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Ecovolunteer Tourism:  
the Potentials and Constraints  
A Case Study in the Boé area, Guinea Bissau  
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## Abstract

Despite various research on ecotourism, little is known about the concept of ecovolunteer tourism. This study provides an overview of the potentials and constraints of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area of Guinea Bissau. The data were collected through interviewing twelve village committees, four nature-based and two tourism-related organisations. An analysis of these interviews presents a clear indication of the social, economic and environmental situation of the Boé and Guinea Bissau in general. By analysing the social, economic and environmental situation, potentials and constraints were identified. This study recognises the potential to generate more awareness on the conservation of chimpanzees by creating an impact on the economic situation of the local population. Therefore it will be necessary to involve the local inhabitants from the beginning of this project. Still, in the context of the Boé it will be necessary to take some circumstances such as the poor health care and educational systems into account.

**Keywords:** ecotourism, ecovolunteer tourism, feasibility, sustainability, Guinea Bissau.

## Summary

This research project, commissioned by Chimbo, explores the potentials and constraints of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area, Guinea Bissau. Chimbo was established in 2007 by Annemarie Goedmakers and Piet Wit in memory of their son David Goedmakers (29-10-1987 - 25-08-2006). Their main goal is to conserve the chimpanzee population in West Africa. Chimbo currently focuses on the Boé area in the South East of Guinea Bissau where approximately 700 chimpanzees live. A total of twenty-five village committees were organised to monitor the chimpanzee population. Ecovolunteer tourism can provide a secondary income to the inhabitants of the Boé area. Therefore Chimbo perceives ecovolunteer tourism as a new and additional method to make the local inhabitants aware of the value to protect chimpanzees and to execute field research necessary for chimpanzee conservation

The research design consists of four elements. A literature review on ecovolunteer tourism was initiated followed by field research which was conducted in the Boé area and in Bissau, the capital city. The field research consisted of semi-structured interviews with village committee members and local organisations. During and after the interviews, observations on the site were executed as well. Finally, data were analysed and conclusions and recommendations were written in the Netherlands.

From the acquired data it became apparent that the Boé area has potential as an ecovolunteer tourism destination. First of all a large percentage of all chimpanzees in Guinea Bissau are located in the Boé area where roughly 50% of the interviewees mention that they see chimpanzees on a daily basis. Even more, the Boé area is designated as the second richest area of Guinea Bissau based on the diversity of mammals. Another major potential is that the local population is very hospitable and friendly and willing to show their culture to foreigners. Unfortunately there are also some constraints as for example the underdeveloped healthcare system which puts ecovolunteers at risk. Also the bauxite mining developments can disturb the ecovolunteers' experience. Another point of attention is the contribution of the ecovolunteers to the conservation of chimpanzees. Due to the small groups and limited periods to observe chimpanzees the value of observations is restricted.

In conclusion, ecovolunteer tourism can create an economic impact in the Boé area. Though, the health care system needs to be improved and a proper monitoring plan will be necessary to attract ecovolunteers and make them feel valuable.

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# **1. Research outline**

## **1.1 Introduction**

This thesis explores the potentials and constraints of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area of Guinea Bissau. Ecotourism was recognized in the late 1980s but became a phenomenon in the 1990s. Ecotourism is seen as one of the fastest growing tourism industries, if not the fastest growing type of new tourism. Researchers even expect that ecotourism will grow three times faster than the complete tourism industry (Wearing and Neil, 2009). Despite the fact that much literature is written on ecotourism little is known about the concept of ecovolunteer tourism. Still, the popularity of ecovolunteering or nature-volunteering has increased tremendously (Wearing and Neil, 2009). Many organisations such as Travel Active, UK Earth Watch Institute, Ecovolunteer and Volunteer Abroad have shown great interest in this type of volunteering and are growing rapidly (Travel Active, 2009; Earth Watch Institute, 2009; Ecovolunteer, 2009; Volunteer Abroad, 2009). Some significant characteristics of ecovolunteers are their interest in the local culture and traditions, the adventure of the unknown and their contribution to conservation.

This research was commissioned by Chimbo whose main objective is to conserve the chimpanzee population and their natural surroundings in West Africa. This research project focuses on a specific region in the South East of Guinea Bissau in which many chimpanzees live.

Guinea Bissau is a poor country in West Africa and is even ranked as 173 out of 177 countries in the human development index (World Bank, 2009). The population of Guinea Bissau is estimated at 1.6 million inhabitants and the official language is Portuguese. The infrastructure of Guinea Bissau such as roads, telephone systems and electricity is limited, as in many developing countries and due to poor communication and bad roads it is difficult to create business (Lead International, 2009).



**Figure 1: Guinea Bissau**  
(Annual report Chimbo  
Foundation, 2007-2008)

Guinea Bissau is divided into seven regions. This thesis will focus on the Boé area in the Gabu region in South East Guinea Bissau. The Boé area approximately covers 2000km<sup>2</sup> and has 12.000 inhabitants divided over eighty-five villages and settlements. This region is extremely poor; more than 90% of the inhabitants can spend less than \$1 per day. The Boé is a home for a population of approximately 700 chimpanzees. This area and its chimpanzee population are threatened due the increase of inhabitants, deforestation, weakening of traditional values, hunting and bauxite mine construction (Chimbo, 2009). Chimbo perceives ecovolunteer tourism as a new and additional method to make the local inhabitants aware of the value of living chimpanzees.

## 1.2 Problem statement

Although tourism is not yet really developed in Guinea Bissau the Ministry of Tourism promotes ecotourism in different parts of Guinea Bissau such as; Park João Vieira Poilão and Natural Park of the Forests of Cantanhez. These parks promote ecotourism and inhabit different types of primate species such as chimpanzees (Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Handicrafts, 2009).

Even though tourism is not promoted in the Boé area, it has potential thanks to the chimpanzee population, diverse flora and fauna and local cultures. One of the threats towards the chimpanzee population is hunting. Small hunting activities occur at several places in the

Boé area. Chimpanzees may be killed due to the fact that they make damage to the gardens of the local population. Adult monkeys are sometimes killed as bushmeat or to sell the young ones through illegal networks to individuals. The most important threat is the increase of inhabitants and habitat loss due to expanding agriculture. Nowadays 12.000 inhabitants are divided over eighty-five villages and settlements but more new villages are created and more migrants from Guinea Conakry move to the Boé area. People try to raise their standard of living by gaining more money. In the Boé area this results in more agriculture, livestock farming and hunting activities, which creates a big tension to the chimpanzee population (Chimbo, 2009).

These issues illustrate the call for a solution and a shared vision to enhance the economic, social and environmental situation. For such an area ecovolunteer tourism may contribute on the long run to the conservation of the chimpanzee population, the alleviation of poverty and the well-being of the local inhabitants. Ecovolunteer tourism is considered suitable due to its specific characteristics such as, the non-consumptive use of wildlife and nature, directly benefiting the conservation and the local economy, and the willingness to travel to underdeveloped areas (Ziffer, 1989).

Therefore the problem statement for this thesis is:

*The Boé area in Guinea Bissau deals with extreme poverty which results in increasing agriculture, livestock farming and illegal hunting activities by local inhabitants. These issues have a negative impact on the chimpanzee population in this area. Chimbo sees ecovolunteer tourism as a way to overcome this problem. Still, no research is conducted on the feasibility and sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area.*

### **1.3 Research objective**

The aim of this research is to assess the feasibility and sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area. This research displays the potentials and constraints of ecovolunteer tourism in the Boé area and therefore the main objective is:

*To explore the potentials and constraints of a sustainable ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area.*

The main objective is divided in to two sub-objectives. The first objective builds on a literature review:

*To explore the success and fail factors of existing ecovolunteer tourism initiatives.*

The second sub-objective will gain more detailed information about the feasibility and sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative.

*To examine the feasibility and criteria for sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area.*

## **1.4 Research questions**

The main research question is:

- ◆ *What are the potentials and constraints of developing a sustainable ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area?*

To gain an answer on the main research question, sub research questions are developed. The first research questions are:

- ◆ What is ecovolunteer tourism?
- ◆ What is the number of ecovolunteer tourism initiatives worldwide?
- ◆ What are the success factors of ecovolunteer tourism initiatives?
- ◆ What are the negative factors of ecovolunteer tourism initiatives?
- ◆ Which aspects need to be taken into account for the feasibility of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative?
- ◆ Which aspects need to be taken into account to develop a sustainable ecovolunteer tourism initiative?

The other questions are related to the field research.

- ◆ What is the potential for ecovolunteer tourism in the Boé area?
- ◆ What are the unique features of the Boé area?
- ◆ What are the local structures, socially and economically of the local communities in the Boé area?
- ◆ What is the current tourism status in Guinea Bissau?

## 1.5 Thesis structure

This thesis is organised in six chapters. The first chapter discusses the problem statement and the research objectives and questions. Chapter 2 consists out of the theoretical framework and pays attention to the concepts ecovolunteer tourism, feasibility and the prism of sustainability. Chapter 3 provides the methodological aspects of the research including the character of the research, methods of data generation and data analysis. Chapter 4 focuses on the research context. Guinea Bissau and especially the Boé area are further examined on different aspects like the political, economic and social situation. In chapter 5 the research outcomes are analysed. The final chapter represents a SWOT-analysis, conclusions and recommendations.

## 2. Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework is divided in three paragraphs. The first paragraph explains the concept of ecovolunteer tourism. The second paragraph devotes attention to the six criteria which are essential to measure the feasibility of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative. Attention is dedicated to the issue of sustainability in paragraph 2.3.

### 2.1 Ecovolunteer tourism

There is a need to gain more insight in the term ecovolunteer tourism, before finding information on the feasibility and sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative.

The term ecotourism has been recognized in the late 1980s and became a phenomenon in the 1990s. Ecotourism appeared as a result of the ‘increasing global concern of disappearing cultures and ecosystems’ and differentiates itself from mass tourism due to the fact that ecotourists are searching for a new, unique and unexpected experience whereas mass tourists search for predictability and uniformity of experiences (Wearing and Neil, 2009; Wearing, 2001; Weaver, 2001). A rapidly growing area of ecotourism is ‘ecovolunteer tourism’. Ecovolunteer tourism highlights positive interaction between hosts and guests based on tourists taking part in nature-based research projects to stimulate environmental, social and economical circumstances in the visited area (Wearing and Neil, 2009). Despite various research on ecotourism, little is known about the concept of ecovolunteer tourism. These types of tourist place emphasis on altruistic motives and self-development rather than solely experiencing parts of the environmental characteristics (Clifton and Benson, 2006). Wearing and Neil (2009) define volunteer tourists as tourists who;

*“Volunteer in an organised way to undertake holidays that may involve the aiding or alleviating of the material poverty of some groups in society, the restoration of certain environments or research into aspects of society or environment”.*

To go more in-depth on the growth factor of volunteering projects Tomazos and Butler (2009) executed a detailed research, based on the Volunteer Abroad database. Taken as a whole, the projects listed in the Volunteer Abroad database exceeded from 698 projects in 2003 to 2446 project in 2007. Assuming that this database gives an up to date image of volunteer projects, this means an increase of approximately 350% over the last four years. This may lead to the



conclusion that on one hand more tourists are interested in volunteer tourism, though on the other hand competition between ecovolunteer tourism initiatives may have increased substantially. It is noteworthy to mention that not all projects listed in the database are solely based on ecovolunteering, because specialized database is available. Other categories are; community welfare, teaching, medical, culture, business development, building and others. From the 2446 projects, 502 were categorised as 'environmental', which contains for example wildlife conservation and nature protection. Also 47 other projects were categorised as 'research' including, wildlife monitoring and land-mapping which are similar to ecovolunteering. So, in total 549 projects of the 2446 projects are related towards ecovolunteering which contains almost one fourth (22.44%) of all projects (Tomazos and Butler, 2009; Callanan and Thomas, 2005).

Ecovolunteers are fascinated by the cultural interaction between hosts and guests, by helping the conservation of the environment, by controlled tourism with minimal impacts and by creating economic benefits for the local inhabitants. Other significant features of ecovolunteers are the mutual learning experience, friendships and the aid of conservation which especially occur during these types of holidays. The ecovolunteer wants to feel that they have made a difference while experiencing the adventure of the unknown (Clifton and Benson, 2006; Brighthsmith et al, 2008; Wearing and Neil, 2009). Some specific features of ecovolunteers are; 'doing something good', adventure, personal growth, cultural exchange and professional development (Wearing, 2001; Clifton and Benson, 2006; Brighthsmith et al; 2008). Ecovolunteering can vary from reducing pollution to the conservation of wildlife and the protection of the natural environment. However, all ecovolunteers have one key factor in common namely to really get involved instead of just passing by as normal tourists do (Lynch, 2009). This type of travelling has become increasingly popular among Australians, Japanese, North Americans and Western Europeans.

It is important to take two issues into account when developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative. The first issue is that of neo-colonialism. Many ecovolunteer projects market themselves as being 'unique', 'rewarding', 'meaningful', 'valuable' etc. but when only attention is paid to the volunteers what impact can they create on the local destination? Therefore it will be necessary to consult the local inhabitants to make sure the volunteer project will affect them positively as well (Lynch, 2009). The second issue is the value of the

gathered data by ecovolunteers. The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford University declared that there were no significant differences in gathered data between researches and volunteers who did not obtain a lengthy training (Lynch, 2009).

Currently many different organisations offer ecovolunteer products. These organisation look similar but their involvement can differ significantly. The organisations can be separated in the following six types.

- The first is the placement organiser. These organisations match volunteers to volunteer projects abroad.
- The second type is the privately run expedition. These organisations are mostly NGOs and arrange their own in-country projects. These projects are perfect for ecovolunteers who do not have any travel experience because everything is arranged from pick-ups to general problems.
- Hybrid organisations are described as third. These organisations guide their own projects but also recruit volunteers with partner organisations to expand their income.
- The fourth type is the field-based organisation. These organisations focus on a specific habitat or specie and are organised on a local level. Most obtain basic facilities and are therefore suitable for self-assured and experienced travellers.
- The fifth type includes internet directories. These are organisations which list ecovolunteer projects. They do not have a commitment towards one organisation.
- The sixth and last type is the eco-friendly package-holiday companies. These organisation offer voluntarily elements during holidays. They offer dozens of projects in different countries but have no direct involvement or a long-term commitment which makes the project less valuable.

Chimbo will emerge more to a field-based organisation thanks to the fact that they do want to preserve the Boé area as a destination and focus on one specific specie namely the chimpanzee.

There is a difference among volunteer tourists in intensity towards the project. The conceptual framework of volunteer tourism, developed by Callanan and Thomas (2005) is used to clarify these different types of volunteer tourists. It is noteworthy to mention that these types of volunteering are also based on long term volunteering, containing projects up to almost one year. In the context of the Boé area one week is the minimum and therefore not much attention needs to be paid to the duration of the projects. The division, which is explained

below is based on a number of factors namely; the extent of involvement, skills/qualification of the participant and the focus of the participant on self-development or altruistic motives. The conceptual framework points out three different types of volunteer tourists (VT) namely shallow VT, intermediate VT and deep VT.

- ◆ The shallow VT focuses predominantly on self development, has no explicit skills, makes little contribution to the environment/local community and participates for a short period of time.
- ◆ The mediate VT has both altruistic and self-development motives, stays for around 2 to 4 months and has direct input to the project but also desires holiday time.
- ◆ The deep VT stays for a longer period up to 6 months and has a better contribution towards the local communities and their environments. Deep VTs also have altruistic motives and more qualities and skills which can be useful for the project.

To gain more information about the concept of volunteer tourism it is not only necessary to conceptualise the type of volunteer tourists but also the type of volunteer tourism projects (VTP's) which are related to each other. VTP's are also diverse in the intensity of marketing the project. Callanan and Thomas (2005) took the same division of volunteer tourists and connected them to the different types of VTP's.

- ◆ The shallow VTP includes a high degree of flexibility, strong promotion of the destination, none or limited level of skills, passive participation and limited level of contribution of local community.
- ◆ The intermediate VTP promotes the project in the framework of the destination, moderated skills are desired, and locals are involved but not as intense as in the deep VTP.
- ◆ The deep VTP creates a strong promotion of the project in stead of the destination, tourists contain specific skills and experiences, includes active participation and locals are involved in project planning and decision making.

## **2.2 Feasibility context**

This paragraph describes the feasibility of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative. Different criteria are used to gain an indication of the feasibility of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area. To examine the feasibility the 'attributes to measure images' developed by Echtner and Ritchie (1991) is used. Not all criteria are related towards ecovolunteer tourism so only six

main criteria are chosen. These six criteria are; accommodation, accessibility, activities, facilities, current tourism status and hospitality and friendliness.

### *Accommodation*

There are many different types of accommodation for tourists. A study, carried out by Wight (1997) shows different types of accommodation linked with the dimension of the ecotourism experience. The 'hard' ecotourist prefers tent camping or a hut, whereas the 'soft' type prefers a bed & breakfast or a hotel. Before finding a suitable place for ecovolunteers in the Boé area it will be necessary to gain a proper indication of the current house styles. Bearing these current house styles in mind a proper type of accommodation can be found or developed.

### *Access*

Access can be interpreted in different ways. Firstly, the accessibility to and within the area needs to be explored. This is of great importance for the tourists' willingness to travel to a certain area. Ecovolunteer tourism most often takes place in remote areas but there should be a reasonable travel time (Brighsmith et al; Wearing, 2001).

Secondly, access can be interpreted as access to the market. Different marketing strategies need to be developed to put the product on the market. Here the literature mentions that the market of ecovolunteer tourism is growing, but this also means that more competition may occur (Tomazos and Butler, 2009; Callanan and Thomas, 2005). So, it will be necessary to get a clear picture of the current ecovolunteer tourism market. This will be further explained in paragraph 5.1.

