

**STUDY ON WILDLIFE LEGISLATION
AND POLICIES IN CENTRAL AFRICAN
COUNTRIES**

Final Report

By

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Gabon
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INTRODUCTION

The Central African Region is today, known to be an area whose development is based on an uneven exploitation of its resources. While on the one hand, its agricultural exports essentially consist of cash crops with fluctuating prices, forest exploitation on the other hand, is presently booming in areas with high biological diversity, alongside increased oil exploitation activities currently carried out in both Chad and Equatorial Guinea. The pipeline now under construction from Doba (Chad) onto Kribi (Cameroon) stands as a testimony to this situation.

Consequently, it appears that the impact of these activities on the environment is not only considerable, but also stands as a serious biodiversity degradation threat. Poaching and both the illegal circulation and trade in bush meat are some amongst the numerous causes of such degradation. The negative impacts of these activities contribute towards the breaking of the social structures of the populations and the disturbance of both the ecosystems and biological chain.

Yet, efforts are made by the countries of the Sub-Region to strive and find a well balanced solution through, the adoption of appropriate and even incitative legal and institutional frameworks. Unfortunately, the structural adjustment programmes these countries have been subjected to, contributed in complicating their situation at both social and economic levels.

With the diminishing nature of the resources, a constantly growing and yet increasingly poor population adding to inadequate natural resources conservation and management strategies, clashes of both national and international interests and natural disasters, resources sustainability ends up being considerably undermined. Consequences include both genetic and economic losses which have thus hindered the socio-cultural development and economic growth of Central African countries.

Efforts made by the countries have been upgraded as they became more aware of the consequences of the destructive effects of a random exploitation of resources, but also following their common and effective determination to fight poverty and have a shared vision as regards resource management and that especially, of those resources shared at their boundary areas.

Given the important role of the ecosystems within the Congo basin, the international community is more than ever before called upon to sustain the efforts made by the countries of the sub-region towards sustainable management. This appeal goes to donors, conservation agencies as well as to the private sector.

This final report of the study carried out on the policies and both the legal and institutional frameworks of Central African Countries aims at harmonizing commonly agreed actions, and proposing orientations and strategies for the coordination at sub regional level, of bush meat management, in keeping with the orientations of both the convergence Plan and all other sub-regional initiatives and international commitments (protocol agreements and conventions).

This study focuses on six (06) countries of the sub-region which include Cameroon, CAR, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

In spite of all the support provided by the Yaounde based IUCN-ROCA, and the focal Points of the various countries visited, this study was all the same carried out with a number of difficulties.

Except in the case of Cameroon, the consultants have had to conduct individual data collection missions within the countries of the Sub-region, and this added to communication difficulties between the countries and at times even within the same country, did not

contribute in easing regular contacts and in-depth consultation and discussion on the situations observed. Besides the above difficulties, the constant modifications of flights arrangements by Cameroon Airlines came to make our stay longer in some countries, thereby causing a number of disturbances on the programme as initially set.

The consequence of all this is that, the time of consultation with all the partners to be approached ended up being reduced.

The mission is however grateful to all the individuals that it came across to, for their availability and the fruitful discussions it was able to have with them. The mission equally expresses its gratitude to IUCN/ROCA for all the efforts made to ease its work.

Its only hope is that this study will contribute towards the delicate issue of bush meat management within the sub-region and elsewhere.

II ABSTRACT

The problems arising from the management of bush meat are increasingly gaining ground in Central Africa. In an attempt to find some solutions to these, the Bushmeat Working Group (GWG) which, in compliance with decisions taken during the 11th CoP of the Convention on International Trade of endangered species of Wild flora and Fauna (CITES), was set up in Nairobi (Kenya) and whose work focuses on bush meat, has identified the harmonization of policies and legislations on Bush meat in Central Africa as one of its priorities.

The present study initiated by IUCN-ROCA falls under the implementation of decisions taken by the Bushmeat Working Group, and concerns six countries of the Central African Region, namely: Cameroon, C.A.R., Congo, D.R.C., Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

By comparing both the legislations and the policies, and sticking to the orientations of the convergence Plan, this study provides an outline of the sub-region's on-land wildlife resources, as well as of the existing policies, legislations and institutional frameworks. An analysis of the problems raised by these policies, legislations and institutions reveals a lot of lapses in spite of the marked political determination by all the States concerned, to observe and implement both the Brazzaville and Yaounde Processes.

In order to achieve the goals set by the BWG, this study comes up with a number of recommendations on legal aspects (Harmonization of laws and Regulations) , as well as on the institutional framework governing the bush meat sector. Elements relating to strategies for the implementation of these recommendations are equally proposed, that do, as much as possible, take into account previous studies and recommendations.

