

**SURVEY**  
**of**  
**RESEARCH CAPACITY**  
**in**  
**GABON**

by *Rob Solem*  
March, 1997

## **CARPE Research Capacity Survey Questionnaire**

- 1) Organization or Individual's Name
- 2) Address (phone)
- 3) Type of Organization (government, para-statal, non-profit, profit)
- 4) Date of creation
- 5) Names of Key People (leaders) in organization and functions
- 6) Number of people/associates, etc...associated or affiliated with organization
- 7) Fields of expertise
- 8) Fields of expertise in a CARPE related field
- 9) Activities undertaken to date
- 10) Location of activities undertaken
- 11) Major donors, clients
- 12) Links with other organizations (national or international)
- 13) Links with Government

## List of Acronyms

- CIFOR** - Center for International Forestry Research (Indonesia)
- CIRAD** - Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
- CIRMF** - Centre International de Recherches Médicales de Franceville
- CENAREST** - Centre Nationale de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique
- ECOFAC** - Conservation et Utilisation de la Gestion Rationnelle des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale.
- ENEF** - Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts
- FORAFRI** - Capitalisation et Transfert des Recherches Menées dans les Forêts Denses Humides d'Afrique.
- IGAD** - Institut Gabonais d'Appui au Développement
- INC** - Institut National de Cartographie
- IPHAMETRA** - Institut de Pharmacopée et Médecine Traditionnelle
- IRAF** - Institut de Recherche en Agronomie Forestière
- IRET** - Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale
- PAFT** - Plan d'Action de Forêt Tropicale
- PFE** - Projet Forêts et Environnement
- SEGC** - Station d'Etudes des Gorilles et Chimpanzés
- UOB** - Université Omar Bongo (Libreville)
- UGENET** - Unité sur la Génétique des Ecosystèmes Tropicaux
- USTM** - Univeristé des Sciences et Techniques de Masuku (Franceville)
- VSF** - Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

- 1) **IRET - Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale**
- 2) B.P. 13354, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 73-25-78, fax: 73-25-78
- 3) Government research center, one of 3 research centers under Centre Nationale de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CENAREST)
- 4) 1962
- 5) Dr. Paul POSSO - Director (tel: 73-47-86)  
Dr. Bourobou - Deputy Director  
Dr. Sally Lahm, Research Associate, (B.P. 180, Makokou, Gabon)
- 6) 7 researchers (including 2 directors) and 3 technicians
- 7) Flora, fauna, botany, zoology, plant-animal relations, regeneration, animal/human interaction, human impact upon the environment, and ecology, and epidemiology of tropical infectious disease
- 8) Same
- 9) Ecological impact studies, Ebola Research Project
- 10) Primarily Libreville and Makokou but also Gabon in general
- 11) Few, notably ELF. UNESCO reportedly provides some funding.
- 12) Université Libre de Bruxelles, Montpellier, University of Wageningen  
Yale University, Université des Rennes, Cornell University.
- 13) Government research center

- 1) **IRAF - Institut de Recherche en Agronomie Forestiere**
- 2) B.P. 2246, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 73-23-75, fax: 73-08-59
- 3) Government research center, one of 3 research centers under Centre National de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CENAREST). Formerly ORSTOM
- 4) 1976
- 5) Dr. Engo ALLOGHO - Director
- 6) 7 researchers (including 2 directors) and 3 technicians
- 7) Agronomy - primarily manioc research; Forestry - wood technology (workshop crafts) Agroforestry; Fish culture
- 8) Same
- 9) Collaborating with PFE project (World Bank - "Project Forêt Environnement") and IGAD ("Institut Gabonais d'Appui au Développement")
- 10) Mostly Libreville. Agronomy research center in Ndouanieng (80 Kms from Libreville).
- 11) Unknown
- 12) Université de Belgique, Cornell, CIRAD, FAO, PNUD
- 13) Collaborating with PFE project, primarily in the area of agroforestry

- 1) **IPHAMETRA - Institut de Pharmacopée et Médecine Traditionelle**
- 2) B.P. 1935, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 73-47-86, fax: 73-47-86
- 3) Government research center, one of 3 research centers under Centre National de Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CENAREST)
- 4) Unknown
- 5) Mme Nze EKEKANG - Director  
Mr. IGNOUNGA MIKALA Bernard - Deputy Director
- 6) 3 or 4
- 7) Environment protection and promotion of traditional medicines.  
Traditional medicines of Gabon, working with traditional healers; biological studies
- 8) Same
- 9) Studying plants with anti-malarial properties, a biodiversity project is in the works, but not yet finalized.
- 10) Throughout Gabon
- 11) Few, notably ELF
- 12) PRONATURA - Missouri Botanical Garden - working to train local taxonomists National Cancer Institute (Washington, DC) - CICIBA ("Centre International de Civilisation Bantu") - University of Marseille.
- 13) Government research center

