

World Resources Institute

Final Performance Report

CARPE Program

Grant No. 623-A-00-03-00075-00

November 30, 2006

Table of contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	RESULTS ACHIEVED FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT	4
2.1	Strategic vehicles	4
2.1.1	<i>Forest Governance Project</i>	4
2.1.2	<i>Global Forest Watch</i>	4
2.2	3 year summary of results achieved by IR	5
2.2.1	<i>IR 2.1</i>	5
2.2.2	<i>IR 2.2</i>	8
2.2.3	<i>IR 3.2</i>	11
2.3	Contributions to other IRs	14
2.3.1	<i>Bushmeat IMAP</i>	14
2.3.2	<i>COMIFAC maps</i>	15
2.3.3	<i>State of the Forests Report</i>	15
2.3.4	<i>Illegal Logging Task Force</i>	15
3.	MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS	16
3.1	Improved management and monitoring of forest resources	16
3.2	New technical standards in Congo	17
3.3	Step-wise approach to sustainable forest management and certification	17
3.5	Multi-Stakeholder Support Group (MSSG)	18
3.6	Establishm't of Cameroon's Caucus of Parliamentarians for Environmental Protection	18
3.7	Commitment to establish Environmental Caucuses in Countries of the Sub-Region	18
3.8	Capacity and Network Building of Sub-regional NGOs	18
3.9	Understanding of the shortcomings of Cameroon's Community Forestry policy and implementation	18
3.10	Capacity building of researchers in Central Africa	19
3.11	First Africa Volume on Decentralization published and distributed	19
4.	SHORTFALL	20
5.	ANALYSIS OF THE STATUS OF ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE OF CONGO BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES	21
6.	STATE OF THE PARTNERS AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO MONITOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLOITATION	22
6.1	Cameroon	22
6.1.1	<i>Governmental and affiliated institutions</i>	22
6.1.2	<i>Donors and International cooperation agencies</i>	22
6.1.3	<i>International NGOs and research institutions</i>	23
6.1.4	<i>National research/ training institutions</i>	23
6.1.5	<i>National and local NGOs</i>	23
6.1.6	<i>Logging companies/ associations</i>	24

6.1.7	<i>Members of the Parliament (MPs)</i>	24
6.2	Gabon	25
6.2.1	<i>Governmental and affiliated institutions</i>	25
6.2.2	<i>Donors and International cooperation agencies</i>	25
6.2.3	<i>International NGOs and research institutions</i>	25
6.2.4	<i>National and local NGOs</i>	25
6.3	Republic of Congo	26
6.4	DRC	26
6.5	Sub-regional	27
7.	RECOMMENDATIONS	28
7.1	Management and Roles	28
7.1.1	<i>CARPE Focal Points</i>	28
7.2	Programmatic	28
7.2.1	<i>National Government Engagement and Policy Advocacy</i>	28
7.2.3	<i>COMIFAC</i>	29
7.2.4	<i>Transparency and Capacity Building of National Governments</i>	29
7.2.5	<i>Private Sector</i>	30
7.2.6	<i>NGOs</i>	30
8.	INVENTORY DISPOSAL PLAN	30

Appendices

<i>Appendix 1: Equipment Inventory and Disposal Plan</i>	29
--	----

A. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in partial fulfillment of the Collaborative Agreement 623-A-00-03-00075-00 signed with USAID-REDSO on September 29, 2003. More particularly, it complies with Article A.5 - *REPORTING AND EVALUATION*, sub-article 3 - *Final Report* of the Agreement.

As requested under this Agreement, WRI is submitting this final technical report which summarizes the results achieved for the entire period of the Agreement (Section 2). This Final Report has been prepared according to the CARPE Strategic Objective (SO) Framework, the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP), relevant indicators and the WRI work plans.

As requested, in addition to the overall results obtained, this Final Report includes:

- i. *Major Accomplishments, especially results that may not have been contemplated in the Agreement or CARPE SO framework* (Section 3);
- ii. *Any shortfall in achieving anticipated outcomes and results, a brief discussion of why these results were not achieved and lessons learned or a retrospective analysis of whether results expected were reasonable, verifiable, and quantifiable* (Section 4);
- iii. *An analysis of the status of the economic governance of the Congo Basin natural resources* (Section 5);
- iv. *A summary status of the state of the partners and regional institutions to monitor natural resources exploitation* (Section 6).
- v. *Recommendations for USAID and other associated donors and partners for future support and activities related to CARPE Strategic Objective* (Section 7).

2. RESULTS ACHIEVED FOR THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THE AGREEMENT

2.1 Strategic vehicles

WRI had two separate strategic vehicles for the accomplishment of its commitment under this Agreement: the Forest Governance Project (FG) and Global Forest Watch (GFW).

2.1.1 Forest Governance Project

The WRI Forest Governance Project combined research with policy analysis to identify policy impacts, shortfalls, and opportunities for improvement. To engage the analytic findings with the policy process, the data and analysis was diffused through WRI-FG's work with policy makers, local and global advocacy organizations, and publications, policy dialogues, and presentations. WRI also contributed to long-term policy impacts by supporting a new generation of researchers, analysts, research institutions, and NGOs adept in the use of these analytic tools and focused on critical forest governance issues.

The Forest Governance project used a two-pronged approach to achieving results: promoting democratic decentralization policies and encouraging legislators to better perform their representation responsibilities.

At the end of the fiscal year 05-06, WRI-FG formally launched a new initiative entitled Equity, Poverty, and the Environment (EPE). The goal of the EPE initiative is to reduce poverty by establishing public policies, laws, and practices that favor poor regions and people in the allocation of revenues from critical natural resources. The EPE initiative provides recommendations on the distribution of two categories of natural resource benefits: 1) Market shares and profit margins of commercially exploited natural resource commodities and 2) Public revenues from the use of ecosystems and natural resources by public and private entities. The EPE initiative has become an institute-wide initiative that not only incorporates work by the WRI-FG team but also involves input and resources from other project and program teams at WRI, including GFW as indicated in WRI's fiscal year 2006 work plan. WRI-FG has worked and continues to work closely with GFW in the analysis of Cameroon's forest revenue distribution scheme and is looking forward to initiating this work in other countries of the sub-region.

2.1.2 Global Forest Watch

At the end of the fiscal year 2005 (FY05), WRI-GFW launched the Forest Landscape Objective (FLO) within its People and Ecosystems Program (PEP). FLO's purpose is to contribute to the PEP's Goal of reversing rapid degradation of ecosystems and assuring their capacity to provide people with needed goods and services by focusing on the forest sector. The FLO objective is to increase actors' access to accurate relevant forest landscape information to manage an increased proportion of forestland at a higher level of sustainability. Global Forest Watch (GFW) is a network of regional programs within FLO.

Guided by this objective, WRI-GFW Central Africa regional program activities foster better management of natural resources, through independent and objective monitoring of forestry

activities, as well as through capacity building of both government and civil society. By increasing information flow on current and planned forestry activities, GFW initiatives are designed to drive changes in policy, forest management practices and implementation of forestry legislation, by providing tools to hold natural resource users and managers accountable. The monitoring is carried out together with governments, local NGOs and the private sector to assure a participative approach to increase local capacity and ensure long-term local monitoring and information dissemination. WRI is building on this foundation to identify the implications of forest policy and implementation on poverty reduction and the sustainable management of forest resources, with the aim of developing specific tools and analyses that support decision makers in the design and implementation of forest management policies.

2.2 3 year summary of results achieved by IR

This section provides a summary of the major results achieved for each IR during the entire period of the Agreement under each of the strategic vehicles described in the previous section and compares those results with the 3 year targets as set in the PMP.

