

Monte Alen-Monts de Cristal Landscape

Draft Strategy Document for Kougouleu-Medouneu-Mbe CBNRM

A Consortium

*To Improve Natural Resource Governance and Management
In the Monte Alen -Monts de Cristal CBFP Landscape (1)*



UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL

The convening process will be 20% convened by the end of FY08. As such, not all sections of this strategy document are complete.

I. Identify and Define Roles of Planning Team

The planning team will be facilitated by Martin Hega of WCS (supported by other WCS technical advisors). WCS will: 1) organize the planning team, 2) convene meetings of the planning team, 3) assign tasks to planning team members, and 4) assemble final drafts of the macro zone land use plan produced by the planning team.

It is unclear which government authority is responsible for the community zones, but the planning team will include a representative from ANPN, the Direction Générale de Forêts (probably DFC). A representative from the Mining Ministry will also be part of the team.

The participation of local population will be key in the processes of the designing, decision making and implementation of the CBRNM management. In particular, WCS will facilitate the inclusion of women's associations into the planning team for this CBRNM. Women play an important role in using natural resources, including subsistence agriculture, NTFP extraction and bushmeat processing and selling. They should play an equally important role in natural resource governance

II. Information/Data Gathering:

a. Physical

Natural resource use and socio-economic surveys completed in the first phase of CARPE II provide the foundation for this planning work.

b. Ecological

i. key wildlife resources

Rece surveys done mostly in 2005 as part of a survey which included the whole Gabon segment of the landscape. Large mammal species list made and abundance (encounter rate of sign). Maps of all large mammal abundance made. This information will need to be updated as with other macro zones to assess changes since 2005.

ii. wildlife migration corridors

Not applicable as the road divides the areas of interest. However, the road is not all inhabited and the possibility for corridors needs further investigation.

iii. rare and under-represented plant communities

Data is required

iv. other floral and faunal resources that are of key importance to the landscape and its population

Data is required

v. *Threats*

There is commercial hunting throughout this zone and bush meat transport south to Libreville along the road (the N5, LIBREVILLE - KOUGOULEU – MEDOUNEU-MITZIG road). Much of the area is also currently included in forestry concessions and the relationship between these and community management remains to be clarified by government.

c. *Socio-economic*

i. *Identify villages, foot paths, transport routes, key economic centers within and around the landscape, agricultural activities, hunting/fishing areas, areas of subsistence level timber extraction.*

26 villages have been identified and there are many footpaths accessing the buffer zone of the park, with some actually entering the park. There are 4 transport roads which can help to access the park but MEDOUNEU-KOUGOULEU is the N5 road of the country. MEDOUNEU is the chief of district to the HAUT COMO department and KOUGOULEU one village linked to KANGO. Agriculture, timber extraction (sawyers) and hunting is carried out along this road. There is no commercial fishing in these villages.

These village natural resource use maps need to be taken into consideration in the management plan.

ii. *Identify all stakeholders of landscape (including populations outside the landscape).*

Along the road, the main stake holders are chiefs of villages living there and the *elites*, including teachers, religious leaders and political leaders. Agreements need to be signed with all stakeholders to formalize their involvement in the planning process.

iii. *Identify those resources and regions of landscape utilized for subsistence purposes vs. larger commercial trade.*

Timber extraction and pineapple plantations are the principal activities developed along the road. The importance of this trade to the communities needs to be assessed, as does its impact on biodiversity.

iv. *Map location of economically desirable timber species or mineral deposits not currently in any concessions*

This needs to be done, for mining and forestry maps, as well as from local knowledge.

d. *Assess government management authority presence on landscape and capacity to play role in planning process.*

Various government departments are concerned: Forestry, Mines, Agriculture, Urban Planning.

v. Creation of a Public Participation Strategy

To be completed.

The GoG is formally more open to public participation in land use planning decisions and implementation and has an explicit strategy to create community forests in its rural zone. The consortium plans to develop and validate maps of artisanal and traditional natural resource exploitation through workshops and consultations with local communities. Stakeholder participation during the land use planning for the CBNRM, will continue to focus on ensuring the local people are fully engaged in the process.

Stakeholders include representatives of all the villages, but in particular ANDOK, ALÉN, MELA, MVENG, SONG, ASSOK, NTANN, NKASSI, AKOGA, MBEAKALAYONG, AVANG, NZOGBOT, EDOUM. We will aim to work with local men's and women's associations within these villages.

Other stakeholders are the representatives of ANPN, Eaux et Forest and DFC, as well as the private sector.

A process for conflict resolution needs to be established as part of the planning process.

vi. Creation of Strategy for Formal Recognition of Plan

To be completed.

Recognition of CBNRMs in Gabon is dependant on the application of legislation that makes creation of community forests possible. Barring a pilot project undertaken by WWF and GoG in the TRIDOM Landscape this legislation is largely untested. The objectives; strategy; regulations of the CBNRM needs to be written and agreed upon with the stakeholders.

vii. Creation of Vision and Objectives for the Macro-zone

- a. Stakeholder groups convened to describe their expectations, desired conditions, and purpose of the landscape plan. [Note: CARPE landscapes are not necessarily a recognized or known entity to many stakeholders on a landscape, therefore the creation of objectives for the entire landscape may not concern all stakeholders. These groups, however, must be implicated in the creation of objectives for each zone.]*
 - i. Objectives should reflect the desired conditions of the landscapes*

- b. Agreements reached and objectives defined for the landscape.*
- c. The landscape vision and objective creation should include a prioritization process which takes into account and targets the most pressing needs on the landscape, taking into account the importance of such issues for long term conservation on the landscape and the time sensitivity of each.*

To be completed

viii. Identify Management Micro-Zones and Associated Objectives and Guidelines

- a. Objectives defined to reflect desired conditions of each zone, guidelines created to address known threats.*
- b. Identify differing rules in each zone for different habitat types, activities, and resources.*
- c. Delineate micro-zones, within these larger zones, as needed to define locations where certain activities will be permitted/prohibited.*
- d. Define additional rules for each micro-zone.*

To be completed

ix. Elaboration of Implementation Plan for Macro-Zone

- a. Identification of activities in each macro-zone that must occur in order to achieve objectives.*
- b. Describe methods for these activities and resources needed to accomplish them.*

To be completed

x. Creation of Monitoring Plan for Macro-Zone

- a. Description of necessary activities and data collection, and who is responsible for them, needed to evaluate how well objectives are being met by plan.*
 - ii. Monitoring results are utilized to adapt landscape management plan as needed.*

To be completed