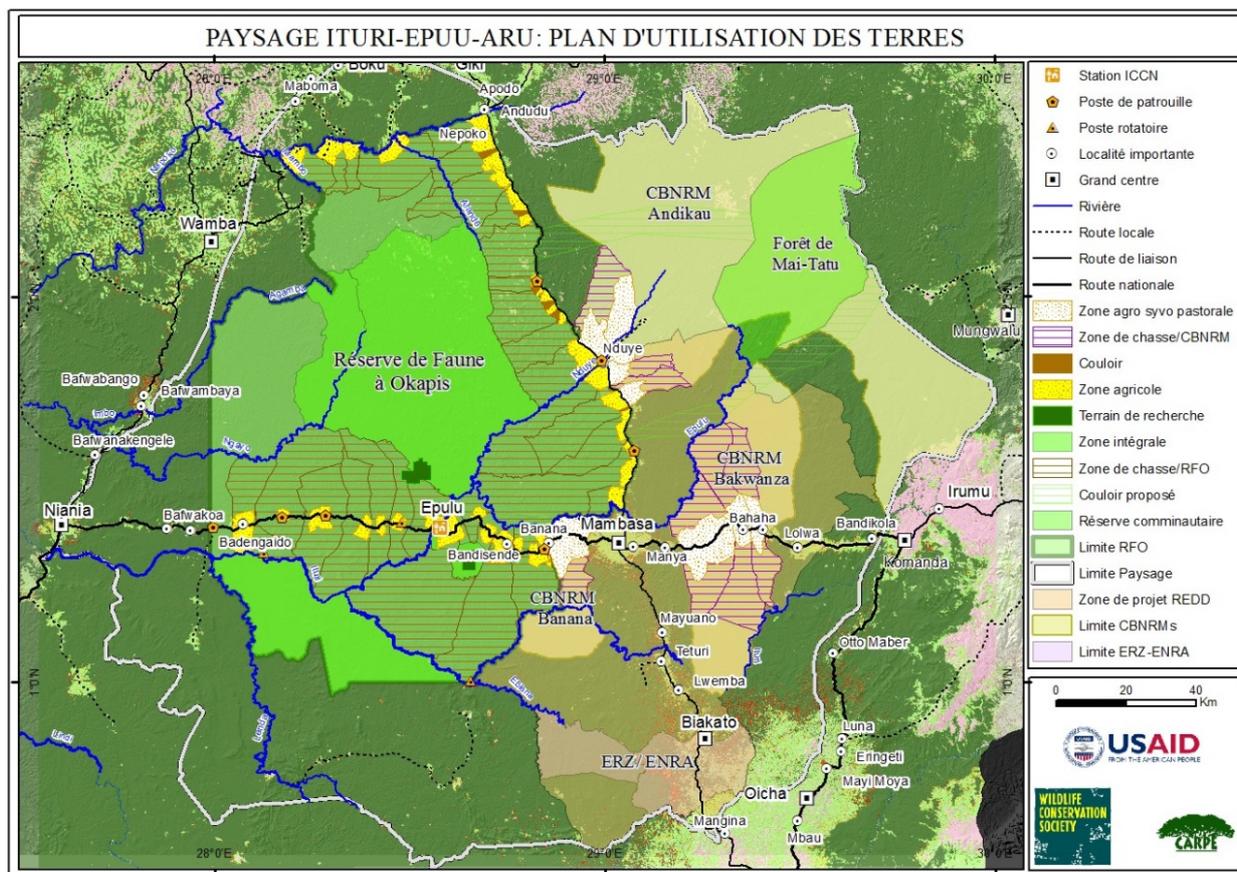


CAFEC LANDSCAPE 7 – Ituri-Epulu-Aru
CAFEC FY14 ANNUAL REPORT: OCTOBER 1, 2013 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

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Map of the Ituri-Epulu-Aru Forest Landscape



INTRODUCTION

Ituri –Epulu – Aru landscape is one the most intact forest situated in the north eastern part of the DRC and contains a vast range of fauna and flora species. Ituri LS include 5 macro zones as shown in the attached map, among them the Okapi Faunal Reserve (OFR) that protects the last populations of the forest elephants, and harbors chimpanzees and okapi, a forest giraffe, endemic to DRC. It also includes three Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) zones, Andikau, Bakwanza and Banana, and a forest concession, ENRA. Threats to biodiversity of the landscape include the loss of forest cover through deforestation and forest degradation due to slash and burn agriculture, driven by demographic pressure and acute poverty. Other drivers of deforestation and forest degradation include growing demand for fuelwood and timber driven by rapidly increasing urban populations in nearby towns, and unsustainable economic development. The second major threat is poaching by armed people (militias, deserters, and criminal gangs) targeting primarily elephants for ivory due to increased prices on international markets, and unsustainable hunting targeting chimpanzees or okapis and other mammals such as ungulates. Ungulates are targeted for commercial bushmeat hunting fueled by local and urban demands for bushmeat.

This report presents progress made in the Ituri-Epulu-Aru Landscape from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014 towards achieving annual benchmarks as listed in the FY14 reporting matrix. This report will:

- Highlight particularly significant accomplishments.
- Document progress towards national REDD+ strategies/action plans
- Explain failure to achieve approved Benchmarks.
- Document variation from the approved work plan.
- Describe Lessons Learned.
- Establish links to other USG agencies
- Describe any proposed management changes at the Landscape/segment level including personnel, approaches, and strategies and funding.
- Present a success story
- Detail communication and outreach

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the past year, CAFEC partners' work in the Ituri-Epulu-Aru Landscape was primarily to define the framework in which activities will be implemented. These efforts included the definition of the strategies of interventions in the landscape and the identification of performance indicators or benchmarks to be achieved within the five years of the project life. A first year workplan was developed and finalized in April 2014, and planned activities were carried out. Significant accomplishments during the first year are summarized below in Section 1. These activities were carried out primarily in four macrozones, including Okapi Faunal Reserve and the three Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) zones, Andikau, Bakwanza and Banana. Activities were focused on implementing six of the strategies developed by CAFEC, in order to mitigate the threats identified in the landscape. These strategies include strengthening protected area management capacity, strengthening the implementation of land use management plans, strengthening law enforcement and prosecution, promoting sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices, promoting sustainable artisanal use of natural resources and integrating REDD+ at the landscape. Implementation of activities is described in detail in the attached excel

worksheet submitted with this narrative report, and significant accomplishments are outlined below, by macrozone and then by IR and CAFEC strategy.