2.2.1 IR 2.1 **Intermediate Result 2:** *Natural resources governance strengthened*
Indicator 1: *Number of key laws or policies for PAs, logging concessions, and CBNRM passed or old laws and policies reformed compared with a list of recommended or promoted reforms*

As WRI's contribution to efforts to strengthen natural resource governance in the Congo Basin, WRI committed to work with the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Environment (Now Ministry of Forests and Fauna) to improve forest policy and its implementation and also to promote the adoption of best practices in other countries within the subregion. Table 1 summarizes the results of WRI's efforts towards strengthening natural resource governance in the region that relate to Indicator 1 of the Performance Monitoring Plan.

Table 1
IR 2.1 - FY04-FY06 WRI Benchmarks versus USAID-CARPE targets

<i>Countries</i>	<i>3 year target from PMP¹</i>	<i>3 year target value from WRI CARPE matrix</i>	<i>Achieved FY04-06</i>
Cameroon	USAID target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one law or policy promotion or reform initiated WRI contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unspecified 	Work with policy makers, foresters, and practitioners to ensure that our recommendations are integrated into the Forestry Department's implementation strategies and practices under Cameroon's community and concessionary forestry laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Integrative research report and 2 policy briefs • Indicator Toolkit • Numerous articles in academic journals
Regional	None specified	Promote, in select countries of the region, the adoption of the best community forestry policies and practices identified in our analysis of cutting-edge community forestry laws in Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 regional policy dialogues

3 Year Result Summary

Policy analysis and reports

Over the last 3 years, WRI-FG has worked closely with the Center for International Forestry Research to conduct policy analysis of Cameroon's decentralized forestry policy and implementation. This analysis has resulted in several research reports and policy briefs which provide an overview of the effects of the policy's implementation. Furthermore, this analysis and the subsequent reports offer a series of recommendations to improve upon the implementation of Cameroon's community forestry laws and improve access to forest benefits for the poor rural communities. In addition to the joint WRI-CIFOR reports, this project has resulted in a series of articles in various social science journals and has contributed to the larger discussion on the impacts of decentralized natural resource management.

WRI –GFW has also worked in partnership with CIFOR in Cameroon to research the systems of redistribution of forest area tax revenues. Results from these efforts are informing the refinement of existing policy in Cameroon and will inform the implementation of the distribution system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

¹ As contained within CARPE II revised Performance Management Plan – approved January 19, 2004, revised February 24, 2005 and April 17, 2006.

Indicator toolkit

Based on the extensive policy analysis, WRI-FG/CIFOR have developed a toolkit of simple and easy to use indicators to measure and monitor the implementation of Cameroon's forest sector community participation and decentralization policies. The indicators included in this toolkit were developed through a series of interviews and meetings with local level stakeholders. CIFOR held interviews with local mayors, forestry fees management committee members, community forest management committee members, representatives of local NGOs, regional administrative authorities, Ministry of Forestry staff, and members of the local population. These interviews have helped to inform and identify a set of indicators. WRI-FG and CIFOR expect that this toolkit will provide a sound basis for monitoring and improving the implementation of Cameroon's forestry policies to ensure positive outcomes for the environment and local level democracy.

Outreach

Over the past three years, WRI and CIFOR have undertaken numerous outreach activities. In this section, we plan to highlight just a few of the major events that targeted key policymakers and ministry officials. Certainly, these activities have been the main method in which our policy and implementation recommendations were promoted and taken into consideration by government officials.

One of the major outreach events that took place during this three year period was the 2004 conference, "Decentralized Forest Management: Lessons for poverty reduction and the environment in Central Africa." This regional conference presented findings and recommendations from the first phase of the Cameroon policy analysis, "Accountability and Environment in Decentralizations: Local Democracy-Environmental Links in Cameroon." The meeting included over 100 participants that were a mix of practitioners, researchers, activists, and policy makers, including three parliamentarians and the secretary general of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Participants also came from Central African Republic, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Congo-Brazzaville. WRI and CIFOR used this opportunity to disseminate recommendations for improving Cameroon's decentralized forestry laws to promote environmentally sustainable and democratic outcomes.

WRI and CIFOR are also planning to hold a final regional policy dialogue as the culmination of the outreach strategy for promoting the recommendations of the Cameroon research project. This dialogue will provide an important opportunity for the dissemination of the indicator toolkit and accompanying recommendations to policymakers, government officials, and other relevant stakeholders in the region. We expect that the toolkit and lessons learned in Cameroon's decentralization process will prove invaluable in promoting best community forestry practices in the sub-region.

In addition to the policy dialogues mentioned above, WRI and CIFOR have pursued other strategic opportunities for outreach such as dissemination of WRI and CIFOR publications, presentations to the international donor and development community, generation of media attention regarding the decentralization reforms and WRI/CIFOR research.

2.2.2. IR 2.2

Intermediate Result 2: Natural resources governance (institutions, policies, laws) strengthened

Indicator 2: Number of NGO advocacy initiatives & activities

WRI also committed to strengthen natural resource governance through supporting NGO advocacy initiatives and activities. The results of these efforts are presented in Table 2.

*Table 2
IR 2.2 - FY04-FY06 WRI Benchmarks versus USAID-CARPE targets*

Countries	3 year target from PMP²	3 year target value from WRI CARPE matrix	Achieved FY04-06
Cameroon	<p>USAID target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one national-level initiative or activity relating to forest or biodiversity advocacy underway. At least one workshop held with existing NGOs/CSOs and partners to plan initiatives/acts <p>WRI contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 national level activities relating to biodiversity underway in Cameroon. 5 workshops in Cameroon with existing NGOs and partners to plan initiatives/actions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop an understanding of the incentives/disincentives - and the associated policy and procedural obstacles - facing legislators in performing their environmental representation responsibilities 2) Develop and implement an independent national-level monitoring system to measure the performance of legislators with respect to their environmental representation roles 3) Increase the awareness and importance of environmental issues within political parties and amongst party leaders; help make the environment a campaign issue. 4) Initiate 2 NGO advocacy activities regarding biodiversity protection 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Policy brief on incentive/disincentives of legislator representation of environment 2) Implementation of MP monitoring system and subsequent summary report 3) Establishment of a multi-stakeholder support group (MSSG) 4) Many dialogue events with legislators and establishment of Environmental Caucus in Cameroon
Regional	<p>USAID target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one national-level initiative or activity relating to forest or biodiversity advocacy underway in sub-region. At least one workshop held in sub-region with existing NGOs/CSOs and partners to plan initiatives/acts <p>WRI contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One sub-regional activity relating to biodiversity underway. One workshop with existing NGOs and partners to plan initiatives/actions for sub-region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify interested NGOs and help launch initiatives to strengthen legislative environmental representation in at least one other country in the Central Africa sub-region (Gabon, Republic of Congo) 2) Initiate at least 2 advocacy activities regarding biodiversity protection in the Republic of Congo. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Brief on environmental platforms of political parties and meetings to encourage incorporation of environmental issues into party manifestoes 2) <i>Avocats Verts</i> completed a policy brief on the state of legislative representation in the DRC.

² As contained within CARPE II revised Performance Management Plan – approved January 19, 2004, revised February 24, 2005 and April 17, 2006.

3 Year Result Summary

Analysis of the Incentives and Disincentives of Environmental Representation in Cameroon

Over the course of the Cooperative Agreement, WRI-FG and the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development – Central Africa (NESDA-CA) worked closely to understand the incentives and disincentives that exist for legislators in representing the environmental needs and concerns of their constituents. This analysis resulted in a policy brief entitled ‘Legislative Representation and the Environment: Lessons from a case study of Cameroon’. The policy brief, published in both French and English, includes a discussion of the challenges and opportunities for legislative representation focusing specifically on accountability, autonomy, authority, and ambition as well as a one-page summary of proposed policy recommendations. This case study was part of a wider initiative legislative environmental representation initiative in Africa. Several of the recommendations that resulted from this study have been implemented and the attention to environmental issues among Parliamentarians continues to increase.

