



CARPO Bulletin

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The WWF CARPO Newsletter

The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way
(William Blake)

Cameroon validates national strategy on forestry and wildlife control

Cameroon has validated its national strategy on forestry and wildlife control. Through the technical and financial assistance of WWF and under the auspices of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), a two-day workshop to this effect held in Kribi, South Cameroon early March. Many observers describe the document as authentic given the wide range of participants for the amendment and adoption process. Participants included MINFOF, French, German and Canadian Cooperation Agencies, (ACDI, GTZ/KFW), EU, World Bank, WWF, Global Witness, Global Forestry Watch, Resource Extraction and Monitoring (REM), the civil society and private sector.

The strategy represents a concrete translation of legal dispositions to ensure sustainable forest and wildlife management and takes into account international engagements entered in to by Cameroon.

Campo Ma'an and Gamba projects on website

The Campo Ma'an and Gamba projects in Cameroon and Gabon respectively, are now visible on the panda website thanks to communication efforts by teams on the ground and at WWF International. Water – tight information about these projects are now available on the worldwide web.

For Campo Ma'an visit:

http://panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/africa/where/central_africa/cameroon/campo_ma'an/english/index.cfm

WWF Gamba Webpage:

www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/africa/where/central_africa/gabon/gamba/

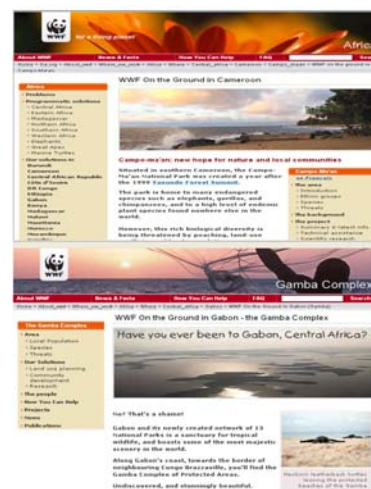
DRC: 1st national workshop on Luki Biosphere Reserve

WWF DRC organized the first national workshop on the perspectives of the Luki Biosphere Reserve under the co-chair of Anselme ENERUNGA and Gérard KAMANDA wa KAMANDA, respectively Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation Water and Forests and the Minister of Scientific Research of Congo - Kinshasa. The workshop that took place from 25 – 26 March, 2005 in Boma and Luki, Bas-Congo province, aimed at exploring the concept of a biosphere reserve and focusing on the present state of Luki. It also provided an opportunity to sensitize the general public and donors on the conservation importance of this reserve.

Although sparks of disagreement over the status of Luki reserve graced the workshop, participants agreed it was a positive step initiated by WWF towards the sustainable management of this magnificent area of great biodiversity.



Participants for the validation process



Gamba and Campo Ma'an on line



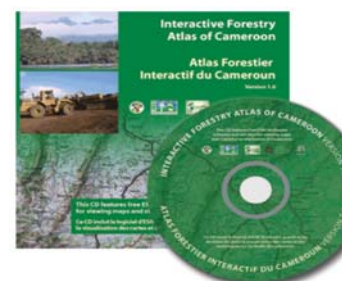
DRC authorities at the Luki workshop

Cameroon: Atlas to monitor illegal logging

A partnership formed in 2002 between the government of Cameroon and the World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch (GFW) achieved a major result with a March 2005 release of a forest-mapping tool designed to help Cameroon reduce illegal logging and ensure better governance.

The agreement, the first African remote-sensing and monitoring partnership between a government and an independent group, has produced a report on the state of forest concessions and created maps that help officials from Cameroon's Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) to detect illegal logging throughout the country.

The maps and data can be accessed at www.globalforestwatch.org.



Gabon: National Parks on French and German TV Screens

A French freelance television crew working for *Gédéon Programmes* and *Matin et Soir Films* recently toured the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas, Southwest Gabon, recently in search of rare movies on conservation activities in the area. The crew is currently working to produce a series of documentaries on the work of conservation "stars" in the Gamba Complex. A number of conservation key players in the area were filmed as they carried out their daily activities. These include the wardens of the two National Parks in the Complex, the agents of the Wildlife Department of the Ministry of Water and Forests, the members of the local environmental education NGO Ibonga, and staff of WWF and the EU-funded program on support to protected area development (PSVAP). "We want to raise awareness and enhance admiration for the natural beauty of the National Parks Network in Gabon, by showing the challenges and opportunities of daily work by conservation "avant-gardistes" in the Gamba Complex" said Emmanuel Roblin, producer of the series.



