

Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment

CARPE II

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INTRODUCTION

This United States of America's timely financial and moral support for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership has led to a turning point in conservation history of Central Africa. During the last four months of this semester, WWF field and the Headquarters staff have focus most of their energy and time on the CBFP proposal writing in order to get this initiative started.

The total USAID/CARPE grant amounting \$1,101,420.06 has enable WWF-US to focus on key Biodiversity conservation activities within its three main following projects in the subregion, and which are the backbone of some the CBFP's eleven landscape:

1. The Dzanga-Sangha Integrated Conservation and Development Project, in Central African Republic (CAR), part of the Tri-National Sangha Landscape benefited from this CARPE II grant and this substantial money has tremendously contributed to :
 - a) support the monitoring of commercial exploitation (logging and safari hunting) with an emphasis on its impact on wildlife populations,
 - b) leadership development and capacity
 - c) the development of a regional training center and
 - d) strengthening the surveillance system.
2. The Gamba Protected Areas Complex, in the Republic of Gabon, the nucleus of Gamba-Conkouati Landscape received also funds from CARPE II. This fund has allowed the Local Environmental Education NGO to accomplish its goals for this reporting period throughout classroom teaching, field excursions for youth clubs. These funds also helped WWF Gamba assist the fishermen of the Ndogo Lagoon and Nyanga River to organize themselves into an Association.

The fishermen Association has all its interior regulations, statues and have been very active supporting the Fisheries Brigade in Gamba to patrol and denounce illegal fishing activities in the area.
3. In Minkebe Project in Gabon, The Project Technical Advisor has joint WWF Team in Yaounde to develop a strategic planning for the Minkebe-Dja-Odzala landscape.

This report will be structured according to the four CARPE themes:

1. Biodiversity Conservation
2. Community Natural Resource Management
3. Project Coordination
4. Studies

A conclusion and with recommendations for the next reporting period, followed WWf some of the WWF highlighted activities that have contributed to CARPE II goals, will close this first semester report.

THEME 1: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

I. Dzanga-Sangha Project

Introduction:

1. Introduction

Located 500 kilometers from the capital, in the southwestern corner of the Central African Republic (CAR) near the town of Bayanga, the Dzanga-Sangha Project covers the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park (1,220 km²) and the Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Special Reserve (3,159 km²). It represents an important fraction of the last primary forest in CAR and is home to dense populations of forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), and other characteristic flora and fauna of the Northwest Congolian Moist Lowland Forest ecoregion. Within the numerous forest clearings (baïis) of the area, the Dzanga baï is probably unique in the world. Since 1990 more than 2,500 individual forest elephant were observed in the saline, and every day up to 100 elephants can be observed.

The BaAka community constitutes the largest ethnic group among the local people living in the area. They are an indigenous hunter-gatherer population whose traditional livelihood is directly linked to the forest and its plant and wildlife resources.

The area had been a remote place forever with a low human population density, but the situation changed in the seventies with the start of logging activities. The possibility of finding employment attracted hundreds of families into the area. With the rise of human population the pressure on the natural resources became higher and higher. The illegal hunting activities are no longer limited to small game such as duikers for auto-consumption; there is concern also the forest elephants, primates and Bongo hunted for commercialization outside the Reserve. In the northern part of the Reserve, illegal settlements for diamond exploitation are found. The logging companies in the area have not yet fulfilled their legal obligation to develop and implement a management plan of the concession; this represents a threat to the forest, as sustainable management is not guaranteed. Insufficient control of trans-border poaching activities also threatens to cause local extinction of large mammals.

Activity 1.1 : DZANGA-SANGHA COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION CONTROL

Goal :

Work with the commercial sector (logging and safari hunting companies) operating in Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve to establish controls and permanent monitoring of timber exploitation, associated bushmeat hunting and trade, and sports hunting, in order to assure their long-term sustainability.

Result:

An adaptive framework for collaboration with the private sector (logging and safari hunting companies) according to the unique context of the Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve

Planned activities for the period:

- Continue the communication and exchange of information between DSP, logging companies and Forest Ministry (local, regional and national level).
- Organize quarterly technical meetings between SBB and DSP.
- Reinforce collaboration with the CDF and Chef de cantonnement to make regular site visits happen and to monitor together the "cahier de charge" and logging exploitation of SBB and SESAM.
- Collaborate with SBB in continuing the started proactive surveillance.
- Reinforce with the assistance of the DSPs Conservation Department the controls of SBB transport vehicles.
- Start with the assistance of the Conservation Department and in agreement with SBB the surveillance of logging sites to eliminate illegal hunting associated with logging activities.
- Follow up with PARPAF and SBB to elaborate options for the development of a management plan for SBB either with the support of PARPAF or with the support of DSP (discussed in informal meetings with SBB site manager).
- Implement a monitoring system of the hunting concessions during the hunting season.
- Train 2-3 people for monitoring of hunting concessions (biological monitoring staff of DSP, tourist guides or trackers).
- Agree with Safari Hunting companies on accepting the monitoring person for biological monitoring and monitoring of quotas and hunting activities during the hunting season.
- Organize exchange visit to the trinational Partner (WCS) in Kabo, Congo

Progress and lessons learned:

Main activities carried out during the present semester were aimed at providing technical support to professional hunters and logging companies. The extent of the activities was limited by the fact that the two of the three safari hunting companies and one of the two logging companies suspended their activity during the period. In addition, availability of the "Inspecteur Préfectoral des Eaux et Forêts", the regional forest officer, was limited. All this was due to the unstable political context of CAR.