Monitoring the environmental performance of legislators

One of the major recommendations that stemmed from WRI’s legislative environmental representation work throughout Africa was the need to develop an independent monitoring system to measure the performance of legislators in representing their constituencies. In the final two years of the agreement, WRI-FG and NESDA-CA moved forward with this recommendation in Cameroon.

In collaboration with a Multi-Stakeholder Support Group (an advisory committee convened by NESDA-CA consisting of representatives from numerous civil society organizations in Cameroon), WRI-FG and NESDA-CA developed and implemented the monitoring system and, subsequently, evaluated the performance of legislators in representing their constituents’ environmental needs and concerns. The findings and recommendations of this analysis have been captured in a draft policy brief and have been disseminated at meetings of Cameroon’s Caucus of Parliamentarians for Environmental Protection and at the first International Conference of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of the Congo Basin for Ecosystem. The brief includes a summary of the performance monitoring results and outlines suggested changes to parliamentary procedures and information availability that would make monitoring more feasible. We expect that this performance monitoring system will strengthen the representation roles of members of parliament and will draw attention to the gap between constituent interests and the performance of legislators.

Increasing the importance of environmental issues among Parliamentarians

As described above, WRI-FG and NESDA-CA have worked collaboratively to strengthen the roles of Parliamentarians in representing their constituents’ environmental interests and concerns in the National Assembly of Cameroon. To meet this goal, WRI and NESDA-CA have undertaken numerous activities including a review of the environmental component of political party manifestoes and conducting numerous meetings with legislators to educate them about key environmental issues.

These activities increased the level of interest on environmental issues among parliamentarians which culminated in the establishment of a Caucus of Parliamentarians for Environmental Protection. NESDA-CA was instrumental in facilitating the Caucus's establishment. As secretariat of the Caucus, NESDA-CA has also engaged a consortium of NGOs and environmental experts (the MSSG) in the education legislators on environmental issues.

The Caucus represents a significant opportunity for continuously engaging Parliamentarians on environmental issues. We hope that this will lead to policies that not only benefit the environment, but also lead to sustained economic development and strengthened rights over natural resources for Cameroon's rural poor.

Furthermore, over the past two years, WRI-FG and NESDA-CA have been working to encourage political parties to incorporate environmental issues into their party manifestoes. Initially, NESDA-CA undertook an evaluation of political party platforms. The resulting brief provides an analysis of Cameroon's new party system and the implications of its institutionalization for legislative environmental representation. The brief provides key recommendations for greening political party platforms and argues that adoption of environmental positions by political parties will promote policy outcomes that more accurately address constituent environmental needs and concerns. Upon completion of this policy brief, NESDA-CA held meetings with political party leaders to encourage the incorporation of environmental issues into their parties' manifestoes.

Environmental advocacy activity with NGO in the Central Africa sub-region

WRI-FG and NESDA-CA have also worked to initiate legislative environmental representation activities in other countries of the Central Africa sub-region. In FY05, NESDA-CA held a sub-regional meeting to enhance the capacity of environmental NGOs in Central Africa. Participants included NGO representatives from the Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Gabon. WRI and NESDA-CA also partnered with *Avocats Verts* in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and provided guidance for the NGO in the initiation of an environmental legislative representation activity. WRI and NESDA-CA continued to increase the capacity of these NGOs by hosting them at a recent workshop held by WRI in Cameroon on the results of the monitoring activities and by supporting their participation in the recent IUCN conference in Yaoundé.

Outreach

WRI-FG and NESDA-CA have undertaken and participated in a plethora of outreach activities throughout the past three years. This section touches upon some of the highlights.

In 2004, a national-level forum was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon to share the research results and policy recommendations of the country case study research and to raise awareness on the issues of legislative environmental representation in Cameroon among legislators, policy makers, funders, and NGOs. This forum also encouraged the exchange of specific experiences of legislators, constituents, and key actors. The forum was attended by 17 Members of Parliament from Cameroon, the Vice President of the Parliament, and representatives from the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Environment, international and national NGOs, and other civil society groups. The forum included a keynote address by the Honorable Njoh Mouelle on representation, a project panel to present the research results and recommendations, an MP panel, an NGO panel, and a session designed to

discuss next steps for the project. This highly successful meeting certainly stimulated a high-level of interest among policymakers and NGOs and was the precursor for the establishment of the Multi-Stakeholder Support Group and the Caucus of Parliamentarians for Environmental Protection in Cameroon.

Another major event took place shortly after the end of fiscal year 2006. This outreach event was set up to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the Cameroon and Africa-wide initiative to monitor the performance of legislators in fulfilling their environmental representative roles. This event was attended by members of the environmental caucus, representatives of environment and development NGOs in Cameroon and Central Africa, members of the Multi-Stakeholder Support Group, the Minister of the Environment, and the Vice President of the National Assembly. The event consisted of presentations by WRI-FG, WRI-TAI and GFW, CARPE, and GTZ; panel discussions; and debate about the recommendations and findings of the monitoring activities. This event was followed by WRI-FG's participation in the International Conference of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of the Congo Basin Forest.

These activities have been a key feature of WRI-FG and NESDA-CA's outreach strategies. WRI-FG and NESDA-CA will continue to look for outreach opportunities to ensure that our policy recommendations are incorporated and environmental representation improves among legislators in Cameroon.

2.2.3 IR 3.2

Intermediate Result 3: Natural resources monitoring institutionalized

Indicator 2: Assessment of capacity of Congo Basin (African) institutions to collect and analyze information of adequate quality for decision-making

A large part of WRI's work under CARPE has been dedicated towards developing forest monitoring and management tools and building the capacity of national governments (and local institutions) to use these tools for improved decision making. WRI has surpassed initial CARPE targets and achieved significant success in building local capacity to collect and analyze information for decision making (See Table3).

Table 3
IR 3.2 - FY04-FY06 WRI Benchmarks versus USAID-CARPE targets

Countries	3 year target from PMP³	CARPE 3 year target value	Achieved FY04-06
Cameroon	<p>USAID target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One country index; 8 staff receiving training <p>WRI contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 staff members of institutions in Cameroon receive advanced training in forest/biodiversity/social impacts monitoring 	<p>1) Train analyst team in research design, field work and data gathering methods, writing, and editing</p> <p>2) Build capacity of at least one NGO to design and undertake advocacy initiatives on legislative environmental representation and other environmental governance matters</p> <p>3) Cameroon MINFOF, local NGO and private operators able to use the Interactive Forest Atlas (at least 20 people)</p> <p>4) 3 MINFOF staff trained in RS and GIS. 6 to 8 staff in 2 local NGOs trained and capable to work independently on RS and GIS projects.</p>	<p>1) Analyst team of 3 researchers (CIFOR) trained in Cameroon</p> <p>2) Built capacity of 1 NGO (NESDA-CA)</p> <p>3) 30 technical training sessions and workshops held, reaching >500 individuals</p> <p>4) 25 individuals trained</p>
DRC	<p>USAID target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 institutions impacted • 2 regional workshops <p>WRI contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unspecified 	At least 5 staff trained in operating a GIS database on forest concessions and PAs.	6 individuals trained in GIS/RS through the WRI-Agreco project
Gabon	<p>USAID target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 country index <p>WRI contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unspecified 	3 MEFPEPN staff trained to maintain a GIS database on forest concessions and PAs.	Project has yet to begin due to delays in signing of MOU
Republic of Congo	<p>USAID target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 national level initiative, 3 staff receiving training • 2 workshops <p>WRI contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unspecified 	6 MEFE/CNIAF and local NGO staff trained to perform independent GIS and RS work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 CNIAF and 3 CAE staff trained through ITTO statistical database project. • 5 MEFE staff trained in forest database creation and management • 4 individuals trained in GIS/RS through Congo forestry atlas project

³ As contained within CARPE II revised Performance Management Plan – approved January 19, 2004, revised February 24, 2005 and April 17, 2006.

