on food security and poverty reduction, conservation of natural resources and sustainable economic development.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

Several key partners will be involved in implementing the project:

- the Ministry of the Environment;
- town governments and other local authorities;
- environmental and agricultural NGOs;
- school principals, Educ'Eco focal points;
- the Grand Nokoué Waste and Health Management company.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- By identifying and selecting interested groups;
- By organising steering meetings and workshops;
- By designing a biodiversity toolbox;
- By organising practical training based on the field/school approach to sustainable agricultural production techniques,
- Through awareness/education campaigns on the importance of biodiversity.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- 440 young people trained in sustainable agricultural

production techniques;

- 500 young people sensitised to / educated about the importance of biodiversity.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- Young people adopt sustainable agricultural production techniques.
- Young people take part in biodiversity conservation initiatives.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

The long-term sustainability of the project will be fostered through:

- regular monitoring and evaluation;
- knowledge and capacity building for local communities;
- targeting ecologically and economically viable farming practices;
- adaptability by integrating continuous learning processes;
- adjusting approaches to meet changing needs;
- mitigating negative effects and optimising positive results;
- integrating an innovative approach.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 9,980

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	2,800.00
Travel	800.00
Materials and supplies	2,000.00
Project office	2,400.00
Services	1,680.00
Visibility	300.00
Total cost	9,980.00

Available resources: 10% contribution.

In-kind contributions: land for pilot projects, voluntary services by focal points, agricultural produce for practical training, agricultural equipment, educational supplies

PROJECT STATUS:
NEW

CREATION OF A SHARED ECO-GARDEN

 **MARÉBOUROU, N'DALI, Benin**

 **RASPEONG@GMAIL.COM**



Implemented BY:
RASIPE NGO

SUPPORTED BY:
- **Benin YOUTH BIODIVERSITY NETWORK CARREFOUR LIVING LAB**
- **JCI BOHICON WANILU**

>>> Background

Collective gardens are multifunctional and evolving spaces. They are an aspect of everyday urban life and encourage social links.

The village of Maréborou is located in the commune of N'dali, in the department of Borgou. It supplies the population of the area with foodstuffs such as tomatoes, soya beans and other produce. The village has a mixed ethnic population made up of Otamari, Bariba, Hausa, Dendi, Adja and Fon. It is also home to Nigerian nationals and agricultural workers from Atacora. It has two primary schools, a Catholic church and a large agroecological promotion site set up by Caritas-Parakou.

With an estimated population of around 1,500 people, this village will host the Shared Urban Eco-Garden project as a place of exchange and rich horticultural practices. The village will be able to promote concrete ecological actions as an alternative to agribusiness, which is beginning to invest in the area. By hosting the project, the local authorities will participate in the development of local organic agriculture and will contribute directly to the economic development of the local population, the strengthening of local agriculture, and the protection and conservation of biodiversity, while at the same time achieving food autonomy.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

The project is essentially intended to achieve the objectives of Target 10, which aims to **Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry**.

The participatory aspect of the project responds to Target 1 of the GBF (**Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss**), which aims to ensure that all areas are subject to participatory, integrated and inclusive biodiversity spatial planning while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project has a duration of nine months.

>>> What are your objectives?

Cultivate a collective garden in a safe, natural and sustainable way, as well as to establish interaction between environmental education and school life.

Specifically, the creation of a shared eco-garden within the village of Maréborou aims to:

- help students understand the importance of the garden in their school and its contribution to their well-being (health);
- promote quality techniques for the sustainable conservation of the environment, through the creation of a shared urban garden within the school;
- increase students' environmental knowledge and awareness;
- identify the prospects associated with shared urban eco-gardens.

>>> Where will the project impacts occur?

The project is implemented at the local level in the commune of N'dali, which faces a certain number of climatic problems and issues.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

- Technical and financial partners;
- The project team;
- Local authorities;
- Teachers;
- Students and parents;
- Local producers.

>>> What are your main successes so far?

The project has not yet started, but in relation to previous preparatory work and tests carried out to promote climate-change awareness and adaptation in

the run-up to the KMGBF, the project, which involves various components, looks to be easily implementable.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- By identifying and selecting interested groups;
- By organising sensitisation meetings;
- By selecting site implantation and plants;
- By creating shared gardens, a body of water and an herb garden;
- By raising awareness,
- By carrying out work sessions to promote the rapid involvement of students into garden activities;
- By presenting the results of each stage of the project at conferences and seminars.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- Planting of 200 plants adapted to local climate conditions;
- Production of 6,000 tonnes of compost by the garden, sold to be sold to communities;
- Establishment of a participatory, multi-stakeholder mechanism for efficient seed supply;
- 250 kg of improved seeds made available to members of village farmers' organisations;
- Establishment of an annual consultation between

value chain stakeholders, a local committee and authorities;

- Training sessions on agroecology and establishment of a shared garden.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- Pupils and students are able to explain the merits of agroecological techniques.
- Pupils and students are able to form associations for shared eco-garden initiatives.
- Schoolchildren and communities adopt technological innovations for ecosystem management.
- Pupils and students are able to become self-employed after their studies.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

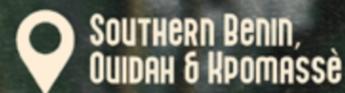
- The long-term sustainability of the project will be pursued through:
- creation of an annual framework for consultation between the different parties;
- selection of seedlings adapted to the conditions of climate change;
- knowledge and technology transfer to local communities.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 18,200.91

