

# CHIMBO

## Community based chimpanzee conservation in Guinea Bissau



### Introduction

Chimbo runs a community based conservation program in the Boé sector in Guinea Bissau. This is an area with a rich biodiversity.

### The Boé

The Boé forms the western fringe of the Fouta Diallon massif, an Exceptionally Important Priority Area for habitat protection according to the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees in West Africa (SSC-IUCN).

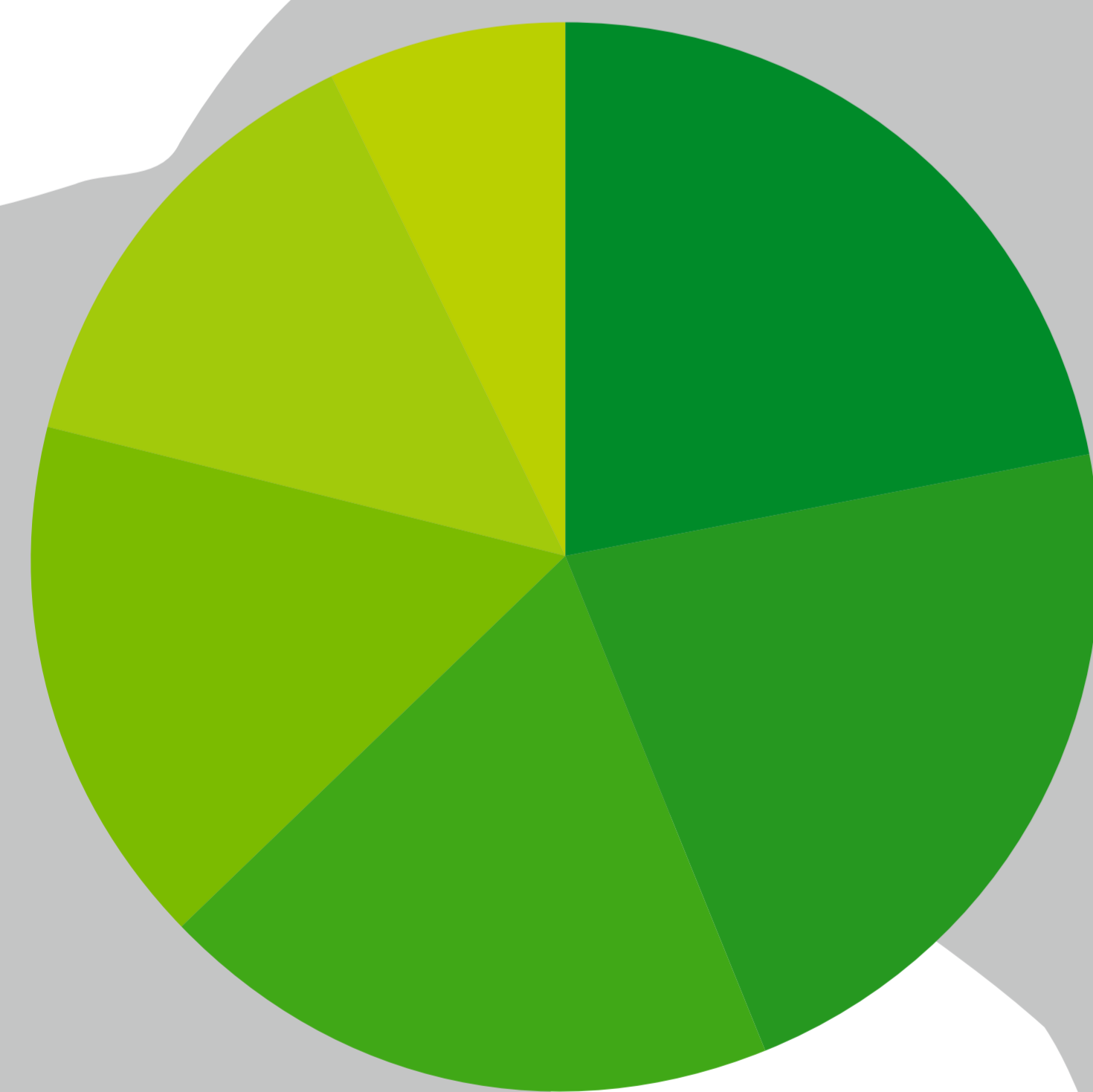
### Biodiversity

The chimpanzee is the flagship species for biodiversity conservation in the Boé. Every gallery forest had its own family of chimpanzees. When passing through the surrounding savannah their nests can be seen in the tree canopies along the streams.