The present study comprises two parts including a major one presenting both the state of the policies, legislations and institutions, the various analyses and recommendations made, and the other consisting of six appendixes.

III TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Drawing from the Provisions of the Convergence Plan relating to wildlife management, the concern of this study shall consist in:

- . Reviewing (Analysis and synthesis) existing instruments;
- . Drafting proposals to improve on the instruments under enforcement, taking into account the following orientations on:
 - The convention (CITES)
 - The bush meat issue in Central Africa;

- The sub-regional stand (Yaounde Declaration, convergence Plan and CEFDHAC recommendations); and
- Collaborative management of wildlife in the Central African Countries, as the best approach to valorise wildlife resources.
- Proposing a context for the following key concepts relating to the issue of wildlife management: Traditional hunting, hunting for livelihood, commercial hunting, tenure right; and
- Proposing activities to help organize and regulate hunting activities carried out by the local populations

IV Objectives of the study

4.1-General Objective

This study aims at harmonizing all political, legal and institutional frameworks in the Central Africa Countries with national, regional and international concerns relating to the management of bush meat .

4.2 Specific objectives

Basing on the review of both the legal and institutional instruments and the policies, and on that as well of the convergence plan; the task shall consist in:

- Identifying problems relating to national and trans national concerns inherent to bush meat in present days contexts.
- Suggesting recommendations that take into account both the magnitude of all the political, legal and institutional problems observed and the orientations provided in the terms of reference; and
- .suggesting a strategy for the implementation of eventual recommendations

V METHODOLOGY

The various stages of the methodology adopted by the mission included:

- The collection, with the assistance of the Focal Points, of documents (laws and instruments compendiums)
- The listing and assessment of the implementation of agreements and conventions signed and ratified by the countries of the sub-region, particularly those concerning bush meat.
- The review of policies as well as legal and institutional frameworks, and other back- up material in each country visited;
- Discussions with the high-ranking officials of the countries visited (see appendix).
- The analysis of policies, legal and institutional frameworks and other documents as well;
- Recommendations;
- The strategy to implement possible recommendations; and
- Conclusions

VI CONTEXT OF THE STUDY AND BUSHMEAT STAKE ISSUE

6.1-Context of the Study

During the 11th CITES Conference of Parties held in may 2000 in Nairobi (Kenya), the parties acknowledged the importance and seriousness of the bush meat illegal trade issue.

Under these grounds, and in an effort to satisfy the CITES resolutions, Parties to the 10th Conference of the Convention held in Nairobi, (Kenya) set up a sub regional working group made up of the officials in charge of the management of wildlife and protected areas in six countries of the Central African sub-region including Cameroon, CAR, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The mandate of this working Group was to come up with proposals of solutions likely to help mitigate this phenomenon within this sub-region. Two (02) workshops on Bush meat have since then been held in Douala, that constituted the first formal meetings of the members of the working group.

Participants identified both the various steps to undertake in order to succeed in sustainably managing wildlife within the Sub-region, and the factors relating to the following key aspects: political instability, inadequacy of legislations, lack of information and education, poor knowledge of national policies, inappropriate management of natural resources, institutional aspects, socio-economic factors and technology-related adverse effects.

The harmonization and modernization of the sub-region's laws and policies was identified as a high priority, thereby justifying the present study. It should however be recalled that:

- In 1988, the Organization for the Conservation of Fauna and Flora in Central Africa (OCFSA, by its French acronym) launched a study on the harmonization of anti-poaching oriented laws, as well as of legislations relating to hunting weapons, the opening and closing Periods of hunting activities and to related taxation and sanctions.
- In 1999, the Conference on Central African moist forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC by its French acronym) also carried out a study co-ordinated by Mr J. Koyo , and entitled "Groundwork for the harmonization of forests related policies and legislations in Central African countries". The study's focus this time, laid on the process retained in drawing the policies and legislation, taking inspiration from the review of the political, legal and institutional frameworks of fives (05) Central African Countries (Cameroon, C.A.R., Congo, Gabon and Rwanda.

6.2- Bush Meat Stake Issue

What understanding for the expression bush meat?

MULPOC, a specialized body under the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, considers bushmeat to belong to the category of traditional non-conventional food stuffs while conservation experts regard it as one of the various non-timber forest products. Bushmeat is commonly perceived within the sub region as live or dead game meant for consumption. This variety of NTFP is today subjected to some trade that is increasingly gaining ground.

