



GHOA

Bulletin

Green Heart of Africa - Too Precious to be Lost

A CARPO PUBLICATION



Dear Readers,

China's trade and investment in Africa is increasing faster than with any other region. WWF's mission has been to encourage China to reduce its ecological impact and offer green solutions worldwide. It is in this context that we gathered in Johannesburg in mid February for a WWF Africa-China meeting. It was a unique platform for WWF Africa, WWF China as well as external partners such as Traffic, EPO to come together to jointly define an integrated strategy and agree on a calendar and action plan for the way forward.

Ahead of the China-Africa meeting, WWF CARPO and ESARPO teams met in Nairobi for 2 days in a lessons learning and sharing atmosphere to consolidate and co-ordinate an African position for the China Africa meeting in South Africa. So when we arrived at the meeting we were able to speak with a single African voice.

One week after the China - Africa meeting the Africa communicators held a 4 day workshop. Kimunya Mungo the head of Communications for ESARPO said "this has been a dream of mine since joining WWF". So - finally the communicators of Africa met and judging by their work plans I am positive we will notice a massive increase in the visibility of Africa through out WWF over the next months!!

During the South African trip, I had the opportunity to meet amazing people like Philip IDRO, former Uganda Ambassador in China; Tasneem ESSOP, WWF SA COP 17 Coordinator for Durban and Todd STERN, Special Envoy of President Barack Obama for climate change. You will find profiles of these personalities as you read along.

We have had great news that the DRC government has announced that it will not allow SOCO to drill for oil in the Virunga National Park. The DRC government plans to carry out its own Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) but until then, oil companies are staying away from Virunga. We can all be very proud as this is a direct impact of the work we have done over the past 10 months. We are having an impact!! Our internet campaign has 27,000 petitioners who signed up to stop the exploration. The campaign has gone global with many WWF National offices involved - UK, France, Belgium, Norway, Netherlands, US, Germany. Hopefully Jim Leape will be able to speak at the upcoming UNESCO conference in June and we will form a strong alliance with IUCN and other NGOs to increase the pressure.

In this issue, we also celebrate the achievement of a key milestone in our DRC programme - the creation of a new protected area named "Ngiri Natural Reserve" which covers about 5500 km2.

We are mobilising the network to engage in the Congo Brazzaville 3 blocks Tropical Forest Summit billed for June in Congo Brazzaville. CARPO strongly believes Congo Brazzaville could still be a great opportunity to replicate our key objectives initially set for the DRC Kinshasa summit. You can read more on this insight from Andre Toham and Laurent Some who are leading our efforts.

Last month we mourned the passing away of our Yaounde based colleague and dear friend, Isabella Akwa Ade Tamungang, Forest Enterprise Development Officer and Technical Assistant for DACEFI 2 project who was laid to rest last March 4, 2011.

Natasha Kofoworola Quist

AFRICA - CHINA STRATEGIC MEETING



AFRICA COMMUNICATORS WORKSHOP



GABON: MONUMENTAL ARREST OF APE PARTS

CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS OIL EXPLORATION TO SUCURE MOUNTAIN GORILLA PARK



Minister José E.B. Endundo



TRIBUTE TO ISABELLA AKWA ADE TAMUNGANG

AFRICA-CHINA DEVELOP JOINT STRATEGY TO FURTHER RELATIONS

By Florence Anoubodem



Africa and China program Managers as well as external partners such as TRAFFIC and EPO with the support of NOs including USA, UK, South Africa, met in Johannesburg on February 14-16th, 2011 to develop an integrated strategy linking with the China for a Global Shift Initiative and its objectives, to agree on a formal organizational set up to jointly execute our strategy and finally to develop joint action plans around agreed priority areas and start mapping out common approaches to ongoing activities. External keynote speakers with expertise in the field of China's trade and investment in Africa were also invited to bring more light and point out challenges of this cooperation and to provide inspiration for discussions. At the end of the meeting, participants

agreed to focus as a matter of priority on the upcoming Africa-China Summit taking place in Beijing in November 2012, through an engagement strategy with the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Five thematic groups, with agreed leads, will work together to formulate joint work plans, which have to be delivered by 31st March 2011. The groups cover banking & finance, infrastructure & extractive industries, forest & wildlife trade, green solutions, and the China-Africa Summit. WWF CARPO will continue to provide strategic input through monthly phone meetings, in order to make this agenda operational and complement it with detailed action plans by end of March. Another key outcome of the meeting was the increased understanding of cultural differences between China and Africa teams.

CHINA SET MEETING: MODELLING ON THE "CHANGEMAKER" PROGRAMME.

The China for a Global Shift Shareholder Executive Team members met for 2 days following the Africa-China meeting to review progress made against FY11 targets. The team felt the targets were on track. At the same time, they agreed to significantly step up delivery in the next financial year in a bid to achieve the Initiative's 2015 objectives. The "Initiative's Implementation Team", led by as follow up to the Africa-China workshop, Dr. Li Lin, will define the next generation of targets as a set of transformational big wins that can be achieved over the next 12 to 18 months, starting July 2011.

The process aims at identifying concrete, tangible transformational results towards the strategic objectives of the Initiative, to be achieved over the said period. This process is modelled on the 'Changemaker' programme that was successfully rolled out in the Asia Pacific Programme several years ago, with the aim of moving from a top-down planning process built around work streams to a bottom-up sourcing of proposals with the highest potential to deliver transformational big wins.



WWF & FOCAC: FOCUSING ON THE UPCOMING CHINA-AFRICA SUMMIT

Engaging with the Forum for China and Africa Cooperation, FOCAC, has been identified as one of the priorities within the Africa and Madagascar Programme's policy and partnership strategy, as well as within the China for a Global Shift Initiative as the main platform for dialogue, collective consultation, negotiations and cooperation between China and African countries.

WWF will henceforth take on an engagement strategy and follow up of advocacy issues with FOCAC to target the upcoming China-Africa Summit billed for Beijing in November 2012.

The Forum will hold a summit at the Prime Ministerial level in November 2012 in Beijing. WWF will build on FOCAC's commitments to sustainability already agreed, such as 100 projects on renewable energy in Africa.

AFRICA-CHINA LEADERS TALK THE WAY FORWARD

Jim Gradoville, Country Representative WWF - China



Which were your expectations from the Africa-China workshop?

I was expecting to come out with a sense of common purpose and team chemistry, as well as with a shared work-plan to pursue within and beyond the China for a Global Shift Initiative. I was also keen to learn more about issues in Africa, both from colleagues and from external speakers.

What was the most unexpected result?

The "game plan" to engage with the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the role that former Uganda's Ambassador Philip Idro played in crafting it.

What is the first step you have taken to bring the agenda forward?

I have sent a note to Niall to review the proposed workplans and set key

priorities, and I have asked a friend ambassador in Beijing to support our work.

A message to our colleagues in Africa.

Let's maintain regular, open and productive communications, so we can keep the momentum going. We have to set priorities, workplans and allocate resources for this ambitious program.

Which were your expectations from the Africa-China workshop?

I was eager to know more about Africa and enhance understanding of China for colleagues who do not sit with us every day. I expected to build the Africa component of the China for a Global Shift Initiative.

What was the most unexpected result?

Ambassador Philip Idro speech on the role that China can play in Africa, and Sim Tshabalala comment on WWF's work were real eye-openers. I was also amazed by the enthusiasm and determination of WWF colleagues in pursuing this new agenda.

What is the first step you have taken to bring the agenda forward?

I have started to set up the

teams to work on FOCAC's engagement, and scheduled a meeting with Togo's Ambassador, the dean of African ambassadors in Beijing.

A message to our colleagues in Africa.

Be ready to engage and contribute to enriching the environmental aspects of China's overseas investment!

Dr. Li Lin,
Deputy Country Representative and Leader of the China for a Global Shift Initiative



Natasha Quist, CARPO Regional Representative



Which were your expectations from the Africa-China workshop?