Concerning logging, the project studied the file and provided technical advice to the Ministry of Forest on the application for annual logging area submitted by SBB and SRESAM. Technical advice was provided after field inspection to evaluate logging activities for the previous year, and the impact of forest exploitation. This is an indication that the project has built credibility and recognition from the ministry in monitoring logging operations in the project area.

As encroachment of park boundaries from logging companies is a threat to the park, another important activity was the joint technical control with the regional forest officer of the limit of logging activities of SBB in neighboring concessions. Although no formal meetings were held with SBB managers, control of SBB transport vehicles was reinforced and consequently the company for transporting bushmeat fired 2 drivers. Good communication has now been established with SBB and gives the project positive prospects for monitoring logging activities and control of bushmeat trade in logging concessions. SBB has formally requested assistance in developing management plans for their logging concessions, and it is planned that the WWF-CARPO Sustainable Forest Management and Certification Project will visit SBB in the near future for an initial evaluation.

The buffer area of the far east of the Dzanga sector was redefined, and the state of the vegetation along the boundary of the buffer zone of the Dzanga sector and north of Ndoki was monitored.

As usual, key persons for the joint controls of execution and impact of forest exploitation: Regional Head of the Forest Ministry ('Chef de Division Forestière de la Sangha Mbaéré, CDF) and local representatives of the Forest Ministry (Chef de cantonnement), didn't respect the calendar for the controls in the forest, thus limiting the number and duration of the control missions. Ways should be sought to improve collaboration and motivation from this partnership.

Concerning wildlife exploitation forms for monitoring hunting activities and revenues generated were given to the only operating safari hunting company (Aouk-Sangha Safari). Five meetings were held with the company to present the forms and monitor hunting activities. A meeting was held at the end of the season to evaluate the results obtained during the season. It should be highlighted that the quota proposed by the Dzanga-Sangha Project (DSP) for bongo (the most important species for trophy hunting) was adopted and respected by the safari company.

The DSP organised a contact and information mission in the project area in order to meet administrative, political and judiciary authorities, law enforcement officers and economic operators. During this mission, partners were informed about project goal and activities, and their support sought.

Important lessons learned are that adoption of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding hunting in logging concessions and in professional hunting zones with communities, authorities, logging companies, safari hunting companies and the Forest Ministry is a lengthy process demanding a lot of staff time investment and high credibility and presence in the field. There is a need to establish strong collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders and build consultative platforms that will guarantee dialogue amongst stakeholders. This will also help in developing a common vision and approach on sustainable management of buffer zones, where activities are carried out and have direct impact on the Park.

Activity 1.1.2: SUPPORT TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT OF THE DZANGA-SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

Goal:

Provide support for on going management costs for Dzanga-Sangha law enforcement unit.

Result:

A reduction in poaching and other illegal activity related to natural resource exploitation, particularly of wildlife

Planned activities for the period:

- Recruitment of a Park Advisor for the Conservation Department.
- Completion and implementation of a new strategic plan for law enforcement activities.
- Continue and reinforce national, bi- and trinational anti-poaching patrols.
- Start recruitment process for new wildlife guards.
- Integrate two wildlife guards in the gorilla habituation team in Bai Hokou to improve security of habituated gorilla groups.
- Continue collaboration with SBB on pro-active surveillance

Progress and lessons learned:

The recruitment process for the Park Advisor was unsuccessful as suitable candidates rejected the offer due to remoteness of the project area and difficult political context of CAR. Consequently, the strategic plan for surveillance could not be completed. However, surveillance activities continued as it can be seen from table 1 and remained the most important activity to limit the impact of poaching and other illegal activities on Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve's biodiversity.

Surveillance continued on a permanent basis on key sites of extreme high ecological (and tourist) importance as the Dzanga saline and Bai Hokou. The patrols were extended to different sectors of the reserve based both on intelligence information and roadblocks. Portable HF-radios have been purchased and will facilitate communication during patrols. A new building has been constructed to host the new HF-radio system (E-mail capacity).

In addition to trinational collaboration (CAR, Cameroon, Congo), bi-national (CAR and Congo) efforts were developed with mixed patrols focusing particularly on the boundaries. A technical trinational meeting was held in Kabo (Congo) in May 2003 and was aimed at planning joint activities for the next 3 months. The anti-poaching strategy could have been

more efficient with the reinforcement of the law enforcement unit of DSP with the new wildlife guards (10) and trackers (3). But the lack of Park Advisor and unavailability of National Director (new Director joint the project only in February 2003 and was absent from Bayanga most of the time due to numerous meetings in Bangui) hampered the recruitment process.

Two wildlife guards have been incorporated in the primate habituation programme team.

The signing of a MoU with the MIKE programme in March to implement a biological monitoring plan in the project area will add to the on-going anti-poaching activities and strengthen the capacity of the law enforcement unit. A staff has been recruited and trained for biological monitoring under MIKE assistance.

