

Negotiating conservation agreements through serious games



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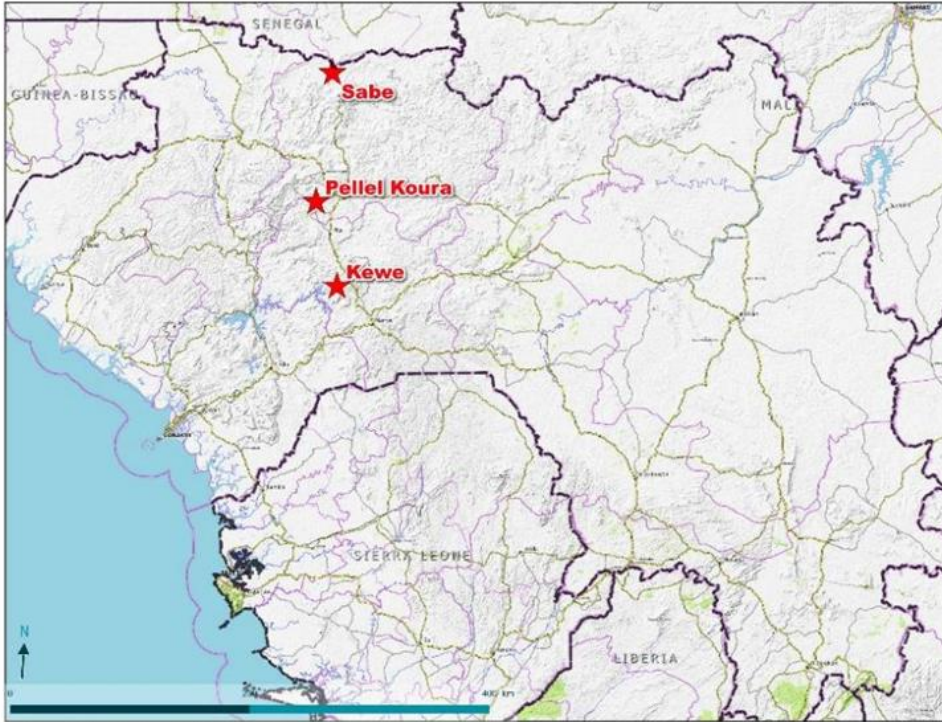
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COHAB Game – From chimpanzee coexistence to community dialogue



Localisation des 3 sites du projet COHAB

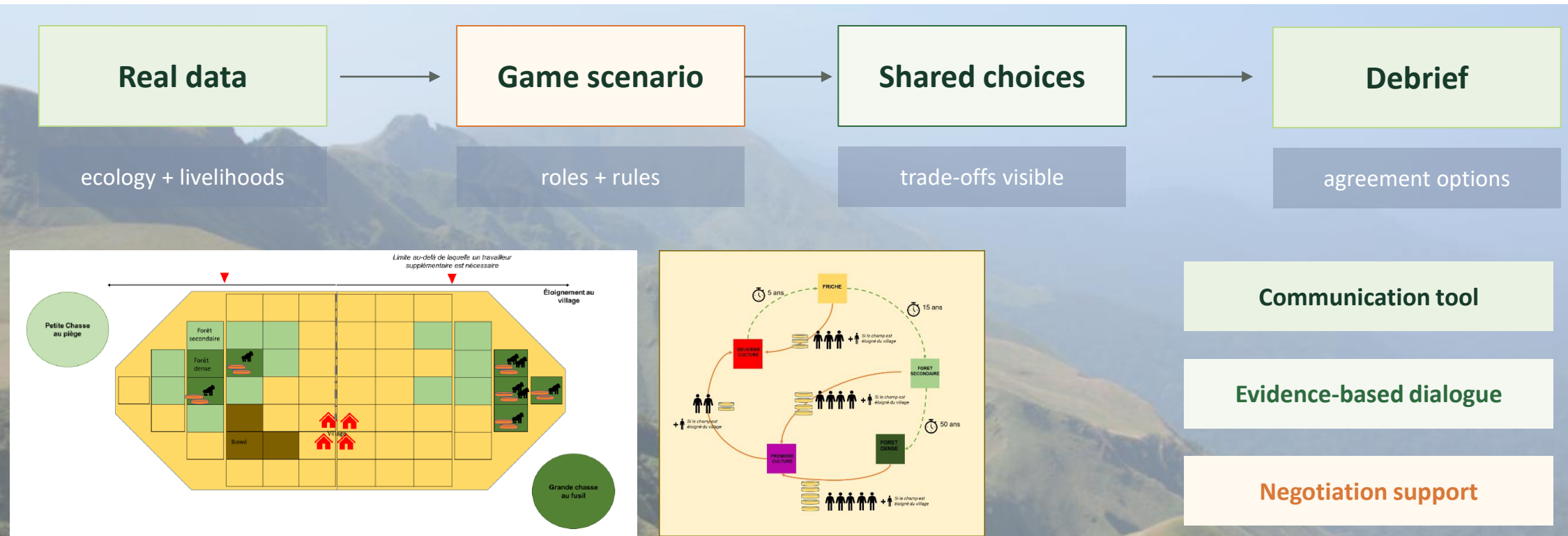


- Pilot in the Foutah Djallon in Guinea
- High population density of chimpanzee
- Developed a serious game specific to this area



What is a serious game?

