

# GENTE

Guinea Ecuatorial -  
Naturaleza, Turismo y Educación



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

**GENTE**  
Consortium

*Guinea Ecuatorial - Naturaleza, Turismo y Educación*



# GENTE

## About

The **GENTE Consortium** is a network of universities and research institutes that advances solutions in education, environmental conservation, and public health for the benefit of the people of Equatorial Guinea. By leveraging the expertise of partner organizations, GENTE aims to increase national human capacity, protect the country's rich biodiversity, and build a more resilient health system. Together, these objectives will drive sustainable growth in Equatorial Guinea.

Connecting people with nature for a brighter future in Equatorial Guinea

## The challenge

Once one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, Equatorial Guinea now faces economic pressure due to declining prices and production in the oil and natural gas industry. This slowdown is compromising the country's ability to meet key development targets that would diversify the petroleum-reliant economy and close critical gaps in higher education, natural resources management, and health care provision.

GENTE is dedicated to fostering opportunities for the next generation of leaders in Equatorial Guinea to address these challenges head on.

---

# History

The consortium's founding partners, Drexel University and the National University of Equatorial Guinea (UNGE), have collaborated for over 25 years under the auspices of the Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP). Founded in 1992, BBPP's mission is to conserve Bioko Island's biodiversity, especially its critically endangered primates and nesting marine turtles through economically self-sustaining programs that benefit Equatoguineans and preserve the nation's vast natural resources wealth.

In addition to championing environmental stewardship, Drexel University's BBPP engages in activities to develop UNGE and INDEFOR-AP's educational capacity. These include improving management skills, building English-language proficiency, enhancing teacher training, and equipping classrooms with office supplies, Internet access, and tele-communications.

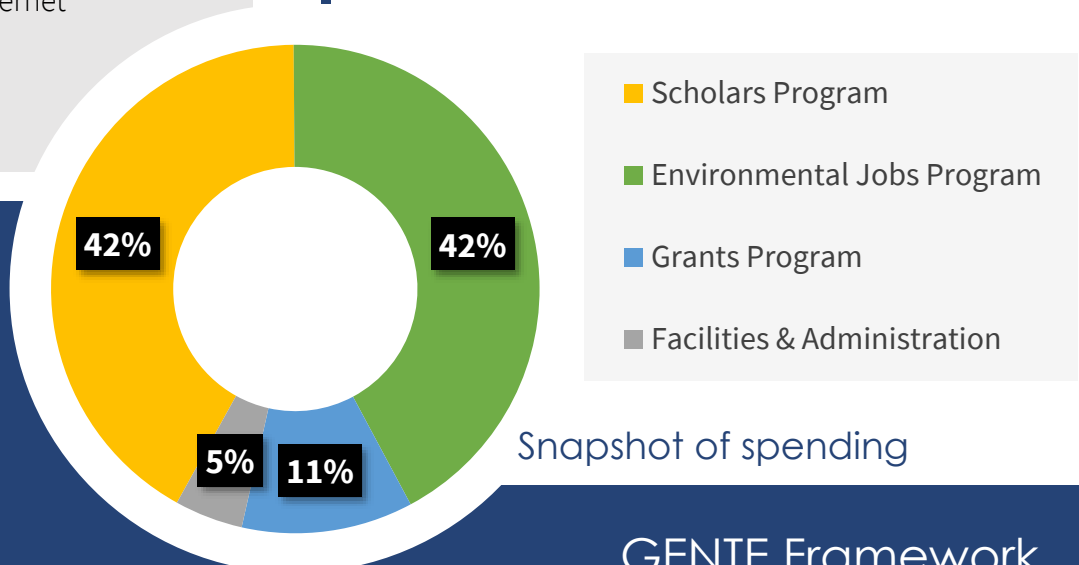
# Our plan

Over a nine-year period, the GENTE Consortium will scale up three complementary programs:

**GENTE Scholars Program:** an educational program for Equatoguinean citizens that provides scholarships for recent graduates to complete accredited coursework and training in English as a second language at US-based universities, with opportunities for leadership mentoring, teaching fellowships, grants, and graduate degrees; establishes an online STEM program for university students; and issues awards to train skilled craftspeople in Equatorial Guinea.

**GENTE Environmental Stewardship Jobs (ESJ) Program:** an environmental program designed to strengthen conservation strategies, research partnerships, training and job opportunities at two key protected areas in Equatorial Guinea: Gran Caldera Scientific Reserve and Monte Alén National Park.

**GENTE Grant Program:** a competitive grant program administered by Drexel University that awards funding to academic or non-profit institutions, organizations, or other entities to implement and scale capacity building projects in Equatorial Guinea's health sector.



