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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	Gamba-Conkouati Landscape, Gabon segment
Reporting period	1 October 2003 – 30 September 2006
Date submitted	15 November 2006
Report completed by	Bas Huijbregts
Organization	World Wide Fund for Nature
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1. Introduction

Name of landscape segment leader: Bas Huijbregts (WWF)

Landscape segment partners: WCS-Mayumba and WCS-Iguela

Total cost of agreement:

	USAID	Cost Share	Total
WWF	\$1,739,011.50	\$833,816.76	\$2,572,828.26



Photo: Aerial view of coastline south of Loango National Park, Gamba Complex of Protected Areas, Gabon (WWF, 2004)

Objectives and Summary of Achievements

<i>Zone</i>	<i>3Yr Benchmark</i>	<i>Summary of achievements</i>
Intermediate Result 1: Natural resources managed sustainably		
Indicator 1.1 Number of landscapes and other focal areas covered by land use plans		
1.1 Gamba-Conkouati Landscape	90% of LUP Design Process Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second draft bilateral agreement available • Second draft LUP Design strategy document available and 75% achieved, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second draft coastal surveillance plan, - Marine turtle action plan and monitoring report - Geospatial information
1.2 Gamba – Mayumba (Gabon) segment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement letter of creation of Technical Management Committee (TMC) • MoM of TMC meetings with follow ups on implementation

CARPE Phase II/WWF/Reports/Final Report/Gamba-Conkuati Gabon

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan Draft marine mammal management strategy document Progress is achieved
Indicator 1.2 Number of different use zones (e.g., parks and Pas; CBNRM areas; forestry concessions; plantations) within landscapes with sustainable land use plans		
Gamba Complex of Protected Areas, including Loango and Moukalaba-Doudou National Parks	90 % of LUP Design Completed (Document finalized with input from local stakeholders and submitted to Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LUP Design strategy document, with indication of the 90% achieved through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring protocols, Progress reports Updated baseline map and database
Loango National Park	- 100% of LUP (National Park Management Plan) Design Completed. - 50% LUP (National Park Management Plan) implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft National Park Management Plan Yearly implementation plans Logical framework planning matrixes Percentage of implementation achieved as evidenced by progress reports Park delimitation Zoning of Sounga village territory within the park finalized
Moukalaba-Doudou National Park	National Park management planning process convened and 25% LUP design completed and adopted by CNPN 50 % LUP implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LUP design strategy document (25% achieved): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual work plans Park delimitation Draft final report on 2 years of great apes census Two village territory zoning reports concerning Peny and Mouanda villages located within the NP borders
Mayumba National Park	National Park management planning process convened	Report will be provided by WCS
Ndogo Lagoon (CBNRM)	LUP Design Completed and adopted by stakeholders and 75% LU Plan implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft fisheries zoning plan Draft fisheries monitoring protocol Overall fisheries census data Study on fisheries at the outlet of the Ndogo lagoon Proof of capacity building of traditional fishermen's association (i.e. trainings, small grant support) Percentage of implementation achieved as evidenced by progress reports
Community fishing zones in periphery of Mayumba NP (CBNRM)	LUP process 75% convened	Report will be provided by WCS
Iguela lagoon (CBNRM)	LUP process convened and 50% LUP Design completed.	Report will be provided by WCS
Shell Gabon oil & gas exploration and production concessions within the Gamba Complex (ERZ)	LU Plan Design completed ("After Shell Development Vision Plan") and Adopted LU Plan Implemented (Shell Gabon Bushmeat Action Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After Oil Development Vision Plan MoMs of Steering Committee of Sustainable Livelihoods Program Shell Gabon bushmeat action plan Progress reports

2. Major accomplishments, results and successes

IR 1.1 Gamba – Conkouati Landscape

Beginning in March 2004, WWF Gamba developed a structured program database to monitor the level of effort of WWF field support missions per intervention zone. Data prior to March 2004 were structured differently and are therefore not presented below. The database is structured around the zones proposed as management zones for the Gamba Complex in the draft LUP design (Blom & Geerling, 2004)¹. Overall, from March 2004 to September 2006, the WWF Gamba Project carried out 581 mission orders, totaling 8,328 person/days of field missions. Table 1 below shows the number of person/days per intervention zone of WWF Gamba, as well as per different types of missions corresponding to the organizational structure of WWF Gamba.

