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Conflicts Between Humans and Wild Chimpanzees in the Haut Niger National Park in Upper Guinea

Introduction and problem statement

For centuries, humans have coexisted with wildlife. However, today, there is intense and growing competition for space and resources due to increased population growth, leading to a significant pressure on the biodiversity of protected areas (Moumbock et al., 2020a);

As a result, during the 1990s, conservation biology began to address the challenges of coexistence between humans and wild animals in the same areas, categorizing them under the term "human-wildlife conflicts" (Woodroffe et al., 2005)

In general, conflicts between humans and animals arise from two types of conflicts (Johansson, 2009). Firstly, when an animal leaves its designated area (a protected zone, a reserve, an enclosure), either physically or symbolically (where a certain species "should" normally be found). Secondly, when humans encroach upon or enter areas inhabited by wild animals, particularly those species that defend their territory fiercely against intruders.

Objectives

To evaluate the state of human-chimpanzee conflicts in the Haut Niger National Park.

More specifically, the study aims to:

1. Determine the spatial dimensions of conflicts between humans and wild chimpanzees;
2. Identify types of conflicts between humans and wild chimpanzees;
3. Establish conflict prevention and management strategies in this area.

Methods

❖ Data collection

- ❑ The RECCE (walking a distance at least 2 to 3 Km linear per day...)
- ❑ Camera traps
- ❑ Survey using a questionnaire with the following priority targets (farmers, stockbreeders, village chiefs, women working on the outskirts of the forest)
- ❑ Sampling

➤ Formula adapted from Israel (1962).

❖ Data analysis

- ❑ Excel 2019
- ❑ R statistical software version 4.2.2.
- Chi-square (χ^2) test
- Fisher exact test
- ❑ QGIS 3.18.3" with GRASS 7.8.5