Landscape Level

IR1 Target Forest landscape sustainably managed

Strategy 1. Strengthen Protected Area (PA) management capacity:

- Four team leaders were trained in faunal survey techniques and data analysis. These four will lead the Mai Tatu surveys due to start in early FY15, and will be available for other survey work across the landscape thereafter

Strategy 2. Strengthen implementation of land use management plans

- Deforestation analysis was conducted in all macrozones and the overall landscape using satellite images recently acquired. The objective of this study was to assess the status of forest cover in the landscape for the period 2000-2012, based on the best remote sensing data currently available. This study has demonstrated that in 2012, forest cover in the landscape was 3,923,828 ha, representing 95.48% of the total area of the landscape, while the extent of non-forested areas (human settlements, inselbergs, water bodies, etc.) was estimated at 185,381 ha (4.51%). During the period 2000-2012, the loss of forest cover across the landscape accounted for 1.96% of the forest area in 2000, so that the average annual rate of forest loss over that period was at 0.16%. A reduction in the rate of forest clearing has been observed since 2010, although this must be confirmed by data from 2013 when available. The Banana CBNRM, located south-east of the OFR shows the highest annual rate of loss of forest cover compared to other areas of the landscape. The maximum value reached in this CBNRM in any particular year during the period 2000-2012 was 0.7%, twice the average of the DRC. The position of this macrozone near the town of Mambasa (on the national road RN4) may explain the high rate of forest loss. This study also showed that agricultural zones along of the RN4 have a higher annual rate of loss of forest cover than those in the more isolated area along the Mambasa-Mungbere road, to the north of the OFR. At the heart of the landscape, the forest cover in the OFR was estimated at 1,372,800 ha in 2012, representing 98.47% of the total area while the extent of non-forested areas (human settlements, inselbergs, streams, etc.) was estimated at 21,299 ha. During the period 2000-2012, the loss of forest cover in the OFR represented only 0.44% of the forested area in 2000, giving an annual rate of 0.037%. The loss of forest cover is mainly due to the presence of human settlements along the RN4. A report on this work is submitted as an MOV.
- New community-based natural resources management sites were identified and zoned with community participation with funds from the Congo Basin Forest Funds. Local management committees (Comités Locaux de Gestion, CLG, and Comités Locaux de Suivi, CLS) were formed and their members trained. With the publication of the community forest decree, four of the communities will apply to obtain community forest concession titles.
- Capacity building for communities and individual entrepreneurs continued: 1088 individuals belonging to 7 associations were trained and provided with financial support to run small agriculture-based businesses.

- A broad sensitization campaign was initiated across the landscape during the second half of the FY14 to promote sustainable use of forest resources and biodiversity conservation. 32 radio broadcasts made on sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry and the value of intact natural forests on human livelihoods. The education and awareness team also produced a poster on protected species and several flyers and songs were made to raise community awareness on the value of forest and wildlife, environmental and conservation laws.

Strategy 4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices

- With funds from the World Bank, 9 local associations or CBO were financially supported to develop and run agriculture-based businesses. A total of US\$210,554 was provided and alternatives activities supported included animal husbandry initiatives (chicken), fish ponds, processing of agricultural products and vegetable production projects.
- The Basic Needs Survey and Governance Tool were developed as simple measures for tracking impact in livelihoods and institutional strengthening for CAFEC. The BNS comes from the development world, and has been adopted by WCS and used across the globe. The Governance Tool was developed under the USAID SCAPES program, with participation from many of the CARPE partners (WCS, WWF, AWF, and FFI). These two measures not only allow projects to measure and report their impacts, but also help to focus work to ensure that constraints to livelihoods and governance are identified and addressed. An internal training workshop in June 2014 and a workshop with partners in September 2014 held by WCS were used to further develop and roll out these tools for all CAFEC partners.

Strategy 6. Integrate REDD+ at the landscape scale

- Following the national forest inventory methodology, forest inventories were carried out on 31.8 ha to estimate forest carbon stocks in various land use types (primary and secondary forests, fallow and agricultural complex). A preliminary report will be submitted to USAID-CARPE.
- Annual deforestation rates were determined for each macro zone and for the REDD Mambasa project area using the UMD data for the period 2000 to 2012. See the report submitted as MOV and a summary in the Okapi Faunal Reserve accomplishment.

IR2: Biodiversity threats in targeted forest landscapes mitigated.

Strategy 4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices

- Partnership developed with Edmund Shulter Company (ESCO Kivu SPRL) to provide incentives for the maintenance of trees as habitat for wildlife in cocoa farms.
- Sensitization materials (brochures, radio broadcasts, etc.) produced and distributed with WCS and Conseil pour la Defense des Communautés et la Protection de l'Environnement (CDPE) teams. CDPE is a local NGO in charge of Information Education and Communication for the Mambasa REDD project.

Okapi Faunal Reserve

IR1: Target forest landscape sustainably managed.

Strategy 1. Strengthen Protected Area (PA) management capacity:

- As a constituency building action, a school with 6 classrooms, 2 offices and sanitary was built with World Bank funding in Bandise and handed over to the local community in September 2014. The school has the capacity to receive almost 560 students and 26 teachers.
- A training of 20 students from the University of Kisangani, Beni and Bunia was held in the Reserve with focus on the conservation biology, on natural resource management and socioeconomic studies. Another group of 7 students from the University of Kindu was received for a similar training in the Reserve with their training crossing the FY14 and FY15. The aim of training national university students is to train the future generation of conservationists and protected area managers and to inspire more young and educated people to engage in conservation efforts and therefore broadening WCS conservation impacts in DRC.