A structured simulation for shared decisions.



Communication tool

Evidence-based dialogue

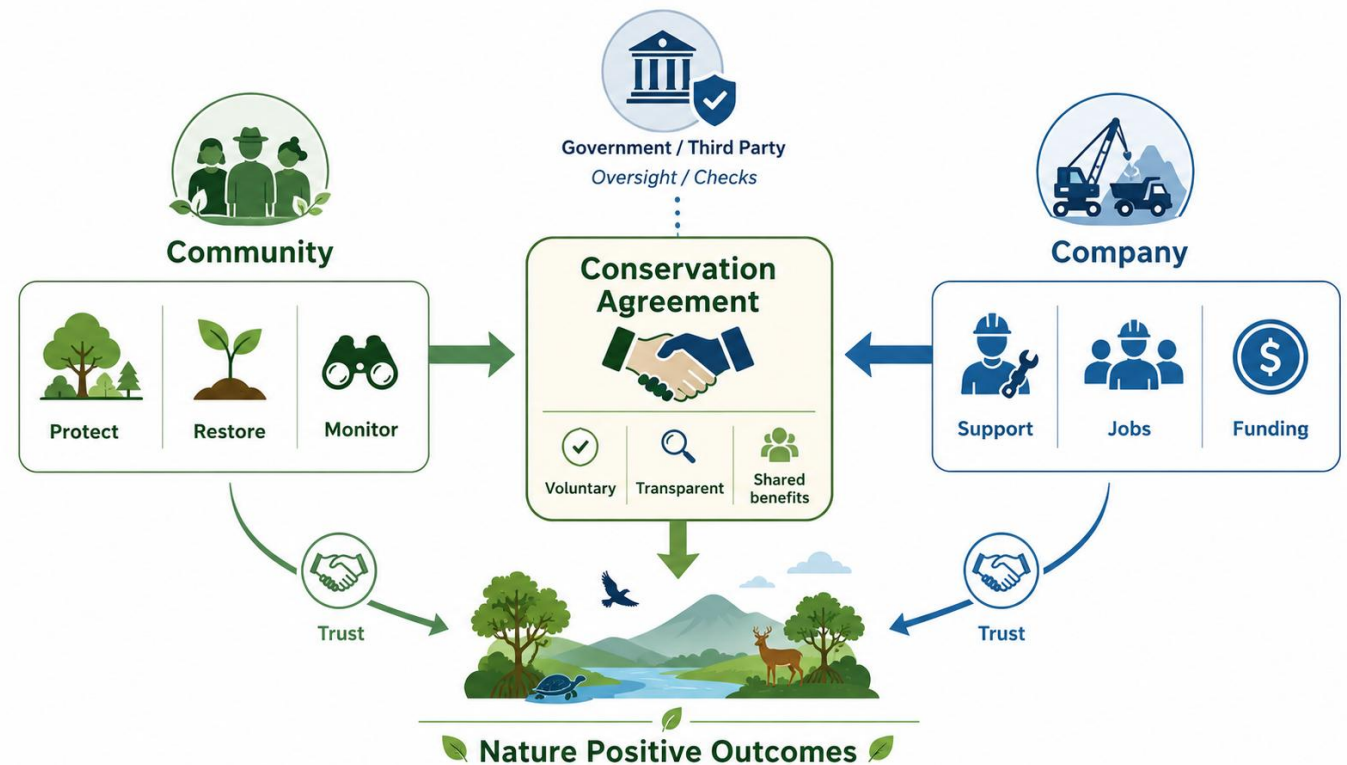
Negotiation support

Serious games are not (only) entertainment. They are safe rehearsal spaces for difficult choices.

We saw a bigger opportunity

From coexistence... → ...to offsets → ...to Nature Positive

A **Conservation Agreement** is a voluntary, time-limited legal agreement between parties with a common goal that promotes biodiversity conservation and livelihood outcomes.



