Country Profile: **Mali**

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OVERVIEW

Project Title: Community-Based Natural Resource Management that Resolves Conflict, Improves Livelihoods, and Restores Ecosystems throughout the Elephant Range

Project Sites: Lake Banzena Ecosystem and Gourma Reserve

Species Focus: Elephants

Total Project Cost: $4.1 million

Executing Partner: Mali Elephant Project; Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation, and Sustainable Development; and National Directorate of Water and Forests

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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CONTEXT

Mali has five ecosystem types, including the Saharan desert in the north which covers almost half the nation's territory. This project will be located in the south-western part of the country, which contains an area of ecological value for Mali and the region. Mali is home to Gourma elephants, whose population represents 12% of all West African elephants and is threatened by global ivory trafficking and human-elephant conflict. According to the last two aerial counts the elephant population has suffered a decrease of 26%. Increasing human impact, low government capacity for conservation, and limited staff and other resources makes it very difficult to monitor large protected areas.
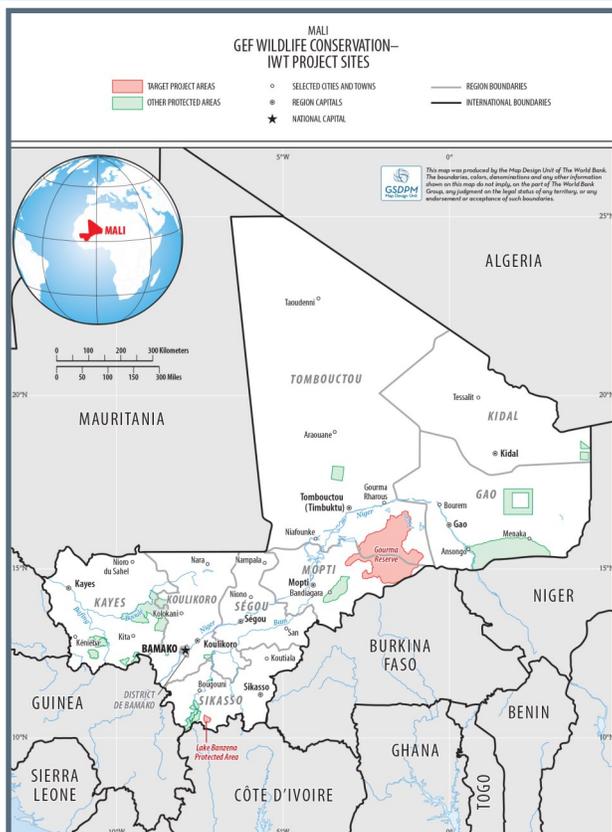
There is a strong desire at high levels of the government to conserve this elephant population. To combat the severe elephant population decline, the Mali government implemented the Mali Elephant Project (MEP) in 2002, which empowers communities to reverse the degradation of natural resources and protect elephants. The country is a beneficiary of the CITES National Legislation Project but has yet to implement the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP).

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Mali project aims to protect Mali's elephants in key sites and enhance the livelihoods of the local communities that live along the migration route to reduce human-elephant conflict.

The project components are:

1. Protecting Gourma elephants in Northeast Mali from poaching and securing seasonal migration routes
2. Community-based natural resource management that resolves conflict, improves livelihoods, and restores ecosystems throughout the elephant range
3. Monitoring, Oversight and Quality Control

*See the World Bank website for more information: **Global Wildlife Program***