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	6,431.07
Travel	1,028.97
Materials and supplies	1,936.09
Project office	3,018.33
Services	3,721.51
Indirect costs and taxes	2,064.9
Total cost	18,200.91

ENCOURAGING SCHOOLCHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TO CONSERVE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE COMMUNES OF OUIDAH AND KPOMASSÉ IN SOUTHERN BENIN



ONG.SAVEOURPLANET@GMAIL.COM



+22 996 879 357



Implemented by:
SAVE OUR PLANET

Supported by:
JOURNAL SANTÉ ENVIRONNEMENT

Picture: ©Timothy

>>> Background

The project aims to educate and support children and parents in the mangrove areas of Ouidah and Kpomassé in Benin so that they preserve mangrove ecosystems. Mangroves are vital coastal forests that provide not only habitat for a variety of species, but also crucial functions such as carbon storage, timber production and fishing. However, threats such as over-exploitation of timber, pollution and overfishing are destroying these ecosystems.

The mangroves of Ouidah and Kpomassé regressed considerably between 1995 and 2015. Despite several initiatives to reforest these mangroves, anthropogenic pressures persist. A survey of beneficiaries shows the urgent need to raise awareness at grassroots level and set up a monitoring system for local associations campaigning to protect mangroves. It is therefore important to involve children and parents in conservation efforts and encourage autonomous management of mangrove areas to mitigate the degradation of these ecosystems in southern Benin.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

- **Goal A (Protect and Restore):** The project will raise awareness about mangrove ecosystem conservation among students from local schools and their parents, and it will initiate mangrove ecosystem restoration activities.
- **Goal B (Prosper with Nature):** It will set up alternative income-generating activities for parent farmers.
- **Goal C (Share Benefits Fairly):** It will monitor and evaluate the activities carried out.

>>> What are your objectives?

Raise awareness about mangrove ecosystem conservation among students and their parents in riverside schools:

- Initiate mangrove ecosystem restoration activities.
- Set up alternative income-generating activities for parents.
- Monitor and evaluate the activities carried out.

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project will last 12 months:

Time	Activity
Months 1-2	Contact with authorities, selection of schools, awareness-raising campaigns for children, competitions with rewards
Months 3	Contact with parents, awareness-raising for farmers, setting up mangrove nurseries
Months 4-5	Evaluation and report writing
Months 6-12	Evaluation, monitoring and report writing, activities follow-up, mangrove reforestation, planting of fruit species

>>> What will the project impacts be?

- **Environmental impacts:** increase in mangrove ecosystem cover, reconstitution of natural habitats, reduction of soil erosion or pressure on natural resources, climate change mitigation through carbon storage, increased local monitoring of mangrove ecosystems.
- **Socio-economic impacts:** improved and diversified income for local populations (especially women), creation of local seasonal jobs, creation of new economic activities, increased capacity for local populations in mangrove preservation and reforestation.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

- Local students (aged 9 to 16);
- Mangrove farming parents;
- Local authorities.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- **Students:** Raise awareness among schoolchildren in local primary and middle schools.

- Mangrove farmers:

Raise awareness among parents about the consequences of abusive exploitation of mangrove systems; Initiate mangrove ecosystem restoration activities through the planting of red and white mangroves; Train and set up alternative income-generating activities.

- Farmers and local authorities

Set up alternative income-generating activities for family farmers; Set up a system to protect certain areas through traditional practices; Monitor and evaluate activities carried out.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- Awareness-raising for 200 students in the 2 communes;
- 4 associations of children and parents promoting sustainable use practices for mangrove ecosystems and demonstrating interest in conservation actions.
- More than 50% of mangrove users will be trained in alternative income-generating activities.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- Mangrove ecosystems deforestation will be reduced.

ced.

- The economic situation for the surrounding communities will be improved.
- Good eco-responsible behaviour in children will be developed from the ground up.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

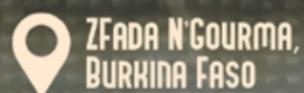
The project will promote gender equality by ensuring that both men and women, including women salt growers and fishers, have equal opportunities. Youth engagement via educational initiatives will foster environmental awareness and mangrove conservation. Traditional indigenous practices will be respected. The project will adopt mangrove management strategies that preserve biodiversity and regenerate ecosystems and will acknowledge mangroves' carbon sequestration and coastal protection role against climate change. It aims to reforest 10 hectares annually. To sustain conservation efforts, alternative income-generating activities will be introduced, enabling self-financing by beneficiary associations. Additionally, promotional sessions for top associations will encourage local community involvement in conservation.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 8,611.01

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	3,128.00
Travel	923.07
Materials and supplies	3,319.98
Project office	1,009.21
Services	230.75
Total cost	8,611.01

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN AGROECOLOGICAL MARKET GARDEN PROTECTION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED STUDENTS IN EASTERN BURKINA FASO



ZFADA N'GOURMA,
BURKINA FASO



VIVAVIBURKINA@GMAIL.COM



+226 63 37 58 56
+226 75 73 67 66
+226 70 11 09 45



IMPLEMENTED BY:
ASSOCIATION VIVRE AU VILLAGE

Picture: @Vladan Raznatovic

>>> Background

The W-Arly-Pendjari complex is the largest and most important continuum of terrestrial, semi-aquatic and aquatic ecosystems in the savannah belt of West Africa. It covers an area of 94,000 km² and has a population of about 4 million inhabitants, 85 per cent of whom are mainly rural and depend mostly on agriculture, livestock and the consumption of non-timber forest products (fruits, leaves, roots, bark).

