



Highlights

Surface Area: 15,580 km²

Partners: ANPN, Ibonga, IRET, Max Planck Institute, MEFEDD, PROGRAM, Shell, Smithsonian Institute, Kyoto University, WCS

National Parks: 2, covering 6,050 km² (39%)

Biodiversity (N species)

Plants: 2,121

Mammals: 89

Birds: 380

Reptiles: 86

Amphibians: 70

Fish: 68

Threatened Species

Animals

- Forest elephant
- Western gorilla
- Chimpanzee
- Manatee
- Nile and Slender-snouted crocodile
- Leatherback and *Pelusios marani* turtle

Plants

- *Hyphaene guineensis*
- *Didelotia pauli-sitai*
- *Combretum ivanii*
- *Xanthocercis rabiensis*

Major Threats to Landscape

Direct

- Illegal hunting
- Unsustainable logging
- Illegal in-shore and offshore fishing
- Oil production
- Mining
- Agriculture expansion

Indirect

- Lack of clear management systems for PAs
- Weak capacity
- Lack of alternative protein and work for people
- Lack of wildlife management in national forestry policy

Key Interventions

- Threats assessment
- Zoning and management planning
- Wildlife management in protected areas
- Wildlife management in forestry concessions
- Biological & socioeconomic monitoring
- Development of sustainable funding mechanisms
- Sustainable community resource planning
- Environmental education and capacity building of local NGOs
- Promotion of alternative income generating activities
- Eco-tourism development

WWF in The Gamba Complex

Introduction

The Gamba Complex encloses two of the thirteen National Parks of Gabon being the Loango and Moukalaba-Doudou National Parks (together 604,772 ha). The remaining area of the Complex consists of a Sustainable Forestry Concession (FSC certified) of 568,500 ha situated in between the two National Parks and a series of different protected areas (388,131 hectares).

The Gamba-Complex' uniqueness lies in its mosaic of diverse habitats from seashores and mangroves through swamp and rain forest to semi-montane forest, savannas, lagoons, and intact rivers. Elevation goes from sea level along the 200 km of pristine coastline of the Complex up to 700 meters in the Doudou Mountains within the Moukalaba-Doudou National Park. This diverse habitat favours an enormous variety of fauna and flora with numerous endangered species.

The Complex overlaps with village territories and community lands for agriculture, hunting and fishing, Gamba town and oil exploitation and exploration permits. The Complex has a population of 9,500 people of which 7,500 reside in Gamba town and a rural population of 2,000 people distributed over 30 small villages (0.2 inhabitants/km²). These statistics reflect rural migration towards development centers, which has left several villages abandoned since the 1960s.

Challenges

Private sector operations

A range of private sector companies are active with exploration and exploitation activities within the Complex. The main sectors include the oil and logging sector. Oil companies like Shell, Total, Addax, Morrell & Prome and Perenco are all actively producing oil in the Complex. The logging company CBG started their logging activities in 1989. Through the infrastructure developed for their operations these oil and forest companies facilitate access to the area, subsequently make it more difficult to control the area on illegal activities.

Lack of enforcement capacity

One of the main challenges is that the government who is responsible for enforcement of regulations and patrols is lacking capacity to enforce regulations. They lack financial means as well as technical expertise to do research and to carry out monitoring activities.

Development of alternative income sources

The main sources of income for the local population are employment with one of the private sector companies or income from illegal hunting and logging activities. Tourism is emerging in the Loango national park and hardly existent in the Moukalaba Doudou park and other areas in the Complex. There is a clear potential for tourism that could be further explored. Similarly there is a potential to create employment in the agricultural sector and fishery sector. Further development of this sector has as additional advantage that it reduces dependence on importing fish and vegetables in the Complex.

