



**CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIONAL PROGRAM  
FOR ENVIRONMENT**

**WWF CARPE II PROJECT**

**Agreement #: AOT-A-00-00-00237-00**

**FY 03 WORKPLAN**

**Period of  
January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003**

**Submitted by**

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## INTRODUCTION

WWF is grateful to USAID for its commitment to sustain the conservation of biodiversity and remaining forested areas in the Central Africa through its CARPE program. Building on the past five years experiences and lessons learned, WWF has received a lump sum of \$1, 801, 310.60 to carry out the following activities in the respective country in the region.

### **In Dzanga-Sangha Reserve, in Central African Republic:**

1. Commercial Exploitation Control (targeting all the Safari Hunting Associations, Hunter associations as well as the Logging companies to control bushmeat hunting and trade, transportation in the logging concessions)
2. Provide support for on-going management costs for Dzanga-Sangha law enforcement unit
3. Provide curriculum support to the Kongana Regional training center

### **In Gamba Protected Area Complex, in Gabon:**

1. Compile lessons learned on controlling bushmeat and environmental degradation with Oil companies
2. Under Community NRM, assess lessons learned at the Complex to identify community options for intervention points in Sustainable Natural Resource Management

The assessment has revealed a lot of work and research is still deemed necessary to be carried. Since 1995, WWF has been assisting the MINEF and local population in carrying out fisheries studies within the Gamba Complex, especially in N'dogo Lagoon. The main purpose was to understand the ecology of the fresh water systems, as well as the scope and nature of the local populations' traditional fisheries practices. This FY 03 is the year of action to limit the overexploitation of fisheries of this freshwater.

### **In Minkebe Reserve, Gabon:**

1. Test a community participatory mapping in two villages in Cameroon north of the Minkebe Reserve and in the Minkebe-Dja corridor

Since there are no maps for this transboundary area, and due to the fact that the community mapping exercise is very expensive to be carried out with the funds available, on behalf of the field project managers, WWF has requested and received an amendment approval to reallocate the funding to support socio-economic studies within the same transboundary project site. Funds

from CARPE II will be used for collaborative management with gold-mining communities in Makoukou gold-camp where minors have been involved in elephant poaching. The project will seek establishing Memorandum of Understandings, and updating the project knowledge and capacity in link with human use of the Northeast of Minkebe Forest.

In addition to those three specific project activities, WWF has overarching activities that encompass the three field projects, which are:

1. Providing on site, on the job mentoring for five senior level conservation counterparts (2 in Dzanga-Sangha, 2 in Minkebe and 1 in Gamba) in protected area management and biodiversity conservation, under Conservation Leadership Management.
2. Training and supporting a rapid survey team to survey biodiversity and conservation status of selected forest zones in areas of civil unrest.

In July 2002 World Wildlife Fund has again formally requested an amendment approval to the cooperative agreement AOT-00-00-00237-00 to reallocate the funding for Leadership Development in Minkebe and Gamba to two specific CARPE II funded activities: Minkebe-Dja and Gamba Bushmeat Control for the following reasons.

During this second phase of CARPE, WWF has committed itself to strengthen as well as train and mentor promising field office individuals so they can take the leadership in protected area management and biodiversity conservation in the region. The plan was to have these potential individuals attend the WWF College for Conservation Leadership for two weeks for the kick off and then continue the training on line from there respective post. But since the inception, the implementation has faced logistical constraints, and other activities have grown in priority within CARPE II projects. Specifically, WWF is proposing to focus on the priorities in Gamba Bushmeat Control and Minkebe Dja, which will further enhance the objectives described in the scopes of work. Furthermore, it will reinforce significant commitments made by the governments represented at the Yaounde summit within Minkebe-Dja, and it will reinforce the accomplishments achieved thus far within the Gamba Bushmeat Control.

## GAMBA SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Gamba Complex, located in southwestern Gabon, comprises an exceptionally diverse and rich succession of habitats from the coastline through grasslands and forest. Coastal habitats include beaches and estuarine waters, incorporating two large lagoons, Lagune Iguéla and Lagune Ndogo, mangroves and littoral thickets, coastal forests and savannahs. These give way to lowland evergreen forests and semi-montane forest. It's also the home of a resident human population of about 9.400 inhabitants. Apart from the town of Gamba (7.200 inhabitants), most of the local populations live from the abundant natural resources. The people living in the 3 main freshwater systems (the Iguéla and Ndogo lagoon and the Nyanga river) are fishermen.