Strategy 2. Strengthen implementation of land use management plans

- Three hunting territories and 3 agriculture zones delineation were completed with MOU signed between local communities, customary representatives and local government authorities in the Wamba territory bringing now a total of 30 agriculture zones and 29 hunting territories for the entire OFR.
- Twelve meetings with local communities in different *chefferies* of the Mambasa Territory and three with the Territory authorities were held during the first year in order to agree on the limits of the core conservation area. The next meeting will be organised in Q1 FY15 with all the Reserve stakeholders to validate the limits of the core conservation area.

Strategy 4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices

- Meetings on sustainable agriculture and sensitization on the new conservation law were organized with 248 farmers in 7 villages. Topics covered included the need not to burn, crop association and succession, respect of the river banks, and improved agriculture techniques.

Strategy 6. Integrate REDD+ at the landscape scale

- A one day workshop with 30 staff from RFO including 5 from ICCN-RFO, 9 from WCS, 2 from GFA, 5 from GIC and 7 University interns from the University of Kindu was organized in Epulu aiming at building the capacity of ICCN and NGOs partners in the REDD+ process. Five modules were developed including the ecosystem services, the REDD+ process in the DRC and in the global level, climate change, and information on the REDD+ project in Mambasa.
- Collection of meteorological and phenology data are underway. This the 23rd year since phenology data started to be collected and 28th years for the meteorological data. Analysis of all meteorological and phenology data will begin in the FY15 with the aim of looking at long term trends related to climate change.

IR2: Biodiversity threats in targeted forest landscapes mitigated.

Strategy 1. Strengthen Protected Area (PA) management capacity

- A rapid assessment of wildlife in the 2 hunting zones around Epulu Headquarters was conducted with the results showing the existence of wildlife including signs of elephants, chimpanzees and other primates. However, extremely very few signs of forest duikers (*Cephalophus*) were observed during the surveys. Report in preparation.
- We are currently monitoring hunting for 6 months in partnership with local committees and the *Comités Locaux de Suivi et de Conservation de la Nature* (CLSCN) in four OFR hunting zones and 8 agglomerations in and around OFR. The surveys will be completed in December 2014. Data analysis is planned for early 2015 and the production of a comprehensive hunting strategy for the Reserve will follow.

Strategy 3. Enhance law enforcement and prosecution

- SMART is now implemented in the OFR with 2 rangers trained as SMART officers and 16 rangers working in the 6 patrol posts across the RFO were trained in SMART as well. First law enforcement reports are already available.
- Patrol coverage of the RFO has been increased from 11 % per quarter at the end of 2012 to 35% now, and continues to be increased. We project reaching 95% by the end of 2015. Support of patrol rations and equipment has been provided with matching funding from the USFWS and the IUCN SOS fund.
- Plans to evacuate the illegal artisanal mining camps across the OFR and to address the poaching associated with these camps were discussed in a meeting held in June in Epulu, assembling key stakeholders (ICCN representatives, local traditional chiefs and local government authorities from Mambasa and Bunia). Another meeting with the key stakeholders of the Territory of Wamba was held earlier in July in Wamba. The governor of Province Orientale supported this operation and set the deadline for voluntary evacuation as 15th October 2014. Now ICCN and FARDC are looking for ways to implement a forced evacuation that this deadline has passed. This activity was not originally planned in the matrix of FY14, but turned out to be very important for the control of illegal activities in the OFR.

Bakwanza CBNRM

IR1: Target forest landscape sustainably managed.

Strategy 4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices

- 384 households were provided with improved seeds and technical assistance to increase productivity for cassava, maize and peanut. A summary of the agricultural results is shown in the table below.
- Three local associations received financial support to develop small agriculture-based businesses, including a duck multiplication project developed by pygmy communities. Individual household will receive pairs of ducks as the number of ducks grows at the multiplication site.

- Nine cocoa cultivation corporations were formed and provided with nursery materials, and their members were trained in seedling production.
- A preliminary analysis was carried out in Bakwanza on the impacts of cocoa cultivation on deforestation. It was found that households who cultivated cocoa reduced their farm size for food crops by 40%. The study will be expanded to other areas in FY15.
- With funds from the WB, 7 local associations or CBO were financially supported to develop and run agriculture-based businesses.

Andikau CBNRM

IR1: Target forest landscape sustainably managed.

Strategy 4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices

- 290 households were provided with improved seeds and technical assistance to increase productivity for cassava, maize, rice and peanut (see table below).
- Four cocoa cultivation corporations were formed, provided with nursery materials and their members trained in cocoa and tree seedling production.
- With funds from the WB, seven local associations or CBO were financially supported to develop and run agriculture-based businesses.

Banana CBNRM

IR1: Target forest landscape sustainably managed.

Strategy 4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices

- 194 households were provided with improved seeds and technical assistance to increase productivity for cassava, maize and peanut (see table below).
- Three cocoa cultivation corporations were formed, provided with nursery materials and their members trained in seedling production.
- Two local associations received financial support to develop small agriculture or natural resources-based businesses. One micro project focused on fish ponds associated with ducks and the other was based on beekeeping for honey production. Over 200 liters of honey have already been produced and sold.

Macrozone	Type of production	Number of households/farmers	Number of associations/corporations	Area of land planted (ha - if applicable)	Production (kg)
Okapi Faunal Reserve	Cassava	159 farmers		139 ha	First production expected March 2015
Bakwanza	Peanuts	111 farmers		32 ha	9,613
	Cassava	183 farmers		Data being collected	First production expected March 2015
	Cocoa	354 members	9		414,050 seedlings
Andikau	Peanuts	44 farmers		12.5	4095
	Cassava	146 farmers		Data being collected	First production expected March 2015
	Cocoa	134 members	4		123,288 seedlings
Banana	Peanuts	51 farmers		14	3,755
	Cassava	141 farmers		Data being collected	First production expected March 2015
	Cocoa	127 members	3		61,418 seedlings

Table 1. Summary of major agricultural interventions in the Ituri Landscape. With cocoa, seedlings are a preliminary product produced by participating farmers, and used to plant cocoa trees. First production figures for cocoa itself should be available by the end of FY 2015.