The **GENTE Scholars Program** is an educational initiative designed to increase local capacity and promote environmental stewardship in Equatorial Guinea.

With a large and growing youth population, Equatorial Guinea has a unique opportunity to invest in its human capital. However, university and professional training programs are not yet at international standards. Educational institutions face a range of challenges stemming from the need for additional funding, English instruction, more robust cohorts of qualified faculty, and improved classroom facilities.

Together with its partners, the GENTE Consortium aims to strengthen professional and vocational training opportunities for young adult Equatoguineans by:

- Establishing and funding graduate education pathways at U.S.-based universities
- Providing vocational training scholarships for students in Equatorial Guinea
- Generating virtual opportunities for undergraduate students enrolled in Equatorial Guinea's universities

## Projected impact by the numbers\*



\*Over nine-year project cycle



## GENTE Scholars Program



## Program design

---



### DREXEL BRIDGE PATHWAYS

GENTE will equip a cadre of young Equatoguineans with U.S.-based training in English as a second language and accredited university coursework, with opportunities to pursue MS, MBA or doctoral degrees at consortium universities.



### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

In partnership with trade schools in Equatorial Guinea, the Scholars Program will build the instructional and technical capacity of training sites in-country, as well as provide scholarships for skilled craftspeople.



### ONLINE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM

The consortium will pilot and launch an online STEM program in Spanish for undergraduate students enrolled in Equatorial Guinea's higher education institutions.



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Scholars will benefit from a structured professional development program with resources dedicated to preparing them for university faculty positions or careers in environmental stewardship.

- Building the technical capacity of vocational training sites
- Offering one- to three-year teaching fellowships at Equatoguinean universities for returning graduate students
- Designing professional development modules and resources to ensure long-term success

These objectives will build human capacity by increasing access to accredited coursework, strengthening linkages to the international research community, and supplying universities in Equatorial Guinea with new cohorts of highly trained faculty.

The **Scholars Program** works in collaboration with the **Environmental Stewardship Jobs Program** to generate and sustain job opportunities in environmental conservation. Students pursuing graduate-level training in the U.S. will have the opportunity to study technological (STEM) applications or professional fields that are essential for creating a vigorous eco-tourism industry.

GENTE Scholars are eligible to apply for a competitive Innovation Award to fund applied research projects, business ventures, or teaching initiatives in support of environmental stewardship.

---



# GENTE Environmental Stewardship Jobs Program

The **GENTE Environmental Stewardship Jobs (ESJ) Program** is designed to strengthen conservation strategies, training, and job opportunities at two key protected areas in Equatorial Guinea: the Gran Caldera Scientific Reserve and Monte Alén National Park. Successful conservation of these biodiverse landscapes is hampered by socio-economic challenges and lack of job opportunities, particularly for people who live adjacent to this natural wealth.

Guided by BBPP's two-plus decades of experience connecting environmental conservation with sustainable livelihoods on the ground in Equatorial Guinea, the GENTE Consortium aims to increase the scope and scale of these activities by:

- Fortifying key protected areas by improving their management frameworks and providing opportunities for Eco-guard workforce development
- Supporting the growth of ecologically-sound enterprises with an emphasis on:
  - Hospitality and eco-tourism
  - Production of arts and crafts
  - Sustainable agricultural products
- Cultivating sustainable employment opportunities, especially in rural communities, including:
  - Eco-Guards
  - Wildlife Monitors
  - Guides

- Environmental Educators
- Facilities management and operations
- Accelerating career development of GENTE Scholars to boost their impact on natural resources management in Equatorial Guinea

## Projected impact by the numbers\*



\*Over nine-year project cycle

# Program design

The consortium supports jobs, training and business development programs in two keystone protected areas that have the potential to shine as exemplary conservation success stories.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Local communities are key to the success of protected areas. Yet community commitment does not come out nowhere. The Consortium will leverage BBPP’s history of collaborating with villages to craft conservation interventions with benefits, distribution plans and paths of engagement to empower communities to be the architects of change.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Along with providing jobs, GENTE partners view complementary professional capacity building activities as key to participant success. So whether an eco-guard needs a two-week training in bird identification or a two-year technical degree, GENTE will ensure there is adequate support for the job opportunities it creates.

### Gran Caldera Scientific Reserve

With 11 species of primates, four species of sea turtles and dramatic landscapes, the Caldera Reserve has long been recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot and a place of immense cultural significance.



### Monte Alén National Park

With elephants, 265 species of birds and primates including gorillas and chimpanzees, the park has nearly unlimited potential for eco-tourism.



## PROTECTED AREAS

Effective management is central to the healthy functioning of the Gran Caldera Scientific Reserve and Monte Alén National Park. Both are strongholds of Equatorial Guinea’s iconic wildlife and have spiritual and cultural value. The GENTE ESJ program creatively engages communities using an inclusive participatory process for the benefit of all Equatoguineans in perpetuity.