### *Activities*

Activities can also be interpreted in two ways. Firstly, tourist activities need to be located. As mentioned by Callanan and Thomas (2005) ecovolunteers also need leisure time and free time to explore the area or country. Therefore it will be necessary to determine which tourist activities can be developed in the Boé area. Some examples of activities are walking, myth telling, biking and canoeing. Also recreational places such as a volleyball field or a table tennis table are important.

Secondly, existing activities need to be measured. As declared in the introduction the chimpanzee population and the surrounding environment are in danger due to different activities of the local community such as hunting, agriculture and livestock farming and

mining (Chimbo, 2009). It will be necessary to see if any of these activities form a threat to the experience of the ecovolunteers.

### *Facilities*

There are different facilities mentioned by Echtner and Ritchie (1991) but not all are of great importance in the context of ecovolunteer tourism, for example shopping or sporting facilities. To remain in the context of ecovolunteer tourism, facilities such as food supply, sanitation, water supply, healthcare and hygiene are of superior importance. By living in the area all above mentioned facilities need to be used by myself. This gives a good indication of what needs to be changed or developed before ecovolunteers arrive.

### *Current tourism status*

Before creating a new tourism product it is important to gain an indication of the current tourism situation. By looking at the current tourists a potential market may be reached. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the recognition of tourism in official plans of authorities, present private organisations for example tour operators, the type of tourist who already visits Guinea Bissau, available information about the country and region and the partnerships between different organisations such as NGOs, tourism businesses and local communities (Weaver, 2001; World Conservation Congress, 2008).

Another important feature is to examine existing ecovolunteer programmes focussed on chimpanzees world wide and projects located in West Africa. These different ecovolunteer projects are direct or indirect competitors and therefore need to be examined carefully.

### *Hospitality and friendliness*

The above-mentioned criteria are of a physical nature, whereas hospitality and friendliness are seen as psychological features. It is necessary to examine the local community's idea of tourism. Most likely it will be difficult for the local communities to create an image of tourists due to the fact that not many foreigners have visited the area (Chimbo, 2009). Since I am a foreigner I can use my own experience to create an image of the hospitality and friendliness of the local communities.

## 2.3 Sustainability context

Sustainability needs to be secured to develop a healthy and long lasting product. The prism of sustainability, developed by Spangenberg and Valentin (2000) is integrated to secure this sustainability. The prism of sustainability is used because it integrates and creates a balance for all four dimensions which is necessary to guarantee long-term sustainability (Spangenberg and Valentin, 2000). Firstly, the prism of sustainability will be discussed. Secondly, each dimension is discussed separately and entails indicators which display possible impacts on the destination and its inhabitants.

### 2.3.1 Prism of sustainability

Traditional sustainable tourism developments integrate ecological, economical and socio-cultural elements (Swarbrooke, 1999; Mowforth and Munt, 2003). Ordaining a balance between these three traditional elements is necessary but even more to add one new perspective namely the institutional perspective, which is done by Spangenberg and Valentin (2000). It is important to incorporate the institutional dimension because it mediates, manages and facilitates growth and conflicts. All four dimensions are combined into one model called the prism of sustainability which is shown in figure 2 (Spangenberg and Valentin, 2000).

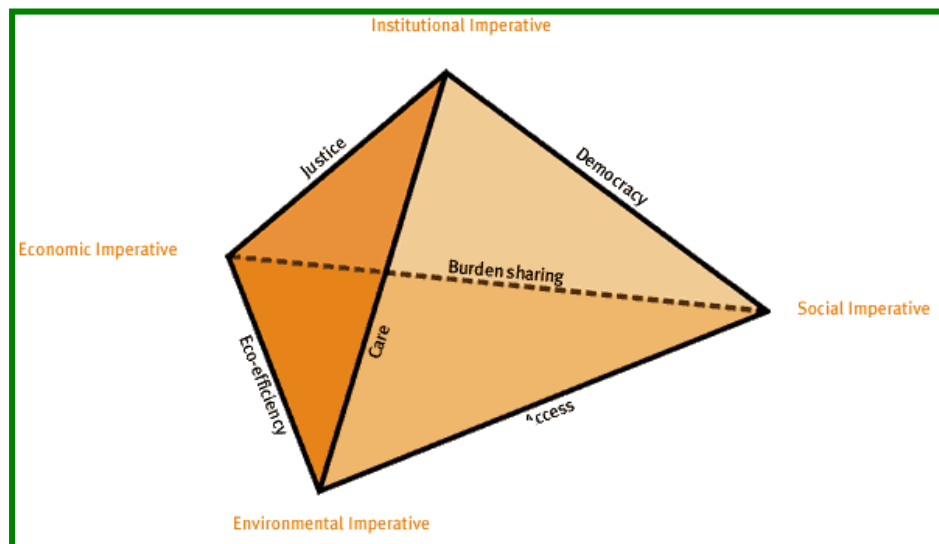


Figure 2: Prism of sustainability (Spangenberg, 2000).

The prism of sustainability is used to develop goals and to create a common structure with different indicators for sustainable development (Spangenberg and Valentin, 2000). In this thesis the four dimensions of sustainability are used to measure the sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area on the short or long run. In order to develop a sustainable project all four indicators are of similar importance. Within this thesis a link will

be made between the prism of sustainability and the concept of ecovolunteer tourism. A goal is developed for each dimension.

The goals will be supported by different indicators which will provide a clearer understanding of what exactly needs to be studied. As stated by Hart (1999) '*an indicator is something that helps you to understand where you are, which way you are going and how far you are from where you want to be*'. Before gaining more in-depth information on the goals and indicators an explanation is provided of all four sustainable dimensions.

- ◆ The institutional dimension contains the strengthening of local participation. Local inhabitants need to be included in participation and their wishes need to be heard.
- ◆ The social dimension claims that all inhabitants have the right to use the resources and facilities they need to live a healthy and dignified life. This includes reducing social discrimination and exclusion.
- ◆ The economic dimension calls for material welfare and the satisfaction of human needs. This entails an economy which sustains employment and livelihood.
- ◆ The environmental dimension is generally seen as the most important one within sustainable tourism developments (Diamantis, 1999). Still, within the prism of sustainability it is significant to mention the equal importance of all four dimensions. The environmental dimension expresses the need to reduce the impact on the environment and its ecological system.

All described dimensions are quite broad. Therefore, the next four paragraphs will go more in-depth on the sustainability of ecovolunteer tourism.

### 2.3.2 Institutional dimension

The first dimension which will be discussed is the institutional dimension. The institutional dimension is underdeveloped compared to the other dimensions and many times not even used in sustainable projects. Though, this dimension is important because it is developed to mediate, manage and facilitates growth and conflicts (Spangenberg and Valentin, 2000). The institutional dimension reflects one goal namely, *to explore the local institutions in the Boé area*. The institutional dimension contains the strengthening local participation in political governance (Spangenberg and Valentin, 2000). Different authors claim that local inhabitants need to participate in tourism related projects and their wishes need to be integrated



(Swarbooke, 1999; Mowforth and Munt, 2003). Most often ecovolunteer tourism initiatives take place in remote and rural areas interacting with local communities (Brightsmith et al., 2008; Wearing and Neil, 2009). By incorporating local communities a responsible feeling towards the tourism initiative arises and they show more effort to make the tourism initiative work (Diamantis, 1999). Before gaining a clearer understanding of how to integrate the local communities into the participation of the ecovolunteer tourism initiative, it will be necessary to gain a more comprehensive picture of the local institutions and important persons in this area. Based on these local and decision making structures a clearer picture can be created on the opportunities of integrating the local communities in the ecovolunteer tourism initiative.

In total there are three main research areas:

- ◆ The first indicator consists out of the leadership of the local communities. By gaining a clear picture of the leadership in local villages it will be easier to interact and participate with them in the project.
- ◆ The second indicator contains the village committees. In total there are twenty-five village committees and by gaining an understanding on how they work it will be possible to give Chimbo an idea on how ecovolunteers can collaborate with their work.
- ◆ The last indicator will give a broader view of the decision making of important institutions and persons who are situated in the Boé area.

### **2.3.3 Social dimension**

The social dimension states that all inhabitants have the right to live a healthy and dignified life without social discrimination and exclusion. To link this with the development of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative this implies the reduction of social discrimination and exclusion by the ecovolunteer tourism initiative. As mentioned by Henkens et al. (2007) community involvement in planning and implementing creates different advantages such as more support and a positive attitude towards tourism developments. Also, communities that are involved in planning and implementing have better chances to gain profit from tourism than a community which is not involved at all. Therefore community development is seen as a core element of sustainable tourism. Before inhabitants can be involved in a tourism initiative it will be necessary to gain a solid understanding of the social and cultural surroundings of the inhabitants, which is also first goal of this dimension. Below three different indicators will be given to measure the social and cultural activities in the Boé area.

- ◆ The first indicator describes the support of local traditions. Before local traditions can be part of the ecovolunteer tourism initiative it will be necessary to map the current cultural and social activities.
- ◆ The second indicator creates an insight on the free time spending of the local inhabitants. By gaining more information about their free time spending a better indication can be provided on interesting touristic activities.
- ◆ The third indicator gains a better insight on the differences between men and women. Empowerment can occur if a tourism initiative gives opportunities for participation and involvement in decision making (Goodwin, Santilli, 2009).

The second goal of this dimension contains the social and cultural impacts which an ecovolunteer tourism initiative may create. Below an explanation is provided on the different type of impacts

- ◆ Firstly, there is an inequality between ecovolunteers and locals because most ecovolunteers probably contain a western lifestyle. It is possible that locals want to copy their behaviour and adapt their way of living.
- ◆ Secondly, with the help of ecovolunteer tourism it is possible to strengthen the social and cultural activities of the local population. An example is when tourists arrive; local festivals can be revitalized due to the fact that tourists show interest in their culture.
- ◆ Thirdly, the developed or improved facilities for ecovolunteers can also benefit the local inhabitants. Facilities which may be improved or developed can be the local infrastructure, healthcare system, educational system, recreational facilities, transportation etc.
- ◆ Fourthly, tourism can encourage public involvement and pride. Ecovolunteers cannot only raise awareness for the conservation of chimpanzees but also about the financial value of natural and cultural sites.

#### **2.3.4 Economic dimension**

The economic dimension describes an economy which sustains employment and livelihoods (Spangenberg and Valentin, 2000). A common failure in third world countries is that often tourism initiatives are owned and managed by external people and companies with only a few locals being employed. Even if they are employed they mostly end up in low level jobs due to

the fact that not many third world inhabitants are highly educated. This failure generally results in high import leakages<sup>1</sup> and little control over the operations by locals. These above-mentioned issues do not have a huge impact on ecovolunteer tourism due to the fact that local inhabitants frequently participate in ecovolunteer tourism initiatives (Wearing and Neil, 2009). Another main failure is the seasonal character of tourism. The seasonal character of ecovolunteer tourism related towards chimpanzee conservation has to be studied in the context of the Boé area. By means of interviews an indication can be given on proper months to observe chimpanzees. It is also necessary to take the holiday time of tourists into account. As stated by Wearing (2001), volunteer programs and community-based tourism show new potentials concerning sustainable development and offer new methods of accomplishing tourism activities. Research also shows that an increasing number of tourists is interested in connecting with local communities and this is especially the case with ecovolunteers as explained in paragraph 2.1 (Clifton and Benson, 2006; Brighthsmith et al, 2008; Wearing and Neil, 2009). To anticipate this development more economic advantages can be created for the local communities even though ecovolunteers are just a small segment of the tourism industry. It is also significant to mention that in many ecovolunteer programs ecovolunteers pay a fraction of the total price to the project in which the ecovolunteer contributes (Carvalho-Junior and Schmidt, 2003). The main goal for this dimension is; *to connect local communities with the ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area*. The World Bank (2004) mentions that there are four ways in which the poor communities can benefit from tourism initiatives. These four indicators will be explained below.

- ◆ The first indicator is employment. Employment can be seen in different ways such as: accommodation, transportation, guiding and tourism services.
- ◆ The second indicator is supply of goods and services to tourism enterprises. This indicator is developed to include the poor communities in the supply chain of the tourism industry.
- ◆ The third indicator consists out of the direct sale of goods and services to tourists including running food stalls and sell handicraft.
- ◆ The fourth and last indicator contains voluntary donations and support for local people and their environment. An example of voluntary donations and support is the possibility of adapting a chimpanzee family living in a forest nearby a certain village.

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<sup>1</sup> Leaking of profits out of the tourist destination due to the import of goods and services, and the repatriation of profits by the foreign tourist industry (Mowforth and Munt, 2003)

### 2.3.5 Environmental dimension

The environmental dimension is frequently seen as the most important dimension of sustainable tourism (Swarbrooke, 1999; Mowforth and Munt, 2003). As stated by Spangenberg (2002), the environmental dimension expresses the need to reduce the impact on the environment and the ecological system. Ecovolunteer tourism is highly dependent upon the environment and the ecological systems and is in favour to conserve the environment (Wearing and Neil, 2009). So, at first it will be necessary to get a clear picture of the unique features of the environment. Therefore the first goal is *to examine the environmentally unique features in the Boé area*. Due to the fact that my background is in tourism, not ecology, this goal can only be achieved by interviewing different interest groups, such as the local inhabitants, and different experts and organisations, such as Eric Mager, the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Chimbo. By doing so a clear view of the environmental features of the area can be generated, this may result in why this destination is interesting for ecovolunteers (Hughes, 2002; World Conservation Congress, 2008). It will be important to examine other unique features of flora and fauna to market the ecovolunteer tourism initiative and to distinguish the ecovolunteer project from other similar projects.

The second goal of the environmental dimension is to *examine the environmental costs and benefits which ecovolunteer tourism initiatives can create*. Much literature has been written on the environmental costs of tourism developments but these are mainly focused on mass tourism initiatives. With the help of different literature a selection is provided based on the principles of ecovolunteer tourism (Henkens, 2007; Wearing, 2001). The different indicators which need to be studied will be mentioned below.

- ◆ The first indicator entails pollution. For this indicator the pollution of water and waste are of main importance. Other forms of pollution such as aesthetic pollution are not significant for ecovolunteer tourism.
- ◆ The second indicator consists of the physical impacts. Trampling is seen as an important feature of the physical impact due to the fact that the ecovolunteers are active in nature.
- ◆ The third indicator contains wildlife disturbance. Wildlife visitors can cause stress and transmittance of diseases to chimpanzees and they can modify their natural behaviour which is especially the case with chimpanzees (Ilić, 2007)

- ◆ The fourth indicator contains the reduction of natural resources. Resources which need to be taken into account are water and local resources. Local resources include food, energy and water which may already in short supply.

The four last indicators will provide a better insight on the benefits of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative based on chimpanzees.

- ◆ The first indicator to measure the environmental benefits is by creating more awareness about the chimpanzees. This indicator is of importance due to the fact that some villagers still kill chimpanzees when they damage their gardens and fields.
- ◆ The second indicator provides a better indication on living situation of the chimpanzees. By the help of a volunteer project a clearer indication can be gained on the different types of habitats in which chimpanzees live.
- ◆ The third indicator explores a better observation on the natural behaviour of chimpanzees. This is an important indicator because more knowledge about the chimpanzees' natural behaviour can be gathered. Still, it needs to be taken into account that it is possible that chimpanzees modify their behaviour when researches visit them regularly.
- ◆ The last indicator displays the need to help orphaned chimpanzees. By taking care of orphaned or injured chimpanzees, in rare cases a chance will be provided to reintroduce them into the wild.

### **3. Research design**

The first section of this chapter explains the character of the study by discussing the case study approach. Paragraph 3.2 discusses the different methods through which data have been gathered. Methods used are literature reviews, internet research, observations and semi-structured interviews. The last section of this chapter discusses the analysis of the collected data.

#### **3.1 Character of the research**

The main character of this thesis is focussed upon a clinical case study approach. Clinical case studies are not theory centred but case centred. They apply existing theories to understand the case. The goal of a clinical case study is to understand and solve the problem with the help of using existing theories, not to develop or extend new theories (Vaus, 2001; Yin, 2003). Within my thesis this results in using the existing theories of ecovolunteer tourism combined with the feasibility and sustainability of tourism initiatives. A case study approach signifies a small number of research units, labour intensive data collection, more in-depth than extensive, selective research, qualitative data collection and an observation on the site (Verschuren and Doorewaard, 1999).

#### **3.2 Methods of data generation**

The clinical case study approach is best surveyed by using qualitative research methods. Different methods were used which are described below.

→ The first part of the data collection exists of a literature review. An elaborated literature research is carried out on the topic of ecovolunteer tourism to gain a comprehensive understanding of the research topic. The literature varies from online articles to books and different internet sources. Also literature was reviewed about the tourism industry and the Boé area in general. After consulting the tourism department of SNV in Bissau, different articles were obtained about the current developments of the tourism industry in Guinea Bissau. This also occurred during an interview with Schwarz (2009) who presented a report about the ecological situation of the Boé area.

→ Secondly, observations were carried out during my stay in the Boé area. By living in the area and by interacting with the local inhabitants different observations were made for example the role division between men and women and the expression of local cultures. Observing the daily way of life and the interaction between different communities revealed

significant information on how the local structures are organised in the Boé area. Another advantage is the acceptance of my presence, by just being and living the life they do in stead of sleeping in a fancy hotel and visiting once in a while.

→ Thirdly, semi-structured interviews were carried out which entailed several fixed topics but space is created to go more in-depth on some of these topics (Verschuren and Doorewaard, 1999). The semi-structured interview questions for the village committee members are displayed in appendix 8. The case area contains eighty-five villages and settlements and includes a total of 12.000 inhabitants (Chimbo, 2009). After consulting Wit, Sané and Camara I choose to interview twelve villages which all contain village committees organised by Chimbo. The interviews took place with several members of the village committee but generally more inhabitants were present. These semi-structured interviews took place in their natural surroundings and had an informal atmosphere.