Table 1. Numbers of different types of anti-poaching activities: (January – June 2003)

Type of activity	1 st Trimester		2 nd Trimester		Total Semester	
	Number of missions	Duration (Days)	Number of missions	Duration (Days)	Number of missions	Duration (Days)
• Forest patrol	52	295	57	352	109	647
• River patrol – national	04	19	05	19	09	38
• Mobile patrols	04	32	03	21	07	53
• “Ambushes”	09	59	06	41	15	100
• Punctual patrols – river & land	10	28	17	46	27	74
• Road Control (Barrier)	13	91	13	91	26	182
• River Patrol – tri-national	03	13	03	16	06	29
• River Patrol bi-national	05	36	01	10	06	46
• Ecological monitoring assistance	07	36	00	00	07	36
	104	609	105	596	209	1205
Total						

Table 2. Impact of anti-poaching activities during the period January – June 2003

# patrol days	Contraband confiscated				
	Wire snares	Bushmeat (kg)	Arms	Ammunition	Ivory
1205	5442 + 1 roll	490 (79 kg of Gorilla, 152 of elephant + others)	15	323	14

Table 2 indicates that the number of wires snares confiscated more than doubled during the present reporting period. This may be due to the extension of surveillance activity to the whole project area. The significant reduction of bushmeat confiscated (from 794 kg to 490 kg), even though the patrols were more intensive during the present period, and can be regarded as a success of antipoaching operations. It should be highlighted that the quantity of elephant meat seized has gone from 613 kg in July - December 2002 to 152 kg in January – June 2003.

Poaching remains a major threat to biodiversity conservation in the Dzanga-Sangha area. The biological monitoring programme under development will provide more information on poaching indices and better quantify poaching pressure and impact of anti-poaching efforts on the biodiversity.

Excellent antipoaching programs will not yield expected results if it is not supported by lobbying and sensitization efforts towards local and regional authorities to improve the implementation of legislation (prosecution of wildlife offenders).

3. Major achievements/impacts during this reporting period

The major achievements during this period include the extension and strengthening of the surveillance system, which has led to a significant reduction in the poaching of threatened species such as elephants and gorillas. The collaborative relationships built with SBB have yielded practical fruits as staff member implicated in bushmeat transportation is effectively sanctioned. Proposed quota for Bongo hunting has been adopted by the Safari Hunting Company (Aouk-Sangha Safari), and a joint monitoring system of hunting activities approved.

4. Constraints that have affected project progress

- Institutional set up of the project:

The DSP is a national project, meaning that WWF only provides technical and financial assistance, and the Government of CAR is fully responsible for the project. Consequently, human resource management is the responsibility of the National Director (ND), and ultimately technical responsibility also falls to the (ND). Not managing nor influencing the project staff, the WWF Principal Technical Adviser (PTA) does not have enough authority/power to ensure success as very dependent on the ND and senior staff (all public servants).

- ❑ Lack of motivation from local staff and high turn over

Local staff has poor professional skills and lack motivation. The current ND took up his post in February 2003 and was very motivated at the start. He is now discouraged and providing very little contribution to the project, as there are indications from Bangui that he is going to be replaced for political reasons.

- ❑ Insufficient of local support for the project:

The local administration in constant change does not provide sufficient support to the project. Negotiations were advanced with the former Sous-Prefet who was replaced a few months by a new one.

- ❑ Insufficient technical staffing:

The WWF Park Advisor has yet to be replaced. The GTZ Technical Advisor for Rural Development was also absent due to the political situation in CAR and the German decision to suspend work of their nationals in CAR.
(See conclusion for way forward)

Activity 1.1.3:SUPPORT TO KONGANA REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER:

Goal:

Provide curriculum support to the Kongana Regional Training Center in Dzanga-Sangha

Results:

Capacity-building for the internal team of PDS trainers
Improved performance of conservation personnel

Planned activities for the period:

- Identify trainers
- Rehabilitation of the Kongana training center
- Identify wildlife guards for re-training
- Elaborate training programs
- Start recruitment of new wildlife guards

Progress and lessons learned:

Due to the lack of Park Advisor, the change in National Director and an overburdened Conservator, there were not a lot of progress made in this activity during this first half of 2003.

Renovation of the Kongana training center started and it is expected that it will be completed in August 2003. Identification of trainers, elaboration of training programs and the conduction of 1-2 training programs are among the highest priorities for the second half of 2003.

As the project is developing a platform of exchange and negotiations between local communities, protected areas authorities, logging companies and safari hunting companies, the Kongana Training Center should be used by the Dzanga-Sangha Project as part of the capacity building strategy. This will reinforce the technical skills of community structures, and staff from logging and safari hunting companies.

1. 2. GAMBIA BUSHMEAT CONTROL

Objective:

Compile lessons learned on controlling bushmeat and environmental degradation with Oil Company in Gambia Complex.

Progress:

A survey on oil industries direct and indirect impacts has been completed and the report on " Compatibility of Oil Exploitation with Biodiversity Conservation in Central Africa: the case of the Gambia Complex / Gambia" is available upon request.

Surveillance

During this semester, the project team developed a surveillance strategy involving the 3 Wildlife Brigades and the Fisheries Brigade to control poaching activities around and within the protected area complex. This strategy has not yet fully been implemented due to 1) lack of funding, and 2) the organizational change within the Government, regarding the agency to manage the National Parks in Gambia.