- 1) **SEGC (Station d'Études des Gorilles et Chimpanzés)**
- 2) B.P. 9352, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 77-55-33, fax: 77-55-34
- 3) Non-profit, private organization
- 4) 1983-84
- 5) Michel Fernandez - co-founder  
Caroline Tutin - co-founder  
Lee White (WCS) - researcher
- 6) Few, but exact number unclear
- 7) Initial work was on study of ecology of gorillas and chimpanzees but this has evolved into a long term study of many aspects of rain forest ecosystems. An extensive data base has been developed which includes four broad categories: Inventories; Vegetation Description, Dynamics and History; Ecology and Behavior of Large mammals; and Long-term Data Sets.
- 8) Botany, Zoology, Training in Forest Ecology (ecological inventory and monitoring methods)
- 9) Numerous research activities
- 10) La Lopé Reserve
- 11) Core funding comes from CIRMF (Centre International de Recherches Médicales de Franceville). Additional funding from L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, WWF, World Society for the Protection of Animals. WCS has supported the presence of one researcher, Lee White, since 1989.
- 12) ECOFAC is funding the La Lopé ICDP and has funded both ecological and sociological research in the reserve in order to create a data base that will enable informed management decisions to be made. Michel Fernandes directs ECOFAC Gabon and close links exist with the SEGC. SEGC is also affiliated with The University of Stirling, Scotland.  
APFT (Avenir des Peuples des Forêts Tropicales) is also doing work at La Lopé with anthropology students.
- 13) SEGC has links to the Ministry of "Eaux et Forêts", Gabon.

- 1) **INC (Institut National de Cartographie)**
- 2) B.P. 13600, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 73-12-49, 73-12-50, fax: 73-86-10
- 3) Para-statal (financially autonomous institution, but under government authority)
- 4) Formerly IGN/France (Institut de Geographie Nationale) which was transformed into INC in 1981.
- 5) Mr. MOUITY Albert, Director  
Mr. MABADI Bernard, Deputy Director  
Mr. Robert RIOU - Technical advisor  
Mr. Modeste MBOUMBA
- 6) Approximately 30 employees
- 7) Map making, aerial photography, remote sensing, radar imaging
- 8) Same
- 9) Numerous
- 10) Throughout Gabon
- 11) Work with Ministries of Health, "Eaux et Forêts", et Mines. Also sell maps and images to private companies.
- 12) INC is strongly supported by the French Government and has two French technical advisors and one French "coopérant".
- 13) Para-statal organization



- 1) **ENEF (Ecole National des Eaux et Forêts)**
- 2) B.P. 7052, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 75-83-45, fax: 77-29-94
- 3) Government Forestry School
- 4) 1959
- 5) Mr. Vincent de Paul Morambou, Director
- 6) Many, but exact number unknown
- 7) National Forestry school training agents primarily for the Ministry of "Eaux et Forêts".  
Commercial forestry exploitation
- 8) Students are required to do a thesis which is on a topic related to the forest. It might be possible for CARPE to support students to research CARPE relevant topics.
- 9) Training
- 10) Cap Esterias
- 11) The rehabilitation of ENEF and continued technical assistance is being provided by GTZ.  
There are presently two German technical assistants at the school.
- 12) Because ENEF is considered to be a key institution in the forestry sector, many international organizations and projects involved in that sector (e.g., PFE) have developed a working relationship with them.
- 13) Government run school

- 1) **Département Génie Agricole, Université des Sciences et Techniques de Masuku**
- 2) Laboratoire de Microbiologie et de Biotechnologies Végétales, B.P. 941, USTM, Franceville, Gabon. Tel: 67-75-77. Fax: 67-75-77
- 3) University of Science and Technology of Masuku (Franceville)
- 4) 1986
- 5) Jacques LEBIBI, Professor: Rector  
Bertrand M'BATCHI, Professor: Vice-Rector  
Joseph MAKITA-NGADI, Chef du Département
- 6) -
- 7) Agronomy, biology of vegetation, agroforestry
- 8) Same
- 9) Agricultural intensification and improvement of yields in rural areas to combat the negative impact of slash and burn agriculture
- 10) Franceville region
- 11) AUPELF - UREF, government funding
- 12) Ministry of Agriculture, Université LAVAL, QUEBEC, IAV HASSAN II, Morocco
- 13) Government University

