

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PROJECT: Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Congo

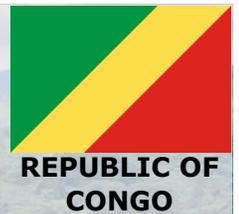


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OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Odzala-Kokoua NP, Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, Proposed Messok Dja National Park forest concessions of Ngombé, Tala-Tala, Jua-Ikié, Kélé-Mbomo, the Djoua-Ivindo Forest Triangle Massif

Species Focus: Elephants and gorillas

Total Project Cost: US\$3.13 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment (MEFDE)

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Contact: Lumiere Jean-Felix Issang, jean-felix.issang@undp.org
AMPOLO Alain Noël, alain.ampolo@undp.org



CONTEXT

The Republic of Congo is home to one of the richest and most biologically important and intact-forest ecosystems on the planet. Over 65% of the country is covered by lowland tropical forests. It is home to a diverse range of rare and endangered mammals, insects and plants. The biodiversity in the Congolese area within the Minkébé-Odzala-Dja Interzone in Gabon, Congo, and Cameroon, also known as the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) transboundary area, is threatened by IWT, especially by bush meat and ivory poaching. Its forests are target by poachers and its roads and towns constitute a transit route for trafficked wildlife from other countries. Local people accrue little of the benefits, watch their natural resources being depleted, and they face compromised security in their daily lives. Forest elephant populations in TRIDOM decreased by 50% between 2002 and 2011. In addition, protected area managers often lack the financial and technical resources sufficient to efficiently manage these areas.

Safeguarding Congo's ecosystems, and addressing the IWT challenge, are now pivotal to Congolese national development plans. Conservation efforts include the establishment of a National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP)/National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP), the establishment of priorities for protection of 12 trans-boundary conservation areas through the "Plan de Convergence", the regional trans-boundary biodiversity efforts focused in the TRIDOM region, and the implementation of the Sectoral Forest and Environment Programs (FESP).

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Congo project aims to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in the basins of the Republic of Congo by improving biodiversity enforcement. The project's main components are:

- Expanding the network of globally significant protected areas in the Congo Basin
- Strengthening capacity for effective protected area (PA) and Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) governance in Congo
- Reducing poaching and illegal trade on threatened species via community based natural resource management (CBNRM) and sustainable livelihoods

PROJECT FOCUS

- Sustainable livelihood and CBNRM (training, pilot projects, subgrant program)
- Integrated Management Plans for protected areas (including law enforcement and wildlife monitoring, and establishment of functional zones around PAs)
- Mainstreaming sustainable natural resource management practices in other economic sectors
- Implementation of National IWT enforcement strategy (capacity development, establishment of National Wildlife Crime Enforcement Unit, detection dog units)
- International agreements between Congo, Gabon, and Cameroon for transboundary biodiversity conservation and IWT issues)