About funding, project proposals have been submitted to the following donors: The Moore Foundation, USAID CARPE/CBFP, US Fish and Wildlife Service and CITIBANK, and are still pending for responses. Meanwhile, surveillance activity has been maintained around Gambia town and in the southern parts of the Loango National Park.

The picture below is the evidence that the local population of the Gambia is engaged to preserve their wildlife, hence the wealth of the biodiversity of their region.



Local restaurants advertising” No Bushmeat”

1.2.1 GAMBA ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Result:

Progressive development of a cadre of future forest resource management and biodiversity conservation leaders.

Objective:

Provide support to local NGO in the Gamba Complex to carry out Environmental Awareness Programs.

Progress:

During this reporting period the local environmental education NGO, IBONGA and its team composed of WWF, Smithsonian Institution and Peace Corps staffs have organized the following events at the Gamba Complex site:

1 Environmental Education awareness activities in schools,

Throughout the school year, the Environmental Education Team taught environmental issues in 7 schools in Gamba town. The kids from the age of seven through 16 learned about the different causes of environment degradation and discussed ways to protect their living environment.

Environmental Clubs are up and operational in each school (see picture below)



The President of IBONGA NGO, educating students on environmental issues

Nature clubs are up and running in every school



2 Excursions and Seminars

Ibonga organized its annual summer camp for this year in Loango National Park for 31 schoolchildren. This three-week field excursion, full of biological research activities and ‘survival’ skill training, stimulated some of the children to become future park managers

of Gabon. The NGO, with the assistance of the Peace Corps Volunteer, received 5,000 USD grant from CAPRE to carry out this excursion.

3 Social events

On World Environment Day, Ibonga organized a two-day event for 800 local children involving national newspaper, radio, television and a representative of the US Embassy in Gabon.



Population of Gamba-youth and elders celebrating the World Environment Day



Local NGO team at the World Environment Day Event

The Environmental NGO received funds from Shell Gabon, TotalFinaElf and travel agencies and organized this celebration.

1.3. CONGO BASIN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Result:

Progressive development of a cadre of future forest resource management and biodiversity conservation leaders.

Objective:

Provide on site, on the job mentoring for 5 senior level conservation counterparts (2 in Dzanga-Sangha, 2 in Minkebe and 1 in Gamba) in protected area management and biodiversity conservation.

Progress:

a) Dzanga-Sangha progress and lessons learned

Planned activities for the period:

The next semester the CARPE II funded activity for Leadership Development would be crucial for a good functioning of DSP.

A new TA for the Conservation Department (funded by CARPE II) would hopefully take service latest in March 2003. He and the PTA would give technical backstopping to the new National Director the Warden and the newly designated RLAB (acting until now as 'chef d'unité) as to other senior staff. Also a responsible of the biological monitoring program of DSP would be recruited by February 2003 (funded by WWF-Germany) and profit from Leadership Development activities. Other key activities will include:

- Guarantee the day-to-day mentoring of National Director, Warden, RLAB and other senior staff.
- Organize exchange visit for National Director and senior staff to national and trinational conservation projects (Ngotto, CAR; Kabo, Congo; Lobeke, Cameroon).
- Organize training of the new responsible of DSP biological monitoring program

Progress and lessons learned:

The Park Advisor is yet to be recruited and the new National Director joined the project only in February 2003. The GTZ Technical Advisor for Rural Development was also absent during most of this period due to political decisions from the German Government concerning CAR and in relation to political instability.

The WWF's Principal Technical Advisor (PTA), as a member of the tripartite Direction (National Director and two absent PTAs – WWF and GTZ) provided technical backstopping

to the newly appointed and inexperienced National Director, Conservator and the Officer in charge of the antipoaching unit. Other senior staff of DSP also received technical support on issues such as administration and finance, ecological monitoring, collaboration with economic operators (logging and safari hunting), development of tourist activities with a particular emphasis on gorilla tourism, and promoting and monitoring of trilateral collaboration. One staff was trained in biological monitoring in Cameroon in May-June 2003. Two staff participated in an exchange visit to Nouabale-Ndoki National Park in Congo.

b) Gamba Protected Area Complex progress

Due to language barrier and the level of most of the field staff in Gamba, the project requested and received the authorization from USAID to reinvest the funds allocated for this activity into biodiversity conservation.

- c) **Minkebe Reserve Leadership Current State:** Same as above (see activities under Minkebe Community Natural Resource Management)

THEME II: COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

I. MINKEBE-DJA COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY MAPPING:

Expected Results:

Assessment of the long-term impact of participatory mapping exercise as a tool for enhancing community capacity to negotiate greater control over forest resources, and for mobilizing community interest in resource conservation.

Main Objective:

Test Community Participatory mapping in two villages in Cameroon north of Minkebe Reserve in the Minkebe-Dja corridor.

This main objective is divided into two sub-objectives:

Objective 1.

Work toward collaborative river-management using participatory mapping exercise with Mvadh-Mayibouth communities in the Upper-Invindo.

This objective is linked to the management of Minkebe reserve and its periphery and increased understanding of river-use in the transborder area in particular Djoua and Katangoua rivers.

Objective 2.

