

# *BioGuinée Foundation (FBG)*

## *2025 Annual Report – Summary Version for Partners and Donors*

In 2025, the BioGuinée Foundation solidified its role as Guinea-Bissau's national reference institution for sustainable conservation financing. Strategic advancements, the structuring of grant mechanisms, measurable community impacts, and regional recognition have strengthened its positioning. Despite a demanding institutional context, the FBG demonstrated its capacity for adaptation, rigor, and long-term vision.

*(January - December 2025)*



# *A pivotal year for institutional consolidation*

The year 2025 was a defining stage in the evolution of the BioGuinée Foundation (FBG) as a national conservation trust fund in Guinea-Bissau. In a context marked by institutional uncertainties, including the temporary suspension of activities funded by the World Bank, the FBG rigorously continued to strengthen its strategic, operational, and governance foundations.

## ***Continuous strategic steering***

Statutory Board of Directors meetings and the annual meeting with partners ensured continuous strategic steering and close monitoring of institutional performance.

## ***Strategic retreat – Paris, October 2025***

The defining moment of the year was the strategic retreat held in Paris in October 2025. This meeting served to refine the FBG's positioning as a national mechanism for sustainable biodiversity financing and to define the directions for the future 2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan. A first draft of the strategy is now under review pending formal validation.

## ***Strengthened institutional credibility***

The Foundation strengthened its institutional credibility by finalizing the external audit of its 2024 accounts with no reservations, complying with its regulatory obligations, and conducting a salary benchmarking study aligned with the standards of Conservation Trust Funds in Africa. This approach enhances the institution's transparency, attractiveness, and organizational sustainability.



# Concrete programmatic advances

## WACA – Coastal Resilience

As part of the regional WACA Program, the FBG continues its commitment to the financial sustainability of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) and to strengthening the resilience of coastal communities.

The year 2025 saw the initiation of the process for socio-economic studies and the development of Local Development Plans for the Cacheu, Cantanhez, and Cufada Parks. This work represents a foundational step for establishing a community grants mechanism based on participatory assessments and aligned with the World Bank's environmental and social standards.

Concurrently, a revision of the grants manuals and administrative procedures was initiated to incorporate the required technical and fiduciary requirements. However, the temporary suspension of World Bank disbursements slowed operational deployment and led to an adjustment of the implementation schedule.

## Community REDD+: analysis and prospects

The REDD+ community project in the Cacheu and Cantanhez Parks underwent a critical review phase in 2025. The deforestation loss report submitted to Verra confirmed significant losses and high leakage emissions during the second monitoring period.

In light of the initial technical feedback, various options are currently being considered, including the stratification of mangrove and terrestrial forest areas and the partial exclusion of certain zones in accordance with VCS standards. An in-depth technical analysis is underway to assess the available credit volumes, the implications related to reversals, and the future prospects of the carbon mechanism.

## Blue Bijagós: Direct Impact for the Benefit of Communities

The Blue Bijagós project has delivered tangible results within the archipelago. The first phase of the small grants program funded five community initiatives focused on access to drinking water, horticulture, livestock, and ecotourism.

10

### Community Initiatives

Funded in the first phase of the small grants program

7

### Solar-powered boreholes

Built, benefiting over 800 people

39

### Horticultural producers

Mostly women, who received structuring material support

284

### Applications received

For the second call for projects, confirming the relevance of the mechanism

Livestock and rural tourism activities have also been launched, contributing to the diversification of local incomes. The second call for projects generated exceptional engagement with 284 applications received, confirming both the relevance of the mechanism and the scale of the socio-economic needs in the archipelago. The new grants will be awarded in 2026.

## Ocean5: Preparing a Sustainable Community Dynamic

In the Cacheu - Jeta - Pecixe Biosphere Reserve, the Ocean5 project has laid the foundations for a structured community grants program. Participatory assessments were conducted in over fifteen communities, engaging more than 500 participants from different social groups.

These consultations identified clear priorities regarding access to water, improving livelihoods, and supporting agriculture and artisanal fishing. The FBG has consolidated local operational partnerships to ensure the future program has strong community roots.



# *Institutional Strengthening & Strategic Partnerships*

## *Support from the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation*

The support from the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation represents a major lever for institutional consolidation. In 2025, this funding helped accelerate the development of the Strategic Plan, strengthen organizational structuring, and improve the Foundation's visibility at the national and regional levels.



### ***Professionalized Communication***

FBG has professionalized its communication, developed its digital presence, and increased its participation in continental dialogue spaces.



