

PROJET NOUABALE-NDOKIRepublic of CongoMay 1993Monitoring and Evaluation ProgramDRAFTSummary

The following is a draft of a monitoring and evaluation program for the CFC/Nouabalé-Ndoki project in Congo. When implemented, all of the monitoring and evaluation measures described here will be integrated into the regular data collection and management of the project.

According to the GEF proposal, the CFC project has the following major responsibilities:

1. Effective reserve protection.
2. Infrastructure for reserve management and research.
3. Training through on-the-job training apprenticeships and guided research.
4. Undertaking applied scientific studies including:
 - i. Hunting and its impact on wildlife populations.
 - ii. Vegetation dynamics: forest regeneration in natural and logged patches.
 - iii. Inventory and monitoring of selected flora and fauna.
 - iv. Anthropological studies to assess the needs of local peoples and the project's response to them.

According to the original goals of the CFC project, to these core activities we would add:

5. Reserve classification.
6. Conservation education on local, regional, and national levels.
7. Buffer zone management (with GTZ).
8. Economic development.

Any monitoring of the project should seek to follow the evolution of project goals. These should be as quantitative as possible. The following are suggestions on how that could be done.

1. RESERVE PROTECTION

1.1. Wildlife populations. The overall levels of wildlife in the reserve and bordering areas should give a measure of the overall effectiveness of the project (assuming of course that we can identify mitigating factors that are beyond the control of the project, such as civil war, prolonged drought, etc.).

1.1.1. Proposed Monitoring

1.1.1.1. Monitoring of Mbeli clearing, Wali clearing, Bagouga clearing. These three clearings will be monitored for dung and animal sightings for a period of at least one week, four times a year. This will permit a general view of increase or decrease of wildlife populations over time. If an aircraft becomes available to the project, regular monitoring from the air will be done for a larger number of clearings.

1.1.1.2. Transect counts along the Ndoki road. Because of the controversy surrounding this road, and the potential for decrease in animal populations due to the demographic increase in the village of Bomassa encouraged by the project, this is a logical place to carry out a transect survey. These will be done twice a year. They will be set on a fixed width using standard transect methodologies. A transect of 5 km. perpendicular to the road will be conducted every 3 km. along the road.

When activities start on the east side of the reserve, similar studies will be initiated there along the Motaba river.

1.1.1.3. Opportunistic data collection along the Ndoki road. A register of chance wildlife sightings along the Bomassa-Ndoki road will be kept. Over the years, this register will provide a useful gauge of wildlife numbers and movements in the secondary forest between Bomassa and the National Park.

1.2. Guard force. For effective protection to occur, it is necessary to hire a guard force. Initially, we expect the results of this force to be evident from the arrest of many people with a relatively large number of

convictions and confiscations. This should decrease as the poaching situation is held in check. Monitoring of anti-poaching success must be combined with other knowledge such as animal populations to adequately judge the overall effectiveness of the team.

1.2.1. Proposed Monitoring. The following data will be recorded on a regular basis:

- Number of guards
- Number of missions
- Training
- Number of arrests
- Number of Procès Verbaux
- Confiscations (by category)
- Assessment of adequacy of force

1.3. Community Relations. A third component for effective reserve protection is collaboration with the two villages bordering the reserve, Bomassa and Makao. There are two distinct aspects of this to be considered. The first is hunting, both legal and illegal, for subsistence and commercial ends. The second is demographic change in the two villages and its impact on wildlife populations and the forest environment in general. If one of the goals of the project is economic development for local communities through tourism and safari hunting, personnel will have to be hired for these activities. The more people that are employed, the larger the villages of Bomassa and Makao will become. It is important to consider in advance the threats of such demographic growth and its possible impact on the environment.

1.3.1. Proposed Monitoring

1.3.1.1. Biological monitoring. This monitoring element, which will provide important data on hunting impact, has already been considered (see above, Paragraph 1.1.). It is important that wildlife population monitoring be sufficiently detailed to pick up population trends for the major target species of hunters from Bomassa and Makao. Fifty kilometers of transects, repeated every six months, should be sufficient to do that.

1.3.1.2. Demographics. Censuses of the villages of Bomassa and Makao will be conducted every six months. These will include the compilation of computerized maps of the villages. These

will also be accompanied by statistics for every household on number of people, their origin, occupation, income, relationship with other villagers, and information on when and why they came to Bomassa and Makao.

1.3.1.3.

Village meetings. Meetings between project staff and the villagers of Bomassa and Makao will be held on a monthly basis. Minutes will be taken to keep track of issues of most concern to both villagers and project personnel.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE

In the first three years of the project, infrastructure development will remain a major component of the project's activities.

2.1. Proposed Monitoring

2.1.1. Maps of all camps will be updated every six months. Details on square meters constructed and the function of each building will be compiled.

2.1.2. Detailed inventory lists of project material will be made every six months. These will be listed according to the depreciation schedule for each item.

