



Challenges of transitioning a traditional mining region into a community-based tourism destination

¹ Mamoudou KOUYATE m.kouyate@doct.uliege.be
²Prof. Serge SCHMITZ, UR SPHERES-Laplec



Introduction

The region of Boké in Guinea is the main bauxite extraction area, also benefiting from a notable tourist potential. However, the tourism sector faces challenges, partly due to mining activity that monopolizes the attention of the state and damages natural resources essential to tourism.

Our research explores the coexistence of tourism and mining. While a few decades ago, this approach might have seemed dichotomous and almost surreal from a sustainability perspective, today, literature on creating tourist attractions to revitalize former mining territories in Europe is increasingly abundant. The significance of this research lies in extending the reflection on the coexistence of these two sectors to a southern country and to an active mining territory.

Some figures !

- + 1/3 of global bauxite reserves (40 billion tons/23 billion tons in Boké)
- 2nd largest producer of bauxite/102,288,468 tons/ year (2022)
- 63% of the total mining revenues of the State in 2018
- "13 mining companies (bauxite)/8 mining ports in Boké."
- Boké:** Area = 11,053 km²/ 40% endowed with fertile soils.
- Population: 450,278 (RGPH, 2014)

Ministry of Mines and Geology

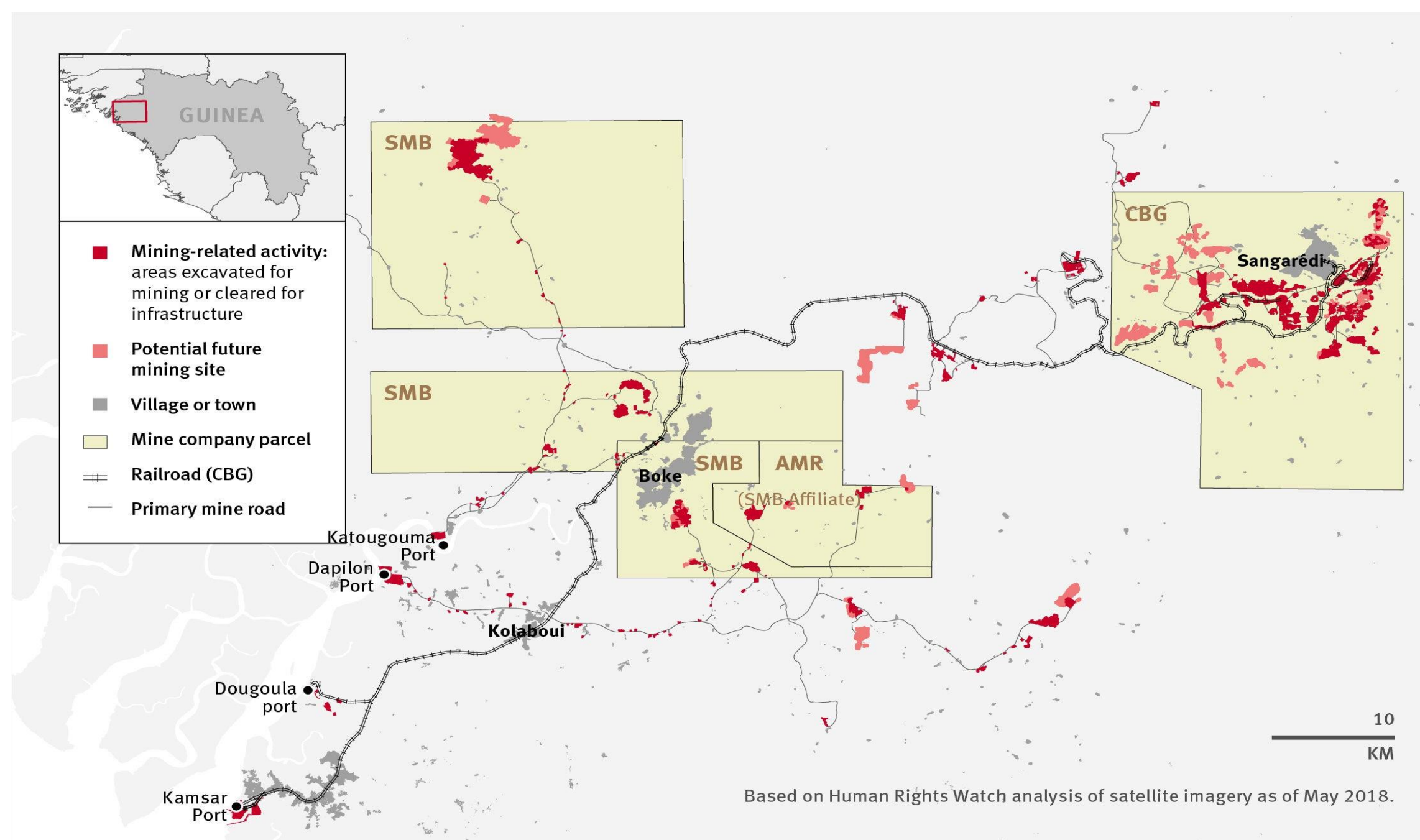


Figure 1: Map of mining areas in the Boké prefecture
 Source: © 2018 Human Rights Watch

Tourist attractions

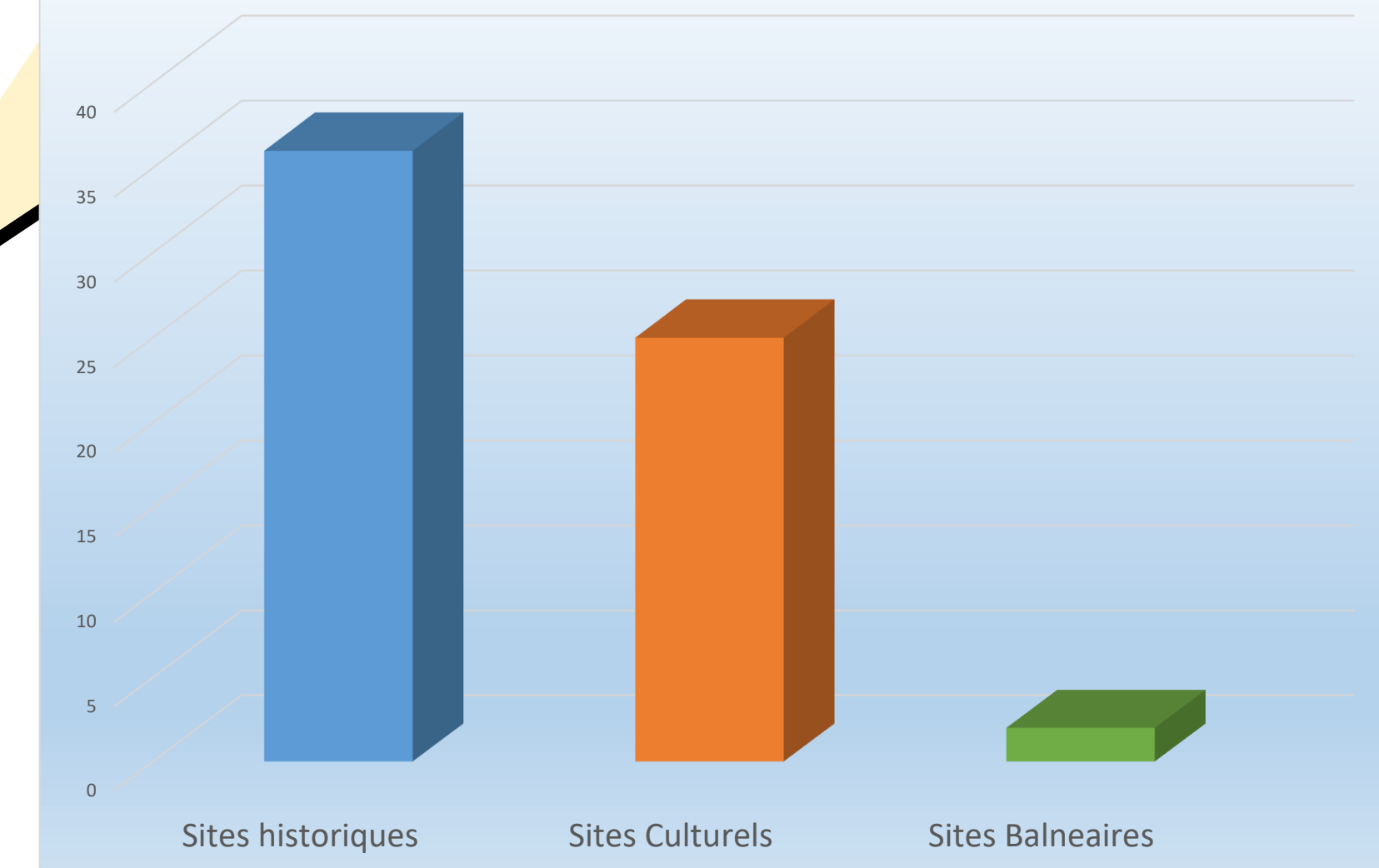


Figure 2: Distribution of Tourist Attractions
 Source: Prefectural Tourism Directorate of Boké, 2023

Objective

To understand the challenges related to the transition from a mining region to a tourist destination and explore the coexistence dynamics between the two sectors.

