



Wild Chimpanzee Foundation®

# Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

## Final report



CLUB P.A.N. 2021/2022

An environmental education project of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation in Guinea



*September 2022*

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## **ACRONYMS**

Club P.A.N. – People, Animals, Nature / Personnes, Animaux, Nature

DSEE – Délégué, Scolaire, de l’Enseignement, Elémentaire

IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

MEPU-A -- Ministère de l’Enseignement Pré Universitaire et de l’Alphabétisation

WCF – Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Fondation pour les chimpanzés sauvages

## **1 SUMMARY**

**Club P.A.N. (People, Animals, Nature) was active for its twelfth year in Guinea.** The present final report provides an overview of what has been done during this school year (2021/2022), which started in November 2021. In the Moyen-Bafing region, **Club P.A.N. was active in ten schools this year:** Laffa Boubhé, Fello-Kollet, Kounet, Kouratongo, Kela, Dara, Kalinko-Centre, Missira Djallonké, Gagnakaly and Béleya with **900 participating children.**

**Nine teachers, ten principals and three staff members** from « Directeurs Préfectoraux de l'Education et de la Délégation Scolaire de l'Enseignement Elémentaire (DSEE) » underwent training in November 2021 during a three days' workshop in Dinguiraye.

**Eleven conservation education sessions** in each of the ten schools, and **pre- and post-evaluations of 100 children** were implemented.

The main topic of this year's **conservation action sessions** was waste management. Each school received two waste bins. In addition, some fruit trees have been planted by the children, their families and villagers in their schoolyards to create school gardens with orange trees for the children to harvest fruits in the future.

**Evaluation results** show that the children **increased their knowledge by 43%** on average and **98% of the children want to avoid eating bush-meat** in the future. Children changed their attitude towards nature into a more positive view in the post-evaluations.

**Nine parents' days**, prepared by the children at the end of the school year **reached 1375 villagers** of whom 90 adults were evaluated, all of them giving positive feedback to the program. Only in Dara, we were not able to hold a parent's day this year and were not able to evaluate 10 parents from the village. Because of security reasons, we were not able to work in Dara for some months. Our team is optimistic that we can work with Dara community during the next school year again.



*Club P.A.N. children in their nature classrooms at Kounet*

## **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 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 pro-active 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**

Club P.A.N. coordinators are Sylvain Daavo, Djeinabou Bah, Mamadou Bobo Balde and Mamady Tounkara, and they are guiding all principals and teachers. They assist the teachers and principals 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, nine teachers and ten principals belong to the Club P.A.N. staff during the school year 2021/2022.



*Club P.A.N. coordinators: Djeinabou Bah, Mamady Tounkara, Julia Riedel, Mamadou Bobo Balde and Sylvain Daavo (from left to right).*

## **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. This school year the training took place from 25. to 27. November 2021 at the Community Center in Dinguiraye, Guinea.

The workshop was opened with speeches from the Prefect of Dinguiraye, Mr Mamady Toure, followed by the representative of the Prefectural Director of Education of Dinguiraye, Mr Dansoko and the representative of the Prefectural Director of Education of Tougué, Mr Ousmane Cisse.

Like last school year, three persons from the «Directeurs Préfectoraux de l'Education et de la Délégation Scolaire de l'Enseignement Élémentaire (DSEE) » participated at the training. This was decided together with the school delegation of elementary education, because their staff members are the ones closest to the teachers and principals. Given the authorities' desire to monitor the programme more closely, they wished DSEE staff to take this training. They will be associated with all the stages for a better reframing of the teachers and principals and good progress of the programme.



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*Authorities and participants of the teacher-training workshop in Dinguiraye*



*Club P.A.N. "knowledge-spider-net" game explained to the participants of the workshop*



At the end of the training, we evaluated the participants' knowledge by conducting a written test with 18 questions about major Club P.A.N. themes like biodiversity, endangered species, national parks and conservation measurements. None of the participants reached 100%, but we have 16 participants with a good test result. Seven persons have an average test result and we are aware that we need to invest more coaching time to support them. 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 the nine teachers, ten principals and three DSEE staff members for their motivation and great work during the three days of training.



*Participants of the workshop playing the Club P.A.N. umbrella game and writing their evaluation at the end of the training*



*Participants of the teacher training in Dinguiraye 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 2021 and ended in May 2022. Ten schools in Guinea (Laffa Boubhé, Fello-Kollet, Kounet, Kouratongo, Kela, Dara, Kalinko-Centre, Missira Djallonké, Gagnakaly and Béleya) participate with 900 children in outdoor nature classrooms (Table 1). The children attended the eleven sessions and prepared the parents' day in their school. The topics of the eleven sessions this school year were: our non-living environment, our living environment, biodiversity, endangered species, chimpanzees, the role of animals, conflicts between humans and animals, protected areas, Moyen-Bafing National Park, human health and an active conservation session at the end.

