

**TAKING ACTION
TO MANAGE AND CONSERVE
FOREST RESOURCES IN THE CONGO BASIN.**

CARPE

Central African Regional Program
for the Environment



An initiative of the
United States Agency
for International
Development

Preamble

- ✓ What?
 - ✓ a 20-year USAID initiative, 1995-2015
- ✓ When?
 - ✓ 1995-2000 phase now being reported
- ✓ Where?
 - ✓ the Congo Basin countries with humid tropical forests
- ✓ Why?
 - ✓ to learn about deforestation and biodiversity loss and test approaches to mitigate them
- ✓ How?
 - ✓ in partnership with US PVOs, US agencies and African NGOs, individuals and governments



Twenty Year Goal

- ✓ To reduce the rate of deforestation of the tropical forests of the Congo Basin and conserve the biodiversity contained within them. Thus, in the long term, to avert potentially negative changes in global and regional climate



Strategic Objective

- ✓ Identify and help establish conditions and practices required to reduce deforestation and biodiversity loss in the Congo Basin



CARPE Countries



U.S. Based Partners

- ✓ Biodiversity Support Program (BSP)
- ✓ NASA/University of Maryland/University of Virginia
- ✓ U.S. Peace Corps
- ✓ U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- ✓ U.S. Department of Agriculture/International Forestry
- ✓ Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- ✓ Innovative Resources Management (IRM)
- ✓ World Resources Institute (WRI)
- ✓ World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- ✓ Conservation International (CI)
- ✓ African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
- ✓ World Conservation Union (IUCN)
- ✓ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Regional Partners

A photograph of three men standing in a field with a large tree stump in the foreground. The man on the left is wearing a blue t-shirt and jeans. The man in the middle is wearing a blue denim jacket and jeans. The man on the right is wearing a blue jacket, a green cap, and jeans. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

- ✓ Local NGOs
- ✓ Government organizations
- ✓ Individuals
- ✓ Research and education institutions
- ✓ Regional and International Programs, Processes
 - ✓ Yaoundé Summit Process
 - ✓ Brazzaville Process (CEFDHAC)
 - ✓ African Timber Organization (ATO)
 - ✓ ECOFAC
 - ✓ IITA/CIFOR
 - ✓ Avenir des Peuples des Forêts Tropicales (APFT)
 - ✓ FAO
 - ✓ FORAFRI
 - ✓ TREES and Pathfinder
 - ✓ Tropenbos
 - ✓ Regional Environmental Information Monitoring Program

Guiding Principles

- ✓ African Participation
- ✓ Capacity Building
- ✓ Donor Complementarity
- ✓ Good Science
- ✓ Information Sharing
- ✓ Regional Perspective

The CARPE approach

- ✓ Filling gaps in knowledge
- ✓ Building on experience
- ✓ Setting priorities
- ✓ Involving Central Africans
- ✓ Strengthening management capacity
- ✓ Disseminating lessons learned at no cost

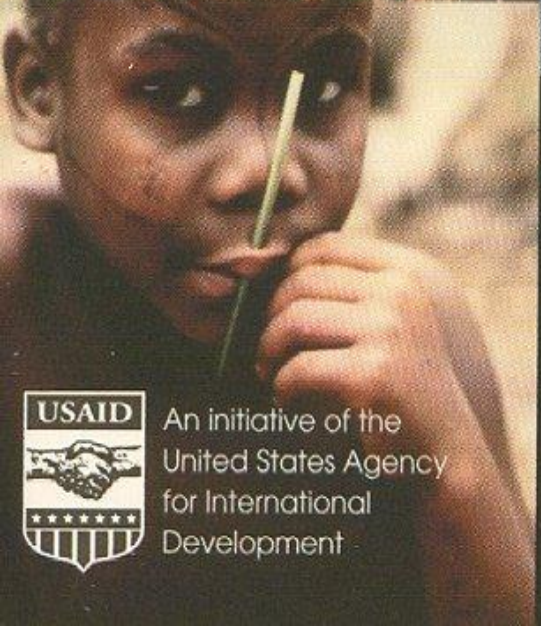
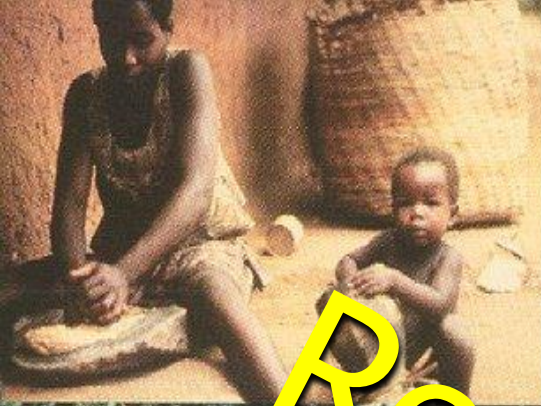
Sources of knowledge

- ✓ Information collated by CARPE partners
- ✓ Field results generated by CARPE partners
- ✓ Information gathered from existing studies
- ✓ Results developed by studies supported outside CARPE

Setting priorities for action

A map of Europe with several regions highlighted in green and yellow. Two blue dots are placed on the map, one in the north and one in the west. The background is a light grey map of Europe.