### Culture

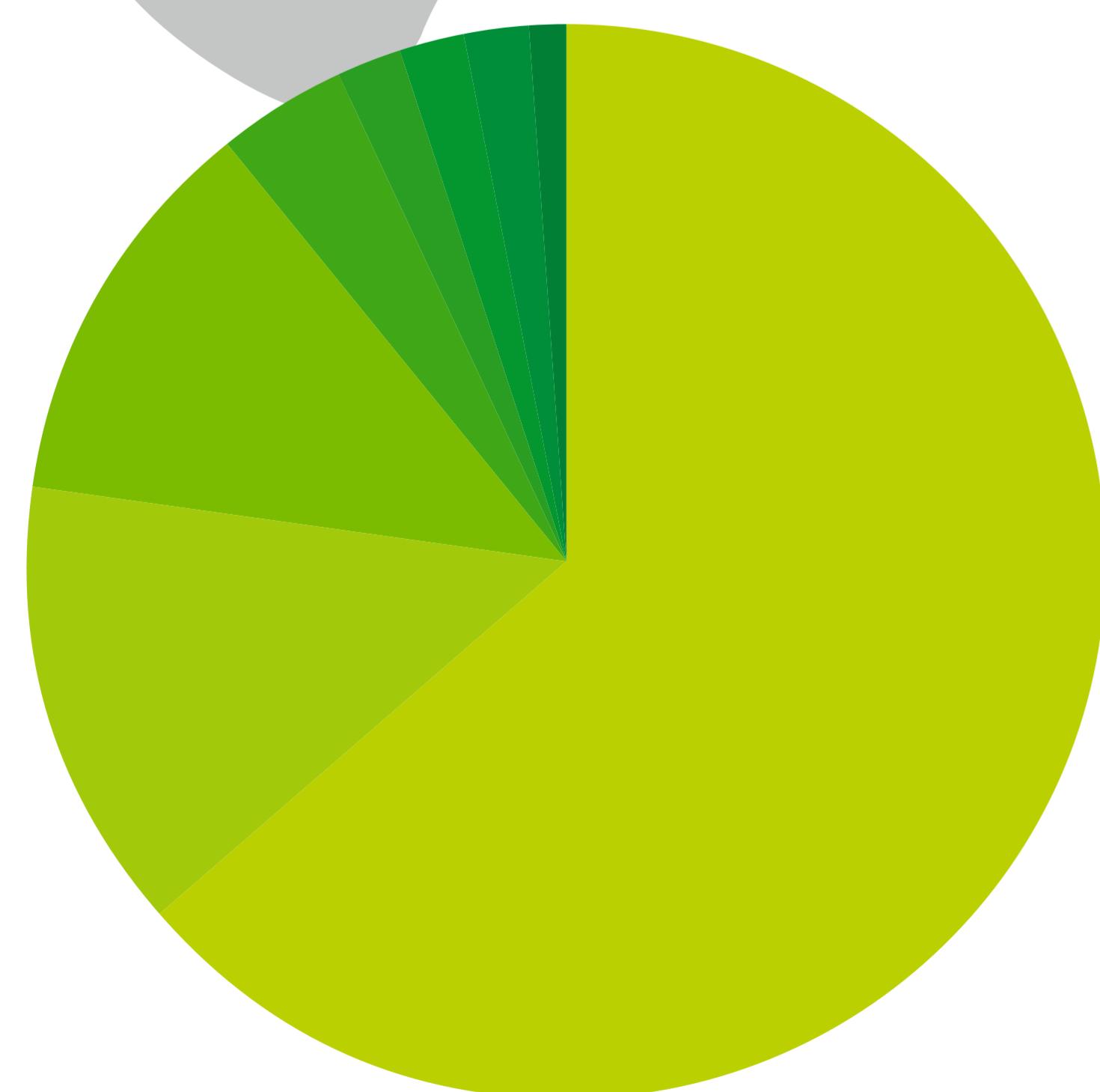
Since independence of Guinea Bissau, the Boé Sector in the south-eastern part of the country has been virtually devoid of attention to its needs by the central government. The local Fula communities have maintained their way of life, scraping a meager living out of the narrow infertile valleys that intersect the laterite cap overlaying most of the region.