Furthermore, interviews took place with the coordination of the EGP project of Daridibo (local organisation of Chimbo) in the Boé area named Amadu Sané and Issaga Sané (a school teacher) and the nurse of the main hospital Fode Injai. With the help of these interviews a better indication of the local structures and healthcare system was created. Due to the fact that I worked with a translator who did not fluently speak English special attention has been paid to his interpretation of questions and answers.

Additionally, interviews with important interests groups situated in the Boé area were executed. These different interest groups were IBAP, Agir II, IUCN, UNDP and Chimbo. All interest groups have developed projects in the Boé area focussing on the environmental and social settings.

A general overview of the tourism industry in Guinea Bissau was established by interviewing two stakeholders namely the Ministry of Tourism and the tourism department of SNV.

### **3.3 Data analysis**

As mentioned in the previous paragraphs this research consists of qualitative research methods. Qualitative research is based on information expressed in words such as descriptions, feelings and opinions (Walliman, 2006). The interviews with the different local village committee members were recorded with the help of an audio recorder. The tapes were transcribed, which made it easier to analyse them and compare them to other transcripts. Due to failure of my own Dutch batteries and due to the absence of proper batteries in Guinea Bissau the last interviews in with IUCN, Agir II, IBAP, PNUD, the Ministry of Tourism and



the tourism department of SNV were not recorded but the data was collected with the help of notes.

With the help of comparing transcripts, contradictions or resemblances on certain topics appeared. After looking for contradictions or resemblances an extended answer was provided for each research question.

The main purpose of this research is to write recommendations based on the potentials and constraints of developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area. One way to analyse all the gathered data is by means of a SWOT analysis. A SWOT analysis is a tactical planning instrument to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of a tourism initiative. Both the internal as the external factors were assessed of realizing the tourism initiative (Kurk, Hummel, Banskota, 2007). The SWOT can be described as follows:

- ◆ “Strengths: Attributes of the organisation that are helpful for achieving the objective.
- ◆ Weaknesses: Attributes of the organisation that are a hindrance to achieving the objective.
- ◆ Opportunities: External conditions that are helpful for achieving the objective.
- ◆ Threats: External conditions that are a hindrance to achieving the objective.”

### **3.4 Limitations of the research**

There are some limitations to this research. The two main limitations are of a research methodological nature. One has to do with the reliability of the answers and the other with the qualitative research strategy. This means that the results are based on my interpretation and are therefore not objective, which occurs in many qualitative researches. The limitation of the reliability of my answers is based on the fact that I used a translator. The translator did not speak English fluently which resulted in the beginning in misinterpretations on both sides. However, during a conversation after the first interview the questions became clearer and in the following interviews there were fewer misinterpretations.

The other limitations are of a more practical nature. The interviews took place during the harvest season which resulted in incomplete village committee groups. Another limitation had to do with communication. The only way to communicate with other villages was by radio and not everybody heard my radio message to announce my visit, which was another reason for incomplete village committee groups.

## 4. Contextual settings: Guinea Bissau

This chapter discusses general information of Guinea Bissau and the Boé area, including the political, social and economic situation. Guinea Bissau has a history of unstable politics which creates an impact on the country and the inhabitants. Before implementing a tourism initiative it is good to know to what extent this unstable situation affects Guinea Bissau and the tourism industry. This chapter is divided into two paragraphs of which the first contains the national settings. The second paragraph provides general information about the Boé area and all other interested parties working in the Boé area.

### 4.1 National context

In 1446 Guinea Bissau was colonised by the Portuguese. The fight for independence started in 1956 and lasted roughly twenty years. Since its independence in 1974 Guinea Bissau has an unstable political system. Luis Cabral became the first president of Guinea Bissau but in the late 1980s the government was defeated in a coup lead by prime minister and armed forces commander, Vieira (IRIN, 2009; Infoplease; 2007). Many other coups were planned against the Vieira government as well and in 1986 the vice president and five others were executed for betrayal of the government. In June 1998 an army coup against the Vieira government caused a civil war which resulted in the overthrow of the president in 1999. After transparent elections Yala was chosen as the new president. In the following three years prime ministers were chosen and dismissed which resulted in a political crisis. In 2003 another military coup, lead by general Seabra, overthrows president Yala and Rosa was selected to lead the transition government. In 2005 new elections took place and Vieira was, for the second time, affirmed as winner. During the following years Vieira struggled as well to sustain control over the general operations of the government. In 2008 elections for Parliament took place. Three main parties signed a pact to form political stability. After a period of relative isolation, donors started to reengage again due to this pact. Unfortunately, in March 2009 the relative stable politics ended when the general of the Armed Forces was killed in a bomb attack. Military forces took president Vieira responsible for this attack. Presidential elections took place and in July 2009 Sanha was elected as the new president of Guinea Bissau. Sanha promised to collaborate with the government to restore peace and stability, enhance the economical situation and to reform the military to offer the inhabitants a stable life (IRIN, 2009; Infoplease; 2007). In April 2010 Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior was locked up and later released by soldiers. President Sanha announced a couple of hours later that the situation was

under control. Still, this incident underlines the unstable political situation in Guinea Bissau (All Africa, 2010).

The instable politics have an immense impact on the social situation in Guinea Bissau. In the human development index Guinea Bissau ranked 173 out of 177 countries and most of the social indicators even stagnated or declined in recent years (World Bank, 2009).

The educational system plays an important role in the human development index. Currently more students are attending school in Guinea Bissau, even twice as many as in 1995. Still, six out of ten remain illiterate and do not complete their primary education due to the poor educational quality. Poor educational quality includes poor learning environments, no qualified and motivated teachers and the meagre management systems. As a result the total illiteracy rate is 63%. Even though this system has many shortcomings it is slowly starting to improve. (World Bank, 2009).

Another important social feature is the health status of the population which is one of the worst in Africa. Inhabitants of Guinea Bissau die of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV and diarrhoea though malaria remains the number one public health problem. The most important reason why people die of these illnesses is because of poverty. 37% of the poorest households had access to healthcare in 2002 compared to 46% of the wealthier households. Another reason is the ineffective response of the government to improve the healthcare system. The life expectancy of the inhabitants is calculated at forty-seven years and the mortality rate among children is shocking for the reason that two out of ten children die before reaching the age of five (World Bank, 2009).

Guinea-Bissau also has poor human rights. Even though freedom of expression and freedom of the press is guaranteed by law the authorities are suppressing these rights. Opposition politicians and journalists are frequently harassed by the authorities when performing their job. Especially the military has been responsible for restraining the freedom of speech by making treats and beating up individuals who oppose against them (Amnesty International, 2009).

Guinea Bissau is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world in which 66% of the population lives below the poverty line in 2007 (World Bank Group, 2009). The civil war which took place in the late 1990's disrupted not only the social life but also the economic movement and caused serious harm to Guinea Bissau's infrastructure. As a result of the civil war the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) dropped with 28% in 1998. Due to the

instable politics and inadequate donor support the economy of Guinea Bissau recovers very slow and contains a growth rate of only one percent between 2000 and 2005 (World Bank, 2009).

Agriculture and fisheries are seen as the most important export products. Especially the production of cashew nuts has increased extraordinarily in recent years and generates 60% of the GDP and 90% of the export revenues. Other agriculture productions are; rice, fruits, livestock and forestry products. In 2006 the unemployment rate among individuals aged fifteen and older was calculated at 19% in Bissau and over 10% percent in other regions (World Bank, 2009). Furthermore, inhabitants are very sensitive for employment vulnerability. A total amount of 80% is employed in the primary sector of which most are engaged in agriculture. Farmers are vulnerable due to low agriculture diversification and the isolated location of many communities. This results in little room to invest or to save money for external shocks. The repeated harvest losses, due to shortage of rainfall and plagues of insects, make this vulnerability even worse (World Bank, 2009).

Currently the tourism industry of Guinea Bissau is undersized. The tourist season only last six months from November to May because rain makes travel outside the capital very difficult during other months. In 2007 a total amount of 15.593 foreign arrivals were counted; this number also includes aid workers and people travelling to see family. Only 5984 of the 15.593 individuals were actual tourists which is roughly 38% of the total foreign arrivals. However, this number only includes foreign arrivals at the International Airport of Guinea Bissau. Foreign arrivals by boat or land are not included (Badji, 2008). A hotel owner in Bissau also stated that he primarily welcomes aid workers: *'The guests in my hotel are individuals who come with a goal such as study or business, only a small amount are actual tourists'* (Owner Hostaria Creola, 2009). In 2008 the foreign arrivals extended to 18.046 which indicate a growth rate of approximately 16%.

This low tourist arrival can be a result of the instable political, economic and social situation which create some important obstacles for tourism developments. Firstly, countries warn their inhabitants for travelling to Guinea Bissau which resulted, in previous times, in negative travel advices. However, after the new election in July 2009 most travel advices changed from negative to a certain level of caution (FAITC, 2009; Minbuza, 2009). Secondly, due to the instable political situation where many presidents were driven off by coups it was difficult to develop a proper tourism industry. Tourism plans made by one government were normally

rejected by the new government which wants to make a clean start by developing their own plans. Thirdly, the lack of good facilities is an obstacle. Only three airlines fly to Guinea Bissau by which the prices remain striking high. For example a retour flight from Dakar, Senegal to Bissau, Guinea Bissau which lasts approximately one hour, will cost around € 350. The accessibility of the inland is also underdeveloped. Only main roads are hardened but even part of these roads are maintained badly. Though, Guinea Bissau is a relatively small country, it does not take an extremely long time to travel to another part of the country. Fourthly, the underdeveloped healthcare situation in Guinea Bissau can have an impact on the tourist arrivals. As stated above the healthcare status of Guinea Bissau is one of the worst in Africa. Tourists are advised to travel to Senegal when serious illnesses occur because Guinea Bissau simply does not have the equipment and knowledge to help them. Fifthly, the low educational level also has an impact on the tourism status. Currently there is no school or training provided for the tourism sector. Without tourism education it will be difficult to develop good master and management plans. Also the tourism department of SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation) inventoried these constraints in the tourism industry. The main failures of the tourism industry are; the absence of a master plan, the absence of management plans of tourist sites, no schools or training in the tourism sector, the inefficient infrastructure and communication and the lack of inventory, restoration and enhancement of cultural heritage and history (Badji, 2008).

Despite of Guinea Bissau's instable situation, the country has a touristic prospective. First of all Guinea Bissau contains a rich biodiversity. A total of seven national parks are located in Guinea Bissau. Three of the seven parks are located at the Bijagos islands which is the main touristic attraction of Guinea Bissau. The Bijagos island include around eighty small islands with beautiful beaches and has a variety of marine life, rare mammals and endangered species such as Nile crocodiles and saltwater hippopotamuses. Therefore UNESCO pronounced the Bijagos islands as a biosphere reserve. The Bijagos archipelago also attracts fish tourism due to the high productivity which occurs when fresh water enters the sea. This results in an important feeding and reproduction area for diverse types of fish species especially crustaceans and molluscs are abundant. (UNESCO, 2007).

Secondly, Guinea Bissau has several ethnic groups who express themselves in music, dance and artistic ways. The principal ethnic group are the Balante (30%) followed by the Fulani (20%), the Manjaca (14%), the Mandinga (13%) and the Pepel (7%). Other smaller ethnic groups contain the enduring 16% (Nations encyclopaedia, 2009).

The third and last major attraction for Guinea Bissau is the beautiful beaches and its tropical climate. At this moment the Ministry of Tourism mainly focuses on hunting, fishing and “Echo-tourism” (Ecological, Cultural, Heritage and Outdoors) because these type of tourists suit the country best. The most common visiting nationalities of Guinea Bissau are Africans (49.3%) followed by Europeans (27.5%), Asians (16%) and at last Americans (7.2 %) (Badji, 2008; Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Handicrafts, 2009).

Currently there are two main institutions which want to develop the tourism industry namely; the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Handicrafts and the tourism department of SNV. The tourism master plan and its strategic plan are still far from operational and experience difficulties due to the instable political and financial situation. At this moment, promotional incentives and direct investments in the tourism sector are almost nonexistent. The plan of action in the development of the tourism industry include two actors namely; the state and the private sector. This plan of action embraces five different parts which are summarized below (Badji, 2008).

- ◆ Consultation and joint actions are needed to plan programs and projects aimed at infrastructure developments, improvement of services and operations and modernization of institutions and legal frameworks;
- ◆ Development of tourism products;
- ◆ Improvement of the accessibility in and to Guinea Bissau;
- ◆ Improvement of the economical policy to facilitate access to financial resources for companies and tour operators;
- ◆ Improvement of the marketing and promotion strategies.

The tourism industry of Guinea Bissau is heavily underdeveloped but this creates the opportunity to develop a good and sustainable tourism industry.

## 4.2 Local context

The Boé area is an underdeveloped area situated in the South East of Guinea Bissau. The Boé is a difficult accessible area as well due to unpaved roads and complications with communication since there is no telephone or internet network. The only way to communicate with other villages is by radio. The main radio station is located in Béli which is also the biggest village in the Boé with approximately 650 inhabitants (Serra et al., 2007).

The environmental settings of Guinea Bissau are primarily identical except for the Boé. Many parts of the country are below sea level whereas the Boé consist of hills up to 300 meters. The Boé contains an open-forest savannah and includes a much higher existence of fauna than other regions in Guinea Bissau (Serra et al., 2007). The environmental settings of the Boé are extensively discussed in paragraph 5.3.4.

The social situation of the Boé is, like the rest of Guinea Bissau, underdeveloped. During the last thirty years several projects focussed on education and healthcare but the local population hardly benefited from these projects because most is left unfinished. Good examples are the schools. These schools were only half finished because there was no money left to build roofs and doors or to buy materials such as tables, chairs and black boards (Serra et al., 2007).

There is also a poor healthcare system. There are only three main hospitals which are located in Béli, Lugajole and Dandum. The biggest and best equipped hospital is situated in Béli however there are not always medicines available (Serra et al., 2007, Injai, 2009). This is clarified by Injai who is the nurse of the hospital in Béli, who stated: *“There are medicines to prevent diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and snake bites but most of the time these medicines are not available in this hospital. People with major injuries need to travel to Gabu because no doctors are present in the Boé area. The main problem is that due to poverty many inhabitants cannot afford this journey and die unnecessarily”*.

The main economic activities are agriculture, livestock farming and hunting. Most of the inhabitants have rice fields but these are mainly used for own purpose. Other products are used to gain extra income such as cashew nuts, oranges, mangos and bananas. Though, it is difficult to find proper ground to cultivate these products because all ploughed fields have only a maximal utilization of two years. Most products are distributed among their own villagers or are sold in neighbouring villages. Also livestock farming is used to generate income. Hens, chickens, goats, sheep and cows are the main animals for livestock farming in the Boé area (Serra et al., 2007). Hunting is seen as the second income generating activity for



men. Frequently bush meat is shared with friends and family. Another option is to sell it to neighbours or to the wealthier inhabitants of the village or neighbouring villages (Laar, 2008). The above mentioned features do have an impact on the Boé area as an ecovolunteer tourism destination and are shortly explained below:

- ◆ The remote location of the Boé area can be an obstacle.
- ◆ No communication possible with the outside world.
- ◆ Unique flora and fauna which may attract ecovolunteers.
- ◆ Only primary education is available in the Boé area.
- ◆ Underdeveloped healthcare system creates an obstacle because tourists can not be helped when serious illnesses occur.
- ◆ Tourism can bring some diversification to the economical situation.

At this moment seven (inter)national organisations work in the Boé area. The organisations focus either on the social, economical or environmental situation. By analysing existing projects a clear picture can be gained of how an ecovolunteer tourism initiative can collaborate with the existing projects.

#### IBAP, IUCN, Chimbo and Agir II

In total four different organisations namely, IBAP, IUCN, Chimbo/Daridibo and Agir II work on the environmental protection of the Boé area. IBAP and IUCN work together in the Boé area to find pragmatic solutions to preserve the environment in this unique area. They made an inventory of the existing flora and fauna by which they gained a clearer picture on how to preserve the environmental features. Due to the fact that the Boé area is situated in the highest part of Guinea Bissau (300 meters above sea level) and because of the small rivers it has a unique ecosystem of flora and fauna. Species which occur are chimpanzees, baboons, red monkeys, elephants, African wild dogs, honey badgers etc. Due to its exceptional features the Boé area has a tourism potential which is further explained in chapter 5.

The main goal of IBAP for the Boé area is to maintain control over the developments in the area by creating a national park. Though, it is difficult to realise the development of a national park due to the fact that mining activities will take place. The previous government also has arranged a special agreement with the mining company and even wants to develop a railway through an existing national park near Buba. So, to develop of a national park in this area will be challenging and does not even guarantee full protection (Schwarz, 2009; Dias, N. 2009).

The main goal of Chimbo/Daridibo is the conservation of the chimpanzee population and its habitat in West Africa. Currently they focus on the Boé area where in total twenty-five village committees are organised to monitor the chimpanzee population (Sané, 2009; Chimbo, 2009). The functioning of the village committees are also further explained in paragraph 5.3.1.

Agir II is an organisation which preserves the flora and fauna in four different neighbouring countries namely Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Mali. Their activities are developed around four ideas namely: the development of a master plan for land-use and environmental planning, the conservation of ecological interesting areas, the implementation of local structures for natural resource management and at last the identification and formulation of future environmental interventions. In 2000 Agir II started to work in the Boé area but due to a lack of financial support they had to stop their project at the end of 2009. Still, they are working to gain new financial support. (Dias, C. 2009).

