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# CARPE II Evaluation

Findings and Recommendations



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## Why we're here today

- The Congo Basin contains the second-largest contiguous moist tropical forest in the world
- Guineo-Congolian Regional Center of Endemism - much of Africa's existing biological diversity originated here
- Incredible diversity of flora and fauna like lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and Congo peacock
- 30+ million people live in and depend on these rich forests and other biotic resources for their livelihoods



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## Agenda

- Objectives of the Evaluation
- Methodology
- Conditions under which CARPE began
- Brief description of the program
- Main findings
- Key recommendations
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## **Objectives were to evaluate:**

1. The program itself comprehensively;
2. Achievements in context of SO and IR1, 2 and 3;
3. Effectiveness of USAID management structure;
4. Adequacy of the suite of implementing partners;
5. Leadership in US government for CBFP;
6. Contributions to capacity building for conservation;
7. Contributions to climate change mitigation; and
8. Provide recommendations for CARPE Phase III



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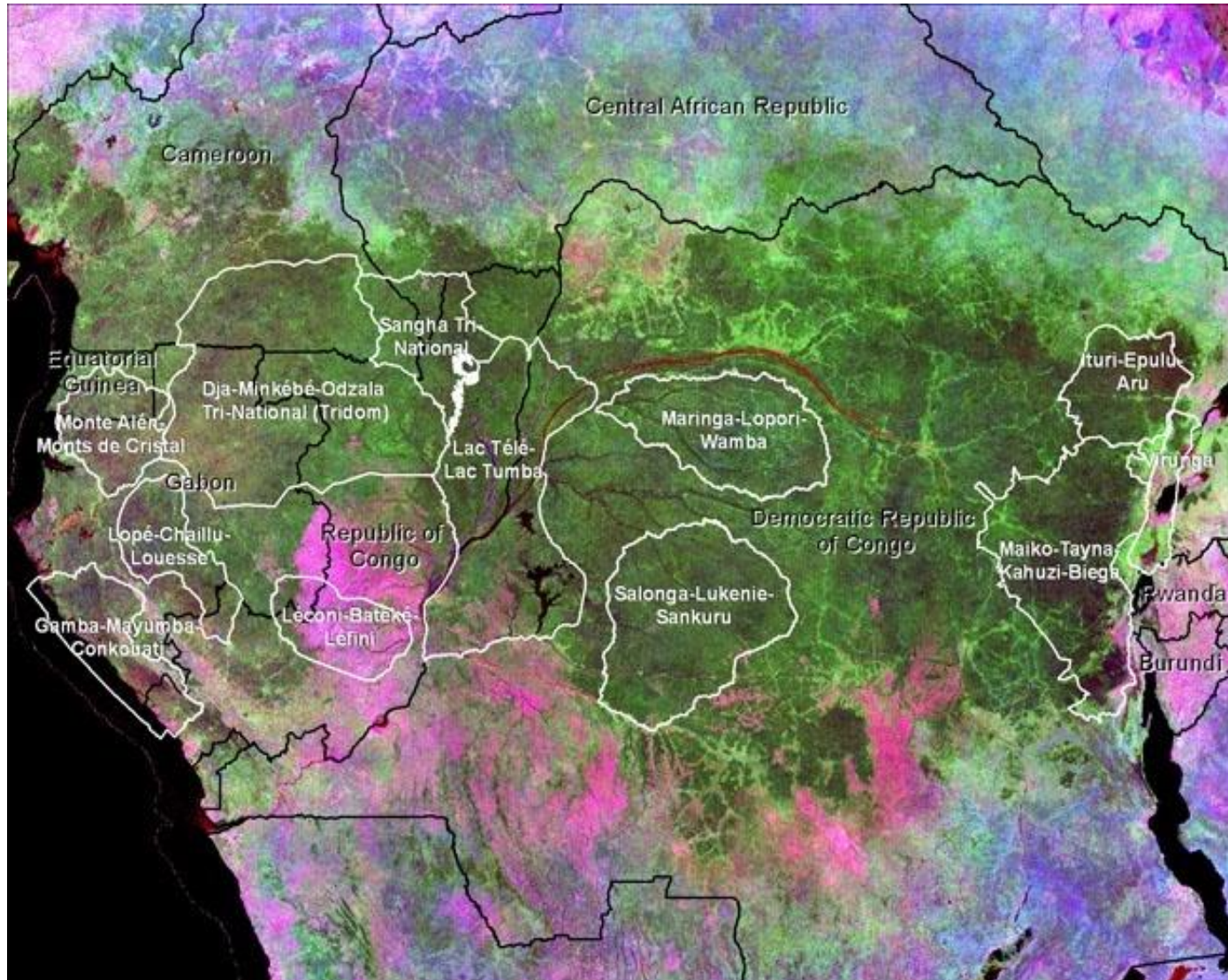
## Methodology