The extensive mode of these human activities leads to the uncontrolled advance of the agricultural front, via chemical fertiliser and pesticide use, land clearing and deforestation, overgrazing, damage to plant and animal species, and destruction of wildlife habitats. This in turn results in strongly altered biodiversity and a considerable reduction in local ecosystem services (carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction).

Since 2015, Burkina Faso has been going through the worst security crisis in its history, which has caused the massive displacement of women and children from the villages bordering the WAP complex to Fada N'gourma. They settle in localities that are still home to sites of interest for biodiversity conservation (community areas, communal forests) and continue their harmful practices. These new sites now face additional pressure, leading to degradation and increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. It should also be noted that the area's displaced people totally lack the knowledge necessary to restore biodiversity, and girls suffer from school drop-out (51 per cent of girls are of school age) and malnutrition.

Our project aims to (i) help reduce the pressure that local populations exert on biodiversity, by encouraging young people to take informed action, and (ii) create a short economic circuit that is more respectful of environmental issues.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

The project will address multiple GBF targets throughout its implementation. Indeed, healthy food for

internally displaced students produced in agroecological gardens helps restore soils and improve food product variation by educational mothers (T10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture / T22: Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice / T11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People / T23: Ensure Gender Equality).

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project will last 12 months:

Time	Activity
Months 1-2	Meeting and training
Months 3-9	Setting up the gardens and activities
Months 10-12	Evaluation and reporting

>>> What are your objectives?

The overall objective of the project is to ensure that 'internally displaced students contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in the villages bordering the WAP complex through agroecological production'.

More specifically,

- Students will be trained in mastering techniques of producing natural inputs.
- Diversification of meals cooked and consumed in school canteens will be supported.

>>> Where will the project impacts occur?

Locally: with rational management of natural resources, food diversification and income generation;

Nationally: by reducing pressure from local populations, promoting food security and reducing vulnerability;

Regionally: via carbon sequestration, promotion of a more resilient transboundary complex, and inclusive governance.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

- Teaching staff;
- Students;
- Mothers in charge of the canteen.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- By providing theoretical sessions in environmental education;
- By setting up school gardens for agroecological production;
- By providing cooking demonstration sessions for canteen mothers;
- By serving more balanced dishes to students in the canteen.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- 1500 students, of whom 50% are internally displaced and 80% are girls, improve their understanding of biodiversity by participating in Environmental Education (EE) sessions.
- 300 mother-educators participate in cooking demonstration sessions.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- 2 image boxes dealing with themes on local environmental issues;
- 100 kg of compost and seeds and 50 L of biopesticides produced by the students in 3 gardens;
- 1/2 tonne of fresh vegetables served in the canteen to at least 1500 students.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

- Environmental education sessions that encourage learners to take action;
- Income generated by the sale of surplus vegetables;
- Creation of 3 environmental clubs in schools;
- Is part of the government's policy of implementing school canteens.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 21,027.00

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	4,125.00
Training and meetings	3,378.00
Setting up the gardens	6,630.00
Follow-up and other costs	3,323.00
Administration and small-scale equipment	3,571.00
Total cost	21,027.00

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN BENOUE PARK THROUGH BIO-CONVERSION OF BLACK SOLDIER FLY LARVAE AND BIOGAS PRODUCTION



TCHOLLIRE,
CAMEROON



ACADEMIEDARTORATOIRE@GMAIL.COM



IMPLEMENTED BY:
ACADÉMIE DE L'ART ORATOIRE

Picture: @Conscious

>>> Background

Created on 11 November 1932 as a faunal reserve, the 180,000-hectare Bénoué National Park is one of the oldest protected areas in Cameroon. It became a national park on 5 December 1968 and a biosphere reserve in 1981. However, the park's biodiversity is threatened by the activities of the surrounding population, estimated at 20,000 people. Harmful activities include agriculture, cattle ranching, gold mining, charcoal production and hunting. The pressures they place on the park include deforestation, poaching, land degradation and pollution.

The project, initiated by the Académie de l'Art Oratoire, aims to address the threats to biodiversity by raising awareness among young people and the community on the importance of protecting the park's biodiversity and introducing sustainable solutions, such as the use of Black Soldier Fly (BSF) technology. BSF technology has the advantage of facilitating composting and biogas production, supporting household and animal waste management, and providing protein for animal feed. By promoting alternative sources of energy and income, restoring soil fertility and adopting sustainable practices, the project aims to not only reduce pressure on the ecosystem and biodiversity, but also to contribute to the well-being and livelihoods of the local communities that depend on these resources.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

- Goal A (**Protect and Restores**), by contributing to ecosystem enhancement and the reduction of species extinction rate by decreasing pressure on endangered species and natural habitats in Bénoué Park;
- Goal B (**Prosper with Nature**), by contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations through the enhancement of nature's contribution and ecosystem preservation;
- Goal C (**Share Benefits Fairly**) by actively engaging with the local community through awareness-raising for and training of local people.

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project will last 6 months:

Time	Activity
Months 1-2	Contact and awareness-raising
Months 3-5	Implementation of the BSF system, training, support and sensitisation.
Months 6	Evaluation and report writing.