From coexistence to conservation agreements

The agreement becomes playable:

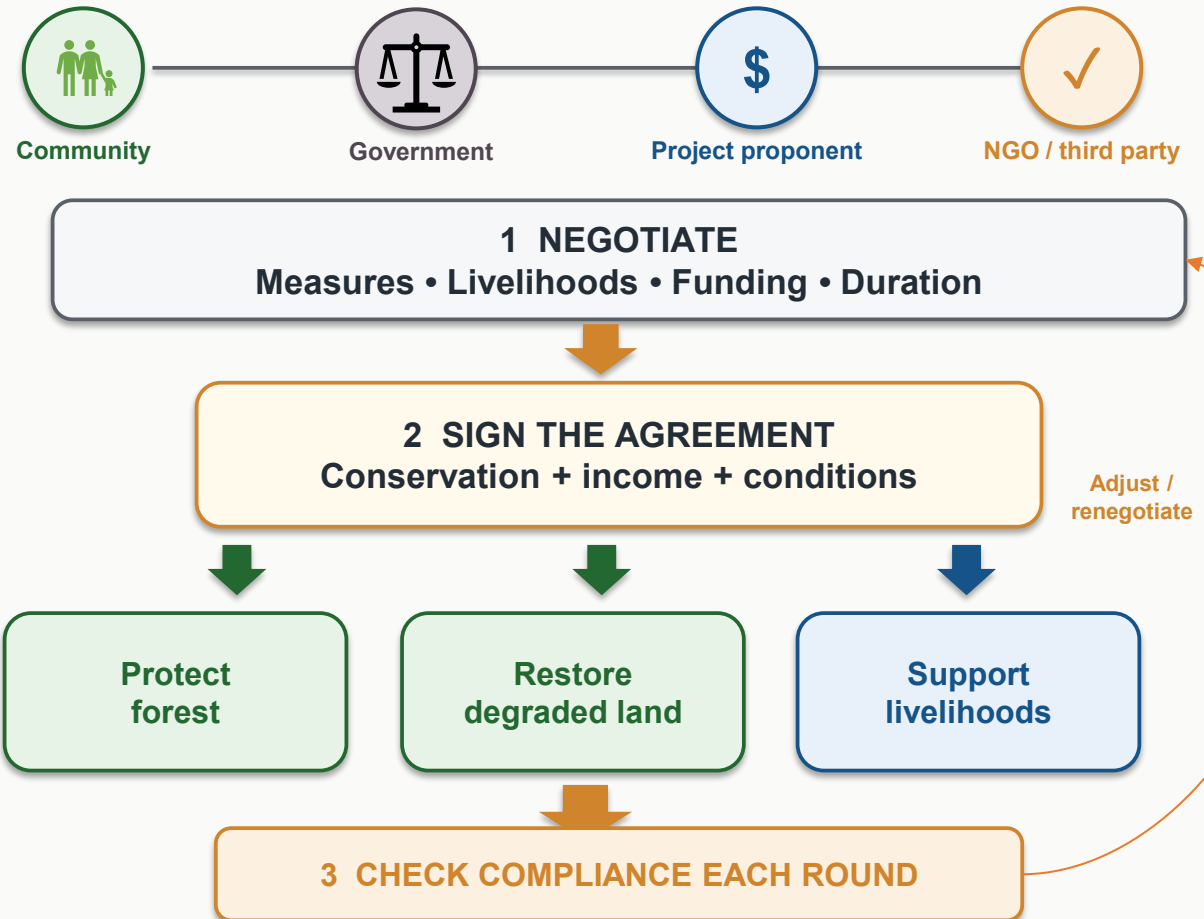
stakeholders test commitments before signing them.

New rules in six points

- 1 **Four roles enter the game**
Community • proponent • NGO - government
- 2 **One protection measure is mandatory**
Primary or secondary forest
- 3 **Restoration options are negotiated**
RNA • RNE • reforestation
- 4 **Livelihood activities reduce pressure**
Agroforestry • beekeeping • livestock
- 5 **Funding is part of negotiation**
Labour • equipment • duration
- 6 **Monitoring triggers adaptation**
Compliance • sanctions • renegotiation

Purpose: make trade-offs visible, transparent and negotiable.

How the rule works



What have we learnt ?



Key learning 1
The game makes trade-offs visible



Key learning 2
Negotiation needs iteration



Experience → Dialogue → Stronger agreements

The game does not replace negotiation — it makes it concrete, transparent, and adjustable.

Implementation gaps to address

Gap	Barrier	Priority action
Data	Too technical	Translate into scenarios
Trust	Power imbalance	Facilitate neutral sessions
Scale	Site-by-site pilots	Embed in frameworks

Collaboration will move the tool from “pilot” to “planning instrument”.

What's next

1

Improve the game

Refine rules and materials

2

Test with miners

3

Build guidance

4

Scale carefully

Train facilitators locally



By turning complex conservation negotiations into shared learning experiences, we can help communities, companies, and governments move from mistrust to co-design real nature positive outcomes



Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.

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