

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PROJECT: Community-based natural resource management that resolves conflict, improves livelihoods, and restores ecosystems throughout the elephant range



MALI



Image by Jurgen / Flickr

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Partial Elephant Reserve in the Gourma Region

Species Focus: Elephants

Total Project Cost: US\$4.1 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation, and Sustainable Development (MESSD)

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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CONTEXT

Located in Mid-Northeast Mali, the Gourma is one of the country's four natural regions of highest biodiversity and home to endangered Gourma elephants, whose population represents 2% of all West African elephants. The main threats to elephants and their habitat are poaching, unsustainable water consumption, overgrazing, deforestation, conflict, and interruption of migration routes. According to the last two aerial counts, the elephant population has suffered major losses and only 300 of this sub-species remain. Low government capacity for conservation, and limited staff and other resources, makes it very difficult to monitor and protect large protected areas. However, there is a strong desire by government to conserve this elephant population and combat its severe decline. The Mali Government, supported by the NGO Mali Elephant Project (MEP), is working to empower communities to reverse the degradation of natural resources and protect elephants. The country is a beneficiary of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora National Legislation Project but has yet to implement the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP).

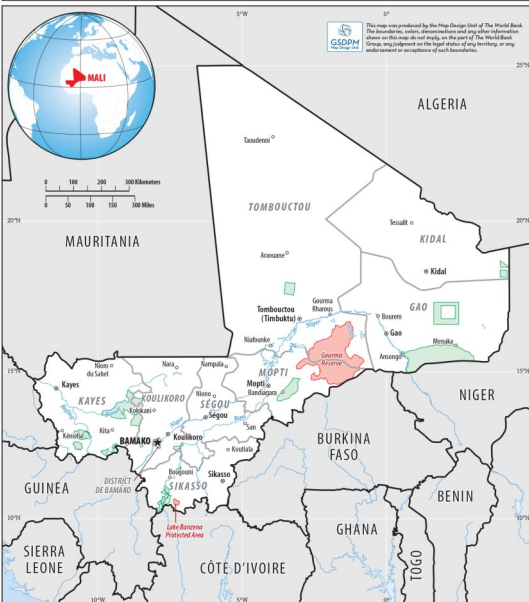
PROJECT COMPONENTS

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's main components are:

- Strengthening legislative framework and national capacity to address wildlife crime
- Protecting Gourma elephants from poaching and securing seasonal migration routes and key habitat
- Community-based natural resource management (CBRM) in the Gourma elephant habitat

PROJECT FOCUS

- Community-based natural resource management (CBRM) to develop & implement resource management plans and alternative income generation schemes; strengthening the management of the protected reserve
- Strengthening of Anti-Poaching Unit and reduce IWT
- Strengthening legislative framework and national capacity to address wildlife crime including strengthening the national policy and regulatory framework; establishing Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit



Source: Project Documents, and with inputs from the Mali Project Team.

See the World Bank website for more information: [Global Wildlife Program](http://www.worldbank.org/globalwildlife)