Regional	USAID Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one regional workshop hosted by a regional institution for improving region-wide monitoring capacity WRI contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unspecified 	1) Identify and begin building capacity of at least two advocacy NGOs with interests in legislative environmental representation in other countries in the sub-region 2) Promote the implementation of a stepwise approach to forest certification.	1) Built capacity of 1 NGO (<i>Avocats Verts</i>) in DRC. 2) Development of FORCOMS process and indicators
----------	---	--	---

3 Year Result Summary

Training

A highlight of WRI's activities under CARPE has been its success in building capacity in the Cameroon forest sector. WRI-GFW continues conducting training and capacity building activities in Cameroon benefiting local institutions, government agencies and local NGOs so that they can better access, understand and manage the information made available to them in support of their advocacy activities. This includes information and training workshops on the use of the Atlas (in Yaoundé and provinces) and technical training sessions on the use of GPS and GIS. These sessions started in December 2005 with participants from MINFOF, ANAFOR and the *Institut National Cartographique* (INC).

*Table 4
Summary of FY05 and FY06 Cameroon African institutions capacity building activities regarding the collection and analysis of information of adequate quality for decision-making*

Capacity building activities	Target audience or group of actors beneficiaries	Trained staff
Technical training sessions and support in the field of remote sensing, GIS and GPS	Privileged partners (MINFOF and affiliated units, LBZG, CEW, INC)	25

Capacity building activities	Target audience	Number⁽¹⁾	Attendance
Technical training sessions on the use of the Interactive Forestry Atlas of Cameroon	Parliamentarians or their technical support staff, MINFOF staff at the central and provincial levels, local NGOs and civil society organizations throughout the country, private logging companies and international NGOs and research institutions	15	~ 150
Training and information workshop on the Interactive Forestry Atlas of Cameroon		15	> 400
Internship, student/technician support and participation in training		On-going	~50
Conference/workshop participation and Co-organization		11	

⁽¹⁾ *This takes into account the activities planned until October 2006*

Overall

Overall WRI-GFW has met or surpassed the three-year country targets set out in 2004 (Table 3). The Cameroon training exercises for MINFOF, NGOs and private operators to use the Cameroon Interactive Forestry Atlas and for MINFOF and NGOs in GIS and remote sensing have resulted in over 500 individuals learning how to operate the Cameroon Interactive Forestry Atlas as well as an additional 25 trained in GIS/RS application. These activities are ongoing and WRI-GFW continues to widen its scope and contacts.

In the Republic of Congo, WRI-GFW's three-year target to train MEFE and NGOs in GIS and remote sensing has been surpassed by the training of 16 individuals in a combination of forest statistics database creation and management, GIS and RS applications.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, WRI-GFW's project to train staff from SPIAF (Service Permanent d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement forestier), DGF (Direction de la Gestion Forestière), and DCI (Direction du Contrôle et des Infractions) in GIS began in November 2005 and has resulted in the training of 10 individuals by the end of FY06 – surpassing our 3 year target.

Unfortunately, WRI-GFW has not yet produced results from its project in Gabon. Due to delays in signing the MOU, work here was not able to begin in earnest until the end of FY06. Recently, modifications have been made to the original MOU to cover a more comprehensive development of a forest statistics cell and interactive atlas. WRI-GFW anticipates the completion of the first version of the atlas by the third quarter of FY07.

Sub-regionally, WRI-GFW has been successful in developing a set of indicators through the FORCOMS initiative that support the implementation of a stepwise certification system in Central Africa. A draft brief on the stepwise certification process was also written by WRI-GFW in FY06. With funding from the French MAE, FORCOMS is set to become operational in the near future.

2.3 Contributions to other IRs

2.3.1 Bushmeat IMAP

WRI-GFW and the Bushmeat Crisis Task Force (BCTF) collaborated to collect data on bushmeat and wildlife management and integrate it into a web-based interactive map server (Bushmeat Information Management and Analysis Project - IMAP) available at the following website (<http://www.bushmeat.org/IMAP/index.html>). The mapserver was officially launched in September 2004, with continual updates throughout FY05. A WRI/BCTF staff member collected logging, mining concession, and national park data for Gabon as well as a wealth of data from DRC and the Republic of Congo. These and other existing data from the WRI-GFW activities in DRC and the Republic of Congo were likewise incorporated into the mapserver.

2.3.2 COMIFAC maps

In February 2006 WRI-GFW created French and English thematic and satellite maps for COMIFAC to be support the convergence plan: “Geographical Area of the Commission of Central Africa Forest – COMIFAC”.

2.3.3 State of the Forests Report

WRI has actively participated in the working group of the State of the Forest in the Congo Basin. Mr. Méthot has attended both the November 2005 workshop on the indicators and the March 2006 workshop to assess and validate the full SoF report. In addition, WRI has received a 20,000 Euros grant to collect, compile and finalize a series of country maps that will be included in the State of the Forests report.

2.3.4 Illegal Logging Task Force

WRI led an illegal logging task force examining the potential role of CARPE partners in addressing illegal logging issues in the sub region. A final report was produced and submitted to CARPE in 2005.

3. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The previous section highlighted the results from WRI's activities. Those results have led to many achievements or outcomes. The most significant of those are detailed below.

3.1 Improved management and monitoring of forest resources

The development and use of the Cameroon Forestry Atlas is leading to better management and monitoring of forest activities and illegal logging in Cameroon and has lead other countries in the sub-region to request support in developing these tools for their national decision making.

The development of the Interactive Forestry Atlas for Cameroon versions 1.0 and 2.0 contributed significantly to the Cameroonian forest sector both in terms of the information it made publicly accessible and through the capacity building and training activities that accompanied its dissemination. The first version of the atlas allowed for government, NGOs and private sector actors to access up-to-date and accurate geographic information on the Cameroonian forestry sector for the first time in a centralized user friendly format. The following examples are but a few of the many uses of this atlas and contained information:

- Supporting the prioritization of field missions for monitoring and enforcement of forest laws and regulations;
- Helping to determine whether road construction is taking place within the boundaries of legally attributed logging areas and/or in compliance with approved management plans; and
- Helping to resolve conflicts by providing a source of objective information on the boundaries of various forest zones.

The second version of the atlas is in the midst of the publication process and when released will include an updated and expanded set of critical information to the forestry sector of Cameroon. Notable new additions to the second version include the location and capacity of sawmills, boundaries and logged volumes of concession annual harvestable areas (AACs), forest concession boundaries and relevant attributes and new hunting zones. The utility of the first atlas has been a significant factor in the willingness of government and private sector collaborators to further disclose relevant information to the forest sector, in line with increased transparency and good forest governance principles. The model of the forestry atlases in Cameroon has led to interest by other countries in the sub-region and currently we have MOUs to develop similar interactive forestry atlases for Gabon, Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Strong interest has also been expressed by countries in South America and Southeast Asia in pursuing similar methods to promote the disclosure and access to forest sector information.

Training and capacity building activities relating to atlas version 1.0 resulted in the training of 25 individuals from collaborating institutions/organizations and reaching >500 people in the Cameroonian forestry sector through workshops, conferences, internships, etc (see Table 1 above). While training and capacity building certainly remain ongoing, the number of people already impacted by atlas related activities and whom have benefited from its content is significant. Similar training activities are planned for the dissemination of the second version of the atlas.