- ✓ Logging
 - ✓ reconciling revenue generation and forest conservation
- ✓ Protected areas
 - ✓ biological priorities, economic realities and best practices
- ✓ Local resource management
 - ✓ effective management systems and conservation incentives
- ✓ Environmental governance
 - ✓ NGOs as policy implementation watchdogs



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Results and Lessons

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Assessment of Congo Basin Forests



Present status of the forest

- ✓ 2nd largest contiguous block of forest
 - ✓ 1.8 million km² – covering 9 countries
 - ✓ 50% has been allocated for logging concessions
 - ✓ 13% is agricultural land
 - ✓ 6% is Protected Area
- ✓ Over 20 million people dependent on forest resource use for their livelihoods

Forest Trends

- ✓ Current rates of deforestation are low (0.02 -0.45% per year)
 - ✓ But total area of forest lost is significant
- ✓ Human population growing at ~3% per year
 - ✓ Demand for agricultural land will double in 25 years and increase more than 4-fold by 2050
- ✓ Almost all old-growth forest will have been logged at least once by 2020



Present forest use is unsustainable

- ✓ Bushmeat hunting exceeds wildlife production
- ✓ Old-growth logging is mining a 'gift of nature'
- ✓ Agricultural practices are resulting in declining soil fertility
- ✓ Increasing value of NTFPs encourages overharvesting in the wild

Deforestation predictions

By 2050

- ✓ Forest cover will have decline by 50% and will be highly fragmented
- ✓ Forest biomass loss will have released the equivalent of 1.6 years of global carbon emissions
- ✓ A small relative to fossil fuel burning worldwide
- ✓ Rainfall and agricultural production may decline



Primary causes of forest change

- ✓ Natural resource extraction and expansion
 - ✓ Logging, infrastructure, mining, fuelwood.
- ✓ Agricultural expansion
 - ✓ macro economic forces
- ✓ Population dynamics

Values of the Forest

- ✓ Economic
 - ✓ Timber, NTFP, Bushmeat
- ✓ Ecological
 - ✓ Most biodiverse assemblage of plants and animals in Africa
- ✓ Social
 - ✓ 80% of people dependent on forest resource use for their livelihoods
- ✓ Cultural
 - ✓ Traditional domains



Forest has many values

✓ But many forest uses tend to undermine or preclude others

Monitoring



- ✓ Is essential for adaptive forest management
- ✓ Is needed at a range of scales
- ✓ Monitoring institutions are weak and poorly equipped
- ✓ Methods need improvement
- ✓ Is useful only if it leads to action
- ✓ Will be most effective when driven by demand for environmental information



Forest and Society

Environmental Governance

- ✓ Decentralization
 - ✓ Just beginning in Congo Basin
- ✓ Legal framework
 - ✓ Poorly understood, and little commitment to reforms
- ✓ Advocacy
 - ✓ Capacity remains weak, but is growing

Regional Forest Management

- ✓ Regional initiatives launched
 - ✓ CEFDHAC ("Brazzaville Process")
 - ✓ Yaounde Summit
 - ✓ African Timber Organization (ATO)
- ✓ Promising start, but need support, coordination and leadership

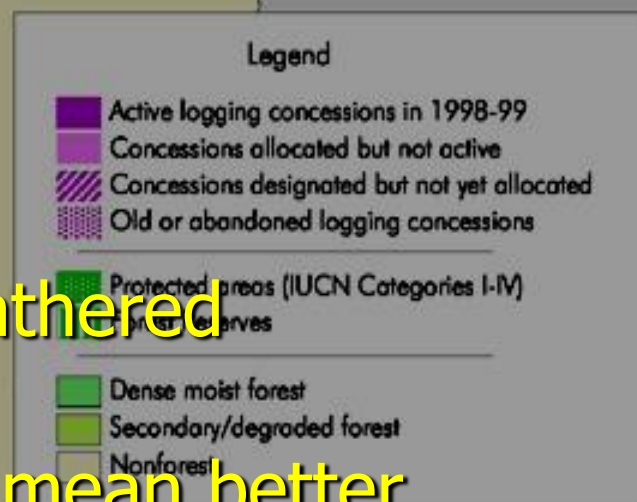
Forest and state

- ✓ Forest management is not guided by economic efficiency, rule of law, or by traditional norms.
- ✓ Forest management is used by government to buy political support
- ✓ Until citizens' taxes pay for government spending, they are unlikely to demand accountable government and quality social services.
- ✓ Strong executive powers and absence of civil-suit provisions undermine citizen participation in forest use decisions and oversight



Information and civil society

- ✓ Forest use information is not gathered systematically nor made public
- ✓ Access to information does not mean better forest management
- ✓ Lack of information almost assures that forest resources will not be used equitably
- ✓ Civil society organizations are critical to law enforcement but are weak and not supported by legislation



50 0 50 Kilometers

Greening the private sector

- ✓ Private sector enterprises are often both *de jure* and *de facto* regulators of resource use over the majority of the forest estate in central Africa.
- ✓ Attempts to 'green' private sector practices have the potential to generate significant conservation payoffs.