>>> What are your objectives?

Raise awareness on BSF technology and its importance for ecosystem conservation among local people living near the park by:

- Training local people in the installation of the BSF/biogas system, the production and use of BSF for animal breeding, and the production and use of biogas as an alternative to firewood;
- Producing and distributing compost to fertilise and restore soil fertility, and training local people on its use;
- Supporting local people who have been trained to set up their own BSF / biogas systems.

>>> Where will the project impacts occur?

- **At local level:** in communities near the national park, it will provide sustainable waste management, alternative energy sources, and income generation opportunities.
- **At regional level:** it will serve as a replicable conservation model for other protected areas and as a source of inspiration and empowerment for other communities.
- **At national level:** it will contribute to addressing the country's conservation targets and help raise awareness and promote sustainable practices.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

- Women and young people living near the park;
- Farmers and producers;
- Local authorities.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- By identifying and selecting interested groups;
- By organising sensitisation meetings;
- By setting up a mini-system for the production of BSF larvae and biogas;
- By providing theoretical and practical training to the population on how to use BSF technology.
- By providing training in enhancing the value of BSF products;
- By distributing BSF larvae and assisting people in setting up their own systems.

What are the expected outputs?

- 7 trainings and awareness campaigns organised;
- 150 local people trained in BSF technology;
- 25 kg of BSF larvae and biofertilisers distributed to trained populations.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- Reduced poaching rate in the park;
- Reduced deforestation and wood extraction;
- Improved forest cover;
- Enhanced farmland productivity and soil fertility;
- Improved livelihoods and food security of surrounding communities.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

The long-term sustainability of the project will be fostered through:

- regular monitoring and evaluation;
- knowledge and technology transfer to local communities;
- support for the creation of employment opportunities;
- provision of sustainable incomes through the sale of resources;
- involvement of the local communities in the production and sale of resources;
- organisation of fee-based training courses.

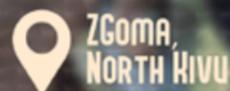
To achieve this, flexibility, willingness to learn from feedback, and ongoing engagement with local communities and stakeholders will be crucial.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 20,000.00

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	4,350.00
Training and awareness campaigns	5,200.00
Setting up the BSF system – biogas	5,450.00
Transport and mobility	2,000.00
Administrative and small-scale equipment costs	3,000.00
Total cost	20,000.00

ENSURING THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, NORTH KIVU



ZGOMA,
NORTH KIVU



CONTACT@ENABLETHEDISABLEACTION.ORG



IMPLEMENTED BY:
ENABLE THE DISABLE ACTION (EDA)

Picture: ©unsplash

>>> Background

North Kivu is home to exceptional biodiversity, including national parks, nature reserves and varied ecosystems such as rainforests, lakes, mountains and savannahs. This biodiversity is threatened by several factors such as deforestation, illegal mining, poaching, armed conflict and climate change.

Young people with disabilities in North Kivu face many challenges, including access to education, employment, health care and social participation. Their voice is often marginalised in decision-making processes, and they have few opportunities to contribute to the management and protection of biodiversity. Indigenous peoples, such as the pygmies, are also marginalised in North Kivu. They are often excluded from governance and decision-making processes, thereby limiting their participation in the management and protection of biodiversity. Their land rights are often violated, leading to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Against this backdrop, the inclusion of youth with disabilities and indigenous peoples in the management and protection of biodiversity is of crucial importance. It gives a voice to marginalised groups, strengthens their participation, values their traditional knowledge and promotes sustainable conservation practices. It also contributes to social justice, reduces inequalities, and builds a more equitable and sustainable society.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

The project is linked to:

- **Objective A** (Promote Inclusion), by seeking to encourage the active participation of all actors, including marginalised groups, in biodiversity conservation.
- **Objective B** (Protect Nature), because the area is home to great ecosystem diversity and threatened species. Protection of biodiversity in this region is therefore of paramount importance to achieve global conservation goals. The project thus contributes to the achievement of the GBF's targets

related to the conservation of ecosystems and threatened species.

- **Objective C** (Enhance Local Knowledge), by promoting equity and social justice, which is also a key objective of the GBF; by recognising the importance of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and sustainable practices in preserving biodiversity; and by building the capacity of local actors for better biodiversity conservation.

>>> By when? Project duration:

Time	Activity
Months 1	Planning phase
Months 3-5	Implementation phase
Months 6	Evaluation and report writing

>>> What are your objectives?

Strengthen the inclusion and participation of youth with disabilities and indigenous peoples in biodiversity-related decision-making, and ensure that youth with disabilities and indigenous peoples have a voice in decision-making processes regarding the management and protection of biodiversity in North Kivu by:

- Conducting awareness-raising and education activities;
- Strengthening capacity on conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Promoting participation and accountability;
- Fostering collaboration and partnerships

>>> Where will the project impacts occur?

