Global Synthesis Report of Participatory Mapping Activities

Rapport de Synthèse Globale des Activités de Cartographie participative

May 2009-July 2011 Global Synthesis Report of Activities Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin

-- 1 of 60 --

participatory mapping project in the Congo basin 2 BRAINFOREST Ambowé District, P.O. Box: 23 749 Libreville – Tel: 07 97 84 25 E-mail: info@brain-forest.org – www.brain-forest.org Registration No: 00265/MISPD/SG/CT - NIF: 89616C ©May 2009- July 2011 REPORT PRESENTED BY DJINANG Martial NGUEMA ALLOGO Freddy NZIENGUI KASSA Sam MEYE OBIANG Olivier

-- 2 of 60 --

May 2009-July 2011 Global Synthesis Report of Activities Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin

-- 3 of 60 --

participatory mapping project in the Congo basin 4 Summary General context .....5 Objectives .....9 Site selection .....11 Methodology and Activities .....13 i - Methodology .....13 ii - Activities .....14 Results and Recommendations by area .....17 i - Woleu-Ntem area: Minvoul .....17 ii - Ngounié area: Ikobey .....29 iii - Ogooué-Ivindo area: Makokou .....35 iv - Estuary area: left bank..... 44 Difficulties .....55 General conclusion.....57

-- 4 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 5 General context Gabonese forests are of vital biological wealth and constitute an important source of income for the country, but they are also the means of existence for tens of thousands of Gabonese. The issue of natural resource governance has increased more and more in our century, particularly through the cohabitation on common lands of several actors with objectives and interests that are not always convergent. Indeed, while some appropriate the forest space for economic and conservation needs, others see it primarily as their main habitat, the place where they extract the elements necessary for their survival. As a result, rural populations, forest and mining concessionaires, as well as protected area managers appropriately share the same forest space, with few exceptions. In addition to the populations it contains, whose survival is closely linked to the use of the forest and its resources, the Gabonese forest space is characterized by the development of several natural

resource management processes. These include: Iron exploitation The Ogooué-Ivindo province contains one of the largest iron reserves in the world, the exploitation of which has been entrusted to a Chinese consortium (CEMEC). This mining concession spans 7,700 km².

-- 5 of 60 --

participatory mapping project in the Congo basin 6 The presence of Protected Areas: In August 2002, President Omar Bongo Ondimba created, through a series of presidential decrees, a Network of 13 national parks, covers 30,138 km² (including 1,293 km² of marine territory), or more than 11% of the national territory. The creation of these national parks will constitute an unparalleled initiative in Central Africa and will place Gabon at the top of the African hierarchy in terms of protected area management. The existence of forest concessions The national forest landscape is also characterized by the presence of several forest concessions under sustainable management (Rougier Gabon, TTIB, Olam Gabon, HTG, Sunry Gabon, Grand Bois, etc.) on one hand and concessions not yet in operation on the other. Several studies conducted previously indicate that local and indigenous populations primarily rely on the extraction of natural resources in the forest through their fishing, gathering, hunting, agriculture activities, etc. Similarly, studies such as: "Natural Resource Management by the Populations of Komo-Ocean" (Adventure Without Borders), "The MaRP Report" (Brainforest 2008), "Land Management in Rural Areas" (Brainforest, 2010) and "Characterization of the Activities of the Population of Makokou within the Ivindo National Park" (Marion Viano, 2005), have revealed that several of the aforementioned activities are carried out in village territories, which are mostly located within or on the periphery of the national parks and the above-mentioned forest and mining concessions. This situation of cohabitation among different users places our country at the center of a global concern, which is that of reconciling the rights and interests of communities with the needs for sustainable forest management. Given this observation and in the interest of promoting the rights of local communities, the legislator adopted in 2007 Law No. 003/2007 of August 27, 2007

-- 6 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 7 regarding national parks. This text, while advocating for the participatory management of national parks, has provided several elements that materialize the consideration of the rights and interests of local communities. These include: – the creation, classification, and total or partial declassification of national parks taking into account the customary rights of local communities (Article 4); – the modification of the boundaries of a national park or its peripheral zone must be preceded by an environmental impact study, after consultation with local authorities and communities (Article 7); – the creation of a peripheral zone and a buffer zone in each national park (Articles 13, 14, and 15); – the creation of a local management advisory committee in each park (Articles 18 and 45); – the consideration of local populations' usage rights in the management plans of national parks (Article 21); – the possibility of modifying the boundaries of a national park by decree taken in the Council of Ministers without resulting in a diminution greater than two percent (2%) of the area of the concerned park, for a period of five years from the promulgation of the law on national parks (Article 69). Regarding the forestry and maritime sectors, the legislator, through the Forestry Code and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Code, has also provided other mechanisms for participation and safeguarding the rights of communities, which can be summarized as follows: – the creation of a rural forest domain (Article 5, Forestry Code); – customary usage rights (Article 14 and Chapter VI, Forestry Code and Article 4 of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Code); – community forests (Article 156, Forestry Code); – administrative hunting (Article 196, Forestry Code), initiated by the administration to cull animals in case of crop destruction or threat to human lives by them; – the contribution of forest operators to the realization of social works in villages (Article 251, Forestry Code); – legitimate defense (Articles 171 and 172 of the Forestry Code).

-- 7 of 60 --

participatory mapping project in the Congo basin 8 Still in this perspective, a Sectoral Program for Forest and Environment (PSFE) has been initiated. One of its merits has been not only to foresee the participation of communities in the management of natural resources but also to equip our country with a development plan for indigenous peoples. Given the multiplicity of actors in the management of natural resources, the confusion between certain village territories and spaces reserved for other forest users, and also considering the limited capacities of communities to secure their land space and participate in the sustainable management processes of natural resources as prescribed by current legislation, Brainforest, with the support of the Rainforest Foundation United Kingdom, deemed it necessary to bring its experience to the various actors in general and to local communities in particular through the participatory mapping project. Indeed, current research on deforestation and the mechanisms that can prevent it suggest that securing land tenure and customary rights is one of the most effective ways to protect forests and reduce the poverty of forest communities.

-- 8 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 9 Objectives The participatory mapping project broadly aims to promote the consideration of the rights of forest communities in legislative, political, and strategic processes regarding access, control, and use of forests. This overall objective breaks down into three specific objectives that concern: – the strengthening of the capacities of local communities including indigenous peoples, civil society members, and state agents in participatory mapping; – supporting communities in producing participatory maps of their village territories and the use of forest resources; – using the participatory maps thus produced, to take into account the rights of communities in various local and regulatory processes concerning the management of natural resources.

-- 9 of 60 --

participatory mapping project in the Congo basin 10

-- 10 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 11 Site Selection The selection of sites and partner communities was based on a number of almost common criteria. These include: – the issue of access to forest resources experienced by local and indigenous communities due to their strong dependence on forests for their survival, particularly for indigenous peoples (Minvoul, Makokou, Pongara, and Ikobey); – the human-elephant conflict (Makokou and Pongara); – the absence of economic benefits despite logging activities (Ikobey, Minvoul, and Makokou); – the lack of knowledge and absence of demarcation of national park boundaries and their peripheral zones (Ivindo, Minkébé, Pongara, and Waka); – the proximity of these communities to the Bélinga site (Makokou); – inter-community conflicts regarding customary land ownership (Makokou); – overlap and sometimes confusion between village territories, concessions, and protected areas (Minvoul, Makokou, Ikobey, and Pongara); – weak capacities of local communities in terms of knowledge of their customary rights and methodologies to access them (Minvoul, Makokou, Ikobey, and Pongara). – the absence of a formal framework for consultation among the various actors involved in the management of natural resources at the local level.

-- 11 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 12

-- 12 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 13 Methodology and Activities i - Methodology To achieve

its objectives, the project adopted a participatory approach based broadly on strengthening the capacities of project actors, exchanges, data collection, validation missions of the produced maps, and workshops to contribute to the establishment of frameworks for collaborative management of natural resources. To produce more impact, we ensured to work with the following different categories: local communities, technical administrations, and civil society organizations. Specifically regarding the administration and with the aim of producing more impact, the project worked with both central and local administrations. In the context of capacity building and beyond the various training sessions provided, Brainforest ensured to involve stakeholders in field missions, allowing them to connect theory to practice, but also to ensure that representatives of the administration better understand community realities. To facilitate their participation in negotiations with the administration and the relevant technical services and other forest users, for better access to resources and equitable sharing of benefits, community representatives were trained in advocacy techniques. In general, we always held preparatory meetings prior to major gatherings with all representatives of local and indigenous communities.

-- 13 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 14 The multi-actor dialogue approach was also used within the framework of this project, in order to contribute to the development of participatory management in the locality focused on the participation of communities not only in discussions, planning but also in forest management and enjoying the related benefits. ii - Activities Trainings Training of technicians on the use of GPS and map development, facilitators in participatory research techniques, and training of local cartographers and educational discussions (on the possible uses of the produced maps, on supporting the definition of criteria for choosing community representatives for negotiations, advocacy, and lobbying techniques). Pre-prospection Mission With the objectives of understanding the general context with a focus on the issue of natural resource management; establishing contact with authorities, administrations, and local communities and presenting the project to them; and finally defining the criteria for selecting the communities with which the project will be implemented. Prospection Mission This allows for a return to the presentation of the project to partners and to better understand the chosen communities (lifestyle, natural resource management, level of development, conflicts related to resource use, etc.). It is also during this mission that all logistical elements (the road and river paths traveled by the communities, the time spent in the forest, the ground realization of the map of territories and resource use, then its transposition on paper, the restoration of teams in the forest, etc.) are prepared.

-- 14 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 15 Data Collection Mission This takes place in two phases; indeed, while several teams (composed of facilitators and representatives of communities acting as local cartographers) go into the forest equipped with notebooks and GPS for collecting points concerning village territories and the activities practiced there, another team works in the village to deepen socio-economic studies (Participatory Research). The processing of GPS data and map production This work is based on all the points collected by the forest teams. Map Validation Mission During this mission, the aim is to present to stakeholders in general and to communities in particular the drafts of the maps and socio-economic study reports produced for amendments. The production of a model in Ikobey within the framework of participatory mapping 3D.

-- 15 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 16 Mission for the submission of maps and support for communities: in defining the criteria for choosing their representatives for

exchanges with the administration. This mission is often followed or combined with the Educational Discussion Mission with local communities on advocacy and lobbying techniques and the adoption of a lobbying strategy; Multi-actor Workshop: or local restitution to present the results and discuss the establishment of a framework for collaborative management of natural resources; Support Mission for Stakeholders: in implementing the recommendations of the multi-actor workshop, and consultations with stakeholders on the content of a memorandum of understanding between the administration and communities on the practice of customary and economic usage rights in the Minkébé West forest massif. Mission for presentation and amendment of the produced protocol model.

-- 16 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 17 Results and Recommendations by Area i - Zone of Woleu-Ntem: Minvoul Figure: Location and distribution of space in the Woleu-Ntem province

-- 17 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 18 Figure: Map of the location of studied villages i -1) Results of the participatory mapping project in Minvoul a) in terms of Capacity Building Training in participatory mapping, GPS handling, and data collection In the context of implementing the project in Gabon, particularly for the launch in the province, 28 people were trained in participatory work methods (approach to working with local communities, participatory mapping). Six (6) people from central and local administration participated in this training, along with twenty (20) people from national and international civil society. Additionally, 17 members of communities from the 4 villages were trained on the use of GPS and data collection.

-- 18 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 19 Table 1: People trained in participatory research methods No. Name and Surname Organization Facilitators 0 Georges-Thierry Handja Rainforest Foundation UK Participants 1 Joe Eisen Rainforest Foundation UK 2 Edwige Eyang Effa Brainforest 3 Martial Djining Brainforest 4 Jean François Ondzagh Mba Brainforest 5 Richelieu Zue Obame Brainforest 6 Meye Obiang Olivier Brainforest 7 Nziengui Kassa Sam Brainforest 8 Estime Rosaire Mbithe Minapyga 9 Louis Nzenget Ndangou Image Gabon Nature 10 Henri Ndong Génération Eau Claire 11 Lydie Tesse Eden 12 Alex Oke Minso Edzengui (Minvoul) 11 Mezui M’ekogha Antoine MineF Minvoul 13 Rafael Aouba (Sociologist) ASF 14 Parfait Ndong Ondo ASF 15 Magama Mucketu Pépin ANPN 16 Jean Daniel Moukgani Ikapi Conservator Minkebe West 17 Audrey Pamela Maroundou Fensed 18 Géraldine Obone Ndong Iret 19 Jean Paul Obame ANPN, MineF, ENEF 20 Frédéric Parfait Ella ARIGA 21 Pierre Miglet MineF 22 Marc Ella Akou WWF 23 Hervé Nziengui Nzahou Ami du Pangolin 24 France Carole Bella Conscience Baleine 25 Paulin Yembi CADDE 26 Carmen Kouerey ASF Figure: Distribution of participants based on their professional background

-- 19 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 20 Support for communities in defining the criteria for choosing their representatives; Support in defining the role and responsibilities of these representatives towards their communities To initiate the negotiation and lobbying phase with decision-makers and thus ensure that their maps and rights are recognized and taken into account in local processes regarding natural resource management, communities were supported in defining the criteria for choosing their representatives, also called "community deputies." Regarding these choices, our support led the communities to define criteria based on both representativeness and effectiveness. Regarding the aspect of representativeness, the

communities, referring to the coexistence of Fang/Baka, retained an equal distribution of seats between these ethnic groups. This decision was effectively implemented by the stakeholders. In terms of effectiveness, the communities wished for their potential representatives to meet the following conditions: – be available for the community. – have a good knowledge of the forest and have participated in the process from the beginning. – be eloquent and have the ability to express themselves easily in public; – be identified as someone positive and having exemplary behavior within their community. Support was also provided to communities in defining the role and responsibilities of the chosen representatives. Indeed, while comparing them to members of the national assembly, they were given the mission to promote the interests of all their members to other stakeholders, particularly regarding the management of natural resources in the Minkébé massif. They were also recommended to prioritize the interests of the group over their personal and selfish interests. Ultimately, the obligation to report back to their community on the activities carried out within the framework of these projects was also recommended.

-- 20 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 21 table summarizing representatives and resource persons noMS and pRénoMS Community Ethnic Group Title 1-NDONG MBOULA Alain Bitouga/ Association Edzengui Baka Resource Person 2-OKE MINSO'O Alex President of Association Edzengui Baka Resource Person 3-BITEGHE Edgar Elarmintang Fang Resource Persons 4-MEDANG René Doumassi Baka Representative 5-MBAZOGHE Melvin Doumassi Baka Representative 6-BIYOGHE Jean Doumassi Fang Representative 7-MEYONG ME NNA Richard Doumassi Fang Representative 8-EDAN Clément Doumassi Fang Representative 9-NTOUTOUME EKOME Léon Bitouga Baka Representative 10-AKARE Michel Bitouga Baka Representative 11-ETIME AZOMBE Blaise Bitouga Baka Representative 12-FANKEM Jean-Marie Bitouga Naturalized Gabonese Representative 13-EBIO Joseph Esseng/Elarmintang Fang ASF 14-NDONG Alain Esseng/Elarmintang Fang ASF 15-NTOUTOUME Robert Esseng/Elarmintang Baka ANPN 16-BIKE Benjamin Esseng/Elarmintang Baka Minkebe West Conservator 17-BWASSEBA Bertrand Eto'o Baka FENSED 18-NDZOBO Gervais Eto'o Baka IRET 19-BISSO'O Hubert Eto'o Fang ANPN, MINEF, ENEF Educational talk with community representatives on Advocacy / Lobbying and support in defining an advocacy plan to effectively engage the negotiation phase with decision-makers for better consideration of their rights and interests in the local resource management system, based on the produced maps, we thought it wise to proceed with a prior preparation of the communities. They were notably educated on the stakes of advocacy and the steps or tips to follow for an effective campaign. Following this training, the communities found it wise to adopt a unique presentation plan of their situation regarding their rights in natural resource management in the area. To do this, they agreed on the necessity of using their participatory mapping works as an illustration tool. As a result, the communities are now capable of clearly presenting their problems and related solutions regarding land and resource management.

-- 21 of 60 --

Participatory mapping project in the Congo basin 22 b) in terms of map and document production Maps Produced A total of 4 maps of village territories and natural resource use by the communities were produced as part of the project in the Woleu-Ntem (see figures below): Figure: map of village territories and natural resource use of the Doumassi community

-- 22 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 23 Figure: map of village territories and natural resource use of the Elarmintang community Figure: map of territories and natural resource use of the Eto'o communities

-- 23 of 60 --

Participatory mapping project in the Congo basin 24 Figure 1: map of natural resource use of the Bitouga community Considering the various participatory maps from the communities, several conclusions can be drawn. The occupation of the used space depends on the means of transport and the type of path taken, but also on the distance or proximity of the resource to the village and the related activity. Documents produced A Study Report titled: "Lifestyle and Natural Resource Management by Communities Living on the Periphery of the Minkébé West National Park: Case of the Villages Doumassi, Bitouga, Eto'o and Elarmintang" this report, as its title indicates, presents the lifestyle and management of natural resources by the communities as well as the main difficulties they face in accessing them, was produced to support the participatory maps.

-- 24 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 25 While presenting the historical context with the eviction by the colonizer of Minkébé, this report presents the strong attachment of the communities in the area to the use of natural resources for their survival. This report also discusses issues related to natural resource management: existence of poor natural resource management practices, conflicts regarding space use, absence of a dialogue framework between different forest users, issues of access and use of resources by communities, absence of delimitation of the park and its peripheral zone, absence of benefits from logging for communities, etc.) in the area. The report also proposes some recommendations: environmental education, development of alternatives to hunting, consideration of community usage rights in the management of the park and the TTIB forest concession, materialization of the park's limits and its peripheral zone based on participatory mapping. A Report from the Joint Workshop regarding Brainforest's contribution to the implementation of a concerted natural resource management framework in the Minkébé West forest massif (Minvoul) as part of its projects "participatory mapping in the Congo basin" and "Facilitating community involvement in the management of national parks in Gabon" Brainforest organized a workshop on its contribution to the implementation of a concerted natural resource management framework. Through this, it was a matter of broadly contributing to the establishment in the Minvoul area of a concerted natural resource management framework that takes into account the rights of local and indigenous communities. Specifically, it was about: – Providing feedback on the participatory mapping and research work conducted on forest management by local and indigenous communities of Minkébé; – Facilitating dialogue between the different actors involved in the management of Minvoul forests on the current natural resource management system and the desired changes;

-- 25 of 60 --

Participatory mapping project in the Congo basin 26 – Facilitating the consideration of community rights in local forest management processes through the capitalization of participatory mapping and research work conducted; – Initiating reflection on the idea of establishing a natural resource management monitoring committee in the Minvoul area. This report extensively covers the proceedings and content of the exchanges as well as the resolutions that were made to ensure the effective involvement of communities and the good management of resources in the Minkébé forest massif. A memorandum of understanding regarding the practice of subsistence activities through the enjoyment of customary and economic rights by communities in the Minkébé West forest massif Following the workshop organized on September 4, 2010, regarding Brainforest's contribution to the implementation of a concerted management framework for the resources of the Minkébé West forest massif, the communities expressed the need to sign a memorandum of understanding with the relevant technical administrations (National Parks Agency and Water and Forests). This was to indeed

cover the practice of their usage rights in the Minkébé forest massif. At the same time, the responsibility to produce a first version of this document was entrusted to Brainforest. To date, not only has this protocol been produced, but it has also been amended by the various stakeholders who are preparing for its signature. Through this memorandum of understanding, the stakeholders aim to achieve the following objectives: – Fill the gap created by the absence of a management plan for the Minkébé national park; – Reconcile conservation interests with those of local populations while respecting customary and economic usage rights; – Define subsistence activities and the modalities for implementing them in the Minkébé forest massif while awaiting the future development of the national park management plan; – Define the allowed limits for the practice of subsistence activities;

 – Define the materials to be used for the practice of the activities in question; – Materialize the dialogue initiated between the communities and the administration within the framework of the concerted natural resource management process provided for by the regulations in force in the national territory. c) in terms of Participatory Management of Natural Resources and consideration of the rights of local and indigenous communities in natural resource management processes The participatory mapping project has developed a new dynamic around the management of natural resources in the Minkébé forest massif. The project has allowed for the experimentation of the participatory management approach as provided for by the regulations in force in our country. Indeed, through its approach of consulting different parties and multi-stakeholder workshops, the management of Minvoul's resources is gradually being revolutionized. For the first time and officially, communities, NGOs, and administration have been able to come together to exchange not only on the participatory mapping work but also for the establishment of a participatory management model that takes into account the rights of the communities. The fruitful nature of these exchanges is also materialized by the ongoing signature of the aforementioned agreement protocol.

i -2) Opportunities/ Recommendations for Minvoul Drawing inspiration not only from the current context but also from the advances made within the framework of this project in this area, we formulate the following recommendations: – Follow up on the memorandum of understanding currently being signed between the administration and the communities; – Disseminate the signed protocol to the relevant parties, at least those who did not participate in the negotiations; – Establish a restricted committee that will ensure not only compliance with this protocol but also maintain the dynamic initiated around the management of natural resources in Minvoul;

 – Develop a management plan for the national park that takes into account the participatory mapping work carried out and draws inspiration from it; – Given the imminent start of new logging operations in the area, it is important to prepare the communities on the provisions of the forestry code regarding their rights; – Proceed with the delimitation of the park and its peripheral zone using participatory mapping; – Also make use of participatory mapping in the development of management plans for forest concessions; – Ensure to involve logging operators in the dynamic developed around the sustainable management of natural resources in the area; – Develop work avenues on community forests based on participatory mapping.

 ii - Zone of nGoUnié: iKobey ii -1) Results of the participatory 3D mapping project in ikobey Participatory 3D mapping is a community-based

mapping method that "integrates local spatial knowledge with data on land elevation and sea depth to produce autonomous, scaled, and geo-referenced relief models, essentially based on local spatial knowledge. Land use and coverage, among others, are represented by informants on the model, using pins (points), strings (lines), and paints (polygons). At the end, a geo-referenced scale grid is applied to facilitate data extraction or import. The data represented on the model is extracted, digitized, and plotted. Unlike most participatory mapping projects in the Congo Basin, which typically involve the local population through forest outings to collect geo-referenced data, participatory 3D modeling brings different people together in one place, where they transfer their traditional knowledge embedded within them onto the model. The approach is particularly well-suited to areas with rugged or mountainous terrain, such as ikobey. a) Capacity Building This activity, which is the first of its kind in Central Africa, served as a framework for training and capacity building for sub-regional actors. Training in 3D Participatory Mapping As part of the project implementation in the province, nearly (14) villages located in the northeastern outskirts of the park were introduced to participatory 3D mapping methods, and more than 27 individuals from public administrations responsible for natural resource management, national and international civil society organizations were trained in working methodology with communities and 3D mapping during a sub-regional workshop. photo: Training and information on the ins and outs and practice of 3D mapping

-- 30 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 31 Support for Communities in Presenting to Local Authorities the Model and Areas of Activity and Natural Resource Use. In order to enable an effective presentation of the results obtained to decision-makers and ensure that their model is recognized and taken into account, and their knowledge and expertise are valued in local processes regarding natural resource management and tourism, the communities underwent effective preparation. b) in terms of map and document production Maps and Model Produced In total, one model on land use and natural resources by the communities and a 2D map were produced as part of activity 3 in the province (see figures below). Figure 1: map derived from the extraction of data from the 3D model, image from the 3D mapping workshop

-- 31 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 32 Documents Produced A Report on the 3D Participatory Mapping Workshop: This report presents the various stages of the model's construction up to its enrichment by the Babongo and Tsogho communities. It outlines the main lines of the process while revisiting the different lessons learned by the participants. It presents the major recommendations and expectations of the communities regarding the administration (ANPN and Water and Forests) and the main forestry company in the area, Sunly. A Report on the Lifestyle and Natural Resource Management by Local Communities Produced to support the participatory maps, this report presents the different lifestyles and natural resource management practices by the communities as well as the main difficulties they face in accessing these resources. The report also presents some recommendations to be implemented for effective resource management in the area.

-- 32 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 33 ii -2) Opportunities/Recommendations for the ikobey area The main results obtained provide an opportunity to recognize the rights of communities in accessing and managing natural resources through ongoing processes such as: – Establishing collaboration among local actors (WCS, Brainforest, ANPN, MINAPYGA, and local communities) to capitalize on the achievements of 3D. – The establishment of the park management plan inspired by the produced model. The participatory mapping project in the Ngounié province

provided a unique opportunity for the Babongo and Tsogho communities to materialize their intangible traditional knowledge through the construction of a model of land use in the periphery of the Waka National Park. It was also an opportunity for national and international administrations and NGOs to benefit from training and be exposed to PGIS/P3DM methods provided by experts from CTA and IPACC, but this project also facilitated exchange meetings among civil society partners involved in defending the rights of indigenous communities. The adoption of P3DM in Gabon has simultaneously allowed other actors such as conservation organizations to work synergistically with the project by carrying out joint actions to better consider the interests of forest communities in the management of protected areas. We will mention WRI in the context of establishing a forest atlas of Gabon. The produced map is an opportunity that can also be used, among others, by the Ministry of Environment, responsible for developing RPP in the context of the REDD process.

-- 33 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 34 Recommendations and Expectations Expected Actions by the Communities and Targeted Recommendations Change the Name of the Waka National Park to Ikobey National Park, Recede the Park Boundaries, Involve communities in the management of the national park: equitable sharing of resources derived from park management (Babongo and Tsogho), recognition of village territories, consideration of customary rights, and valuing local knowledge of communities in park management. National Agency for National Parks... Receiving benefits from forestry exploitation Ministry of Water and Forests and Forestry Company... Addressing human-wildlife conflict issues (destruction of crops by animals “elephants”...). Educate, Train, and Raise Awareness among communities about the law on national parks and sustainable natural resource management, Establish a concerted framework for natural resource management. National Agency for National Parks, Ministry of Water and Forests, and Ministry of Agriculture and NGOs Acquisition of PGG for construction, Consideration of indigenous people in employment in the projects Ministry of Water and Forests, Forestry Company... Capitalization of results obtained in 3D Administration, Brainforest, WCS, MINAPYGA Facilitation of exchanges among different actors Brainforest and WCS

-- 34 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 35 iii - Zone of oGooUé-ivindo: MaKoKoU Figure: Distribution of space in the province of Ogooué Ivindo Participatory mapping was developed with four (4) villages namely: Loaloa, Mekob, Mayibouth 1, and Adjap. iii -1) Results of the project in Ogooué-Ivindo a) in terms of Capacity Building As part of the project implementation in the province, four (4) individuals from public administrations responsible for local natural resource management were trained in participatory working methods. Similarly, 15 community members from 4 villages were trained in GPS use and data collection for mapping.

-- 35 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 36 Figure: map showing the location of the involved villages

-- 36 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 37 table 1: individuals trained in participatory working methods names and surnames origins Status 1 eSSono bibanG alain Water and Forests Inspection of Ogooué Ivindo Water and Forests Agent 2 KoUbapey Guy Roger anpn- Ivindo National Park/FiGet ecoguide (FiGet) 3 panGona Juste parfait FiGet agent 4 yenZo Rony Ulrich anpn- Minkébé National Park ecogarde (anpn) table 2: distribution of local cartographers trained by their villages villages number of trained cartographers Mayibouth 1 4 Mekob 5

Loaloa 2 Adjap 4 Total 15 To initiate the negotiation and lobbying phase with decision-makers and thus allow their map to be recognized and taken into account in local processes regarding natural resource management, the communities were supported in defining the criteria for choosing their representatives, also called "community deputies." Based on these criteria defined participatively, they proceeded to choose eight (8) individuals who will represent the community as needed to defend its interests in local processes of natural resource management and benefit sharing related to it. table 3: summary of community representatives names and surnames villages contacts ABAH Jean Robert Mekob BASTOTO Célestin Bonasse Mayibouth 1 BOBA Jean-Jacques Adjap- Banapouté David Loaloa MASSONA Albert Loaloa 07 90 50 04 MBAYA MBAYA Judes Paulin Mayibouth 1 07 15 91 20 MOUNGOULOU Jean-Pierre Adjap-Banapouté NDOH OKOYE Daniel Mekob

-- 37 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 38 b) in terms of maps and documents produced Maps Produced 4 participatory maps of village territories and natural resource use by the communities were produced in Ogooué-Ivindo (see figures below): Figure 2: map of natural resource use by the Mayibouth 1 community

-- 38 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 39 Figure 3: map of natural resource use by the Loaloa community Figure 4: map of natural resource use by the Adjap-Banapouté communities

-- 39 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 40 Figure 1: map of natural resource use by the Mekob community

-- 40 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 41 Documents Produced Preliminary Study Report on Ancestral Territories in the Ivindo National Park this study traces the history of the migrations of the Kota people who left the lower Ivindo for the city of Makokou. this study is primarily a tool for guidance for the manager in establishing access and use contracts for natural resources by communities in the park. moreover, the study on ancestral territories unequivocally confirms the belonging and ancestral attachment to these lands by the Kota communities from the neighborhoods of Epassendjè I, II, and Mbolo III, to the Kongou Falls (lower Ivindo). it is more than necessary that the different stakeholders demonstrate openness and dialogue to establish frameworks for consultation and collaboration at the local level and management contracts to take these results into account in the future management plan. this is to ease the existing conflicting relationships regarding the practice of customary usage rights in this area of lower Ivindo. Figure: map of the location of the villages concerned by the preliminary study

-- 41 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 42 Report on the Study of Lifestyle and Natural Resource Management by the communities of Adjap-Banapouté, Mayiboth, Mekob, and Loaloa produced as a complement to the mapping work, this report, as its title indicates, outlines the living conditions of the communities, their dietary habits and their practices in terms of natural resource management. this report also discusses the interactions that exist between the communities and other forest users in the Ogooué-Ivindo. ultimately, while presenting the threshold for considering the rights of communities in local natural resource management processes, the report concludes with several recommendations necessary for establishing a framework for concerted management of natural resources. iii -2) Opportunities / Recommendations for the Ogooué- Ivindo area currently, there are political, strategic, and

legislative processes underway in Gabon that could create opportunities to recognize the land rights and resource use rights of forest communities. likewise, the context of Ogooué-Ivindo, due to the diversity of users in the area and the sometimes conflicting relationships that arise with local communities, needs not only to take these results into account but also to replicate them with new communities for a mapping of the village territories across the province. the present results could be capitalized within the framework of the following processes: – the revision of agreements on wildlife management in the Djoua-Zadié-Mwagne forest block, the management of hunting in the interzone of the Minkébé-Ivindo national parks, and the management of hunting along the Oua River by 2015. moreover, all these protocols have not yet been validated by the supervising minister with his signature. the General Directorate of Water and Forests has planned to

-- 42 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 43 sign these protocols this year as revealed by the annual work plan (PTA) 2011 of said Ministry; – the development of management plans for the Ivindo, Minkébé, and Mwagna national parks; – the development of community mapping by the concessionaires in the context of their management plan (forest and mining concessions); – the identification of communities that should benefit from the returns of mining and forestry operations; – the delimitation of national parks and their buffer and peripheral zones; – the local forest zoning processes; – the creation of community forests; – the sharing with local communities of the benefits derived from the exploitation of natural resources (forest and mining concessions)

-- 43 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 44 iv - Estuary Zone: Left Bank iv -1) Project Results in Pongara a) in terms of capacity building in terms of training and capacity building, the Komo Ocean department hosted an important workshop for the retraining and training of facilitators in participatory mapping: training and capacity building Logical framework forecast 10 new facilitators 10 16 recycled facilitators 18

-- 44 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 45 for this purpose, 26 facilitators were trained in participatory mapping. this included nine (9) agents from public administrations concerned with the management of natural resources and seventeen (17) members of NGOs. the activities developed on the Left Bank also served as a framework for capacity building for local populations. indeed, 12 local mappers distributed as follows benefited from training in GPS handling and data collection: Village Chinchoua, Mvan Ayong, Atonda Simba, Bissobin-am, Matek Mavie, Alarmeké, Oveng and Pointe-Denis Number of mappers Trained 2 2 2 2 2 2 Total 12 b) in terms of maps and documents produced Maps Produced in total, 6 maps of village territories and natural resource use by the communities have been produced. (see figures p.46-48)

-- 45 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 46 Map 1: use of natural resources by the communities of the villages Oveng, Alarmeké, Matek Mavi Map 2: use of natural resources by the communities of Pointe Denis

-- 46 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 47 Map 3: use of natural resources by the communities of Atonda Simba Map 4: use of natural resources by the communities of Bissobin-am and Odoko

-- 47 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 48 Map 5: use of natural resources by the communities of Mvan Ayong Map 6: use of natural resources by the communities of Chinchoua

-- 48 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 49 in summary, 6 definitive maps were created thanks to the collection of more than 400 GPS coordinates by the communities representing the activity sites of 8 villages with a population of approximately 945 individuals, which were the main results obtained. see the table below Number of local mappers trained Number of villages Number of Individuals Number of GPS points Number of ground maps Number of maps produced Number of reports produced 12 8 945 400 5 6 6 Documents Produced A Study Report titled: "Lifestyle and Natural Resource Management by Communities Living in the Periphery of the Pongara National Park" this report, as its title indicates, presents the lifestyle and management of natural resources by the communities as well as the main difficulties they face in accessing them, was produced to support the participatory maps. while presenting the historical context, this report highlights the strong attachment of the communities in the area to the use of natural resources for their survival. this report also discusses issues related to natural resource management (existence of poor natural resource management practices, conflicts regarding space use, absence of a dialogue framework between different forest users, problems of access and use of resources by communities, absence of delimitation of the park and its peripheral zone, absence of returns from forestry exploitation for communities, etc.) in the area and presents some recommendations (environmental education, development of alternatives to hunting, consideration of community usage rights in the management of the park and the forest concession, materialization of the boundaries of the park and its peripheral zone, etc.) as solutions that have been made in this regard.

-- 49 of 60 --

Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin 50 A Report on the restitution of participatory mapping activities conducted with some communities living inside and around the Pongara National Park in order to proceed with the restitution of the results of the projects titled for one "participatory mapping in the Congo basin" and for the other "Facilitating community involvement in the management of national parks in Gabon" that Brainforest has implemented in the area since the year 2009, in collaboration with various target groups (local communities, civil society, administrative authorities, natural resource managers), this, in collaboration with the Rainforest Foundation UK, organized a workshop on the restitution of mapping work. through this, it was a matter of contributing globally to the establishment in the Pongara area of a framework for concerted management of natural resources that takes into account the rights of local and indigenous communities. specifically, it was about: – Restituting the mapping and participatory research work conducted on forest management by local and indigenous communities of Pongara; – Facilitating dialogue between the different actors involved in the management of Pongara forests on the current system of natural resource management and the desired changes; – Facilitating the consideration of community rights in local forest management processes through the capitalization of mapping work and participatory research conducted; – Initiating reflection on the idea of establishing a resource management monitoring committee in the Pongara area. this report extensively covers the proceedings and content of the discussions as well as the resolutions that were made to ensure the effective involvement of communities and the good management of the resources of the Pongara National Park and its periphery.

-- 50 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 51 iv -2) Opportunities / Recommendations for the Left Bank

(Pongara) At the end of our work and based on the various information collected and the essential figures in the different reports, we will make the following recommendations which, although not a cure-all for all the identified problems, nevertheless constitute a beginning of solution to them. Educate, Train and Raise Awareness among communities about the law on national parks and the sustainable management of natural resources One of the prerequisites for park managers must consist of a broad dissemination of the law on parks which extensively addresses the contours, stakes, and modalities of creation and management of national parks. The law on national parks, through its article 2, explicitly supports this when it speaks of information, education, and environmental communication as tools for promoting the policy of protection and sustainable enhancement of national parks. This is also the case with the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Indeed, in its article xx which deals with capacity building, education, and training, this text clearly states that it is the duty of the parties to work towards promoting education, training, and raising awareness among populations at all levels regarding the environment, so that they become more aware of the close dependence in which they find themselves in relation to natural resources and better understand the reasons and rules for the sustainable use of these resources. Establish a concerted framework for the management of natural resources The political stakes at the international level and the search for alternative solutions to the classical orientations of forest management are the origin of the exploration of new approaches to natural resource management (Nguinguiri, 1997).

-- 51 of 60 --

Participatory mapping project in the Congo Basin 52 Today, the evolution of management practices is the shift from a centralized approach to a participatory approach (participatory or contractual management). This vision has indeed been endorsed by our legislator through articles 18 and 45 which provide, within the framework of the management of national parks, for the creation of local management advisory committees within which park officials cooperate with local authorities. These committees thus appear as suitable frameworks for consultation between the managers of the protected area and other actors who intervene in the park either directly or indirectly. Through these, it will then be a matter for both parties to address all issues related to the management of the national park in order to establish a management policy benefiting the different actors. On the one hand, proceed with the materialization of the park boundaries and on the other hand, delimit and materialize the buffer and peripheral zones of the national park in order to make it visible not only to the neighboring communities but also to all other users, we believe that a priority task of materializing the park boundaries must be carried out on the ground. This preliminary work should be supplemented by the delimitation and materialization of the buffer and peripheral zones of the national park. And for greater effectiveness, we recommend the use of the participatory mapping method. Recognize village territories, take into account customary rights, and value local knowledge of communities in the management of the park The international convention on biodiversity adopted at the Earth Summit, held in Rio in June 1992, recommends that governments "preserve traditional methods of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and draw inspiration from them as widely as possible, fully involving the affected populations in their efforts".

-- 52 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 53 According to Posey (1995), each people possesses its TEK (traditional ecological knowledge), which is a set of traditional ecological knowledge. Moreover, in Africa, the discourse of policymakers in the field of natural resource management has significantly evolved. They increasingly emphasize the real involvement of local populations in decisions regarding the management of the resources of their territories. Indeed, in its article

XVII concerning the traditional rights of local communities and traditional knowledge, the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources makes the following recommendations: The parties take legislative and other measures to ensure that the traditional rights and intellectual property rights of local communities, including the rights of farmers, are respected, in accordance with the provisions of this convention. The parties take the necessary measures to allow for active participation of local communities in the planning and management processes of the natural resources on which they depend in order to create incentives, at the local level, for the conservation and sustainable use of these resources. This logic is also supported by the law on national parks in its article 21 when it recommends that the park administration develop national park management plans after consulting all interested parties, including communities in the peripheral area and those living, if applicable, in the park at the time of its creation. For the legislator, the management plan must necessarily take into account customary uses and rights. Manage the Human-Animal Conflict In this section, communities claim to suffer more disasters from elephants. For them, the elephant constitutes a considerable obstacle to the practice of agricultural activities. In some villages like Makok, agricultural activity has been definitively abandoned following numerous incursions of elephant herds into the fields.

-- 53 of 60 --

Participatory mapping project in the Congo Basin 54 Develop alternatives to hunting In order to limit the pressure exerted in terms of hunting on the national park, it seems wise to develop participatory alternatives to hunting. This concern was indeed widely raised by the communities during our visit. The priority areas identified are as follows: – The development of micro-projects and income-generating activities in the villages; – The strengthening of agro-sylvo-pastoral capacities of communities (agriculture, livestock, non-timber forest products, and market organization); – The development of ecotourism and the valorization of local knowledge.

-- 54 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 55 Difficulties The implementation of the project in these areas has experienced numerous interruptions due to the following elements: – The worrying political and social climate (death of the president, pre and post-electoral movements during the last presidential election, etc.); – The cessation of activities with communities for a long period following internal organizational and functional difficulties; – The breakdown of the ferry to facilitate the crossing of people and vehicles for the villages on the Ikobey side; – The unavailability of project partners in certain circumstances and their instability in their living environment; – The initial poor perception of the project and the reluctance of certain local authorities and technical administrations concerned to facilitate its implementation; – The prior obligation to obtain authorization from the ANPN for supporting communities in mapping their village territories located in the Ivindo national park; – The high cost of logistics for carrying out activities in certain localities due to the geographical situation of the concerned villages, which can only be accessed by water; – The anti-poaching missions conducted by the ANPN just after the data collection missions carried out in the context of the implementation of the project in Pongara; – The fact that the project team is based in Libreville without a permanent relay on the ground has also been a major blockage in terms of the permanence of activity on the ground.

-- 55 of 60 --

Participatory mapping project in the Congo Basin 56

-- 56 of 60 --

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 57 General Conclusion Overall, the participatory mapping project has allowed by strengthening the capacities of partners to support local communities in

the production of maps of village territories and resource use. These maps have indeed served as a basis for multi-stakeholder exchanges in order to better take into account the rights of communities in local processes of natural resource management and consequently in resolving conflicts regarding the sustainable management of natural resources. In this regard, participatory mapping emerges as an effective tool for consultation and involvement of communities in all national processes related to the management of resources and lands. However, the participatory mapping referred to here is that which is practiced according to the rules of the art, that is to say, that which is carried out on the basis of a well-defined methodology with the communities at the center of the process. It is certainly not a matter of using mapping for ignoble purposes, the aim of which would be to restrict the use of forests by communities. Such an approach would then have the main effect of emptying participatory mapping of its essence as a tool for consultation and consideration of rights. It is certainly not our intention to make participatory mapping the cure-all in terms of managing conflicts related to the use of natural resources. However, it has the merit, when conducted

Participatory mapping project in the Congo Basin 58 satisfactorily, of serving as a solid basis for discussions between the different actors involved in the management of common or neighboring spaces. This is why we recommend the use of participatory mapping in the following processes: – The process of developing management plans and management plans for national parks, forest and mining concessions; – The realization of community mapping in the context of forest and mining exploitation; – The zoning of forests and the allocation of land in rural areas; – The delimitation of national parks and their peripheral zones; – The creation of community forests.

Global Synthesis Report of Activities 59

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