Hypothesis

Due to the historical weight of mining, the region's transition to tourism could face challenges related to resource management, socio-economic changes, and acceptance of tourist activities within communities

Brief overview of threatened resources

- Rio Nunez : river 80 km long (a natural heritage with high biodiversity).
- Forests and mangroves.
- The old slave port, over 156 years old.
- Some remnants of Belgian settlers.
- 2 wetland areas recognized by the Ramsar Convention.
- Disappearance of villages with historical and cultural heritage...

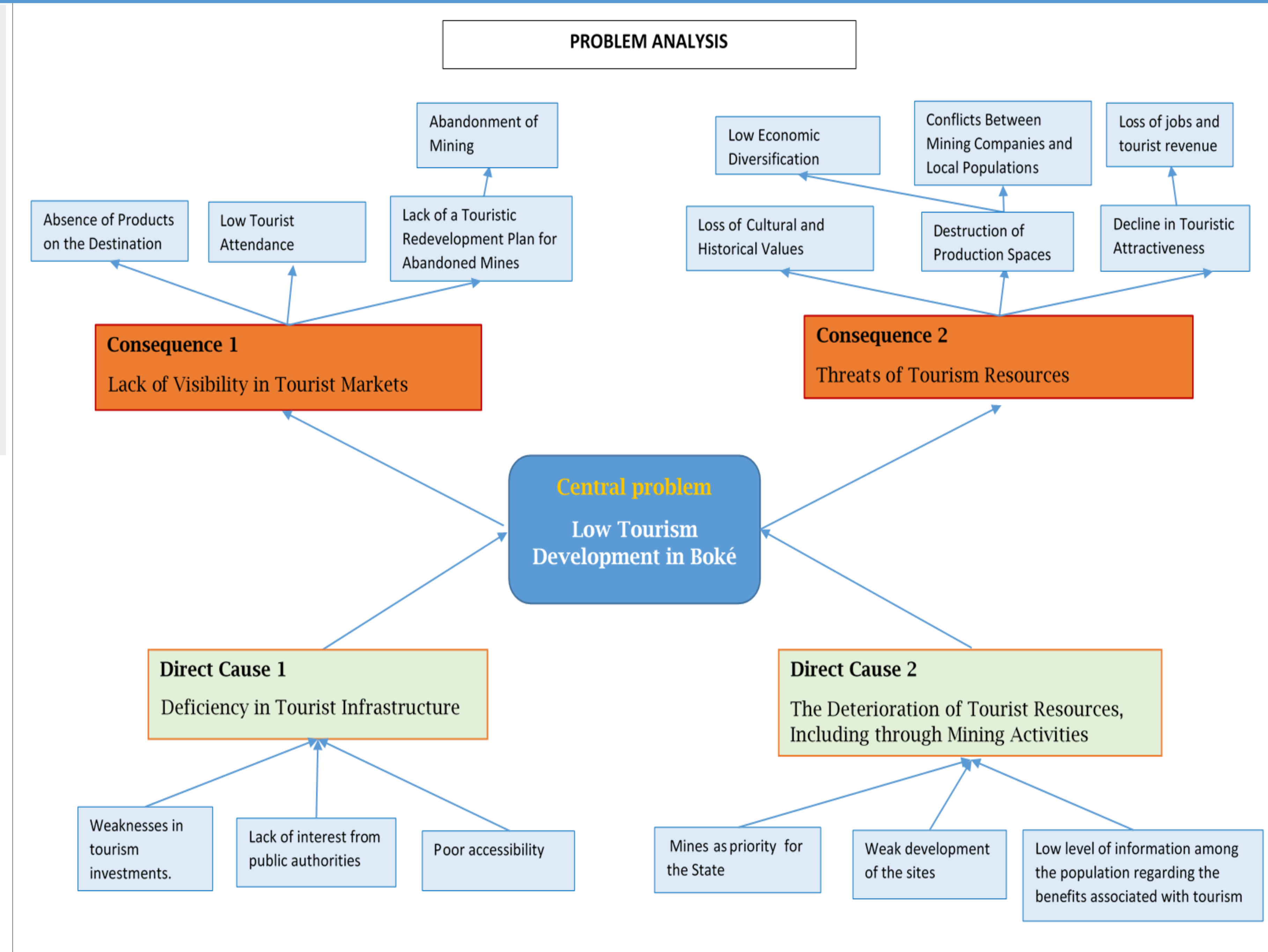