Table 1: Number of missions per type and zone of intervention expressed in man/days of WWF-Gamba during the period March 2004 – September 2006.

Zone	Theme									
	Adm.	Park dem.	EE	Log.	Mon.	Res.	Fish.	Soc eco	Surv	Total
Loango NP (North)					32				12	44
Loango NP (South)	7		101	95	564	135	59	10	1271	2242
Moukalaba NP	40	1130	66	195	33	1319	62	305	1064	4214
Ecological Corridor									12	12
Ndougou Lagoon	19		6			37	94		69	206
Eco-rural-urbain zone of Gamba	23		40	38		94	16	41	614	866
Landscape						6			340	346
Libreville	99		24	136	13	20				292
Lopé NP	36									36
Mayumba	20			2						22
Port Gentil	4									4
Tchibanga	26		24	17				3		44
Total	229	1130	261	483	642	1611	231	359	3382	8328

Legend

Adm:	Administration
Park dem.:	National Park demarcation/delimitation
EE:	Environmental Education
Log.:	Logistics
Moni. :	Ecological Monitoring
Res.:	Research
Fish.:	Fisheries monitoring
Soc. Eco.:	Social economic monitoring
Surv.:	Surveillance / protection

Gabon Segment

¹ Blom, a. & C. Geerling (2004). Zoning, protected area status and management regimes in the Gamba Protected Area Complex.

In the Gabon segment of the landscape, which covers about 75% of the landscape's total area, a major milestone towards integrated land use planning was the creation of the Technical Management Committee – TMC on December 3, 2004.

Following the creation in 2002 of the two National Parks within the limits of the existing configuration of eight protected areas within the Gamba Complex, two Conservateurs were appointed to Loango National Park and one to Moukalaba-Doudou National Park. This resulted in a more complex management configuration than before.

WWF, therefore, initiated a series of consultations with CNPN, MINEF and other conservation partners leading to the creation of the TMC and its Executive Committee (EC) for the Gamba Complex. WWF also proposed



Photos: Groups photos of TMC meetings; In Gamba in December 2004 (right) and April 2005 (left), and Tchibanga in December 2005 (below). Photos: WWF



the terms of reference and composition of both committees. This coordination structure was endorsed by CNPN in December 2004 (Decision N° 001/CNPN/PR). Since its inception, the TMC has been catalyzing land use planning and the implementation of coordinated work of all parties active in the Gamba Complex. Pending finalization of the restructuring process of the management authority in charge of National Parks in Gabon, the TMC was originally composed of the three Conservateurs, the Head of the Gamba Fisheries Brigade, regional representatives of MINEF, as well as representatives of local authorities and communities, local NGOs, and technical and financial partners (WCS, WWF, SI, and an EU-funded community-based tourism project called PSVAP). The TMC and EC meet bi-annually, on a rotational basis in Gamba, Tchibanga and Ombooué.

Beginning in July 2005, the TMC was enlarged to include all conservation partners in the Gabon segment of the Gamba-Conkouati Forest Landscape: the Conservateur of Mayumba National Park, the Project leader of WCS-Mayumba, and the Head of the Provincial Inspection of MINEF in the Nyanga Province.