At the local community, specially youth with disabilities and pygmies by increasing their participation biodiversity conservation initiatives;

At the regional governments, by serving as a model of replicable conservation for other regional parks, and as a source of inspiration and empowerment for other communities

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

- Youth with disabilities;
- Indigenous peoples;
- Local authorities.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- By identifying and selecting interested groups;
- By organising awareness-raising meetings;
- By setting up clubs for round tables;
- By providing training on biodiversity protection;
- By organising advocacy missions for the inclusion of young people with disabilities and pygmies in decision-making processes.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- 50 young people with disabilities and pygmies sensitised on the importance of biodiversity;
- 100 community members sensitised on (i) the importance of biodiversity and the need to protect it and (ii) the value of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and the inclusion of youth with disabilities in biodiversity protection,

- 50 young people with disabilities and pygmies participate in discussions on the protection of biodiversity in North Kivu.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- Young people with disabilities and indigenous peoples are actively involved in decision-making and natural resource management in their communities.
- Local communities are sensitised to the importance of biodiversity and the need to protect it, and they recognise the value of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and the inclusion of young people with disabilities in the protection of biodiversity.
- Increased awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the inclusion of youth with disabilities and indigenous peoples.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

The long-term viability of the project will be supported by:

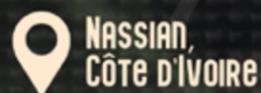
- regular monitoring and evaluation;
- transfer of knowledge to local communities.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 10,000.00

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	2,500.00
Training and awareness campaigns	4,200.00
Forum decision-making processes	1,200.00
Transport and mobility	1,000.00
Administrative and small-scale equipment cost	1,100.00
Total cost	10,000.00

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION OF THE AFRICAN GOLDEN CAT IN THE COMOÉ NATIONAL PARK REGION, NORTH CÔTE D'IVOIRE



JUSLINKOUADIO1@GMAIL.COM



NGO Mimeo
INTERNATIONAL

SUPPORTED BY:

- PREPE Divine Dame Nature NGO
- IVORIAN OFFICE OF PARKS AND RESERVES (OIPR)

Picture: @arcadiafaris

>>> Background

Protected areas are at the heart of efforts to protect the world's threatened species and are increasingly recognised as essential providers of ecosystem services (Dudley, 2008). Nevertheless, several animal species in protected areas are threatened by poaching by local communities and by regional and international trafficking networks. According to the IUCN, hunting is one of the reasons for the extinction or disappearance of many wildlife species. One example is the African golden cat (*Caracal aurata* or *Profelis aurata*), a species endemic to the African continent.

The African golden cat is one of the least known carnivores in Africa (Ray et al., 2005), largely due to the limited number of systematic studies and documents available on the current distribution and phenotypic variation of the species (Mareshal et al., 2012). The species is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It is threatened by poaching, mainly through trapping by hunters (Bahaa-el-din et al., 2015). This poses a serious threat to the long-term survival of the species in Côte d'Ivoire (Landrot et al., 2015).

The main driver of poaching in the country is the need for meat for subsistence and trade. For this reason, there is an urgent need for community-based and participatory conservation initiatives that directly address the main drivers of hunting for subsistence and trade. These will help mitigate the threats that hunting poses to African golden cat, particularly in Comoé National Park, where the project is currently being implemented.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

- **Objective A:** The project will contribute to halting the extinction of threatened species by 2050.
- **Objective B:** It will strengthen community initiatives to maintain the ecological integrity of the park and promote sustainable development for the benefit of people by 2050.
- **Target 4:** It aims to reduce the risk of extinction of

the African golden cat.

- **Target 9:** It is designed to meet the agricultural and livestock needs of the local population.

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project will last 12 months starting in September 2024.

>>> What are your objectives?

- Assess local communities' social perceptions of the African golden cat;
- Identify the needs of local communities in terms of livestock and agriculture;
- Raise awareness among local communities about the conservation of endangered species, in particular the African golden cat;
- Propose a community-led conservation plan for the golden cat involving local communities and the OIPR;
- Improve communities' livelihoods through livestock and food crop seed donations;
- Support recipients of livestock in setting up livestock enclosures;
- Strengthen the Comoé National Park manager's wildlife monitoring system.

>>> What will the project impacts be?

- Reduced dependence on poaching;
- Increased community involvement in conservation activities;
- Improved livelihoods and enhanced food security through livestock and seed donations;
- Strengthening OIPR's ecological monitoring capacities for park management;
- Reducing animal straying in villages.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

- Local communities;
- OIPR;
- NGO PREPE Divine Dame Nature;
- African Golden Cat Conservation Alliance and Working Group (AGGCA & WG).

>>> What are your main successes so far?

A pilot phase was carried out in three villages (Depingo, Primou and Lambira). A sociological survey on poaching was carried out among local populations. People were sensitised on the conservation of endangered species and the dangers of poaching. People's needs in livestock breeding and agriculture were identified, and donations of animals and food crop seeds were granted to 42 families.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- By presenting the project to village authorities;
- By conducting interviews to assess local perception of the African golden cat;
- By drawing up a community-led conservation participatory plan;
- By raising awareness on poaching and conservation of endangered species;
- By donating livestock and food crop seeds to local communities and camera traps to the OIPR;
- By training on and nursing *Ziziphus mucronata* seeds for the construction of breeding pens;
- By constructing livestock pens;
- By vaccinating animals through the veterinary service.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- Knowledge on the African golden cat is improved.
- Local communities are involved in the management of the Comoé National Park.
- Local communities and other stakeholders are aware of the threats to the African golden cat and their own role in its conservation.
- Local communities' livelihoods are improved.
- The number of stray livestock is reduced in the project villages.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