- Meetings in Washington DC – one week
- Field visits in Central Africa – 1.5 months
  - Kinshasa, DRC – CARPE and stakeholders
  - Maringa Lopori Wamba, DRC
  - Libreville, Gabon
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  - Yaoundé, Cameroon
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- Agriculture
- Extractive industry
- Construction
- Retail
- Health
- Non-Profit
- Education
- Financial Services
- Energy
- Media
- Telecommunications





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## Conditions under which CARPE began

- Global recognition of the importance of the forests in the Congo Basin and the flora and fauna therein
- Wars, conflicts, displaced populations, insecurity
- Low levels of institutional/human resources capacity
- Minimal infrastructure
- Widespread problems of governance/corruption
- Long-term presence of US environmental NGOs
- USAID only present in two of nine countries (Phase II)



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## Strategic Objective

*“Reduce the rate of forest degradation and loss of biodiversity through increased local national and regional natural resource management capacity.”*

Indicator 1: Change in area of forest from intact/pristine to “degraded,” modified, or secondary forest or to non-forest; and from “degraded” forest to non-forest.

Indicator 2: Population status for selected biodiversity “indicator” species such as: wide-ranging “landscape” species and/or ecological keystone species (e.g., elephants, large predators) and/or globally threatened species (such as mountain gorillas, bonobos, etc.).



## IR 1 - Natural resources managed sustainably

### **Indicator 1**

Number of landscapes and other focal areas covered by integrated land use plans

### **Indicator 2**

Number of different use-zones (e.g., parks & PA; CBNRM areas; forestry concessions; plantations) within landscapes with sustainable management plans

## IR 2 - Natural resource governance strengthened

### **Indicator 1**

Number of key new laws or policies for PA, logging concessions, and CBNRM passed or old laws and policies reformed compared with a list of recommended or promoted reforms.

### **Indicator 2**

Number of NGO (and other civil society organization) advocacy initiatives & activities (e.g., media articles about environmental governance issues e.g. illegal logging, bushmeat poaching; natural resources court cases brought or complaints filed with appropriate government agencies) recommended or promoted reforms.

## IR 3 - Natural resources monitoring institutionalized

### **Indicator 1**

Number of landscapes or other focal areas with forest cover assessments (see SO-level indicator 1).

### **Indicator 2**

Number of CARPE countries implementing surveillance system for illegal logging.

### **Indicator 3**

Assessment of capacity of Congo Basin (African) institutions (e.g. government agencies, universities and research institutions, NGOs, regional institutions) to collect and analyze information of adequate quality for decision making.

