



Wild Chimpanzee Foundation®

Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

Final report

CLUB P.A.N. 2023/2024

An environmental education project of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation in Guinea



September 2024



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ACRONYMS

Club P.A.N. – People, Animals, Nature

PSSNP – future Penselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park

WCF – Wild Chimpanzee Foundation



Club P.A.N. children and teachers from Soyah with education materials.

1 SUMMARY

The environmental education program of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation called **Club P.A.N. (People, Animals, Nature)** has reached since its creation in 2007 over **13,584 children** in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. This school year **Club P.A.N. was active for its 14th year in Guinea**. The present final report provides an overview of what has been done during this school year (2023/2024), which started in December 2023. In the region of the future Penselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park, Club P.A.N. was active in **six schools** this year: Soyah, Diandian, Farenta, Ouré-Kaba, Soumanyéréya and Saférin with **300 children participating**.

From 13th to 15th December 2023 the **teacher training** has been organized in the meeting room of Mamou town hall with **17 participants**.

Eleven conservation education sessions in each of the six schools, and **pre- and post-evaluations of 60 children** were implemented. The main topic of this year's **conservation action sessions was waste avoidance, collection and separation**. In the outdoor nature classrooms of Soumanyéréya, Farenta, Soyah, Diandian and Ouré-Kaba 250 children and 348 parents were taught to distinguish between the different types of waste like biodegradable and non-degradable, after they had collected waste together in their village. Two bins per school were distributed. In Saférin, 69 children and seven parents took part in an **ecological excursion**. They identified 12 trees useful to humans and animals (5 fruit trees for food and 7 medical plants for traditional medicines).

Evaluation results show that the children **increased their knowledge by 50% on average in the Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah region**. **Most Club P.A.N. children (97%) want to avoid eating bush-meat** in the future. Children changed their attitude towards nature into a more positive view in the post-evaluations.

Six parents' days, prepared by the children at the end of the school year **reached 710 villagers** of whom **60 adults were evaluated**, all of them giving positive feedback to the program.



Club P.A.N. children from Soyah with education materials.

2 INTRODUCTION

Wild chimpanzees live only in tropical Africa, where their populations have declined by more than 66% in the last 30 years, from 600,000 to fewer than 200,000 individuals (Butynski 2001). In September 2016, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed the western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*) as critically endangered in their Red List of threatened species, following a study showing that 80% of the population has disappeared in the last 20 years (Kühl et al. 2017). The western chimpanzee has already disappeared from three African countries and is on the verge of extirpation in others. Urgent action is needed!

To assure the protection of chimpanzees, the WCF will continue its important conservation programs, such as national park creation, increased anti-poaching patrols and other law-enforcement strategies aimed to reduce the impact of bush-meat hunting on local wildlife populations. In addition, public outreach and awareness raising programs play a vital role in changing local attitudes towards the intrinsic value of wildlife. Conservation education is a priority long-term action for the conservation of chimpanzees and other wildlife (Kormos and Boesch, 2003). The WCF created in 2007 nature clubs called “Club P.A.N.” (Personnes, Animaux et Nature / People, Animals & Nature) for primary schools in West Africa (Borchers et al 2013).

3 CLUB P.A.N. GOALS

WCF mission

Ensure the long-term protection of viable populations of wild chimpanzees and their forest habitats throughout tropical Africa.

Global project goals

School children near chimpanzee habitat are discouraged from consuming bush-meat and are proactive in the conservation of chimpanzees and their forested habitat.

Specific project goals

1. Teach children about the local flora and fauna, so that they learn to appreciate the biodiversity that exists in their region.
2. Teach basic knowledge on environmental issues in order to promote care and awareness towards nature conservation.
3. Discourage the trade in illegal bush-meat by reducing the likelihood for current generation of children to consume or trade bush-meat in the future.
4. Promote the conservation and research activities undertaken within the countries. Encourage local support towards the conservation of chimpanzees and their habitat.

4 STAFF

The Club P.A.N. coordinators for the six schools in the region of the future Penselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park are Mohamed Lamine Kaba, Hassatou Sow, Mamadou Bobo Balde and Thierno Oumar Sow. They are guiding all principals and teachers, assist on-site with the sessions, conduct the teacher trainings, evaluate the project by quantifying student participation, and administer a pre- and post-evaluation. In total, 6 teachers and 6 principals belong to the Club P.A.N. staff during the school year 2023/2024.



*Club P.A.N. coordinators:
from the left: Thierno Oumar Sow, Julia Riedel, Mamadou Bobo Balde and Hassatou Sow.*

5 RESULTS

5.1 Teacher training

All teachers and principals received intense trainings to increase the capacity for environmental education and to guarantee that the sessions and activities would have the utmost impact during the school year. From 13th to 15th December 2023 the teacher training has been organized in the meeting room of Mamou town hall with 17 participants.