Families shall receive female animals (goats, sheep or chickens) to raise, then pass on offspring to their nearest neighbours until all village families benefit. Livestock enclosures shall prevent wandering and conflicts, while a vaccination campaign in project villages shall ensure animal health. These strategies shall ensure project sustainability, social integration and community dialogue.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 21,048.30

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	6,926.58
Equipment and supplies	7,013.00
Project office	2,944.04
Other costs, services	1,910.40
Unforeseen costs	2,254.28
Total cost	21,048.30

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION IN THE GREATER VIRUNGA TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPE

 **GREATER VIRUNGA TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPE, DRC, RWANDA AND UGANDA**

 **INFO.GVTYC@GMAIL.COM**



**IMPLEMENTED BY:
GREATER VIRUNGA TRANSBOUNDARY
YOUTH CONSTITUENCY**

**SUPPORTED BY:
GVTC (GREATER VIRUNGA
TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION)**

>>> Background

The Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) is one of the richest regions in African. It is home to some 5,164 species of mammals (including 27 primates and 40 ungulate species), birds, amphibians, reptiles and plants with a high level of endemism. The protected areas that form the GVL are critical biodiversity corridors for species diversity and dispersal throughout the Albertine Rift. These shared eco-unique borderlands of the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, make up one of the most biodiverse regions of the world, and one with one of the most violent histories.

Like all Central African forests, whether lowland or mountainous, poaching is an inevitable threat to wildlife in the GVL. The fight against it is an unavoidable necessity and is done both on the ground, within the limits of the protected areas, and among the populations in the form of intelligence gathering. Paradoxically, the high density of human populations around the park facilitates the fight against poaching, through social community control. Boundary encroachment also remains a potential threat in some places. Young professionals in different landscapes sectors are not often exposed to concepts of integrated approaches to land use in their curricula or workplaces. Giving these groups a space to discuss such issues will build their understanding and ability to actively contribute to debates and help shape active landscape conservation.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

The project was initiated as an outcome of the CBD COP15, where the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda Chapters, in partnership with the GVTYC secretariat, decided to establish the Greater Virunga Youth for Biodiversity Constituency.

The project will contribute to reaching GBF Targets 1 (Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss), 3 (Conserve 30% of land, waters and seas), 4 (Halt species extinction) and 22 (Ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information).

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project will last 24 months (renewable)

>>> What are your objectives?

To strengthen youth involvement in regional biosphere reserve and Man And the Biosphere (MAB) programmes by mobilising youth with the aim of contributing to the Greater Virunga Landscape conservation and collecting different ideas and perspectives that will guide youth constituency strategic plans, action plans and impactful projects for their benefits. It will do so by:

- Creating a space for youth regional integration, with a common goal of GVL conservation;
- Collecting youth ideas and perspectives on how they can contribute to the landscape conservation and what is the best approach that can benefit them in the long term;
- Promoting peace in order to strengthen cooperation between DRC, Rwanda and Uganda on transboundary biodiversity conservation;
- Drafting the GVT Youth Constituency 2025-2030 Strategic plan, action plan and youth impactful projects based on data collected in the campaign.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

Leaders from GVL (8 parks and biosphere reserves), benefitting from youth contribution.

>>> What are your main successes so far?

The project is based on experiences learned from the Greater Virunga Landscape Youth in Action Summit (GVL YA2023) organised by the GVTYC and attended by more than 500 youth leaders from DRC, Rwanda and Uganda.

A Greater Virunga Basketball club was established, based in Musanze district near the Volcano National Park bordering DRC and Uganda; it is currently participating in the Rwanda Basketball League.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- By conducting in-person and virtual activities;
- By designing a website/application to create an exchange space for youth ideas;
- By organising sports tournaments for promoting solidarity for sustainable peace;
- By creating the Greater Virunga women's basketball team for GVL visibility, youth entertainment and intergenerational interconnection.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- Youth in the transboundary landscape are aware, trained, mentored and inspired on GVL conservation.
- A 2023-2024 youth-inclusive GVTYC action plan is developed.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- Enhanced peace, stability and equitable and inclusive benefit sharing;
- Youth participants mobilised for GVL management towards peace and conservation;
- Empowered and informed youth on GVL status and their role in its sustainable management and

conservation;

- Intergenerational dialogue recommendations on collaborative biodiversity conservation are enforced.
- By 2030, 3,000 youth operating in the GVL.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

The long-term sustainability of the project will be fostered through:

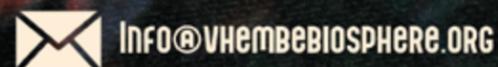
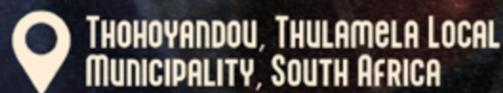
- the project's participatory approach, which sustainably mobilises youth efforts;
- strengthening Greater Virunga Youth Constituency;
- engaging youth leader organisations operating in the Greater Virunga Transboundary Landscape;
- establishing and strengthening youth constituencies to ensure funding, with management mostly assumed by beneficiaries;
- participatory monitoring and evaluation;
- development and implementation of a strategic plan allowing for the identification of effective corrective commitments.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 18,928.00

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	3,204.00
Travel	1,260.00
Equipment and supplies	3,600.00
Project office	1,100.00
Other costs, services	5,300.00
Own contribution	4,464.00
Total cost	18,928.00

PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION OF THE LUVUVHU RIVER OF THE VHEMBE BIOSPHERE RESERVE



SUPPORTED BY:
SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH
BIODIVERSITY NETWORK

Picture: ©Nick Fewings

>>> Background

Renowned for its diverse ecosystems and cultural significance, the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (VBR) – located in Limpopo Province – is a UNESCO-designated biosphere reserve that seeks a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. Despite its ecological importance, the region faces significant plastic waste pollution, with South Africa generating approximately 2.4 million tonnes per year, or an average of 41 kg/person. The persistent presence of discarded plastic materials is a major environmental challenge that requires urgent action. Their accumulation in the river ecosystem threatens biodiversity, aquatic life and overall ecological balance. Given the vital role of the Luvuvhu River in providing freshwater to communities within the VBR, maintaining its health is essential to sustain agricultural activities and meet domestic water needs.