The mission has thought it of prime importance under this study, to avoid any doubt arising from the notion of bush meat, to the advantage of a broader understanding. Consequently, in an effort to better make out the problem arising from the complex phenomenon behind that appellation, it deliberately chose to have a broader understanding including its multiple uses, related activities, and mostly all resulting concerns , notably:

a)-the protection of wildlife resources through anti-poaching activities with focus on the implementation of the laws, which happens to be the key concern at the level of the various administrations;

In fact pressures of all nature resulting from poaching and bush meat illegal trading activities may break into both the capital (as a result of unsustainable and non-rational use of wildlife resources) and the financial and material foundations of conservation, notably the efforts made in promoting and developing national, sub-regional and global strategies for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity)

b)The conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources by both the populations and the State, which is one amongst other concerns of NGOs and partner development agencies.

Another none the less considerable and preoccupying cross sectoral area of concern for the countries of the sub-region is the association of scientific and technical research in endeavours to master the wildlife potential its various eventual uses.

In fact, there are no bush meat specific laws to rely on. However, the above considerations have prompted most countries of the sub-region to attempt to devise approaches likely to help reconcile the following three aspects of their common challenges:

- The marked determination to fight poverty and preserve the socio-cultural habits relating to the consumption of bush meat;
- The conservation of biological diversity through the keeping of related resources at some dynamic and acceptable level, with the view to prevent their total extinction, or that of some species, by fighting poaching, the illegal trade of bush meat and destruction of the habitat within protected areas.
- The need to promote bush meat thanks to sight tourism and the organization of hunting safari events, using an attractive taxation scheme aimed at increasing the contribution of the wildlife sector to the budgets of the various states, and illustrating the importance of the said sector, which suffers from insufficient back up and encouragement. Such valorisation ought to result to the sharing of benefits with the populations, so as to incite the support of the latter to all conservation efforts made by the States of the sub-region.

VII INTRODUCTION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN SUB-REGION

Presentation

Though intentionally brief, this portion is meant to permit an assessment of Central Africa's geographical, ecological as well as socio-economic data.

7.1 Geographic and ecological context

Countries of the Central African Sub-region include Burundi, Cameroon, C.A.R., Congo, D.R.C, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome & Principe. They are located between latitude 14° North (Northern Cameroon) and both 13° and 27° latitudes (Southern DRC) on either side of the Equator.

The topographical outlook of this large area of about 4 million square kilometres consists of plains, except in Burundi, Cameroon, DRC and Rwanda where some landscapes with uneven mountains and few volcanoes are found.

The Central African sub-region is host to the Congo Basin's moist forests which, with some 204 million ha, constitute one amongst the Globe's three largest rain forest formations. These forests are classified into two major heterogeneous groups with surface areas and rates of coverage varying from one country to another. These include:

- The High altitude moist forests including Mount Cameroon, the high plateaus along the rift in Eastern DRC, as well as in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.
- The low altitude forests comprising moist forests on the dry lands in the west, which extend from the Atlantic Coast to the Congo river, as well as those in Eastern DRC and in the constantly or periodically flooded Central basin. The distribution of these forests is shown in Table 1 here below.

Table 1: Forest surface areas in Central Africa

Countries	Surface Areas (Million ha)		
	Moist forests	Fragmented forests	Forests/savannah mosaics
Burundi	0.041	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	1.678	0.588	-
Central Africa Republic	4.352	0.564	12.758
Gabon	17.109	6.500	6464
Congo Brazzaville	21.188	1839	0.295
D.R.C.	112.934	14.813	30.730
Rwanda	-	-	-
Sao Tome & Principe	0.155	-	0.095

Source : Adapted from Mayaux et al., 1997 quoted by the strategic action plan.

This large formation constitutes one of the major areas of the world with huge biological diversity.

The Central African sub-region harbours 60% of Africa's biological diversity and ranks first amongst such areas in Africa, with its wealth in terms of species and numerous taxonomic groups (see Table 2).

Table 2: Number of species found in each country of the Congo Basin.

Countries	Plant species		Mammal Species		Bird species	
	Total					
Burundi		22	107	0	451	0
Congo	2 500	1 200	200	2	449	0
Gabon	6 000		190	3	446	1
C.A.R	6 551	100	209	2	537	1
Cameroon	3 602	156	409	14	911	7
Equatorial Guinea	8 260	66	184	1	273	3
D.R.C	3 250	3 200	450	28	929	24
Rwanda	11 007	26	151	0	513	0
Sao Tome & Principe	2 288					

Source: WCWC database in Global biodiversity 2000 126-128 quoted by the strategic action plan and Dowsett 1993.

Despite this wide range of ecosystems varieties which characterizes the Congo Basin, its moist forests remain exposed to deforestation activities which, as per FAO estimates in 1997, spread over some 1 139 200 ha representing a total 0.56 percent rate.

The network of protected areas covers about 11 100 000 hectares representing some five percent (5%) of the Congo Basin's total surface area.