Authorities and participants of the teacher-training workshop at the town hall in Mamou.

The workshop was opened with a speech from the Prefectural Director of Education in Mamou, Mr Hamidou Sow. Representing the Prefect of Mamou and all the authorities in the education system, he congratulated the WCF on its initiatives to protect the environment, before pointing out that using schools to get messages across to communities is a valuable strategy.



The authorities at the opening of the workshop in Mamou.



Theoretic background explained to the participants at the workshop in Mamou.

The third day was an opportunity for all participants to go out into a nature class room to practice the various Club PAN games and presentation techniques they had learnt over the previous 2 days.



Practice of a Club P.A.N. session in a nature class room during the workshop in Mamou.

At the end of the training, we evaluated the participants' knowledge by conducting a written test with questions about major Club P.A.N. themes like biodiversity, endangered species, national parks and conservation measurements. Most participants reached good test results between 96-86% of correct answers, some participants still need good coaching from the coordinators during the Club P.A.N. sessions they will have to animate in front of the children and we are aware of this. It is important that teachers and principals prepare themselves well before they animate a Club P.A.N. session. Our coordinators will provide the needed support to the teachers and principals so that a well-prepared session can be presented to the children. We thank all the teachers and principals for their motivation and great work during the days of training.



Participants of the teacher training in Mamou with their certificate.

5.2 Club P.A.N. sessions

The Club P.A.N. sessions involve fact sheets, activities, role playing, songs and games with animal puppets, based on a chosen theme. We aim to promote positive club spirit through interactive ways of learning and essentially having fun. Each child who participates receives a Club P.A.N. book containing eleven sessions and a T-Shirt, and both mean a lot to them. All the sessions provide basic knowledge on biology and conservation, some focus on the concepts of sustainable use of resources, and the need for protected areas; others detail the natural history of various large protected mammals (like chimpanzees & leopards). The Club P.A.N. book can be consulted here: <http://www.wildchimps.org/projects/club-pan.html>

Club P.A.N. sessions started in December 2023 and ended in April 2024. Six schools in the future Penselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park region from Soyah, Diandian, Farenta, Ouré-Kaba, Soumanyéréya, Saférin, (**Map 1**) participated with 300 children in outdoor nature classrooms (**Table 1**). Eleven conservation education sessions in each of the six schools were implemented.

Table 1: Number of children participating in Club P.A.N. during the school year 2023/2024.

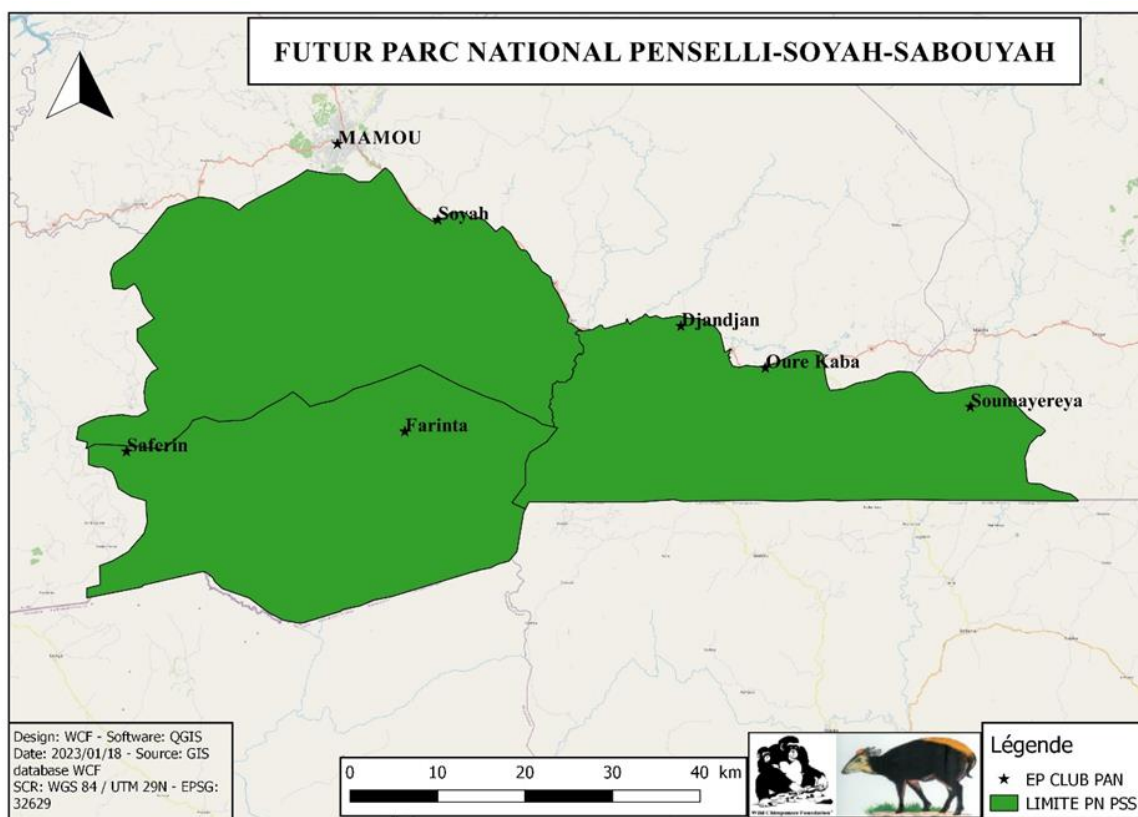
No	School	Boys	Girls	Total	Prefecture
1	Soyah	32	18	50	Prefecture Mamou
2	Djandian	37	13	50	
3	Ouré-Kaba	25	25	50	
4	Farenta	25	25	50	
5	Soumanyéréya	38	12	50	Prefecture Faranah
6	Saférin	26	24	50	Prefecture Kindia
TOTAL		183	117	300	