2. PROGRESS TOWARDS NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGIES/ACTION PLANS

National REDD+ framework strategy recognizes five major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (slash-and-burn agriculture, artisanal logging, fuelwood, mining and bushfires), as well as four underlying causes, including population growth, institutional aspects, infrastructure & urbanization and economic aspects. In order to effectively tackle the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, while taking an active part in the sustainable development of the country, the national REDD+ framework strategy had defined in a participatory manner a set of actions structured into seven 'pillars'. The seven pillars are agriculture, energy, forests, governance, demography, land use planning and land tenure.

Links of links between this projects components and the national REDD strategy pillars are outlined in the table below, along with a summary of progress in year 1.

REDD Pillar	Project components	Progress in year 1
<i>A. Land management and planning</i>	Support implementation of management plans for the macro zones to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the landscape	Implementation of management plans has been a major emphasis, particularly supporting development of agricultural and agro-forestry activities, described above
	Lobby provincial authorities in Oriental and North-Kivu to support implementation of land use plans for macrozones, particularly assisting to regulate immigration in the landscape	Planned for FY 2015.
	Conduct deforestation analysis in agriculture zones using available satellite images and field data	Shape files for low administrative units ('secteur' and 'groupement') are being produced and other data (population size, ethnic composition, cocoa cultivation) collected to allow deforestation analysis at these levels.
<i>B. Governance</i>	Facilitate contacts between NRMC, the private sector and local civil society to influence the governance of NR in the LS	Meetings were held to revive and strengthen COBAs in each CBNRM.
<i>C. Forest stock conservation</i>	Support the implementation of a management plan for the Okapi Faunal Reserve	Law enforcement activities and community conservation are a major component of our work in the OFR, as detailed under Section 1. In addition we are also trying to get ICCN to finalize the draft management plan.
	Support the creation of a community reserve in appropriate area of the forest block	A six-week training session was completed for teams to survey the forest block to assess current status and identify boundaries. Fieldwork will start by the end of October 2014.
<i>D. Increasing carbon stocks</i>	Collect data on carbon stocks across land use types to monitor carbon fluxes and GHG emissions with active participation of local communities	One hundred twenty-three plots (30.75 ha) were established in primary and secondary forests to estimate carbon stocks. Report produced.
	Strengthen WCS and key stakeholders capacity to use methodologies and technologies for measuring and monitoring deforestation and forest degradation and associated greenhouse gases emissions	Training of community representatives in carbon measurement techniques (dbh and height measurements) was carried out.

	Promote agroforestry (shade cocoa) and reforestation to increase carbon stocks in managed lands	Fifteen associations of cocoa farmers were created during FY14, comprising over 800 members. Each association established a nursery to produce 50,000 cocoa seedlings and 10,000 tree seedlings (shade trees).
<i>E. Reducing demographic pressure</i>	Monitor human population growth due to internal migration for access to agricultural land (CODELT)	CODELT has already initiated survey on the ground to establish a baseline for population monitoring in the LS.
	Develop mechanisms to regulate immigration in the LS (CODELT)	CODELT are compiling legal review of how this might be achieved.
<i>F. Energy</i>	Study on fuelwood production and trade in the LS	Fieldwork completed. Data analysis and report in process
	Promotion of efficient fuel stoves in major population centers in LS	This activity is being piloted in Mambasa, with the aim of expanding the program and including other population centers.

Table 2 Contributions to implementation of the national REDD strategy.

3. EXPLANATION OF DEVIATION FROM APPROVED FY14 BENCHMARKS

The benchmarks approved for FY 14 have not changed during this period. However, the fact that the first year workplan and PMP were not completed until April 2014 meant that there have been delays in establishing certain baselines, as outlined below. Baselines will be available for all indicators by the end of FY15

1. *Rate of forest cover change*: Data from University of Maryland /OSFAC on forest cover change for 2013 and 2014 will be analyzed to investigate the pattern by landscape and zones as soon as available. Pending that, discussions will be held in December 2014 to finalize the targets for this indicator.
2. *Quantity of GHG emissions reduced or sequestered*: preliminary estimates have been calculated based on our initial experience with the AFOLU calculator. However, further discussion with USAID will be necessary before these can be finalized.
3. *Rate of change of abundance and range of elephant populations*: Surveys in Mai Tatu Forest block and in OFR will be respectively carried out in FY 2015. The results from these surveys will determine whether or not the density or range of elephants has changed or not.
4. *Rate of change of abundance and range of great apes populations*: the rate of abundance or range for the great apes will be determined following the surveys planned in Mai Tatu and OFR earlier FY15 for Mai Tatu and end of FY15 for OFR.
5. *Rate of change of abundance and range of forest antelope populations*: as with 3 and 4, this will be known after the completion of the planned biological surveys in FY15.

Others indicators:

20. BNS: the surveys will be carried out in FY15. Delay was due to the process leading to elaboration of a tool agreed by all CAFEC implementing partners. This was done in September 2014 by WCS with protocol completed and a list of basic necessities established. Final baseline will be in place by 2015.
21. *Proportion of people (segregated by gender) targeted by alternative livelihood activities in the community that have reduced their unsustainable practices*, and 22. *Number of households adopting alternative sustainable practices that were demonstrated* will be completed with the results from the BNS.
13. *Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved management as a result of USG assistance*: To be determined with the completion of reviewed management plans for all 4 macrozones in the landscape. Within the OFR, we take the areas of forest patrolled, as indicated by SMART, plus the agricultural zones within which our support has been concentrated. We will not consider CBNRM areas to be included until the review of management plans has been completed by WCS and CODELT (expected by Q2 FY15).
14. *Scores on authority, capacity and power (segregated by gender and age)*: the value will be obtained after the finalization of the Governance survey tool in Q1&Q2 FY15.
- 25-26. All REDD+ benchmarks and indicators will be determined during next fiscal year after a meeting scheduled with all consortium and GIS and remote sensing partners to discuss all these issues, after they have been finally confirmed by USAID and the partner leading on their development.