3.2 New technical standards in Congo

The Minister of the Congolese Ministry of the Forest Economy and the Environment (MEFE) issued a circular letter in April 2006 stating that from then on, all allocations and applications for lease of forest concessions in Congo are to be done using the digital geographic data developed and verified by WRI-GFW. These spatial data files were refined within the framework of a RS/GIS information and capacity building project primarily funded by ITTO, but which also benefited from the support of CARPE funded staff members. Data refined within this endeavor will be amongst that contained within the forthcoming Interactive Forestry Atlas for Congo version 1.0.

In using the same verified spatial dataset in the creation and allocation of forest titles, MEFE will be better able to avoid issues of spatial overlap in title areas and to address cases of logging irregularities. The anticipated outcome of the above is both a reduction in illegal logging as well as improved forest resource management in Congo.

3.3 Step-wise approach to sustainable forest management and certification

Adopting a stepwise approach to sustainable forest management and legality of forest operations is now an accepted approach to promoting sustainable management in the Congo Basin. Certification bodies, Auditing firms, NGO's have adopted initiatives that support capacity building and establish legality certification systems and standards that recognize the usefulness and practicality of a stepwise approach under the conditions present in the Congo Basin forestry sector.

The partnership between WRI, IUCN and IFIA to develop an independent and voluntary Forest Concession Monitoring System (FORCOMS) for the Congo Basin was a pioneer in adopting this approach and raised the awareness of the usefulness of this approach within the region. These efforts have attracted further funding from the French to finish the development of the system as a tool to communicate the commitment of progressive forest companies in the Congo Basin and their efforts towards improved forest management.

FORCOMS indicators of legality and the overall concept have been integrated into technical advice given to the Government of Cameroon in their negotiation of a voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) with the European Union as part of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade initiative.

3.4 National commitment to improved forest transparency

During the course of this 3 year funding period, WRI-GFW renewed (with expanded activities) or signed new MOUs with Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo. All four of these MOUs revolve around the improved creation, management and access to forest sector information towards the support of implementation of sustainable forest resource management endeavors in the respective countries, in the form of integrated forest statistics databases and interactive forestry atlases. Overall, the area covered by these MOUs accounts for the vast majority of the forested region within the Congo Basin and represents significant and concrete commitments by the respective governments towards increased transparency and improved governance and management of the forest sector.

3.5 *Multi-Stakeholder Support Group (MSSG)*

One of the major accomplishments of WRI-FG and NESDA-CA's work in Cameroon was the establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Support Group. This coalition brings together representatives of civil society organizations, academics, lawyers, advocates and other stakeholders that are concerned about environmental issues in Cameroon. We hope this coalition will continue to remain active in Cameroon and ensure increased monitoring of government actions on environmental management.

3.6 *Establishment of Cameroon's Caucus of Parliamentarians for Environmental Protection*

As described above, WRI-FG and NESDA-CA were instrumental in the establishment of Cameroon's Caucus of Parliamentarians for Environmental Protection. NESDA-CA has worked as the Caucus secretariat and continues to engage parliamentarians on environmental issues. The Caucus represents a significant opportunity for continuously engaging Parliamentarians on environmental issues. We hope that this will lead to policies that not only benefit the environment, but also lead to sustained economic development and strengthened rights over natural resources for Cameroon's rural poor.

3.7 *Commitment to establish Environmental Caucuses in Countries of the Sub-Region*

At the First International Conference of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Central Africa's Forest Ecosystem, Parliamentarians from countries of the sub-region announced their commitment to follow Cameroon's example in establishing Environmental Caucuses in their respective countries of the sub-region.

3.8 *Capacity and Network Building of Sub-regional NGOs*

WRI and NESDA-CA have worked closely with NGOs in the sub-region including *Avocats Verts* (DRC), *Croissance Saine Environnement* (Gabon), and NESDA-Congo Brazzaville to develop a network and build capacity of NGOs to undertake environmental advocacy activities. This capacity building resulted in the completion of a project on legislative environmental representation by *Avocats Verts* in the DRC and a willingness among these NGOs to assist MPs in the fulfillment of their above-mentioned commitment. However, this network and the ability of these NGOs to continue this work on the environment is still in its infancy and will require additional support from NESDA-CA or other partners in the sub-region to ensure these activities continue.

3.9 *Understanding of the shortcomings of Cameroon's Community Forestry policy and implementation*

As mentioned above, WRI-FG and CIFOR completed an in-depth analysis of Cameroon's decentralized forestry policy and implementation. This analysis resulted in several reports and brought to light many of the shortcomings in the implementation of these policies. These reports will continue to have an effect well after the completion of this project to improve community representation in forest management decisions. Furthermore, these reports are being used by policymakers and government officials in the sub-region to identify best practices in Cameroon's

forestry model and incorporate these practices in community forestry in other countries of the Central Africa sub-region. The indicator toolkit continues to build upon this analysis and will prove to be a useful tool throughout the sub-region for evaluating and measuring the impact of decentralized forestry efforts.

3.10 Capacity building of researchers in Central Africa

WRI-FG has also contributed to increasing the capacity of researchers in Cameroon. WRI-FG worked with burgeoning researchers such as Rene Oyono, Samuel Assembe, and Patrice Bigombe in the Cameroon policy analysis. Throughout WRI's work with these researchers, WRI Senior Associates provided training on research methodologies, policy brief and report writing, presentation skills, and theoretical aspects of decentralization. WRI-FG expects that these researchers will continue to contribute to the national and international debates on forest management and community-based natural resource management.

3.11 First Africa Volume on Decentralization published and distributed

WRI-FG and CIFOR also contributed significantly to the first volume on decentralization to be published in Africa. This special issue in *Africa and Development* contains case studies from Cameroon, Uganda, Mali, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia. Both Jesse Ribot and Rene Oyono served as guest editors of the special issue. This volume will be invaluable to informing decisions on decentralized natural resource management throughout Africa.

4. SHORTFALL

WRI has fulfilled, and in most cases surpassed its commitments to contribute to CARPE's Intermediate Results over the three year period ending September 2006. This has been made possible through CARPE financial support and matching funds WRI was able to bring along from other donors such as ITTO, Dutch, GTZ, EU and the World Bank.

However, during this period WRI encountered a number of challenges that has hindered its ability to deliver even more than what it has been able to deliver, such as:

- Limited resources available only allowed WRI to work in a limited number of countries in the subregion or to limit the level of details;
- Limited technical capability of our local partners;
- The damage to Landsat TM7 satellite, has hampered WRI's capacity to use satellite imagery to timely monitor forest change, degradation and logging road construction. WRI is pursuing a series of options to address the challenges this presents for monitoring in the future;
- The collection and analysis of forestry information is often hampered by national government bureaucracy and has lead to delays in the production of some tools/products (e.g. the second version of the Cameroon Atlas). WRI is working with the concerned ministries to streamline and improve this process by building the capacity of the concerned ministries;
- Heavy bureaucracy in Gabon has caused significant delay in the signing of a MOU between the Government of Gabon and WRI to allow WRI to launch its remote sensing and GIS activities in that country;

5. ANALYSIS OF THE STATUS OF ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE OF CONGO BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES

WRI did not conduct a specific analysis on economic governance of the Congo basin natural resources and consequently can not contribute directly too much to this section. In addition, the Agreement does not define what is to be covered or understood by economic governance.