7.2- Socio-economic context

The Countries of Central Africa, with a population of some 100.5 million inhabitants, and an average density standing at 23,7 inhabitants/km², do present quite a high variability. Numerous populations are found here, that are somewhat similar to the Bantus, pigmies, Fulanis and the people from the Nile region. The sub-region is known for its particularly poor communication infrastructure network totalling 220 000km, of which 8 700km only are tarred. Basing on the fact that roads induce development, this situation could be perceived as a real limiting factor to the development of this sub-region.

Globally, the majority, if not all Central Africa countries are heavily indebted, and subjected to a demanding structural adjustment programme that is still to be completed.

The economies of these countries are almost exclusively dependant on the primary sector, or on the extraction and export of raw material.

Though the average yearly per capita income is estimated at some 463 U.S Dollars, lots of disparities are still noticed amongst the various countries (The GDP in Gabon stands at 4.378 U.S Dollars while that in DRC stands at 133 US dollars only). The contribution of both agriculture and the forestry sector in this sub-region represents some 23% of the GNP, and these two sectors do employ 58% of the working population. It should noted that food stuff (cassava, banana, plantain, yam) is 100% obtained through traditional agriculture, as it obtains in the case of over 80% production of cash crops coffee, cocoa, tea, etc)

Mining and oil exploitation activities which have long been carried out in total discretion, are gradually gaining ground, notably in DRC as regards mining, and in Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon and Gabon, as concerns oil.

Logging on its part, remains one of the key economic activities within the countries of Central Africa. Related activities are carried out in a selective manner and broadly concern foreign markets and investments.

Yearly log production is estimated at some 8 805 000 m³ while that of fuel wood stands at 50 455 000 m³ (FAO, 1988 and 1989). The processing rate is about 30%, and does vary from one country to another (15% in Gabon and 60% in Cameroon). Let alone the agricultural and timber production, the Congo Basin's moist forests provides many other products:

- Hunting by products are highly appreciated both in rural areas and in the cities, thereby leaving room to a very active informal, and increasingly complex trade. This wildlife and the various protected areas also constitute the bulk of the sub-region's tourist attractions.
- Products derived from small-scale fishing are equally important. Small-scale fishing is carried out by riparian populations of the Central region of the Congo Basin who supply considerable quantities of smoked fish to the markets in large cities within the sub-region. The other non-timber forest products consisting of wild fruits, spices and medicinal plants from the forests are also subjected to commercial transactions at national level as well as to international export.

However, it should noted with regret, that due to isolated or combined effects of slash and burn cultivation, fuel-wood or lumber collection and intensive poaching, both deforestation and degradation of the forests of the Congo basin have today reached proportions that are quite disturbing for the preservation of natural resources. Though the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity resources of the Congo Basin's ecosystems depend on the activities carried out in each individual country, both these ecosystems and the threats to which they are exposed; exceed national boundaries.

This situation commands that all national actions be mutually dependent, as such actions may not be effective and efficient, unless they are carried out within a common strategy under sub-regional cooperation.

VIII REVIEW OF ON-LAND WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN THE CONGO BASIN

8.1-Status of the resource

Due to the lack of systematic and regular inventories, the wildlife potential in Central Africa is still poorly known. However, findings of scientific surveys and observations carried out in both the forest and the savannah as well as in protected areas provided the opportunity to have some idea on the sub-region's biological wealth.

Amongst the most outstanding species are large mammals such as the elephant, Okapi, white and black Rhinoceroses, the plain and mountain Gorillas, the Chimpanzee, Lion, African manatee, turtle, the Cob, water buck, the forest and savannah buffaloes, the Panther, Hippopotamus, Nile crocodile, Derby eland, cape eland, the Bongo, giraffe, Burchell Zebra and a large variety of apes including the colob species.

As concerns avifauna, the region harbours pelicans, herons, storks, ibises (olivates), Congolese Peacocks, ruwenzoi Turacos, Picathartes African peregrine falcons, shoe bills, etc.

Regarding the various usages of bush meat, it is worth indicating that game breeding is not common practice or inclination amongst the traditional and cultural customs of the sub-region. About 98% of the meat obtained from unauthorized hunting or poaching is used for consumption, trading of bush meat and other products derived from processing of this resource, medico-magical uses (making of talismans for protection against bewitchment and

for success in hunting activities, healing of burns and other wounds, using of the hairs of the Bosman Potto) constitute other varied uses.

At cultural level, some animal hides and portions such as the buffalo or elephant's tail, or skins of the Panther are used during some ritual ceremonies to symbolise strength and power, notably camans' infusions.