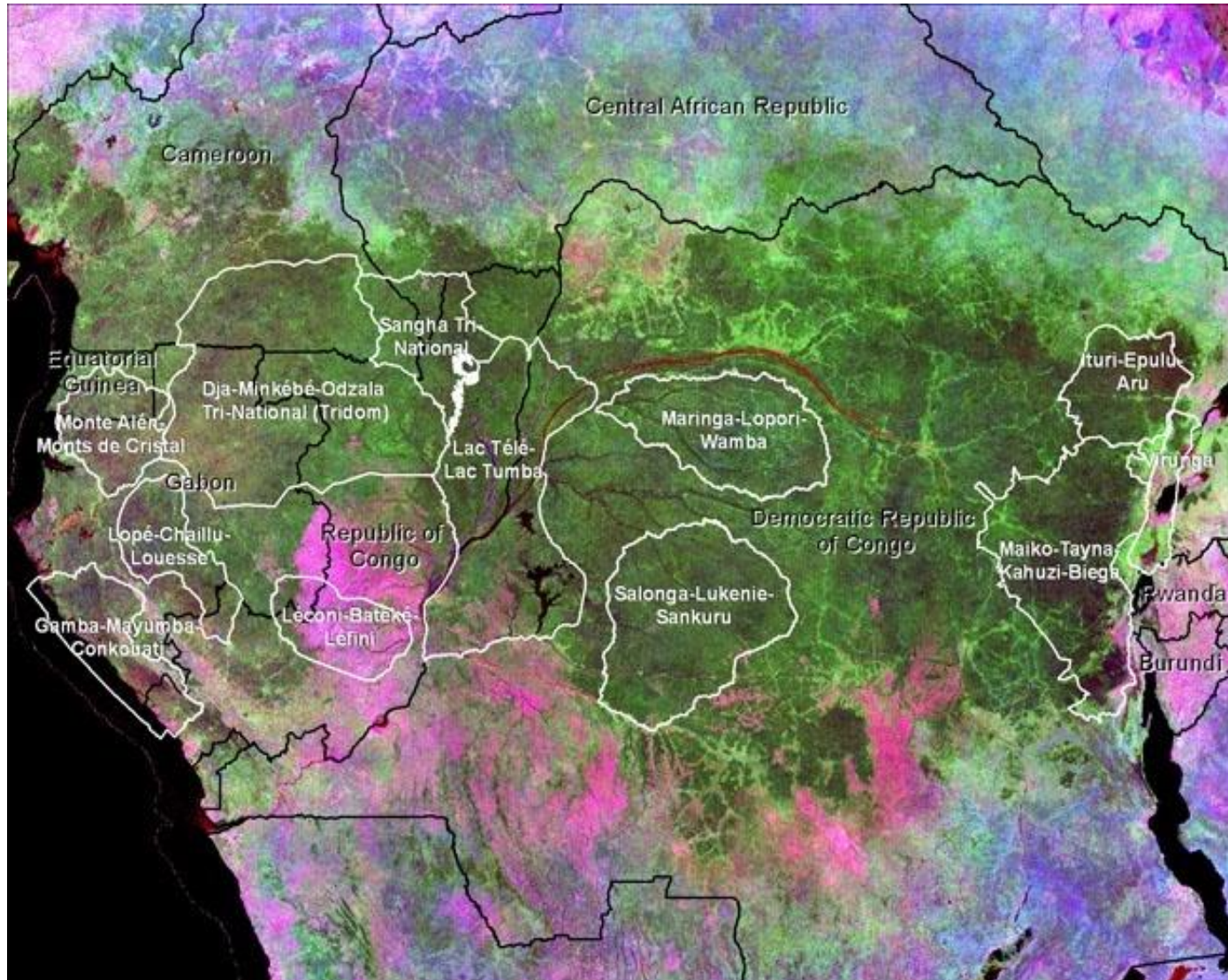
### **Indicator 4**

Content/quality analysis of annual State of the Congo Basin Forest report.





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## Organizations involved

- Each landscape consortium headed by a lead US-based NGO
- Cross cutting support:
  - IUCN for improved governance
  - NASA, UMD, SDSU for mapping and monitoring
  - WRI for development forest information management systems
  - USFS for support for LUP and management, regional and national institutions
  - USFWS parallel programs species, PA, enforcement, etc.

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## Main Findings across twelve categories

- Landscape approach
- Land Use Planning
- Management Plans
- Protected Areas (PA)
- Extractive Resource Zones (ERZ)
- Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)

- Improved governance
- Monitoring
- USAID management structure
- Capacity, gender, and indigenous peoples
- Adequacy of suite of implementing partners
- Leadership role in CBFP

## 1 – Landscape Approach

- One of CARPE’s greatest strengths
- Two key stages for each landscape
  1. Land Use Planning (LUP)
  2. Management Plan
- Integration of conservation/sustainable management
- Landscape much more inclusive than PA approach
- Substantial progress in acceptance and support
- Effective in leveraging huge amounts of other funding
- Outstanding questions on appropriate definition/size/functionality for landscapes