CARPO and ESARPO teams have spent 2 days together prior to the meeting in South Africa and we were very clear on our expectations and objectives. We wanted to ensure that we start building a long term partnership between the Africa and China teams based on mutual understanding and of course respect. For some of us this was the first time we were meeting each other. I was also very clear in my presentation that we should leave with no more than 4 goals at the end of the workshop.

What was the most unexpected result?

Ambassador Idro really highlighted

several things that hit home for me... That WWF has an Asian European and Africa perspective but we do not overlap or harmonize...our perspectives are still very separate. He also mentioned that he felt our Political Intelligence on Africa needed strengthening. I was also very happy to have outlined the plan to engage with FOCAC

What is the first step you have taken to bring the agenda forward?

I met with Morne du Plessis the CEO for South Africa and updated him on the outcomes of the meeting. As we learned from the meeting - South Africa is the number 1 trading partner with China. It is the power house of

Sub-Sahara Africa we have to ensure WWF-South Africa is fully engaged in the China Africa plan. In addition, the COP 17 will be held in Durban so we need to all be aligned. I also debriefed Rubina Haroon the ESARPO representative. The CARPO managers are also looking at how best to structure ourselves now that Lui Cafeing is leaving the team.

A message to our colleagues in China.

The China team is really very impressive. We in Africa can learn much from them but equally we are a strong and experienced team and need be clear about the resources required to meet our ambitions.

Which were your expectations from the Africa-China workshop?

a) Mutual understanding of the importance of Chinese investment in Africa in the struggle against poverty eradication and the need to influence this process in such a way that it leads to sustainable development addressing the three elements in this (economic sustainability, social sustainability and environmental sustainability) in a balance manner.

b) Starting mutual dialogue with our WWF colleagues from China on how best we can work together in a pro-

active manner each side playing to its particular strength.

What was the most unexpected result?

There was really nothing that could be considered 'most unexpected' but I was happily surprised by the breadth and depth of candid discussions the desire by all to develop meaningful action plans with key accountabilities as a way forward. Initially I worried that it might take a number of meetings and consultations to reach the level we were able to reach in just one workshop.

What is the first step you have taken to bring the agenda forward?

Just this last week we delivered a draft report, to the China SHIFT NI, on the status and use of energy in a selected number of countries in our sub-region. This assessment report will be used as a starting point/baseline as we jointly develop our 'green solution' action plan over the next few weeks.

A message to our colleagues in China.

We should all work hard to enhance mutual support, collaboration and

coordination between the different WWF offices so that we are increasingly able to speak with 'one voice' on the need to ensure environmental sustainability and equity as more development investment targets our continent. We do need the development investment but we need to make sure that it truly results in sustainable development on all the three pillars of sustainable development and that companies use the best available technology, methods and processes in order to ensure a planned and appropriate development pathway.



Dr. Taye Teferi
Conservation Programme Director WWF Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office

Ndranto Razakamnarina
Policy Advisor WWF MWIPO

Which were your expectations from the Africa-China workshop?

a. De connaître les façons de travailler et les mentalités des WWFs en Afrique et de WWF Chine.
b. De trouver des solutions pour la lutte contre le trafic des bois précieux et des stratégies communes pour environnementaliser les industries extractives en Afrique.

What was the most unexpected result?

De n'avoir pas pu voir des cas concrets sur le terrain et de n'avoir pas pu rencontrer des représentants de l'administration Chinoise.

What is the first step you have taken to bring the agenda forward?

FFaire notre rapport à notre boss ici et

j'attends le rapport de l'atelier

A message to our colleagues in China.

Nous devons nous atteler à renforcer notre collaboration avec le Gouvernement Chinois et à encourager les émergences de la société civil environnementaliste Chinoise.



Peter SCHEREN,
Leader Coastal East
Africa Network Initiative

Which were your expectations from the Africa-China workshop?

My expectations from the workshop were (i) to get to know my colleagues from the China SHIFT, WWF China and sister WW offices in Africa; (ii) jointly agree on a set of priority issues to be addressed by us within the context of the China-Africa Trade and Investment relations; and (iii) agree on clear strategies and work plans for addressing such challenges.

What was the most unexpected result?

For me, the most unexpected result was the strategy for addressing the political

challenges related to China-Africa relations, on the basis of FOCAC. With the help of Ambassador Phil Idro and a few other bright minds, I believe that we have come out with a challenging but realistic strategy for tackling this agenda

What is the first step you have taken to bring the agenda forward?

I will continue to be actively engaged at the level of the China-Africa enabling team to follow further progress in defining our strategies and work plans for the agreed 'work streams'. I will also continue to support Jon Hobbs, as the CEA-NI Trade and Investment Advisor, in his role in this regard. Finally, with

the newly-established friendships with our colleagues in China and elsewhere in Africa, I believe that there is good basis for a very constructive and active partnership.

A message to our colleagues in China.

Dear colleagues. It was very nice to meet you all. I am impressed with the level of partnership that was displayed during our workshop and I am looking forward to work very closely with you in addressing our common agenda.

A WAKE UP CALL FROM AMBASSADOR PHIL IDRO

Former Uganda Ambassador in China and Founding Participant in the Forum for China Africa Cooperation

"Where is the Africa strategy? . . . We need to understand Africa scenario much better . . ."



Africa must urgently and concurrently with macroeconomic and political stability, identify her internal faculties, develop and strengthen them. Unfortunately, most social and political forces in Africa are fragile, mainly traditional and inward looking, still weak and struggling to develop capabilities to meet today's challenges.

The basic strength on the continent rests on creating the right local conditions to enhance profitable utilizations of capabilities and resources. The development of productive forces must become a reality. Only then can both local and foreign investment partake responsibly and sustainably. After this, Africa can further develop an Afro centric perspective necessary to match the long existing Euro centric and current developing Asia centricism, in order to fully mature and exploit global integration. Fortunately, the problem is not

technology; there is enough of this to develop Africa fifty times over. China developed on cheap labour and low skill technology application. The problem is not financing either as Africa buys cars and luxuries sufficient to pay for more than enough tractors and factories to change the fundamentals of her economy.

The problems, as stated, are poor politics and organizational. From Colonial times, most Africans social groups and power centres see the economic growth in terms of the abundance of extraction of local resources rather than high value addition and creativity. The newly added and important Chinese industrial hunger for raw materials for world markets is a new dynamic that is very much needed in Africa. However it can also quickly damage the essential equilibrium unless well understood and re-organised for sustainability.

" WWF must develop political intelligence in order to successfully impact Africa-China relations".

FOCAC, an African initiative, taken up and supported strongly by a committed Chinese leadership was created with the view to help Africa and China systematically and comprehensively solve current technological, socio-economic and political challenges facing them both.

WWF has sufficient technical knowledge to help Africa come to terms with responsible and sustainable utilisation of her natural resources. To do this well, WWF must develop political intelligence as well in order to successfully impact Africa, China and the world.

"Africa need economic growth, we need to explain to leaders how conservation can generate income".

I did propose forestry as the foundation of all overall because while agriculture is the backbone of African economies, forestry is the mother of both agriculture and environment.

We did some functional forestry in Moyo District, Uganda, where women were taught the importance of planting firewood trees for their use instead of going far into the natural woodland. The young who eat fruits were taught planting fruit trees, for fruit and

commerce. Older men were taught planting of pole trees for construction, wind breaks and beautification trees with some medicinal and timber trees for sales in retirement. The result was everyone went into the functional and utility purpose and partial afforestation was achieved successfully. We can do more of course as they are now mentally ready for more. They have enjoyed the economic benefits directly themselves.

Euro centric means Europeans look at things mainly from their perspective, values and interests. It means they do not know, or maybe even ignore and reduce the values of others. Issues are centered from their own side.

Afro centric is when Africa tribes ignore and down look on other tribes and their different ways. Yet an integrated view can bring in new strengths that can be good for the overall situation.