Other traditional and modern uses of bush meat include taxidermy (conservation technique that aims at the preservation of trophies by preparing, stuffing and mounting animal skins to that effect) varied scientific and technical research activities (vaccines, parasitology, ethiobiology etc), collection for species for use in museums and training of human resources in the field of biological sciences.

8.2-Status of Protected Areas

Countries of the Central African sub-region have opted for networking to conserve, protect and manage their wildlife in protected areas, the first of which were created during the colonial period, around the 1930s.

Several fauna and flora protected areas exist in each of the countries, and it is projected to increase their number to a coverage ratio ranging from one country to another between ten and thirty percent.

The countries of the sub-region have to date, illustrated themselves through their individual and yet limiting endeavours to manage their protected areas. Moreover, lots of transboundary threats resulting from both illegal forest exploitation and poaching still exist today, and this contributes to favour the lack of transboundary cooperation mechanisms between the competent services of the various States. The existence of refuges and transboundary critical sites identified by recent surveys is favourable to the continuation of the numerous current initiatives under present efforts towards regional integration. Protected areas likely to be subjected to transboundary management are believed to extend today over some 50.000km². Here below are the protected areas concerned in each country of the sub-region:

Cameroon:

Dja Wildlife reserve;
Nki Wildlife reserve;
Boumba-bek wildlife reserve;
Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary;
Campo Ma'an Wildlife reserve
Lobeke National park
Korup National Park and
Mozogo – Gokoro National park.

Congo

Odzaka national Park,
CONKOUATI Reserve and
Mayouma Reserve

Gabon:

Minkebe Reserve

C.A.R.

Sangha Reserve

Zakouma Reserve,

CHAD

Lere, Barh Salamat, Touk Reserve

Equatorial Guinea

Campo reserve

D.R.C

Virunga National Park;
Kahuzi-Biega National park;
Garamba National Park,
Bili-veré game preserve
Swa-kibula game preserve,

The transboundary programmes listed here below were selected by the first Conference of Central Africa's Forestry Ministers (COMIFAC I) upon the close of proceedings aimed at rendering the convergence plan operational.

N°	Trans-boundary Programme	Partner Countries	Planning and Programming Responsible National body	Implementation Partners	Specific actions to Undertake	Date	Interim results indicators
	TRI-NATIONAL	C.A.R	MIN. Eaux et Forêts D.G Eaux et Forêts	Dzanga-Sangha Project WWF-GTZ	Ratify the TNS agreement		Agreement ratified
					Revitalize the bodies provided by the cooperation agreement		Body revitalised and operational
					Enhance consultation amongst the high-ranking officials of the Administration and (forestry) partners		operational consultation framework with Periodical meetings
1		Congo	Min. Eaux et forêts D.G eaux et forêts	WCS Nouabali Project and PROGEPP	Draw up a TNS action plan		Plan of action drawn up
					Identify sustainable financing mechanisms and mobilize funds		Mechanisms identified
					Implement the action plan and set up a cooperation body.		
		Cameroon	MINEF DWPA	GTZ- WWF GEF Project	Assessment of the action plan		

2	ODZALA MINKEBE DJA	Congo	MIN. EFRRH D;G Eaux et forêts	ECOFACT E.U/GEF UNDP	Draft and sign the cooperation agreement between Cameroon Congo and Gabon	Dec 2001	Agreement ratified
					Implement a draft project	Oct 2001	Contract signed.
		Gabon	Min; Eaux et forêts D.G eaux et forêts	WWF/GEF UNDP/E.U	Classify the corridors of the Tri-national project.		
		Cameroon	MINEF/ DWPA	WWF/GEF/ UNDP			
3	MINKEBE MENGAME	Gabon	Min. Eaux et Forêts D.G Eaux et forêts	ITTO/ Private operators Sector	Draft and sign the agreement between Cameroon and Gabon		Agreement signed
						Develop and implement the phase of the project that concerns Gabon.	
		Cameroon	MINEF/ DWPA	ITTO/ Private Operators Sector			
		Congo	Min. EFPRH	WCS	Carry out direct consultations		
					Draw up a draft agreement		

					Signing and ratification of the agreement	05 Dec.	Agreement signed and ratified
		Gabon	Min, Eaux et Forêts D.G Eaux et forêts	WCS/ECOFAC E.U.			
5	CAMPO MA'AN	Cameroon	MINEF/ DWPA	DGIS TROPENBOS GEF	Exchange of official letters between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea	01 NOV	Letters exchanged
					Hold one/several official meetings to determine work schemes		Meetings held
					Initiate studies on each side/initiate consultations for purposes of a common action		Studies conducted
		Equatorial Guinea	Ministério de bosques y medio ambiente/ D.G de bosques	E.U./CUREF	Conduct feasibility studies and identify the sources of financing		Studies available