- 1) **Africa Forest**
- 2) B.P. 13261, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 77-89-03, fax: 77-89-03
- 3) Private company
- 4) 1985
- 5) Chris Wilks - Owner/Manager
- 6) Unknown
- 7) Forestry inventories, Topography, Studies
- 8) Environmental studies
- 9) Environmental studies - Protected area preliminary study (Minkébé) - Conservation and rational use of forestry ecosystems - Forestry management inventories  
Publication of the book "La conservation des Ecosystèmes forestiers du Gabon" written for IUCN
- 10) Throughout Gabon
- 11) Forestry and Oil companies, WWF, IUCN, Gabon government
- 12) No
- 13) Collaborates with government research centers when requested

- 1) **FORAFRI - Capitalisation et Transfert des Recherches Menées dans les Forêts Denses Humides d'Afrique.**
- 2) B.P. 643, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 73-31-45, 73-65-76  
fax: 73-31-45, 73-65-76
- 3) Joint project between CIRAD-Forêt, CIFOR and several African countries funded by the French Cooperation Ministry
- 4) 1996
- 5) Dr. Robert NASI - Regional coordinator (Gabon)
- 6) Unclear
- 7) FORAFRI's objectives are to:
  - A) draw together conclusion of research activities carried out in the humid tropics of Africa in the field of tropical rainforest silviculture and management.
  - B) transfer these research results to potential users.
  - C) promote regional actions and exchanges of forest management research for the future.

- 1) **Unité de Génétique des Ecosystèmes Tropicaux (UGENET), CIRMF**
- 2) CIRMF, B.P. 769, Franceville  
tel: 67-70-92, 67-70-96, fax: 67-70-62
- 3) Non-profit
- 4) 1979
- 5) Professor Alain J. Georges, Directeur General, CIRMF  
Dr Jean Winckings, Chef de l'UGENET  
Mr. Jean-Paul Languin, Directeur Administratif et Financier, CIRMF
- 6) 150 employees, 35 of them researchers
- 7) Research the tropical diseases affecting health of Gabonese  
Research ways of increasing fertility of Gabonese  
Retro virology, emerging diseases, epidemiology, public health, parasitology, primatology, genetics
- 8) Primatology (CIRMF has a primatology center), genetics
- 9) Extensive research activities
- 10) CIRMF, La Lopé Reserve
- 11) Three major donors: Gabonese government, ELF/Gabon, French Cooperation Ministry.
- 12) Close links to ECOFAC
- 13) Government funded organization

- 1) **Gabon Vert**
- 2) B.P. 4015, Libreville, Gabon  
tel: 72-03-33, fax: 77-49-58
- 3) Private Company
- 4) Unknown
- 5) Adrien Lewis, Owner (botanist)
- 6) Numerous, but exact number unknown
- 7) Environmental studies - Botanical inventories - Rehabilitation of degraded construction and oil exploitation sites - Archeological surveys
- 8) Environmental studies - Botanical inventories
- 9) See No. 7
- 10) Mostly in the western part of Gabon where most of the oil exploration and exploitation has taken place to date.
- 11) Mostly large oil and construction companies. They also do some work in Nigeria for Shell Oil Co.
- 12) Links with IRET
- 13) None

- 1) **VSF- Vétérinaires Sans Frontières**
- 2) B.P. 9129, Libreville, GABON  
tel: 73-80-86, fax: 73-80-86
- 3) NGO working in 23 developing countries
- 4) Worldwide since 1983, Gabon since 1993
- 5) Patrick Houben - Representative
- 6) 3 expatriates (1 agronomist, 1 veterinarian, 1 administrateur)  
5 Gabonese technicians
- 7) Training, agroforestry, research on captive breeding of wildlife and natural resource management.
- 8) Sustainable wildlife management, commercial captive breeding of wildlife, training and extension in and around protected areas and forestry exploitation zones.
- 9) Developed techniques for intensive raising "aulacodes" or cane rats (*Thryonomys swinderignus*)  
Publication of "Guide Pratique de L'élevage de L'Aulacode au Gabon"
- 10) Libreville, La Lopé, Cocobeach
- 11) Funding sources include French Cooperation, EU, WWF, Belgian Embassy
- 12) WWF, IUCN, French Cooperation
- 13) VSF comes under Ministries of Water and Forests, and Agriculture