As a response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and Guinea in 2014, the human health session was created by researchers from the Robert Koch-Institute in Berlin, and concentrates on good hygienic practices for preventing the transmission of diseases. This session became even more important due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

*Table 1: Number of children participating in Club P.A.N. during the school year 2021/2022*

No	School	Boys	Girls	Total	
1	Laffa-Boubhé	49	29	78	<b>Prefecture Tougué</b>
2	Kouratongo	52	41	93	
3	Kounet	44	37	81	
4	Dara	42	28	70	
5	Fello-Kollet	35	55	90	
Total Prefecture Tougué		222	190	412	
6	Kalinko Centre	93	42	135	<b>Prefecture Dinguiraye</b>
7	Gagnakaly	91	38	129	
8	Kela	35	25	60	
9	Missira Djallonké	22	40	62	
10	Beleya	67	35	102	
Total Prefecture Dinguiraye		308	180	488	
<b>Total</b>		530	370	900	





*Club P.A.N. welcome game “Bonjour chers amis du Club P.A.N.” in Laffa-Boubhé*

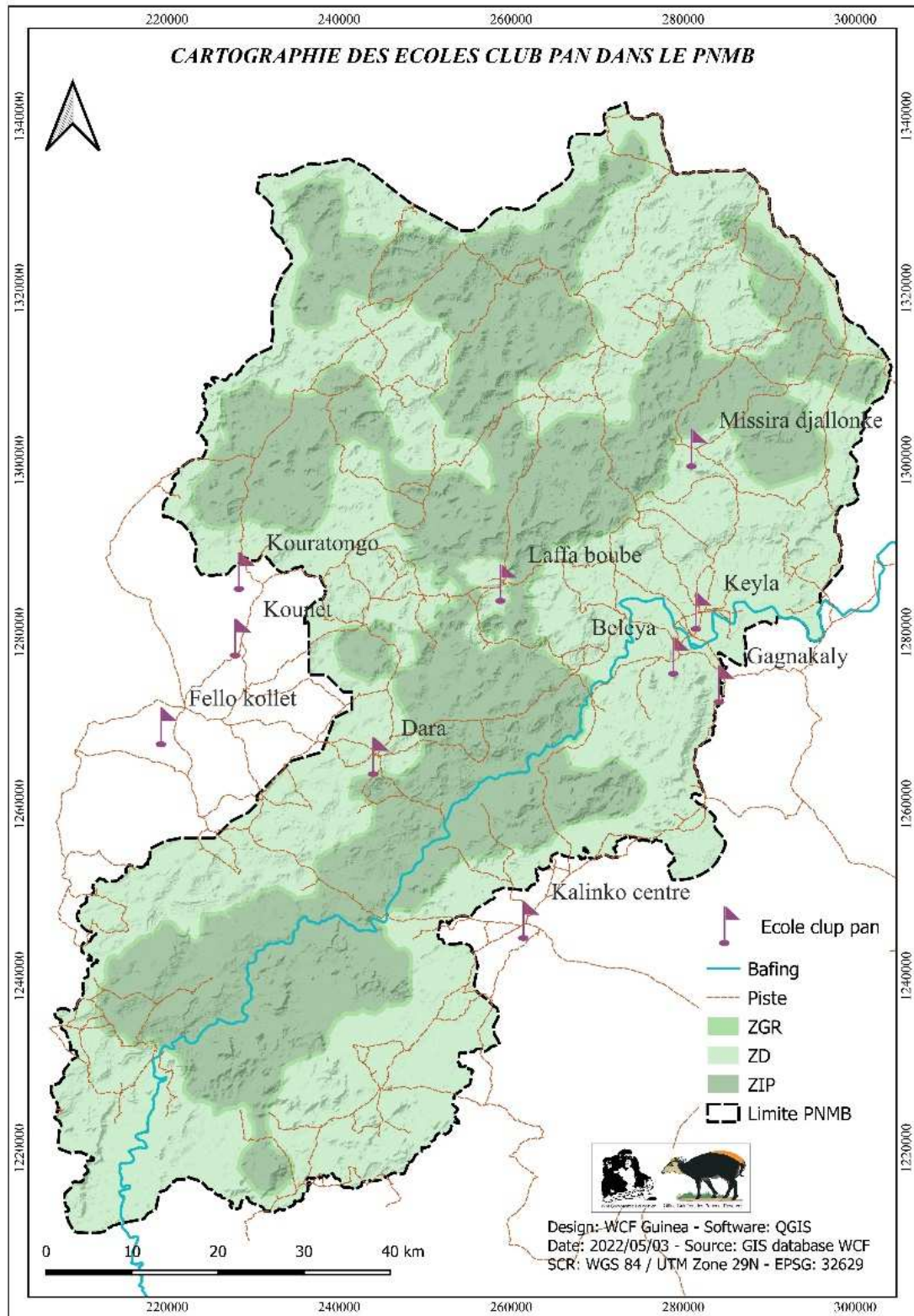


*Boy shows how to crack nuts like a chimpanzee*



*Club P.A.N. children in their nature classrooms at Kounet*





*The Moyén-Bafing National Park in northern Guinea and the location of the ten Club P.A.N. schools participating in the environmental education program during the school year 2021/2022: Laffa Boubhé, Fello-Kollet, Kounet, Kouratongo, Kela, Dara, Kalinko-Centre, Missira Djallonké, Gagnakaly and Béleya.*



The last session (number 11) was an interactive conservation action that the children selected together with their teachers, principals and coordinators. Selected topics this year were waste management, pollution and planting of trees. Each school received two big waste bins and cleaned up their schoolyard. In addition, the children planted fruit trees in their schoolyards.



*Conservation action session « waste management » in Missira Djallonké*



*Conservation action session « fruit tree planting » in schoolyards*



