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Debrief: CARPE Strategic Planning Workshop

MI and FAB
24 January 2014

This Presentation

- 1. Context**
- 2. Objectives of the workshop**
- 3. What we did and what happened**
- 4. Key opportunities and challenges**
- 5. Next steps**
- 6. Questions**

CARPE Context

Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment

Phase I: 1995-2002

Phase II: 2003-2012

Phase III: 2013-2020

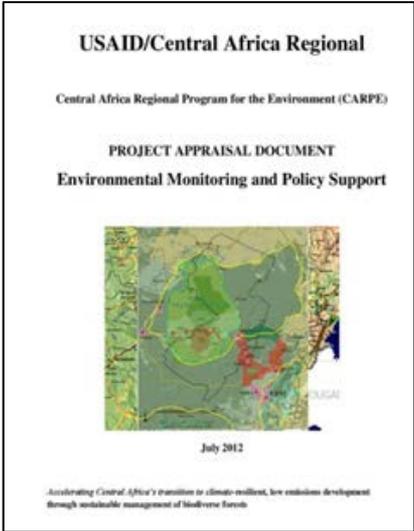
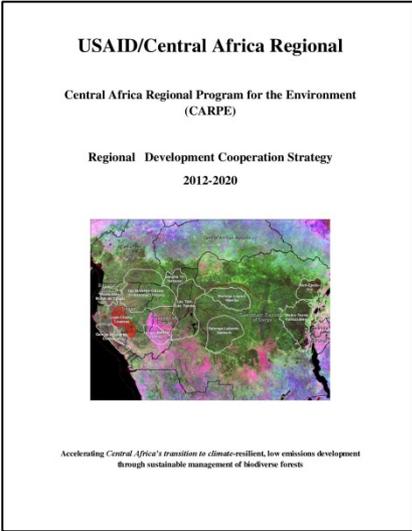
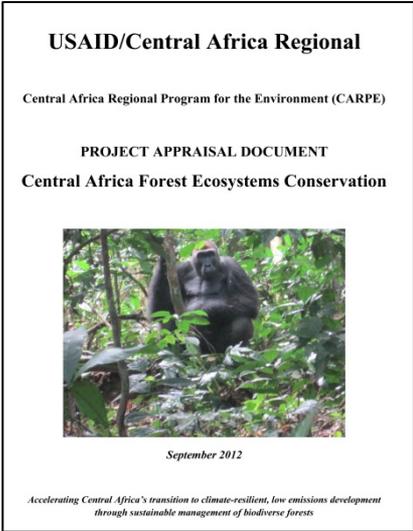
Program Focus:

1. Biodiversity Conservation
2. Sustainable forest management
3. Climate change mitigation/REDD+

Geographic Focus: 8 landscapes in 7 countries

CARPE Context

Two Distinct but Interdependent Projects under the RDCS:



RDCS

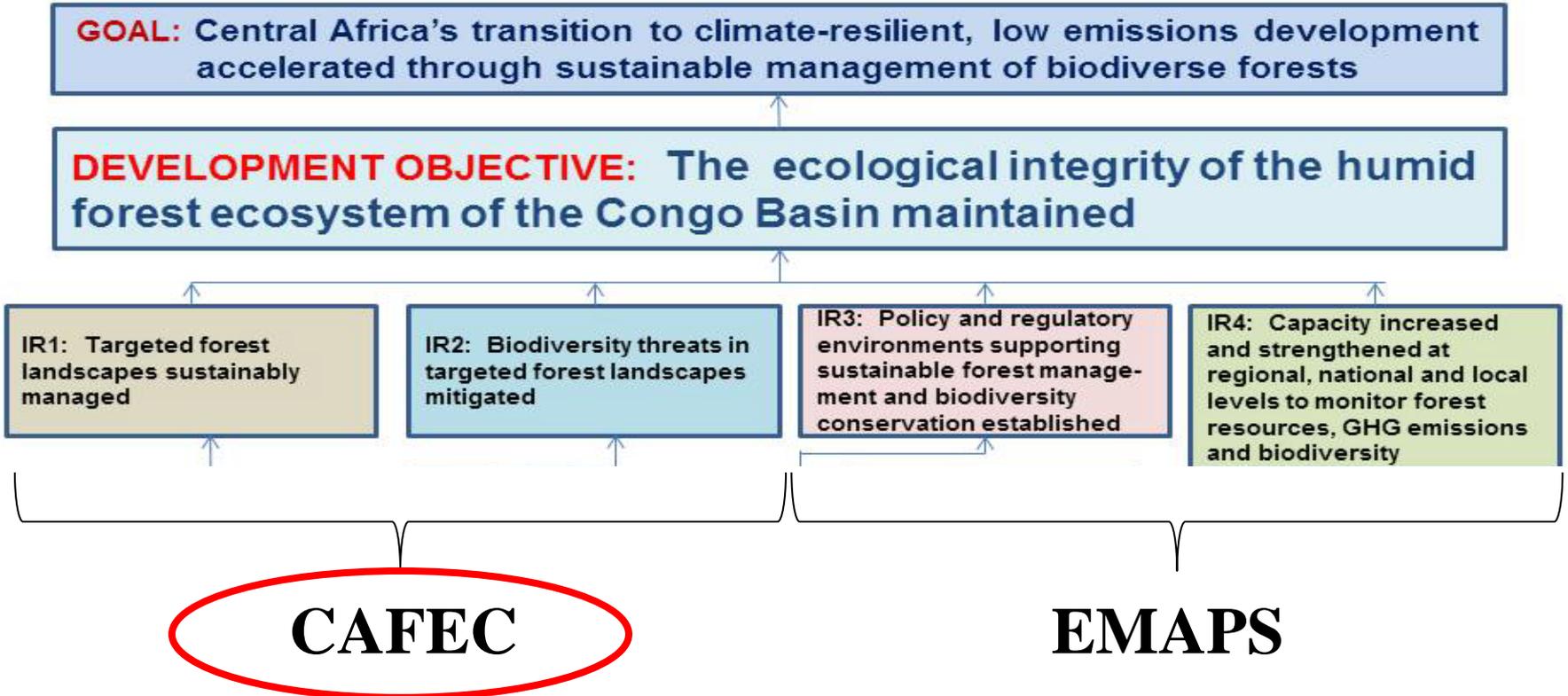
Central Africa Forest Ecosystems Conservation (CAFEC)

Environmental Monitoring and Policy Support (EMAPS)

[RDCS Approved June 2011 and PADs Approved October 2012]

CARPE Context

Results Framework in the RDCCS



- 8 Landscape Programs
- 4 Implementing Partners

From the CARPE-MI Concept Note...

What we (FAB and MI) want to achieve with CARPE:

Objectives:

- USG efforts in biodiversity conservation in Central Africa are clearly articulated and aligned/harmonized.
- Mission Staff and CARPE III partners are engaged to develop a strategic plan (targets, threats, strategies, theories of change, and M&E) that fits within the broader USG biodiversity conservation work.
- Data collection methods / sources are aligned to CARPE Phase III theories of change and related standard indicators.



Objectives of CARPE Workshop

- Unlike a “typical” MI initial site visit – more active role in activity planning
- Objectives included:
 - Strengthen project design
 - Revise USG-aligned conceptual model for conservation in central Africa
 - Define theories of change (TOC) and associated indicators for priority actions under CAFEC
 - Develop a plan for updating the CARPE Results Framework and PMP
 - Enhance gender integration
 - Improve communication of CARPE to priority audiences

What We Did

- Four key sessions covered the MI-led objectives during the workshop:
 1. USG-Aligned Conceptual Model
 2. CAFEC Actions
 3. Theories of Change and Indicators
 4. Next Steps
- Each session included presentation, discussion, and lots of group work!
- Gender objective was part of TOC and indicators
- Communications was a stand-alone session

What We Did

1. USG-Aligned Conceptual Model

- Presented and discussed draft USG-aligned conceptual model
- Group work to review and provide feedback

OUTCOME – Model validated; consistent feedback among groups; straightforward edits; USG agency focus mapped

2. CAFEC Actions

- Presented crosswalk of actions across CAFEC RFP and proposals
- Proposed distilling CAFEC into 8 actions for developing TOC

OUTCOME – consensus around 8 actions for CAFEC

3. Theories of Change and Indicators

- Introduced theories of change and monitoring
- Group work to develop TOC and draft indicators for all 8 actions, using existing materials where possible (e.g., USFWS TOCs)
- Partners “tagged” draft TOC and indicators with their landscapes

OUTCOME – 8 actions confirmed and draft TOCs and indicators completed and tagged by partners

What We Did

4. Next Steps

- Group discussion on implications of the workshop on:
 - CAFEC workplanning and performance monitoring
 - Linking CAFEC with other CARPE activities (EMAPS) and partners
 - Linking CARPE with USFWS, other USG agencies working in the region, and CBFP
 - Immediate next steps

OUTCOME – consensus among participants to use workshop results to coordinate and manage CAFEC Landscape Programs, for example:

- Organize tasks in workplan by action/TOC (rather than by sub-IR)
- Refine TOCs and indicators for use in performance monitoring

Formed an Implementing Partner Working Group to execute next steps with assistance from MI

Plan to develop TOC for EMAPS actions once awards have been made (potentially a March workshop in Kinshasa)

Agreement to use TOC to articulate links between CARPE and USFWS for enhanced coordination and efficiency



Key Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities unique to CARPE

- Direct engagement with implementing partners who value MI's work and want to help CARPE improve
- MI invited to stay involved in implementation
- Strategic actions established across landscapes can serve as learning portfolios (related to IR2)
- Using USFWS-consistent TOCs will enhance collaboration with this key agency
- As a high-profile Mission, CARPE could well-illustrate FAB and MI's work across the agency
- Robust TOC-based performance monitoring would allow for better communication of CARPE's impact on biodiversity in Central Africa – an important need for FAB
- Develop examples of gender integration in biodiversity activity planning to share across the agency



Key Opportunities and Challenges

Challenges

- CARPE is huge and very complex, so central management will continue to be a challenge in spite of gains made during the workshop
- Change in a long-running program can be difficult
- Very few Mission staff
- Mission staff are already overextended
- Mission staff in-theory are supportive of MI's work, but they may not fully understand the implications



Next Steps

Immediate next steps:

- Assist the Implementing Partner working group to:
 - Revise the workplan template
 - Define indicators for the 8 actions/TOCs
- Participate in the CARPE Partners Meeting in DC and present results of the workshop
- Plan and lead a similar workshop for the EMAPS activity once awards are made (possibly in March)
- Work with CARPE Management Team to develop an overall CARPE comprehensive workplan that harmonizes CAFEC and EMAPS

Next Steps

How to move forward over the longer term?

- Work with working group to continue to refine TOCs, key results, and M&E plans
- Work with CARPE partners to assess existing monitoring tools and identify common methods for collecting indicator information
- [Help CARPE and partners organize and manage cross-landscape learning portfolios]

Questions?