❖ STUDY AREA

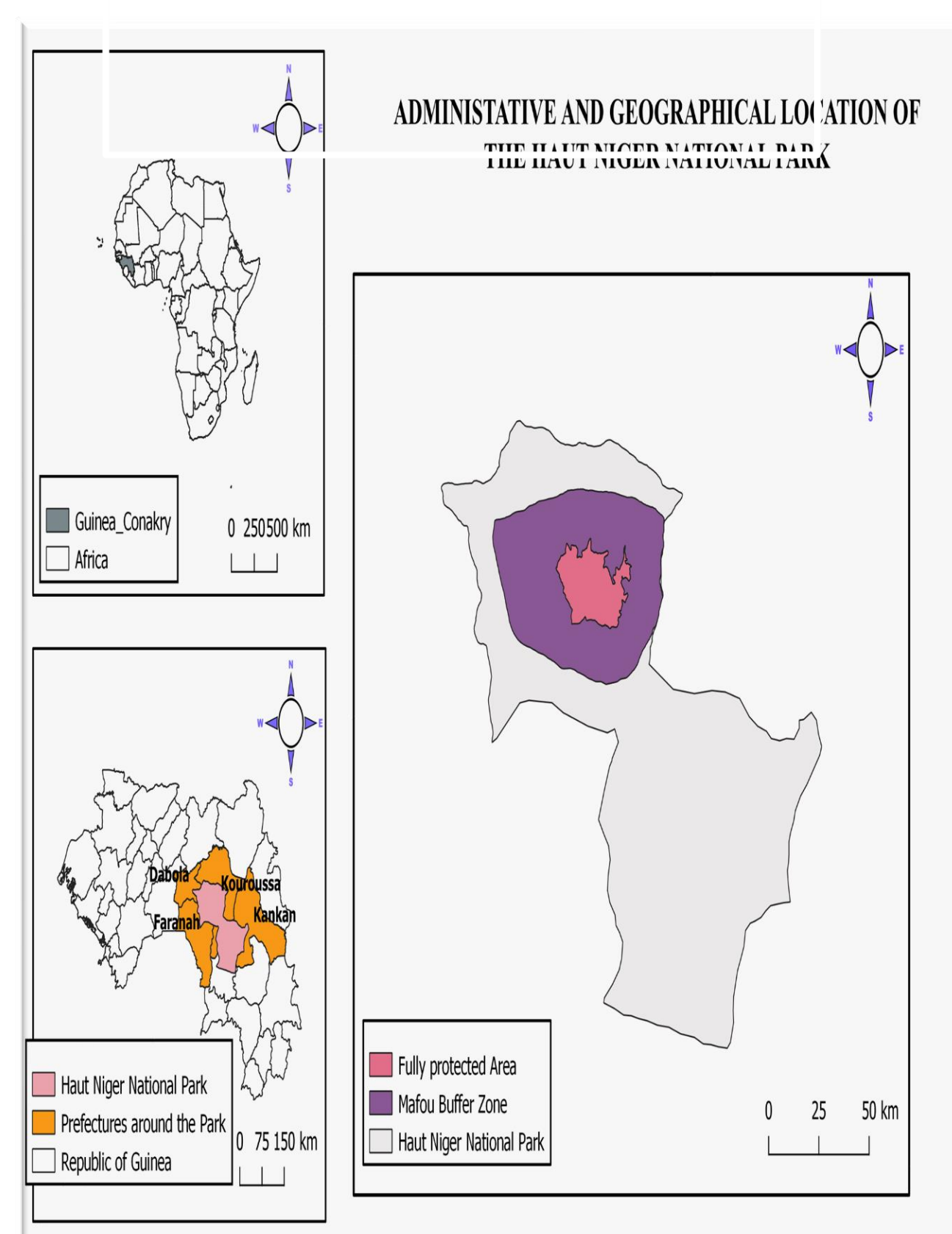


Figure 1: Map of the Mafou conservation area in the Haut Niger National Park

Results

Table I: Summary of socio-economic profiles

Variables	Percentages (%)	
Main activities of respondents	Agriculture	68,66
	Livestock	16,42
	Hunting	4,48
	Other	10,45
Study level	No schooling	93,33
	Primary	4,44
	Secondary School	2,22
Age range (years)	24- 77	-