### **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 nine events took place in May 2022, attended by 1375 participants. Only in Dara, we were not able to hold a parent's day this year and were not able to evaluate 10 parents from the village. Because of security reasons, we were not able to work in Dara for some months. Our team is optimistic that we can work with Dara community during the next school year again.

*Table 2: Number of participants at the parents' days and trees planted during session 11 in the school year 2021/2022*

<b>School</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Parents' day date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
Fello-Kollet	88	11/05/2022	Poaching, deforestation, bushfire
Kounet	99	09/05/2022	National Parks, deforestation
Kouratongo	288	07/05/2022	Deforestation, Moyen-Bafing National Park
Laffa- Boubhé	75	14/05/2022	National Parks, protected areas
Dara	-	-	-
Kalinko Centre	410	13/05/2022	Endangered species, poaching, deforestation
Gagnakaly	110	11/05/2022	Moyen-Bafing National Park, endangered species
Kela	106	09/05/2022	Endangered species
Beleya	96	10/05/2022	Endangered species, poaching
Missira Djallonké	103	07/05/2022	Poaching, Moyen-Bafing National Park
<b>Total</b>	<b>1375</b>		



*Participants at the Club P.A.N. parents' day in Laffa- Boubhé*

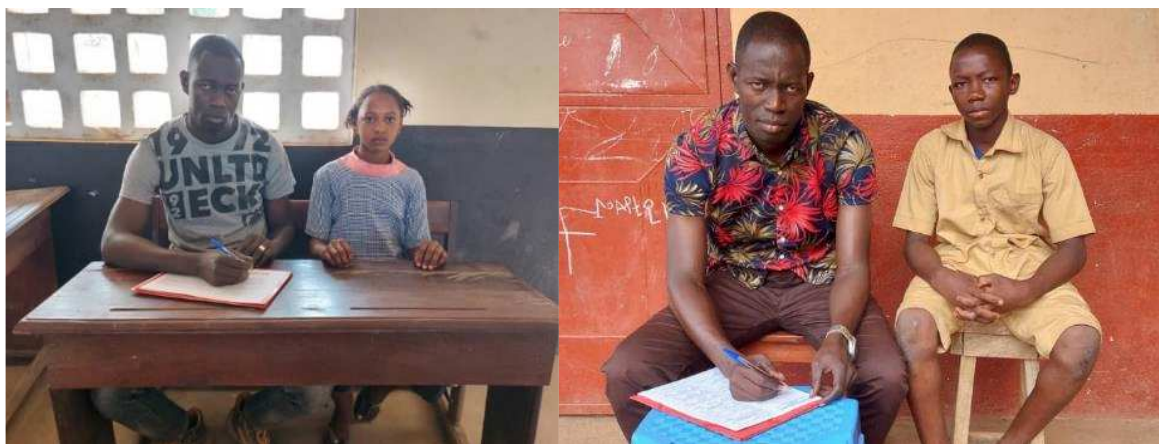


*Participants at the Club P.A.N. parents' day in Kounet*

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 led by the Country Director Pacifique Kizila. On this occasion, the children of Kouratongo launched their message: "To all parents and guardians, to everyone, wherever they are, we ask them to restore and protect nature and its resources. Driven by this ambition, we, the children of Club PAN, thank the WCF and their partners from the bottom of our hearts for the moral, material and financial support that allowed us to easily follow these educational lessons, which are essential to the survival of our environment, and we commit ourselves to work tirelessly for the protection of our ecosystem. At the same time, we ask for the perpetuation of this programme and its extension to other schools for joint and wider actions for the safeguard of our natural heritage."