## THRIVING WILDLIFE

Safe and healthy wildlife determine whether nature-based tourism works because eco-guards and biological monitors are essential to safeguard these natural treasures. Resource protection jobs can and should come from the community, representing local leadership for nature tourism that inspires others to support the efforts.

# GENTE Grant Program

Funding efforts to strengthen  
Equatorial Guinea's health system



## Building a more resilient health system

Equatorial Guinea continues to face a shortage of skilled healthcare workers, medical resources and equipment, and trauma care facilities. The evolving global pandemic is placing heightened strain on health care workers and facilities in Equatorial Guinea and neighboring countries. These challenges are further amplified in remote rural areas.

Together with its partners, GENTE is committed to building a stronger and more resilient health system in Equatorial Guinea.

## Awards

GENTE anticipates that **over 400,000 USD will be available each year over a four-year period** to fund projects that will enhance health care quality, support health outcomes, and improve public health in Equatorial Guinea.

## Proposal submission process



GENTE will issue calls for proposals on an annual basis.



Interested organizations may submit concept notes detailing project objectives.



Select applicants will be invited to submit full project proposals.

All proposals will undergo a competitive review process to ensure technical quality and compliance with GENTE's program requirements.



# Join Us



## Application process

Send us an email at [jlc576@drexel.edu](mailto:jlc576@drexel.edu) with an initial statement of interest detailing how your organization aligns with our mission and could provide technical expertise or regional knowledge to maximize impact in Equatorial Guinea.

## Membership benefits

- Membership on councils or project-specific working groups
- Access to a community of academics and practitioners with aligned interests for developing collaborative projects
- Funding opportunities for conservation work
- Enrollment of GENTE Scholars in university programs, paid for by scholarships
- Appointment as a GENTE Fellow
- Acknowledgment as a member institution on GENTE communications
- Invitations to high-level events

## Expectations

GENTE expects that member institutions **will share and actively promote a commitment to increasing national human capacity and protecting biodiversity in Equatorial Guinea**. Members may contribute by providing technical expertise, assuming a position the management councils, serving on the GENTE Innovations Grant Panel, designing mentorship opportunities for GENTE Scholars, offering graduate degree opportunities for GENTE Scholars or participating in GENTE conferences and events.

## Founding partners



### Drexel University

Founded in 1891 as an engineering school in Philadelphia, Drexel University has grown into a comprehensive global research university, now ranked 102 in the United States. With approximately 26,000 students, Drexel is one of the country's 15 largest private universities. Students are enrolled in over 70 undergraduate programs and more than 100 master's, doctoral and professional programs. Drexel has built its global reputation on core achievements that include: leadership in experiential learning through Drexel Co-op; recognition as a model of best practices in translational, use-inspired research, based on a history of academic technology achievements; and, identification as one of Philadelphia's top ten private employers, and a major engine for economic development in the region.



### National University of Equatorial Guinea (UNGE)

UNGE grew from the National School of Forestry and in 1996 became Equatorial Guinea's first institution of higher education, offering tuition-free education to the country's most qualified students. It has experienced substantial physical growth over the last 20 years and has two campuses, one at the original location in Malabo and a second one in Bata on the mainland. UNGE is comprised of nine "Facultades", which are roughly equivalent to schools or colleges in the US system -- five based in Malabo (Environmental Science; Social Science; Education/Malabo; Engineering/Malabo; and Economics) and four in Bata (Health Sciences; Education/Bata; Engineering/Bata; Religion). UNGE also has a new College of Medicine and Public Health in Bata.

## Management team

### Katy Gonder

Executive Director, GENTE Program and  
Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program  
Professor, Drexel University  
[mkg62@drexel.edu](mailto:mkg62@drexel.edu)

### Jennifer Cohen

Associate Director  
GENTE Scholars Program  
Drexel University  
[jlc576@drexel.edu](mailto:jlc576@drexel.edu)

### Michael Machado

Finance and Compliance Manager  
Drexel University  
[mm572@drexel.edu](mailto:mm572@drexel.edu)

### David Montgomery

BBPP National Manager, Equatorial Guinea  
Drexel University  
[dmm438@drexel.edu](mailto:dmm438@drexel.edu)

### Mike Skuja

Associate Director  
GENTE Environmental Stewardship Jobs Program  
Drexel University  
[mjs663@drexel.edu](mailto:mjs663@drexel.edu)



[www.drexel.edu/GENTE](http://www.drexel.edu/GENTE)  
[www.bioko.org](http://www.bioko.org)



@Bioko\_BBPP



Bioko\_bbpp