❖ PERCEPTION OF CHIMPANZEES AND THE PARK

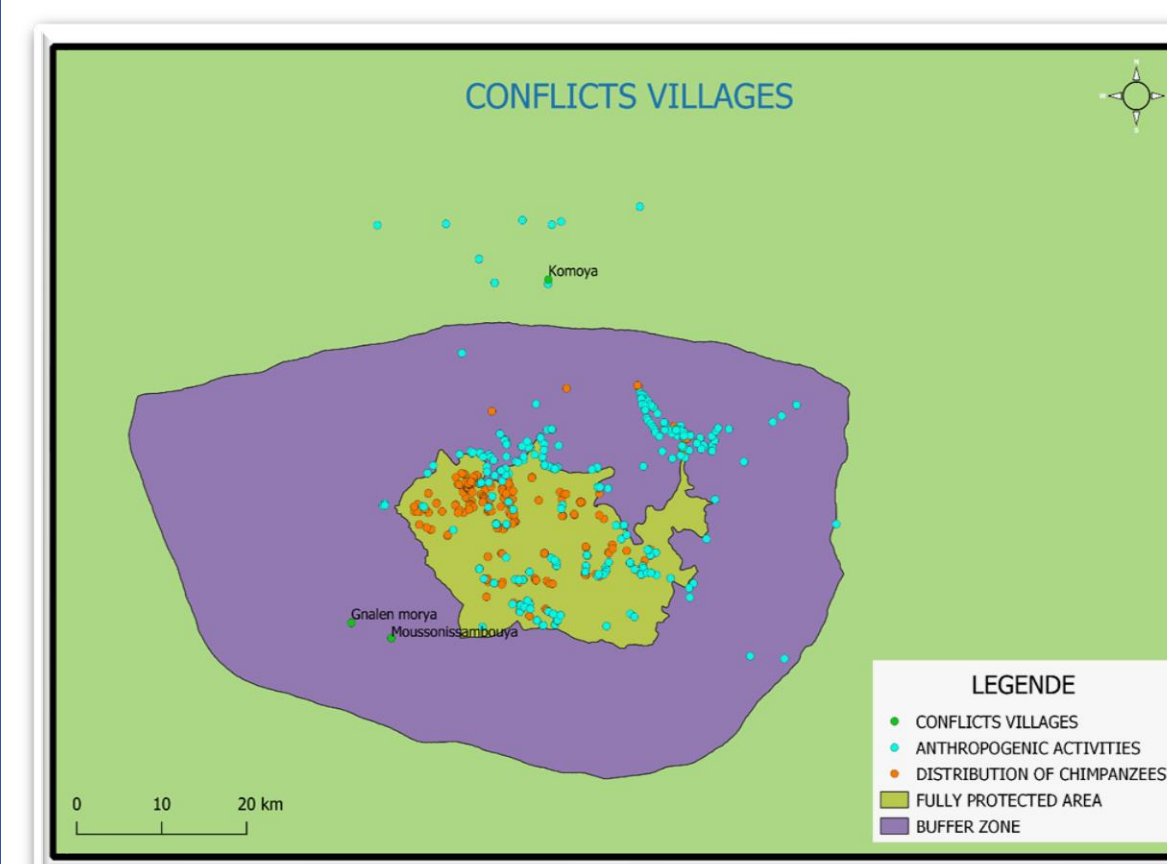


Figure 7: Map of threats and conflicts