Asia centric: it is Asian interests and Asian ways. China is leading in Asian confidence build up. 10 years ago, everyone in Asia was either Chinese, Indian or Japanese. Today, most think of themselves as Asian, not Chinese or any other. This is new and important as it means that they have all come nearer together and allow themselves to address their identity and not be named by the western world or any other people.

Centrism is a limited capacity and may border ignorance, unless it is deliberate.

WWF AFRICA COMMUNICATORS UNITE TO DELIVER

For the first time, WWF communicators in Africa met together to leverage WWF communications impact across Africa through improved integration and coordination.

For a very long time, WWF communicators in Africa have been working in isolation. Responding to the global vision of "One planet", Kimunya Mugo, ESARPO Regional Communications Officer proposed to convene an annual meeting where African Communicators, in a unique platform would exchange, learn and plan together in order to come out as a strong continent. The proposal met support from Africa's Regional Representatives as well as WWF International and thanks to them, all WWF Communicators in Africa met in Cape Town, South Africa, from February 21-24, 2011.

This meeting aimed at responding to the following: How can WWF improve on synergy in our different African offices? How can WWF maximize on the various expertise and skills within this group? How can the communicators work together to increase WWF's positioning and influence in Africa?

It was generally noted that communication officers in our organization are not fully integrated in project development. At the same time it was observed that the organization is very demanding regarding communications results yet limited in providing support in terms of communication input and materials.

It was also commonly agreed that Communicators should take more initiatives and put more professionalism to their work

in order to gain credibility from the organisation and also to design projects to leverage funds to support their activities.

Colleagues from the WWF International Communications Department highly participated at the workshop. They hooked up with the team through videoconference to share WWF communications strategies and campaigns on key topics. They were: Danielle Chidlow (Brand Director, WWF-International); Andy Ridley (Executive Director, Earth Hour Global); Gretchen Lyons (Conservation Communications, WWF-International); and Rob Souter (Senior Advisor Special Campaigns, WWF-International).

After a four-day working session, WWF Africa Communicators came out with some strong commitments.

The 'flagship' project that will be at the centre of this new engagement will be the "Africa's PULSE". The reason for this is due to the fact that the campaign can be adapted to raise awareness on the numerous conservation challenges and issues across Africa. WWF communications in Africa has not adequately engaged with ongoing and well established communication initiatives. These include talk shows, emerging technologies (mobile phone, online social media), ambassadors, continental events (e.g. Africa Cup of Nations), etc. In addition, we need to develop useful network of



(Front row seated) Kimunya Mugo, Sarah-Leigh Paul, (middle row) Florence Anouboudem, Wanga Salli, Candice Bate, Suparna Biswas, (standing) Cephas Moonga, Claudia Delpero, Birima Fall, Martina Lippuner, John Kabubu, Janine Basson, Roxanne Abrahams, and Sindiswa Nobula.

environmental journalists and experts that will help WWF engage with the media in a better way.

Cartoons and illustrations powerful messengers and there use in our conservation messaging should be explored further. The WWF South Africa Fisheries programme has use this medium with great success. The meeting agreed that we should share available artwork for adaptation in other parts of WWF's work in Africa.

Working with civil society was identified as an effective way to ensure sustainable conservation. To achieve this, there is need to document why local people support/do not support conservation. This can be used as a basis

for lobbying/engagement, support ongoing initiatives, and campaigns.

We thank those who supported the realisation of this event: Natasha Quist (Regional Rep, WWF-CARPO); Rubina Haroon (Regional Rep, WWF-ESARPO); Papa Samba Diouf (Coordinator, WWF-WAMER); Morne du Plessis (CEO, WWF-SA); Sarah Bladen (Director, Conservation Communications, WWF-International); Joseph Okori (Africa Rhino Coordinator, WWF-International); Mariann Erikson (Director of Communications, WWF Sweden).

By Florence Anouboudem



TASNEEM ESSOP MET WITH US SPECIAL ENVOY AHEAD OF COP 17

Tasneem ESSOP, a brilliant woman with deep expertise in climate change joined WWF South Africa in 2008 as their International Climate Policy Advocate. She represents the South African office in WWF international's Global Deal Network Initiative (GDNI). The aim of the Initiative is to secure a binding, fair, effective and science-based multilateral agreement that would be the basis of a post-2012 Climate regime. She oversees policy development and advocacy in the international climate negotiation process. She is the GDNI's policy issue lead on Mitigation in Developing countries with a specific focus on the emerging economies and also deals with the issue of Climate Finance.

Prior to this Tasneem held the position of Provincial Minister of Environment, Planning and Economic Development in the Western Cape (2004-2008) and was the Western Cape Provincial Minister of Transport, Public Works & Property Management from 2001-2004.



Todd STERN is the United States Special Envoy for Climate Change, leading talks at the United Nations climate change conferences and smaller sessions. He has been appointed by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on January 26, 2009.

In February this year, US Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern met with a civil society delegation led by Tasneem ESSOP in Cape Town, South Africa, with the intention of working with the South African Government ahead of COP17, which the country will host in Durban this year. A number of future trips by the US to South Africa are planned.

The meeting raised the complexities of the UNFCCC process, noting that COP16, held in Cancun in November last year, was successful, given the realities of negotiations and what is possible and doable. Stern suggested that, while Copenhagen was difficult, it nevertheless offered a better outcome in the end than it initially looked at the time. The outcome of Cancun, meanwhile, reflected the expansion of the Copenhagen Accord, which consolidated and elaborated on areas such as the Green Fund, Technology Centres, the Adaptation Committee, REDD, commitments for major countries and transparency. While the outcomes of Cancun are not legally binding, Stern cited the outcomes as what is doable for some time to come and represent

tative of significant advances. The warm reception of the content of the Cancun agreement by every country except Bolivia, could be attributed to Mexican diplomacy and leadership.

Stern's expectation for COP17 was that the negotiations would carry forward and implement the Cancun agreement.

NEPAL: ILLEGAL OVEREXPLOITATION OF FLAGSHIP SPECIES WORKSHOP

By David Greer



Team at conference

Increased support for law enforcement efforts is arguably the most effective way that WWF can impact biodiversity conservation in the Congo Basin. This was the backbone of a meeting held in the Nepal Chitwan National Park, from January 21-23, 2011 with WWF and TRAFFIC staff from around the world.

Law enforcement experience within the network is quite advanced in Asia, so it was important that we were able to share experiences, lessons learned and most importantly, create a consolidated technical and philosophical approach to tackling law enforcement challenges in our respective geographic regions, meanwhile generating increased support from the network as a whole, to better tackle this critical issue.

Having visiting Asia for the first time, and thus having little idea of what to expect beyond what I had learned in Asian history books and films, I found the Nepalese to be quite warm and kind-spirited. Although the chilly temperatures were far too frigid for this warm-weather enthusiast, the delicious, spicy cuisine certainly helped to keep all the conference participants warm.

The wildlife present at Chitwan was indeed impressive. We were presented with the opportunity to ride an elephant in order to observe a mother and infant rhinoceros at the base of the spectacular Himalayan mountain range. It was a surreal, if gratifying experience. In

local 'Tharu' culture, young men commit their entire lives to the care and training of a specific elephant—an elephant who will only take commands from their primary human caretaker. The elephants are trained to carry out such tasks as giving tourists rides for wildlife viewing, herding crop raiding wild elephants back into their natural habitats, and even carrying out anti-poaching patrols; yet another clever solution to the constant challenge of mitigating increasing human pressure on precious wildlife populations.