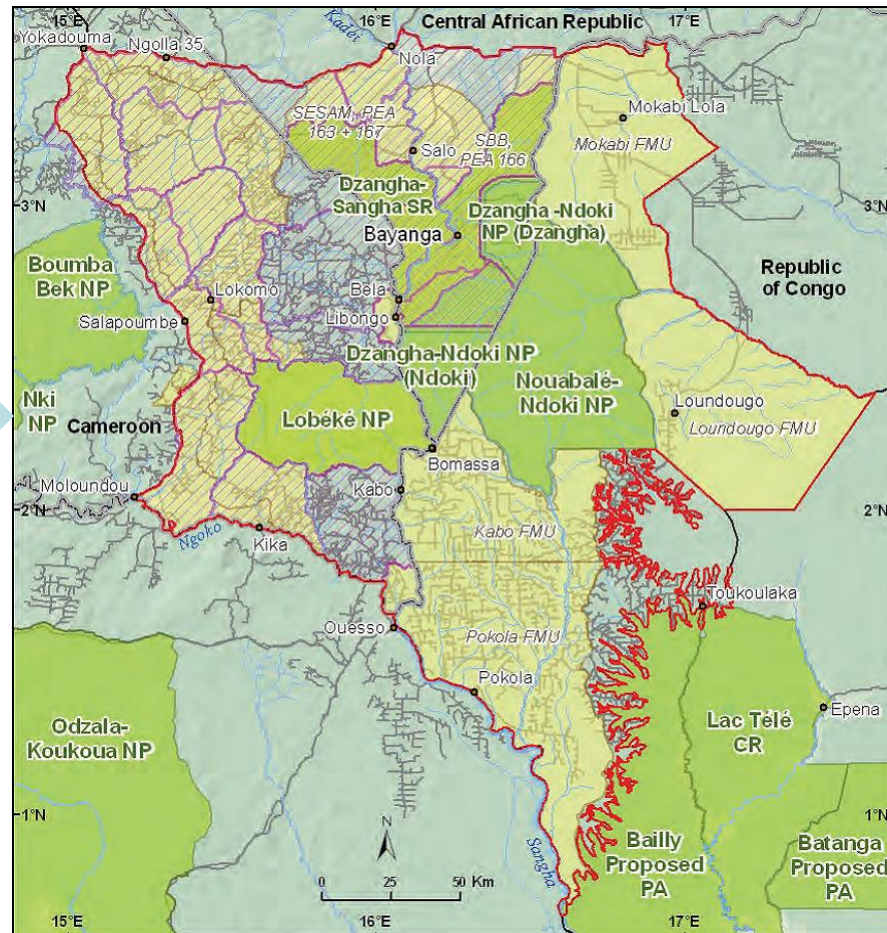
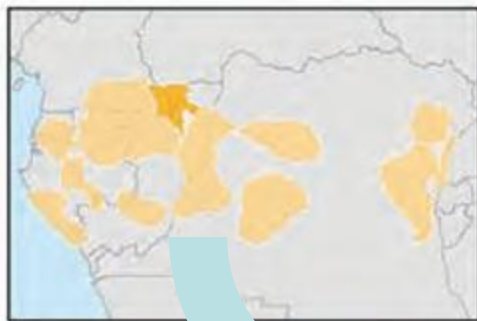
## 2 – Land Use Planning (LUP)

- Diverse stakeholders brought together
- Development of common, shared vision
- Development of overall strategies, responsibilities, and plans for achieving vision
- Conservation/sustainable use integrated in LUP
- Landscape is zoned for three major land use categories
- General guidelines developed by USFS
- LUP sometimes initiated by environmental NGOs without clear buy-in from government or key ministries
- LUP progress varies by landscape





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## 2 – Land Use Planning (LUP)

**Monitoring the number of landscapes covered by land use plans based on CARPE DQA system data from November 2010**

<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>Grand total</b>
Convened	10
Designed	4
Adopted	3



### **3 – Management Plans for Macro-zones**

- Large differences in knowledge base and thus progress for three LU categories
  - PA: well developed
  - ERZ: rapid, pioneering development
  - CBNRM: early development stages for CA
- USFS guides general; revised in November

## 3 – Management Plans for Macro-zones

**CARPE Data Quality Assessment synthesis table on the development and implementation of management plans**

<b>FY 2010 results</b>	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>CBNRM</b>	<b>ERZ</b>
Convened	105	33	49	23
Designed	35	15	15	5
Adopted	17	5	8	4

## 4 – PA Management

- Overall progress is quite solid
- Management often initiated prior to mgt planning
- New forms of PA – community reserves
- Positive partnerships with government PA managers
- Greatly increased use of PA planning tools
- Increased involvement of local stakeholders
- International agreements for PA management
- Sustainable financing is greatest challenge





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## 5 – ERZ and Natural Forest Management

- From zero to 4.5 million hectares certified
- Collaboration varies from hostile to strong partnerships
- Certification driven by FLEGT and Lacey Act; although criteria not that strong for biodiversity conservation
- CIB example
- WRI developed effective technology for monitoring of industrial scale illegal logging
- Artisanal logging largely uncontrolled
- Involvement of mining, oil and gas companies has been relatively modest

## 6 – CBNRM

- Few examples of functioning CBNRM initiatives outside of Cameroon
- Little capitalization of lessons learned/ best practices in Central Africa or across the continent
- Only Cameroon has a functional legal framework
- Specific legal instruments exploited for some cases
- Many sites under development without identification of legal instruments – team disagrees with this policy
- USFS CBNRM Guidelines inadequate

