

## **Project Update: August 2017**

Due to a problem at the level of the administrative authorities in charge of wildlife and the directory of Niokolo Koba National Park. In their opinion, the lion, target species of our project is not the greatest concern for them. Even if specific studies on diet and conflicts have not yet been conducted on lions in this park, other studies have provided data to better understand its status in the park. However, some priority species for Senegal and listed on the IUCN Red List have not yet been studied. Among these species are the cheetah, leopard and wild dogs. They suggested that the study on diet and conflicts with populations be focused on these three priority species in conservation of large carnivores before they grant us permission to conduct our research activities. The target species for this project and focus our project will now be on wild dogs, leopard and cheetah but with the same activities, the diet and conflict with local populations.

### **The project is now titled:**

Leopards and wild dogs' preys' preference and their role in conflicts with local population in Niokolo Koba National Park.

### **Slight change in focus will be in regards to:**

Leopards and African wild dogs are emblematic species of African wildlife. These species play an important role in ecosystems maintenance by regulating the abundance of their preys in savannah areas. Unfortunately in Sub-Saharan Africa, wild dogs and leopard are threatened and their number are declining because of many factors like habitat lose and fragmentation, conflicts with local population often drive to their poisoning, preys populations' reduction, poaching. According to recent studies, in West Africa leopard home range include protected area of Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Bissau Guinea, Mali and Senegal mainly in it Niokolo Koba National Park. For wild dogs, they seem to be present only in Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal according to IUCN Cat and Canid Specialist Group. In Niokolo Koba National park, recent studies on large carnivores have been focusing on lion mainly its density and home range but less is known about other species. This study aims to reduce this lack of knowledge and therefore has two parts.