Club P.A.N. welcome game “Bonjour chers amis du Club P.A.N.” at the school in Soyah.



Club P.A.N. children in their outdoor nature classroom.



Map 1: The future Penselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park in Guinea and the location of the six Club P.A.N. schools participating in the environmental education program during the school year 2023/2024: Soyah, Diandian, Farenta, Ouré-Kaba, Soumanyéréya, and Saférin.

The last session (number 11) was an **interactive conservation action** that the children selected together with their teachers, principals and coordinators. The main topic of this year's conservation sessions was waste avoidance, collection and separation. In the five outdoor nature classrooms of Soumanyéréya, Farenta, Soyah, Diandian and Ouré-Kaba 250 children and 348 parents were taught to distinguish between the different types of waste like biodegradable and non-degradable, after they had collected waste together in their village. Two bins per school were distributed.



Waste collection in the village of Ouré-Kaba by Club P.A.N. children and their parents.

In Saférin, 69 children and seven parents took part in an ecological excursion. They identified 12 trees useful to humans and animals (5 fruit trees for food and 7 medical plants for traditional medicines).



Ecological excursion in Saférin with children and parents to identify trees and plants useful for humans and animals.

5.3 Parents' days

To increase the effect of the Club P.A.N. program, it was decided to involve also the parents and villagers; therefore, parents' days were created at the end of each school year. During these events, the children presented what they have learnt in form of songs, theatre, games and poems to their families and villagers. Each school organized its own parents' day, and six events took place in May 2024, attended by 710 participants.

Table 2: Number of participants at the parents' days in the school year 2023/2024

School	Number of participants	Parents' day date
Djandian	182	24/05/2024
Ouré-Kaba	99	22/05/2024
Farenta	100	26/05/2024
Saférin	112	25/05/2024
Soyah	125	21/05/2024
Soumanyéréya	92	23/05/2024
Total	710	

During the parents' days, the Club PAN children welcomed their families and the authorities: Prefect, Sub-Prefect, Mayor, DPE, DSEE, as well as the WCF delegation. This year major topics presented by the children to their parents were: endangered species such as western chimpanzees and forest elephants living in the future Penselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park.



Audience at the parents' day in Soumanyéréya.



Stage at the parents' day in Ouré-Kaba.



Welcoming words from the authorities at the parents' day in Soyah.

5.4 Evaluations

Pre-evaluations of 60 children (10 children per school) were done in December 2023. Post-evaluations of the same 60 children were done in May 2024.



Our local coordinators interview the children to evaluate their knowledge and attitudes.

After having participated in Club P.A.N.: results show the children increased their knowledge by 50% on average in the Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah region (**Figure 1**). Replies to some of the questions show that children increased their knowledge up to 87%, for example question 5: “Name three endangered species elsewhere in the world apart from the chimpanzee and the elephant!”