In collaboration with the MINEF Cameroon, WWF-Cameroon Program Office, ECOFAC-Dja, the Minkebe project will carry out socio-economic surveys in Mintm-

Lele-Mbala-Ngoila-Zoulabot II. This will contribute to fulfill the data gaps in order to develop a full GEF proposal for transborder conservation in Minkebe-Dja-Odzala interzone.

Progress:

The Principal technical Advisor in charge of reporting on this activity was overwhelmed with the CBF

II. GAMBA SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Result:

Evaluation of the costs, opportunities and challenges to using community resource management contracts as a tool for incorporating communities in forest resource management.

Objective:

Assess lessons learned at the Gamba Protected Area Complex to identify community options for intervention points in sustainable natural resource management.

Progress:

1. Gamba Complex Management Planning Workshop

At the request of the Government of Gabon, WWF has undertaken to catalyze a broad participatory process to discuss and validate a comprehensive Management Plan for the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas, building upon the wealth of information and draft plans made available over the last few years. At the end of April 2003, WWF Gamba Project prepared and distributed to a number of key actors involved in the conservation and sustainable development of the Complex a working document called "Strategy for the management of the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas, Gabon (2003 – 2008)". The document includes an overview of the main ecological and socio-economic features of the area and presents key actors. Based on a thorough analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, the paper outlines a Draft Strategic Management Framework with proposed key management strategies and roles and responsibilities of the various actors.

This document formed the basis of a first round of meetings and discussions held at the beginning of May 2003. The following actors were involved during those initial discussions: the representative of the Ministry of Water and Forests - Department in charge of Fauna and Hunting in Gamba, WWF, WCS, Smithsonian Institution, Shell Gabon, and the EU-Funded program "Valorisation des Aires Protégées" (EU-PSVAP). All those actors also met for two days in Iguela with the "Société de Conservation et de Développement (SCD)" to review progress on the Gamba Complex Partnership and discuss more specifically some issues linked

to SCD operation in the Iguela area. Shell International and Shell Foundation also provided written input. In addition, several subsequent bilateral discussions took place between the above actors.

Those preliminary consultations have created a new collaborative dynamics in the management planning process and led to an agreement on the following points:

- The soundness of the background analysis on key threats and opportunities;
- The management strategies and overall activities resulting in a revised planning matrix to be used as the basis for developing the Management Plan (see below);
- The management planning process and the creation of working groups responsible for developing each component of the matrix;
- The need to include from the outset new partners from both the public and the private sector, such as local authorities, other Ministries (Tourism, Mining, Agriculture, Finance, Planning, etc.), other oil companies, logging companies, tour operators, and community-based organizations, research and training institutions;
- A number of priority actions to be undertaken. Tables 1 and 2 (see attachments) show respectively the timeframe for the next three months and the Gamba Management Planning Matrix that presents the economic drivers for the biodiversity loss at the project site.

2. Fisheries activities

Surveys carried out along the Ndog Lagoon and the Nyanga River by the Project Team revealed the necessity of helping the fishermen organized into an association in order to preserve and protect the marine and fresh water resources. Therefore, after having raised their awareness on the depletion of the fisheries in the Lagoon and the river, the project has assisted the local fishermen in organizing themselves into a Fisheries Association. This Association is officially recognized by the local authorities of Gamba. The association's interior regulations and by laws have been developed and adopted by the different members and partners. The Gamba Local Administration has submitted, on April 03, 2003, a formal request to the Ministry of Interior for the recognition of this Association by the central government. Meanwhile the Association has been working with the Fisheries Brigade based in Gamba.

Progress:

The members of this Fisheries Association have elected a Steering Committee that will lead the Association.

In collaboration with the Fisheries Department, the Wildlife department and WWF, all fishermen in the N'dogo lagoon and the Nyanga River are registered, with name, origin, village, off take capacity (boats, fishing gear, outboard motors), and predominant fishing grounds. This information is entered in a joint database of the association and the WWF/DFC project.

Fishing equipment and techniques of all fishermen are also registered. Except 3 fishermen whose off-take has not been systematically registered due to lack of human resources within WWF and DFC to follow-up systematically. Those three fishermen maintain their own register. These data have yet to be verified and entered in a database.

Following 4 awareness raising and 3 surveillance patrols executed jointly by the Fisheries Brigade, WWF and the Association, both on the Ndogo lagoon and the Nyanga river, all illegal fishermen have been removed from fishing villages and fishing camps. Only 5 West African fishermen remain at the outlet of the Nyanga River. Occasional illegal fishing still occurs by illegal fishermen coming from Gamba town.

In order to be better focused, the association has developed its work plan for the coming year, focusing on centralized commercialization of fish caught by members, and on its surveillance strategy to assist the Fisheries brigade in halting illegal activities.

The fisheries association wrote, with the technical assistance of Wildlife Department intern and WWF, a sustainable development project-- that has been incorporated within the strategy document of the locally created 'after oil' committee-- and a project proposal to CITIBANK . The proposal to CITIBANK has been adopted by Citibank Gabon and is presently being reviewed by its headquarters in NY.

