



Save Western Chimpanzees from Mining in Guinea

The largest and only viable population of the Critically Endangered African Forest Elephant in Guinea survives in rainforest and shrubby savanna stretching along the border with Sierra Leone. Along with it, Guinea hosts the largest population of the Critically Endangered Western Chimpanzee in West Africa. They are hanging on in the moist forests that are crucial for their survival. But for how long?

The presence of these elephants, chimpanzees and other endangered species—like pangolins and critically endangered vultures—highlights the region's importance for global conservation. But threats abound, linked to illegal logging, bushmeat hunting, slash-and-burn agriculture and the most significant one, the construction of a 100-mile iron ore railway requiring four tunnels and 43 bridges.

Guinea is the world's largest exporter of bauxite (a rock containing aluminum) and hosts one of the world's largest iron mines, Simandou, in the southeastern area of the country. The railway is being built through sensitive habitat to connect the massive iron mine with the coast, resulting in habitat fragmentation, degradation and destruction and risking the survival of species already facing extinction.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, seek \$3,526,873 to create the 560,512-acre Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park. **The new park will connect to the adjacent area of Outamba-Kilimi National Parks (182,364 acres) to the south in Sierra Leone to create a vast wildlife corridor for wide-roaming species like the elephant.**

PREVENT THE EXPLOITATION OF FORESTS IN GUINEA

Declaring the area a new national park will allow for closer oversight to monitor and mitigate the impact of the railway on threatened species. Additional steps will be taken to ensure the maintenance road that runs parallel to the rail line is not used by the public for access to the interior of the national park, and that no bushmeat is transported via the rail line.

Extensive illegal logging and timber trafficking between Guinea and Sierra Leone is a continuing affront to the forest and its inhabitants, as are slash-and-burn practices and poaching. In the new national park, logging, hunting and mining will be strictly prohibited.

Protection of this dense rainforest benefits the climate. The new national park will lock up 28,806,966 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents, **preventing emissions comparable to 6.2 million gas-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year.**



560,512
ACRES

\$3,526,873
PROJECT COST

\$6.29
COST PER ACRE

28,806,966 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Western Chimpanzee (CR),
African Forest Elephant (CR),
Hooded Vulture (CR),
White-backed Vulture (CR),
White-headed Vulture (CR),
Giant Ground Pangolin (EN),
White-bellied Pangolin (EN)



CREATE A SAFE HAVEN FOR CHIMPANZEES AND ELEPHANTS

Industrial development and infrastructure—like mining and the rail lines that serve it—are devastating to chimpanzees' survival. Without protection, Western Chimpanzee populations are expected to continue their decline. The total loss to their population since the 1950s is estimated to exceed 80%.

SUPPORT A LONG-TERM, COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED SOLUTION

Strong community involvement will accompany each phase of the national park's creation and management. Sustainable economic interest groups will improve the livelihoods of community members and they will be trained to work as community eco-guards. Our partner will work closely with the national government to deploy mixed teams of community/federal eco-guards to conduct surveillance and anti-trafficking patrols.



Rainforest Trust is currently working on another project with The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation in southern Liberia to protect the 550,000-acre Kwa National Park for the country's second-largest known population of Critically Endangered Western Chimpanzee and for the Endangered Pygmy Hippopotamus.