### UNDP

Also the United Nations for Developing Projects (UNDP) works in the Boé area. Their main goal is to help developing countries to build a better life. The UNDP develops plans together with the local inhabitants to assure their wishes are integrated. These plans include different topics and tasks for which they provide a fund to external organisations for executing these tasks. The topics vary intensely from healthcare support to environmental protection and poverty reduction and these tasks are executed by organisations such as UNICEF, IUCN and UNIFEM. There were some difficulties developing plans in Guinea Bissau because of the instable political situation. When a new government was established the plans needed to be adjusted to satisfy this new government. Also other, more practical reasons slowed down the process such as the difficult accessibility and communication. At this moment UNDP is finishing the report and starts to divide tasks to different specialised organisations. One of the activities to create more economic profit is with the help of community-based tourism but presently no organisations have applied to fulfil this task (UNDP, 2009; Correia, 2009). This creates a valuable opportunity for Chimbo to generate funding for the development of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area.

### Bauxite mining

A company from Angola is developing an enormous project to extract bauxite in the Boé area. This is one of the largest investments made in the history of Guinea Bissau and can provide a great economical boost. The mining will also include the construction of a port in Buba and the developments of a railway between the Boé area and Buba which creates huge employment opportunities. Foreign diplomats have mentioned that the bauxite extraction by Angola also has political associations. There are rumours that Angola wants to sustain their accessibility and political status in the continent. Poor and underdeveloped Guinea Bissau appeared as a sound target. The president of Angola also saw this investment as a historical debt because the PAIGC government of Guinea Bissau helped Angola defending its country against the apartheid troops in 1975. Though, all agreements were made with the murdered president and therefore new agreements need to be set-up in order to sustain the current bauxite developments (Fletcher, 2008). Other organisations such as IBAP, IUCN, Agir II and Chimbo, which focus on saving the flora and fauna, are not content with the bauxite mining developments because it probably will have a negative impact on the flora and fauna (Schwarz, 2009; Chimbo, 2009). However, the mining and railway constructions are mainly focussed in the south of the Boé area which provides an opportunity to develop other parts of the Boé area as a national park and tourism destination. Chimbo also developed MISUBAB which overall objective is: *‘to ensure that a sustainable and equitable development of the Boé sector will occur, by strengthening the position of local stakeholders in the decision making processes at local, national and international level as a pilot for worldwide sustainable bauxite mining in developing countries where local communities need capacity strengthening’*. Two local organisations namely; Faaba de Boé and Fonda Huuwa are key-players in the development of this project. Both organisations are extensively explained in paragraph 5.3.1. MISUBAB obtained a total amount of €500.000 from the 'Commissie Europeene' to organise all different activities to sustain their goals. Due to this huge amount of money the impact and power level increased tremendously because they transformed from a small environmental organisation between greater organisations such as IUCN and IBAP, to an organisation which can create a enormous impact on the Boé area.

### SNV (tourism department)

The tourism industry is underdeveloped in Guinea Bissau. The Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Handicraft does not specifically focus on the Gabu region but shows more interest in

places such as the Bijagos islands and other existing national parks which are more developed to accommodate tourists (Robato, 2009). The tourism department of SNV wants to develop the Gabu region due to its unique flora and fauna. At this moment the SNV tourism department is at an early stage and does not have any concrete plans on how to develop this region (Monteiro, 2009). There are possibilities for Chimbo to collaborate with the tourism department of SNV when developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative because SNV has experience with developing sustainable and pro-poor projects. Chimbo could use their expertise to assure a good and long lasting product. Another advantage is that by collaborating in the beginning, contradictory plans can be avoided.

### 4.3 Summary

The unstable politics have a great impact on the social and economic progress of Guinea Bissau. The literature explains that Guinea Bissau has a low political, social and economic status and is even ranked 173 out of 177 countries in the human development index. This unstable situation has an impact on the tourism developments in Guinea Bissau. It may be concluded that there is a need for political stability before Guinea Bissau can develop itself. The elections of July 2009 give hope for a better future.

The Boé area is an underdeveloped and not easily accessible area in Guinea Bissau. Due to the remote location it is difficult to start business and the area therefore remains relatively poor. Despite the fact that it is isolated there are some potentials to develop ecovolunteer tourism, such as the unique flora and fauna, the presence of chimpanzees and the chance to experience the real local way of life. Also many organisations are interested in developing this area either economically, socially or environmentally. However, some of these organisations have competing claims such as the creation of a national park and the development of bauxite mining activities. These bauxite mining developments are the direct and main threat to developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in this area. These developments can disturb the environment and therefore the tourists' experience as well. However, MISUBAB is organised to control the mining developments and to reduce the impact on the environment.

The UNDP and SNV desire to develop the Boé area as a tourism destination. At this moment both organisations have no concrete plans and therefore it is interesting for Chimbo to introduce and discuss their plans of developing the Boé area as an ecovolunteer tourism destination. In this way one can get a clear picture of the future tourism developments of this area and contradictory plans can be avoided.

## 5. Data analysis and results

This chapter represents the results of all collected data. Both local inhabitants and the organisations are represented in these results. Even though some villagers and organisations opened up to me more than others, I will emphasize that all opinions are of equal importance to me. The first paragraph will give a more detailed picture of the current ecovolunteer tourism market and of important factors when developing such an initiative. The second paragraph focuses on the feasibility of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area, while the last paragraph focuses on the sustainability.

### 5.1 Ecovolunteer tourism

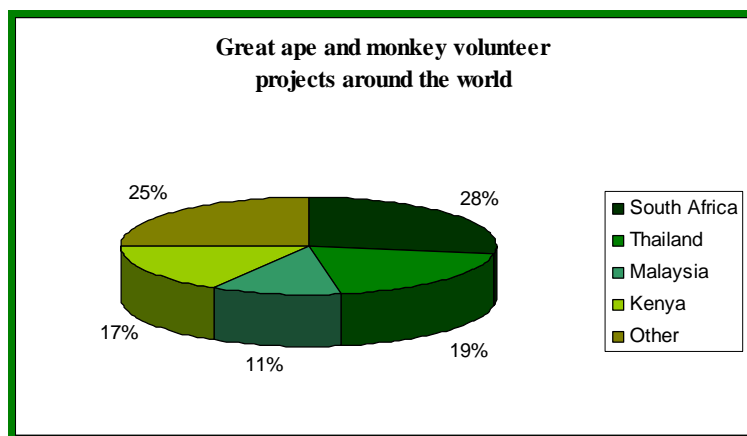
This subparagraph provides a market analysis to gain more insight on the current ecovolunteer tourism market. As mentioned in chapter 2, not much is written about the phenomenon ecovolunteer tourism. Before going more in-depth on the feasibility and sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area, it will be wise to gain more insight on the ecovolunteer tourism market especially focussing on projects in West Africa and on great ape and monkey volunteer projects world wide. Furthermore, important factors when developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative are explained.

#### 5.1.1 *Analysis of existing projects*

The literature review of paragraph 2.1 describes the absence of a data analysis solely based on ecovolunteer projects. To obtain this valuable information a research on the World Wide Web was executed. With the help of search machine Google two terms namely ‘ecovolunteer tourism’ and ‘eco-volunteer tourism’ were entered and the first three pages were examined for relevant sites. Only three pages were examined because other new pages came up with references to identical projects. Both terms yielded twenty-nine relevant sites. All sites included different types of ecovolunteer projects world wide. Though for this evaluation only a better indication is necessary on projects in West Africa and projects focussing on great apes and monkeys worldwide because this will provide a clear reflection of the direct competition. A total amount of eleven projects were located in West Africa. This is a relative small amount compared to the total amount of 1103 wildlife conservation and animal welfare projects. Only one of the eleven projects located in West Africa focuses on rehabilitating chimpanzees and is located in Guinea Conakry. Six out of the eleven projects are located in Ghana while the other

five projects are all located in different West African countries such as Sierra Leona, Senegal etc. A detailed indication is provided in appendix 2.

Thirty-seven projects worldwide focus on great ape and monkey volunteering. The projects which focus on more than one great ape or monkey specie are the greatest (27%) followed by projects focussing on orang-utans (21%), chimpanzees (13%) and gibbons (13%). To gain more insight in the existing great ape and monkey projects a detailed analysis is provided. Firstly, the locations of the projects are examined. In total thirty-seven projects are present which take place in twelve different countries. As illustrated in figure 3, South Africa is seen as the most popular place for great ape or monkey volunteer projects followed by Thailand, Kenya and Malaysia. The other countries contain two or less projects. Appendix 3 contains more detailed information on all great ape and monkey related projects.



**Figure 3: Great apes and monkeys volunteer projects.**

Secondly, two different types of great ape and monkey volunteer projects can be distinguished namely projects which take place in a rehabilitation centre and field research projects.

→ Rehabilitation centre volunteering contains volunteers who take care of injured or orphaned great apes or monkeys. Daily tasks exists out of the daily needs such as feeding, maintenance work, cleaning their cages, communication to tourists etc. No real special skills are required. People who love animals and show interest in conservation are generally welcome. The volunteer works together with experts who try to reinstate the monkeys back into the wild. If this is not possible they are introduced in troops so that they can live like they would in the wild. Therefore maintenance work is necessary. Most rehabilitation centre require volunteers above eighteen and volunteers should have a basic knowledge of the English language.

→ Field research volunteering contains volunteers who try to learn more about great apes and monkeys and about how they can be protected. Daily tasks differ from bush walks to administrative tasks. During bush walks different activities take place such as counting nests, exploring habitats, note damage made by great apes or monkeys, eaten fruits and if possible monitoring their natural behaviour. Most projects require the volunteers to be patient, minimum age of eighteen and to have a basic knowledge of English.

Twenty-two projects (60%), take place in rehabilitation centres whereas the other fifteen projects (40%) focuses on field research. Both types are further examined on duration, accommodation and price.

The duration of the projects vary immensely. To be more precise, seventeen projects last four weeks while five other projects can continue up to one year. Only a small amount endures one or two weeks. It is noteworthy to mention that the field research projects generally cost a smaller amount of time than projects which take place in rehabilitation centres. The average amount for field research projects is calculated at five weeks whereas volunteer work in rehabilitation centres takes on an average of ten weeks.

The great ape and monkey volunteer projects provide diverse types of accommodation for example dormitory/group living, home stays, tents, guesthouse, etc. Most common are the dormitory and group living arrangements followed by home stays and basic accommodation such as tents and bamboo cabins. Figure 4 illustrates the percentages of the different types of accommodation for all projects. There are no significant differences in the living arrangements for volunteers in rehabilitation centres or field research volunteers. Still, due to the fact that field research normally takes place in the forest there may be more camping activities next to the normal living arrangement. Still, this is not explicitly revealed in this internet research.

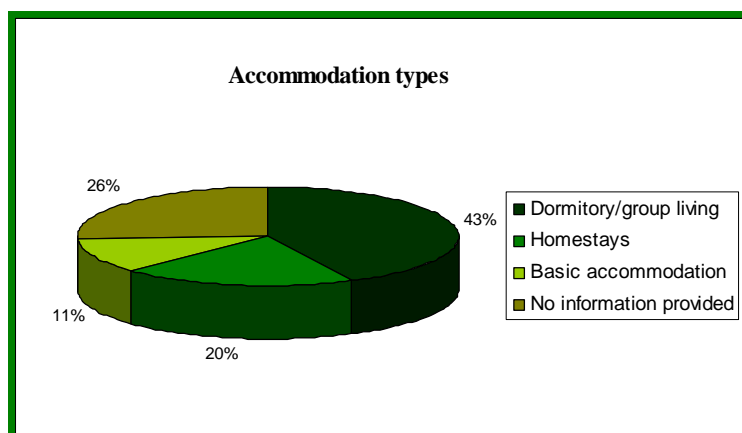


Figure 4: Accommodation types

The last important point of attention are the prices. Most prices include accommodation, food, registration fees, transfers (excl. plane tickets) and excursions. Due to the fact that the prices are set in different currencies and are calculated for different lengths a new calculation was necessary. All prices were converted to Euros and were calculated to one week as a result of which they could be compared. Still, eight rehabilitation centre projects and four field research projects were excluded due to inadequate information and therefore could not be part of the comparison. The average price which ecovolunteers pay for one week volunteering is €442. The maximum price is €954 and the minimum is €100. Both prices need to be paid when volunteering in a rehabilitation centre. Though the average price of rehabilitation centre projects is significant lower than the field research projects. To be more accurate tourists volunteering in a rehabilitation centre pay an average of €387 for one week volunteering whereas tourists volunteering in a field research project pay an average of €512.

There is no explicit reason given to explain this difference in price. A reason may be that volunteers in a rehabilitation centre execute easier tasks than field research volunteers and therefore field research needs more supervision which will cost more. Another reason may be the transportation costs. You need a driver and petrol for fieldwork.

### ***5.1.2 Factors of importance***

In the previous subparagraph a better indication is provided on the ecovolunteer tourism market with a special focus on West African and great ape and monkey related projects. Still, it is also of great importance to obtain a better indication on the fail and success factors of these projects. Lynch (2009) and Henkens (pers. comments) provided comprehensive information on these fail and success factors. The eight important factors are:

- ◆ Ecovolunteer programmes must be kept well up-to-date. Potential ecovolunteers must gain a clear picture of the project in advance so expectations and reality match as much as possible. Problems often occur when the offered ecovolunteer products do not meet the ecovolunteers expectation. This point is especially important for ecovolunteer tourism because these tourists happen to stay at one place for their holidays and their feeling of well-being depends on the project.
- ◆ Ecovolunteers fulfil both the role of tourist and research worker. For both roles sufficient attention and supervision should be arranged.
- ◆ On the first day ecovolunteers should be informed about their stay, work and possibilities on how they can spend their free time. This creates confidence and



prevents problems. Because ecovolunteers are also tourists there should be information present on leisure activities in the region.

- ◆ After work ecovolunteers need to gain the opportunity to have recreational time. This can be stimulated with simple equipment such as a table tennis table, books, a volleyball field, football field and a small bar. This also contributes to the fraternisation with the local community which ecovolunteers normally really appreciate.
- ◆ Ecovolunteers are also tourists and therefore need to gain an equal treatment like other tourist. This means at least equal fees, accommodation, food etc. They maybe even should deserve a better treatment due to the fact that they contribute much more to a project, both in terms of finances and data, than average tourists.
- ◆ Ecovolunteers should gain the feeling that their contribution is valuable to the project and the well-being and survival of the species concerned. They should be kept up to date about the research results and how these results are used.
- ◆ The local organisation that manages the ecovolunteer project should keep the western ecovolunteer organisation well informed. Potential ecovolunteer can read fact sheets on the website to see the progress of the project. This can positively affect the number of bookings.
- ◆ Ecovolunteers are usually intensively involved in a project and could be bound for several years by arranging programs such as adopting an individual.

All above mentioned criteria are of great importance and therefore should be kept in mind when developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative.

### **5.1.3 Summary**

Ecovolunteer tourism is regarded as a relatively new segment in the tourism industry and therefore it is difficult to find satisfactory information. With the help of a survey on the World Wide Web on existing ecovolunteer projects, remarkable findings were made such as the small number of ecovolunteer projects in West Africa. Another significant finding is the clear difference between two types of great ape and monkey volunteer projects namely the rehabilitation centre projects and field research projects. Due to the relative small number of projects in West Africa and projects on great apes and monkeys, I can conclude that creating ecovolunteer tourism based on chimpanzees in Guinea Bissau will be a relatively new

initiative. Still, it is important to take the success and fail factors into account when developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative.

## **5.2 Feasibility of ecovolunteer tourism in the Boé area**

As explained in paragraph 2.1 different criteria are used to gain more insight into the feasibility of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative. In this paragraph these criteria are implemented on the contextual settings of the Boé area. The six criteria include accommodation, accessibility, activities, facilities, current tourism status, and hospitality and friendliness. This paragraph provides more detailed information on five of the six criteria, because the fifth criteria, ‘current tourism status’, has already been explained in chapter 4.

### **5.2.1 Accommodation**

After visiting twelve villages a clear picture was gained of the different house styles in the Boé area. All twelve villages contain the same type of houses such as small circle houses made out of clay and bigger houses made out of stone. The two pictures below give a better indication of these different house styles.



**Image 1 - Small circle houses**



**Image 2 – Stone house**

Béli will be the best village to accommodate tourists due to the fact that this village has a central location, chimpanzees are present and has a basic infrastructure which other villages lack. This type of basic infrastructure includes a small sanitation system, generators to provide electricity, good water supply (tap water available) and a radio station to communicate with other villages. At this moment one small hotel is present but this is occupied by the workers of bauxite mining. An option to accommodate tourists is in a basic camp in Béli. This camp is owned by Fonda Huuwa which is a local organisation which focuses on improving the agricultural sector of the Boé area and is described in paragraph 5.3.1. This camp exists out of

six small houses and in the middle is a central meeting place where leisure activities can take place. The houses have basic facilities such as a non-western toilet and an African shower outside the houses (image 5). Before tourists can accommodate these houses some small adjustments such as cleaning, painting, good mattresses and new roofs are needed. Below pictures are shown to give a clear indication of the camp.



**Image 3 - Small house Fonda  
Huuwa**



**Image 4 - Central meeting place**



**Image 5 - Bathroom**

As mentioned in paragraph 5.1.1 different types of accommodation are provided which do not vary significantly between the two types of ecovolunteering. The main accommodation type was group living followed by home stays. Unfortunately, home stays are difficult to arrange in the Boé area due to the fact that most houses only consist of one room where one whole family sleeps. Concluding, the above described type of basic group living can be suitable for both types of volunteering.