## 7 – Improved Governance

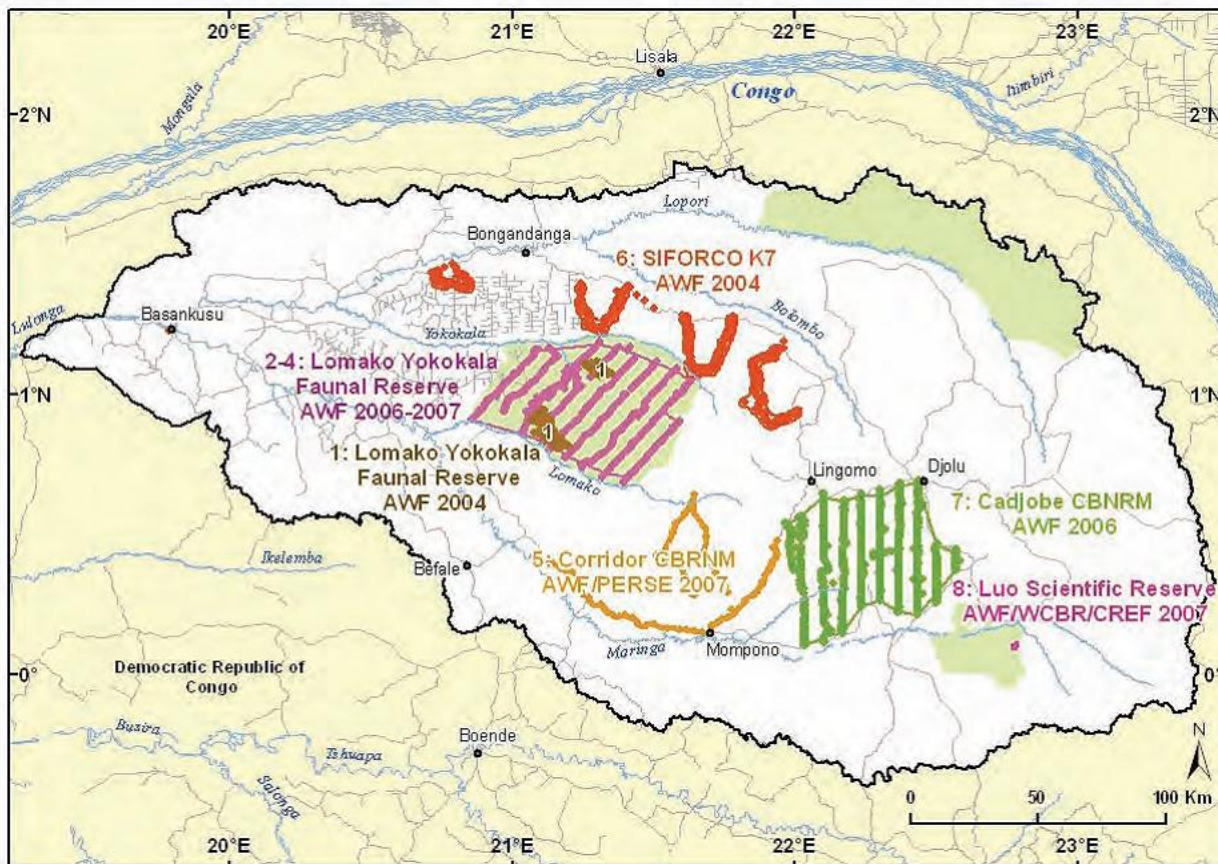
- IUCN is main implementer (through Focal Points)
- Active program of legal/policy/regulatory reforms, including frameworks for PA and logging concessions
- Small grants program for local capacity building and advocacy has worked quite well
- No systematic analysis of specific legal/ governance constraints to the SO & IRs
- Legal frameworks for CBNRM have not received a specific focus
- Military and government officials at all levels often involved in bushmeat and ivory trade



## 8 – Monitoring

- Forest degradation difficult to monitor
- Effective systems in place for:
  - Remote sensing-based monitoring of deforestation (NASA/UMD/SDSU)
  - Forest concessions, PA, other concessions
  - Illegal logging via monitoring of logging roads
  - Populations of key animal species (but expensive, can only be done infrequently, and difficult to institutionalize)
- Monitoring of bush meat hunting is not operational
  - Difficult to measure at a reasonable cost
  - Highly regrettable, since the “empty forest syndrome” is a very real threat in the Congo Basin