### Animal observations by village committees



Chimpanzees 22%  
Red monkeys 22%  
Baboons 19%  
Green monkeys 16%  
Wild pigs 14%  
Bushbucks 7%

### Income generation in the Boé



Farming 65%  
Others 14%  
Hunting 12%  
Shopkeeping 4%  
Tailoring 2%  
Blacksmithing 2%  
Teaching 2%  
Fishing 1%

### Objectives

Chimbo Foundation's goal is chimpanzee conservation in West Africa. Chimbo's objective is to establish a community based protected area that is financially self-supporting.

### Activities

#### Awareness raising

- Empowerment. A "horizontal" platform was created that brings together the stakeholders at the local Boé level to discuss and promote sustainable development of the area.

- Daily radio messages are on the air to increase knowledge on nature conservation, creating support for chimpanzee protection.

- A solar plant was installed in Beli (the capital of the Boé region) to replace the diesel generator that provided electricity for the radio.

- Other awareness raising activities: Soccer tournaments, cultural festivals, chimpanzee design competitions for primary school children, etc.

#### Ecovolunteer tourism

Ecovolunteer tourism offers a good option to alleviate poverty of the local inhabitants and at the same time work as a stimulus to improve conservation of chimpanzees.

Ecovolunteer tourists will pay to participate in the research programme that aims to improve nature conservation.



### Achievements

#### Village committees

Chimbo has created 27 village committees spread over the entire Boé area. In these committees all stakeholder groups are represented: village elders, hunters, women, volunteer forest guards, youth. These village committees monitor chimpanzee groups on their village lands, discourage and denounce hunting and evaluate damage caused by chimpanzees to crops.

#### National park Boé

Chimbo assists IBAP in a GEF/UNDP programme to establish a national park in the area.