Augustin Mihindou, Park Warden of Southern Loango National Park, explains the goal and methodology of park delimitation (photo : Manasse Mba II / DFC).

Nature club receives communication material from WWF

WWF North Savannah project, Cameroon, has offered communication material to nature clubs of two of secondary schools in the Benoué Division. The two Clubs from *Lycée Classique Moderne de Garoua* and *Collège Moderne de la Benoue* solicited support from WWF to provide environmental information for display in their respective schools.



A living planet for students

Educational Visit to WWF-CARPO

Under the framework of support to students who are carrying out studies/research on environmental and conservation related issues, WWF-CARPO hosted 14 students from different American universities in March. Facilitated by the "School for International Training (SIT)", Yaoundé, the visit enabled the students to acquire theoretical and practical technical information about WWF activities, role and strategy in the promotion of sustainable natural resource management and rural development goals within the sub-region and Cameroon in particular. The 14 students were scheduled to witness ground realities by traveling to Campo-Ma'an and Korup National Parks.



DRC: NGOs call government attention to bad law on granting forest concessions

Under the leadership of WWF DRC, international NGOs operating in that country (AWF, CARE International and WCS) recently called government's attention to what appears to be an obnoxious law that militates against conservation efforts. According to Dr. Martin Tchamba, interim coordinator of WWF DRC, the NGOs met with the Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation, Water and Forests « to point out the social, environmental, economic and political consequences of the new law and seek for its immediate abrogation ».

WWF DRC notes that Congo Kinshasa plays a primordial role in the region which has about 78 % of the Congo Basin forests and that steps taken so far to assure conservation and sustainable management contained in the Forest code of 2002 could be jeopardized by a November 2004 law. The law under question fixes modalities for granting of forest concessions.

Gamba Fishermen association

The local fishermen in Gamba recently received training from the Coopération Française and the Direction de la Pêche of the Ministry of Waters and Forests on utilizing new nets they received through WWF assistance. The training was partly sponsored by WWF. The local Fishermen's association which practices sustainable fishing, benefited from the training on net repair, use, and maintenance.

Marine Turtle

Marine Turtle research which started in Gamba mid November 2005 is on-going. A team is monitoring and tagging all species of marine turtles. This work will enable control on egg poaching and will allow better understanding of incubation and migration. The Gamba Complex of Protected Areas in Gabon is an ideal place for long-term monitoring of marine turtle nesting sites. Its long, pristine beaches harbour high numbers of nesting leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and olive ridleys (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and occasionally some green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbills (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). WWF has been working on turtle monitoring and protection in Gabon over the last four years in collaboration with Ibonga (a local environmental education NGO), Biotopic (a Dutch environmental NGO) and PROTOMAC, a programme funded by the EU, which was set up following the implementation of the international Abidjan Agreement on sea turtle protection for African countries along the Atlantic Ocean.

Minkebe Builds In-House Capacity

In order to ensure continuous and better monitoring of ecological activities in the area, WWF-Minkebe Project (Gabon) recently organized two one-week long training workshops for key conservation staff (3 Park Wardens (*Conservateurs*), 7 law enforcement officials, 6 WWF staff). The workshop aimed at improving capacity on basic software applications like Access, Arcview, CyberTracker, Excel, Mapsource, and PowerPoint. Participants were also drilled on how to download data from GPS and CyberTracker and to subsequently treat them in the relevant software.

Jengi: Ecological monitoring begins in Nki

The monitoring of animal presence and abundance in the proposed Nki National Park (SE Cameroon) began in January. Monitoring is carried out seven days a month. Collected data will help in determining wildlife abundance in the area which is known to be rich in flagship wildlife species such as elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees.

Press trip to Southeast Cameroon

A team of five international journalists carried out a six-day press tour of Southeast Cameroon as prelude to the Second Central Africa Heads of State Summit that held in Brazzaville, Congo from February 4-5, 2005. The trip resulted to a series of international newspaper publications, broadcast and on-line news. Olivier VanBogaert of WWF International Communication was the brain behind this stunt.

Gabon telephone numbers

Since 03 April 2005, the mobile phone system in Gabon has changed from six to eight digits. When calling from abroad please dial as follows after the country code number 241:

For Celtel numbers, use 07 plus the phone numbers i.e those starting with 14, 15, 28, 29, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 95, 96. Ex: you will from now be using +241 07 840003 to reach Louis Mary Bekoune for instance.