Since its creation, the TMC has met five (5) times, two of these in conjunction with overall landscape meetings. To date, key successes of the TMC include:

- In 2003, on the basis of a SWOT analysis, WWF prepared a working document with proposed key management strategies and roles and responsibilities of the various actors. This formed the basis of a first round of meetings and discussions beginning in May 2003. Following input from key partners, a second version of the strategy paper was written and

circulated during the last quarter of 2003. In December 2003, WWF Gamba funded a mission by two experts, who provided specific recommendations to Government and other stakeholders for management regimes and appropriate protected area status for the Gamba Complex as a whole, including both National Parks. These recommendations were provided in their consultancy report “Zoning, protected area status and management regimes in the Gamba Protected Area Complex” (Blom & Geerling, April 2004). This report was translated into French in July 2004 and was first discussed during the TMC meeting in July 2005. The report has also been provided to the Steering Committee of the Shell-Gabon sponsored “After Oil Development Support Program” and has been used by the University Omar Bongo as a baseline document for the development of the “After Oil Development Vision Plan” for the Gamba region which will be officially presented to the local government on October 19, 2006.

- Successful lobbying against the proposed attribution of 4 sport hunting domains to a safari company called “Safari-Club” within the direct periphery of the National Parks within the Gabon segment of the Landscape. The safari company, which had already illegally started killing elephants and buffalos for sport hunting, announced in March 2006 that it would orientate its activities towards ecotourism development and stop pursuing sport hunting.
- Creation of a comprehensive centralized georeferenced database in Gamba, with data hubs following data exchanges in Iguela, Tchibanga, Mayumba and Conkouati, including:
 - a physical library with more than 3,000 items, entered into a database using EndNote software;
 - an extensive photo and CD library entered in an Access database;
 - a database recording off-take by local fishermen, developed in Access;
 - a comprehensive baseline map focusing on the Gamba Complex and the Gamba – Conkouati Forest Landscape including data layers on land-use (oil, logging, human settlements, hunting, fishing), vegetation, administrative and protected area limits, socio-economic data, tourism, roads, hydrology, topography, and distribution data on key species;
 - data collected with handheld computers using Cybertracker technology and downloaded in the GIS data base;
 - an automated database for the management of field missions, which allows monitoring of, amongst others, surveillance efficiency, patrolling effort per unit of time and area, stock control, and petty cash management.
- Successful action against illegal logging in Moukalaba-Doudou National Park.
- Successful actions against illegal commercial bushmeat hunting and large mammal poaching by local elites resulting, amongst others, in the dismissal of the Prefet of Mayumba accused of elephant and buffalo poaching (see photo to the right), and the dismissal of the entire police corps in Gamba, accused of illegal hunting in Loango National Park.
- Joint development of annual work plans for the 3 national parks.
- Joint analysis of the situation and preparation of management responses regarding the growing development of oil and mining activities within the Gabon segment in general and within the National Parks of the Landscape in particular,
- Finalization of general models for internal regulations in the national parks and “cahiers de charges” for tour operators active in the parks.
- Collaboration and joint surveillance efforts between national parks staff and provincial and local representations of the Ministry of Water and Forests. A database on surveillance results

has been operational since August 2004. A total of 3,100 person/days of surveillance support missions throughout the landscape resulted in the confiscation of 169 guns, of which 26 illegal big game hunting shotguns, 560 ammunitions including 77 elephant bullets of which 16 home made. A total of 375 snares were ceased, including 55 elephant snares. Also, 180 animals and animal parts were confiscated, 16 of which were protected species including elephant (n=5) and buffalo (n=7). Other confiscations include elephant tusks (n=8), 3 chainsaws, mono-filament nets, and 968 illegally sawn timber. Furthermore, 14 hunting camps have been destroyed, 15 poachers were fined, of whom 2 sentenced to 6 months in prison.

The TMC has also proven to be an excellent platform for exchange of experiences, lessons learnt and economies of scale. A few examples include technical training of CNPN, MINEF and WCS colleagues by the WWF GIS data manager, training of MINEF, WCS and WCS technical staff by the WCS expert in data analysis, and joint approaches to bio-and flagship species monitoring.

Overall landscape

Following the creation of the TMC in 2004, informal exchanges among the partners in the Gabon segment of the landscape and colleagues in the Congo segment gradually increased. This was largely because it became clear to all that the main conservation challenges faced by the Gabon partners were identical to those in the Congo segment, and that these issues could only be addressed on a landscape or regional scale. Key issues identified were: (i) illegal trawling fisheries, (ii) off-shore oil pollution, (iii) trans-border illegal commercial logging and bushmeat hunting, and (iv) marine turtle monitoring and protection.