Geoff York, David Greer, Luc Mathot, Wendy Elliott

CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS OIL EXPLORATION TO SECURE MOUNTAIN GORILLA PARK

The Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism, Mr José E.B. Endundo, announced the issue of an open letter to the worldwide conservation community clarifying the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo's position on the published intentions of a British oil company, SOCO International, to undertake oil exploration activities in Virunga National Park, a designated World Heritage Site. In his letter Mr Endundo states that his Ministry has taken "... specific steps, which have led to the suspension of the given oil exploration activities. We have rejected the recommendations of an environmental impact assessment conducted by the oil company, Soco, which we consider premature, superficial and which does not conform to the standards which we would expect".

He has initiated a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive Strategic Environmental Assessment, SEA, to analyse the best options available to the Congolese People. The SEA will provide the necessary recommendations to decide which of the social and economic benefits will ensure true development for the region and its people.

It is not yet time to celebrate the end of the story, but we can all be very proud as this is the direct impact of the hard work we have done over the past months.

WWF CARPO and WWF International have coordinated efforts and information flow between the field (Virunga National Park), Kinshasa, the UK (where the key petrol companies are based), and the international arena.

The campaign has gone global with many WWF National offices involved, UK, US, Norway,

Netherlands, US, Germany, France, and Belgium.

Our online competition has reached up to 40 000 petitioners who signed against oil drilling in Virunga.

WWF welcomes this decision and

calls on the Congolese government to guarantee there would be no oil exploration in the park and asks the UK-listed company to respect the law and abandon the harmful exploration plans.



KINSHASA HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT POSTPONED TO 2012. CONGO BRAZZAVILLE 3 BLOCKS TROPICAL FOREST SUMMIT: Participants or Observers?

By Florence AnoubouDEM

The Government of Congo Brazzaville has decided to move on with the organization of the Tropical Forest 3 Blocks Summit as earlier planned. In a bid not to run a parallel event with similar objectives, the DRC government has opted to push back the earlier planned Heads of State Summit to 2012.



Africa Heads of States

The Congo Brazzaville Government officially announced at the UNFF and ECCAS (The Economic Community of Central African States) Ministerial meeting that the 3 blocks Tropical Forest Summit would take place from May 31 – June 3, 2011 in Brazzaville.

The objectives of this summit, according to the announcement, include:

- to learn about the current state of forest resources in the three forest blocks – Congo Basin, Amazon and Borneo.
- To sign a cooperation Accord between the three forest blocks that will serve as

a platform for formal consultation and discussion on forest issues and climate; To adopt a joint Declaration that will outline issues of common interest on tropical forests, climate and sustainable development and prepare for the upcoming negotiations on the climate agreement in Durban, South Africa as well as lays the groundwork for preparations for the Rio +20 Summit in Brazil.

The government of Congo is facilitating the bringing together all technical and financial partners in the sector. Meanwhile various Conservation and development partners in the region, including the FAO, ITTO, FAO, CBD, IUCN, UNEP and ITTO are working on putting together various technical support documents for a successful event, including the state of the three tropical forests, the Cooperation Accord and The Joint Declaration.

WWF POTENTIAL ROLE AND ENGAGEMENT

The three forest block summit is a great opportunity and a big challenge for WWF. Some of the main conservation objectives previously prepared for the Kinshasa summit can be met through this new high platform. The 3-block Summit can help achieve common objectives from the 3 basin, as well as specific objectives from each Tropical forest region.

Some of the key areas of focus of the 3-block summit which match WWF's interest to develop in the policy brief include:

REDD+ and financial mechanism, sustainable forest management and forest certification, wildlife law enforcement, Indigenous people, protected areas; extractives industries and infrastructure development.

Minister Djombo from Congo Brazzaville has formally invited WWF to serve as Facilitator for the Summit and to manage the communication of this event.

WWF task force set up to advise on WWF engagement for this event, has recommended that WWF CARPO engaged and support COMIFAC involvement, although it also raises some concerns about the timing and the fact our WWF colleagues in the Amazonia and South East were not yet informed about the summit. Of interest is the fact that, we received a very positive feedback from Mekong about the organization of the 3-block summit.

However, DRC is still committed to organize an international conference on Forests and is proposing to hold the Summit back to back to the Francophonie Heads of States Summit scheduled in 2012.

UNE NOUVELLE AIRE PROTÉGÉE EN RDC

By Germain Indjassa

Le gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo a signé le 8 janvier 2011, un Arrêté portant création d'une aire protégée, dénommée: «La Réserve Naturelle du Triangle de la Ngiri».

A travers cet Arrêté, le Gouvernement vise la protection du bassin d'eau douce de la RDC et la conservation de la biodiversité, dont les chimpanzés, les éléphants de forêt, les buffles, les oiseaux, les crocodiles et leur habitat. D'une superficie de 5,500 Km², la publication de cette nouvelle aire protégée est assurément une contribution à l'objectif de 15 % de forêts classées, tels que définis dans le Code Forestier, a déclaré un responsable WWF-RDC.

Selon l'Arrêté, la Réserve Naturelle du Triangle de la Ngiri fait l'objet d'un zonage participatif, après concertation entre l'Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature et toutes les parties prenantes, spécialement les communautés locales et les peuples autochtones. Par ailleurs, la création de la Réserve du Triangle de la Ngiri est symbolique dans la mesure où cette zone constitue le point, mieux, le corridor de passage d'oiseaux migrateurs,

elle abrite un type particulier de forêt – forêt marécageuse – et plus important, la nouvelle aire protégée est située dans un Landscape trans-frontalier – Lac Télé- Lac Tumba, a commenté un agent de WWF.

Cette nouvelle loi est le résultat des efforts souterrains menés par WWF, dans son approche holistique visant à aider le Gouvernement congolais dans sa volonté à gérer durablement ses vastes forêts. «En outre, c'est depuis longtemps que nous attendions cette importante loi. A notre niveau, la satisfaction est plus que grande. Le processus peut enfin démarrer. Nos équipes sont déjà en place», a estimé Raymond Lumbuenamo, Directeur National de WWF-RDC.

«A notre niveau, le souhait est que l'application de cette loi supplémentaire permette à toutes les parties de travailler ensemble afin que la gestion forestière responsable des écosystèmes soient durablement assurée, a confié un autre responsable de WWF.



Réserve protégée du Triangle de la Ngiri

“FOREST VILLAGE” PULLS CROWD AT CAMEROON’S AGRO-PASTORAL SHOW

The National Agro-pastoral Show which took place in Ebolowa in the South Region of Cameroon from the 17th to 22nd January, 2011, provided an outstanding opportunity for the promotion of agriculture, livestock, fishery and animal husbandry in the country.

By Fidelis Manga, Charles Tayo



National Agro-pastoral show, Ebolowa

The show brought together farmers from all the ten regions of the country involved in different agricultural sub-sectors. For six days, Cameroon's agricultural potentials were showcased to a huge crowd of over 20,000. Besides agriculture, Livestock and animal husbandry, the Ebolowa rendezvous saw the par-

participation of big business concerns and various government departments including Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife that set up the "Forest Village" where WWF and other partner NGOs were lodged. The show was launched by Cameroon's Head of State, President Paul Biya who, in his opening speech, thanked the diplomatic services and NGO partners for the contribution they have been making to boost the country's agriculture and fight climate change. WWF participation centered essentially around raising awareness. Many issues were raised such as climate change mitigation, tree planting and human-wildlife conflict. Hundreds of people visited the

WWF stand with about two hundred leaving their impression in a register made available for the purpose. Among the visitors, was Cameroon's President Paul BIYA, who encouraged WWF staff and commended the work done by the organization to protect nature, saying "while others are cutting down trees, you are conserving. Keep it up". Another outstanding visitor to our stand was the Cameroonian leading opposition party chairman John FRU NDI who was mainly concerned with tree seedlings as 'he is ready to plant as many trees as he has seedlings'.

The main attraction of the event was the lion brought from the Mvog-Betsi zoological garden, Yaoundé. Its presence highlighted the importance of wildlife conservation and the important role of conservation organizations such as WWF.