IR2: Biodiversity threats in targeted landscapes mitigated

15. *Prevention: Proportion of critical habitat (in terms of hectares) for elephants/apes that is being effectively patrolled*: the benchmark set up is the patrol coverage in 2013 was of 20%. The target of 40% in 2014 was not quite reached, but 35% of the surface area of the Okapi Faunal Reserve was covered by patrols.
16. *Detection: PIKE (Proportion of Elephant carcasses Illegally Killed)*: The baseline was 100% of 27 carcasses of elephants recorded in 2011 with patrols covering almost 95% of the entire Reserve. The recent patrols conducted in 2014 only found two carcasses of elephants as the patrol coverage is still at 35% of the entire protected area. This still represents PIKE of 100%, but with only a small number of carcasses found.
17. *Percentage of patrols informed by intelligence as a result of USG assistance* will be determined after an intelligence training planned to be carried out in FY15, along with implementation of the law enforcement strategy, and will be monitored using a new module in SMART.
18. *Prosecution: Proportion of intercepted wildlife crime cases that are a) prosecuted, b) sentenced and c) publicized* (disaggregated by poachers, traffickers or middle-men) to be determined after Eagle – LAGA like project is implemented in Ituri and Bunia.

6. *Number of people receiving USG-supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation (disaggregated by gender) (Standard indicator 4.8.1-27):* The target was to reach at least 450 men and 250 women. This target was not reached. Instead, only 77 men and 7 women were trained. The number of trainees is fewer than planned due to delays in starting up the CAFEC project. Training was therefore mostly of internal staff and field assistants, and major training for community groups has yet to be provided. This will be done starting from year 2, resulting in much higher achievement against this indicator.

4. EXPLANATION OF VARIATION FROM APPROVED WORKPLAN

At the landscape level as well as at the protected area and CBNRMs, not all the planned activities were completed as scheduled. A number of them were delayed due to delays in the starting up of the CAFEC project, which included an extended period of development strategy, results and indicators. Workplans and Performance Management Plans were not submitted until April 2014. A few activities were either rescheduled for FY15 or deleted if deemed no longer relevant or important. In addition, an audit made by AfDB to the Mambasa REDD project accounting found expenses that the government agency in charge of managing the project's account could not justify. This caused significant delays in matching funding from CBFF. Explanation of delays and changes in particular activities is given below by Macrozone, IR and strategy.

Landscape level

IR1: Target forest landscape sustainably managed

Strategy 2. Strengthen implementation of land use management plans

- *Evaluation of the progress made in the planning process in CBNRMs zones.* Meetings with communities are being held to agree on zoning work accomplished during CARPE II and additional work being done to set up the corridors between the blocks of forest, the activity will be finalized in GY15. In the meantime, CODELT is conducting a documentary review of all the laws on the land use plan and land use tenure with the view to establish the legal recognition of the simplified management plans drafted during CARPE II. The evaluation will be completed during the first half of FY15.
- *Lobby provincial authorities in Oriental and North-Kivu to support implementation of land use plans for macrozones, particularly assisting to regulate immigration in the landscape.* Initial contacts were made with the provincial government authorities but formal lobbying will be conducted after the validation of the land use plans at the territory level. CODELT's work will also ultimately investigate potential mechanisms to assist in regulation of immigration, for example through strengthening land tenure.

Strategy 6. Integrate REDD+ at the landscape scale

- *Conduct a study on fuelwood production and trade in the LS.* Data collection and analysis are underway. The study will be completed and final report submitted with Semi Annual Report in FY15.
- *Data collection and data analysis on carbon stocks across the land use types to monitor carbon fluxes and GHG emission with the active participation of the local communities*

are underway with a preliminary report to be submitted with this Annual Report and the final report ready in Q2 FY15.

- *Coordinate landscape's REDD+ activities with the national processes and strategic framework through collaboration with the National REDD+ Coordination Committee.* Although meetings with the CN REDD were held in Mambasa and Kinshasa by the WCS REDD project, coordination of landscape REDD+ activities with the national process was delayed due to the absence of a national REDD+ Focal Point.
- *Production of an economic development plan for the Territory of Mambasa* was delayed due to delays in the recruitment of a consultant by the Unite de Coordination de Projet of the Ministry Of Environment under the CBFF funding.
- *Strengthen WCS and key stakeholders capacity to use methodologies and technologies for measuring and monitoring deforestation and forest degradation and associated greenhouse gases emissions at landscape level* was not completed. As a first step in this process, however, forest inventory training was organised for community members, WCS and UNIKIS staff. The potential trainees have been selected and training modules produced, the training on GIS and remote sensing will follow in Q2 FY15.

Okapi Faunal Reserve

IR1: Target forest landscape sustainably managed

Strategy 1. Strengthen Protected Area (PA) management capacity

- *Presentation of the final draft of the PA management plan to local communities/major stakeholders* is yet to be done. This is due to delay in approval of the management plan by ICCN HQ since it was submitted in November 2010. The document which should have been presented to the communities and stakeholders is not therefore ready. WCS plans to convene a new planning team and review the management plan in the FY15 and afterwards, resubmit it to ICCN HQ authorities for validation.
- *Conduct literacy and numeration campaigns for farmers with an emphasis on women (Bantus and pygmies)* is ongoing. This activity was partially accomplished in three sites i.e. Epulu, Eboyo-Bakupeli-Bandisende. The site of Badenagido was not covered due to insecurity in the western side of the Reserve and occupation of the village by thousands of illegal miners.
- *Hold at least three sensitization meetings with local customary authorities to support conservation constituency in the Reserve* was not entirely completed. However, two meetings with customary chiefs and local government authorities (Bunia, Mambasa) were held in Epulu and Wamba (Wamba local government authorities) to discuss the future of the OFR and ways of ending up the illegal occupation of the protected area by the miners and establish a calendar to a peacefully evacuation of illegal gold miners.

Strategy 4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices

- *Collect detailed data on household poverty indicators using the Basic Necessity Survey (BNS) tool* was not yet completed as planned due to preliminary work in defining and rolling out the tool. After submission of the PMP workshop was first held in Kinshasa in

June 2014 and a second in Epulu in September 2014 with the aim of finalizing the survey tool, sharing it across landscapes with the CAFEC partners, before applying it in the field. Following the workshops, protocols and list of BNS are completed and the surveys is planned to be carried out in February-March 2015.