Since 1992, WWF has been assisting MINEF and local populations through its integrated conservation and development activities in the Gamba Complex Three Wildlife Brigades have been set up and last December, the Wildlife Department created a coordination office in Gamba town.

Since 1995, WWF has executed continuous fisheries studies within the Gamba Complex, and mainly in the N'dogo lagoon (Pinkston, 1997; Lemoalle et Albaret, 1995; WWF, 1998; Blaney et al., 1998) with the aim to understand the ecology of the freshwater systems, as well as the scope and nature of the traditional fisheries practices of the local populations.

### General Objectives

#### *I. Sustainable traditional fisheries*

Within the Gamba Complex, only traditional fishing by local populations is authorized. Although under exploited until recently, the fish stocks within the Gamba Complex are fragile resources due to the relative poverty of the ecosystem. Often chased from nearby areas by local fishermen after having seriously depleted local fish stocks (Ferna Vas, Port Gentill, Omboue), more and more illegal foreign fishermen start activities within the lagoons of the Gamba Complex. With the assistance of WWF and the local Fisheries Brigade, a Fisheries Association was created in June 2002.

In November 2002, WWF in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Forest has provided an office space for the association within the Gamba Fisheries Brigade. Since then, the association, in collaboration with the Fisheries Brigade and with support from WWF, has organized several awareness-raising missions, throughout the Gamba Complex to discuss with local fishermen on the objectives of the association. Its main objective is to unite local interest and to organize and coordinate common action. The problem of illegal fishing has been raised, as well as the lack of organization amongst fishermen and the commercialization of their catch.

In order to provide adequate institutional support to the association, there is a strong need to provide support to the local Fisheries Brigade. This Brigade chronically lacks adequate financial and human resources to guide and control fisheries activities within the Gamba

Complex. The aim of this proposal is therefore to reinforce the local Fishermen association as well enhance operationality of the Gamba Fisheries Brigade

## **Specific objectives**

### **I.1. Reinforcement of the local Fisheries Association**

This Gamba project will mentor this association to become an important local voice for the interests of the local fishermen. Being newly created proper policies and procedures need to be developed. Also, the association needs to be officially recognized. Interior regulations, its steering committee and goals and objectives will need to be developed and adopted by its members.

### **I.2. Reinforcement of the Gamba Fisheries Brigade**

The Gamba Fisheries Brigade presently only consists of the Chief of the Brigade. It has no operation budget, and one boat with outboard motor. WWF provides logistical and budget support for field missions and administration, as well as technical and human resources support. This project will assist the Brigade with its institutional and logistical support to the local association as well as with its surveillance tasks.

## **Activities in FY03**

### **Fisheries**

- Officialization of Fisheries association with clear objectives and activities
- Registration and official recognition of all local fishermen in the N'dogo lagoon and the Nyanga river
- Registration and monitoring of fishing techniques and take off capacity
- Registration and signalization of illegal fishing activities and subsequent law enforcement
- Identification of needs and pilot projects of the association

## **II. Surveillance, Management and environmental education**

### ***2.1. Objective 1: Support to Wildlife Department***

The recently created coordination office of the Wildlife Department in Gamba town aims to reinforce coordination and efficiency of MINEF surveillance efforts. Being at the heart of WWF's objectives, WWF strongly supported its creation and assists with its installation and operation. CARPE funding will be used to support the creation and implement of the to be established coordinated surveillance strategy as well as to ongoing environmental education activities. Ongoing WWF Gamba activities will be integrated into the Coordination Structure.

## ***2.2. Objective 2: Installation and reinforcement of the Coordination Office of the Wildlife Department***

Matched by WWF and other funding sources, CARPE funding will contribute to the implementation of the surveillance and environmental education strategy as well as to the development of adequate zoning and interior regulations for the 2 newly created National Parks and protected intermediate zones.

### **Activities in FY03**

- Surveillance strategy involving the 3 Wildlife Brigades and the Fisheries Brigade developed and implemented
- Identification of needs in training, equipment, infrastructure and human capacity to be addressed by upcoming funding from a.o. CAWFHI, Moore, CBFP, Wildlife Service and US Fish.
- Budget support to ongoing environmental education program in 7 schools in the Gamba area including classes, lectures by researchers, seminars and excursions.

### A. Minkebe Workplan for FY03

The table below presents the activities that the Minkebe team will perform during this FY 03 within the transborder site between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon.