GABON EXPANDS LIST OF STRICTLY PROTECTED ANIMAL SPECIES

By Joseph Mayombo

To comply with international conventions like the Convention on Migratory Species and CITES, the Government of Gabon recently issued a presidential decree moving the number of fully protected animal species from 17 to 32.

The presidential decree **0164/PR/MEF of January 19, 2011**, integrates 15 more endangered animal species to the previous existing list of 17. These include the elephant, humpback whale, giant forest hog, buffalo, mandrill, drill, grey-necked rock fowl (*pica-tharte*), leatherback turtle, green turtle, olive ridley turtle, hawksbill turtle, the Nile crocodile, the dwarf crocodile and the long-snouted crocodile. The list of partially protected animal species has thus been reduced from 27 to 13 species as per the new decree.

The list of strictly protected animals in Gabon moves from 17 to 32 species



WWF GABON TARGETS EXCELLENCE WITH LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Training session led by Claude Diwouta-Loth

For 3 days, the team received skills and techniques to build on their vision and acumen to tackle some hitherto preoccupying managerial issues: How to be a highly effective leader, How to develop self-confidence, vision, wisdom, motivational impact and delivery skills, how to be the person to whom, quite naturally, other people turn for direction, and how to manage performance.

The training was managed by Claude Diwouta-Loth, People and Development Regional Director. The session enabled the Libreville, Gamba and Minkebe team managers to develop and reflect on their leadership skills, and to learn the AIM (Achievement and Impact Management) process. The aim was to promote a "team building" spirit in which members work together effectively and positively, and to bring about exceptional performance improvements with good leadership and successful teamwork. The session is part of the CARPO Leadership & Management programme across the different country offices. The next ses-

sion will focus on Management skills.

Claude used this forum to present the new Anti fraud policy to all staff.

Below are end of training impressions from some participants: **Gustave Mabaza, Minkebe Programme Anthropologist:** «The leadership training taught me how to set up a dynamic and effective team. I also got insight on the new way of evaluating the performance of the people we manage. Better, still we received tools to better manage our teams and ourselves.»

Stéphane Leduc Yeno, Gamba Programme: «The training was an assessment of our roles as managers. I learnt the importance of knowing oneself in order to achieve successful teamwork in the field. It also highlights the importance of changing culture and behaviours to foster excellence in the workplace».



An exercise for teambuilding during the training.

CARPO HONORS ITS BEST PERFORMING STAFF

By Joseph Mayombo and Flora Lamero

WWF CARPO recently awarded certificates to Marc Aurel Ella Akou (Gabon), Claude Mbengono (Cameroon), Christian Mpassi and Alfred Yoko Wa Lunza (both from DRC), a result of exceptional dedication and outstanding service to the organization.



Marc receives the certificate from National Director Suparna Biswas

Marc is currently Survey Leader, Conservation. He is a long-serving team member of the Minkebe Programme. His work has contributed to many achievements. The current survey work that Marc is carrying out in TRIDOM Congo should lead to the creation of an additional protected area in the TRIDOM Congo landscape. Over the years Marc has performed beyond expectations, providing tangible results in every duty he had been tasked.



Judy Slatyer, Claude Mbengono, Mark Van Boekel, Natasha Quist

Claude works as Assistant and Driver in the Logistics Departments. He is an obliging person who takes his work seriously. Always available, Claude has several times worked overtime to help a colleague. He takes responsibility beyond the scope of his job profile and is open-minded. Never seen commitment like his' before!!

Christian is Administrative Assistant for DRC. He impresses by his will to work quickly and well. His humility and simplicity are appreciated by all and make of him a true example of some of WWF core values embedded in his personality and lived from within: ready to face challenges, inspiring to others, credible and delivering results.



Judy Slatyer, Raymond Lumbuenamo, Christian Mpassi, Claude Diwouta, Natasha Quist

Alfred is Community Based Natural Resource Management Officer. He was rewarded for his bravery and for the success he has achieved in one of the most remote programs in Central Africa...4 days boat ride from the nearest town!! Motivated and efficient in his work, Alfred never complains in spite of difficult terms of work and is always ready for new challenges.



Natasha Quist and Alfred

GRANTS FOR PROJECT ON ARTISANAL MINING

WWF and Estelle Levin Limited announce grants from the Tiffany & Co. Foundation and the World Bank's Program on Forests (PROFOR) to launch a new program to address the impact of artisanal mining in, on and around protected areas and sensitive ecosystems.



Artisanal mining in DRC

Estelle Levin Limited is a boutique consultancy led by Estelle Levin and specializing in Natural Resources Governance and Supply Chain Sustainability. Much of its work is in the extractives sector in Africa on behalf of clients like development agencies, NGOs, mining

companies, consultancies, and end-users like jewelers. This organization has partnered with WWF and together had grants from the Tiffany & Co. Foundation and the World Bank's Program on Forests (PROFOR) to launch a new program to address the impact of artisanal mining in, on and around protected areas and sensitive ecosystems. The Tiffany & Co. Foundation is an association that supports organizations dedicated to the conservation of natural resources in the areas of responsible mining, coral conservation and land protection. Specifically, the Foundation promotes responsible mining through remediation, community development and standards-setting efforts; healthy marine ecosystems through key research and targeted educational outreach; the enhancement of urban environments through beautification and infrastructure improvement; and the preservation of culturally significant landmarks.

The launching of the new project was announced by WWF CARPO and WWF USA. The project seeks the input of interested communities and practitioners with experience of living with or managing ASM in protected areas and sensitive ecosystems, as well as interested co-founders

who want to study the issue and contribute to sustainable solutions to protect key conservation victories.

The program will identify practical recommendations for improving governance through national and regional policy reform and institutional strengthening and make a resource base publicly available for others to use, including practical tools, for example, environmental, social, and gender impact tools and knowledge products. The program will also develop a community of interested stakeholders to share knowledge and create synergies for tackling this issue both within and outside the program.

The impact of this project is potentially global in scope. If the project is successful in promoting sustainable development and achieving measurable conservation outcomes, its lessons can be duplicated within international conservation organizations such as WWF and its Liberia program partner, Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and a global community of practitioners who can replicate the program in mining-impacted and threatened ecosystems worldwide.

By Kirsten hund

WWF LAUNCHES 2011 EFN SCHOLARSHIPS



Gabonese women in conservation at a meeting. © WWF/Judith Mashinya

The Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program (EFN) aims to build a dynamic and highly qualified corps of conservation leaders in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Established in 1994, EFN is dedicated to Russell E. Train, World Wildlife Fund's founding trustee, past President, former Chairman of the Board and current Chairman Emeritus.

Through a number of initiatives, EFN provides financial support to potential and proven leaders for higher education, short-term training, and practical experience needed to take on Conservation challenges in their home countries and regions.

The Professional Development Grants for Women Conservatio-

nists in the Congo Basin is a special opportunity. EFN offers Russel E Train Scholarship to women working in conservation in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, & Republic of Congo, with the gener-

ous supports of the Liz Clairbone and Art Ortenberg Foundation, a private organization devoted to the conservation of nature and the alleviation of human distress, and that devotes a substantial portion of its funding to developing countries.

The 2011 EFN scholarships are already available. The application deadline is April, 15 2011. Scholarship recipients are selected through a competitive, merit-based selection. The scholarships' benefits are complementary copies of EFN news, EFN alumni grants for further professional development and networking opportunities with other grant recipients.

By Flora Lamero

HYMNE A LA PRESERVATION DE LA NATURE

C'est le titre du projet musical de Zita Boukaka Koutaba, auteure-compositeur gabonaise, qui a été présenté au Fonds Mondial pour la Nature (WWF) à Libreville.

La présentation du projet musical de l'artiste Zita Boukaka Koutaba s'est déroulée au siège



qui nuisent à notre belle nature. Enregistré au studio G a g e , sous la supervision de Mitch M w a n a , le clip

librevillois du Fonds Mondial pour la Nature (WWF), au quartier Louis. En présence de plusieurs artistes gabonais de renom, notamment Sinsh'o, Mitch Mwana, NGT, Fang, Princesse Zalang, B Good Le Rasta, Lent's de Gloire, Stephane et Yann.

