



View to the North from Lugajole hill

INTEGRATED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LUGAJOLE HILL Terms of Reference for the drafting of a management plan

The Chimbo Foundation (www.chimbo.org) develops a community-based programme for the conservation and management of Chimpanzees and their habitat in the Boé sector of Guinea Bissau. Within the framework of this programme, Chimbo implements a project on the safeguarding of the cultural values that are connected with the rich natural heritage of the Boé such as represented in the network of sacred forests that can be found all over the area. The project is co-funded by Chimbo and the European Union.

Lugajole Hill is situated in the South-East of the Boé. It is composed of a thick laterite cap, rich in bauxite, intersected by a number of small valleys with streams originating on the hill. The sources of these streams are protected by sacred sites and as such are key for conservation of the Chimpanzees and their habitat. Lugajole Hill has an almost mythical standing in Guinea Bissau because it was here that independence was declared by the government of Amilcar Cabral, in the middle of the war for independence.

The natural and cultural values of Lugajole Hill are under divers threats, driven by population growth and human greed. Continued conversion of forests or development of bauxite mining will not only compromise the survival of the wild fauna but also the well-being of the people that depend on the resources of the local ecosystems (such as clean water) will suffer seriously. Chimbo has therefore proposed to develop a management plan for Lugajole Hill that should be the base for its formal protection by the government. In order to develop this plan, Chimbo is looking for students that are interested to assist Chimbo with the development of this plan.

Lugajole hill covers about 10 km², it is 232 m. high, rising about 150 m. above its direct surroundings. Its main land units are edaphic savanna on the laterite plateau, and a mosaic in the valleys of forest remnants, agricultural fields, orchards, and fallow land.

Important steps to be taken in order to come forward with a sound and acceptable management plan to key-stakeholders like the local community of Lugajole and Dinguirai villages, and the government, include:

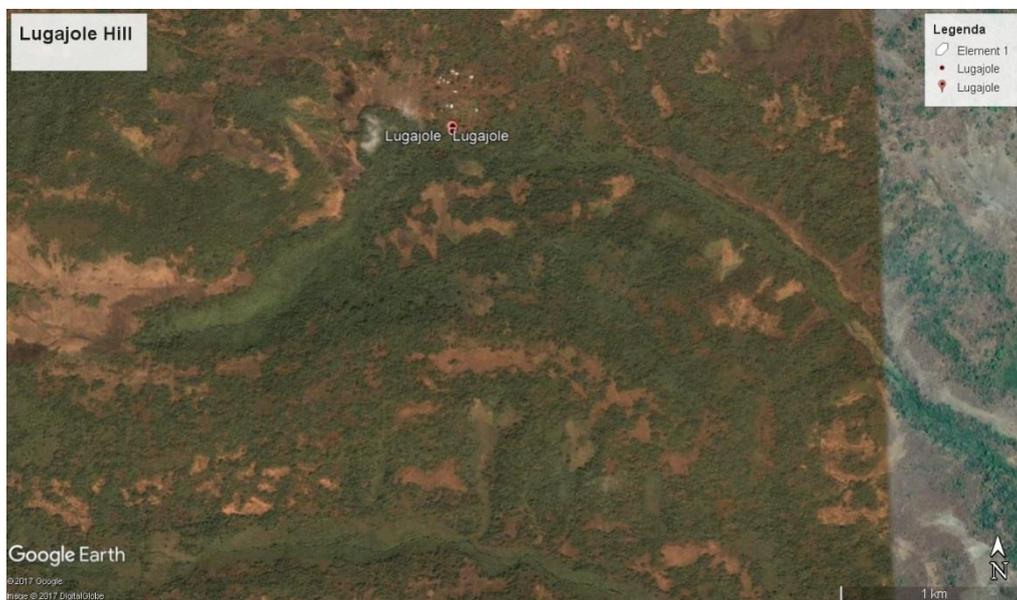
- Identification of stakeholders at local and national level
- Interviewing major stakeholders about what they consider as their heritage to be conserved
- Participatory identification of major land-units, and their importance for key-stakeholders
- Mapping of these land-units
- Identification of recent changes in land-use, and of existing and future threats to conservation of the local ecosystems



- Identification of existing institutions that manage land use
- Identification of additional or new institutional and other management measures to conserve and where possible improve the composition and functioning of the ecosystems
- Proposition of the measures to be used for each land-unit in consultation with stakeholders
- Reporting and feed-back to the stakeholders

Chimbo expects interested students to spend at least 4 months in the Boé, which should be sufficient for this assignment, given the limited extension of the area and the small number of people involved.

Students with a background and interest in participatory land-use planning and community-based natural resources management are invited to contact Chimbo and to submit their candidacy to participate in this activity to the President of Chimbo, Dr. A.M.C. Goedmakers annemarie.goedmakers@chimbo.org .



Google-Earth view of Lugajole Hill South of Lugajole village, with valleys surrounding the hill.



Chimbo staff Ussumane Camara on the stone where Amilcar Cabral used to contemplate