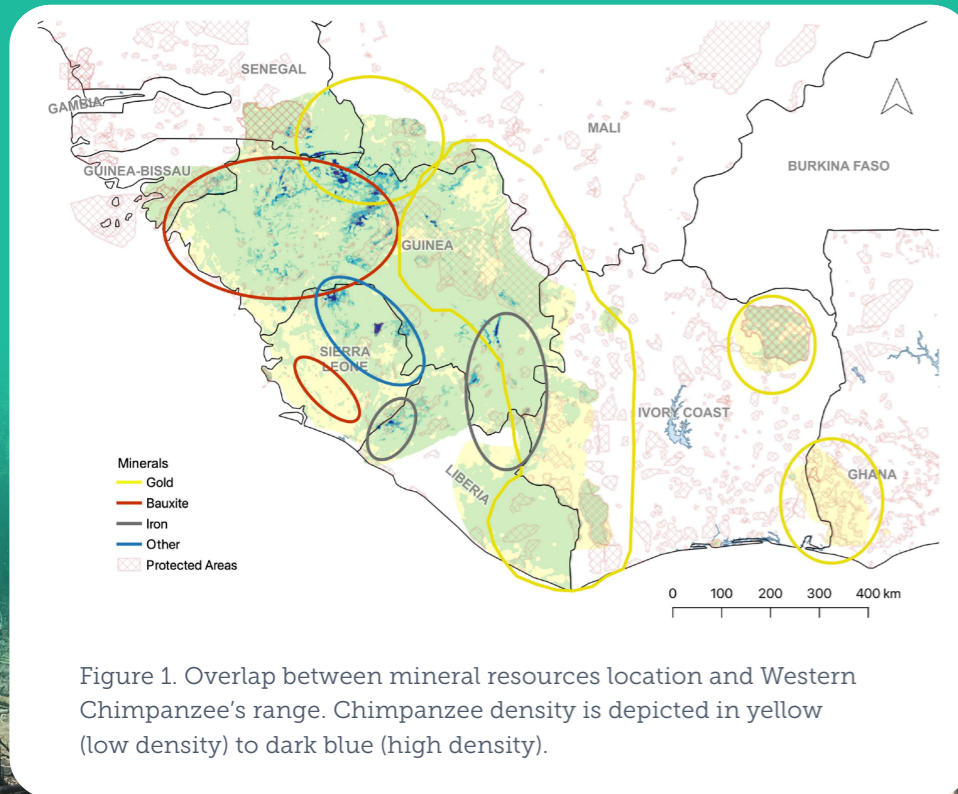


## Background

- Western Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) occur in eight countries throughout West Africa
- Their status has been recently uplisted to Critically Endangered because of precipitous decline in their population
- One main driver of their decline are EEIA (i.e. energy, extractive, infrastructure, agribusiness) projects which overlap extensively with their range



## Acknowledgements

This pamphlet was created by the implementing committee for the Western Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan, with support from IUCN SGA, the Arcus Foundation and Re:wild.

### For further information, please contact:

Dr Genevieve Campbell, ARRC Task Force Lead: [gcampbell@rewild.org](mailto:gcampbell@rewild.org)

Dr Erin Wessling, Regional Coordinator for the IUCN Action Plan for the Conservation of Western Chimpanzee: [westernchimp@gmail.com](mailto:westernchimp@gmail.com)

### IUCN SSC PSG ARRC Task Force

The IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group ARRC Task Force is an alliance of conservationists advocating for the Avoidance, Reduction, Restoration of impacts from EEIA projects leading to better Conservation outcomes for apes and their habitat. The ARRC Task Force provides advice to companies and lending banks through expert panels. For more information, please visit: <https://www.rrctaskforce.org/>

### Western Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plan

The Regional action plan for the conservation of western chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) 2020–2030 outlines a plan for improving their protection and can be found at <https://www.westernchimp.org>.

### References

1. IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, 2020. Regional action plan for the conservation of western chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) 2020–2030. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.
2. Humle et al. 2016. *Pan Troglodytes ssp. verus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
3. Heinicke et al. 2019. Characteristics of positive deviants in western chimpanzee populations. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 7, 16.
4. Arcus Foundation, 2014-2020. State of the Apes: Volumes I-IV. Cambridge University Press and Arcus Foundation, Cambridge, UK. (<https://www.stateoftheapes.com/>)
5. UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2021. Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)/The Global Database on Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) [Downloaded July 2021], Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (<https://www.protectedplanet.net/>)



## Improving mitigation of industrial development projects for Western Chimpanzees





## Threats to Western Chimpanzees



### Habitat loss

Removal and fragmentation of habitat caused by human activities

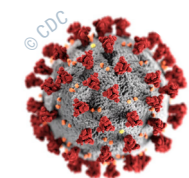


### Poaching

Bushmeat hunting – Subsistence or commercial trade

Retaliatory killing – As a consequence of human-chimp conflicts

Live capture & trade – To be traded as pets on local and international markets



### Disease

Naturally occurring  
Human-transmitted



### EEIA projects

Industrial development projects contribute to an increase in habitat loss, poaching and disease

\* A large percentage of Western Chimpanzees live outside of Protected Areas where their habitat is threatened largely by large-scale development projects

## Industry impacts on chimpanzees and their habitats

Direct	Indirect	Cumulative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat loss</li> <li>Fragmentation</li> <li>Habitat disturbance</li> <li>Pollution</li> <li>Disease transmission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-migration associated with economic opportunity</li> <li>Induced access</li> <li>Loss of ecological functions</li> <li>Human-chimp conflict</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incremental impacts of multiple projects working in same landscape, producing an exponential effect.</li> </ul>



## Mitigation approaches

Planning mitigation of a project is based on the concept of the mitigation hierarchy:

### Avoidance

**The first and key step of the mitigation hierarchy is avoiding ape habitat.** There needs to be better avoidance at earlier stages of projects, for example during mining exploration activities, which are currently poorly regulated.

### Minimisation

Minimisation measures help to decrease impacts on chimpanzees, for example through decreasing noise and pollution of ape habitat. Research is still needed to determine effective minimisation measures.

### Restoration

Restoring chimpanzee habitat to its initial status after it has been removed or degraded takes a long time and may never attain the same original ecological functions.

### Offset

This should be used as a last resort after all other steps of the mitigation hierarchy have been applied. Chimpanzee offset requirements are significant even for small impacts, and need to be funded in perpetuity to compensate for permanent impacts on-site.

## Possible solutions



### Reinforcing the adoption of Best Practice Standards

- Not all projects follow Best Practice Standards. Mainly required by lending banks, but should be integrated into the EIA process and become national standards.



### Strengthening regional coordination

- Coordinate efforts to apply the same standards and mitigation across chimpanzee's range (as many projects are transboundary)
- Improve sharing of information and experience



### Improving research and data collection

- Need better monitoring of chimpanzee populations to understand, avoid and manage impacts;
- There is a need to assess effectiveness of minimisation measures



### Land-use planning

- Develop vision at a larger scale to identify areas earmarked for development and other for chimpanzee conservation;
- Conduct SEA to tackle cumulative impacts.



### Setting-up a National Trust Fund

- National Trust Fund would help to secure long-term funding for chimpanzee priority conservation areas



### Raising awareness

- Make consumers understand their remote responsibility in their consumer choices;
- Improve understanding of company's supply chains.