« Hymne à la préservation » est une chanson-leçon dans laquelle chaque artiste apporte un message, en vue de sensibiliser le public à la préservation de l'environnement et de la nature. Plusieurs thèmes sont ainsi évoqués dans ce single, notamment la pollution, l'insalubrité et le braconnage qui sont les maux

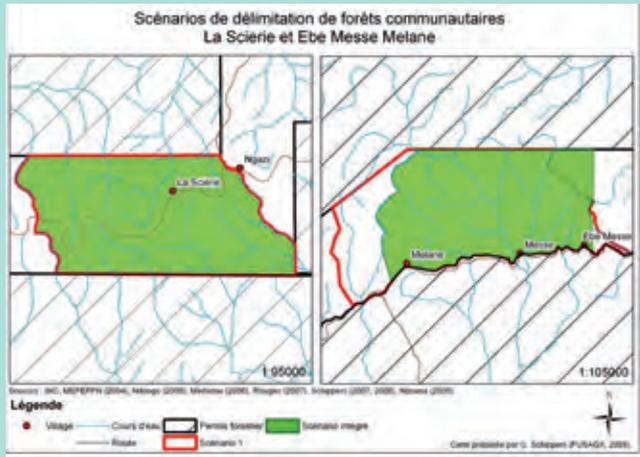
de cette chanson a été tourné par Patrick Rouxell, grâce au financement du WWF. Artiste-auteure-compositeur, Zita Boukaka Koutaba est chargée de projet de l'ONG Brainforest. La musique est pour elle un second souffle. A cet effet, elle y consacre beaucoup de temps en dehors de son travail. Concernant « Hymne à la préservation de la nature, NGT est le premier que j'ai contacté. C'est lui qui m'a présenté aux artistes pour la matérialisation de ce projet », a-t-elle expliqué.

By Joseph Mayombo

DACEFI-2 : FORESTERIE SOCIALE OU FORESTERIE COMMUNAUTAIRE ? DES APPROCHES COMPLÉMENTAIRES AU GABON

Aux origines de l'implication des populations

Par Bruno Grégoire, Suparna Biswas, Michele Federspiel, Cédric Vermeulen



Délimitation des forêts communautaires

La forêt tropicale africaine est, dans son histoire proche, le fruit des deux réalités fortes. D'une part, à la faveur de la colonisation, la notion de forêt a découlé de sa signification européenne; le contrôle de la forêt relève du gouvernement central. D'autre part, durant la période postcoloniale, l'objectif de développement industriel basé sur les exportations de bois tropical a fortement confirmé la pérennité de ce système.

Depuis une trentaine d'années, à la faveur de différentes conférences internationales comme celles de Rio, des questions fondamentales se sont posées: comment exploiter de manière durable ces richesses forestières, comment reconstruire le lien entre populations et forêts et comment faire en sorte que cette exploitation profite aux populations locales?

Au sens de la FAO, la foresterie sociale s'intéresse à «toutes les situations dans lesquelles les populations locales sont étroitement associées à une activité forestière». Ces situations peuvent être, dans la réalité, très diverses. La foresterie sociale porte donc sur toutes les interactions possibles entre l'homme et la forêt.

La notion de foresterie communautaire telle que définie par la loi gabonaise définit un cadre légal dans lequel doivent se développer les forêts communautaires. Exemple: Une forêt communautaire (FC) est une portion du domaine forestier rural affectée à une communauté locale vivant à proximité, en vue de mener des activités d'exploitation pour une gestion durable des ressources naturelles à partir d'un plan simple de gestion (PSG). Trois étapes sont essentielles pour la création d'une FC: réunion de concertation, dépôt de la demande de FC et proposition d'un PSG et de la convention de gestion.

DACEFI 2, POUR UNE FORESTERIE COMMUNAUTAIRE ET SOCIALE!

Le projet DACEFI, phase 2, intègre ces deux concepts au travers d'activités très diverses. En ce qui concerne la foresterie sociale, DACEFI-2 développe avec les communautés concernées une gestion participative pour la mise en place de pépinières, de vergers, de plantations individuelles mais également pour l'exploitation artisanale du bois et l'exploitation des PFNL (Produits Forestiers Non Ligneux). Il s'agit donc de développer des activités sociales en lien avec la forêt qui permettent d'augmenter le niveau de vie des populations concernées (entre autre par la création d'emplois forestiers) et, c'est un corollaire important, de gérer de manière durable les forêts.

Du point de vue plus restreint de la foresterie communautaire, DACEFI-2 veut tester sur le terrain l'applicabilité des exigences légales gabonaises de l'exploitation des forêts par les populations locales. Il s'agit ici, d'un côté, de s'inspirer des textes de loi pour mettre en place ces forêts communautaires. Il s'agit de l'autre côté, sur base d'essais, d'analyses et de constatations sur le terrain, de proposer aux ministères concernés les arrêtés d'application ainsi que des pistes pour la mise en place efficiente des forêts communautaires au Gabon.

En guise de conclusion, les deux approches se complètent l'une l'autre sans s'exclure. Et s'il est possible de faire de la foresterie sociale sans mettre en place une forêt communautaire, il n'est pas possible d'établir une forêt communautaire sans œuvrer dans la foresterie sociale !



Mise en place d'une pépinière villageoise

GABON : Anti-poaching efforts yield in 5 arrests & enormous seizures

Law enforcement officers in Gabon have arrested five men accused of possessing illegal animal products, including those of endangered species. The raids, conducted by the country's Water and Forest and Defense Ministries with the assistance of WWF law enforcement partner, AALF, yielded in the seizure of an alarming quantity of ape, leopard and elephant parts.

Among the items confiscated were the head and hands of an endangered gorilla, along with twelve chimpanzee heads and 30 chimpanzee hands. The skin of twelve leopards, a portion of lion skin, snake skin and five elephant tails were also discovered.

"WWF commends the Water and Forest Ministry and AALF for this important arrest," said David Greer, WWF African Great Apes Manager. "However, the massive collection of protected species

confiscated in this operation is highly disturbing. To my knowledge, there has not been a seizure of great ape body parts of this magnitude in Central Africa over the last ten years."

Better known by its french acronym, AALF, the Support for the Application of the Wildlife Act, is a joint program of Gabon's Water and Forest Ministry with other conservation organizations such as Conservation Justice and Brainforest. AALF assists local authorities with wildlife crime investigations and supports rigorous prosecutions. It follows a model established by the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) in Cameroon, which has been replicated with success in neighboring countries.

"The problem of illegal wildlife poaching and trade is not specific to Gabon, such specialized dealers exist throughout Western and Central Africa. But these arrests demonstrate that stopping them is possible with effective law enforcement," said Luc Mathot, founder of Conservation Justice.

The suspects are being held in custody while an investigation is conducted. They are expected to appear in court for legal proceedings.

"Recent ivory poaching prosecutions prove that the judicial authorities in Gabon now regard wildlife cases with high



importance. We hope they will do the same for ape and big cat cases such as this one," Mathot said.

"This monumental arrest is only the first step toward catalyzing positive change in upholding wildlife law in Gabon. In order to establish a long-term deterrent to committing wildlife crime, appropriate consequences must be applied in this and all cases of illegal poaching and trade," said Greer.

POACHERS TARGET GORILLAS, CHIMPS AROUND LOBÉKÉ

Seizures carried out during a February 28 anti-poaching operation around Lobéké National Park in the East Region of Cameroon lend credence to suspicion that poachers have been particularly targeting gorillas and chimps in and around the Park.