However, through our presence and activities in the region, we would like to volunteer the following observations on a number of issues that should be addressed:

- Although some improvements have been achieved, notably thanks to CARPE efforts, there is still a lot to be done to improve transparency, accountability and good governance in the sub-region;
- Capability of national government and local institutions, in terms of financial, technical and human resources, are still extremely weak;
- There is still a very limited number of forest concession that have been certified;
- Although some countries are fairing much better than others, there is in general still a lot of concessions that are not yet under a SFM plan;
- Illegal logging and bushmeat trade are still rampant, depriving the countries from very significant fiscal resources, impacting negatively the sustainability of the natural resources and undermining international investments;
- Besides illegal logging from official logging and wood processing companies, there is a tremendous amount of illegal felling being done by individuals with chain-saws. This is impacting not only on the resources but also on the viability of bona fide wood processors who can not compete against these chain-saw producers in the local timber markets;
- The benefits of commercial logging are not fairly distributed. The poor rural populations are not getting any significant or fair share while supporting the brunt of the negative impacts (depletion of the natural resources, social disruption, pollution, noise, etc.);
- Even where there are forest revenue redistribution schemes in some countries, the revenues do not get to the local populations and there is very limited socio-economic investments;
- There is still very little public consultation and even less actual public participation in the decision-making process pertaining to the allocation and use of the forest resources;
- The community or communal forest concepts that were developed to allow local populations to management and use national forest resources are not working and are even a significant source of illegal and/or unsustainable practices;
- There is still a need to harmonize forest legislation and policies in the sub-region;
- Regional institutions or initiatives are still not very functional.

6. STATE OF THE PARTNERS AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO MONITOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLOITATION

This assessment focuses on the capacities and needs of the identified actors or group of actors in the field of satellite remote sensing (RS), geographic information system (GIS) and global positioning system (GPS) tools. Information was collected in order to better assess the capacities and needs of those actors in collecting, generating and analyzing spatially-explicit information. Capacity assessment also refers to the local actors' ability to use the generated information (in-house or not) towards meeting real on the ground needs.

6.1 Cameroon

6.1.1 Governmental and affiliated institutions

The major partner and target actors are MINFOF central and provincial services as well as affiliated institutions, such as CETELCAF, ANAFOR, LBZG and INC. Although other governmental bodies have been involved in the consultation process, the current assessment *de facto* especially concerns MINFOF and affiliated institutions.

For all these institutions, there is a huge interest in spatially-explicit data and geospatial tools, and a strong need in improving their capacities to address their needs. The recent renewal of the collaboration agreement between MINFOF and WRI-GFW illustrates their interest in such initiative and the derived information.

Most of the MINFOF capacities in terms of geospatial tools are found in the recently established Centre de Télédétection et de Cartographie Forestière (CETELCAF). This MINFOF affiliated service is actually resulting from the restructuring of the former ONADEF unit and UCECAF unit.

CETELCAF, LBG and INC benefited from logistical support from WRI-GFW in terms of equipment and software. However, the staff capacities remain low in terms of using these tools. WRI-GFW has initiated training sessions with those institutions, as well as with ANAFOR, thanks to in-house equipment improvement in CETELCAF and internal restructuring and the identification of the training sessions participants.

Despite limited in-house capacities, MINFOF and LBG are increasingly using these tools, as well as the Atlas for supporting their activities. An even more significant impact is expected in FY07 given the continued training sessions and support in updating and using the Atlas. The objective is to gradually transfer most of the activities to MINFOF technical unit during FY07.

6.1.2 Donors and International cooperation agencies

The comments below concern donors and cooperation agencies associated with MINFOF and MINEP, and which therefore show implications or support projects in the forest and environment sector (e.g., GTZ, AFD, SNV, EU, World Bank, CARPE, and CIDA).

Apparently, these institutions show low level of needs and capacities in generating and using geospatial information and tools, but a strong interest and high capacities for using the derived information. GTZ and SNV for instance are actually using the Atlas and Atlas-based information in

their activities. They also actively shared these tools and information with local partners. World Bank is also using this tool and has explicitly integrated the derived information in their decision process (e.g. the forest title attribution, management plans information and logging roads data have been identified as potential indicators to monitor MINFOF compliance to conditions laid down in the PSFE).

6.1.3 International NGOs and research institutions

There is a high variability amongst these institutions in terms of generating and using geospatial tools and information. CIFOR and IITA do have in-house capacities in remote sensing, GIS and GPS; Global Witness/REM have capacities in GIS and GPS; and all of these institutions have been making use of the Atlas data in general and remote sensing data provided by WRI-GFW for their various activities. The other institutions generally have capacities in using GPS tools but rather weak-to-low capacities in remote sensing and GIS (WWF, WCS, ICRAF).

For those institutions with low capacities in generating geospatial data, their capacity to use already generated information is generally high. Depending on their specific projects and objectives in the region, they are fully ready and have expressed strong interest in the generated tools and information such as the Atlas, and in collaborating in the generation of geospatial information considering their site-specific experiences.

6.1.4 National research/training institutions

The institutions identified and which attended our meetings/workshops were CRESA-Bois, Mbalmayo Forestry School and the Universities of Yaoundé, Dschang and Buea. CRESA-Bois does have reasonable in house capacities in using geospatial tools: CRESA-Bois is one of the WRI-GFW partners in carrying out the technical training sessions.

Other listed institutions have relatively low capacities in generating geospatial information but strong capacity building needs. With support from ITTO and IUCN, the Forestry School is actually restructuring its curriculum and is expected to show increasing needs in both information and technical support.

6.1.5 National and local NGOs

Cameroon is characterized by a huge number of national and local NGOs involved in the forest sector, environment, governance, community-based resources management, etc. The last decades have seen the emergence of numerous networks of NGOs in those fields of interest.

In general, these institutions have on average weak in-house capacities in terms of generating and using geospatial information, though some NGOs have received support from international agencies or institutions, such as the support from SNV-Capacity building program to local NGOs and WRI-GFW support to CEW and LBZG. Many national and local NGOs have expressed huge needs in terms of capacities for generating and using geospatial information, as well as a strong interest for better access to added-value tools and information, such as the Atlas and derived products.

The capacity of WRI's major partner, the Network for the Environment and Sustainable Development, has increased greatly over the past 3 years. Their staff has increased to three permanent members and they continue to engage parliamentarians and other members of the NGO community in Cameroon to work towards achieving their goals. Support of NESDA-CA is critical to maintaining the effectiveness of their work and ensuring the environment is incorporated in political and parliamentary issues and that representation of constituent interests remains a priority among parliamentarians.

6.1.6 Logging companies/associations

One can observe an increasing in-house capacities in using geospatial tools (remote sensing, GIS and GPS) and thereby generating spatial information to support their management and production activities. Many large international companies have set up “cellule d'aménagement” that brings together international and/or national GIS and remote sensing experts. These capacities allow the companies to actually use spatial information for various purposes: e.g. preparing inventories, elaborate management plans, produce resource spatial distribution maps, etc.

Private logging companies have expressed strong needs in generating and using spatial information. Because there remains a high variability in terms of in-house capacities, there is still a high demand for capacity building for staff and technicians of logging companies: e.g. WRI-GFW has been asked to provide short-term training on the use of GPS and remote sensing data (e.g., Group Khoury, Wijma, etc).

6.1.7 Members of the Parliament (MPs)

Since 2003, WRI-FG and GFW have been engaged in several activities focusing on MPs. WRI-FG and NESDA-CA have worked closely to inform MPs about environmental issues and increase their capacity to represent environmental issues in Parliament. One of the major outcomes of this outreach has been the establishment of a Caucus of Parliamentarians for Environmental Protection. This caucus was just formally established in the summer of 2006 and is still taking shape. Currently, membership includes over 60 MPs and continues to grow. NESDA-CA has provided support to the Caucus and has served as the secretariat. The Caucus provides a vehicle for MPs to continue to develop their capacity in understanding environmental issues and increasing their capacity to represent the environmental concerns of their constituents in Parliament. The Caucus is still in its infancy and continued support of the Caucus is very important to ensure its sustainability.