## 8 – Monitoring... in MLW



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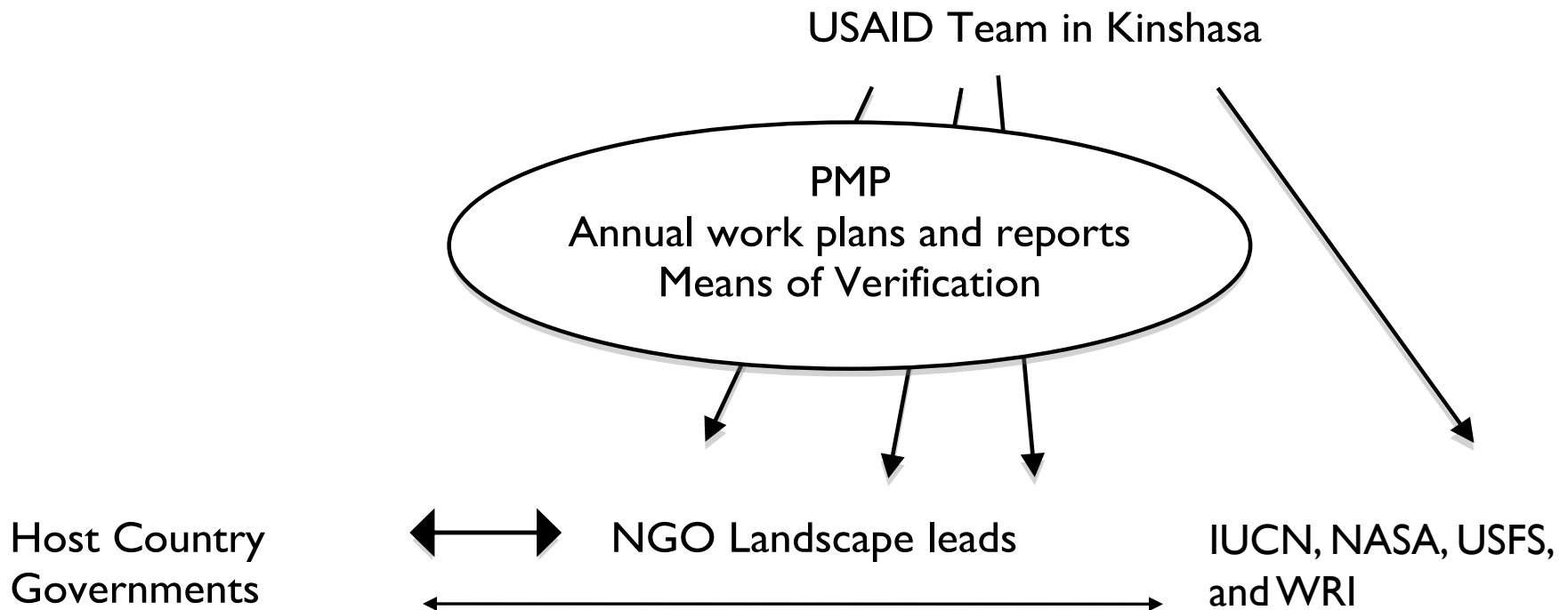
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## 8 – Monitoring... bushmeat snares





## 9 – USAID management structure



**Effective management of complex program in huge geographic region with minimal staff and USAID presence**

## 9 – USAID management structure

- Developed powerful program tracking tool capable of measuring progress
- Data Quality and Results Reporting:
  - Strong investment in independent verification of reported results
  - Revealed significant levels of over-reporting by landscape partners
  - Over-reliance on plans and planning guides for means of verification
- Opportunities for strengthened MOV
  - METT, FSC criteria, CBNRM principles outlined in report

## 10 – Capacity, Women and Indigenous People

- 30,000+ people have received conservation-related training
- About one-third of trainees in 2010 in CARPE-supported training programs have been women
- Lack of a strategy for enhancing gender equity and has had few concrete benefits on gender equity
- Integration of indigenous populations has been spotty
- More systemic attention needs to be paid to tenure rights of indigenous populations

## 10 – Capacity, **Women** and Indigenous People



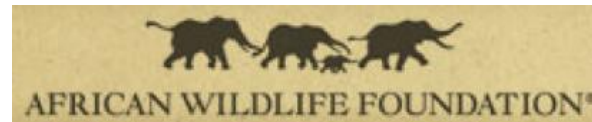


## 11 – Adequacy of the Suite of Implementing Partners

- Landscape level partners
  - Environmental NGOs in the landscapes
  - Development NGOs