The major accomplishment is that in June 2003, the Association has rent a store in the Center of Gamba town. Two members of the association are paid by the other fishermen to buy their fish, clean it, and sell it to customers. An agreement has been made between the Association and one of the largest entrepreneurs in town to sell fish to its employees to be deduced at the end of each month from their salary. With financial assistance from CARPE, the association has been able to purchase a 600 liters freezer, as well as some basic equipment and refurbishment of their store.

Local canoes are painted with the name of the village and the protected area



THEME: PROJECT COORDINATION

Result:

Enhanced collaboration with CARPE and partners activities, synthesis dissemination of WWF/CARPE results.

Objective:

Provide support for field activities, CARPE Meetings, Travel for collaboration among field projects; dedicate half time of WWF position to CARPE Coordination, communication, and synthesis.

Progress:

This first semester was a very busy one, especially with the CARE/Congo Basin Partnership project proposal. The WWF Director of Africa and Madagascar Endangered Spaces Program, the CARPO Regional Representative, the Principal Technical Advisors and the Ecoregion Leader have attended and actively participated in the CARPE meeting in Democratic Republic Congo and in pulling together the Request for application for USAID-CARPE/CBFP project. for that meeting.

THEME: STUDIES

1. Survey Team Training:

Result:

Assessment of the consequences of civil unrest on the conservation status and level of resource exploitation in previously intact, protected and non-protected, large blocks of forest.

Objective:

Train and support rapid survey team to survey biodiversity and conservation status of selected forest zones in areas of unrest.

Progress:

Some of the funds allocated for this activity were used to carry out a capacity building assessment in the Congo Basin. The findings of this survey were used in proposal that was submitted to the MacArthur Foundation, who has graciously accepted to finance the project. Report is available up on request.

CONCLUSION

All our gratitude to the USAID for this CARPE initiative and for the financial support to biodiversity conservation in Central Africa.

In Dzanga-Sangha, collaborative mechanisms are being, and will continue to be, developed between various stakeholders to facilitate the development of a common vision and understanding of an integrated natural resource management approach, and resolve potential conflicts over resources and provide secure access of local communities to resources. The most important point in this context is to catalyze regular meetings with the CALPDS (*Comité d'Arbitrage Local du Projet Dzanga-Sangha*) chaired by the *Sous-Préfet*, and strengthen their capacity to implement development plans. Equally important are the close involvement of local communities in law enforcement efforts and benefit-sharing schemes where local communities receive some of the income generated by logging and safari hunting. The BaAka pygmy communities around Bayanga are already benefiting from eco-tourism activities such as net hunting. The current scheme whereby tourism fees are being divided among stakeholders and forty percent of entrance fees to the protected area go to local community development clearly contributes to building a conservation-based economy in the region and is having a significant, positive influence on local attitudes toward protecting wildlife.

This “conservation dividend” from tourism going to local initiatives provides an incentive for the community to develop a “community vision”, consider limiting population growth through migration, and improve the livelihood of a defined community. Following are planned activities for each component of the Dzanga-Sangha CARPE II project.

Component 1 : DZANGA-SANGHA COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION CONTROL

- Continue exchange and collaboration with legal hunters
- Strengthen capacity of CALPDS in managing revenues from park entry fees and tourism and in catalyzing other livelihood opportunities
- Follow and strengthen the collaboration with SBB in the law enforcement sector (poaching, transport of bush meat)
- Initiate law enforcement collaboration with SESAM
- Work with the Government towards the adoption of sound land-use planning policies

Component 2: CONGO BASIN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Continue the day-to-day mentoring of National Director, Warden, RLAB and other senior staff.
- Guarantee on-the-job training of project staff
- Provide formal training to senior project staff
- Ensure participation of senior staff in tri-national meetings
- Organize training data collection, storage and analysis for the new head of the antipoaching unit

Component 3: SUPPORT TO KONGANA REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER

- Identify trainers
- Rehabilitation of the Kongana training center
- Identify wildlife guards for re-training
- Elaborate training programs
- Start recruitment of new wildlife guards

Component 4: SUPPORT TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT OF THE DZANGA-SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

- Recruitment of a Technical Advisor for the Conservation Department.
- Completion and implementation of a new strategic plan for law enforcement activities.
- Continue and reinforce national, bi- and trinational anti-poaching patrols.
- Start recruitment process for new wildlife guards.
- Execute regular patrols in the protected area with a focus on trans-boundary bi- and trinational patrols
- Establish cooperation with the local communities for surveillance activities
- Assure ongoing dialogue with local authorities.
- Start dialogue with women organization selling bush meat
- Follow and strengthen the collaboration with SBB in the law enforcement sector (poaching, transport of bush meat)
- Initiate law enforcement collaboration with SESAM.

In Gamba the project CARPE funds has helped WWF to support and build the capacity of IBONGA, the Environmental Education NGO, to carry out its education and awareness activities.

WWF Gamba hopes to secure funding next year to open an independent office for this local environmental NGO whose performance has already impacted positively the behavior of some of the local populations. Also, depending on funding, a Cyber café should be opened to give access to local people to the outside world. Training efforts in fundraising, accounting, and biological research will be pursued, in collaboration with Smithsonian Institution and Peace Corps.