Six poachers, (all from Central African Republic) arrested in logging concessions in the north of Lobéké, were found in possession of parts of a male, female, a baby gorilla and a chimp. The arrest came in the wake of anti-poaching swoops in and around Lobéké. Three days before the arrest, game rangers on an in-forest patrol discovered the skull of a gorilla and giant pangolin still dripping with blood inside a logging concession adjoining the park.

The rangers, who are supported by WWF, initially, rounded up some 13 people inside the logging concession. "Three of the poachers were minors and four were women, so we set them free and took only the men to stand trial," explained Mamendji.

"Though the poachers claimed they do not target any specific animal, we strongly suspect they prefer gorillas and chimps," says Jean Fils Mamendji, a game ranger working for Lobéké. This renewed onslaught on gorillas and chimpanzees has put these flagship species once more in peril. A study on the monitoring of bush meat consumption by local communities around Lobéké carried out by WWF between 2008 and 2011, shows that gorillas and chimpanzees are amongst the least consumed species. "This trend is pretty disturbing," says Anong Vincent, WWF Senior Field Research Assistant for Lobéké.

By Fidelis Manga

20 ELEPHANT TUSKS SEIZED AS FIVE POACHERS ARE ARRESTED



Game rangers supported by WWF seized 20 elephant tusks aboard a truck in Ntam, a village located on the border with the Republic of Congo Brazzaville in the East Region of Cameroon, on February 28, 2011. The tusks were hidden in the rear chest of the 30-ton truck that was transporting some 300 bags of cocoa from Sembe in Congo Brazzaville to Douala in Cameroon.

Five people were arrested and conveyed to Abong Mbang, both towns in the East Region of Cameroon where they face charges related to poaching. If found guilty, the suspects might serve jail terms ranging from 1 to 3 years and a fine ranging from FCFA 3000,000 to FCFA 10,000,000.

According to Touck Kamba Jacque Guillaume, the ranger manning the forestry and wildlife control post in Ntam, southwest of Nki, the ivory tusks were split into 30 pieces so they could conveniently fit in the chest. "10 of the tusks weigh less than 5kg, while the other 10 weigh more than 5kg," disclosed Guillaume. This seizure brings once more to the fore the intensity of ivory trafficking in

Southeast Cameroon and the increasing difficulties faced by Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) to wade off the killing. "There are just 30 poorly equipped game rangers to protect a forest massif spanning more than 300,000 hectares," explained Fouda Expedit, WWF Park Assistant for Nki. "Most of the poachers are armed with automatic rifles whereas you have as many as 10 game rangers to one old Mass 36 gun, which is not capable of dissuading these illegal hunters. Poachers communicate using Thuraya satellite phones while rangers do not even have walkie talkies" he explained.

Nki forms part of TRIDOM (Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe) that respectively comprise protected areas in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon. However, TRIDOM activities have been slow to take off even though Ministers in charge of Forestry and Wildlife of the aforementioned states had earlier signed the TRIDOM accord. "The delay in launching TRIDOM activities is playing negatively against our effort," stated Mboh Dandjouma, Park Warden for Nki.

By Fidelis Manga

G8+6 AMBASSADORS SUPPORT WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CAMEROON

WWF Cameroon has continued to campaign for a reduction in the intensity of poaching and as part of that a reduction in the number of guns of war (Kalashnikovs) circulating in our forests.



Monkey caught by a poacher

Following the letter by WWF DG Jim Leape to the Prime Minister of Cameroon (Oct '10), WWF Cameroon Conservation Director was invited by the key Ambassadors stationed in Cameroon (the so-called « G8+6 »), to present the situation personally. Following the presentation, the Ambassador of EU in Cameroon has written to the Prime Minister on behalf of the 12 Ambassadors / representatives, calling for action to uphold the Wildlife Law and avert the poaching problem country wide.

»The letter is strong and to the point calling on the Government to bring about the necessary changes in the enforcement of the Cameroon Wildlife Law. The letter adds significant pressure on to the Government of Cameroon to address the scale and intensity of the poaching situation. We believe that the letter will help us secure our short-term goal - an Inter-ministerial meeting on the poaching and widespread use of arms of war; and thereafter pressure for the adoption of a Regional Law Enforcement plan as part of Yaounde+10 », said David Hoyle, CCPO Conservation Director.

FIVE ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL PARROT CAPTURE IN LOBÉKÉ

Game rangers in the Lobéké National Park, East Region of Cameroon, situated some 824km from Yaounde have arrested a "notorious" parrot capturer, Roger Atangana and five others, attempting to capture these highly priced birds inside the park.

Rangers had on February 16 stopped Atangana and his crew while they were still on their way to the park. "Rangers seized five caller parrots (parrots used to entice other parrots) and warned the suspects not to attempt entering the park again," said Albert Mounnga, park Warden (Conservator) for Lobéké. "But to our greatest surprise, we received information from local people three days later that Atangana was back to the park with a five-man team." According to the Conservator, "the suspect and his collaborators have been involved in parrot trafficking in the area for more than 13 years. They have captured more than 12,000 parrots in the last decade," revealed Mounnga.

This is the seventh time Atangana has been arrested inside Lobéké capturing parrots. A recidivist, he succeeded in escaping from the firm grip of game rangers in 2008 after he was arrested with 167 parrot heads.

Unlike in the past where parrots were captured live, capturers now brutally behead and smoke the heads of the birds. "This is a heinous practice which must be stopped at any cost if we must save parrots in Southeast Cameroon," stated Zacharie Nzooh, WWF Project Manager for Lobéké.

By Fidelis Manga

CCPO CONSERVATION WOMEN SPEAK OUT



From L to R: M. Madeleine, Cathy, Anne

Women are still regarded as devoted to the household and it is difficult to break away from this stereotype, especially in rural communities. To be taken seriously, women should put more efforts in their activities than men do. Conservationists women are however even more courageous than men are. The positive aspect of this consideration is that the presence of a woman in a team makes people less aggressive and more sensitive. However, in order not to offend local communities, it is wise to have a humble and sober attitude during visits to the field, that means avoid makeup or jewelry. Although it is a daily challenge to work in Conservation, the consideration of women has evolved in WWF, which is composed just about 20% of women. To give more courage to women in conservation, it is important to have role models, and for that, there are many brave women in the organization. It is true that it is not always easy to leave family behind and being separated for a long time, but these are the requirements of the profession. Looking at the impact of our actions, we realize it worth the sacrifice.

By Marie-Madeleine Bassalang, Cathy Tekam, Anne Ntongho

A «BRAVEHEART» IN CONSERVATION

Nadege Wangué is a young female graduated in Forestry Sciences, with a specialty in Biodiversity and Forest Products. She recently conducted monitoring activities in Ikwa Bai situated four days walking distance from the WWF Ngoyla base. This experience was one of the most outstanding of her life, given challenges she faced as a young woman involved in conservation in Cameroon.



Looking around me, I was struck by the continuing degradation of our environment and the consequences that this degradation has on humanity. So I wondered what we would leave to future generations if humans continue to behave so irresponsibly towards nature which offers free resources.

My penchant for saving the environment does not start today because I worked in the Club of Friends of Nature in high school. My involvement in conservation steadily began in 2007 so I decided to specialize in this domain.

It is not easy for women to integrate into conservation work because most conservationists believe it is a job meant exclusively for men. To easily get integrated, I work hard; I am patient and use my authority when necessary.



But I remain convinced that passion, dedication and competence build my strengths to overcome any challenge.

I observed that globally, there is a gradual emulation for conservation. Environmental education is becoming more fruitful because the local people I have met have good understanding of the importance of sustainably managing their forest resources.

In 2010, my stay at Ikwa Bai was to conduct monitoring activities. I was able to produce a report on Monitoring of gorillas and other large mammals in the clearing of forest Ikwa Bai Nki National Park (Southeast Cameroon). In 2011, I will acquire more experience to better work for the conservation of biodiversity.

By Flora Lamero

WWFCAR LEARNS FROM ICLS AND WWF US IN WASHINGTON D.C.

