



WWF for a living planet®

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	Maiko Tayna Kahuzi Biega, DRC, Kahuzi Biega Landscape
Reporting Period	1 October, 2003 – 30 September 2006
Date submitted	15 November 2006
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1. INTRODUCTION

This final report covers the WWF-implemented portion of this landscape: **Kahuzi Biega National Park (PA) and Itombwe Forest Community Areas (CBNRM)**. CI, the landscape lead, will submit the final report covering the entire landscape.

Total Cost of WWF/USAID Agreement

	USAID Funds Received	Cost Share	Total Cost
WWF	\$939,343.65	\$378,692.00	\$1,318,035.65

Partner Contributions

Partners	Technical support provided	Amount contributed	Total Cost of activity
WCS	Training Park guards	\$3,000	\$5,000
WCS	Implementation: Park boundary demarcation	0	\$11,000
GTZ	Implementation: Support park control (patrol)	\$15,080	\$19,080
GTZ	Training local community	\$1,300	\$1,900
WCS	Stakeholder Meeting : CoCoSi meeting	\$500	\$2,000

Objectives that were to be accomplished and Summary of Results

Zone	3Yr Benchmark	Summary of achievements
Intermediate Result 1: Natural resources managed sustainably		
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		
Kahuzi Biega National Park (PA)	55% of Land Use Plan design updated and completed;	35%, of the planned 55%, of the annual benchmark LUP design updated and completed was reached.

	30% Land Use Plan completed	<p>The completed portion (35%) included: 30% <i>collection, compilation, and analysis of information</i>; 3.5 % <i>recognition of the site</i>; 1, 5% <i>identification and consultation with stakeholders</i>.</p> <p>The benchmark of 30% Land Use Plan Implemented was achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 20 park guards have been trained in law enforcement practice and are actively reinforcing park control in the high land sector. • 12 km of park boundary demarcated in the lowland sector in Nzovu • More than two CoCoSi meetings organized by the park authority to plan and monitor part activity.
Itombwe Forest Community Areas (CBNRM)	Land Use Planning Process 45% convened	The benchmark of Land Use Planning Process 45% Convened was achieved.

2. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

- 1) The acquisition of satellite images and the updated database were major steps advancing the LUP design process as well as daily park management. Acquired images included:
 - Landsat images covering the entire KBNP area as well as the Bushema site
 - 4 Spot band images (at 10 meter resolution) covering at least 80% of KBNP area
 - 2 Spot panchromatic band images (at 5 meter resolution) covering the highland sector
 - 5 Spot band images (at 10 meter resolution) covering the Itombwe forest area.
- 2) The rehabilitation of Patrol Posts (PP) in the park enabled ICCN to increase the strategic points for launching NR law enforcement operations and gave the park authority visibility in the part of the park abandoned long ago (Nzovu): PP were rehabilitated at Nzovu, Tshibati, Madiriri and Mugaba; 1 sub station was also completely rehabilitated at Nzovu; and 1 station partially rehabilitated at Tshivanga. The training and support for park guards allowed the park authority to extend the area covered by regular patrols from 10% to at least 30% of the total park area. This improved protection of the park is benefiting the lowland gorilla population; the number of individuals regularly monitored in KBNP has increased from 86 to 106.
- 3) The Miki agreement (signed between the governmental and non governmental organizations including civil society, the international conservation organizations involved in the gazettement process, and the local communities) and the draft Ministerial gazettement decree elaborated and approved by different stakeholders involved in the gazettement process, are two significant advances toward convening the Land Use process in Itombwe community forest. These will facilitate the development of the formal LUP strategy.

3. SUCCESS STORY

INTERACTING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN CONSERVATION

BUKAVU, DR Congo, WWF PNKB, the global conservation organization program in Kahuzi Biega, has accomplished three years of steady achievement in the Kahuzi Biega National Park, Itombwe massif forest, and the Bushema & Lutunguru forests.

The 600,000-hectare Kahuzi Biega National Park, a World Heritage Site and home of lowland gorillas *Gorilla graueri*, links two ecoregions - the Albertine Rift in the highland sector and the Congo basin forest in the lowland sector. Kahuzi Biega is under threats related to poaching, land encroachments and illegal settlers. One of the reasons is the lack of regular monitoring and also the limited operational capacity of the ICCN (park authority) to address this issue.

With an area of 600,000 hectares, Itombwe massif forest is rich in biodiversity, home to great apes, smaller primates, other species of large mammals, as well as a myriad of bird species. All these species are under huge threats as the massif has no a legal protection status. The situation was causing serious headaches for the country's wildlife managers.

Beginning three years ago WWF has been swimming against the tide in these areas, either by providing support to park managers or by empowering local communities with some skills to protect natural resources.

It turned out that it's useful to interact with local communities if you want to get success in conservation matters.

The WWF project has a limited staff to collect data throughout the landscape. Data collection activity by involving the local community, as well as volunteer researchers from the local universities, facilitates this important operation.

In the specific case of Itombwe massif forest, the wealth of the site's biodiversity was formally well known thanks only to external researchers (through their studies and publications). The local communities had never been involved in the documentation process. The arrival of WWF, the global conservation organization, with the CBFP fund has readjusted the situation in favour of communities living in and outside the massif. In fact, WWF focused more on the training and the involvement of communities in the data collection process. This participatory approach supported by the use of current technology, GIS, was not easy to link with the contribution by local folk. The outcome of their involvement in the process is that they are now aware of the quality and the quantity of the natural resources dwelling in the massif, and of course this helps to increase the rate of their participation in different tasks of data collection. Thanks to the training provided to local communities, a smaller number of the staff is needed on the ground.

As much as they contributed to the success of WWF, we are truly hopeful that this success of implementing a protected area in the massif forest will make a positive contribution to the lives of the people in the local villages.

The youth of Itombwe involved in the documentation process, played two roles, on one hand collecting data and on the second hand increasing awareness among the local community to conserve forest, because they can convince by supporting their key message with credible data and information. This facilitates the gazettement process in Itombwe forest.

Empowering both staff and local folk with skills leads most of time to unexpected and positive results.

-ISIDORE KIKUKAMA.
Communication Officer

4. CONCLUSIONS

- The learning of planning and monitoring tools and the programme strategy at the same time as applying them took more time than programme implementation on the ground.
- The landscape approach which targets sustainable NR management in terms of quality and quantity did not benefit from the necessary support of PA managers who are still limited by their old legislation.
- The CBFP programme seems to be ambitious and wide with a limited budget. This does not allow for addressing some important issues such as poverty alleviation, which is a key element in natural resource management.
- The monitoring and work plan matrices are good tools for reporting and monitoring activities progress, but require much time to become familiar with them.

5. LESSONS LEARNED

Conflict Resolution Committee: The lack, during a long period, of the park authority presence to monitor and control natural resources, makes park boundary demarcation activities difficult. It is important to restore the relation between the park and the local population before beginning any demarcation activity. This lack of a relationship is the origin of their conflict.

The CBNRM approach motivates more local communities' involvement in natural resource management because the communities depend more on their natural resource to survive. The CBNRM approach is also an important way to influence policy changes.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

We suggest that:

- CBFP develop and support social programmes at an important funding level.
- CBFP encourage the involvement of the government in the program's implementation on the ground.

- The system for the flow of funds between USAID office and the field project seems to be complicated and delays implementation of the field project activities.