Tackling forest conservation in a region of instability

- ✓ Forest conservation in the Congo Basin will only happen if it has constituencies for change in the three sectors of the nation state
 - ✓ Public sector
 - ✓ Private sector
 - ✓ Civil society

Forest and Resource Use



Sustainable forest use

- ✓ Sustainable forest management is only possible by reconciling competing uses within the larger landscape
- ✓ Deciding forest use is a socio-political process
 - ✓ who benefits, and over what time period?
 - ✓ who participates in the decisions? (global, regional, national, local actors)

Non-timber forest products

- ✓ High value NTFPs are typically overharvested in the wild resources and grown on-farm
- ✓ Most families use NTFPs, which are often an important source of income for poor families
- ✓ NTFP marketing is a symptom of poverty not a cure
- ✓ Agriculture contributes many times the value of NTFPs to national economies
- ✓ Where forest has already been logged at least once, NTFPs are more valuable than timber



Logging

- ✓ 50% of forests in Central Africa have been allocated to logging companies
- ✓ Logging generates jobs, provides services, and contributes to national economies
- ✓ A majority of the land is controlled by a minority of the actors
- ✓ Legislation is poorly respected and hard to enforce

Forest and Biodiversity Conservation



When does conservation happen?

- ✓ Conservation happens when it addresses the individual interests of resource users and managers
- ✓ Government's role is to prevent individual interests from undermining the broader interests of society
- ✓ Civil society can help hold government accountable and raise public awareness of abuses

Landscape conservation

- ✓ Biodiversity conservation is likely to be most effective when addressed at a landscape scale
- ✓ Resource conservation planning should include core protected areas, and multiple use zones
- ✓ Protected areas are key to a biodiversity conservation strategy as only within these areas is plant and animal conservation the primary land use

Protected areas

- ✓ Support more diverse and abundant populations of wildlife than human dominated areas
- ✓ Raise awareness of conservation values
- ✓ Provide a source of national pride and international recognition
- ✓ Are inadequately staffed and financed
- ✓ Must consider local community interests
- ✓ Are seldom self-financing with long term international financing and stronger national commitment



What can we expect from community conservation?

- ✓ Mobilization may lead to empowerment and more equity
- ✓ Greater democracy will ensure that minority practices do not undermine majority interests
- ✓ Community control may not reduce forest degradation and deforestation
- ✓ Building civil society institutions is critical to counter-balancing the power of the public- and private sectors

Conservation in times of conflict

- ✓ Maintaining a presence in parks is critical
- ✓ Leadership training of junior staff helps
- ✓ Local support is crucial
- ✓ Existing local community networks could be mobilized more effectively
- ✓ Helping relief agencies to avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of their efforts will reap significant conservation payoffs

Bushmeat crisis

- ✓ Commercial hunting is a greater immediate threat than is habitat loss
- ✓ Bushmeat is an important source of protein and household income
- ✓ People buy bushmeat because it is cheap
- ✓ Solutions must include both law enforcement and substitution
- ✓ Working with logging companies to curb their role in the commercial bushmeat trade has proven possible and should be expanded

Financing conservation



20 UNITED STATES



Costs of Conservation

- ✓ Global heritage value exceeds local short-term exploitation value
- ✓ Protected areas (Tourism, research, safari hunting) and even a 10% national income are unlikely to pay for management costs
- ✓ Compensating local and national economies for incurring the costs of maintaining protected areas is both critical and ethical



Green conditionality

- ✓ Loan conditionality
 - ✓ Can empower latent constituencies for reform
 - ✓ Can deal set-backs to those with a vested interest in business as usual practices
 - ✓ Can raise the profile of the forest sector on the development agenda
 - ✓ Is poorly suited to ensuring the long-term institutional reforms necessary for effective policy implementation.
- ✓ Donors need to link loans not only to sectoral reform, but to broader institutional and legal reforms

Carbon trading

- ✓ Plantations and reduced impact logging could generate carbon trading revenues
- ✓ Governments should be empowered to participate in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) negotiations
- ✓ Link projects to performance of public forest administrations to make CDM a force for change
- ✓ Governments must be willing to abide by carbon trading contracts
- ✓ Financial options exist to minimize risks associated with carbon trading in Central Africa

Achievements



- ✓ Maintained US environmental dialogue in the region
- ✓ Collaborated across the region with series of partners
- ✓ Stimulated NGO interest and participation on regional issues through targeted small grants
- ✓ Fostered awareness of environmental governance at national and international levels
- ✓ Provided timely environmental information for free within the region

Key gaps remaining

- ✓ Agriculture – forest interface
- ✓ Macroeconomic policy implications of findings
- ✓ Socio-economic and institutional capacity monitoring
- ✓ Strategies for environmental education
- ✓ Mechanisms for regional integration
- ✓ Implications of regional instability
- ✓ Need for human resource development



The way forward

- ✓ Continue selected studies & analysis
- ✓ Pilot testing promising approaches & techniques
- ✓ Dissemination of results
- ✓ Broader involvement of African stakeholders on issues not explicitly environmental