#### **5.4 Evaluations**

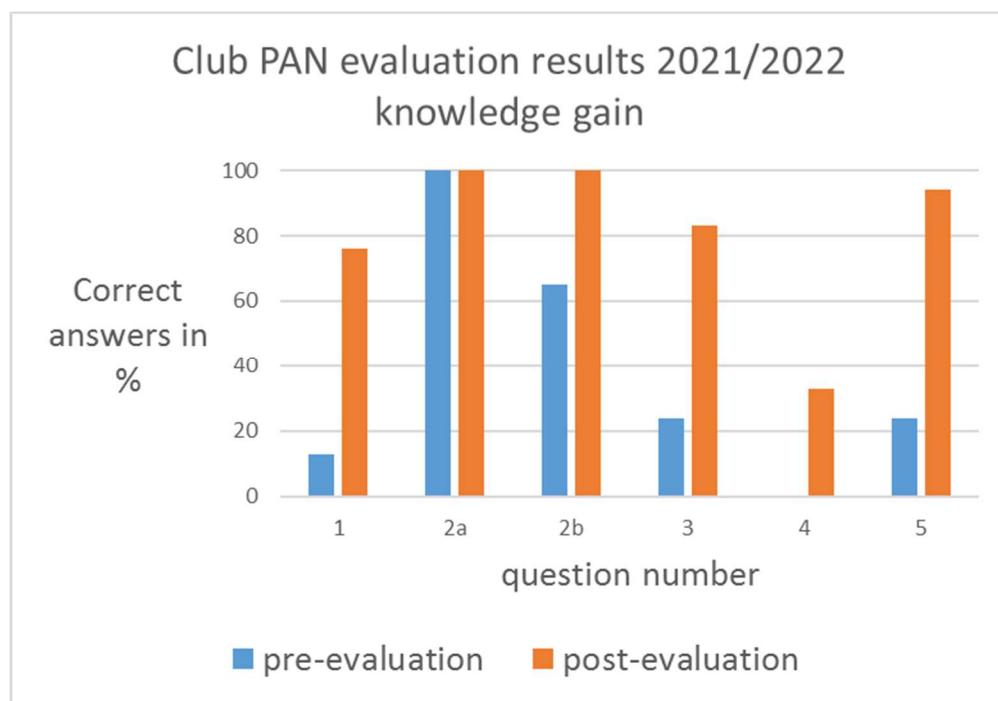
Pre-evaluations of 100 children (10 children per school) were done in December 2021 by the two coordinators in interview form. Post-evaluations of the same children were done in April 2022.



*Evaluations of children and parents are done by our local coordinators in interview form.*

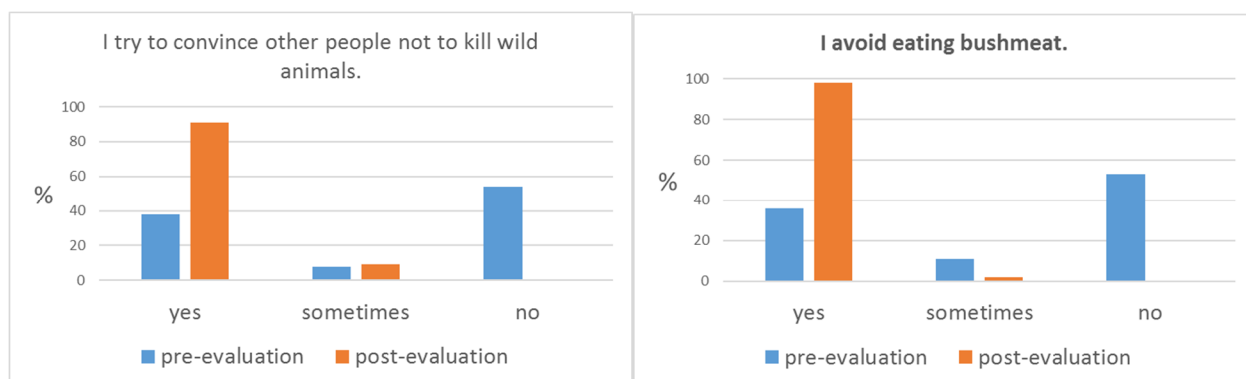


**After having participated in Club P.A.N.:** results show the children increased their knowledge by 43% on average (Figure 1). Replies to some of the questions show that children increased their knowledge up to 70%, for example question 5: “Name three endangered species elsewhere in the world apart 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.:** 91% of the children wish to convince other people to stop killing wild animals (Figure 2), and 98% 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.).

