

Newsletter

July 2016



Workshop excursion in the Boé

Chimpanzee action plan

At the initiative of the Chimbo Foundation and Sebastien Regnaut (IUCN) a successful workshop on the conservation of the Savannah Chimpanzees of Guinea Bissau and Senegal has been organised in Beli (Boé area, Guinea Bissau). Participants from Bissau and Senegal participated in the three-day workshop to exchange experiences and to formulate joint recommendations for an update of the IUCN Chimpanzee Action Plan for West-Africa. The recommendations have been submitted to the members of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group that met directly after the GRASP (Great Apes Survival Partnership) regional meeting on the conservation of the chimpanzees of West Africa, in Monrovia (Liberia) in April this year. To read our recommendations please click [here](#).

Chimpanzee film

Our former research manager, Gerco Niezing, compiled a short documentary about chimpanzee behaviour in the Boé based on the video's made by our trap-camera-programme. The film has been shown during the GRASP meeting in Liberia. To watch the movie, please click [here](#).

Image from the documentary



Leopard in the Boé, trap cam image



Leopard

In the village of Maria (east of Ramsar site Vendu Cham) people complained about a leopard that had killed many of their goats. We explained that diminishing amounts of wild animals due to illegal hunting and poaching, and increasing amounts of cattle inevitably will lead to these kind of problems. The solution is not to kill the (by law protected) leopard, but to herd livestock and not to let it roam freely, to keep it in an enclosure at night time, to fight poaching, including denouncing external hunters and their illegal activities.

Cat News

We published an article in Cat News, the scientific journal of the IUCN SSC Cat specialist group, on the five big cats for which we have proof that they live in the Boé: the leopard, the African golden cat, the caracal, the serval and the lion. All species are in decline and some almost extinct in West Africa. Their confirmed presence in Boé is very positive news and shows the importance of this area for nature conservation. For those who would like to read the article please click [here](#).



Sacred forest near Pataque

Sacred forests

In our March newsletter we announced the start of a new project: COMBAC Boé (Community based conservation of the cultural and natural values of the Boé sector) for which we got EU support. Around every village in the Boé sacred forests can be found that are protected by traditional law. They are sacred because the “ira” (a protective spirit for the village) lives there. At most of the sites natural springs provide drinking water to the village. However, because of the needs of a growing population and in particular the increase in cashew plantations, these sites are more and more threatened. COMBAC Boé will make an inventory of these sacred forests and what the threats to them are; it will explore ways to control and mitigate these threats, and will work towards the acknowledgements of these sites as ICCAs (Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas) under national and international legislation. Every village that wants to be part of the project will at first provide a list of sacred forests on their territory. Of the 8 villages that handed in their list in June already, we have selected Munhini, Capebonde, Canquidima, Dinguirai and Dandum to start with as they are easily accessible during the rainy season. These 5 villages provided lists with respectively 3, 13, 3, 6 and 22 sacred sites.

Membership ASI Standards Committee

In April Chimbo Foundation became a member of the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI). ASI was launched in 2012 to foster greater sustainability and transparency throughout the aluminium industry. The Board of Chimbo Foundation decided to join the ASI because we welcome initiatives of companies to diminish their footprint and want to support them by making our knowledge and expertise available. And of course it gives us a link to a network that can help us to realise responsible bauxite mining in case the planned bauxite mine in the Boé starts operating. Jan Boekelman, Chimbo’s treasurer, was elected as Member of the Board of the ASI and Annemarie Goedmakers, our president, became a member of the ASI Standards Committee. The ASI Standards Committee was convened in 2016 to develop the ASI Assurance model and Chain of Custody Standard, and to prepare for the launch of the ASI Certification program as an operating system for the Aluminium value chain.