In September 2005, a first cross-border landscape meeting was organized in the coastal town of Mayumba, with governmental and NGO participants of all protected areas within the landscape, as well as representatives of the Ministries of Water and Forests. Further landscape meetings were organized in the framework of the first CAWFHI Steering Committee meeting in February 2006 in Libreville, Gabon, and in Mayumba, Gabon, in September 2006. The most recent meeting also included the participation of regional representatives of immigration services of both countries, in order to discuss further facilitation of cross-border collaboration.

To date, the main successes of landscape collaboration include;

- A draft landscape coastal surveillance plan has been produced and its implementation has started,
- A draft landscape (bi-national) collaboration agreement has been developed, and will be submitted to the COMIFAC Secretariat by the end of 2006,
- Illegal cross-border commercial logging has stopped,
- A reporting framework and data exchange protocols have been developed to report on coastal pollution by hydrocarbons,



Photos: Group photos of landscape meetings in the coastal town of Mayumba (August 2005 – left), and September 2006 (right)

- The feasibility of the creation of an additional trans-boundary protected area in the framework of the upcoming GEF-Gabon program, is currently being studied, on the basis of the “Peace Parks” model.

IR 1.2 Gamba Complex of Protected Areas

- As mentioned in the Gabon segment section, a comprehensive LUP and zoning Plan was presented at the TMC meeting in July 2004. During the next TMC meetings, it was decided to put on hold for the moment the planned organization of a large consultation meeting with the Ministry of Water and Forest (MINEF) on how to advance the LUP. This was due to the difficulties caused by continued tensions between MINEF and the National Parks Council (CNPN) at HQs level. It is also considered to be more efficient to re-launch the process after the adoption of the Law on National Parks and the subsequent creation of the National Parks Agency.
- Analysis of socio-economic data collected over a period of two years for zoning the territories of all 36 villages within the Gamba Complex has been finalized, and final reports have been produced.
- WWF/Ibonga teams have carried out turtle field work during the 3 turtle seasons covered by the reporting period. English and French versions of a detailed report on four years (2002-2006) of turtle monitoring in the Gamba Complex are available on www.panda.org/africa/gabon/gamba. A first National Marine Turtle Meeting was organized in Gabon in September 2005 with support from USFWS. This resulted in the launching of the Gabon National Turtle Partnership and Action Plan, and the establishment of a National Coordination Structure in October 2005.
- Through support to the local environmental education NGO Ibonga-ACPE, an extensive environmental education program has been established. This program is oriented around four major themes: (i) the development of an environmental curriculum for local schools; (ii) an environmental road show with puppet show; films and locally made video-clips; (iii) the operation of a handicraft centre at Gamba airport that was opened with support from the EU-funded PSVAP program; and (iv) the establishment of a Visitors Centre in Sette Cama, at the southern entry of Loango National Park, including a small natural history museum and film projection hall.
- The following additional awareness raising and communications tools were developed: a website, a poster, brochures, a series of 5 films about the creation and development of Loango and Moukalaba-Doudou National Parks produced by ARTE, new articles, and local radio programs.

IR 1.2 Loango National Park:

- Work on the production of a management plan for Loango National Park started in June 2003, with the production of a first draft plan following a technical workshop in Iguela, northern Loango. These sessions were facilitated by a team of American experts from the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service who had been invited to Gabon by the US Embassy as part of US-Gabon collaboration on natural resources management initiated after Secretary of State Powell’s visit in September 2002. The following people contributed to the content of that document: Roger Azizé, Monique Safou, Joseph Ngowou, Bas Huijbregts, Jaap Oostander, Daniel Idiata, Léonard Akié, Mike Fay, Bonnie Lippitt, Nancy Streeter, Julie Luetzelschwab, Chris Iverson, JG Collomb, representatives of the Iguela