- Crosscutting partners
  - NASA/UMD/SDSU
  - WRI
  - IUCN
  - USFS
  - USFWS



## 12 – Leadership Role in CBFP

The USG has played a strong leadership role in the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

- State Department played a key role in creating and initiating CBFP
- With development of CARPE II, USAID has become key actor supporting CBFP for USG
- CARPE has provided strong support to the COMIFAC *Plan de Convergence*

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## 1 – General Recommendations

- Continue CARPE program and CBFP support through an extended third phase to 2017/2020:
  - Context is much more conducive
  - Innovative, pioneering approach merits more time
  - Substantial and diverse co-financing depends on CARPE
- Maintain basic structure of Phase II (b):
  - CARPE Management Unit
  - Landscape Partners
  - Transversal Service Providers

*With some modifications...*



## 2 – Modifications to CARPE

- Improved, explicit coordination among Federal Agencies
  - Coordination/Steering Committee
  - Strategic planning, information exchange
  - Engagement of Host Country and Regional government counterparts



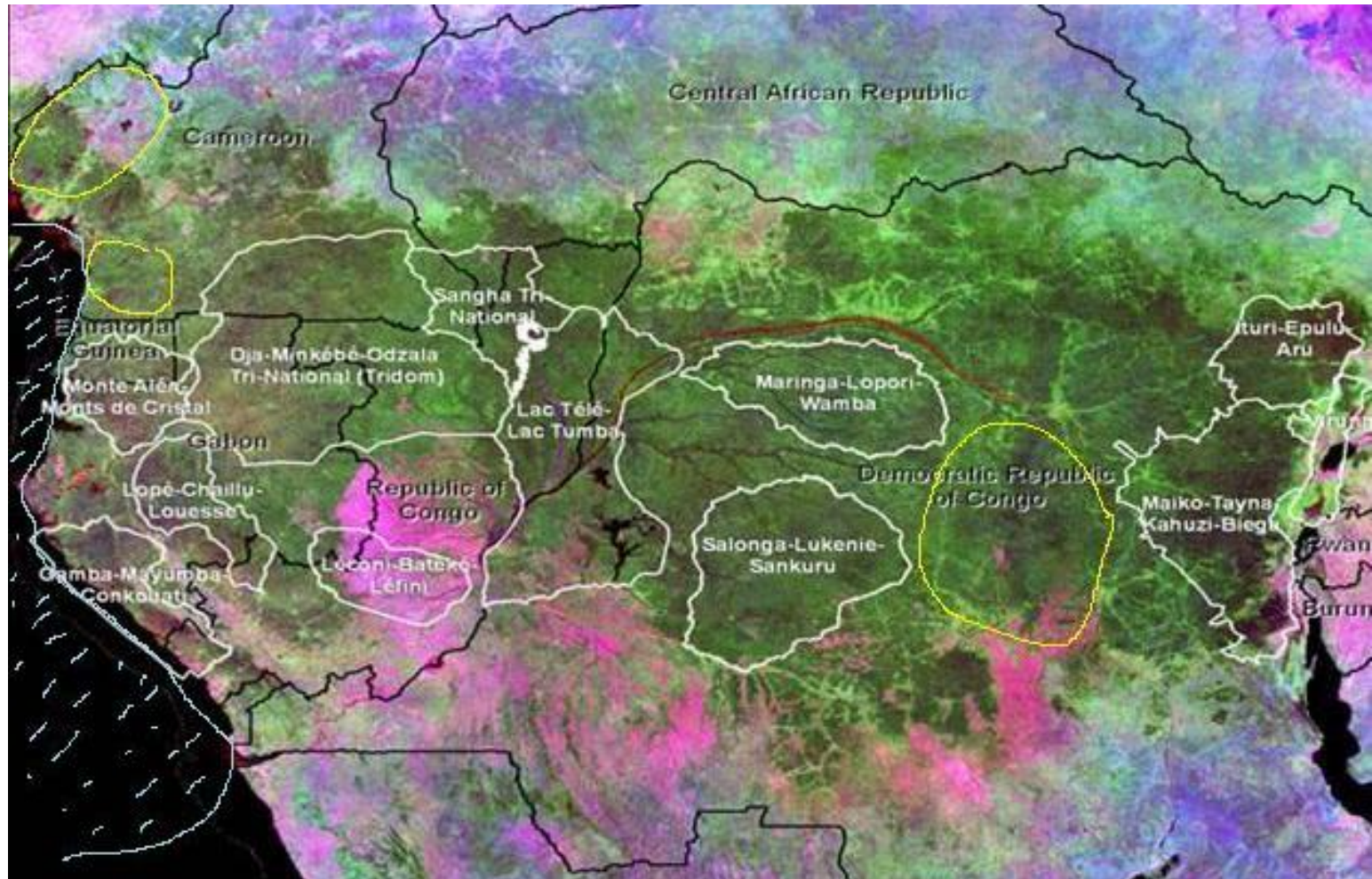
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## 3 – Strengthening USAID Management