For Libertis numbers, use 06 plus the initial correspondent's numbers i.e. those starting with 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 83, 95, 97. Ex: +241 06 242526.

For Telecel numbers, use 05 plus the initial correspondents* numbers i.e. those starting with 08, 09, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 80, 81, 82, 86, 92, 93, 98. Ex: +241 05 317952

Up to September 3, 2005 Gabon Telecom will have its system unchanged and WWF Gabon Office can still be reached at +241 730028.

Anthrax in Cameroon?

A release by government authorities in Cameroon in March 2005 suggests that anthrax may be looming in the East of the country. Press reports speak of the discovering of 4 dead chimpanzees around the Dja Reserve believed to have been killed by anthrax. Early laboratory analysis confirms the presence of this disease which was thought to be another form of the deadly Ebola. Locals have been warned by authorities on the consumption of bush meat in the area.

Split at Environmental administration

The former Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Cameroon (MINEF) has been split into two since December 2004. There is now the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP) and the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOP).

On the ground report:

Chiefs invoke spirits to protect Kupe forests as integral reserve.

The hall went silent as chief Nsume-Ngeh's voice cut across the spacious community hall of Nyasoso village. Even to those of us from WWF who did not understand the local Bakossi language, it was an inspiring moment as the chief, joined by three others invoked the spirits of the land. For those who are not familiar with the traditions of the tribes around the great Kupe Mountain in the mid west of Cameroon, the invocation of ancestral spirits is performed only by the chiefs on special occasions. In this case there were some twenty chiefs (representing the entire area) answering the chorus and waving enchanted broom sticks as chief Nsume- Ngeh held tight to a jug of palm wine and blurted out the names of ancestors.

This was the reaction of the community leaders when WWF officials of the Coastal Forest Programme, (CFP) informed them on March 29th 2005, that the government of Cameroon had granted their wishes to have an integrated forest reserve for Kupe.

"We have come to inform you that your request to have an integrated forest reserve status for Kupe forest has been granted by government. The next steps of consultations for the gazettement process can now begin," said Dr Atanga Ekobo, Programme Manager of WWF CFP.

The chiefs took turns to show their rich understanding of having the status of their forest changed and solicited support from WWF to push ahead the gazettement process. The traditional rulers regretted that despite the demarcation process that had been carried out in 2002, encroachment into the forest was still rife from certain villages.

Mount Kupe (2064m) is perched between the Southwest and Littoral provinces of Cameroon and covers an area of approximately 42km². It is made up largely of evergreen forest (800-2000m), with some montane forest species above 1800m and below 1200m. The forest is surrounded by about 20 villages/towns with an estimated population of 140,000 inhabitants.

The forest has a wide range of endemic and endangered flora and fauna species, like the elusive Mount Kupe Bush Shrike. There are seven bird species in the area, a unique chameleon specie, eight primate species like the preuss' monkey, red-eared monkey, drill, chimpanzee, red-capped mangabey and the *Coffea montekupeensis*, a wild coffee plant believed to be of more value than the robusta and arabica coffees common in Cameroon.

However, this rich biodiversity has been facing severe human pressure as the population look upon the Kupe forest for their livelihood. Unsustainable methods of exploitation and trespass on traditional sacred sites were going to jeopardize the future of this rain forest. Consequently, the local communities through their Chiefs and with assistance from conservation organizations as WWF CFP and other community-based organizations began sensitization campaigns which led to the establishment of a farm-forest boundary to stop further encroachment. In 2002 the local communities led by their chiefs and with support from WWF, requested government to transform the Kupe forest into an integral ecological reserve within which further human activities were prohibited.



Partial view of Mt Kupe



Dr Atanga stoops to « pick up » blessings from ancestors at chiefs' bidding



Group picture of Kupe chiefs

WWF People

Dr Raymond Lumbuenamo, has joined the WWF family as DRC National Coordinator, as of April 5, 2005. He is coming from USAID/kinshasa where he worked as the mission's Environmental Officer and Projects Manager in the Livelihoods office where he acquired a solid experience in implementing projects in rural development and natural resources management. He comes to WWF with a background in remote sensing for natural resources management and holds a PhD degree from the University of Arizona. Before joining USAID, Dr Raymond Lumbuenamo, has joined the WWF family as DRC National Coordinator, as of April 5, 2005. He is coming from

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