- *Initiate micro-finance/micro-credit services for local communities especially for women as incentives for land management.* This activity was rescheduled for FY15 pending the recruitment of a consultant with expertise in microcredit and microfinance management.
- *Train women's literacy group leaders in microenterprises management and advanced level of Worth women's education program.* This activity is pending the recruitment of a consultant with expertise in the microcredit and microfinance management
- *Train 15 selected farmers in seed multiplication, seed bank management, and storage techniques.* 5 out of 15 farmers were selected and trained in the production of groundnut seeds. The remaining farmers will be selected in FY15 along the RN4 and in the North of the Reserve for cassava, groundnuts, maize and rice.
- *Support 300 farmers in 15 agriculture zones in the cultivation of important food crops using eco-agriculture techniques to reducing deforestation.* Only 159 farmers in 5 agriculture zones (Salate, Eboyo-Bakupeli, Babama, Koki, and Zunguluka) received tools and improved seeds (maize, cassava, rice) from the Project. Support was not yet given to farmers in the north of the Reserve (Wamba and Watsa) as agricultural zones were still being delimited. Now that this micro-zoning is complete, farmers will be chosen for support in that area.
- *Develop business plans in the Reserve with regards food crops and microprojects as potential revenues for communities.* This activity will be carried out next fiscal year with the recruitment of an expert on the business plan or from collaboration with students from Berkeley University in USA.
- *Assess current agriculture practices in 15 agriculture zones and their impact on the deforestation.* Due to time constraints only one zone (Epulu) was covered by this study as a pilot site. Other agriculture zones will be covered in the FY15. However, the satellite images recently acquired by the GIS team will show the rate of deforestation due to agriculture during the last three years within these zones.
- *Promote improved practices in animal and fish husbandry to reduce pressure on biodiversity.* The 4 CBOs to receive additional funds for this activity have been identified and will be supported in the FY15. The delay was due primarily to completing the business plan for each microproject as advised by the donors and evaluators of the Project.
- *Organize the farmers in production/commercialization structures.* This will provide farmers in the associations that we work with a stronger platform from which to negotiate selling prices, etc. This activity is delayed by the insecurity still prevailing in some areas of the Reserve (especially on the western side) and the inaccessibility of the northern area. The improvement of the security along the RN4 and rehabilitation of the road from Mambasa to Nduye in the north by a Germany NGO (AAA) will make it easier to reach all the farmers willing to participate in this initiative. However, the 7 associations operat-

ing along the main RN4 route through the reserve will make up the initial members of the cooperative.

- *Conduct upkeep & monitoring of zone boundaries along the RN 4 through sign maintenance (as needed) and clearing vegetation along zone limits.* Only boundaries of 5 agriculture zones were cleared and sign posts rehabilitated. The boundary clearance and renovation of sign posts will be completed during FY15.

Strategy 6. Integrate REDD+ at the landscape scale

- *Workshop with local community representatives to develop local strategies for implication in the REDD process* was not completed. However, the TORs of the workshop were drafted and participants identified. With the availability of the internal expertise (Ewango Corneille) coming back from UK, the workshop will be held in Q2 FY15.
- *Meetings with representatives of local communities on the results of the utilization of the agriculture zones* are pending the completion of the assessment of the current agriculture practices in 15 agriculture zones and their impact on the deforestation.
- *Set up a Reserve climate change task force to improve knowledge on deforestation and climate change.* This activity will be carried out next FY with the presence of an expert in Climate Change in the Landscape.

IR2: Biodiversity threats in targeted forest landscapes mitigated.

Strategy 1. Strengthen Protected Area (PA) management capacity

- *Development of a conservation constituency strategy with all conservation NGO partners.* This will be done next year with the assistance of WCS livelihood coordinator.

Strategy 3. Enhance law enforcement and prosecution

- Some law enforcement and prosecution activities were not accomplished as planned. The main reason was the delay in signature of a MOU providing mandate to WCS to assist ICCN in law enforcement activities and the discussions between ICCN and WCS concerning the Public Private Partnership (PPP) requested by WCS for managing the Okapi Faunal Reserve. The MOU was signed late March 2014 and the PPP is still uncertain. In addition, GFA, with funding from KfW, had organised a series of ranger trainings during 2014. Training to be provided by this project was delayed so as to build on training already received. Therefore, activities planned to be carried out this FY were postponed for the next fiscal year. They include:
 - *Training of ecoguards in paramilitary and provision of logistic for adequate surveillance to combat poaching and bushmeat trade*
 - *Recruitment of a conservation security officer to undertake an security assessment and draft a security plan for Epulu*
 - *The reestablishment of a logistic and communication system (4x4 vehicles, Motorola, etc...)*
 - *Develop and implement an antipoaching strategy.*

CBNRMs

Most activities were delayed due extended workplanning for CAFEC during this first year of the program as discussed above. In spite of this, some were entirely completed while many were completed at least at 50% of the annual plans. A few activities were rescheduled for FY15.

IR1. Targeted forest landscapes are managed sustainably

Strategy 2. Strengthen implementation of land use management plans

- *Assessment of the state of micro zoning and collection of additional data to finalize the process:* Meetings were held with communities to evaluate the micro zoning that was conducted during CARPE II. Additional field data will be collected in FY15 to finalize the process.
- *Train women's literacy group leaders in microenterprises management and advanced level of Worth women's education program.* As in OFR, this activity is pending the recruitment of a consultant with expertise in the microcredit and microfinance management.
- *Workshop with local communities to validate microzone limits and approve principles of access to and use of forest resources in the CBNRM.* Meeting held with community members to agree on microzones' limits. Validation workshop to be held in Fy15.