Since early 2005, WRI-GFW is engaged with several activities focusing on GIS/RS capacity with MPs. MPs generally show weak or no capacity nor *a priori* expressed need in terms of generating or using geospatial tools. But one of the major outcomes of these meetings with MPs is the promising interest MPs expressed in the provision of user-friendly tools (such as the Atlas), map hardcopies (posters), detailed and up-to-date reports and information, and added -value products such as policy briefs. MPs also expressed their interest in pursuing information exchanges, of various forms, through information workshops in Yaoundé or in the provinces as well as through the *Multistakeholder Support Group for Legislative Environmental Representation* (MSG-LER) planned meetings.

6.2 Gabon

6.2.1 Governmental and affiliated institutions

The MEFPEPN has two more or less operational GIS laboratories that have previously benefited from ITTO and World Bank project support in the past. A World Bank project (PFE) provided important materials and training to create the geometrics laboratory. The geometrics laboratory is more or less well equipped with computers, photocopiers, plotter, digitizing table, and software (PCIworks, ArcView, and MapInfo) although certain updates and completion of the laboratory would be useful. This lab is not a part of the current ministerial organigram as it was created through a previous project. The *service cartographie* attached directly to the DG focuses on mapping forest permits except the CFAD (*Concession forestières d'aménagement durable*) which is in the domain of the geometrics laboratory. At least annually they produce maps of the forest titles (not CFAD).

The INC is linked to the Ministry of *Aménagement Terroir* although they frequently provide support to other governmental agencies/ministries as well as international NGOs or other on a project basis. For example, currently INC is collaborating with WCS to create a GIS for the national parks; and previously INC was involved in a World Bank (PFE) GIS project (topographic data base) for the whole of Gabon that mapped all the villages, hydrologic network, and roads. The INC has some 30 staff composed of 7 cartographers, 1 RS specialists, and many GIS specialists. The RS specialist at INC is new and has not much actual practical experience.

Overall it was recognized that in the governmental and affiliated institutions of Gabon there are great databases, decent materials, and many trained technicians. The major problem is that many technicians within the ministry change their posts frequently and therefore the capacity built is lost when they move to other posts (or shift to the private sector).

6.2.2 Donors and International cooperation agencies

As was noted for Cameroon, these institutions show low levels of needs and capacities in generating and using geospatial information and tools, but a strong interest and high potential for using the derived information.

6.2.3 International NGOs and research institutions

Both WCS and WWF have some in country (and external) technical capacity to meet their RS-GIS needs. However it was noted that there was significant interest in at least one case for additional RS training to build capacity in this domain.

6.2.4 National and local NGOs

Overall it is clear that technical RS-GIS capacity of local NGOs is very low. Indeed it was suggested that no local NGOs currently have the capacity nor are sufficiently structured to contribute meaningfully to a possible new WRI-GFW project in Gabon. Therefore with limited to zero current technical capacity among active local NGOs there exists a significant challenge to first identify those in need of training and ultimately to carry out the necessary technical capacity building efforts in Gabon.

WRI-FG and NESDA-CA also engaged the Gabonese NGO, *Croissance Saine Environnement (CSE)* in determining their willingness to undertake environmental advocacy projects. Unfortunately, due to lack of resources, no projects were able to move forward with this NGO. However, CSE remains poised to undertake advocacy work and assist MPs in establishing an environmental caucus in Gabon.

6.3 Republic of Congo

CNIAF, an MEFE affiliated unit, is responsible for forest inventories and managements activities. WRI-GFW has conducted, under an ITTO project funding, a number of activities on technical support and capacity building which enable the setting up of a CNIAF RS/GIS lab and training local staff in the use of remote sensing data, GIS and GPS tools. The technical support provided through the project, as well as the numerous training sessions increased the CNIAF, as well as of a local NGO, the Club des Amis de l'Environnement (CAE), staff capacities in generating, using and analyzing spatial information. Six (6) staff were actually trained in using remote sensing data, GIS and GPS. The lab is now fully functional, and has relatively high capacity to use these geospatial tools and to produce added-value products: the lab has produced so far preliminary maps of UFAs and protected areas, as well as several *spatiocartes* illustrating useful applications of the projects outputs with regards to the forestry law controls.

In addition, WRI initiated a technical support project to improve the capability and systems of the forest statistics cell at the MEFE. A fully integrated relational database was designed to process production data (felling, hauling, processing, expert, etc.) and produce statistical reports. A specific training program was designed for MEFE staff covering Microsoft operating system and applications, notably ACCESS – five (5) staff benefited from this training. This database will eventually be linked with the geo-database developed under the ITTO project.

No significant and exhaustive information are available so far on existing capacities in other government agencies or NGOs involved in the fields of natural resource management.

Some international NGOs (e.g., WCS) and large logging companies (e.g. CIB) do have strong in-house capacities in generating and using spatial information. These institutions are extensively using remote sensing data, GIS and GPS technologies and have the local capacities to provide relevant and good quality information. Such institutions will benefit in the near future from increased collaboration (e.g. WCS-CIG joint project in Northern Congo) and support from international groups, such as the support provided by the US Forest Service in the Republic of Congo or the Woods Hole Research Center (though its INFORMS initiative).

A couple of logging and processing companies in Congo have very strong capabilities in remote sensing and GIS.

6.4 DRC

Several of the technical staff within the Ministry in charge of forests have a limited knowledge of the latest GIS and remote sensing technologies. Because of the civil war and the lack of international financial assistance, local technical staff has been relatively idle over the past years and have not had

any opportunity to upgrade their skills. The main agency responsible for forest inventory and forest management, the SPIAF (*Service Permanent des Inventaires et Aménagements Forestiers*) was, until the end of 2005, ill equipped and not really functional, for lack of resources and material. The SPIAF had on staff two GIS and mapping technicians that have basic knowledge of GIS, but with older software. However, thanks to the World Bank financed forest title conversion project managed by WRI in collaboration with Agreco (a Belgium based consulting firm), significant investments have been made to reinforce the capabilities of the Administration in remote sensing, GIS, mapping and database management. The SPIAF, DGF and DCI have been fully equipped with computers, software, GIS licenses, peripheral hardware (printers, scanners, plotters, etc.) and field equipment (GPS, compass, etc.) and have benefited from a series of specialized training programs (financed in partnership with WWF), almost all of which through OSFAC. About 15 computers were procured and installed and more than 12 staff were trained.

We have no information on the capability of other governmental agencies involved in land-use, natural resources management and forest or biodiversity conservation sector, such as the *Institut Congolais de Conservation de la Nature*, *Institut cartographique national*, etc.

A couple of logging and processing companies in the DRC have very strong capability in remote sensing and GIS.

The University of Maryland is providing technical support to the OSFAC and has a training remote sensing and GIS laboratory at the University of Kinshasa. OSFAC has a number of well trained technical staff.

The CARPE partner NGOs involved in landscape management in DRC are all using remote sensing and GIS technology and as such have technical staff – a thorough assessment was however, not conducted.

6.5 Sub-regional

The major regional initiatives identified were CEFDHAC, ADIE and COMIFAC. As for the main donors and international cooperation agencies, there is a relatively low need and capacity in terms of generating and using geospatial tools and information. Through the numerous meetings and exchanges with these institutions, there seems to be a medium-to-high interest for derived information, such as the Atlas and Atlas-based information. However, there is an expressed need to develop such an initiative for the other countries of the sub-regions.

COMIFAC staff have been participating to the Atlas and training workshops, enabling them to use these information and tools, and there is a continued exchange between COMIFAC and WRI-GFW.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

While the focus of the next phase of CARPE has already been determined WRI does have some recommendations that could contribute to the achievement of IR's and CARPE's Strategic Objective.

7.1 Management and Roles

7.1.1 CARPE Focal Points

One of the key elements to the success of capacity building and policy advocacy work at the national level is access to decision makers and co-ordination of efforts. CARPE National Focal Points could usefully play a stronger role in facilitating meetings and contacts within national government ministries, local NGO's and international donors. National meetings between Landscape partners and cross cutting organizations like WRI could prove useful in facilitating more coordinated efforts on national policy work and capacity building efforts.