- Develop a new strategy document for the 2011 – 2017/20 period
- Refocus indicators on Implementation Results
- Enhance inter-agency synergies and program coordination

## 4 – Results: New Landscapes and Seascape Needed



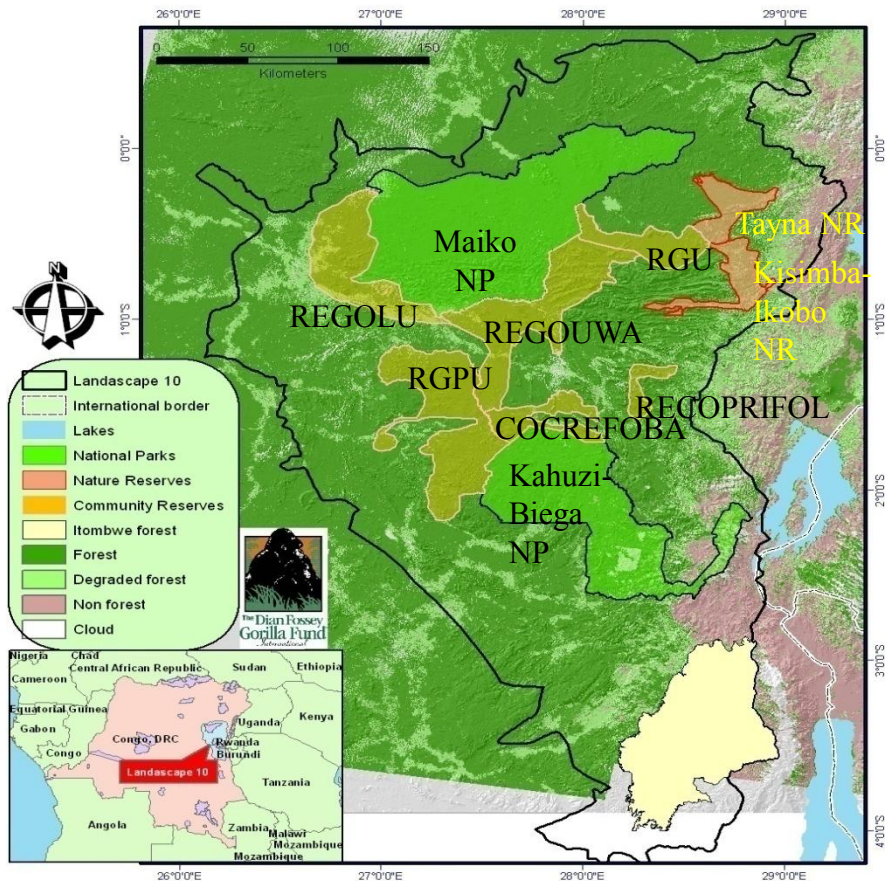
## 5 – Landscape Component: Recommendations to Improve Forest and Biodiversity Conservation

- Reassess threats in light of changing macro trends
- Effective, sustainable resource management systems in the priority macro-zones
  - Protected Areas
  - Extractive Resource Zones
  - Village Lands
- Address past delays in the development of CBNRM





## 6 – Expand CARPE to include Sustainable Landscape Activities



- Test of field-level systems for avoided deforestation
- Existing landscapes
- Complement other donors to build national and regional REDD+ readiness
- Capacity building & legal reforms national and regional levels
- Integrate social and biodiversity concerns

## 7 – Regional and National Support Component

- Expanded scope and better integration of crosscutting or transversal regional support activities
  - Regional institutions: COMIFAC, OSFAC, *Observatoire des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale* (OFAC), RAPAC
  - Field-based Senior Advisors (CBNRM & Social science: Gender and indigenous peoples
  - REDD+
  - Platform for affecting national level policy change and governance
- Maintain and integrate core governance grant with other regional/national support

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## **Conclusions**

### **CARPE I and II**

Audacious program to advance biodiversity and forest conservation in one of the most challenging regions of the world.

### **CARPE III**

Presents the opportunity to:

- Capitalize on successes to date
- Diversify into the climate change arena
- Achieve substantial and critical positive environmental impacts