Strategy 4. Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices

- *Enhance agricultural productivity in appropriate zones while pressure on forests and wildlife in other microzones is reduced:* Data are being collected in order to evaluate the impacts of support for sustainable agriculture on deforestation and associated GHG emissions.
- *Support local associations and cooperatives in Andikau:* Only initial contacts were made with one association at Aluta and a cooperative for oil palm production in Nduye. This CBNRM zone is currently difficult to reach due to very bad road conditions during the rainy season.

ENRA ERZ

Since 2008 very little has been accomplished in the ENRA concession. Although funds from CBFF REDD+ were made available in July 2012, other cumbersome administrative requirements prevented activities from beginning as planned. In 2013, the resignation of the consultant recruited to carry out the elaboration of the management plan of the forest concession delayed again WCS engagement with ENRA forest concession. Over this time, the concession has been invaded and settled by many thousands of people, and there is little hope of achieving CAFEC goals in it. We will not therefore invest CAFEC funds in it in the future.

5. MANAGEMENT CHANGES, PARTNERING ARRANGEMENTS AND BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

WCS: There was no change in the WCS personnel in the field to this project, and budget allocations remained as planned.

Sub-awards were negotiated with two partners under this sub-award. CODELT: Serge Sabin Ngwato has been appointed as the Project manager for CODELT activities in Ituri. Serge will oversee all the activities related to community mobilization, liaise with the local civil society and local government authorities and building capacity of natural resources governance structures in the CBNRMs. Serge will be assisted by Museme Laurent as field assistant,

With support from this project, WCG has added 5 more “*Educateurs*” to cover the Landscape. Two were posted in Mambasa, one in Epulu, another one in Niania and the last in Wamba.

6. LINKS TO OTHER USG AGENCIES

WCS received a 18 month USFWS chimpanzee grant in 2012 with the aim of contributing to the conservation of the largest populations of eastern chimpanzees by gaining a better understanding of the direct threats and improving law enforcement efforts. This was planned to be done by identifying the level of hunting threats and areas of greatest risk for chimpanzee, determining the extent of the bushmeat trade, with an emphasis on determining the impact of mining areas, and improving law enforcement through increased awareness and education of the laws by authorities (*Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de Nature*, ICCN) and local partners. Surveys are underway in 8 agglomerations, within 4 hunting zones. Data will be analyzed earlier next year and we expect that this project will result in increased protection through the improved capacity of ICCN and partners to enforce the laws well as increased knowledge on illegal activities in order to combat the bushmeat trade. The key beneficiaries include the ICCN authorities as well as local communities who will gain from improved protection of their natural resources. This project is complementary with CAFEC in that the results of these studies will help to develop the strategy of hunting in the RFO. This strategy will help ICCN address the issues of unsustainable hunting in the Reserve which is a threat to its biodiversity.

7. LESSONS LEARNED

A number of important lessons have been learned from our experiences in implementing the first year of CAFEC, outlined below.

Need for a more active role in protected area management

We have, over the last few years, learned how protected areas in DRC need long term support from NGOs. Experience during the first year of CAFEC has again served to highlight this. The government simply does not provide sufficient funding and staff for protected areas management, and protected areas without NGO support undergo a process of gradual degradation through poaching and loss of habitat, with a resulting loss in biodiversity. Previously WCS had taken a less direct approach to supporting ICCN, but have now renegotiated a new MOU with them, signed in March 2014 to include direct support of law enforcement operations. At the same time in Ituri, and particularly in the OFR, we have started to develop a new law enforcement strategy, which will be finalized in the com-

ing months, and will work with other partners to increase the capacity of ICCN in this regard. We plan to implement this with further training, implementation of new approaches in law enforcement (such as enhanced use of technology and informer networks) and greater support to law enforcement operations.

Ultimately, we aim to pursue a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to take over a central role in management of the reserve. However, we do not want to repeat the problems that other NGOs have had as a result of sidelining ICCN in responsibility for parks and reserves. Pending ICCN's review of PPPs in DRC, we plan to develop a model of agreement which includes both ICCN and WCS in the governance body for the reserve, based on the successful model we have developed for Nouabale Ndoki National Park in the Republic of Congo.

Collaboration with the army in law enforcement operations

Collaboration with the army has proven to be an effective strategy in greatly increasing ICCN's capacity to undertake law enforcement operations. It has successfully been used in Salonga (Operation Bonobo) and Ituri (in previous operations to evacuate gold miners, for example). However, it can have seriously harmful consequences if not well controlled.

Experience has shown that deployment of the army must:

- Be of a limited duration, so that soldiers do not have time to become comfortable in an area, make contacts with local poachers, gold miners, etc., and become involved in the very illegal activities that their presence is supposed to prevent.
- Only be used as a last resort where other strategies have not succeeded in managing the problem.
- Remain under the direct control of ICCN when operating within protected areas.

We are currently working with ICCN to plan a program of removal of gold miners, who have again illegally invaded the reserve since security problems in 2012 meant that control over much of the reserve was lost. Recently, as our SMART results show, security has improved and patrols are able to access a growing percentage of the reserve. We are now working with ICCN and the army to develop a plan for removal of the gold-miners in there, while learning from this past history, and making sure measures are in place to ensure the operation is conducted properly, transparently, and with the appropriate respect for human rights.

Need for better business plans in enterprise development.

In the past, our community work in Ituri has largely been "classic" agriculturally based, community projects, based largely on production and without a well-developed business side to them. However, the more and more projects have started to involve value added processing, which in effect becomes an enterprise. At the same time we have included other activities which are not classic agricultural based, but more fundamentally enterprise based. While we have always considered the basic financial projections in such projects, experience has taught us that we need better business plans to ensure they are really economically viable in the longer term. We plan to acquire necessary skills to develop business plans for all enterprises, current or future.

Need for improved modeling of future scenarios in the landscape.

Ituri landscape is subject a number of various changes – including large and increasing pressure from immigration into the area, as well as the possible impacts of development in general, and on top of

that the impacts of climate change on the habitat itself and on the livelihood options of the people living and farming in the area. As such, simply looking at recent history does not tell us much about the likely future evolution of forest cover and other conservation targets in the landscape. In response to this recognition, we are developing a plan with WCS's global future scenarios program to undertake a detailed modelling project, aimed at providing a better understanding of these pressures under different future scenarios. This will provide us with a clearer understanding of how the landscape will look 20, 30 or even 100 years into the future, under different management scenarios.