### **5.2.2 Accessibility**

The literature mentions that ecovolunteer tourism often takes place in remote areas but a reasonable travel time will be necessary (Brighthsmith et al; Wearing, 2001). As explained before, Guinea Bissau's infrastructure is underdeveloped. However, it is a relative small country so it will never take an extremely long time to travel to another place. When travelling to the Boé area, the capital of the region named Gabu will be passed. The road from Bissau to Gabu is hardened and therefore it only takes approximately around 2,5 hours to travel to Gabu. As the journey from Gabu to the Boé area is more challenging, it is reasonable to let tourists spend the night in Gabu before travelling to the Boé. The only way to enter the Boé area by car is in ChéChé where a ferry is present. The journey from Gabu to ChéChé is feasible, despite the fact that there is no hardened road. It is important to mention that during the end of the rain season it is almost impossible to enter the Boé area by car due to the high water level. As stated by Mager (2009), *'I could not travel to Gabu by car at the end of the*

*rain season due to the fact that the ferry in ChéChé did not drive because of the high water level in the Corubal’.* Travelling through the Boé area is even more challenging. The roads are not hardened and without a four-wheel drive car it is nearly impossible. The journey from ChéChé to Béli will take around two to three hours and is approximately forty-two kilometres (all kilometres are displayed in appendix 4). It is worth mentioning that the journey from ChéChé to Béli goes through beautiful surroundings and that part of the roads are good, as shown in image 6.



**Image 6 – Road to ChéChé**



**Image 7 – Ferry near ChéChé**



**Image 8 – Road Bissau - Gabu**

### **5.2.3 Activities**

In the previous paragraph Henkens (2009) stated that ecovolunteers are tourists as well and therefore recreational time after work hours and regional leisure activities should be arranged. The camp does have a central meeting place, as shown in image 4, where after work activities such as reading, playing cards and other games can take place. Also a soccer field is present and there is enough place to set up a volleyball field or table tennis table etc. Béli is also one of the two villages in the Boé area which contains a film house. It is a basic house made out of stone where the local community watches movies. Due to the lack of a television connection it is only possible to watch DVDs.

There are also other recreational activities possible in the Boé area such as a tour on the Corubal, a tour on the lake nearby Vendu Chama, bike tours and camping activities. Though, these activities need to be organised. The tour on the Corubal is extraordinary beautiful and there is a good chance of seeing wildlife such as baboons, chimpanzees, red monkeys, snakes, crocodiles, hippos etc. This is also confirmed by the inhabitants of ChéChé were most inhabitants are fishers and visit the Corubal river daily. The best time to see wildlife is early in the morning around five or six or in the evening around six or seven when the sun will sets.



Another tour can be organised on the lake nearby Vendu Chama. The lake contains beautiful surroundings and it is possible to hear animals such as chimpanzees, baboons and other kind of apes. The village committee members of Vendu Chama stated that it is difficult to see wildlife *‘The animals are nearby the water but it is difficult to see because it is very dark when you look from the water into the forest’*. Other animals which exist in the water of the lake are crocodiles and different types of fish. During the rain season hippos can also appear as explained by the village committee members of Vendu Chama *‘Because the lake is not very deep hippos only come during the rain season due to the higher water level in the lake’*. Besides the two tours on water there are also possibilities to create astonishing tours over land. One of the most sustainable ways to do so is by bicycle. One negative feature of travelling by bike is the chance of getting a flat tire due to the sharp needles which lie on the roads. So, when travelling by bike it is necessary to take a kit for fixing flat tires. Another point of attention is the small bridges. The bridges are constructed with different wooden poles which make it difficult to cross.



**Image 9 – Local bridges**



**Image 10 – Corubal river**

Another leisure activity is camping and can especially be combined with field research volunteering. During field researches it sometimes is difficult to travel back to Béli at the same day because some parts of the Boé area are difficult to reach. When camping activities take place difficult accessible areas also can be part of the field research. Though proper camping equipment and guidance need to be present to guarantee a safe camp.

#### **5.2.4 Facilities**

Béli contains the best facilities in the Boé area. However, it is also wise to gain a better insight of the general facilities such as healthcare, water supply, electricity and sanitation systems. Two of the twelve village committees mentioned that they have a healthcare system

including a small hospital and a nurse. Two other village committees mention that they do not have a hospital and the other nine villages say that there is a small hospital but there are no medicines or nurses present. Béli is also the only village which has a small water system. All other villages only have a well which does not contain suitable drinking water for western tourists. Another important facility is electricity. There is no electricity network and therefore some villages have their own generator. ChéChé and Béli own most generators in the Boé area whereas six other villages do not even own one. Most generators are small and particularly used to watch television. ChéChé and Béli are also the only two villages which obtain a small sanitation system. All other villagers use African toilets or go to the forest. Therefore, I can conclude that the facilities in the Boé area are limited and ecovolunteers should be aware of the primitive conditions.

### 5.2.5 Hospitality and friendliness

The hospitality and friendliness of the local inhabitants in the Boé area is overwhelming. Even though people most often do not have many belongings they are always willing to share. When visiting the twelve villages I always felt more than welcome. Food was prepared, sleeping places arranged and even in five of the twelve villages a small festival was organised. As stated in the literature review the purpose was to examine what local inhabitants think of tourism. Unfortunately this question was very difficult because many did not know what this word meant. Therefore I rephrased the question into ‘Do you like if foreigners would visit the Boé area more often?’ All reactions were positive and most people were very proud to show foreigners their traditional way of life. Though, it is hard for the local inhabitants to imagine the concept of tourism due to the fact that they only saw a few foreigners before. Some women were also concerned about the basic facilities of the Boé area. A woman in Munhine also asked: *‘I only have rice and our house is not luxurious is it good enough to eat and sleep here?’* The same thing occurred in more villages where women felt insecure about the facilities.

### 5.2.6 Summary

There are possibilities to develop an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area. As mentioned in paragraph 5.1 ecovolunteers do not need a luxurious location but are more interested in the adventure of the unknown and they want to interact with the local inhabitants. Guinea Bissau and the Boé area in particular suits this situation perfectly. Due to

the small number of tourists in Guinea Bissau ecovolunteers may have the idea of going to a unique and untouched area. The facilities in Béli form a basic foundation for ecovolunteers. Two negative features need to be taken into account, i.e. the accessibility and the basic type of accommodation. Even though ecovolunteers are used to basic facilities it is necessary to mention these features because problems can be prevented during the project by giving the ecovolunteers a clear picture of what they can expect. By mentioning the basic facilities thoroughly ecovolunteers can prepare themselves properly. One of the most positive points is the hospitality and friendliness of the inhabitants which is truly overwhelming. Another positive point are the diverse potential recreational activities. During these activities a clear picture of the Boé area can be obtained both socially and environmentally. These positive features need to be specifically pointed out in for example the marketing plan.

### **5.3 Sustainability of ecovolunteer tourism in the Boé area**

The prism of sustainability is used to integrate all four sustainable dimensions. In the theoretical framework the different dimensions are substantiated with theory which concentrates on ecovolunteer tourism. This paragraph will examine these theories in the context of the Boé area.

#### **5.3.1 Institutional dimension**

The main failure in many projects is that the existing institutional structures are not taken into account. Still, this is an extremely important dimension because it mediates, manages and facilitates growth and conflicts. Therefore it is essential to explore the local structures in the Boé area and to observe how an ecovolunteer tourism initiative can be integrated in the existing structures.

##### *Traditional village leaders*

The village leaders traditionally obtain the most decision making power in a village. Most often one to three village leaders are present but this differs per village. These village leaders are always men and passed on by generation. The village committee of Limbi Afia confirmed this: *‘Women cannot be a village leader. When only daughters are born the nephews of the village leader are selected as new leaders’*. All interviewed villages reveal that the most important tasks of village leaders are to mediate between the central government of the Gabu region and the villagers. Other tasks are the mediation between bickering inhabitants and the

organisation of ceremonies and Muslim related festivals. It is noteworthy to mention that before conducting an interview a meeting with the village leader needed to be arranged. Therefore, potential ecovolunteers need to be introduced when visiting villages otherwise conflicts may arise.

### *Local institutions*

The traditional village leaders are important but their influence is declining because the two main local institutions gain more control. These local institutions are Faaba de Boé and Fonda Huuwa and unlike the traditional village leaders women are actively involved in both organisations. Moreover the leader of Faaba de Boé is a woman. Both internal organisations are developed in order to organise the local inhabitants of the Boé area (Sané, 2009). Fonda Huuwa, which means plan and implement, is a federation of thirty villages and is set-up by the German Weltfriedensdienst in order to organise the local inhabitants of the Boé area. Their goal is to improve the living situation which they partly achieved due to the fact that all thirty villages have drinking water and the rice production is increased in a sustainable way. Still, they do want to improve the school system, medical service and food security (Weltfriedensdienst, 2009).

Chimbo collaborates with Faaba de Boé which is a federation that started in 2003 after a German development project stopped. Faaba de Boé is also a federation organised by and for the local inhabitants. This federation collaborates with different external organisations for example; ministries, UNDP and of course Chimbo. Faaba de Boé functions as a mediator between these external organisations and the local communities. Faaba de Boé owns the radio station in Béli contains fifty-one village groups and has 656 members. They also have the responsibility over eight houses though; these houses are owned by the government. Their tasks are to repair the houses and to rent it for example to external organisations such as bauxite mining and Chimbo. So, Faaba de Boé is the biggest internal organisation located in the Boé area and therefore has significant influences in the area (Sané, 2009).

Both local organisations collaborate with the administrator of the Boé area who is the representative of the government. Many inhabitants do not trust representatives of the national government. This citation shows their mistrust: *'When our German representative left the authorities demanded all the belongings of the Fonda Huuwa foundation but they do not have any right to do so'*. The overall leader of the Gabu region is the governor. Before



implementing an ecovolunteer project a meeting with the regional government needs to be arranged so plans can be discussed.

### *Village committees of Chimbo*

The last important institutional arrangement is the village committees, which are organised by Chimbo in order help the conservation of the chimpanzee population and their habitat in the Boé area. In 2007 ten village committees were organised and the members signed a contract to search twice a month for chimpanzees. The findings are described in monthly reports and collected by the overall secretary, who is just like the overall leader, situated in Béli. Each village committee contains five persons including a president, vice-president, secretary and two members. As Sané (2009) explains: *‘The president is in control and overall responsible. When he is not present the vice president will take on his tasks. The secretary will make the plans when to go to the forest and writes all observations. The two members will only join the search in the forests.* Most village committees include three men and two women and unlike the village leaders women can become president of the village committees. This is the case in two interviewed village committees and in three other village committees women were assigned as vice-president. Still, during the interviews with the different village committee members almost only men gave answers to my questions.

In November 2009 fifteen new villages signed a contract which enlarged the search area and gives a better indication of the chimpanzee population. In appendix 5 an image is created by Mager (2009) to provide a better indication on the location of the village committees. Once a month a central committee meets in Béli. The members of this central committee consist out of all presidents from the local village committees. During these meetings the functioning of the village committees are addressed and the monthly reports are handed in. Also complaints are discussed which most of the time exists out of the damage which chimpanzees make in the gardens and rice fields. As explained by a man living in Capebonde *‘My whole banana garden is damaged by chimpanzees and therefore all profit is gone’*. The organisation of the village committees can be very helpful during field researches. The village committees generally have five different search areas and gain for that reason a comprehensive view of the chimpanzee population around their villages. Working with ecovolunteers can lead to several benefits such as mutual learning processes between locals and ecovolunteers even though ecovolunteers stay for a short period of time and an extra type of income can be

generated. This extra amount of money can for example be used to repair damaged fields and gardens.

When an ecovolunteer tourism initiative is developed the direct contact will be with the current village committees especially when field research volunteering is set-up. Rehabilitation centre volunteering probably requires more expertise from outside the region, which can result in higher import leakages. Meanwhile, with field research more interaction will take place between the village committees and local inhabitants because ecovolunteers need to explore different areas in the Boé. This may result in a more equal spread of the money and smaller import leakages.

### **5.3.2 Social dimension**

The theoretical framework clarifies the social dimension as a dimension that entails the reduction of social discrimination and exclusion. This can be explained as the reduction of social discrimination and exclusion of the inhabitants in an ecovolunteer tourism initiative. Before inhabitants can be included in a tourism initiative it will be necessary to gain a better indication on the social and cultural surroundings of the inhabitants.

All inhabitants of the Boé are Muslims and three times a year they celebrate Muslim related festivals which exists out of praying, dancing and singing. Nine of the twelve villages also revealed that they organise their own non-Muslim related festivals where the inhabitants as well sing and dance. Two villages mention that they do not organise their own festivals and one village did not give an answer to this question. There are three official dance groups located in the Boé area which are situated in Béli, Pataque and Lugajole. These dance groups sing and dance about different developments which take place in the Boé area. The Chimbo foundation is regarded as an important development and therefore several songs are about the protection of the chimpanzee population. Another significant feature of the Boé area are the traditional medicine men. Ten interviewed village committee members declared that they make traditional medicines which are used for simple diseases such as headaches, stomach pains, back pains etc. The medicines are made out of leaves, rocks, herbs and the trunk of trees (Village interviews, 2009). Ecovolunteers are generally very enthusiastic about experiencing local cultures and traditions. The dance groups, festivals and traditional medicine men express the local culture of the Boé well and are therefore interesting to embrace in the ecovolunteer experience.

The free time spending of the local inhabitants is also examined. Only the village committee members of Vendu Chama revealed that they do not have much free time '*Many times we go fishing and the women dry the fishes. The work exists out of going to the field and in free time we fish*'. Due to the fact that I spent the night in that village I observed that they only have free time after dinner around 09.00 pm where people relax and talk around a fire. Other villages revealed that the youth spends their free time playing soccer and listens to music. The youth who lives in a village which has a small generator also spends their free time by watching movies. The elder men spend most of their free time with talking, discussing and making jokes whereas women sometimes start to dance or sing (Village committee interviews, 2009).

It is also beneficial to gain insight on the traditional role division of women and men. Tourism can create opportunities for women to empower themselves by participating in a tourism initiative. The women in the Boé have their own tasks which includes working in the gardens, taking care of the children, household tasks and preparing food. During my observations I noticed that women were always busy while men, most of the time, relaxed under a tree. This division was also notable between girls and boys. When school was finished the girls were expected to help in the household while boys relaxed with their fathers. In earlier days women were expected to marry around fifteen years while boys themselves can decide who and when they want to marry which is normally around their late twenties (Camara, 2009). Though recently this process slowly changed and some girls nowadays marry around their twenties. All these differences indicate that men do have more rights than women but women slowly gain more recognition by for example their involvement in local institutions and village committees. To improve their status it will be useful to involve women in the ecovolunteer tourism initiative.

The second goal of this dimension consists of the social and cultural impacts which an ecovolunteer tourism initiative can create. Four indicators are developed to gain a better insight into these social and cultural impacts. Table 1 summarises the four indicators and the impact on types of volunteer projects. The indicators indicated with a red arrow create negative impacts and those with a green arrow create positive impacts. ++ means a great impact whereas -- signifies a small impact.

Indicators	Rehabilitation centre	Field research
→ Inequality between ecovolunteers and locals	+	+/-
→ With the help of ecovolunteer tourism it is possible to strengthen the local culture	-	+
→ Developed or improved facilities for ecovolunteers can also benefits the local inhabitants	+	+
→ Encourage public involvement and pride	+	+

**Table 1: Social indicators**

Below a comprehensive explanation is provided on all four indicators.

→ There is a major inequality between ecovolunteers and locals. Even though ecovolunteers show interest in the local culture and environment they still obtain a western lifestyle. Therefore, it is possible that locals want to copy the behaviour of ecovolunteers and adapt their way of living. This probably may occur more often when a rehabilitation centre is established due to the fact that they may attract more regular tourists who do not have the ability to adapt such as ecovolunteers do. Though, field research volunteers will probably interact with more inhabitants due to the fact that they have to execute their research tasks in different areas. Both types of volunteering can create an impact but due to the small amount of ecovolunteer groups and due to the small amount of regular tourists in Guinea Bissau these impacts remain small.

→ With the help of ecovolunteer tourism it is possible to empower local cultures. This can occur when for example festivals are revitalized due to tourist arrivals. Ecovolunteers are known for their interest in local cultures and traditions (Clifton and Benson, 2006; Brighthsmith et al, 2008; Wearing and Neil, 2009). When visiting the twelve interviewed villages, people showed pride of their culture and five villages even organised a small festival to celebrate my arrival. When too many tourists arrive the impact may be too profound and performances can turn into commoditization just to conform the tourist's expectations. Field research volunteers will visit different village committees and therefore more local inhabitants can show their culture and due to the small groups the negative impact will be relative small.

→ The developed or improved facilities for ecovolunteers can also benefit the local inhabitants. Facilities which may be improved or developed can include improvement of healthcare system, recreational facilities, transportation etc. There is no difference in

upgrading the facilities for field research or rehabilitation centre volunteers because for both types the security, health care system, transportation etc. needs to be secured.

→ Tourism can encourage public involvement and pride. Ecovolunteers cannot only raise awareness for the conservation of chimpanzees but also about the value of historical and cultural sites. Local inhabitants may gain more recognition towards their own historical and cultural sites when observing ecovolunteers interest in these places. Both types of great ape and monkey volunteering can cause this effect. Especially ecovolunteers are known for their interest in the environment and culture and therefore can create a positive impact on how the local inhabitants perceive their nature and culture.

