

SMALL MAMMAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION (SMACON) —

# NEWSLETTER



## Hi there!

As we approach the end of 2024, we are excited to share some major milestones and updates from the field. Thank you for your continued support as we work to protect endangered small mammals and their habitats across West Africa. Here's what's been happening at SMACON:

### ● SMACON Joins WCN FAMILY

We are thrilled to announce that SMACON has officially become a partner of the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN)! This marks a major step forward for us, as WCN connects passionate conservationists and supporters around the world to safeguard endangered species and their ecosystems. We look forward to working with the WCN community to strengthen our conservation efforts and protect the incredible small mammals we care so deeply about.

### Join Us at the 2024 WCN Wildlife Conservation Expo!

We'll be showcasing our work at the WCN Wildlife Conservation Expo on October 5, 2024. This is our first Expo as a partner and a fantastic opportunity to meet like-minded conservationists. We'd love for you to stop by our booth.

[Learn more](#)



## SMALL MAMMAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

### Zero Wildfires in Afi Mountain - Celebrating Two Seasons of Success!

Afi Mountain has been wildfire-free for two consecutive seasons thanks to our Early-Warning Wildfire Prediction and Prevention Program. This success is a result of our work with five communities around Afi Mountain, where we've trained and equipped 50 Forest Guardians. These dedicated fire rangers are our first line of defense, working hard to prevent wildfires before they start.

Our guardians' vigilance, combined with community collaboration, is protecting the precious habitat of species like the endangered short-tailed roundleaf bat (*Hipposideros curtus*) and other vulnerable wildlife. This is conservation in action, and we are immensely proud of the progress.



Support Us

### From Hunting Wildlife to Farming Cane Rat

Our cane rat farm project reduces bat hunting and supplies alternative protein for communities around Afi Mountain Sanctuary. Learn more about our evidence-based approach to reduce hunting pressure on the Egyptian fruit bat. [Read more](#)





## SMALL MAMMAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

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### Strengthening Our Expertise: SMACON at Oxford University

Our Program Manager for Science, Adeola, recently returned from a three-month biodiversity fellowship at Oxford University. This fellowship has equipped her with new skills and knowledge to strengthen our scientific approach to conservation. Adeola's experience will undoubtedly enhance our ongoing efforts to protect small mammals and their habitats.

[Read more](#)

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### WAMF 2024: Developing Capacity in the Field

SMACON successfully concluded the 2024 West Africa Mammal Fellowship (WAMF), our biennial program designed to build conservation capacity in West Africa. This year's training brought together passionate conservationists eager to make an impact in their home countries. We believe in empowering the next generation to take the reins of conservation, and WAMF is our platform to do just that. [Read more](#)



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### Growing Hope: Our New Forest Restoration Project

In our ongoing mission to restore critical habitats, we've started a forest restoration project to rehabilitate areas of Afi Mountain affected by past wildfires. [Read more](#)



## SMALL MAMMAL CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION



### Mark Your Calendars: Bat Week is Almost Here!

Get ready to celebrate Bat Week from October 24th to 31st! This week is dedicated to raising awareness about bats and their critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems

Follow us to stay posted.

As we look ahead to the next quarter, we remain committed to preserving the rich biodiversity of West Africa. Thank you for being an integral part of SMACON's journey. Together, we can continue to make strides in wildlife conservation and create lasting impact.

Warm regards,

Communications Team  
Small Mammal Conservation Organization

Support Us - Donate today to make a lasting impact!



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