Min, Eaux et Forêts
D.G Eaux et forêts

UNESCO GEF/IUCN

					Sign the convention between the two countries	02 DEC	.Convention signed
					Carry out information and consultation missions between the two countries		Missions conducted
					Draft and adopt the bi-national agreement		
					Sign the agreement between the two countries		Agreement signed
		CHAD	Ministry of the Environment / D.G	E.U/GEF UNDP	Ratification of the bi-national agreement		Agreement signed
					Drafting and adoption of the action plan		Document available
					Release of funds and implementation of the project.		Funding available and programme initiated
7	MOUNT FOUARI	GABON	Min. Eaux et forêts D.G. Eaux et Forêts	ITTO	Carry out information and consultation missions		Missions carried out
					Draft and adopt a bi-national agreement		

		CONGO	Min. EFPRH/ D.G. Eaux et Forêts	ITTO	Sign and ratify the agreement	05 Dec	Agreement signed and ratified
					Draw up and adopt an action plan		Action plan adopted
					Release funds and implement the action plan.		Funding released and plan initiated
8	Equatorial Guinea – Gabon Bi-national Project (Rio-Muni estuary)	Equatorial guinea	Ministerio de Bosques y medio ambiente D.G de Bosquez	ECOFACT/E.U	Equat G. Biological surveys underway		Continuation of the bio-surveys
					Gabon’s biological surveys underway		
					Exchange of official letters between Equatorial G. and Gabon.	Nov. 2001	Letters exchanged
		Gabon	Min. Eaux et Forêts D.G. Eaux et forêts	WCS ECOFACT/E.U.	Initiate the classification process	Nov. 2002	Sensitisation missions carried out
					Draw up a turtles conservation plan	Nov. 2002 Jan. 2003	Document available 03/03
					Signing of cooperation convention between Gabon and Equat, G.	March 2003	Bi-national Convention signed.
9	BOUMBADJIDA BINDERLE- RELAM	Chad	Ministry of the Environment /DG	GTZ	Meeting with the authorities of the two countries under information and consultation missions		Missions conducted
					Drafting and adoption of a bi-national agreement		
					Signing and adoption of an action plan		Agreement signed and ratified

		Cameroon	MINEF/ DWPA	WWF	Drawing up and adoption of an action plan		Action plan drawn up and available
					Release of funds		Funding available
					Implementation of the action plan		Implementation underway
10	BILIUERE BANGASSOU	DRC	CINC	To be sought.	Meeting with the authorities of the two countries under information and organization mission		Mission carried out
		CAR	Min. Eaux et Forêts/ DG Eaux et Forêts	GEF-CAR/UNDP/CECI/ Intl. NGO RFC	Drafting and adoption of a bi-national agreement		
					Signing of the bi-national agreement		Agreement signed
11	MAYOMBE BI-PROGRAMME	CONGO	Min. EFPRH/ D.G. Eaux et Forêts	To be sought	Meeting with the authorities of the two countries under information missions		Missions carried out
					Drawing up of a draft agreement by experts of both countries		
					Signing of the agreement by the ministers concerned	05 Dec.	Agreement signed
		DRC	SG/ DGFC	To be sought	Ratification of the agreement		Agreement ratified
					Demarcation of the sites, following a reconnaissance patrol		Sites demarcated and maps available

					Drawing up of an action plan		Action plan available
		CONGO	Min. EFPRH/ D.G Eaux et Forêts	WCS	Meeting of the authorities of the two countries under information missions		Missions carried out
				To be sought	Preparation of a draft agreement by the experts of both countries		
					Signing of the agreement by the ministers concerned		Agreement signed
		DRC	S.G/DGFC		Ratification of the agreement		
					Demarcation of sites following a reconnaissance patrol		Site demarcated and maps available
					Drawing up of the action plan		Action plan available

SOURCE Brazzaville Convergence plan 20-23/09/2001

8.3- Pressures

Two key factors undermine the perennation of the biodiversity resources in general, and of those in particular, of wildlife. These are poaching and illegal trading of bush meat, and habitat degradation.

8.3-1 Poaching and illegal trade of bush meat.

Authorized hunting, poaching and the illegal trade of bush meat constitute the typical sectoral activities. It is however worth mentioning as concerns wildlife that, instead of it being advisedly used as a natural resource that contributes towards socio-economic and cultural development, this resource is rather considered as an unessential and low category product often ranking amongst the NTFPs anyone could take the liberty to exploit without fear of neither God nor man, and under some poorly respected legislation. Yet, the economic yields of those informal activities are quite important today.