❖ TARGET CROPS

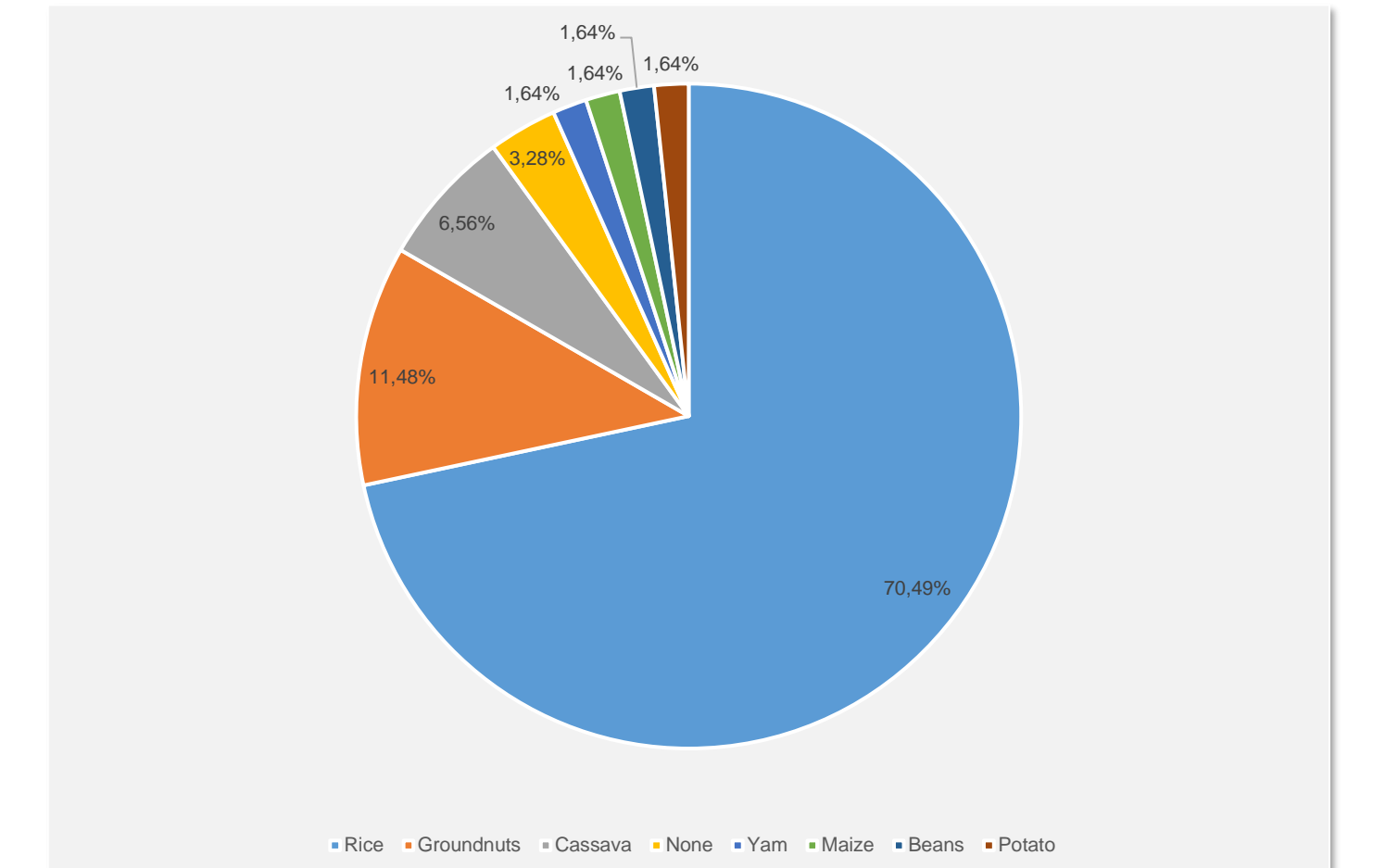
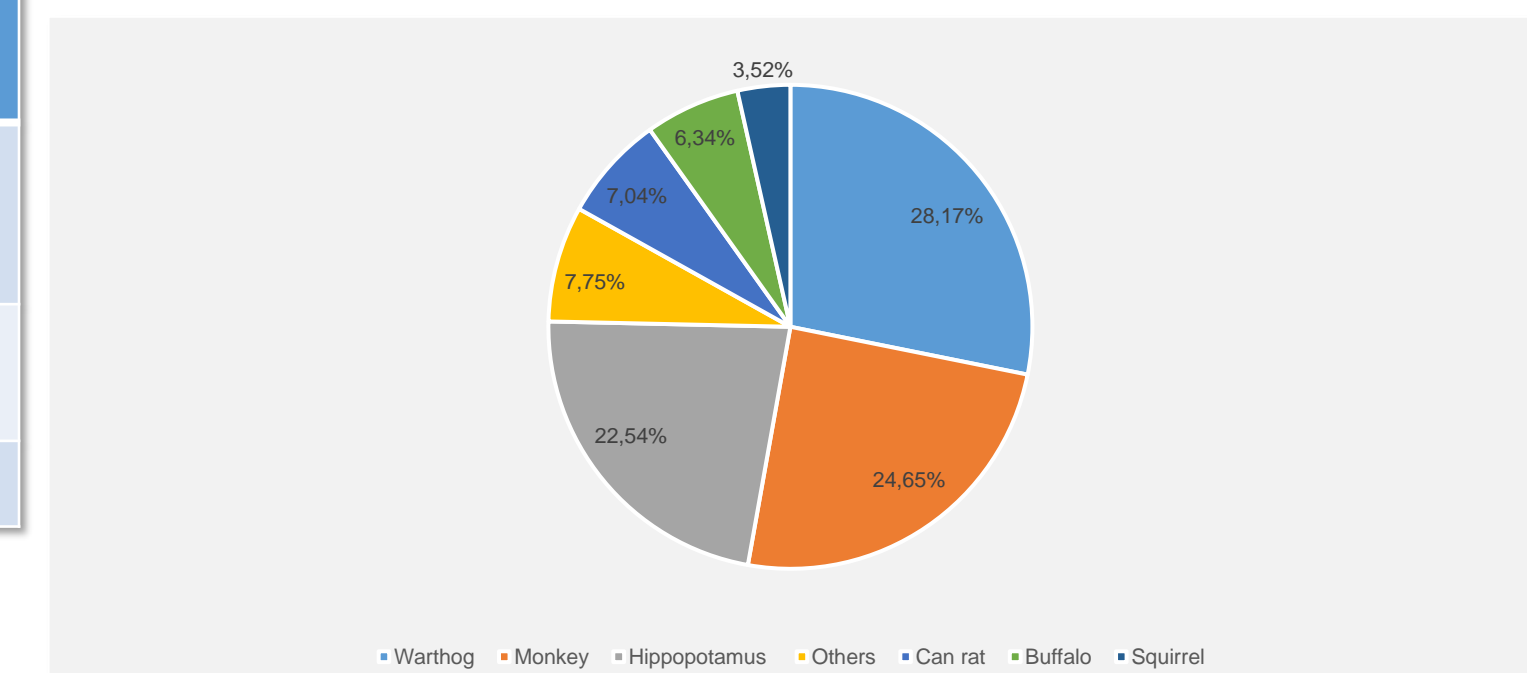