Specific Recommendation:

- *Increase Focal points role in coordinating and facilitating policy engagement – Both with national government ministries and local NGO's and with CARPE partners*

7.1.2 State Department and Embassies

Policy advocacy work and supporting improved forestry policy at times requires access to high level political players to generate political buy-in and support for national initiatives. With the high level political contacts of Embassy staff in the region, they could provide useful opportunities to access and generate support for CARPE initiatives. By increasing opportunities for CARPE partners to inform Embassy staff and engage them in CARPE initiatives it could improve the effectiveness of national initiatives.

Specific Recommendation:

- *Engage State Department and Embassies to open doors to ministries (Forestry, Finance, Interior, Urban and Regional Planning)*

7.2 Programmatic

7.2.1 National Government Engagement and Policy Advocacy

In many Central African countries there continues to be significant work needed to improve and develop effective forest management policy. Effective policy is key to the achievement of CARPE's objectives and we feel that CARPE and its partners should play a more active role in advocacy and technical support to policy development. National governments however, have some reservations in working with CARPE due to the strategic decision to fund International NGO's to achieve CARPE objectives. This can be overcome by more active engagement of Landscape partners in the development, support and capacity building of local government institutions charged with the conservation and management of the resources of the Congo Basin.

Specific Recommendations:

- *CARPE and its partners should play a more active role in advocacy and technical support to policy development*
- *More active engagement of Landscape partners in the development, support and capacity building of local government institutions*

7.2.2 Poverty Alleviation and Livelihood Development

CARPE has adjusted plans for the next phase to increase the emphasis and resources dedicated to poverty alleviation and livelihood development linked with sustainable resource management. This shift addresses a key gap that was apparent in the last phase of CARPE.

7.2.3 COMIFAC

The Convergence Plan of the Commission on Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC) provides a significant opportunity to leverage both regional and national level forestry policy. A more co-coordinated effort between CARPE partners to engage in the COMIFAC and related national plans, could increase our effectiveness in accomplishing CARPE's objectives. A forum for defining priorities for engagement with COMIFAC along with other regional initiatives (such as FLEGT, AFLEG,) could be useful.

Specific Recommendation:

- *Increase support and engagement of CARPE partners in COMIFAC and AFLEG/ FLEGT processes*

7.2.4 Transparency and Capacity Building of National Governments

The capacity of national ministries with the mandate to implement conservation and manage forests sustainably remains low throughout Central Africa. One of the key constraints is the availability of information and its incorporation into useful decision support tools. Additionally many of the decisions that affect the state and management of forests lie outside the mandate of many national ministries of forestry and more effort at the national scale to engage with other ministries (Planning, Finance, Mining, Interior) are necessary to ensure the success of CARPE activities.

Specific Recommendations:

- *Increase efforts/funds to increase transparency and build capacity of ministry of forests to monitor and manage forests*
- *Increase funding and targeting of mechanisms / decision making tools that engage and target policy and decision makers in sectors that impact forest management – Ministries of Planning, Finance, Mining, Interior.*

There is also a great need to increase the information availability of parliamentary procedures and decisions. In much of WRI-FG's research, obtaining information about what went on in parliament, what bills were voted on, what bills were sponsored by whom, etc. was very difficult. Establishment of a structured system of information collection and availability will aid in ensuring transparency and accountability of national parliaments in their environmental decisions.

The environmental caucus in Cameroon provides an excellent opportunity to increase the capacity of legislators on environmental issues. Continued support of this initiative will ensure its sustainability and the promotion of the importance of the environment as a national issue.

7.2.5 *Private Sector*

The private sector effectively manages a large percentage of the forests of the Congo Basin outside protected areas. As such they are a key to the success of CARPE activities and improving management within forest concessions will be essential if the goals of CARPE are to be reached. WRI has been engaging the forest sector through much of its work in Cameroon and across the region and other CARPE partners have been doing the same. It could prove useful to facilitate a forum to outline an overall engagement strategy for CARPE partners in the region.

Specific Recommendation:

- *Increase Engagement and outline a CARPE engagement strategy with private firms in the forestry sector-capacity building, promotion of stepwise approach to certification and increased transparency*

7.2.6 *NGOs*

The Sub-regional network of NGOs with which WRI-FG has been working over the course of the cooperative agreement is also an important source for building upon the legislative representation work which was initiated in Cameroon and DRC. The NGOs are not only important in terms of continuation of these activities, but also in ensuring governments implement policies that enhance the health of the Congo Basin forest ecosystem and the inclusion of community participation in forest management. Continued support of these NGOs (NESDA-CA, *Avocats Verts*, NESDA-Congo, and *Croissance Saine Environnement*) is essential to maintain a lively and active civil society organization community in Central Africa.

8. *INVENTORY DISPOSAL PLAN*

Enabling our regional field offices and staff to have the technology to do the most worthwhile work possible has led to the use of funding for the procurement of up-to-date technological equipment. This has been predominantly limited to computers and GIS mapping tools. As no single piece of equipment has cost \$5,000.00 or more, there is no actual USAID requirement for a disposal plan.

However, you will find WRI's personal inventory and disposal/transfer plan in Appendix 1. As is illustrated there, all working equipment will be retained for further use in the current project.

Appendix 1

Equipment Inventory and Disposal Plan

Item	Item #	Initial unit cost (\$US)	Condition	Current Location	Date acquired	Disposal or Transfer	<i>Current user</i>
Desktop computer	1	\$1,526.00	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2005	Kept for the current agreem't	Intern
Desktop computer	2	\$1,968.00	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Intern
Desktop computer	3	\$1,968.00	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Intern
Laptop computer	1	\$1,400.00	OK	Kinshasa (GFW)	2004	Kept for the current agreem't	Benoit Mertens
Laptop computer	2	\$1,212.60	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	?	Kept for the current agreem't	Lawrence Nsoyuni
Laptop computer	3	\$1,329.49	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Gideon Neba Shu
Laptop Computer	4	\$1,490.44	OK	Libreville (GFW)	2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Jean Sylvestre Makak
A3 Printer	1	\$274.88	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2003	Kept for the current agreem't	Lawrence Nsoyuni
A3 Printer (Plotter)	2	\$1,557.00	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2005	Kept for the current agreem't	Gideon Neba Shu
A4 Printer (B&W)	1	\$283.00	Being fixed	Yaoundé (GFW)	?	Kept for the current agreem't	GFW Office
GPS Navigator	1	\$450.00	OK	Kinshasa (GFW)	2003	Kept for the current agreem't	Benoit Mertens
GPS Navigator	2	\$354.99	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	Sept. 2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Gideon Neba Shu
GPS Navigator	3	\$354.99	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	Sept. 2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Lawrence Nsoyuni
GPS Navigator	4	\$354.99	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	Sept. 2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Intern
GPS Navigator	1	\$354.99	OK	Brazzaville (GFW)	Sept. 2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Partner (CNIAP)
Scanner	1	\$1123.96	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Project office
External hard drive	1	\$273.77	OK	Kinshasa (GFW)	2004	Kept for the current agreem't	Benoit Mertens
External hard drive	2	\$273.77	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2005	Kept for the current agreem't	Lawrence Nsoyuni
External hard drive	3	\$273.77	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2005	Kept for the current agreem't	Gideon Neba Shu
UPS	1	\$77.23	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2005	Kept for the current agreem't	Intern/Consultant
UPS	2	\$77.23	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Intern/Consultant
UPS	3	\$77.23	OK	Yaoundé (GFW)	2006	Kept for the current agreem't	Intern/Consultant
UPS	4	\$77.23	Out of service	Yaoundé (GFW)	2004	To be eventually discarded	
UPS	5	\$77.23	Out of service		2005	To be eventually discarded	