Despite the fragmented and scattered nature of data relating to diverse samples of wildlife species, it however permits to highlight the magnitude of their exploitation and trade

In Cameroon, Kornelia estimates that some 816.7 Kilogrammes of meat are transported by train. Meanwhile, according to Bello (1988), about 1700 kilogrammes of elephant tusks have been seized from the Douala airport between 1990 and 1998.

In Gabon, estimates made by Sted in 1994 indicate that an average 500 tons of game meat is received every year in the Libreville-based markets of Mt. Bouet, Aloumi and Nkembo. A similar survey carried out in six (06) markets (Libreville, Oyem, Port Gentil and Makokou) reveals that some 1 105 tons of meat received and worth 851 millions CFA. Besides, some 31 130 tons of samples of 1 568 mammals and birds species have been seized between 1991 and 1993.

Surveys carried out both by NDOKI (1987 and KALIVESE (1990) reveal that the yearly average consumption of bush meat throughout the country stands at some 48 000 tons, worth 16.5 billion CFA.

According to Kofimaya Shada et al. (1988), the yearly sale of bush meat at Bukavu amounts to some 400 tons.

Ancrenaz M. and Lucasa (1990) estimate to 1.5 tons, the total weight of animals killed through poaching every year within the Kouilou region in Congo, and further indicate that this represents a turn over worth 3 billion CFA. Besides, 200 elephants are reported to have been killed in 1997 in the Sangha region.

Through more data is provided by some other surveys, it should be acknowledged that these figures are far below the reality, given that poaching is an illegal activity.

8.3.2- Habitat degradation

Deforestation induced by both authorized and illegal trade of timber is today considered as one of the activities that are conducive to poaching and the movement of animals towards less securing areas. Which movement results in more frequent human-animal conflicts caused by the destruction of crops and farms by these animals during their migratory movements. It should be pointed out that protected areas which constitute the tank of biodiversity conservation equally suffer the same threats in terms of both the damage of their biological wealth, and violation of their territorial integrity due to diverse incursions.

The pressures that are actually exerted on all the protected areas essentially include poaching, the gathering of the other non-timber forest products and the invasion of grazing areas or migration corridors by cattle or by human populations escaping armed conflicts.

Habitats are regularly and seriously destroyed under illegal logging activities or slash and burn cultivation

8.4-Consequences.

Three major aspects should be distinguished as far as these are concerned:

- At the ecological level, the uncontrolled destruction of wild species without consideration of both the sex and size of animals leads to the breach of biological balance. The systematic killing of young individuals, of carrier females or males that are still full of energy undermines the perennation of animal species.
- At the economic level, immediate consequences consist in the loss of tax and tourism-generated revenue by the State.

On an indirect basis, poaching brings about serious expenses for the rehabilitation of the environment, substitution of a natural source of proteins and reintroduction of extinct or near to extinction species.

- Finally, at the socio-cultural level, some areas with no breeding customs greatly rely on wildlife for their proteins self-supply. The consequences of poaching in such areas include waste and unsustainable exploitation of the resource, which cause the populations to move to more viable areas.

Such migrations occasioned by various reasons sometimes give room to the erosion of some cultural taboos and customs relating to hunting and the consumption of bush meat.

Given this situation, the mission's mandate consisted in exploring the restrictions and opportunities offered by a legal and institutional framework relating to the management of wildlife.

IX-OUTLINE OF THE POLICES, LEGISLATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN FORCE

In order to handle the issue of wildlife conservation and bush meat, countries of the Central Africa Sub-region have each, adopted some policies as well as legal and institutional frameworks (See Appendix1).

Presented here below is the state of art of the said instruments in the six (06) countries

9.1-Republic of Congo

9.1.1- Political and Legal Framework

The forestry development strategy adopted by the Government of the Republic of Congo upon the adoption of the National Forestry Action Programme centre around the following main activities:

. The production, processing and trading of lumber, large-scale processing and service timber;

- The promotion of the other forest Products;
- The promotion of the other forest products;
- The protection and conservation of both ecosystems and biological diversity;

- The implementation of this strategy relies on the following basic principles: sustainable and integrated management of forest resources, and collaborative management involving all the partners.

At legal level, law N°48/83 of 21 April 1983 relating to hunting and laying down the conditions for the conservation and exploitation of wildlife comprises six titles including:

- General Provisions;
- Wildlife exploitation:
- Permits and licenses;
- Protection of People and goods.
- Protection of wildlife, and
- Offences;

The law which determines the key orientations and conditions of their implementation, also takes inspiration from the forestry code (Law N°12-2000 of 20 November 2000 which focuses on forestry related issues, and on the role of the Forest Administration, the Forestry Fund, as well as on provisions relating to repression, that determine the various offences and corresponding sanctions.

It is worthy of mention that new laws on forestry and wildlife are being drafted, that shall be submitted to Parliament.