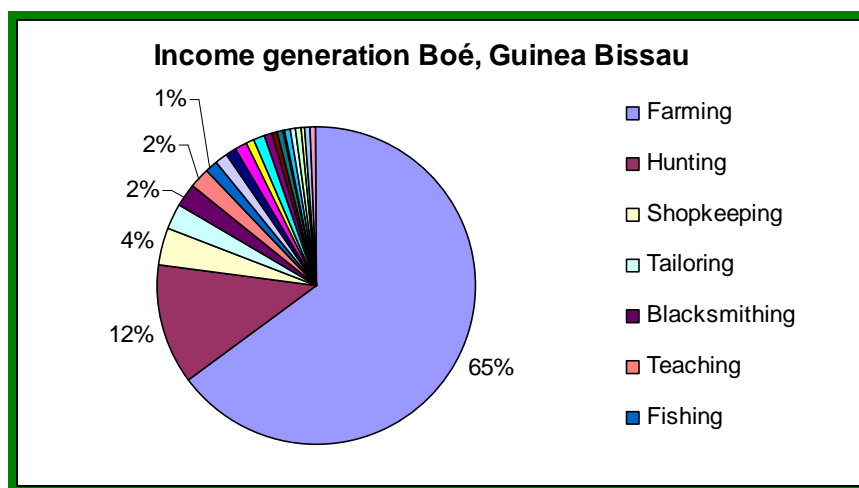
### 5.3.3 Economic dimension

The economic dimension entails an economy which sustains employment and livelihoods (Spangenberg, 2002). Two main failures need to be taken into account when developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative. Firstly, import leakages can occur due to investments from outside the region. Therefore it is necessary to ensure that local inhabitants are consulted in the development and implementation of the ecovolunteer tourism initiative. Rehabilitation centre volunteering requires more expertise from outside the region or country which can result in higher import leakages. Field research volunteers will have more direct contact with different village committees which results in an equal distribution of the ecovolunteers' money.

Secondly, the seasonality of the tourism industry can damage the economical profits. The seasonal character of ecovolunteer tourism related towards the conservation of chimpanzees can differ per country and it is therefore examined in the context of the Boé. There is a high season during which it will be easier to locate and observe the chimpanzees in the Boé area. The twelve interviewed village committees pointed out an average of three months as best months to locate and observe chimpanzees. December, January and February were seen as best months due to the fact that there are many fruits available which chimpanzees like and, due to the dry season, chimpanzees can only find water in one specific place. Still, the water problem is not significant for each village as is clarified by the village committee members of Bugafal: *'December till April are the best months to see chimpanzees because there are many fruits in the fields and gardens. It does not really matter if there is enough water in the forest because the chimpanzees in this area always have enough water due to the Corubal river'*. Other good months to watch chimpanzees are March, April and November because the water

is limited and some fruits are still present. However, it is significantly warmer in these months which make it hard to search the forest.

As explained in chapter 4 the current economical situation of the Boé is underdeveloped and almost all villages depend on small agriculture activities (Serra et al., 2007). This is confirmed by all interviewed villages. The interviews revealed a traditional role division where women work in the gardens, household and take care of the children and men clean the gardens hunt and work on the rice fields. Still, after going more in-depth they explained that they do help each other. For example one men of the village committee in Sutumaca mentioned ‘*Men do help women in the gardens and clean the gardens but we also work on the rice fields*’. Four out of the twelve interviewed villages also contain fishermen but this is determined on the location. The bigger villages such as ChéChé, Limbi Afia and Béli also contain different occupations such as tailors, carpenters, bakery etc. Laar (2008) also conducted a research and interviewed twenty-one villages in the Boé area. His results on the economy revealed similar characteristics where farming is seen as the main income generation. The figure below provides a better image of the different types of income.



**Figure 5: Income generation Boé, Guinea Bissau (Laar van, 2008).**

The main goal of the economic dimension is; *to connect local communities with the ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area*. Table 2 summarises the four indicators and the impact of both ecovolunteer projects. As you can see all indicators create positive impacts.

Indicators	Rehabilitation centre	Field research
→ Employment can be seen in different ways such as: accommodation, transportation, guiding and tourism services.	+	+/-
→ Supply of goods and services to tourism enterprises.	+	+/-
→ Direct sale of goods and services to tourists including running food stalls and sell handicraft.	+	+/-
→ Voluntary donations and support for local people and their local environment.	+	+

**Table 2: Economic indicators**

Below an extensive explanation is provided on the economic impacts of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area.

→ Employment is perceived as an important indicator which can be divided in different subtasks such as accommodation, transportation, guiding etc. For an ecovolunteer tourism initiative the accommodation can be situated in the camp owned by Fonda Huuwa. Therefore they will receive money from the tourists which also can partly be used for one general project so more families will benefit from this development. Other jobs can exist out chauffeurs, guiding, cleaning, preparing food etc. Especially the future guides will need extra supervision due to the fact that they need to interact with the tourists and are responsible for them when going on a tour. It is noteworthy to mention that with a rehabilitation centre more jobs can be provided than with field research volunteering. First of all, due to the fact that a rehabilitation centre can attract more regular types of tourists and secondly because more jobs are available in the rehabilitation centre. However, the money flow will most often go to the rehabilitation centre whereas field research volunteers will pay inhabitants more directly due to the fact that they have to execute their research in different areas. Another important point is that field research volunteers pay significant more as volunteers who work in a rehabilitation centre. Appendix 7 includes a table to gain more insight on the available jobs for both rehabilitation centre and field research volunteering.

→ The second indicator contains the supply of goods and services to tourism enterprises which is an important indicator for avoiding import leakages. Therefore all supplies and services need to integrate the local surroundings and community. One example in the case of the Boé area can be the renovation of the ecovolunteers accommodation. This renovation needs to be done by locals with local materials to ensure that the money flow will stay in the

Boé area. Additionally, the ecovolunteers will embrace these developments because they can be assured that their money will be invested in the local area. For that reason it is important to pay extra attention to this development in a marketing and business plan.

→ The third indicator consists out of the direct sale of goods and services to tourists including running food stalls and selling handicrafts. Due to the fact that ecovolunteer tourism is a new and therefore small segment of the tourism industry, small amounts of ecovolunteers need to be taken into account. Consequently, this will negatively affect the direct sale of goods and services to tourists. Still it is noteworthy to mention that ecovolunteers are especially interested in the local way of life and culture (Clifton and Benson, 2006; Brighthsmith et al, 2008; Wearing and Neil, 2009) and therefore direct sales need to be adjusted on these segments. This may express itself in different services and goods such as courses in making traditional food, dance performances, an explanation on how traditional medicines are made etc. The local population does not make handicrafts but this can be introduced when tourists arrive. Still, even if there are not many tourists present in Guinea Bissau, a rehabilitation centre may attract more tourists and therefore the money flow can increase.

→ The fourth and last indicator contains voluntary donations and support for local people and their local environment. As mentioned by Henkens (2009), ecovolunteers usually are intensively participating in the project and therefore more willing to donate an extra amount of money to related projects. One way of doing so is with an animal adopting program. In the case of the Boé this will result in adopting a chimpanzee or group of chimpanzees.

Generally, more regular tourists may visit the Boé area when a rehabilitation centre is established. Though, it needs to be taken into account that the tourist flow of Guinea Bissau is extremely low. Therefore the extra tourist flow may be minimal. A negative feature of establishing a rehabilitation centre is that the money flow will be centred in one area whereas field research volunteering will spread the money due to the fact that the searches take place in different areas of the Boé. It is also important to pay extra attention to the fact that field research volunteers pay significant more.

#### **5.3.4 Environmental dimension**

According to Spangenberg (2002) the environmental dimension expresses the need to reduce the impact on the environment. In the case of the Boé this also results in the impact on the chimpanzee population. Before Chimbo started to conserve the chimpanzee population many inhabitants of the Boé hunted chimpanzees. Seven of the twelve interviewed committees



mention that before Chimbo came they shot chimpanzees. The main reason for doing so was the damage that the chimpanzees caused to the gardens and to the fields. Still, the five other villages declared that they never shot chimpanzees because they only caused little damage and could be scared with loud noises. Only one village stated that they did not shoot chimpanzees because their ancestors told them that chimpanzees are important creatures. One thing became extremely clear, namely that the inhabitants of the Boé do not hunt chimpanzees for bush meat. However, the immigrants from Guinea Conakry do hunt chimpanzees, which is substantiated by the village committee members of Maria who said: *‘We only killed the chimpanzees when they caused damage. In Guinea Bissau people do not eat chimpanzees because they look like humans but people from Guinea Conakry eat everything’*.

Ecovolunteer tourism is highly dependent on the environmental settings and its ecological system. There are four other chimpanzee volunteer project world wide and even one is based in the neighbouring country Guinea Conakry. So, it is noteworthy to give an indication of the unique features of the Boé and of the project which can be used in the marketing to differentiate this project from other chimpanzee volunteer projects. Therefore the first goal is *to examine the environmental unique features in the Boé area*. During the village committee interviews an indication was provided on the appearance of certain types of animals. Due to the fact that they do not obtain knowledge about other areas it is difficult for them to notice how unique their environment is. As illustrated in figure 6 nine different types of animals are often observed in the Boé area. Red monkeys and chimpanzees are most often observed followed by baboons, black monkeys and wild pigs. It needs to be taken into account that for example not every village committee named all animals, for example birds are only mentioned by 2% of the village committees but are observed throughout the whole Boé area.

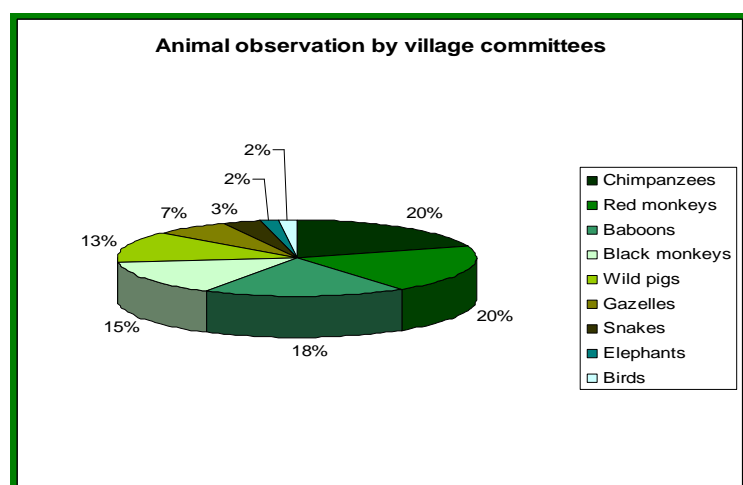


Figure 6: Animals in the Boé area.

Still, no knowledge is present on the uniqueness of these animals and their surroundings. Therefore interviews were conducted with different NGOs namely; Agir II, IUCN and IBAP. The goals and activities of these NGOs are described in chapter 4. All organisations mention that the Boé area contains a diverse flora and fauna due to the fact that the Boé is situated in the highest part of Guinea Bissau (300 meters above sea level) and due to its small rivers which creates a specific soil (Dias, C., Dias, N., Schwarz, C., 2009). These unique factors create a home for many different species and nine different types of plant formations of which savannah-woodland is dominating. Other types of plant formations are banana vergers, open forests and forest galleries. In 1990 IUCN presented a proposal to create a national park in the northern part of the Boé area. Appendix 6 shows an image to gain a better indication where the national park might be situated. According to their study the Boé area is, after the Dulombi area, the richest area based on the diversity of mammals in the country. Animals which attract the most attention are: chimpanzees, aardvark, buffalo, roan antelope and the waterbuck. The preliminary objectives are, among others, the conservation of the diversity of rare mammals such as the African wild dog, honey badger, and the bay duiker (Serra et al. 2007). The animals which are observed by the local inhabitants are therefore perceived as the more common animals but this makes them not less interesting for ecovolunteers. Because the chimpanzees are the main focus of this project it will be essential to see how unique chimpanzees are in Guinea Bissau. The most recent censuses suggest that there are still between 600 and 1000 chimpanzees in the country. These chimpanzees are located in the Boé area and other Southern regions of Guinea Bissau. The Boé area contains approximately 700 chimpanzees, which indicates 70% of all chimpanzees in Guinea Bissau. 50% of the interviewed village committee members also mention that they see chimpanzees on a daily basis. Most often they are seen or heard when working on the fields or when going into the forest. During my own observations I saw chimpanzees two times. As explained by Henkens (2009) in paragraph 5.1 there is a need to form a clear picture of the expectations so problems during the project can be prevented. This point is extremely important in this situation and therefore a clear statement needs to be made that Chimbo cannot guarantee that ecovolunteers will observe chimpanzees. This problem only occurs during field research volunteering. Only one of the thirty-seven primates and monkey related ecovolunteer projects reveal that they cannot guarantee to see the Orang-utans.

The second goal of the environmental dimension is to *examine the environmental costs and benefits which ecovolunteer tourism initiatives can create.*

Indicators	Rehabilitation centre	Field research
→ Pollution. For this indicator the pollution of water and waste are of main importance.	+	+/-
→ Physical impacts.	+/-	+/-
→ Wildlife disturbance.	-	+/-
→ Reduction of natural resources.	+	-
→ Creating more awareness about the chimpanzees.	+	+
→ Better indication of living situation of the chimpanzee	-	+
→ Observing natural behaviour of the chimpanzees	-	+
→ Helping rescued chimpanzees	+	-

**Table 3: environmental indicators**

The theoretical framework describes the different environmental indicators which are all based on ecovolunteer tourism. All indicators are examined for both types of volunteering and a short explanation is illustrated in table 3. The red arrows indicate negative impacts and the green arrows indicate positive impacts. Two ++ means a great impact where two - - indicates no impact at all. Below a comprehensive explanation on the environmental impacts of ecovolunteer tourism initiative is provided.

→ The first indicator entails pollution and especially focuses on water and waste pollution. Due to the fact that ecovolunteer tourism is a small segment of the tourism industry and therefore probably will indicate small numbers of ecovolunteer groups, the water and waste pollution will not be of significant importance. Though it is noteworthy to point out that most villages do not have clean drinking water. Béli is the only exception which contains a small but clean water system. Therefore the main problem is not the pollution of drinking water and waste disposal but the lack of any good water system for ecovolunteers and no good waste disposal system.

→ The second indicator consists of physical impacts. Trampling is seen as one of the most important features of the physical impacts during ecovolunteer tourism activities. This especially occurs during field research volunteering because ecovolunteers will go many times to the forest. Still this is not a really important point due to the relative small groups. A rehabilitation centre also can be seen as a physical impact. So, when building a rehabilitation centre it will be necessary to build it in the local style just like the accommodations.

→ The third indicator consists of wildlife disturbance. Wildlife visitors can cause stress to animals which, in the case of the Boé area, can indicate that chimpanzees may modify their natural behaviour. This indicator is only of importance for field research. Proper guidance and preparations are needed to minimize the impact on the current chimpanzee population. Due to proper guidance and preparation the impact can be reduced because volunteers do know how to behave and how to create as less impact as possible. Still, if some chimpanzees are hunted they will always stay frightened for humans, whether an ecovolunteer or a hunter. Disturbance will decrease if the chimpanzees are better protected from hunting which will also result in better possibilities to monitor their behaviour.

→ The fourth indicator is the reduction of natural resources. This is, just like the water and waste pollution, not of significant importance due to the relative small groups of volunteers.

The previous indicators contain more information about the negative impacts ecovolunteer tourism may create. Still it is also necessary to gain a better indication of the benefits ecovolunteers may create. The last four indicators gain more insight on these benefits.

→ The first indicator is the creation of more awareness about the chimpanzees. With the help of a rehabilitation centre more knowledge can be spread by means of for example a school and tourist visits whereas field researches may create more knowledge amongst the village committees and local inhabitants. Through giving extra classes on the importance of the conservation of chimpanzees knowledge can be spread as well but still the rehabilitation centre may provide a bigger impact due to the fact that you can see and experience the behaviour of actual chimpanzees.

→ The second indicator provides a better indication on the living situation of the chimpanzees. With the help of regularly field researches a better indication can be provided on the living situation of the chimpanzees in the Boé area. However it needs to be mentioned that a good monitoring system needs to be developed to gain good and solid results. With the small number of ecovolunteers it will be challenging to create a solid monitoring system where ecovolunteers can contribute successfully. This indicator is not of relevance to rehabilitation centre volunteering due to the fact that they do not live in their natural surroundings.

→ The third indicator contains the observation of natural behaviour. This indicators has more effect on field research volunteering than rehabilitation centre volunteering. Observing their natural behaviour during field researches will also be challenging because they are shy

creatures and may adapt their behaviour when volunteers visit them regularly. For this indicator as well a good monitoring system needs to be developed.

→ The last indicator is to help rescued chimpanzees. It will be easier to help chimpanzees in a rehabilitation centre than during field researches because in the field there is no place to care for the chimpanzee. Still the question remains how often chimpanzees that need care, can be found. Also enough knowledge needs to be present on how to treat the injured chimpanzees.

### 5.3.5 *Summary*

The previous four subparagraphs provided a detailed analysis on the sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area. The analysis indicates some general positive and negative points. Positive points are the generation of extra income, the unique features of the Boé area and due to the fact that ecovolunteers primarily contain small groups, the negative impacts on the culture and environment will be minimal.

There is a significant difference between two types of great ape and monkey volunteer projects. These two different volunteer projects do have a different impact on the sustainability. Rehabilitation centre volunteering may attract more regular tourists which may lead to a greater impact on the community and environment. More tourists means more money but in the case of a rehabilitation centre this money will be concentrated in one area. Also an expert from outside the region needs to be present which indicates higher import leakages. The realization of a rehabilitation centre will also require a great investment. When different types of tourists start to arrive this can lead to more pollution, decrease of local resources and the commoditization of local cultures. It needs to be mentioned, though, that the current number of tourists in Guinea Bissau is extremely low. Therefore it can be concluded that in the beginning a rehabilitation centre will probably not attract more tourists but will require more investments.