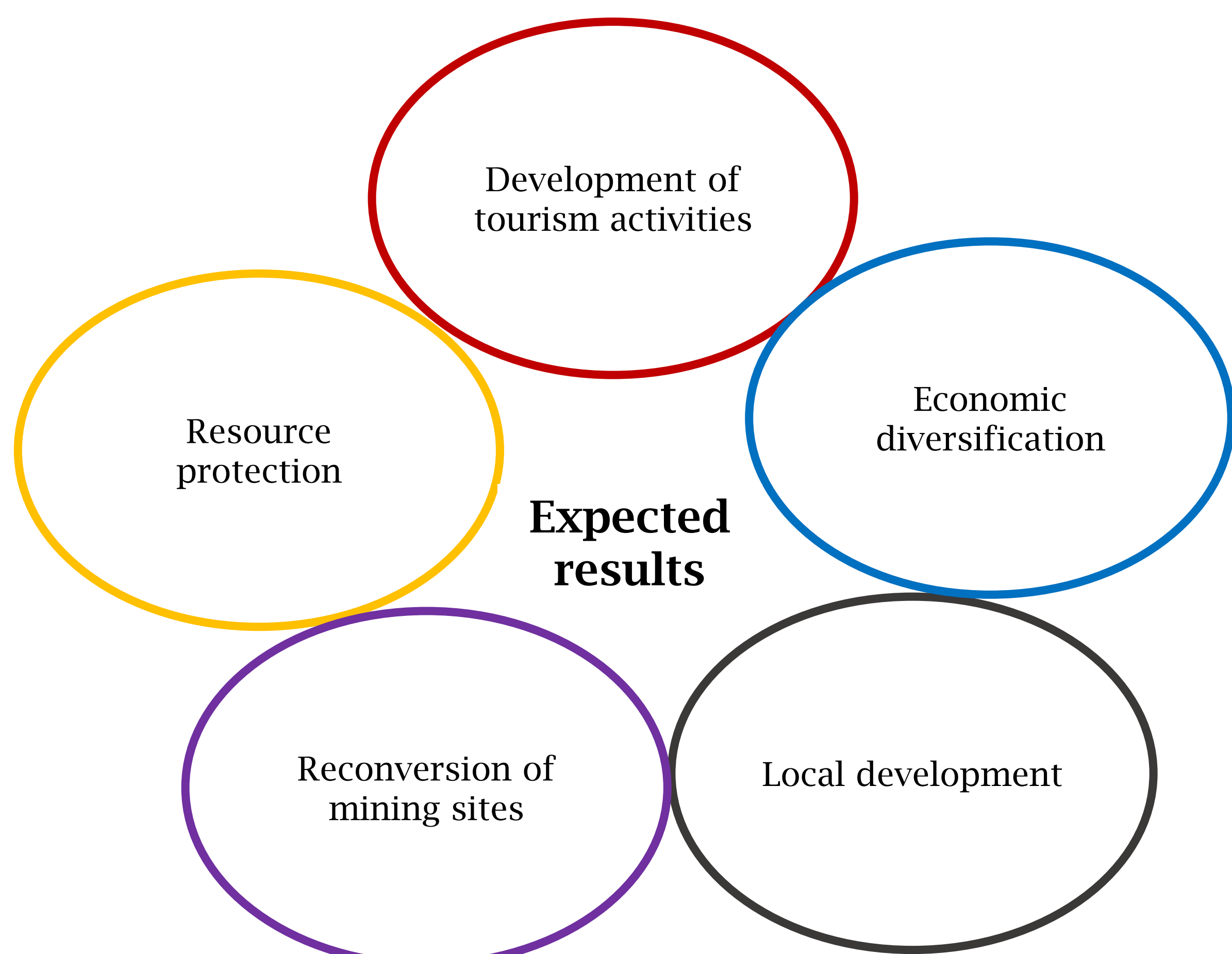


Figure 3: Accumulation of mud on the bank of the Rio Nunez (Katounou Village)

Methodology

The design of a problem tree and a synoptic research table allowed us to delimit our research problem:

- Research type: *qualitative method*
- Approaches: *systemic analysis, case study, and data triangulation.*
- Data collection techniques: *literature review, on-site observation, interviews, participatory workshop*
- Corpus and data sources: *literature, 3 strategic groups, factual data.*



References

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