



Transboundary Protected Areas in West Africa

Rob Small

Projects Officer, West & Central Africa

TBPA Objectives



- Conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural and cultural values across boundaries
- Promoting landscape level management
- Peace building and laying the foundations for collaboration
- Increasing the benefits of conservation to communities on both sides of the border
- Cross border control e.g. fire, pests, poaching, pollution and smuggling

Types of TPBA



- Transboundary Parks - areas with common international boundaries managed as a single unit by a joint authority comprising representatives from participating countries
- Transboundary Conservation Areas - cross-border regions where the different component areas have different forms of conservation status (e.g. National Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, Game Reserves). Collaboration between areas not based on the creation of a single entity.
- Transboundary Natural Resources Management - process orientated rather than spatially fixed. Aims to increase collaboration across boundaries to improve management effectiveness.

TBPA Politics



- Theoretically transcend political boundaries and units but in practice are intrinsically political entities
- Involve the ceded of a degree of degree of control of resources to neighbouring states as Transboundary agreements imply joint management and the involvement of international entities
- Potential difficulties lie in differences between state incomes, degrees of Park development, financial availability, political stability and engagement with local communities

TBPA Requirements



- Require stakeholder partnerships based on trust, transparency and accountability
- In order for transboundary cooperation that integrates ecological, social and political dimensions

Upper Guinean Forest



- High levels of endemism, diversity and species rarity
- Immediate threats from deforestation and mining



(Sub) Regional Efforts



- Mano River Union (MRU)
- The MRU was created by the Statement of October 3rd, 1973, and is a governmentally created organization comprising of members from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.
- The MRU was formed to help facilitate resolution of problems of mutual concern to the member nations that cross boundaries

(Sub) Regional Efforts



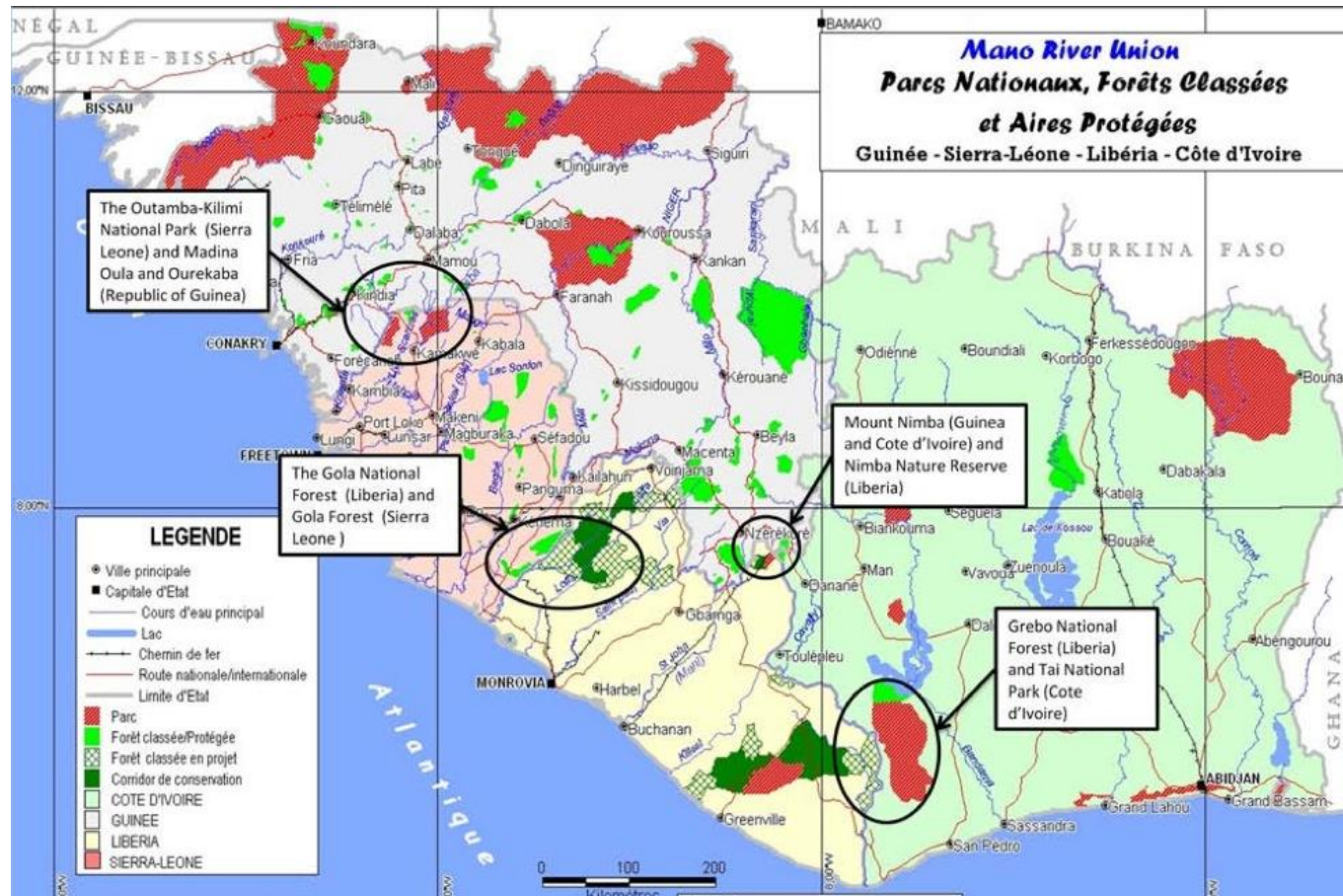
- Steward Program
 - Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development program
- Building capacity for increased regional collaboration, to
- Fostering regional policy innovation and harmonization
- Piloting trans-boundary conservation and natural resource management at selected sites