As a response to the pressing issue of plastic pollution, the new phase of the project will focus on the Thohoyandou area and around 20 schools along the Luvuvhu River that are affected by plastic pollution. It aims to influence behavioural change among students and local community members with the aims of effective plastic waste management and upcycling initiatives to prevent further plastic dumping into the river. It aims to promote sustainable solutions to mitigate the negative impacts of pollution and encourage active engagement in plastic recycling both within the school and in the surrounding areas. By promoting awareness and implementing effective strategies, it aims to safeguard the integrity of the VBR for future generations.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

Target 7 – Reduce Pollution Risks and Negative Impact of Pollution: The project aims to mitigate plastic pollution's adverse effects on biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

Target 2 – Enhance Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems: The project aligns with the aspirations of Target 2 by contributing to the effective restoration of the degraded ecosystems of the Luvuvhu River within the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve.

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project will last 18 months.

Time	Activity
Months 1-3	Feasibility study Project introduction & planning
Months 4-6	Awareness-raising.
Months 6-8	River clean-ups, waste recycling & reuse.
Months 8-12	Evaluation & Monitoring
Months 12-14	Report writing
Months 14-18	Follow-up, monitoring and awareness

>>> What are your objectives?

To enhance the ecological health of the Luvuvhu River within the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve by mitigating plastic pollution and fostering sustainable waste management practices through community engagement and behavioural change by:

- Revitalising the river's ecosystem;
- Significantly reducing significantly plastic pollution by promoting responsible usage and disposal;
- Engaging local communities in behavioural change initiatives that support a shift towards sustainable practices;
- Stimulating a circular economy by initiating upcycling projects that transform waste into valuable products.

>>> Where will the project impacts occur?

Local level: The amount of plastic waste polluting the river will be directly reduced, resulting in improved water quality that benefits both human health and local ecosystems. A circular economy will be promoted by upscaling the plastic upcycling projects and initiatives currently taking place in the biosphere.

National level: The project could serve as a model for other biospheres, demonstrating effective strategies for combating plastic pollution, improving river water quality, and promoting environmental stewardships. Outcomes and lessons learned may inform national

policies and initiatives related to plastic waste management.

Regional level: The project's emphasis on community engagement and partnership-building may foster collaboration among neighbouring regions or countries facing similar environmental challenges, facilitating knowledge sharing and joint conservation efforts.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

- School students and local communities;
- Women waste reclaimers;
- Marginalised schools;
- University of Venda;
- Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism;

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- Community involvement, educational awareness;
- Capacity building; partnerships and collaboration;
- Upcycled plastic products creation;
- Monitoring and evaluation;
- Policy advocacy.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- A range of community-crafted upcycled plastic products, including pavement bricks, mats, plastic brooms, biochar and school furniture;
- Establishment of Waste Management Stewardship programmes.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- Heightened community awareness, behavioural change;
- Increased adoption of sustainable waste management practices;
- Increased production and use of upcycled plastic products;
- Decreased plastic pollution within the river and its surroundings;
- Enhanced waste reduction and economic growth.
- Improved health of the river ecosystem and water quality.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

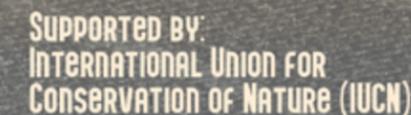
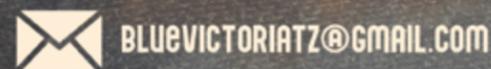
- By repurposing collected plastics into useful items such as pavement bricks and brooms;
- By stimulating local economies through a circular economy;
- By reducing the need for new materials and minimising our ecological footprint.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Total budget: EUR 66,490.00

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human Resources	33,530.00
Training and subsistence	6,900.00
Trainings, awareness and events	18,931.00
Equipment and supplies	2,694.00
Administrative and materials	4,435.00
Total cost	66,490.00

JOIN THE MOVEMENT, PROTECTING LAKE VICTORIA BIODIVERSITY THROUGH COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREAS



>>> Background

Lake Victoria, one of the world's largest freshwater lakes, is a vital resource in Tanzania, providing livelihoods for millions of people and supporting diverse ecosystems. However, the lake faces several significant challenges, including overfishing, habitat degradation, pollution and the effects of climate change. These threats have led to a decline in fish populations and disruption of the natural balance within the lake's ecosystem. Local communities are feeling the effects of these problems.