2.1.3. Detailed lists of material stocks will also be made every six months. These will include materials used when they are important items.

All lists will be computerized and updated every six months.

3. TRAINING

Most of the training performed by the project is difficult to measure because it is generally in the form of informal, on-the-job training. However, there are certain training courses that will be organized, for park guards, for example, who will need to undergo some military training in preparation for their work. We consider that measuring competence via testing would impose too much of a burden on project personnel.

3.1. Formal Training

3.1.1. Proposed Monitoring. Any formal training activities organized by the project will be listed, as will the participation of Congolese working on the project in any formal training programs run by other organizations.

3.2. Informal Training

3.2.1. Proposed Monitoring. As a means of monitoring informal training, a register will be kept of the man-months contributed to the project by Congolese personnel, including their responsibilities during that period. This will give a general idea of the evolving roles of different individuals based on their level of competence.

4. SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

Evaluation of research work in the project area will be based on the amount of data collected, the papers published, and how they relate to the overall goals of the project.

4.1. Proposed Monitoring

4.1.1. A computer listing of research projects by order of priority will be established for the reserve and buffer zones. These will be updated every six months as research priorities evolve.

4.1.2. Every six months each of these studies will be listed as to its status, amount of data collected, personnel, expenditures, and reports and publications produced.

5. RESERVE CLASSIFICATION AND DELIMITATION

5.1. Reserve Classification. The culmination of this aspect of the project will come with two decrees signed by the government which will create the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park and perhaps, later, the Kabo Faunal Reserve. The work to be done in achieving these goals follows a very set, prescribed procedure. The project also seeks to assure that the reserve will be classified through encouraging contractual obligations on the part of the government to the various "bailleurs de fond" funding conservation in Congo.

5.1.2. Proposed Monitoring. The various steps in the reserve classification procedure will be listed and progress towards achieving them enumerated every three months. Legal commitments by the government to the various "bailleurs de fond" will also be listed.

5.2. Delimitation. Once the national park has been officially gazetted, it will be necessary for enforcement and legal reasons to physically mark its boundaries on the ground. Using Global Positioning System apparatus, this should be a relatively simple process, complicated only by the logistics and expense of organizing the necessary expeditions and by the continuing disagreement between Congo and the Central African Republic about the exact location of the international border between the two countries, which forms the western limit of the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park.

5.2.1. Proposed Monitoring. The progress of delimiting the boundaries of the National Park will be followed by the simple process of recording on a map those sections of the boundary that have been marked.

6. CONSERVATION EDUCATION

This component of the project is somewhat difficult to quantify and evaluate in that the process of conservation requires a more or less continuous succession of meetings, lobbying, pressuring, interviews, and publicity. As with training, however, monitoring and evaluation of conservation education will divide these activities will into formal and informal categories.

6.1. Proposed Monitoring

6.1.2. Formal conservation education. Any formal conservation education activities will be listed and described in detail, including target audiences, methods and materials used, instructors, etc. Ideally, each one will be self-evaluating.

6.2.2. Informal conservation education. One way of monitoring progress is to simply list meetings and subject matter of meetings, groups contacted, interviews aired, articles published, etc. This will be followed by regular "public awareness

polls" taken at the local, regional, and national levels to see what progress we are making in the form of public awareness and publicity. These will be monitored over time to see if anticipated goals are being met.

7. BUFFER ZONE MANAGEMENT

This is to be a separate component of the project supervised by the GTZ expert attached to the project. Nonetheless, a great deal of preliminary groundwork has been done for this. Over the first few months of 1993 a detailed program will be established by the GTZ expert which will be subject to a monitoring and evaluation system of management. Such a program is likely to include socio-economic monitoring in Ouessou and Impfondo and monitoring of the levels of logging activity in the Sangha and Likouala regions.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economic impact of the project on the project area takes two forms: direct and indirect. Monitoring and evaluation should therefore be divided into these two categories.

8.1. Direct Impact. The direct impact may be defined as money from the project budget flowing directly into the local or national economy of Congo.

8.1.1. Proposed Monitoring. The amounts of money spent in the various budget areas of the CFC project are already monitored by computer for accounting purposes. It will be a fairly simple process to apply a further level of analysis to these budgets and expenditures. Spending levels in each category are already presented every three months as part of the financial obligation of the project to USAID. The same will be required for any other research projects undertaken in the project area.

8.2. Indirect Impact. The indirect impact may be defined as money flowing into the Congolese economy as a result of the project's presence. To date, this has been exclusively in the form of visitors to the country or the project area who would not have come if it weren't for the project's presence.

8.2.1. Proposed Monitoring. A detailed questionnaire will be established which will be given to each visitor to the reserve. Each visitor will be

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required to give an accounting of how much they spend both in the reserve and the reserve area and also in the regional and national capitals. This will include all expenditures made in Congo, with special attention to money spent in the project area.