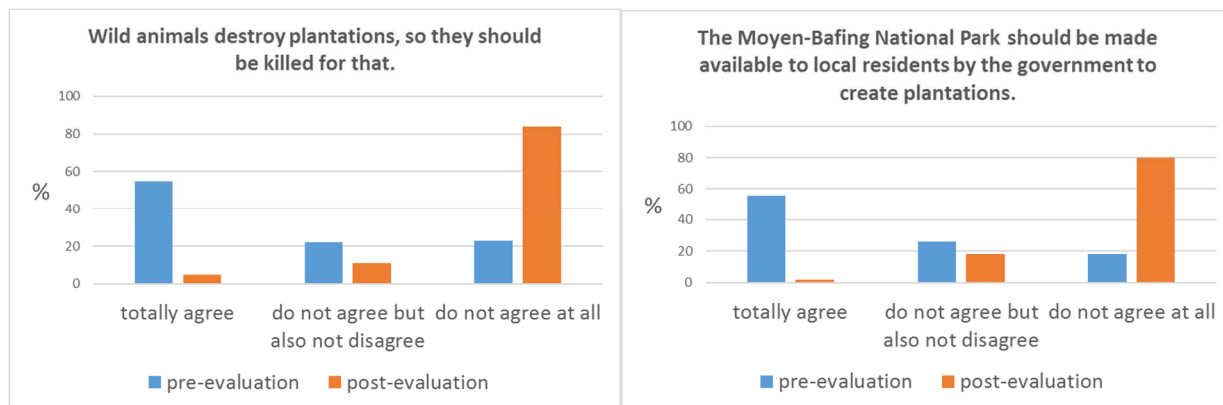


*Figure 2 & 3: Answers in percent to the statements “I try to convince other people not to kill wild animals.” (Figure 2, left) and “I avoid eating bush-meat” (Figure 3, right) during pre- and post-evaluations.*



We found a change of attitude towards nature into a more positive view in the post-evaluations. For example, 84% 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 55% of the children totally agreed that wild animals can be killed when they destroy plantations (Figure 4).

We received similar results for the statement: “The Moyen-Bafing National Park should be made available to local residents by the government, to create plantations”, 80% of the children did not agree at all after they had participated in the Club P.A.N. whereas 56% had totally agreed to this statement in the pre-evaluations (Figure 5).



*Figure 4 & 5: Answers in percent to the statements: “Wild animals destroy plantations, so they should be killed for that” (Figure 4, left) and “The Moyen-Bafing National Park should be made available to local residents by the government, to create plantations” (Figure 5, right) during pre- and post-evaluations in Guinea*

All 100 interviewed children liked participating in Club P.A.N. and all of them were able to remember something important about the Moyen-Bafing National Park, chimpanzees and nature conservation.

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 90 parents (10 per village, average age 47.41 years) after the parents’ days in interview form (62 man, 28 woman). Only in Dara, we were not able to evaluate parents from the village because no parents’ day was held there because of security reasons.

These 90 parents either had 1, 2, 3 or 4 Club P.A.N. children at home (average of 1.8). 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 songs and details about animals, forests and hygiene, and that they received school materials such as books. In addition, the parents like the T-Shirts that the children receive.

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 importance of forests, wildlife and national parks, or about important hygienic practices.

To the question, “Which other activities are important to protect the nature in your region?” parents mainly mentioned increased community sensitization and awareness, include radio into the sensitization, reforestation, stop bush-fires and stop deforestation. For example, Mr. Condé Alpha from the village of Missira Djallonke answered: “It would be good to involve hunters into conservation work.” and Ms. Diallo Fatoumata Lamarana from the village of Fello-Kollet answered: “It is important to increase the number of Club PAN schools to raise awareness to the maximum possible.”

## **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 2021/2022 in ten schools in Guinea with 900 children participating and 1375 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 2022-23 school year.

*Table 3: Timetable of Club P.A.N. activities during the coming school year 2022/2023*

<b>Event / Time</b>	<b>11/22</b>	<b>12/22</b>	<b>01/23</b>	<b>02/23</b>	<b>03/23</b>	<b>04/23</b>	<b>05/23</b>	<b>06/23</b>
Teacher training								
Pre-evaluation								
Sessions 1-11								
Post-evaluation								
Parents’ days								
Data analysis & reporting								

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*Club P.A.N. parent's day celebrations*