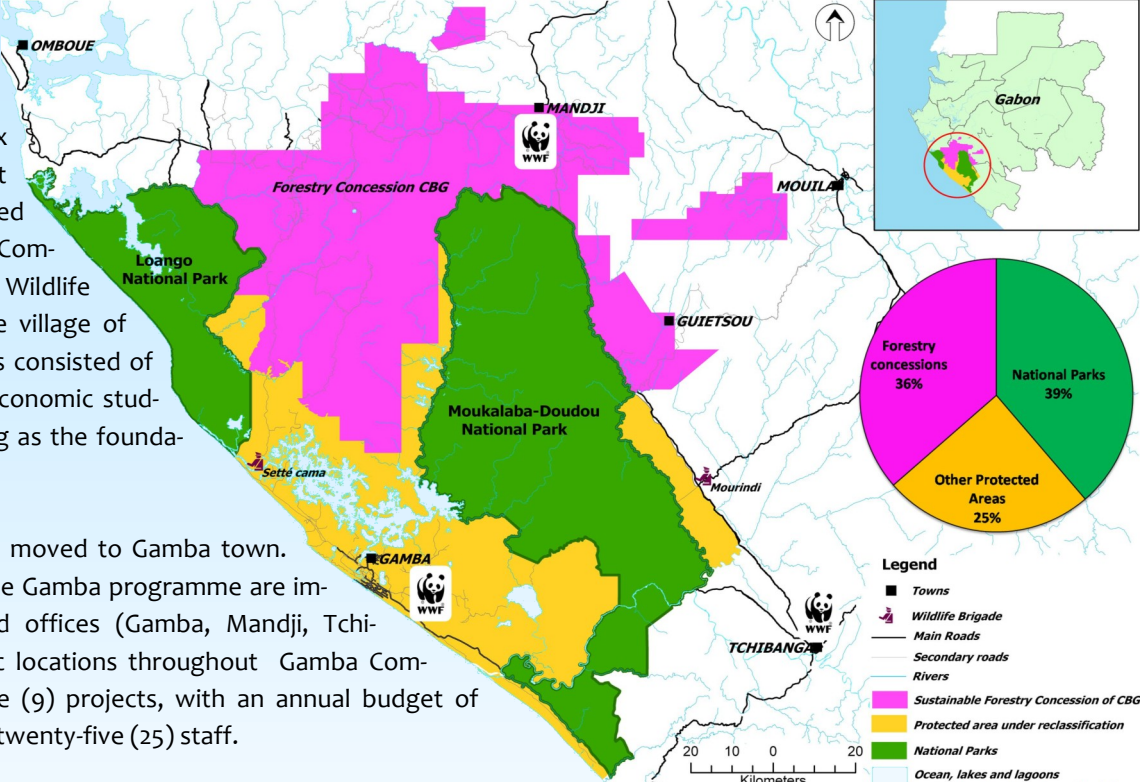
WWF Gamba's main goals

- ◆ Monitoring and protection of the unique landscape and wildlife of the Gamba Complex
- ◆ Support the government authorities in enforcing regulations through anti-poaching patrols to reduce illegal hunting and bushmeat trade
- ◆ Assist in the development of alternative sustainable employment opportunities for local communities. These include sedentary agriculture practices and sustainable fishery with the local fish association
- ◆ Support to government authorities to further support and kick-start tourism in the Loango and Moukalaba Doudou National Parks respectively
- ◆ Support the private sector in the Gamba Complex with their wildlife management & anti-poaching activities;
- ◆ Assist government authorities and local communities to get access to innovative environmental finance mechanisms for biodiversity conservation, like forest carbon finance.

Conservation (WWF Gamba history)

Conservation in the Gamba Complex began with the creation of the first protected areas in 1956. WWF started a field programme in the Gamba Complex in 1991, by constructing the Wildlife Brigade and the WWF office in the village of Sette Cama. The main field activities consisted of biodiversity inventories and socio economic studies throughout the Complex, serving as the foundation for conservation management.

In the late nineties the WWF office moved to Gamba town. Nowadays WWF field activities of the Gamba programme are implemented through the three field offices (Gamba, Mandji, Tchibanga) based at the most strategic locations throughout Gamba Complex. WWF Gamba implements nine (9) projects, with an annual budget of about € 1 million, directly employing twenty-five (25) staff.



Major Achievements

Zoning and Management Plans

- * Development of management plans for and Loango Moukalaba-Doudou National Park
- * Establishment of a Committee for re-zoning of protected areas in the Gamba Complex
- * Establishment of recognized traditional land use zones

Direct technical, logistical and financial support to monitoring and surveillance activities of the local government including the Wildlife and Fisheries Brigades and the National Parks.

- * Annual support to 5000 man-days of field missions
- * Training and equipment for 60 field staff

Technical support to the wildlife management policies of the private sector

Applied research and Monitoring in the Complex

- * Ecological Monitoring of the National Parks
- * Continuous socio-economic monitoring
- * Annual monitoring and protection of marine turtles
- * Habituation of red capped mangabey

Capacity building of local NGO

- * Establishment of local Fisheries Association
- * Providing major support to NGO Ibonga for Environmental Education, Handicraft, Marine Turtle Protection.

Tourism

- * promoting local businesses in tourism (PROGRAM & GIC)
- * Assist in developing a tourist sector plan

Support

You can help us to achieve our goals by contributing to our work. As an indication, costs include for example:

- * One day of mission for one eco-guard @ \$25 /day
- * Annual training of one eco-guard @ \$200 / year
- * Construction of one surveillance post @ \$7,000
- * Set up of sedentary agriculture practice @ \$17,500/ha/ year
- * One boat with outboard motor @ \$25,000
- * Ensure protection of nesting marine turtles on 100km of coastline @ 45,000 /year
- * One 4x4 truck to ensure all logistics @ \$50,000
- * Ensure awareness raising throughout the Complex through support to local NGO's @ \$60,000 /year
- * Set up solar power in Wildlife Brigade @ \$75,000 /Brigade
- * Reinforce infrastructure to set up community based tourism operated by local NGO @ \$80,000
- * Ecological Monitoring of entire National Park @ \$100,000
- * Set up coastal surveillance system @ \$500,000

www.panda.org/gabon/gamba

for a living planet®