8. SUCCESS STORY

Success story: Support to a community-based organization contributes to bring secondary education to the village of Many.

One of the CAFEC strategies to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and associated GHG emissions consists of promoting sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices. In the Ituri LS this strategies is used to achieve the dual goal of reducing deforestation while improving the livelihood of local communities in the landscape through a small grant program to local community organizations. One initiative supported by this scheme is improving access to secondary education by establishing of a secondary school in the village of Many.

The village of Many

Located 15 km east of the town of Mambasa, Many is the largest village in the Bapwele *groupement, collectivité* of Babila-Bakwanza in the territory of Mambasa. With a population of approximately 5,000 inhabitants and 1,200 households, Many has an estimated 600 children of school age, 400 of which are enrolled at a local primary school. Roughly 200 students are estimated to be of secondary school age. Until recently, Many did not have a secondary school and children at secondary school-age had to travel at least 9 km to reach the nearest secondary school. Instead of walking this distance twice daily, most students had to leave their families to live with relatives or family friends in places where secondary schools were located. This is a common situation in most rural areas, but it significantly increases student dropout rates (up to 60% or more), especially for teenage girls who end up pregnant due to the lack of family support. A local community organization sought to bring a solution to this problem that was hindering the prospect of getting an education for the children of Many.

Improving livelihoods though improved processing of agricultural products

The 'Association for the Development of the People of Bakwanza' (ADPB) is community-based organization created in 2001 with the goal of improving the livelihood of its members. One of the livelihood activities chosen by ADPB is oil palm cultivation and the processing of nuts to produce palm oil. In 2011, some ADPB members established manual palm oil presses in the village.



Figure 1. Manual palm oil press commonly used in rural areas. Here is one of those used in Manya prior to the current initiative.

These presses require at least two people to operate, turning the handles which squeeze the nuts. Young men are usually employed for this job and paid by a portion of the oil production. Running these presses is a time-consuming and labor-intensive business, and productivity is relatively low. In addition, these presses must be located near streams as water is used to maximize the palm oil extraction rate, resulting in substantial pollution for these water bodies (Fig. 1).

To further push towards the accomplishment of its goal, ADPB approached the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) with a project to establish a motor-powered oil palm press in Manya in 2013. After being judged financially viable and environmentally friendly, the project was funded for US\$18,000 to purchase and install a motor-powered oil palm press in Manya (Fig. 2) and support the establishment of plantations of improved oil palm varieties.



Figure 2. ADPB's motor-powered oil palm press in Manya. The press has a maximum capacity to produce 20,000 liters of palm oil per month.

The press was installed in July 2014 and it has produced approximately 12,700 liters of palm oil so far, well below its production capacity of 20,000 liters per month, due to low production of nuts. A large portion of this production, 7,100 liters (56%), was owned by ADPB, while the rest belonged to individual households who utilized the services offered by the motor-powered press. The sale of the palm oil owned by the association earned it over US\$5,300.

The community initiative serves to improve education in the village

In addition to the environmental impact of reducing the pollution of streams caused by manual palm oil presses in the village, the initiative has also shown important social and economic impacts. By using a motor-powered machine that is much more efficient than manual one, the project not only reduced the need for man power but it also improved the productivity of oil processing, increasing households return on investment in this activity. Furthermore, the association used part of the money earned to construct three classrooms and purchase student desks for the local secondary school.



Figure 3. Classrooms and student desks constructed with financial support from ADPB initiative

The support to the local secondary school is proving to be of tremendous importance for the community. A population survey conducted during the last school year showed there were roughly 200 students of secondary school age. Of these 50 (25%) were attending schools in nearby towns (Mambasa, Bunia, Beni, Butembo, etc.). These are primarily children of migrant families. Thirty-eight (19%) were enrolled at the local secondary school, and the remaining (56%) were dropouts. So the goal of the association is to reduce this high rate of dropout by offering full secondary education locally. Families will therefore have the opportunity to provide guidance and support to their children, instead of sending them away when they are still very young.

By improving access to secondary education, the initiative will also reduce the proportion of the individuals who will have no other choice than joining shifting agriculture when they become adults, eventually reducing pressure on forests by giving other opportunities and choices to the next generation.



Figure 4. Students of the Manya secondary school in front of their classrooms

The initiative is still in its infancy and the school only has three classes and 38 eight students and six (6) teachers this year. The project objective is to add a new classroom each year until the school has full program in 2017. This is an example of how well-organized artisanal exploitation of natural resources can contribute to improve local livelihoods. Beyond that, and most importantly, it lays the ground for reducing pressure on forests in the long term. In a number of ways. Firstly, it helps to build the conservation constituency on which our ability to operate effectively in whatever we do to promote conservation in the landscape. But secondly, a school offers an ideal mechanism both to provide conservation education and awareness messages of various types, and to offer young people alternative livelihood options through education. Not only will more employment options be available locally or in nearby towns to youth who have achieved an education, but also family planning mechanisms are far more likely to be successful when girls stay longer in school.

9. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

<i>Event/ publication/ Press release</i>	<i>Nature of publication</i>	<i># of copies</i>
Calendar	Publication showing significant accomplishments made in Ituri LS since June 2012	2000 copies
Poster	Poster on protected animals in the Ituri LS and on bushmeat hunting sensitization	1000 posters
	Protected animals and their habitat	100 posters
Flyers	Leaflet on the extension of the Forestry Code	300 leaflets in support to community meetings
	Leaflets as a synthesis of the Mai Tatu biological inventory	200 leaflets (for community meetings)
Radio broadcast	Two radio stations in Ituri broadcast environmental topics. These are “Amkeni” in Mambasa and “CANDIP” in Bunia.	48 themes or topics covered
	Theme: Echoes from WCS activities in Ituri	13 broadcasts produced and disseminated
	Theme: The forest and community welfare	13 broadcasts produced and disseminated
	Songs	5 environmental songs produced
	Publicity Spots	6 publicity spots produced