By Florence Anoubodem



Jean-Bernard Yarissem with teacher (in green) and classmates

During his stay, he was attending school in the morning and working in the afternoon at WWF US office. He was posted at the Congo Basin Department where Allard Blom and Brandi Klotz provided him with full logistic support and mostly introduced him in the vast family of WWF US. This gave him the opportunity to work in close collaboration and to meet with a range of key collaborators of the CAR program. He took this advantage to learn from them but also to boost CAR-

PO's image throughout CAR programs presenting their operational strategy, achievements, challenges and vision for the futur.

According to JB Yarissem: "This trip was really encouraging for me as it allowed me discover new people, performed my english and mainly talked about CAR program. It helped me to realize that many people abroad in our outside WWF's network are continuously working to support what we are doing on the ground and that they need from us more information from the ground too".

FIRST GABONESE STUDENT AT MWEKA WILDLIFE COLLEGE IN TANZANIA

The Mweka College of African Wildlife Management - at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania - has received its first Gabonese student in 2010.

By Joseph Mayombo



Marlene in front of the college

Marleine Aboumgone, a Gabonese graduate from the forestry school of Gabon (*ENEF*) started her one-year postgraduate diploma studies in August 2010. Marleine began her conservation career in 2007 as a trainee from the ENEF in the WWF Minkebe programme. After this she continued as a junior consultant for the Minkebe / TRIDOM Gabon Program – working with communities on hunting management related to the

periphery of the Mwagna National Park and drafting a management plan for the park. The news is that she is doing very well in her class. She will come back to Gabon in July 2011, with a new refreshing degree, a new experience in a very different part of Africa, and good knowledge of English (*and, maybe, kiswahili!*). For her study at Mweka, Marleine has benefited from the support from WWF-US and matching support from WWF NL Forest Program (*Minkebe project*).

NEW RECRUITS



Daniel Mueto joined WWF-DRC last Feb.1, 2011 as Logistic Manager. Before joining WWF-DRC, he worked recently with Oxfam in Haiti, OIM/UNDP (International Organization for Migrants) as Logistician in Sud-Kivu, DRC



CCPO is happy to announce the recruitment of the new Project Manager for its MTN project in the north, **Philip Forboseh**. Philip is a trained forester. For the last five years he has been working for Plan Cameroon as Evaluation and Research Manager (*and recently acting Director of Programmes*).

INTERNS

Betty Bernice Lepengue a rejoint l'équipe de WWF Gabon comme stagiaire professionnelle chargée de la logistique, basée à Libreville. Betty a une expérience de trois ans acquises dans des structures de renommée au Gabon, dont Gabontour et Enelec.



Raphaël Dupriez a rejoint l'équipe de DACEFI-2 au Gabon pour la réalisation de son stage de fin d'étude. Raphaël est étudiant en 2ème année de Master de Gestion des espaces naturels et des forêts à l'Université de Liège, Gembloux Agro Bio-Tech, en Belgique.



Bryan Curran has joined the team at Dzanga-Sangha as Technical Advisor in February. Bryan has long experience in conservation management in the Congo Basin and will be a great 'aide de camp' in developing our strategies and programmes in the wider TNS.



WWF CAR has acquired last February the services of **Thomas Martensson** as a Consultant to Dzanga-Sangha to take charge of logistics.

DEPARTURES



Ken Creighton, former GHOA NI, Senior Carbon Policy Advisor.



Liu Caifeng, former China-Africa Senior Policy Coordinator.



Valentin MBENZO, former Field Team Leader in the Lac Tumba Program.



Stefan De Greling, former Regional Fundraising & Partnership Director.



Joseph Okala, former GHOA NI Senior Finance Officer.

HEARTWARMING EVENT



Philippe KINKELA and Cécile MOMBI got married last January 7, 2011 in Kinshasa. Philippe joined WWF DRC in June 2004, and is currently the Programme Accounting Officer. The newly weds proudly had four kids before deciding to throw a party!

We wish them all the best in their new careers.

TRIBUTE TO ISABELLA AKWA ADE spouse TAMUNGANG

I was in the office on February 24th, 2011 when at about 8.30 am my phone rang. Isabella's sister was on line and could not talk to me, she was only crying... I guessed that she is dead. Then I withheld my breath and asked her to calm down and tell me what was going on; she released the famous sentence "Isa is dead, she is no more". The news sounded very deep in me and I felt like the world was falling on me. I got confused. I shouted and cried loud. I felt so bad!!!!

Isa was a sister, a friend to me. I wish that God keeps her near Him.

Prudencia BIH FONGUH,
Office assistant, CCPO



« **Que le Seigneur aime ce qui est bien !** »

Isabella AKWA ADE épouse TAMUNGANG, ce nom que nous ne prononcerions désormais qu'avec larmes aux yeux !

Toi qui symbolisais pour nous Amour, Intégrité, Humilité, Modestie, Intelligence et Sagesse !

Toi qui, sur le plan professionnel, étais synonyme de qualité, rigueur et ponctualité ! Tu laisses un vide incommensurable et des souvenirs inoubliables au sein de la famille WWF en général et du Projet DACEFI 2 en particulier, Projet dont tu étais la pierre d'angle!

Que ta progéniture, ton époux et tous ceux qui te sont Chers trouvent réconfort en Dieu !

« Bon voyage » ISA et repose en Paix !

Norbert SONNE
CCPO, Coordonnateur DACEFI 2,

It is with great sadness that the WWF family learnt of the passing away of one of our key staff in Cameroon, ISABELLA AKWA ADE on 24th February, after a very brief illness.

Isabella was the Forest Enterprise Development Officer on the DACEFI Community Forestry project.

Isabella served WWF with all her heart for close to one year and has been one of the main pivots of WWF work on Community Forestry in Cameroon. The entire WWF family and conservation world is going to miss her so much.

David HOYLE
Conservation Director CCPO

Isabella a commencé à travailler avec WWF Cameroun en avril 2010 au moment où je prenais fonction comme Directeur National de ce programme.

J'ai gardé d'Isabella: la discrétion et la priorité qu'elle a donnée à son travail; Il y avait deux lieux où je pouvais rencontrer Isabella:

+ sa table de travail ou
+ la cuisine (entre midi et deux)

Son ardeur au travail et sa discrétion ont fait que, même après près d'un an passé dans le bureau de Yaoundé, nombreux étaient ceux comme moi qui ignoraient que son époux faisait parti de l'équipe du Cameroun.

Nous avons perdu, une collègue mais surtout une dame qui valorisait son travail...

Que nos prières l'accompagnent.

Basile YAPO
CCPO Director

Isabella avait participé à notre réunion sur «femmes et conservation» il y a quelques mois, elle avait raconté avec humour ses séjours en forêt et surtout comment elle se faisait protéger par les chauffeurs qui l'accompagnaient pendant ses missions. De cette façon, elle n'était pas importunée par les messieurs. Elle disait aussi que la tenue (vestimentaire et comportementale) était importante pour être respectée.

Claude DIWOUTA-LOTH
Regional People and Development Director

It has been a pleasure to see the outpouring of messages honoring our dear friend Isabelle. Messages were sent from all over the WWF network. From our US office from Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands. Isabelle clearly had an impact on WWF and touched all those who worked with her. She was warm, friendly and a great team player. She was such a likeable and open hearted person who never missed an opportunity to relate to her great passion for community livelihoods issues. She was willing to offer her expertise in this domain during our Regional Livelihoods workshop last October. After only a few months at WWF Isabelle was the winner of the staff meeting quiz that was how keen and abreast she was on WWF activities. The very last time I exchanged with her she looked sharp and imparted her usual warmth. News of her death hit us with shock and disbelief. We have lost a dedicated, selfless and committed staff member. Though we mourn with her family, we will continue to uphold the values and selfless sacrifice she made to our local conservation communities during her numerous field trips.
Farewell Isabella

Natasha QUIST
CARPO Regional Representative