

Landscape Highlights

Surface Area: 34,390 km²

Partners: APDN, ASF, Biotopic, CI, CNPN, CRAP, CyberTracker Monitoring Program, Herbiier National du Gabon, Ibonga, MINEF, MEFE, Protomac, PSVAP, SCD, Shell, SI, University of Wageningen, WCS, WWF

National Parks: 4, covering 6,700 km² of terrestrial NP and 830 km² of marine NP (20%)

Biodiversity (N species)

Plants: 2,121

Mammals: 89

Birds: 380

Reptiles: 42

Amphibians: 70

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
- Gold mining
- Agriculture expansion

Indirect

- Lack of clear management systems for PAs
- Weak capacity
- Lack of alternative protein and work for local people
- Lack of wildlife management in national forestry policy
- Absence of legal structure for NP management authority in Gabon
- Dysfunctional zoning plan in Conkouati-Douli NP

Key Interventions

- Threats assessment
- Zoning and management planning
- Wildlife management in protected areas
- Biological and 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

Gamba-Mayumba-Conkouati Landscape

The Gamba-Mayumba-Conkouati Landscape's 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. Conservation began in 1956 with the creation of the first protected areas. Conservation management in Gabon started in 1986 with construction of the Wildlife Brigade in Sette Cama, and in ROC in 1980 with the creation of the Conkouati Wildlife Reserve—a national park since 1999. Four national parks now occupy 20 percent of the landscape. Oil, logging, and fishing dominate land use and the economy. In this land of surfing hippos, turtles, and majestic vistas, tourism is slowly taking off.

Sustainable Resource Management

Park infrastructure has been developed in all four national parks, including new headquarters for Mayumba National Park, two additional surveillance posts in Moukalaba-Doudou National Park, and a surveillance post and expansion of the park headquarters at Conkouati-Douli National Park. Innovate collaborative mechanisms for eco-tourism development have started in Loango National Park. A draft management plan for Loango National Park is being revised, and a land use and zoning plan for the Gamba Complex of Protected Areas, covering 35 percent of the landscape, has been proposed to the Government of Gabon. A Technical Management Committee for the Gamba Complex was adopted by the Government in late 2004. In ROC a new management plan is being drafted for the Conkouati-Douli National Park, proposing to simplify the current zoning into a spatially continuous national park, surrounded by a community reserve with well-defined rules on use and access. The spectacular marine park, which provides critical habitat for whales, turtles, and dolphins, is threatened by illegal commercial fishing.

Natural Resource Governance

Collaboration with the oil and gas industry is focusing on hunting management and environmental best practices on-shore, and on oil spill prevention and mitigation of the impact of seismic studies on whales offshore. Sixty-one eco-guards and eco-guides have been trained in Gamba, of whom 20 are currently deployed in three of the four national parks. Illegal logging has stopped in all protected areas on the Gabon side of the landscape. During 43 patrols in the Gamba Complex over the last 10 months, 65 guns, 92 animals, and 496 snares (including 30 elephant snares) were confiscated, and illegal hunting in key areas has been reduced. Nine articles were published in the national newspaper, l'Union, and 1 national TV and 32 local and international radio programs were broadcast. During a high-level meeting in October 2003, the Ministers of State and Forestry



Economy and the Environment of Congo publicly demonstrated clear Government support for the Conkouati-Douli National Park and an end to the commercial bushmeat trade from the park. A multi-stakeholder committee tracked implementation of the conclusions of the meeting in consultation with local communities. The Government of ROC and WCS signed an agreement in early 2004 providing for the extension of the marine section of the national park to complement the Mayumba Marine Park in Gabon.

Natural Resource Monitoring Institutionalized

A GIS and data management center in Gamba forms the landscape monitoring hub. A landscape-level threats assessment has been initiated. Ecological research and monitoring programs are in place for elephants, great apes, crocodiles, whales, and marine turtles. Species lists for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and flora are currently being updated for the Gamba Complex. In October 2004, the first systematic survey on key-species abundance and human impact and distribution was conducted in Conkouati-Douli. Systematic socioeconomic and law enforcement monitoring programs have also been established. Socioeconomic databases are being reviewed, and a community-based natural resource perceptions investigation has been initiated.

