

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM



Project: Strengthening the Management of Wildlife and Improving Livelihoods in Northern Republic of Congo



Image by US FWS / Flickr

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Nouabale-Ndoki National Park; Ntokou Pikounda; Yengo-Moali

Species Focus: Elephants, Silverback Gorilla and Hippopotamus

Total Project Cost: US\$6.5 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development

GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank

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CONTEXT

Congo's forest biodiversity is one of the richest and most biologically important on the planet. Around 65% of the country is covered by lowland tropical forests which possess a wealth of biodiversity including forest elephants and leopards, and provide important sources of income and livelihood products for many local communities and indigenous peoples. However, forest habitats are being fragmented and destroyed due to unregulated forestry and the uncontrolled harvesting of non-timber forest products. Commercial logging opens up formerly inaccessible forest, which facilitates the decline of wildlife populations from unsustainable hunting and illegal wildlife trade.

The Congolese government has made significant contributions towards protecting the forest by creating national parks. Other actions include the establishment of a National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP)/National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP), the establishment of priorities for protection of twelve trans-boundary conservation areas through the "Plan de Convergence", and the regional trans-boundary biodiversity efforts focused in the Tri-national Sangha region.

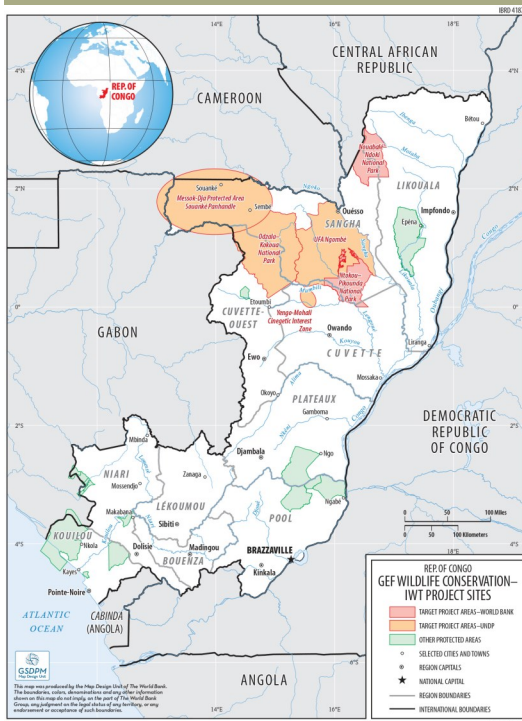
PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Congo project aims to increase the capacity of the forest administration, local communities and indigenous peoples to co-manage forests. The project's main components are:

- Capacity building of the forest administration
- Involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in forest resource management
- Prospective work and communications
- Habitat and biodiversity conservation

PROJECT FOCUS

- Strengthening Local Governance (design and implementation of microprojects, operation support to manage fund)
- Development of National Parks
- Scaled-Up Agroforestry Microprojects (inputs and training, demonstration plots, storage, processing, marketing)
- Strengthen legal & regulatory framework (review wildlife crime legislation; establish a Criminal Records Management System (CRMS) & Database; Establish canine detection units)
- Strengthen international cooperation (Regional Wildlife Enforcement Network)
- Awareness generation through sensitization campaigns



See the World Bank website for more information: [Global Wildlife Program](#)