### ***Election to the CAFÉ Executive Committee***

During the 15th General Assembly of the Consortium of African Funds for the Environment (CAFÉ), FBG was elected to the Executive Committee and Guinea-Bissau was confirmed as the host country for the 2026 Assembly. This recognition demonstrates the Foundation's growing credibility within the African network of trust funds.



### ***Internal capacity building***

Internal capacity building also continued through specialized training, self-assessment according to CTF standards, and the improvement of operational systems.

## *Innovative finance and resource mobilization*

FBG maintained an active dynamic of resource mobilization and exploration of innovative financial instruments. Exchanges with the African Development Bank regarding the Park /Green Bonds initiative continue, as do discussions around a GEF-UNDP project aimed at strengthening the financial sustainability of protected areas.

- Although the joint proposal developed with BirdLife International was not selected by the European Union, the partners continue discussions to reposition the project with other donors.

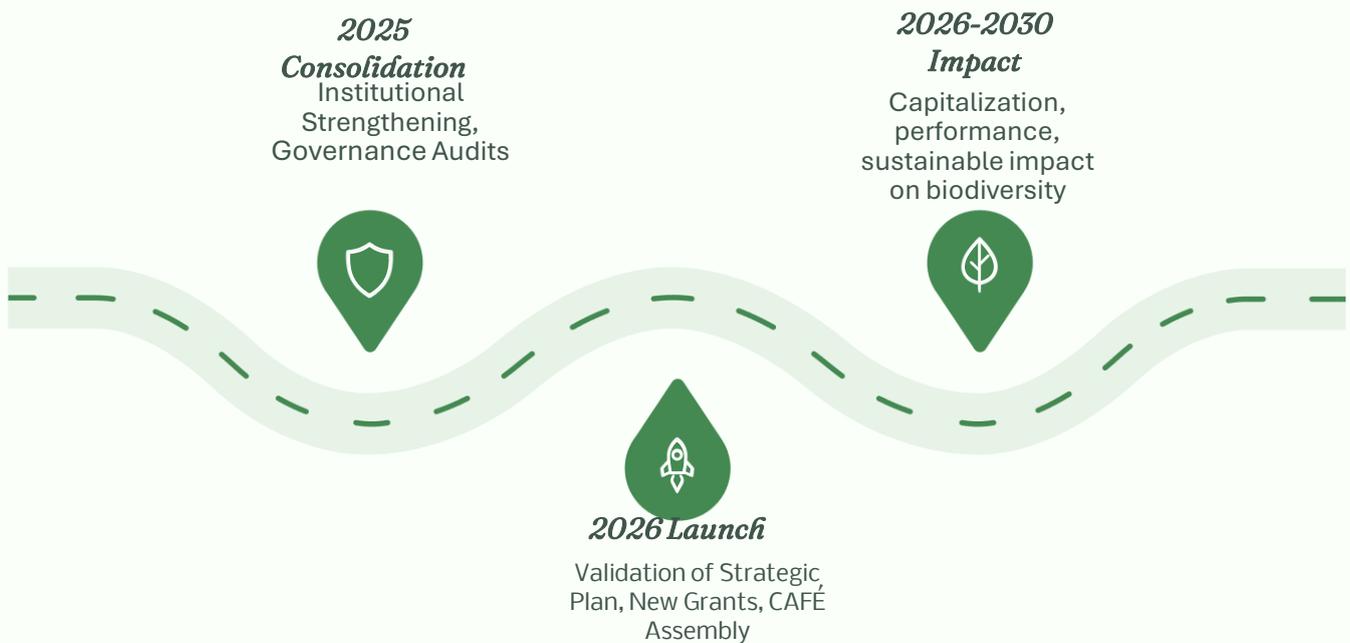


# Conclusion

In 2025, the BioGuinea Foundation consolidated its role as the national reference institution for sustainable conservation financing. Strategic advances, the structuring of grant mechanisms, measurable community impacts, and regional recognition strengthen its positioning.

Despite a demanding institutional context, FBG demonstrated its capacity for adaptation, rigor, and long-term vision.

The entry into the 2026-2030 strategic cycle opens a new phase focused on capitalization, institutional performance, and sustainable impact in service of biodiversity and the communities of Guinea-Bissau.



## Strategic advances

2026-2030 Strategic Plan in finalization phase, Paris retreat, unqualified audit

## Grant Mechanisms

Structuring of WACA, Blue Bijagós, and Ocean5 grants for the benefit of local communities

## Regional Recognition

Election to the CAFÉ Executive Committee, Guinea-Bissau host country 2026 Enhanced credibility and visibility