



## The Dindéfelo Community Nature Reserve

### Programa de conservación del Chimpancé del África del Oeste en Senegal

The Aim of this program is to contribute to the conservation of chimpanzees and sustainable development in the region of Kedougou.

The creation of the RNCD is the first visible result of this program that aims to protect the last remaining chimpanzees in Senegal, and improve their chances for demographic and territorial expansion. At the same time it is expected to improve opportunities for sustainable progress of local human populations.

The presence of chimpanzees in Senegal is largely unknown to the inhabitants of the country. However, these remaining groups in the territory of Senegal have characteristics that make them particularly important.



Its adaptation to heat and savanna, their eating habits and other cultural differences, and the conflict with humans in some areas, are enabling new behaviors scientifically documented, which in turn help to understand the conservation issues. The program includes research, conservation, education/awareness and ecotourism, led by the Rural Community Dindéfelo, with the technical support of the Jane Goodall Institute Spain and the support of the Fundación Biodiversidad and USAID.

The newly created RNCD (January 2010), has a flagship species: the *Pan troglodytes verus*, or West African chimpanzee, our closest relative, and in danger of extinction. The RNCD offers very promising conditions for conservation:

- Location: the RNCD is located between two significant natural areas: north and west into the Senegalese territory, extends the above mentioned PNNK (next to Badiar in Guinea-Conakry). And immediately south, the Mountain massif of the Fouta-Djalón, in Guinea-Conakry. Although it covers only a small part of the area between these two areas of high wildlife value, the RNCD has great potential value as a potential wildlife corridor between the two.
- Relief: the rocky cliffs provide shelter to some very rare species in other flat regions (diurnal and nocturnal birds of prey, small carnivores, etc...), while the plateau extending above the cliffs is an area rarely visited.
- Complicated access: there are no paved roads leading to the Reserve and the area of plateau is only accessible on foot.
- Reduced poaching.
- Conservation of well-developed gallery forests: a particularly valuable habitat for wildlife because of the abundance of food resources, shelter, shade and water.
- Conservation of semi-deciduous forests on the slopes, other conditions that are suitable habitat for many species of animals.
- Interest of the people to keep the Reserve.

Thanks to these and other features, the RNCD offers conditions that allow the presence of a major faunal community. The best proof of this is, of course, the persistence of a population of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) in the area, an endangered species according to IUCN (2010), for which protection has been declared as a protected area. However, chimps have benefited from cultural taboos that prohibit hunting and other animals (most of the antelope and some carnivores) are scarce in the reserve.

Now we will discuss the status of the major groups of animals based on the limited information available about the area, on our own observation as Jane Goodall Institute and general reference works.

### **Mammals**

As large mammals known in the RNCD itself, only some groups seem to be still abundant, especially primates. Ungulates (duikers, warthogs and maybe some other species) are in very low densities, whereas carnivores (jackals, hyenas, mongooses, viverrids and perhaps, some cats and mustelids) are less scarce in the light of the evidence found. It is notable, However, the presence of Daman in the rocky cliffs Dindéfelo and probably elsewhere in the RNDC.

It is estimated the number of species of mammals in forty-two. Among the potential species, the wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) is the most threatened (endangered globally by the IUCN) and could be found occasionally in the RNCD, and that still exists in the neighboring area of the PNNK. Together with the chimpanzee, is the most endangered mammal species to be found in the area.

### **Birds**

As in the case of mammals, detailed information on the birds of the RNCD is very small but potentially very rich in species from montane and gallery forests, rocky crags and cliffs, thanks to the relative abundance of these habitat in the area.

As in the case of mammals, the complex Niokolo Badiar it is also an area underlined for its wealth of bird species, which has led to the appointment of two Important Bird Areas (IBA, for its acronym in English):

- Niokolo-Koba (IBA SN016, with 913,000 ha), north and west, with 330 confirmed bird species. Although they are not globally threatened species permanently, there are important records of one of these species, the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*, Vulnerable). There are also records of species of restricted distribution *Lagonostica Virata*, and is the only place in Senegal with *Cameroptera chloronata* records. IBA has a global importance of species restricted to certain biomes (criterion A3).
- The Badiar (IBA GN001, of 38,200 ha), designated by the same criterion A3.

It is hoped that the RNCD shares much of the species present in these two IBA, and is also likely to be recorded in future forest species typical of the bulk of Futa Djalón that have not been identified yet, and other rocks typical of , Medium rare on the country, whose distributions are poorly understood in Senegal.

In fact, preliminary surveys have been found and the presence in the RCD of a tree species that had not ever seen so far in Senegal.

As a globally threatened species, would be very important to find breeding pairs of Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*, vulnerable) and occupied the cliffs of the area in recent times. In the same category of threat, and as a potential species RCD, would the Sudanese toed Eagle (*Circaetus beaudouinii*), Vulture tamarins (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*), the Eared Vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*) and lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*).

Overall, the potential species list totals 318 taxa, representing nearly half of all observed in Senegal.

