

March 2026

## 2025 Update: Mali Elephant Landscapes

We wanted to thank you again for your support for this project and update you on what was accomplished in 2025.

In 2025, project director Dr. Susan Canney was awarded the Prix d'excellence for her work by the Sahel & Sahara Interest Group. Susan and our local team have pioneered an approach to community-based natural resource management that is succeeding in protecting natural resources for elephants and people. Other wild species have also benefited.

The project won the UN Equator Prize in 2017, and in 2024, Nomba Ganamé, our Field Manager, was awarded the Prince William Award for Conservation in Africa, among other previous awards.

Enough boasting. 😊

Here are the 2025 highlights:

- ◆ **Good news on the elephant population size:** An elephant ground count was carried out by 121 trained community eco-guards. In total 473 elephants were counted, up 50% from 2023, when 316 were tallied.
- ◆ **A strategic plan** for the project was developed and launched.
- ◆ **Progress in core project activities:**
  - 75 new eco-guards registered with the program
  - 44 community-led initiatives were supported
  - 1,284 community members were trained in natural resource management, restoration, monitoring and more
- ◆ Incidences of **human-elephant conflict decreased** by 25% (from 16 in 2024 to 12 in 2025)

Mali is a difficult country to work in. Jihadist and insurgent groups stepped up major attacks across northern and central Mali in the first half of the year, including high-casualty strikes on military bases, before intensifying their attacks in the south. Elephants have changed their land use somewhat to avoid areas of conflict. But the project carries on.

### Looking ahead

The project benefitted from support won from the EU over the past few years. This year, global financial systems have had to adapt to tariffs and rising defense demands, while funding from the EU and other sources has fallen short. We are scaling things down as a result.

**Thank you for your support for this project!** Please let us know if you have questions or would like to discuss this project or receive further information.

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