Field research volunteering creates different impacts such as a greater chance of wildlife disturbance and trampling, although these impacts are negligible due to the small amount of volunteers. Positive points are the fact that field research volunteers pay more and their spending is spread over the region because they need to observe different parts of the Boé. Field research volunteering can also rely on the local institutions such as Fonda Huuwa, Faaba de Boé and the village committees. Other positive points are the chance to observe chimpanzees in their natural surroundings and the interaction with different communities in the area.

## 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

This research project focused on the potentials and constraints of developing an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area of Guinea Bissau. This final chapter first displays a short introduction of the research topic followed by a SWOT- analysis in which the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are summarised. Furthermore a discussion explains the SWOT-analysis and provides an indication of the feasibility and sustainability of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative. Based on the discussion and conclusions several recommendations are formulated in paragraph 6.4.

### 6.1 Introduction

Chimbo perceives the Boé area in Guinea as a potentially attractive area for ecovolunteer tourism which focuses on the conservation of chimpanzees. The Boé situated in the Gabu region in the South East of Guinea Bissau can be regarded as an underdeveloped area both socially and economically. Most inhabitants depend on agricultural activities and there is no proper education or healthcare system.

With the help of observations, interviews with the local inhabitants and organisations, internet research and literature reviews an indication is provided on the potentials and constraints of the development of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area. Two different types of great ape and monkey volunteer projects can be distinguished, viz. the rehabilitation centre volunteer projects and the field research volunteer projects. Both types have some similar features such as their interest in the environment and local cultures.

In this respect the Boé can be very suitable for a number of reasons: it is an area with significant flora and fauna, it is a home for 700 chimpanzees, it has diverse cultural expressions and the local inhabitants are very friendly and hospitable. However, there are also several features which need to be taken into account before developing such a project, like the underdeveloped health care system, bauxite mining developments, the remote location and basic facilities.

### 6.2 SWOT-analysis

This paragraph illustrates a SWOT-analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) to give an overview of the potentials and constraints of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area.

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<b>Institutional</b>	<b>Institutional</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Two well organised internal institutions named Faaba de Boé and Fonda Huuwa are located in the Boé.</li> <li>→ Good organised village committees by Chimbo.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ No current organisational capacity to develop an ecovolunteer tourism initiative.</li> </ul>
<b>Social/cultural</b>	<b>Social/cultural</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Very hospitable inhabitants.</li> <li>→ Existing cultural activities such as dance groups and traditional medicine men.</li> <li>→ Authentic way of life which is generally valued by ecovolunteers.</li> <li>→ Area is not part of any organised tourism program.</li> <li>→ Women gain currently more recognition from the local men.</li> <li>→ Safe area, no crime rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Not very educated inhabitants (only primary school available).</li> <li>→ Only one person speaks reasonable English.</li> <li>→ No good healthcare system in an area where tourists are at risk of for example snake bites.</li> <li>→ Local inhabitants do not know what tourists are. They only have seen/recognised aid workers before.</li> </ul>
<b>Economical</b>	<b>Economical</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Local self-sufficiency.</li> <li>→ Possibility to use a camp in Béli as accommodation for ecovolunteers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Community has little financial resources.</li> <li>→ Almost no diversity in economic activities.</li> <li>→ Due to remote location difficult to create business.</li> <li>→ Due to small economical activities no major facilities are present.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Environmental</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Distinctive natural environment of open forest-savannah.</li> <li>→ Second richest area based on the diversity of mammals in Guinea Bissau.</li> <li>→ 70% of all chimpanzees in Guinea Bissau are located in the Boé area.</li> <li>→ 50% of the interviewed villages reveal that they see chimpanzees on a daily basis.</li> <li>→ Currently many local communities do not hunt chimpanzees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Difficult accessible area.</li> <li>→ Unpleasant climate in certain periods.</li> <li>→ Only six months seen as most suitable to observe chimpanzees.</li> <li>→ Immigrants from Guinea Conakry hunt Chimpanzees. Through this chimpanzees become shy and it will be more difficult to observe them.</li> </ul>

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<b>Institutional</b>	<b>Institutional</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ New president elected which results in a more stable political situation.</li> <li>→ Money available by UNDP for developing the Boé area as a tourism destination.</li> <li>→ SNV wants to develop the Boé area as a tourism destination but does not have any concrete plans.</li> <li>→ Bauxite mining made agreements with the former president. New agreements need to be made with the current president.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Some institutions have conflicting interests such as the development of a national park versus the bauxite mining activities.</li> <li>→ Foreign countries provide travel advices with a certain level of caution for Guinea Bissau</li> </ul>
<b>Social/cultural</b>	<b>Social/cultural</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ UNESCO/UNDP wants to improve the educational system.</li> <li>→ Willingness of the UNDP to improve the healthcare system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Immigration of inhabitants of Guinea Conakry.</li> <li>→ Smuggling</li> </ul>
<b>Economical</b>	<b>Economical</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Generally increasing demand for ecovolunteer tourism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ No proper infrastructure present.</li> <li>→ Limited tourism industry in Guinea Bissau.</li> <li>→ Four chimpanzee projects are identified and can be seen as direct competitors. One of these four projects is located in Guinea Conakry.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Environmental</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Increasing awareness on sustainable issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Developments of bauxite mining.</li> <li>→ Tourist season concentrated in six months from November till May because rain makes travel difficult.</li> </ul>

Table 4: Swot Analysis

### 6.3 Discussion

The SWOT-analysis provides an indication of the development of an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area. As the SWOT- analysis shows there are optimistic conditions to develop the Boé area as an ecovolunteer tourism destination.

→ One of the most important criteria is that roughly 70% of all chimpanzees are located in the Boé area, which makes the Boé particularly attractive for a chimpanzee conservation project. Furthermore, 50% of the interviewees mention that they see chimpanzees on a daily basis or declared that if you search for chimpanzees you will see them. The Boé area also contains unique flora and fauna and is even recognized by IBAP and IUCN as the second



richest area based on the diversity of mammals in Guinea Bissau. This is generally highly appreciated by ecovolunteers.

- Another important feature is that the local inhabitants live in an authentic way and are very hospitable and friendly. This is especially appreciated by ecovolunteers due to the fact that they are generally fascinated by the cultural interaction with local inhabitants.
- Chimbo has its own well organised village committees. All twenty-five village committees know where chimpanzees are located in surrounding areas. With the help of their information it will be easier to develop a monitoring plan for ecovolunteers.

There are also some limitations which makes it difficult to develop an ecovolunteer initiative in the Boé area.

- One of the main weaknesses is the underdeveloped health care system in the Boé and the rest of Guinea Bissau. Only three nurses are present who do not have significant knowledge to execute major procedures. Especially snake bites are a major threat to ecovolunteers when carrying out field researches.
- Another important point of improvement is the educational system. Only primary education is available in the Boé area. Therefore it will be necessary to train some local inhabitants who have direct contact with the ecovolunteers. This training may include topics such as tourism in general, communication, hygiene, safety etc. This training is necessary so that local inhabitants can prepare themselves for tourist arrivals and are able to provide better service.
- Last but not least the developments of bauxite mining are a great challenge because it can damage the ecovolunteers' experience. Nevertheless, there are some positive developments due to the fact that agreements need to be reconfirmed with the new government and they need to collaborate with MISUBAB which is a project that wants to secure sustainable development of bauxite mining in the Boé area.

This SWOT-analysis and discussion only offers a general overview. As stated in paragraph 6.1 there are two different types of great apes and monkeys volunteer projects, namely the rehabilitation centre and the field research project. I believe it will be more feasible in the beginning to develop a field research volunteer project due to the fact that a rehabilitation centre requires large investments and expertise. Even though it may be feasible to develop a field research volunteer project I think that the impact in the beginning may be small because:

- ◆ Ecovolunteer tourism is a small segment of the tourism industry and it first needs to be organised and marketed well before ecovolunteers may come. This will result in small groups of volunteers.
- ◆ There are six main months available during which it will be most easy to observe chimpanzees and these six months are not during the regular holidays of June, July and August. During these months it is especially difficult to access the forest and the Boé due to the rain season. Another disadvantage is the fact that chimpanzees can find water in all parts of the forest and therefore it will be more difficult to locate and observe the chimpanzees.
- ◆ There are already twenty-five village committees which all search for chimpanzees twice a month. So, ecovolunteers can help with their searches but ecovolunteers also want to know how they contribute to the conservation of chimpanzees. The direct impact that ecovolunteers may create will be small in the beginning because at the start probably only small groups will come which makes the impact small as well.

The small groups are one of the main factors which minimize the positive but also the negative impacts. These small groups are first of all based on the ecovolunteer tourism market which is relatively small compared to other tourism markets. Furthermore, the accommodation which is provided in the Boé area only consists of six small houses. These houses can accommodate two tourists per house which means a maximum of twelve volunteers per group. Six months are seen as suitable months for chimpanzee observations but because these months are not during the holiday season I will calculate an average of two groups per year. So, as is calculated in paragraph 5.1 field research volunteers pay an average of € 512 per week and stay an average of five weeks. This results in an average of € 61.440 per year but the expenses still need to be subtracted. Expenses are fuel, food, employee costs etc. € 61.440 is an enormous amount of money for a relatively poor destination and therefore it can create an impact on the local inhabitants. Because of the small groups and the seasonal character not everybody can benefit from these developments as can be seen in appendix 7, but with the help of a fund some general issues can be solved. During the interviews many interviewees revealed that they do want to protect the chimpanzee but when chimpanzees damage their fields and if Chimbo does not provide help they see no other option than shooting the chimpanzees. With the help of a fund the damaged gardens and rice fields can be compensated for.

Therefore I can conclude that it will be feasible and sustainable to develop an ecovolunteer tourism initiative in the Boé area. However, it will be necessary to create a proper monitoring and marketing and business plan so that ecovolunteers know what their contribution towards chimpanzee conservation is.

#### **6.4 Recommendations**

Before Chimbo decides to develop a field research project they need to take the below mentioned features into account.

Socially:

- ◆ Especially during field researches volunteers can get injuries such as cuts, bruises or even snake bites. So, measures should be taken to improve the healthcare before ecovolunteers arrive.
- ◆ Due to the lack of knowledge it would be necessary to incorporate small training sessions for the local inhabitants who do have direct contact with the ecovolunteers. These training sessions should include communication (English language), safety (during field researches), hygiene (during cooking), and tourism in general etc.
- ◆ For safety reasons it is necessary to purchase a satellite telephone because at this moment it is only possible to contact Gabu by the military radio.

Economically:

- ◆ To have a relatively fair distribution a fund may be created through which more people can benefit for example improvement of the healthcare system or a fund to compensate damaged gardens and rice fields.
- ◆ Collaborate with other foundations as for example UNDP or the tourism department of SNV to spread the costs and to gain a solid foundation. Especially SNV is known for their sustainable and pro-poor tourism projects and can help for example with the marketing process.
- ◆ Ecovolunteers are a small and specific type of tourists as is explained in paragraph 2.1. Due to its specific characteristics it would be sensible to market this ecovolunteer project through existing channels which are shown in appendix 3.

## Managerial

- ◆ Create a clear chimpanzee monitoring plan and tasks so ecovolunteers know their responsibilities and duties.
- ◆ Clarify how ecovolunteers contribute to the conservation of the chimpanzees.
- ◆ Create an evaluation form where ecovolunteers afterwards can give their opinion about the project.
- ◆ There are four other chimpanzee volunteer projects. Look in detail to these projects and make sure you distinguish yourself from other projects.

The main goal of Chimbo is the conservation of chimpanzees and their habitats. Achievement of this goal is brought nearer if more is known about the ecology of chimpanzees and if local inhabitants are aware of the value to protect chimpanzees. One way to accomplish this goal is by the help of field research volunteering. To make this project work and to accomplish the goal of Chimbo it will be necessary to involve the local inhabitants from the beginning.

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# Appendices

## Appendix 1 Map of the Boé area



Serra et al., 2007

## Appendix 2 West African ecovolunteer projects

Location	Type of volunteering	Tasks	Duration	Accommodation	Price
Ghana	Ecotourism, reforestation and wildlife	(no more details)	2 weeks	(no more details)	2 weeks for €999
Ghana	Rice and Oil palm farm	Seeding and cutting the grass	No min or max	Host family	No details
Cape Verde	Sea turtle conservation	Beach controls, assist in collecting data, organize public events and PR etc.	1 to 4 weeks	Basic shared accommodation	Daily €10 for food and lodging
Ghana	Veterinarian	provide effective and practical help working on a variety of tasks	2 weeks to 1 year	Host family	From \$2,395
Ghana	Wildlife conservation	No clear information	2 weeks to 1 year	Group living	\$163 per week
Ghana	Veterinarian	Assisting of vegetarian	1 week to 2 years	Home stays	\$ 500
Ghana	Wildlife conservation	Work with staff members to maintain and preserve the land and wildlife of Ghana	2 weeks to 1 year	No information	4 weeks for \$1300
Guinea Conakry	Chimpanzee conservation	Caring for younger chimps, going on bush walks, prepare food and clean, supervise protection	No information	No information	No Costs
Senegal	Care for animals in a zoo	No information	2 to 12 weeks	Host family	GBP1,199 to GBP1,759

Sierra Leona	Social and Environmental	Environmental education, Wildlife surveying, park maintenance, trail building etc.	2 to 12 weeks	Group living	\$300 - 500
Togo	Social and Environmental	Environmental education, Wildlife surveying, park maintenance, trail building etc.	2 - 4 weeks	No information	\$300+

### Appendix 3 Great apes and monkeys projects worldwide

	Location	Website	Type of volunteering	Tasks	Duration	Accommodation	Price	Price one week and in €
1	Thailand	www.ecovolunteer.org	Gibbons	Food preparation, feeding, mapping, observation, tourist talks	minimum 3 weeks or minimum 8 weeks	Bungalow	3 weeks €1090	363
2	Indonesia	www.ecovolunteer.org	Orang-utans (no guarantee of seeing one)	entering data in computer, locate areas with orang-utans	2 weeks	Basic bamboo cabin	2 weeks €1289	645
3	South Africa	www.worldwidehelpers.org	Vervet Monkey rehabilitation centre	assist with preparing feeds, hand-rearing infant monkeys, feeding, cleaning	minimum of 4 weeks	Basic but comfortable accommodation	4 weeks €590	148
4	Thailand	www.responsibletravel.com	Gibbons rescue centre	feeding, cleaning, cage maintenance, site mapping, trail maintenance, data collection	4 to 12 weeks	Accommodation near rescue centre	€1035 (4 weeks)	258
5	Spain	www.responsibletravel.com	Volunteering with rescued chimpanzees	feeding, cleaning, observe behaviour etc.	2 to 4 days	No accommodation included	From €240 (2 days) - €440 (4 days)	
6	Thailand	www.responsibletravel.com	Langur conservation	study the behaviour of the dusky langurs in the forest and report your findings	1 to 4 weeks	Guest houses and home stays	From €368 (1 week)	368
7	South Africa	www.responsibletravel.com	Monkey rehabilitation	preparing meals, carrying for sick monkeys, talk to	2 to 12 weeks	Dorms or small units	2 weeks for €760	380

				visitors, release monkeys				
<b>8</b>	Borneo and Malaysia	<a href="http://www.responsibletravel.com">www.responsibletravel.com</a>	Orang-utans in zoo, rehabilitation centre and wild	In the wild orang-utan nest sightings and feeding, cleaning enclosures, build great apes and monkeys obstacles	4 weeks	Eco lodges	4 weeks €1945	486
<b>9</b>	Borneo	<a href="http://www.responsibletravel.com">www.responsibletravel.com</a>	Conservation of Orang-utans and Elephants	Wildlife Population, Density Data Collection, Habitat Restoration, Education Programme,	2 weeks	Dormitory style	2 weeks €949	475
<b>10</b>	Borneo	<a href="http://www.responsibletravel.com">www.responsibletravel.com</a>	Volunteer at Matang wildlife centre	Rehabilitation and release of orang-utans, feeding, cleaning etc.	2 or 4 weeks	You live in stilted houses and in groups of 3.	2 weeks €1144 -	572
<b>11</b>	Kenya	<a href="http://www.responsibletravel.com">www.responsibletravel.com</a>	Monkey conservation	Animal rescue, work in the forest, habitat related research etc.	3 or 4 weeks	share a room and bathroom with other volunteers	3 weeks €1310-	436
<b>12</b>	South Africa	<a href="http://www.responsibletravel.com">www.responsibletravel.com</a>	Vervet Monkey sanctuary	Feeding, cleaning, monitoring etc.	4 to 20 weeks	no information provided	4 weeks €1001	250
<b>13</b>	Kenya	<a href="http://www.goe.co.org/">http://www.goe.co.org/</a>	Conservation of Colobus monkey	fixing monkey bridges, de-snaring, maintaining monkey cages and animal husbandry	1 to 4 weeks	Comfortable shared cottage near the beach	1 week €427	427
<b>14</b>	South Africa	<a href="http://www.volunteerabroad.com">www.volunteerabroad.com</a>	Monkey rehabilitation	Cleaning, prepare food, check for injuries, help tend to wounds etc.	2 to 8 weeks	Dormitory, group living, home stays etc.	€1.030	