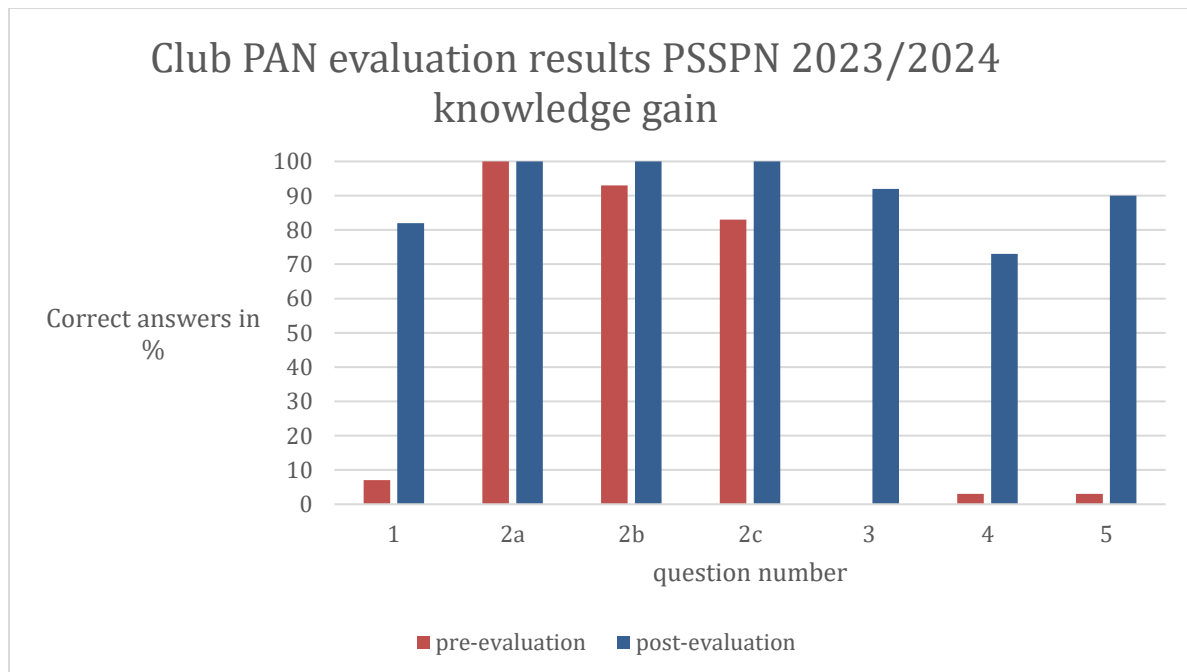


Figure 1: Correct answers in percent to knowledge questions during pre- and post-evaluations show the knowledge gain after the Club P.A.N. program in Guinea.

After having participated in Club P.A.N.: 100% of the children wish to convince other people to stop killing wild animals (Figure 2), and 97% of the children want to avoid eating bush-meat (Figure 3), after having been informed about alternative protein sources (e.g. beef, fish, chicken) and the potential health risks for humans when consuming bush-meat (Ebola, Antrax etc.).

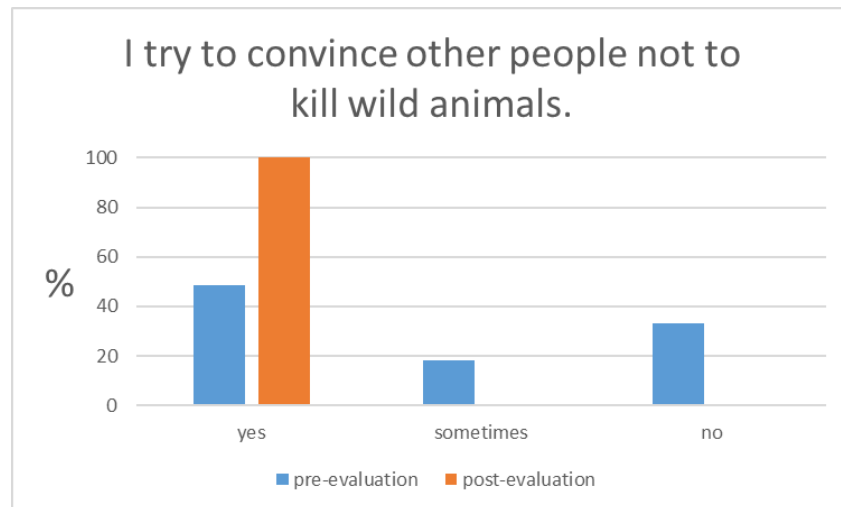


Figure 2: Answers in percent to the statement: “I try to convince other people not to kill wild animals.” during pre- and post-evaluations.



Figure 3: Answers in percent to the statement: “I avoid eating bush-meat.” during pre- and post-evaluations.

We found a change of attitude towards nature into a more positive view in the post-evaluations. For example, 90% of the Club P.A.N. children disagree with the statement “Wild animals destroy plantations, so they should be killed for that.” in the post-evaluations, whereas in the pre-evaluations 67% of the children totally agreed that wild animals can be killed when they destroy plantations (Figure 4).