Also thanks to USAID-CARPE II funding support another fisheries Association is born: the Fishermen Association, which has been operational already. This association has been patrolling the Ndogo-Lagoon and the Nyanga River in close collaboration with the Fisheries department Brigade based in Gamba. It 's officially recognized by the local authorities and has all its interior regulation and by laws. The Fishermen Association plans to accomplish the following activities within the next six coming months:

1. Open a bank account to receive future grants directly from various donors. The association already have some money to open the account.
2. Lobby for its legal recognition by the Minister of Interior.

3. Update regularly the fishermen database
4. Increase the number of the association members
5. The WWF-Gamba project started collaboration with the EU-funded Cybertracker program. GIS Cybertracker data collection technology will be used to start systematic data collection with a pilot group of motivated fishermen.
6. Hire a Gabonese anthropologist to work with the fisheries association in registering off-takes in terms of species, size, fishing effort, and fishing zones.
7. Within the framework of the management planning for the Gamba Complex, we aim for official recognition of traditional fishing grounds by local fishermen. There to, and assisted by Cybertracker data collection and analyses technology, the fishing grounds will be demarcated by joint fishermen, WWF and MINEF teams.
8. Also, and with funding from Moore Foundation, a marine surveillance program will be launched in collaboration with WCS, implicating both sports fishing tour operators and local fishermen stationed at the outlets of the lagoons to identify illegal trawling activity.

WWF CONTRIBUTION TO THE FULFILLMENT OF CARPE II ACTIVITIES

CARPE II money has contributed in one fashion or another to all WWF-led activities in Central Africa Region. The following is a partial summary of activities and achievements during the last six-months.

A. THE WESTERN CONGO BASIN MOIST FOREST ECOREGION HIGHLIGHTS (WCBMFE)

The WCBMFE Program goal is to improve natural resources management policies and practices in ways that contribute to livelihood security and poverty alleviation within selected WWF Global 200 Ecoregion.

Its purpose is to apply tools and methodologies to address social, economic and policy factors with partners and stakeholders in the implementation of ecoregion conservation

Following is a quick situation analysis of the field activities in the Western Congo Basin Moist Forest Ecoregion within three project sites.

Objective 1: To enhance legal, policy and institutional factors to provide incentives for conservation and sustainable development

Target 1: Institutional capacity to implement and enforce laws and regulations is strengthened in the sub-region

Activities:

- Study on judiciary system and design of action plan for Cameroon and Gabon
- Production of abridged version of forestry and wildlife laws for Cameroon and Gabon

Lessons learned:

In a system where litigation on environmental issues is rare and where case reporting is inefficient, access to judgments on environmental issues is not so evident. Low level Ministerial Orders have an impact in the implementation of existing laws.

Lessons learned:

Government of Central Africa officials satisfied with present statutory BS arrangements for wildlife and forestry and as such must be convinced for need to extend to genetic resources and for improvement of the existing regime.

Objective 2: To balance the ecological, social, and economic land-uses necessary for sustainable development through a process of land-use negotiations among a wide range of stakeholders

Target 2. Land use plans are adopted in selected landscapes

Activities:

- Work towards the adoption of a land-use plan for the Minkebe-Dja-Odzala (TRIDOM) landscape, including protected areas and logging areas with conservation of wildlife regime and community areas.

Lesson Learned:

The 3 countries involved (Cameroon, Gabon and Congo) in the project have expressed their wishes to see more development oriented project established within the landscape

Target 2.1. Landscape master plans developed, adopted

Activities 1:

- Initiate process to design master plan in Lobeke part of Tri-National Sangha (TNS) landscape
- Implement "integrated management pilot project" in the Interzone Lobeke, Boumba-Bek and Nki, which includes one logging concession, one sport hunting operator, one council forest and two community hunting zones:

Lessons Learned

There is need to establish strong collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders and build consultative platforms that will guarantee dialogue amongst stakeholders. This will also help in development of a common vision and approach on sustainable management of buffer zones where activities are carried out and have direct implication on the Park.

Activity 2:

- Support adoption of a preliminary master plan for Tri-National Minkebe-Dja-Odzala (TRIDOM), defining protected areas and management structure.
- Support adoption of Minkebe Forest master plan through individual consultations with stakeholders, field visits for decision-makers, local workshops for communities and finally provincial/national workshops in Oyem and Makokou.
- Support adoption and implementation of Collaborative Management Agreements regarding hunting in logging concessions (Bordamur model) at sub-landscape scale (Minkebe Forest) and gradually at landscape scale

Lessons learned

There is a need to establish strong collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders and build consultative platforms that will guarantee dialogue amongst stakeholders. This will also help in development of a common vision and approach on sustainable management of buffer zones where activities are carried out and have direct implication on the Park

The landscape master plan will result from replication of successful adopted regulation at the local scale (for example Memorandum of Understanding -MOU with gold-mining community or MOU regarding hunting in logging concessions).

Adoption of MOU's regarding hunting in logging concessions with communities, authorities, logging companies and MINEF is a lengthy process demanding a lot of staff time investment and high credibility and presence in the field

Contribute to finalization and adoption of Gamba Complex management plan, including the following steps:

- Extensive last round of individual meetings with representatives of key stakeholders: MINEF, other Ministries, local authorities, WCS, Smithsonian, other projects, private extractive resource sector (oil, timber), tourism sector, local associations, local populations
- Production of new draft and review by all stakeholders
- Thematic workshops in Gamba and Libreville with key stakeholders
- Production of revised document for final comments
- Validation workshop
- Production of final document

Lessons learned

To arrive at a management system that is functional and accepted by all major stakeholders, management planning in general needs to be developed in a collaborative and inclusive manner. Due to the complex social-economical local context of the Gamba Complex, WWF should be the catalyst and not necessarily the driver for all aspects.