The project follows the IUCN report 'Freshwater Biodiversity in the Lake Victoria Basin - Priorities for Conservation Action', which highlighted the critical status of several fish species in the lake, in particular critical species such as Ningu (*Labeo victorianus*), Victoria tilapia (*Oreochromis variabilis*) and Singida tilapia (*Oreochromis esculentus*). This decline in fish populations threatens the food security and economic stability of local communities. The project aims to address these issues by promoting sustainable fishing practices, establishing a Community Conservation Area (CCA) in the identified Mara Bay Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), and empowering local communities to take an active role in the management and conservation of the lake's resources. By promoting community stewardship and collaboration with local authorities, the project aims to restore ecological balance and protect the livelihoods of those who depend on Lake Victoria for their survival.

>>> How is the project linked to GBF implementation?

The project is highly relevant to GBF goals and targets, specifically Goal B: 'Biodiversity is sustainably used and its contributions to people are maintained, enhanced, or restored.'

- **Target T.1: (Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss):** establishing a CCA in the Mara Bay will reduce the loss of critical habitats and species in the region.
- **Target T.3: (Conserve 30% of land, water and oceans):** working towards establishing a CCA is an effective area-based measure to conserve freshwater habitats and protect critical fish species in the Mara Bayas.

>>> By when? Project duration:

The project will last 36 months.

>>> What are your objectives?

To establish a Community Conservation Area in Mara Bay KBA for conservation of critical endangered fish species.

This will be achieved by:

- developing by-laws which will guide how and what to fish within the CCA;
- providing training and resources to local communities, enabling them to become stewards of their environment;
- conducting awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of freshwater biodiversity conservation and the need to adopt sustainable practices;
- Establishing partnerships to support conservation and ensure the project's success.

>>> Where will the project impacts occur?

- **Local level:** Establishing a CCA in Lake Victoria directly benefits local communities by preserving critical fish species and habitats.
- **National level:** The project contributes to the national fisheries policy 2015 for protecting biodiversity and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources.
- **Regional level:** Lake Victoria is a shared resource among Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya. The project focuses on how sustainable practices and conservation contribute to regional efforts to manage the lake's resources collaboratively.

>>> With whom? Who are the project's main stakeholders?

- Local fisher communities;
- Community leaders;
- Government agencies;
- Beach management units (BMUs).

>>> What are your main successes so far?

- **Community consultative meetings:** The project team has conducted a series of consultative meetings with clans residing in around Mara Bay, resulting in positive attitudes towards the establishment of a CCA.

- **Engagement with clan leaders:** The project has built strong relationships and trust, a deeper understanding of needs and preferences, and greater support from people within the local community.
- **Approval from Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock:** The project team has gained the approval of the Ministry, ensuring alignment with national conservation goals and paving the way for successful implementation.

>>> How will the project reach its objectives?

- By promoting community engagement and education;
- By establishing a Community Conservation Area;
- Through monitoring and enforcement;
- By promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities, including establishment of community conservation enterprises;
- By building partnerships and collaborations;
- Through capacity building and knowledge sharing.

>>> What are the expected outputs?

- A legally recognised and effectively managed CCA;
- CCA management plans and by-laws developed in consultation with local stakeholders;
- 2 workshops, 1 seminar and 2 training sessions on conservation and sustainable practices;
- Community conservation committees created and leaders trained in conservation methods and management;

- Village savings and loan programmes developed;
- Community conservation enterprises established.

>>> What are the expected outcomes?

- Increased protection and preservation of endangered fish species and other aquatic life;
- Enhanced community involvement and ownership of conservation initiatives;
- Community-driven monitoring and enforcement of conservation regulations;
- Diversified income sources for local fishers and community members;
- Greater understanding and awareness of conservation issues and sustainable practices among local communities;
- Empowered communities that can make informed decisions about their natural resources;
- Institutionalised capacity building and knowledge transfer mechanisms ensuring the continuity of conservation initiatives.

>>> How will you ensure the project's longer-term sustainability?

- By creating community conservation committees to oversee the CCA;
- By collaborating with local enforcement agencies to monitor and enforce regulations;
- By establishing sustainable financing mechanisms to support community-led initiatives and provide financial stability.

How much? What are the budget needs?

Requested amount: EUR 44,800.00

Budget item	Total cost in €
Human resources	20,000.00
Administrative costs	10,000.00
Implementation	58,600.00
Project Total costs	88,600.00
IUCN Serve Our Species Funding	-43,800.00
Requested amount	44,800.00

Salon des Congrès



CREDITS

Published by:

Global Youth Biodiversity Network – Africa Regional Chapter (GYBN Africa)

Layout:

Daniel Murillo Solano, Expertise France

Editorial committee:

Kevin Lunzalu – Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network
Keletso Malepe – South African Youth Biodiversity Network
Irene Natukunda – Ugandan Youth Biodiversity Network
Simangele Msweli – African Wildlife Foundation
Mbaire Kamau – African Wildlife Foundation
Hugo Rivera Mendoza – Expertise France
Natalia Mendes Correa – Expertise France
Danaé Moyano Rodriguez – Expertise France
Nicolas Thomas – Expertise France

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More information on the project and its activities can be found on the project website at www.4post2020bd.net and on its social media channels <https://twitter.com/4Post2020BD> and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/4post2020bd>.

The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is an international conservation organisation whose task is to ensure that wildlife and wildlands thrive in a modern Africa. AWF mobilises African leaders at all levels, including youth leaders, to champion conservation actions such as the implementation of the KMGBF. Learn more about our work at www.awf.org.

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AFRICAN YOUTH SUMMIT ON BIODIVERSITY



THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