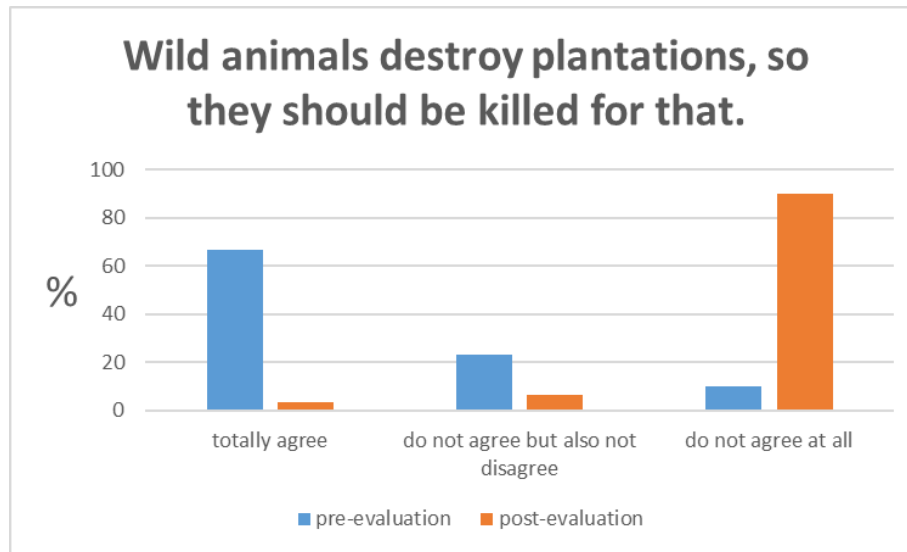


Figure 4: Answers in percent to the statement: “Wild animals destroy plantations, so they should be killed for that.” during pre- and post-evaluations.

All 60 interviewed children liked participating in Club P.A.N. and all of them were able to remember something important about the future Pinselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park, the chimpanzees and environmental conservation. Many children remembered the games and the songs.

Club P.A.N. evaluation results from past years are published by Borchers et al., 2013 in a peer-reviewed journal. Borchers et al. (2013) found that participation in Club P.A.N. significantly increased environmental knowledge and positively influenced attitudes towards nature.

This school year, we evaluated 60 parents (10 per village, 30 men, 30 woman) after the parents’ days in interview form. These 60 parents either had one or two Club P.A.N. children at home. Parents were selected for interviews by their availability once the celebration part had ended. All interviewed adults gave positive feedback to the program; they mentioned that the children increased their knowledge, learned new details about the park, animals, forests and pollution.



Our local coordinators interview the parents after the parent’s days.

All children had talked to their parents about Club P.A.N., and all parents were able to report something the household had learned such as the value of forests and wildlife for humans.

To the question *"What has Club P.A.N. done for your children?"*, the mother Halimatou Sow from Soyah said: *"Club PAN creates the love for animals and forests in our children."*

To the question *"What do you remember when your children talked about Club PAN at home?"*, the mother Tenin Camara from Soumanyéréya answered: *"That the animals help us regenerate the forest"*.

To the question *"What was the most important message you took away from the parents' day?"*, the father Ali Soumah from Farenta answered: *"Today we learned that if we continue to cut the forest this is pushing us towards drought."*

6 CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK

Thanks to the support of WCF's sponsors and partners, the WCF environmental education program Club P.A.N. was implemented during the school year 2023/2024 in six schools in Guinea with 300 children participating and 710 participants during the parents' day celebrations.

The evaluation results showed that through the Club P.A.N. activities, children increased their knowledge, not only about the local flora and fauna, but also about biological facts and global environmental issues. Furthermore, we noted possible changes in behavioral attitudes with regard to bush-meat and use of plastic. We were able to create a joyful and dynamic learning environment.

One of WCF's strengths is the motivation of its local team, always reactive and creative when it comes to bringing people together for the sake of chimpanzee conservation. With the start of each school year, new children are joining the nature clubs, and since long-term conservation education programs have been shown as an efficient medium to change local behavioral attitudes (Borchers et al. 2013), the WCF will continue its nature clubs also for the 2024-2025 school year.

Table 3: Timetable of Club P.A.N. activities during the coming school year 2024/2025

Event / Time	11/24	12/24	01/25	02/25	03/25	04/25	05/25	06/25
Teacher training								
Pre-evaluation								
Sessions 1-11								
Post-evaluation								
Parents' days								
Data analysis & reporting								

7 REFERENCES

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