### Threats

#### Population growth

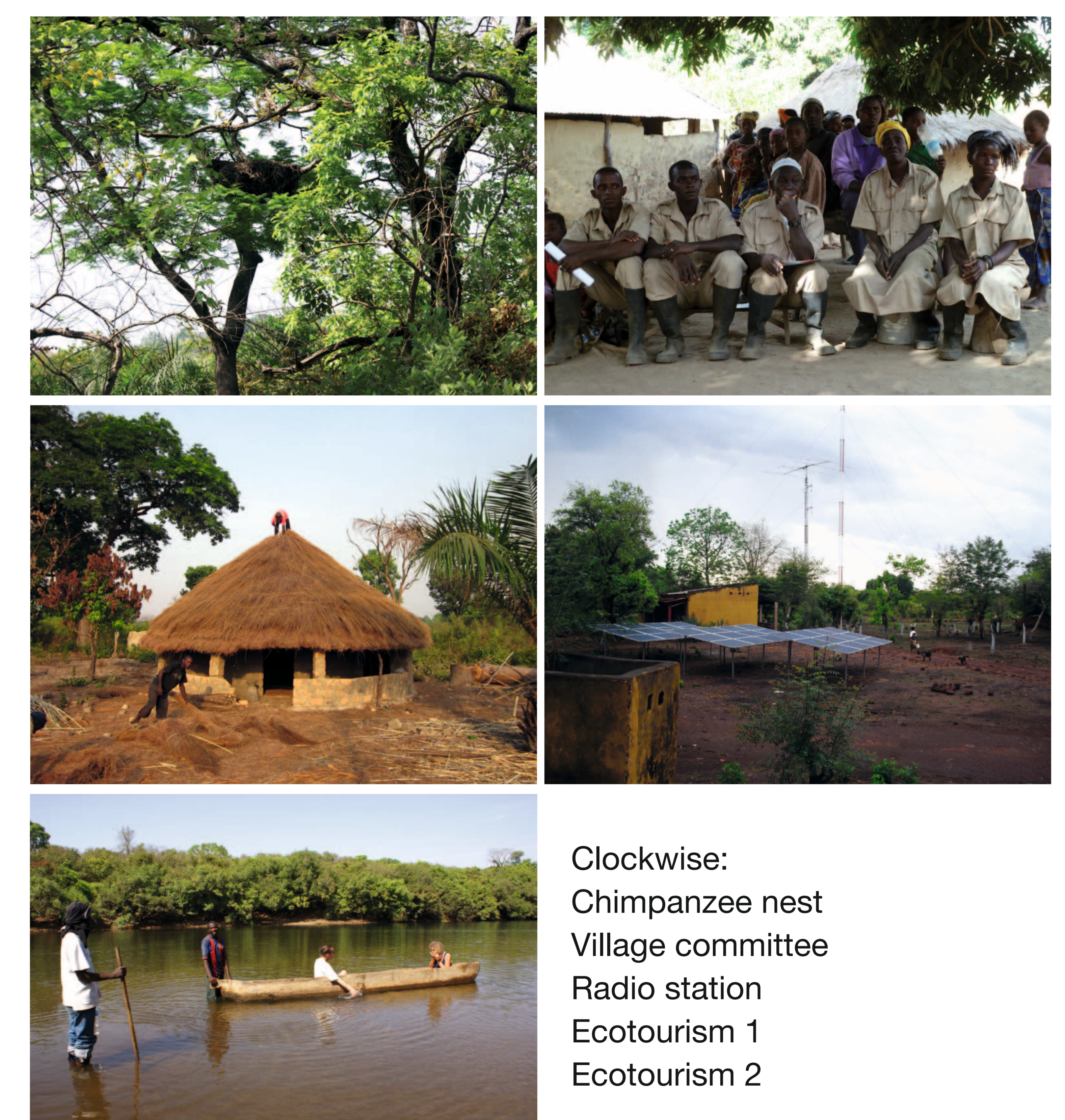
Population growth (100% in 15 years) threatens the rich flora and fauna. Hunting increased and the increasing demand for agricultural land causes habitat loss.

#### Mining

The Boé is rich in bauxite. Although the national economy will benefit from bauxite mining, it presents social and environmental threats to the local communities that depend on the natural resources of the area.

Red List Mammals of the Boé - High Abundance	IUCN Status
Western Chimpanzee ( <i>Pan troglodytes verus</i> )	Endangered
Sooty Mangabey ( <i>Cercocebus atys</i> )	Vulnerable
Hippo ( <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> )	Vulnerable
Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> )	Near threatened
Western Baboon ( <i>Papio papio</i> )	Near threatened

Red List Mammals of the Boé - Low Abundance	IUCN Status
Western Red Colobus ( <i>Colobus badius</i> )	Endangered
Wild Dog ( <i>Lycan pictus</i> )	Endangered
Western Black and White Colobus ( <i>Colobus polykomos</i> )	Vulnerable
Lion ( <i>Panthera leo</i> )	Vulnerable
Elephant ( <i>Loxodonta africana</i> )	Vulnerable
Defassa Waterbuck ( <i>Kobus defassa</i> )	Near threatened
Western Hartebeest ( <i>Alcephalus busephalus major</i> )	Near threatened
Giant Pangolin ( <i>Manis gigantea</i> )	Near threatened



Clockwise:  
Chimpanzee nest  
Village committee  
Radio station  
Ecotourism 1  
Ecotourism 2



#### Sponsors:



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