

# Sangha Tri-National (STN) Forest Landscape

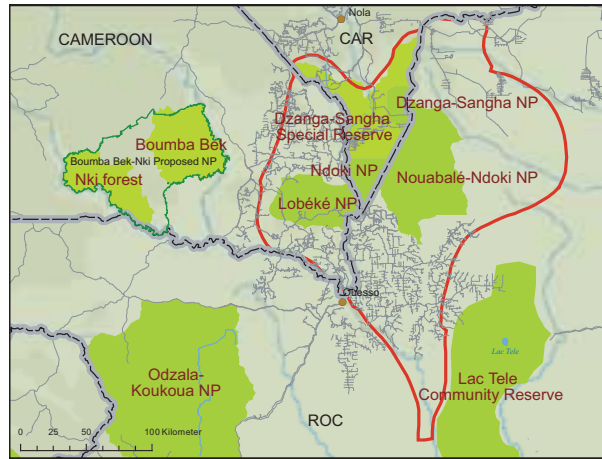
The principal conservation value of STN is in its large tracts of intact forest, abundant charismatic mega-fauna, and low human population density (0.7/km<sup>2</sup>). Forest covers over 96 percent of the landscape. Conservation actions began in 1984; the area had been classified as production forest up to that point. Three national parks now occupy 21 percent of the landscape—a huge success, for STN is now one of Central Africa’s critical forest conservation “massifs.” Logging dominates land use and the economy, with 17 concessions covering 71 percent of the landscape. Three companies have technical agreements to work on best forest management practices; two of those, CIB in ROC and Decolvenaere in Cameroon, have opted for FSC certification. The STN international accord is yet to be ratified, although collaborative program implementation on the ground is proceeding well.

## Sustainable Resource Management

Within STN, some positive collaboration has been developed among Government, NGOs, and major stakeholders—notably, local people regarding resource extraction management, logging companies on sustainable management issues, and safari operators in Cameroon on concession management. MOUs have been signed with logging companies in Cameroon and ROC in support of wildlife management. The Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park management plan is being implemented. Adaptive wildlife management programs are being implemented in three logging concessions, and tangible plans for conservation “set-asides” are under discussion. Eco-tourism development continues, with binational-scale tourism programs, including habituated gorillas, under way in ROC and CAR. Priorities include validation of Lobéké National Park management plan and community-hunting zones, adoption of a management plan of Dzanga-Sangha, and finalization of an STN trust fund to help meet sustainable finance needs.

## Natural Resource Governance

Technical and administrative coordination of STN is maintained through regular local and regional meetings. National and binational law enforcement patrols composed of eco-guards and government agents are deployed across all landscape sectors, and illegal human activity has been demonstrably reduced in ROC and CAR. In ROC, the Government has announced its commitment to form a “parastatal” Wildlife Service with technical support from WCS. Local communities and local NGOs have been integrated in natural resource management across the landscape, including community hunting zone development in Cameroon and ROC, while local communities in CAR derive direct benefits from eco-tourism activities. The STN accord,



which has been ratified by ROC, provides an institutional framework to coordinate transboundary activities. Immediate priorities include ratification of the accord by Cameroon and CAR, promoting national policies in support of community participation and benefit-sharing initiatives, and improvements in law enforcement, particularly control of illegal elephant and bushmeat hunting.

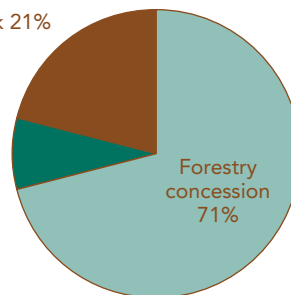
## Natural Resource Monitoring Institutionalized

A common vision for long-term monitoring is shared across STN to promote better knowledge of ecosystem dynamics and help park managers in decision making, based on monitoring of large mammals, logging and hunting impact, law enforcement, and socioeconomic metrics. MIKE-CITES methodology is being implemented widely across the landscape, and common methodologies monitor large mammals in forest clearings as well as ranging of elephants using GPS telemetry. Regular censuses are held across much of the landscape, including complete counts in logging towns and camps. GIS labs are operational in Lobéké and Nouabalé-Ndoki, and regular meetings and training sessions of biologists from the three projects ensure sharing of ideas and a move toward standardization. Important next steps include completion of wildlife surveys and establishment of a GIS database, wildlife inventories, and implementation of wildlife and human impact surveys across the landscape.

National park 21%

Reserve 8%

Forestry concession 71%



## Landscape Highlights

Surface Area: 36,236 km<sup>2</sup>

Partners: MEFE, MINEF, MEFCPET, WWF, WCS, GTZ, CIB, SBB, Decolvenaere, SEFAC

National Parks: 3, covering 7,600 km<sup>2</sup> (21% of landscape) in 3 countries

Biodiversity (N species)

Plants: 1,071

Mammals: 58

Birds: 302

## Threatened Species

### Animals

- Forest elephant
- Western gorilla
- Chimpanzee
- Hippopotamus
- Spot-necked otter
- Dwarf crocodile

### Plants

- *Austranella congolensis*
- *Pericopsis alata*
- *Diospyros crassiflora*
- *Swartzia fistuloides*
- *Kyaya spp.*
- *Entandrophragma spp.*

## Major Threats to Landscape

### Direct

- Commercial hunting
- Unsustainable village-based hunting
- Industrial logging
- Diamond mining

### Indirect

- Lack of information
- Weak capacity
- Lack of alternative protein and work for local people
- Lack of wildlife management in national forestry policy
- Civil strife and war

## Key Interventions

- Threats assessment
- Sustainable community resource planning
- Developing and implementing wildlife management systems in logging concessions
- Managing protected areas effectively
- Developing sustainable funding mechanisms
- Establishing effective monitoring