(Sub) Regional Efforts



- Fauna & Flora International
 - Sapo National Park (Liberia)
 - Nimba (Liberia)
 - Nimba (Guinea)
- Birdlife International/ RSPB
 - Gola Forest (Liberia and Guinea)

(Sub) Regional Efforts



Nimba





Need Tri-National Cooperation



- The integrity of the Nimba ecosystem depends on coordinated management across three national boundaries, involving many communities and stakeholders.
- From a political point of view and in terms of economic planning, the massif is considered as three separate zones.
- This represents a chronic threat to the ecosystem.

FFI's current involvement



- Cross-Sectoral Environmental Governance Platform for the Nimba Mountains
- The project aims to strengthen co-operation between stakeholders in the three countries
- Sharing of data, information and experience to support effective collaboration
- Stakeholder inclusion key
- Governance - developing a common approach to planning for biodiversity that can be endorsed by the 3 participating countries

FFI's current involvement



- Understand Nimba's values, working with stakeholders in all three countries.
- Confirm Community, Commercial, and Conservation Objectives.
- Work with stakeholders to develop an integrated management strategy for Nimba.
- The goal is sustainable management.. Meeting stakeholders' needs without destroying Nimba's capacity to go on meeting them in future.
- Collaborative Management Plan that sets out and agrees activities to support sustainable development of the Nimba region and its biodiversity.

Key Questions for Nimba



- Where are the areas of high value for mining, agriculture, forestry, communities, and biodiversity?
- Where are the areas of greatest pressure?
- What is the current extent of closed dense forest, and which areas are most extensive and contiguous?
- Which areas are most important to meet human and cultural needs, such as drinking water resources?
- Where are the areas of competing or conflicting needs, and how can activities be planned so as to minimise the potential for conflict?

Current Challenges



- Demarcation of the limits or boundaries of protected areas (including the World Heritage Site);
- Achieving sustainable management with community involvement due to the large number of communities involved;
- Coordinating actions at tri-national level
- Reaching consensus about conservation management in a tight timeframe, before biodiversity values are lost or damaged.

Gola Forest



- The Gola National Forest in Liberia and the Gola National Park in Sierra Leone are almost contiguous, separated by unprotected corridors of forests, international border and scattered communities.
- The Trans-boundary Peace Park (TBPP) project was launched on 15th May 2009 by President Koroma of Sierra Leone and President Ohnson-Sirleaf of Liberia at the Gola Forest Reserve

Across the River Transboundary Project



- The project supports national and international partnerships for improved forest governance across the Sierra Leone - Liberia border.
- Partners -
 - Forestry Department (Sierra Leone)
 - Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
 - Forest Development Authority (Liberia)
 - Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia
 - Birdlife International
 - RSPB



Gola Map



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are needed to see this picture.

Project Activities



- Field research to prioritise areas for protection
- Community work to strengthen site integrity and improve conservation prospects outside Pas
- Forest patrols or law enforcement
- Development of international agreement for cross-border cooperation.

Challenges for Gola



- Establishment and harmonisation of buffer zones
- Synchrony in gazettelement
- Community capacity building, outreach and livelihood alternatives addressed in both countries
- Capacity building for law enforcement and PA management
- Revenue sharing mechanisms e.g. for REDD+

In Sum



- Governance and mechanisms for collaboration
- Policy and legislative harmonisation critical
- Continual balancing of community, commercial and conservation priorities

www.nimbadarwin.org