Figure 9: Proportion of crops destroyed

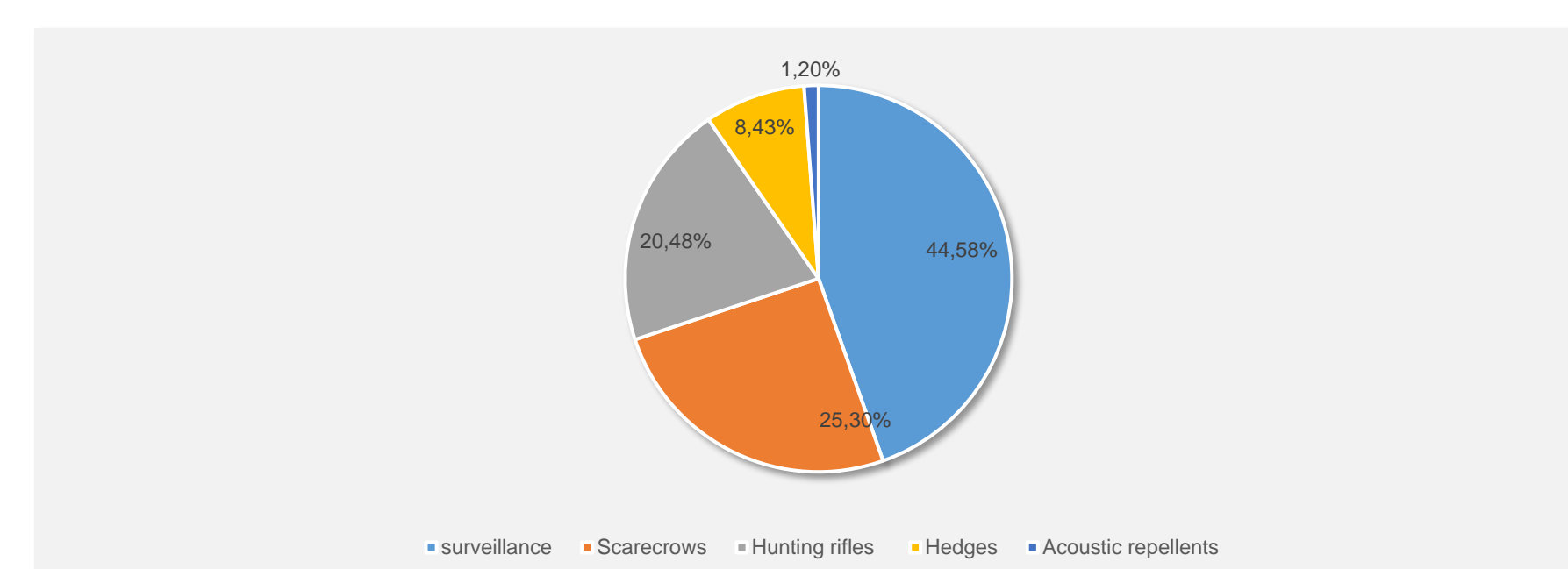
❖ TYPES OF DAMAGE

TYPES OF DAMAGE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Destruction of crops	43	76,79%
Animal attack	11	19,64%
Nothing	2	3,50%

❖ ANIMALS INVOLVED



❖ MEANS OF CONTROL IMPLEMENTED



Conclusion and recommendations

The Chimpanzees have a limited involvement in conflicts within the Komoya, Gnalémorya, and Moussonissambouya districts. Seven (7) activities are identified as the underlying causes of these conflicts. Two (2) main forms of conflict have been observed. Apart from chimpanzees, fifteen (15) other species are implicated in Human-Wildlife Conflicts.

To fully realize the potential of this research, it is crucial to undertake the following:

- Conduct a study aimed at formulating policies for the management of human-wildlife conflicts.
- Carry out an investigation into the spatial and temporal distribution of medium-sized and large mammals within the designated area.
- Undertake a study to establish migration corridors for the animals.
- Perform a feasibility study to assess the viability of implementing eco-tourism within the park

Partner institutions:

