



CARPE Final Report: October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2006

Project / Sub-Project No.	CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP
Agreement	Cooperative Agreement 623-A-00-03-00064-00 under leader with Associate Award LAG-A-00-99-00048-00
Sub-Project Title	CAR Country Team
Reporting Period	1 October, 2003 – 30 September 2006
Date submitted	November 15, 2006
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1. INTRODUCTION

CAR Country Team

Name of Focal Point: No focal point FY04 and FY05; Jean Bernard Yarissem, Focal Point FY06

Total cost of the agreement:

	USAID	Cost Share	Total
WWF	\$53,968.99	-	\$53,968.99

The objectives of the CAR country Matrix were to:

- Promote review and integration of new policies in participatory management and improved procedures in landscape management (NP & multiple use zones) and adoption of more effective and expedient judiciary procedures to sanction poaching and related crimes.
- Identify potential partners able and willing to participate in and launch national level biodiversity conservation initiatives.

2. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

3 rd yr Benchmarks	Achievements
IR 2: Natural resources governance (institutions, policies, laws) strengthened	
Indicator 1: Numbers of new key laws or policies for PAs, logging concessions, and CBNRM passed or old laws and policies reformed compared with a list of recommended or promoted reforms	
IR2.1 Promote review and integration of new policies in participatory	Benchmark achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A review, gap analysis, and draft policy document related to laws governing forestry, illegal exploitation, gazettement processes, and access benefits, developed. ● A review, gap analysis, and draft policy strategy to support Bayaka rights

<p>management and improved procedures in landscape management (NP & multiple use zones) and adoption of more effective and expedient judiciary procedures to sanction poaching and related crimes.</p>	<p>developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TNS Trust Fund management structure finalized. Final steering committee meeting held in CAR. Business plan finalized and board members identified. • Law to protect the community hunting zone from ever being logged submitted. • Two wildlife law enforcement workshops were held, one at the prefecture level and one at the sous-prefecture level. • First trial in 2 years held in Bayanga. Majority of pending wildlife infractions treated. • Offer made to CAR Government to eliminate the unsustainable logging from the former SBB concession and close down the Bayanga saw mill in perpetuity in favor of more conservation friendly economy based on sustainable activities including tourism, training, and research. • CAR Government suspended bidding process for all open logging concessions. • Workshops and meetings held in Bangui to encourage logging companies to seek certification. A CAR working group being established and one company in the process of joining the Central African Forest Trade Network. • The CAR Government signed the RAMSAR Convention to better protect its wetlands. • Free Circulation Agreement in the TNS landscape was signed by the CAR Government.
<p>Indicator 2: Number of NGO (and other civil society organizations) advocacy initiatives and activities (e.g. media articles about environmental governance issues e.g. illegal logging, bush meat poaching; NR court cases brought or complaints filed with appropriate government agencies)</p>	
<p>IR2.2 Identify potential partners able and willing to participate in and launch national level biodiversity conservation initiatives.</p>	<p>Benchmark achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacts made with national media, national non-governmental groups, and international tour operators, as well as governmental groups, to increase and expand their involvement in biodiversity conservation in CAR and especially in Dzanga Sangha. • Contract made with Radio Bangui to increase radio coverage of natural resource management issues. • TV CAR partnered with the project to train local Dzanga Sangha residents to produce and disseminate locally created films for outreach. • Partnership developed with House for BaAka Women and Children's NGO in Bangui to increase national and project level support of customary use rights and social integration of BaAka. • Ministry of Tourism has hired a new staff member in Bayanga to improve the Dzanga Sangha tourism program.

3. SUCCESS STORY(IES)

Offer to CAR President and Congo Keystone Initiative: In the hopes of circumventing the imminent installation of a 5th of a series of unprofessional logging companies in Bayanga, on 18

March 2006, a WWF Delegation consisting of Laurent Some, Guillermo Castilleja, Lavinia Currier, Jean Bernard Yarissem, Richard Carroll and Allard Blom was received by President Bozize to present a proposal for the Sustainable Development of the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve. The proposal represented millions of dollars in committed donor support to the country and a heavy investment in tourism development if it would retire the unsustainable commercialized timber exploitation from within the Dzanga Sangha Special Reserve indefinitely. The proposal also clearly noted donor flexibility in supporting other options, such as relocation of the saw mill outside of the reserve, and assistance to a new logging company moving towards sustainable practices (economical, social as well as environmental) and in obtaining forestry certification. The offer has not been acted upon by the government; however, the concession has also not yet been attributed. The concerns behind the offer remain. The Dzanga Sangha Project as well as its donor community would like to see an end to the socially, economically, and ecologically destructive boom and bust cycle of unsustainable and unprofessional logging. These concerns are at the base of the desired outcome 2 of the newly launched WWF Congo Keystone Initiative: “Mechanisms established for the sustainable management of natural resources within the 3.6 M hectares of the TNS landscape – through supporting economic development alternatives, including sustainable logging and ecotourism, in the Dzanga-Sangha Reserve, and the final setup of the TNS-Trust Fund.” Hopefully with the combined efforts of the WWF Network and the international donor community, the next three years will secure a more sustainable future for the people, animals and ecosystems of the very special Dzanga Sangha Reserve.



WWF Delegation before the visit to President Bozize

Environmental justice training: At the end of this reporting period, WWF hosted the first in a series of environmental justice workshops. This first workshop was aimed at the upper levels of the justice system in CAR to gain their commitment to follow through on wildlife crimes and to provide them with the background and training to do their jobs. Its success has already been felt. Within a month after this first workshop, the first court hearing in two and half years was held in Bayanga and tried many of the most important wildlife law violators.



Dzanga-Sangha guards with some of the materials seized during a ceremony attended by 2 Ministers of their destruction

4. CONCLUSIONS

This is the restart, after a period of political instability, of a more concerted effort to engage the government, media, and civil society in conservation efforts at the national level in the Central African Republic (CAR). In the third year of CBF Phase I, CAR was included in the CARPE Program as a Country Team and was given a grant to assist in national policy development and implementation, and partnership development. At the start of this fiscal year a Country Liaison Officer was hired to lead the WWF CAR Country Program and act as the CAR CARPE Focal Point.

The initiatives and accomplishments at the national level this past year have greatly assisted with landscape level efforts in the Tri National Sangha (TNS) landscape. However, one year is obviously

not sufficient to encourage and support significant change at a national level. The CAR Government is open to collaboration and many opportunities exist to influence policy at the highest level. WWF is well placed to influence national policy level. WWF will seek out additional funding to continue our national level efforts.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The largest weakness of the CARPE efforts and reporting system with respect to the CAR Country Program is that CAR received only one year of funding from CBFP Phase I and will not receive money from Phase II. CAR was included as a country team during the final year of the three year phase.

The CAR program is small. CAR is active only in one landscape and the WWF CAR Country Program support only one sole project. Because the program is small, CAR has not been included or has not been active in a number of the CARPE efforts at national levels (including the small grants) program that would have been beneficial to landscape and national conservation efforts. Although only one CARPE landscape falls within the country boundaries, there is still a great deal to do at the national level to make our conservation efforts at the landscape level effective and long term.