wildlife brigade, WWF, WCS, INC, the hunting department of DFC and the American government experts. A follow-up USFS technical assistance team traveled to Gabon in April and May 2004. The mission continued the management plan work started in 2003, further developing the Loango National Park draft management plan as well as beginning the management planning process for Lope National Park. In February 2005, WWF engaged a local consultant (Jean-Paul Obame Engone, M.Sc.), to further elaborate on this draft, and to adapt it to the Gabon context. This resulted in a consultancy report produced in March 2005. In June 2005, a third USFS mission came to Gabon to refine and finalize the management plan for Loango NP with CNPN and other park stakeholders, and to facilitate a workshop on the work planning process for Loango and the other national parks of Gabon. The USFS team for this mission consisted of Chris Iverson (Assistant Director for Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, Rare Plants, and Planning; Washington Office), Don Fisher (Wilderness Resource Program Leader, Washington Office), Julie Luetzelschwab (GIS/Database Coordinator, Santa Fe National Forest), and Mike Chaveas (Africa Program Specialist, International Programs Office). While the first two technical assistance missions by the USFS were coordinated in large part by partner CARPE NGOs and the US Embassy in Libreville, the in-country planning and logistical assistance for this third trip was handled by CNPN itself, demonstrating a greater degree of engagement and dedication to the process. Following this session, for which local stakeholders for the northern sections of the Park were also invited, a last large local stakeholder meeting was organized by CNPN in Gamba town in September 2006. This stakeholder meeting was intended to further engage actors in the southern parts of the Park and to finalize the zoning plan. It is currently expected that finalization of the plan will be put on hold awaiting the adoption of the new Law on National Parks, and the creation of the para-statal National Parks Agency – ANPN.

- Park delimitation has been completed, as well as village zoning for Sounga village, located within the southern parts of the national park.
- A joint CNPN/WCS/WWF bio-monitoring protocol for the Park has been developed, and monitoring of the entire park almost completed.

IR 1.2 Moukalaba-Doudou National Park:

- Annual CNPN work plans for this park have been operational since 2004.
- The Conservateur of this Park was finally installed in Tchibanga town in early 2005.
- A comprehensive management planning framework and operation plan was produced in July 2005.
- Joint CNPN/WWF park delimitation has been finalized except for the northern limits adjacent to the boundaries of the logging concession of the company CBG, and one inaccessible area along a swampy creek forming the north-western boundary of the park.
- Village territory zoning of the two villages in the Park (Mouanda and Peny) has been finalized, following two 3-month participatory field work sessions in both villages to map and delineate all traditional resource use zones (i.e. agriculture, fishing, hunting, sacred sites, collection of NTFPs) around these sites.
- Following two years of data collection in Moukalaba-Doudou National Park (5,500km²) in collaboration with a PhD student from Max Planck Institute using an innovative monitoring protocol based on point transects, a draft final report was produced in September 2006. Preliminary results show that Moukalaba-Doudou might be the second most important site worldwide for the long term protection of western lowland gorillas and chimpanzees.

Comment [LAD1]: Delete to shorten?

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IR 1.2 *Ndogo lagoon (CBNRM area):*

- Over the last 3 years, significant progress has been made in creating the basis for sound management of traditional fisheries in the Ngodo Lagoon, Rembo Bongo River, and the lower Nyanga River and associated lakes. One hundred twenty-five local families depend mainly on this activity for their subsistence. Since May, 2003, date of the creation of the local fishermen's association APDN (Association des Pêcheurs du Département de Ndougou), this local cooperative has proven to be the key vehicle towards CBNRM in the area. Small grant support via CARPE, CAFAP (Poverty alleviation program financed by the Dutch Government), Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative and WWF ecoregional programs has assisted the local fishermen in building their capacity at all levels. These grants have resulted in the creation of several more village committee branches of the APDN, and in the creation of an APDN-managed micro-credit scheme, through which fishermen receive material support (i.e. spare parts for outboard motors, nets) in exchange for becoming members of the association and abiding by its ecologically and socially responsible bylaws. Reimbursements (fish) will serve the Association as a small investment fund, in order to further expand its small commercial centre in Gamba town.
- Eight student reports have been produced to finalize the LUP and monitoring plan.