<b>15</b>	Uganda	www.volunteerabroad.com	Volunteer and work with chimpanzees	Promote conservation, work in rural schools and help protect endangered chimpanzees.	3 to 6 months	No information	€ 2395 for 6 months	100
<b>16</b>	Cameroon	www.volunteerabroad.com	Gorilla and chimpanzee conservation	Survey, educational activities with locals, visits local places and schools	1 to 4 weeks	No information	€1466 for 2 weeks	733
<b>17</b>	Sumatra	www.volunteerabroad.com	Conserve orang-utans	Trek and camp out in the forest, work alongside and assist conservationists	1 to 4 weeks	No information	€943 for 2 weeks	471
<b>18</b>	Thailand	www.volunteerabroad.com	Monkey and Gibbon rehabilitation centre	Collecting of behavioural research data	1 to 8 weeks	Dormitory, group living, home stays etc.	€ 2.088	
<b>19</b>	South Africa	www.volunteerabroad.com	Monkey Sanctuary Near Kruger Park	Sterilizing and washing basins, bucket etc, and feeding, caring, build new facilities.	2 to 8 weeks	Shared basic tents	4 weeks for €1617	404
<b>20</b>	South Africa	www.volunteerabroad.com	Vervet monkey rehabilitation programme	Caring for the monkeys, give talks to local schools and communities.	2 to 4 weeks	Bush camp	4 weeks for €1282	320
<b>21</b>	Kenya	www.volunteerabroad.com	Conservation of Colobus monkeys	Collect data, work with professional staff, learn to conduct surveys	1 to 12 weeks	Living in a traditional Swahili village	2 weeks for €950	475
<b>22</b>	Indonesia	www.volunteerabroad.com	Help Rehabilitate Javan Langur Monkeys	Feeding, cleaning, sterilizing the enclosures, assist monitoring released Langurs.	1 to 4 weeks	Group living	From €1068	



23	Malaysia	www.volunteerabroad.com	Orang-utan project	Conduct surveys, Orang-Utan Paediatric and Veterinary Care, working in nursery.	5 to 8 weeks	Bed and Breakfast	8 weeks for €3312	414
24	Thailand	www.volunteerabroad.com	Gibbon rehabilitation and environmental education	Develop successful methods to rehabilitate gibbons, give talks to tourists, and create awareness.	2 weeks to 1 year	Group or independent living	No information	
25	Kenya	www.volunteerabroad.com	Gorilla and Elephants in East Africa	Park maintenance, the elephant dung recycling project and elephant monitoring (chance to see gorillas)	1 to 2 weeks	Tents and hotels shared	2 weeks for €1691	809
26	Kenya	www.volunteerabroad.com	Conservation Work with Colobus Monkeys	Maintenance work and the treatment of injured monkeys	2 to 4 weeks	Basic quest house	1 week for €954	954
27	Costa Rica	www.volunteerabroad.com	Monkey Park Animal Rescue Centre	Cleaning, Feeding, maintenance work, cutting and collecting grass etc.	5 weeks to 1 year	Group living and home stays	4 weeks for €1363	340
28	Panama Costa Rica	www.volunteerabroad.com	Primate studies	Field research, exploring habitats, Hands-on Studies of Primate and Rainforest Ecology	2 to 4 weeks	Group living or other	€ 3.521	
29	Kenya	www.volunteerabroad.com	Colobus Trust Monkey Sanctuary	Maintenance work, forest surveys, Conduct monkey census of colobus, vervets and baboons	1 to 4 weeks	Group living and home stays	€ 1.030	

30	South Africa	www.volunteerabroad.com	Jane Goodall Chimpanzee project	Chimpanzee Behaviour monitoring, Chimpanzee vocalisation recording, patrolling, vegetable sorting	1 week to 1 year	Dormitory	€ 395	
31	Thailand	www.volunteerabroad.com	Volunteer with Thailand's primates	Feeding, cleaning, maintenance work etc.	1 week to 1 year	Group living	€ 626 for 3 weeks	208
32	Thailand	www.volunteerabroad.com	Monkey park conservation	Feeding, cleaning, maintenance work, informing tourists, teaching English	2 weeks to 1 year	No information	3 weeks for €1083	361
33	United States	www.volunteerabroad.com	Gibbon conservation centre	Feeding, cleaning, behavioural observations, library research etc.	1 to 2 weeks	No information	No fee charged	
34	Malaysia	www.volunteerabroad.com	Orang-utan & Pygmy Elephant Safari	Track and record the movements of orang-utans and pygmy elephant, plant trees and education locals.	2 weeks	Dormitory	2 weeks \$ 1307	653
35	Malaysia	www.volunteerabroad.com	Orang-utan Encounters in Kuala Lumpur	Feeding, cleaning, maintenance work, rotation between orang-utans and chimpanzees etc.	2 to 4 weeks	Group living	€ 1.746	
36	Malaysia	www.volunteerabroad.com	Sarawak Orang-utan Experience	Husbandry, enrichment and rehabilitation	2 to 4 weeks	Dormitory or group living	€ 1.985	
37	Guinea Conakry	www.volunteerabroad.com	Chimpanzee conservation centre	Caring for younger chimps, going on bush walks, prepare food and clean, supervise protection	No information	No information	No Costs	

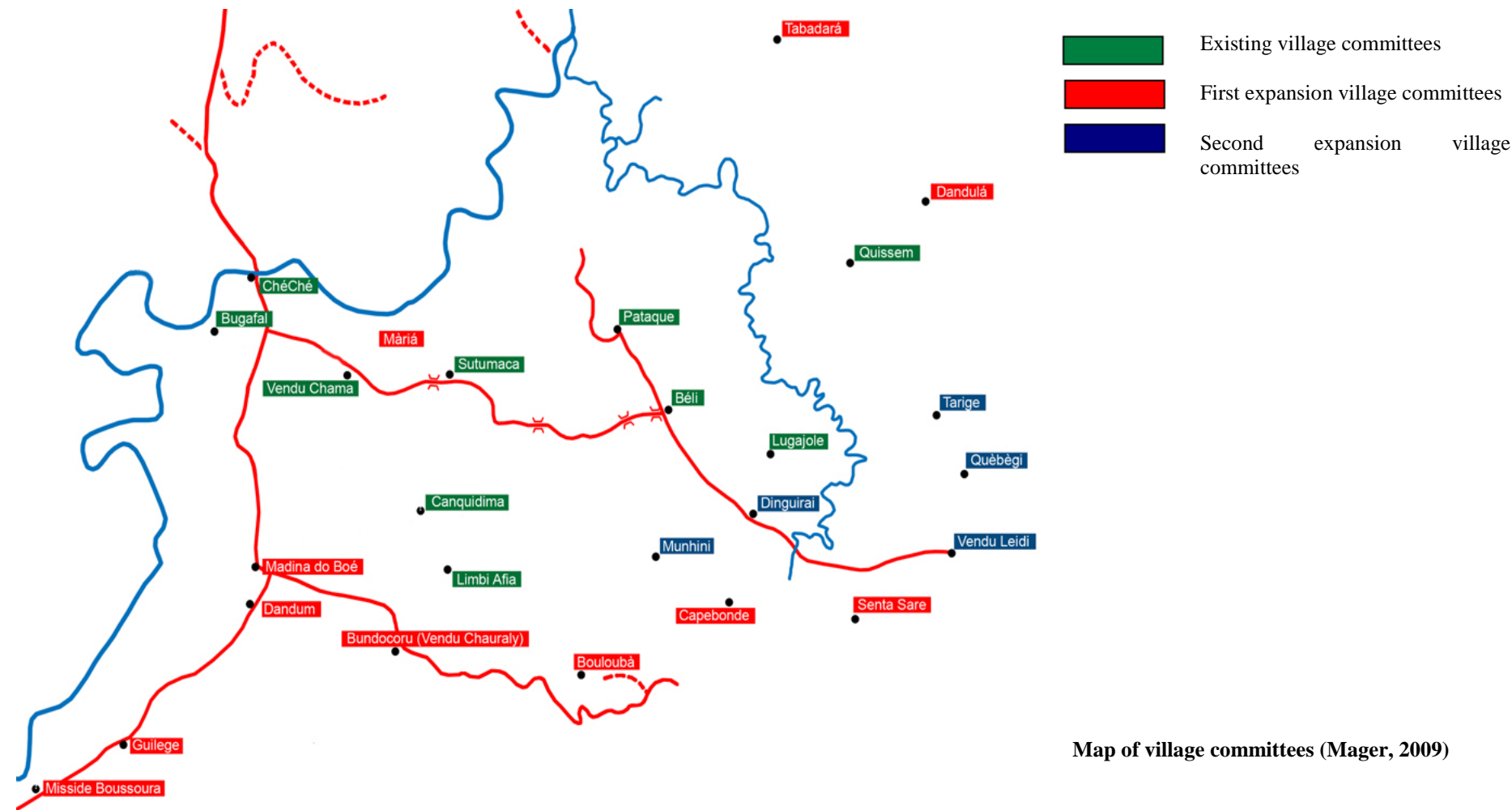


## Appendix 4 Distances in the Boé area

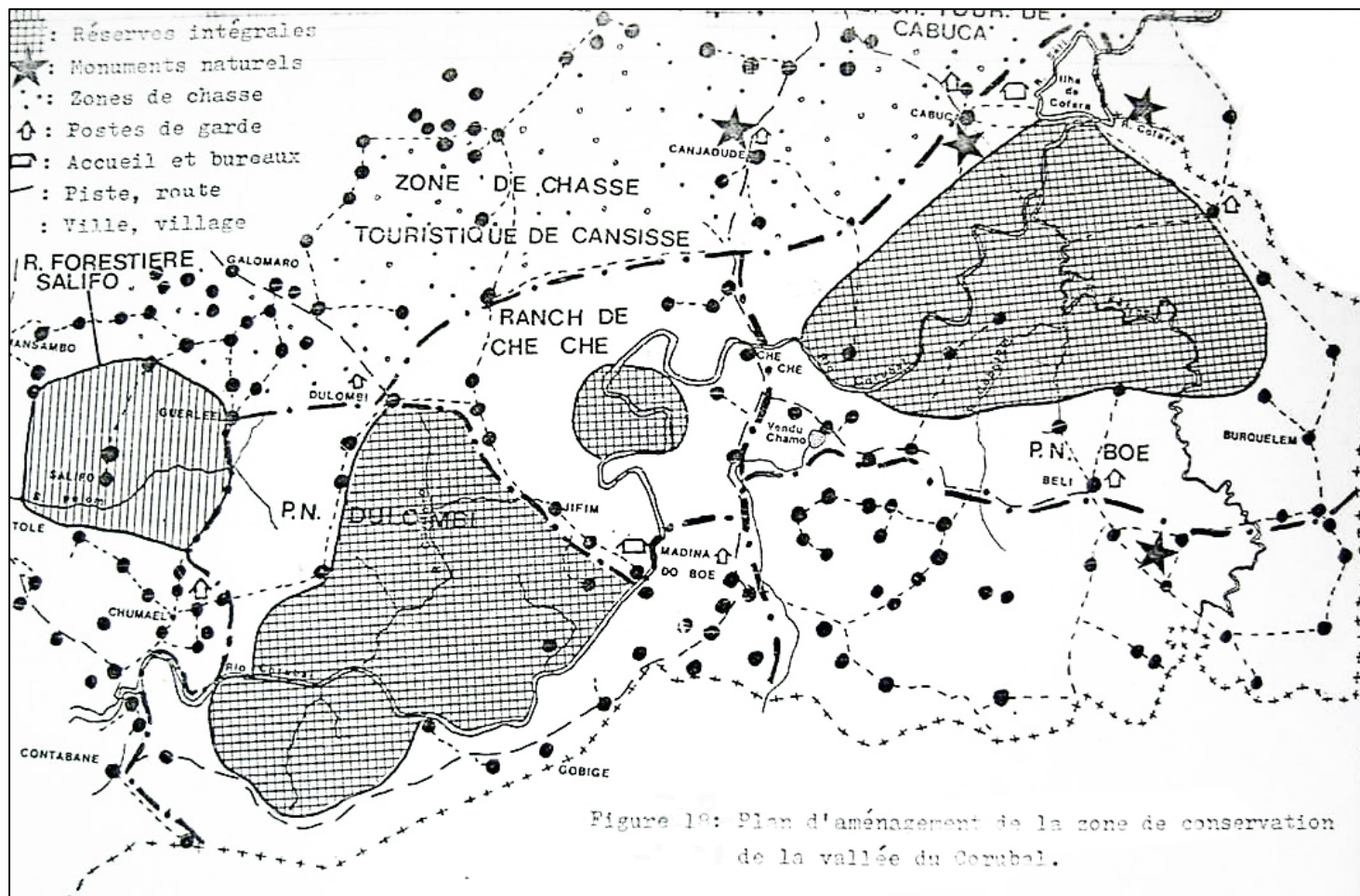
These distances are measured during the travels to different village. A motor cycle was used as transport.

Place	Total kilometres	Time
Béli – Lugajole	12.0 Km	40 min
Lugajole – Béli	12.0 Km	40 min
Béli – Dinguirai	14.1 Km	1 hours
Dinguirai – Capebonde	16.9 Km	1.10 hours
Capebonde - Munhine	6.4 Km	20 min
Munhine – Béli	17.2 Km	1.10 hours
Béli – Sutamaca	20.1 Km	40 min
Sutamaca – Vendu Chama	10.8 Km	40 min
Vendu Chama – Maria	2.8 Km	10 min
Maria – Vendu Chama	2.8 Km	10 min
Vendu Chama – Gabu	66.8 Km	3 hours
Gabu – ChéChé	52.4 Km	1.30 hours
ChéChé – Bugafal	8.4 Km	15 min
Bugafal – Béli	37.4 Km	2 hours
Béli – Limbi Afia	30.8 Km	1.50 hours
Limbi Afia – Béli	30.3 Km	1.50 hours
Béli – Fefine (river)	18.4Km	1 hour
Béli – ChéChé	42.5 Km	2.50 hours

Appendix 5 Village committees of Chimbo



## Appendix 6 Map: Proposal location of national park



## Appendix 7 Tasks for both types of volunteering

### Rehabilitation centre

Tasks	Persons
Buying land to build a rehabilitation centre	Chimbo
Financial investments of developing a rehabilitation centre	Chimbo
Building a rehabilitation centre	Local inhabitants
Logistic of building materials	Local inhabitants
Maintenance work for the rehabilitation centre	2 or 3 locals
Expert with knowledge on how to run a rehabilitation centre	1 or more experts necessary
Cleaning and feeding	Volunteers and local community
Communication to tourists	Volunteers and local community
Rent of accommodation	Fonda Huuwa foundation
Maintenance work for accommodation	4 to 6 persons
Cooking	2 to 3 persons
Cleaning	2 persons
Organising tourist activities	2 to 3 persons with help of local organisations (Faaba de Boé or Fonda Huuwa).
Guidance with tourist activities	2 to 4 persons

### Field research

Tasks	Persons
Creating effective monitoring plan.	Chimbo and local village committees
Guidance during field research.	At least three persons per group (each place different village committees can help)
Transfers to different field research areas.	1 or 2 persons
Rent of accommodation.	Fonda Huuwa foundation
Maintenance work for accommodation.	4 to 6 persons
Cooking.	2 to 3 persons
Cleaning.	2 persons
Organising tourist activities.	2 to 3 persons with help of local organisations (Faaba de Boé or Fonda Huuwa).
Guidance with tourist activities.	2 to 4 persons



## **Appendix 8      Semi-structured interview questions**

### **Institutional**

Who is the head of the village?  
How many heads are there?  
What are their tasks?  
How many inhabitants are living in this village?

### **Social**

What is the main religion in this village?  
Are there any special festivals?  
Is there a dance group present?  
Are their traditional medicine men?  
What do they do?  
How do you spend your free time?  
Is there clean drinking water available?  
Do you have energy in this village?  
Is there a hospital in this village?

### **Economical**

What are the main tasks of women in this village?  
What are the main tasks of men in this village?  
Which other occupations occur in this village?

### **Environmental**

How many village committee members are present in this village?  
What are their tasks?  
How many times do you search for chimpanzees?  
What do you note?  
Which other animals do you see?  
Which animals do you see most often?  
In how many areas do you search?  
What did you think of chimpanzees before Chimbo came?  
What is the best time to observe chimpanzees?  
What is the best season to observe chimpanzees?  
Do you think foreigners can help during these searches?  
Do you like if foreigners would visit the Boé area more often?

## Appendix 9 Interview respondents

Organisations	Interviewee	Location
UNDP	Filomena Correira	Gabu
IUCN	Nelson Dias	Bissau
IBAP	Christina Schwarz	Bissau
Agir II	Casimiro Dias	Bissau
SNV tourism department	Didier Samir Carvalho Monteiro	Bissau
Ministry of Tourism	Lara Evora Robato	Bissau

Villages	Interviewees village committees
Béli	Issaga Sané Amasadjo Culubali
Bugafal	Sene Camará Sori Camará Umo Sidibé Mariato Canté <i>(15 other villages were present during interview)</i>
Capebonde	Amado Bailo Camará Manga Bai Camará Mari Canté
ChéChé	Mamado Boi Djaló Aua Sinho Djaló Suncar Mané Amado Sabali
Dinguirai	Jorge Culubali Mamado Iaia Jaló Bubacar Sidibe Mariama Bari <i>(10 other villages were present during interview)</i>
Limbi Afia	Amado Djaló Fatumata Bangura <i>(4 other villages were present during interview)</i>
Lugajole	Sira Boi Embalo Suleimane Culubali <i>(25 other villages were present during interview)</i>
Màriá	Mamado Djaló Bucari Baldé
Munhine	Samba Camara Sadu Camara <i>(20 other villages were present during interview)</i>
Pataque	Malam Fati Tenem Djau Sadjo Sera Manga Baldé Malam Bandjai <i>(23 other villages were present during interview)</i>

Sutumaca	Bento Seide Saliu Sila Caro Floresta
Vendu Chama	Adulai Djaló Fatumata Bari Fatumata Seide

Other interviewees	Organisations
Fode Injai	Nurse Hospital Béli
Amadu Sané	Coordinator EGP project Daridobo
Eric Mager	Representative Chimbo