Sub-objective	Results	Activity	Time	Indicators	Donors
<b>Objective 1: Contribute to the conservation process in the Minkebe-Dja corridor</b>					
Update project knowledge/ capacity in link with human use of Northeast Minkebe Forest	Renewed assessment of the goldmining camps in Northeast Minkebe. Identification of users of the Nouna, Sing and Upper-Ivindo River. Appraisal of Baka presence in Nouna-Sing Area. Anthropological appraisal of Baka presence along the Ayina River	Conduct mission on Nouna and Upper-Ivindo to investigate existing gold-camps and their potential links with ivory poaching. Conduct mission on Sing River to identify human use. Conduct long walk along Kom and Ayina Rivers to raise awareness among the Baka and gather more knowledge about their elephant hunting activities.	Nouna-Upper Ivindo: October. Sing in period January-march. Ayina long walk first half of 2003.	Mission reports.	CARPE MacArthur Foundation
Awareness is raised on the seriousness of elephant poaching in South Cameroon and North Minkebe.	Authorities and villages in South Cameroon are aware that their region is known for very heavy elephant poaching while being targeted for cross-border conservation in the	A mission composed of MINEF Cameroon, MINEF Gabon, WWF Cameroon and Gabon and ECOFAC visits authorities and selected villages in Ebolowa, Sangmelima, Djoum,	First semester 2003	Joint report authored by Cameroon and Gabon entities.	CARPE, WWF-Cameroon, EU-ECOFAC

<b>Sub-objective</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Donors</b>
	framework of the Yaoundé Summit. Anti-poaching initiatives in South Dja (Oveng-Djoun-Mintom) are strengthened.	Mintom and selected villages (Lelé, Alati, Yen, Opwong) etc. to address the elephant poaching issues.			
Diminish heavy elephant poaching along the Upper-Ivindo and the Sing and Nouna rivers.	Poaching diminishes along the Upper-Ivindo and its tributaries.	Organize surveillance missions in the Upper-Ivindo area. Coordinate with Cameroon operations near Cameroon border. Use the new Nouna base camp as a logistic base for control of access operations along Sing and Nouna.	Regular.	Mission Reports. Number of man-days of surveillance in selected river. Number of days of dissuasive presence.	CARPE USFWS
<b>Collaborative management with gold-mining communities leads to cutting the link between gold-mining and poaching</b>					
Minkebe gold-camp is the only authorized gold-mining site in Minkebe PA and has no link with commercial bushmeat hunting and elephant hunting	1) Signature of MOU between Mining Ministry, Water and Forest Ministry, Minkebe goldmining community and Provincial authorities which allows continued existence of the gold-mining site but forbids further prosecution in PA and which regulates	Organize final consultations with stakeholders on draft MOU. Organize meeting with all stakeholders in Makokou. Integrate amendments to MOU. Organize signature meeting. Identify role and statutes of goldmining community monitoring	Meeting on gold-mining MOU latest in March. Monitoring missions to gold-camp every 4 months (linked to surveillance Nouna).	MOU meeting proceedings. Data on elephant hunting around gold-camp. Intelligence data	CARPE MacArthur Foundation

Sub-objective	Results	Activity	Time	Indicators	Donors
	access to the site. 2) The rules in the MOU are respected.	committee. Monitor compliance with rules.			
Elephant poaching and bushmeat hunting linked to Mebaga gold-camps is diminishing	A meeting involving gold-miners, MINEF and authorities condemns the existing link between bushmeat hunting and ivory poaching in Mebaga camps; Pacification process is under way with Mebaga community (acceptance of surveillance, ivory hunters leave the zone); An MOU is in preparation regarding access to and hunting in the Mebaga camps. Control of access on road leading to Mebaga reduces bushmeat hunting and ivory poaching in Mebaga and along the Mebaga road	In collaboration with Provincial Inspection and Prefectoral authorities organize meeting with goldminers in Mitzic. Conduct regular patrolling missions on Mebaga road to dissuade bushmeat hunters and control vehicles from and to Mebaga. Identify strict rules to be applied for use of the Mebaga road and identify transporters. Install a control post on the Mebaga road.	Mitzic meeting as soon as possible. Rules establishment in collaboration with Inspection of Water and Forests. Control of access on Mebaga road is a regular activity, which keeps out motorized poachers.	Outcome of meetings, Standard monitoring data for road based patrols, Agreement on rules among parties.	CARPE, MacArthur, WWF-NL, WWF-AFGAP

**CONCLUSION:**

Once again, WWF would like to thank USAID for their flexibility and adaptive management skills, which is very important for the conservation work that we do in the Central Africa region. We really appreciate your cooperation and we are looking forward to working with you on the Congo Basin Forest Partnership project.