Objective 3: More secure access to, and better management of natural resources amongst and within communities.

Target 3 Local communities have **access rights** to protected areas and other zones

Activities:

- Support adoption of collaborative agreements between communities (including Baka Pygmies) and government authorities to define rights and responsibilities in community zones within Lobeke Park. This includes building capacity of communities in negotiating such agreements)

- Support adoption of collaborative agreements between communities (including Baka Pygmies) and logging concessionaires and sports hunting operators to define rights and responsibilities in forest concessions and sports hunting zones.

Lessons Learned

The project needs to provide support for exchange visits of Community Leaders and groups to other sites with similar experiences;

The project need to provide technical support in the development of management plans for community hunting territories as part of a capacity building strategy to reinforce management skills of community structures.

B. Dzanga-Sangha: Activities in support of CARPE II-financed anti-poaching have included:

- **Road maintenance, on going**
- **Delimitation of Park Boundaries**

Since the conception of the Dzanga-Sangha Project, the local population has cited the lack of well-defined park and pre-park limits (2- kilometer buffer zone) as a reason for their illegal forays into the National Park, particularly the Dzanga sector. In collaboration with villagers, the Project has begun the delimitation of the pre-park area, cutting a 2 meter transect and ringing trees with bright paint. A key border, the north to south pre-park limit of the Dzanga sector has been designated as priority due to the threat of imminent logging, hunting pressure from neighboring villages as well as its proximity to a key tourist attraction, Dzanga Bai. Ten kilometers of cutting and marking have been completed.

- **Hunters Working Group (on going)**

The Project continues to support and collaborate with a group of hunters (and illegal trappers) representing all villages in the Reserve. In November 2001, at a sixth meeting the Project presented information and explanations on laws pertaining to natural resource use in the Reserve and National Park. Texts presented pertain to questions submitted by representatives prior to the meeting. Due to the success of this meeting, a similar presentation will be organized for project staff, targeting anti-poaching staff, as legal texts are often equally confusing for them.

- **GORILLA HABITUATION AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT:** Population health concerns for western lowland gorilla eco-tourism in the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park, **ongoing.**

C. Gamba Gorilla Habituation (on going).

(Attachments)

Table 1: The next four months timeframe

When	What	Who
11 July	Distribution of revised Strategy Paper in French and English, including proposed working groups	WWF
16 July	Comments on revised version with emphasis on composition of working groups	All addressees
17-27 July	Second round of consultations with a focus on: a) sustainable financial options, b) involvement of local authorities and communities in Gamba. Finalize working groups composition and their ToR.	WWF-Gamba team and consultant
20 September	Distribution of outline of Management Plan	Working groups, catalyzed by WWF
As from mid-September	Consultation for Land Use Planning and Zoning starts	Catalyzed by contracted WWF consultant and others
October	Stakeholders workshop on Land Use Planning and Zoning	Catalyzed by contracted WWF consultant and others
October	First meeting of each working group takes place and works on further version of outline	Working groups, with facilitation from WWF

Table 2: The Gamba Complex Management Planning Matrix

	Long-term target
Economic Drivers	
Logging	Sustainable forest management in place in logging concessions
Hunting and Poaching	Surveillance systems effective
	Illegal hunting stopped in the Complex
	Illegal hunting stopped in logging concessions in buffer zones
Fishing	Surveillance systems effective
	Illegal offshore trawling halted in offshore waters and inlets
	Illegal fishing stopped on lagoons and rivers and local fishing communities empowered to manage their fishing grounds
	Sustainable sport fishing effective
Agriculture	Existing potential for agriculture developed in some key areas of the Complex
	Crop raiding monitored and protection methods effective
Oil & Gas	Best standards adopted by existing operators and regulations for operation and abandonment in environmentally sensitive areas implemented
	Pollution controlled and monitored
Tourism	Master plan, rules and regulations and best practices developed and implemented by private sector and Park Management
Land Use Planning and Management	
Land Use Planning	Global land-use plan for the Complex endorsed (buffer zones, adequate protected status for the intermediate zones villages and community zones, Gamba town, economic and public infrastructure development)
	Detailed land-use plan for the newly-created Parks adopted
Management Planning for the Gamba Complex and its Parks / Institutional Change Management	Gamba Complex Management Plan adopted
	Management plans for the Parks endorsed
	Effective management structures and coordination of conservation-related efforts effective in the Gamba Complex
	Management structures and systems are effective in the Parks
Community Development	Communities are participating in -and benefiting from natural resource management
	Sustainable development alternative activities (possibly including incentives) implemented with public and private partners
Research & Training	Research strategy and protocols developed and implemented
	Training programs are in place for Park Managers, Park Technical staff, private sector staff, ecoguards, local conservation collaborators, community based organizations
Communications and Outreach	Communications / marketing and outreach program effective
Long Term Funding for Conservation	Long-term funding solutions implemented (user fees, trust fund, sponsorship, private sector based initiatives)