If confirmed the richness of avian abundance in the area, the RNCD would have a great potential for bird tourism, underdeveloped in the country yet and that is often directed towards the Gambia and to the observation of waterfowl and shorebirds in Senegal (excluding PNNK made of receiving a small number of bird lovers). The visit of RNCD might be a good complement to the observation of birds in the Senegalese neighbor national Park.



### Other groups of vertebrates (reptiles, amphibians and fish)

Information on reptiles and amphibians recorded in the area, very briefly, pointing to the presence of at least four species of amphibians (frogs and toads), a turtle and seven different types of other reptiles (geckos, skinks, agamas and snakes). Among the reptiles, it is remarkable the existence of *Cophoscincopus greeri* skinks in the cascade of Dindefelo, a species discovered by science only in 2000. No data found on the fish species that may be present.

## Kedougou's Guide list

This is a list provided by the Kedougou's Guide Association. It shows the base village of each of them, but generally they work regionally and even nationwide.

Village	Name	Contact
Dande	Doba Diallo	Chez Doba guide and owner of the campement. Speaks fluent Spanish, French and English. <a href="mailto:dobadiallo@yahoo.fr">dobadiallo@yahoo.fr</a> - (00 221) 773606401
Dindefelo	Moktar Diallo	Campement Dogon in Dindefelo, guide and owner,. President of the Guides' Association. - <a href="mailto:moktardiallo@hotmail.com">moktardiallo@hotmail.com</a> - 00221 77 552 38 31, 00221 33 981 82 93.
	Cheikh Tidiane Diallo	Guide in Dindefelo and Afia. Speaks Spanish, French and English - <a href="mailto:afiacheikh@hotmail.fr">afiacheikh@hotmail.fr</a> - 00221 77 554 65 74
	Ricard Diallo	Campement Villageois guide and manager. Speaks French - 00221 775165875
	Djibril Camara	Africa Cascade Camp guide and owner. Speaks a little Spanish and French - <a href="mailto:camaracascade@yahoo.fr">camaracascade@yahoo.fr</a> - 00221 77 435 85 40
	Alpha Diallo	Guide in Dindefelo. Speaks Spanish and French - <a href="mailto:dialloa95@yahoo.fr">dialloa95@yahoo.fr</a> - 00221 77 652 64 50
	Balla Diallo	Guide in Dindefelo - <a href="mailto:balla.diallo@hotmail.fr">balla.diallo@hotmail.fr</a> - 00221 77 103 08 23
	Karim Sow	Guide in Dindefelo - <a href="mailto:karimsow90@yahoo.fr">karimsow90@yahoo.fr</a>
Ibel	Souleymane Ba	Croisée de Cultures Camp guide and owner, Ibel. Speaks fluent Spanish, French and English. <a href="mailto:souley90@yahoo.fr">souley90@yahoo.fr</a> - 00221 77 574 54 48
	Aruna Ba	Guide in Ibel. Speaks fluent Spanish and French. 00221 777491106
	Hassan Kanté	Guide in Ibel. Speaks fluent Spanish. 00221 772631529
Iwol / Kedougou	Dominique Dondo Keita	Guide in Kedougou and Iwol Speaks Spanish and French - 00221 773548818
Indar / Bandafasi	Marc Keita	Guide in Indar /Bandafasi Speaks French - 00221 772122506
Kedougou	Habib Diallo	Le Relais Hotel guide, Kedougou Speaks Spanish and French - 00221 773607293

## Supporters

Ecosenegal.org web site has emerged as an activity within the program of conservation of chimpanzees and sustainable ecotourism development, implemented by the Jane Goodall Institute Spain in collaboration with the Fundación Biodiversidad, which accompanies the scientific, conservation, awareness and tourist initiatives of the Dindéfelo Rural Community and Wula Nafaa program. The Wula Nafaa program at the same time, is a joint initiative of the Department of Water and Forests of the Ministry of Environment of Senegal and USAID.



### Instituto Jane Goodall España

The Jane Goodall Institute Spain is a nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife research, conservation, education and sustainable development.



### Ministère de l'Environnement du Sénégal

The Direction of Water and Forests of the Ministry of Environment of Senegal has the mission of enforcing norms and laws regarding forestry and biodiversity.



### Communauté Rurale de Dindéfélo

The Dindéfelo Rural Community, through its Rural Council, has approved the Réserve Naturelle Communautaire de of the same name.



### Kedougou Guide Association

The Guides Association of Kedougou embraces most of the guides of the region and facilitates their access to training and other services.



Fundación Biodiversidad

### Fundación Biodiversidad

The Biodiversity Foundation is a public foundation of the Government of Spain, under the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs. It works to preserve the natural heritage and biodiversity.



### USAID

USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. Our Work supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives.



### Ecotumismo

Organization dedicated to promoting responsible tourism and sustainable lifestyles. It participate in tourism trainings in Kedougou.



### Ecoviajeros

Ecoviajeros is the program of the Jane Goodall Institute Spain to promote responsible ecotourism with the goals of conservation and sustainable development.

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