IR 1.2 *Shell and TotalFinaElf (ERZ area):*

- In the framework of the After Oil Development Support Program for the Ndougou Department initiated by Shell Gabon and Shell Foundation, and following 2.5 years of broad stakeholder consultations and research, an "After Oil Development Vision Plan" has been developed and will be presented officially on October 19, 2006. Also, UNDP has expressed its willingness to help with the further development and implementation of the Plan beginning in 2007.
- The Shell Gabon Wildlife Action Plan has been in implementation since the start of the CARPE Program.

IR 1.2 *CBG Logging Concession (ERZ area):*

- On May 15, 2006, a joint agreement was signed between WWF-CARPO's regional representative and the CEO of CBG. This collaboration agreement paved the way for a future broader collaboration between WWF and the logging company in the framework of the upcoming FFEM contribution to CAWFHI. The first collaboration agreement includes four preparatory activities that have been successfully carried out during the reporting period: (1) a bushmeat study in the logging concession to prepare a wildlife management plan (carried out by a WWF-supported forestry student at Garoua Wildlife school); (2) the establishment of a village territory of Peny village partially within the logging concession and partially within Moukalaba-Doudou National Park (by a WWF-supported ENEF student), (3) a baseline study on nutritional habits and bushmeat consumption of CBG workers in their logging camp in Peny; and (4) the organization of an introductory meeting by WWF to explain to local authorities, local communities, and the employees of CBG the management regimes, options and constraints linked to the establishment of Moukalaba-Doudou National Park, as well as the proposed activities in the area in the framework of the FFEM/CAWFHI Program.

3. Conclusions and lessons learned

Prior to the start of CARPE/CBFP, the landscape concept had not been integrated in management considerations for the Gamba-Conkouati Landscape. Exchange of information and cross-border collaboration was quasi inexistent, and contacts between partners within each country component of the landscape were limited. Apart from long-standing integrated conservation and development programs implemented by WWF in the Gamba Complex in Gabon, and by WCS in Conkouati-Douli National Park in Congo, conservation activities in other sites (i.e. Mayumba NP) in the landscape only started as from late 2003.

The conceptual and contractual set up of the USAID/CARPE contribution to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership over the last three years has proven extremely successful in creating constructive landscape collaboration and leveraging of resources in the Gamba-Conkouati Landscape.

However, the “landscape approach” should still be considered to be poorly understood by the Governments of Gabon and ROC. The approach is also not always in line with other natural resource planning exercises being undertaken at local, national and regional levels.

Finally, the overarching objective to reach an integrated land use plan for the entire landscape by 2011 is very ambitious. Not only because it will still take several years to complete endorsed Land use –and Management Plans for the underlying ‘building blocks’ (i.e. PAs, CBNRM, ERZ), but also because of the limited funding available through CARPE and leveraged funding compared to the resources needed to mobilize a very important wide range stakeholders around the concept of landscape-wide integrated natural resource planning, while at the same time significant resources are also needed to assure capacity building for basic management on the ground.

The successes mentioned above can therefore already be considered as very significant steps forward towards a regional model of landscape management and trans-boundary collaboration.

4. Recommendations

Within the Gamba-Conkouati landscape, the CARPE contribution to CBFP has been successful in enhancing coordination amongst traditional conservation partners, be it relevant Governmental bodies, local and international NGOs and local community based natural resource management groups. However, the CARPE approach still need to be reinforced to ensure involvement of other key stakeholders and in particular; (i) other technical Ministries, and mainly Ministries of Planning, Interior, Mining, Oil&Gas, Fishing and Agriculture, (ii) private sector, and (iii) international development agencies to align their development programs in key sectors such as health, education, public infrastructure, agriculture, etc., with the landscape approach.