Both the forestry code and the law on wildlife currently under enforcement did not take into account aspects relating to the trading of game. But poaching which happens to be the leading activity, is largely reprimanded under its last title, though concretely not effective enough because of numerous constraints, notably.

The absence of a communication strategy to help raise the awareness of the populations which should be regretted, as it could be an element likely to guarantee the preservation of wildlife species. The Law actually provide the populations, the opportunity to exert their customary right to hunt for purposes of subsistence. Similarly, provisions exist that are meant to protect people and property. Unfortunately, such provisions are not made to be known by these people”

9.1;2- Institutional Framework

The ministry in charge of forestry, fishery industry and resources, at Central Level comprises a Directorate General for forestry including a Department of Wildlife and Protected Areas, which technically, is responsible for the management of wildlife resources. An Inspectorate General also exists, that is responsible for auditing the body.

Some eleven (11) regional departments have been created on the field, with overall responsibility over the anti-illegal exploitation squads which constitute the bodies of implementation of both the policies and legislation.

But they actually face the problem of insufficient and non-renewed staff (420 workers, with some 10% on the field). This reduced manpower is expected to cover large areas within the territory (on monitoring and patrol duties) with no appropriate means at their disposal

Given this situation in addition to which all recruitments have been suspended by virtue of the structural adjustment programmes which all the countries of the sub-region are subjected to, and of the low financial support at national level, the Department of wildlife succeeded in working out a compromise with donors and actors in the logging sector for the management of protected areas and forest concessions.

These partners are, under the above arrangement, expected to provide equipment and logistics for twenty (20) ecoguards per protected area, who will be responsible for monitoring the forest exploitations and keeping the protected areas away from poaching activities.

In areas reputed ordinary, the monitoring of wildlife heritage shall henceforth be the responsibility of village communities, which shall, under collaborative management, benefit the supervision of partner NGOs.

No national guiding principle has so far been adopted as regard collaborative management, as it is still under experimentation with the collaboration of NGOs carrying out projects in some protected areas, focussing on specific fields with varied methods. Finally, it is worth indicating that several ministries take action in support of the lawsuits and other forests related classification and research activities.

The management of wildlife through protected areas and sports hunting zones has so far been effected without any consideration for the overall land use planning, the reason to this being that the first forestry administrations placed under the authority of colonial masters had their own individual criteria in choosing and setting up the network of protected areas.

Similarly, the exploitation of resources by the populations, under the user's right scheme was poorly regulated, thus making it difficult to draw any demarcation line with poaching. The orientations of the law relating to land tenure that are currently being drafted aim at correcting this situation, so as to better integrate the management of wildlife in the land use planning.

Thus, each region shall henceforth be considered as a management and conservation area comprising urban and ordinary zones, forests management units, protected areas as well as restricted exploitation zones in which safari hunting (sight and cynegetic tourism) events shall take place.

Community or traditional hunting activities shall be carried out on territories that will henceforth be the property of the communities concerned.

All these measures are part of agreements signed or expected to be signed by all the partners, and which should be integrated in the legal provisions in order to be respected and enforced.

9.1.3- Domestic Financing of Wildlife-Related Programmes and Activities

The law governing the conservation and exploitation of wildlife provides that part of the related tax revenue shall be transferred to the management fund provided by law N°004/74 of 4 January 1974 relating to the forestry code..

The present forestry code also provides for a Forestry Fund meant to contribute in promoting the national forest resources, as well as ensuring their management, conservation and regeneration. This Fund shall, as provided under the code, be supplied with revenue generated by the exploitation of wildlife resource. Unfortunately, no concrete provision has been made to get this Fund to play its genuine role.

For the time being expenses incurred by the running of its bodies are borne by the State budget.

9.1.4-Current Wildlife Conservation and Exploitation Programmes

The Republic of Congo has, in its endeavours to carry out economic development as well as management and conservation projects established numerous cooperation ties with international bodies such as the FAO, EU/EDF, UNESCO,/UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank, IUCN, WCS, etc

The Programmes presently under implementation on the field include:

A UNESCO/UNDP-sponsored Programme (known as the Mayombe Project) thanks to which the Dimonika Biosphere Reserve was created in 1988. The implementation of this project has permitted to device some scientific foundations required in planning the use of NFTP's within the reserve and in its surrounding areas.

A programme (ECOFAC) involving seven (7) countries of the Central Africa Sub-region, including Congo. This programme initiated by IUCN with financing granted by both the 6th and 7th agreements of the EDF, permits to carry out management activities within the ODZALA-KOKOUA national Park, and undertake the storage of scientific and technical data relating to the natural resources of this site, which are under threat (funding released to date is estimated at about 3.5 billions CFA).

The protected areas management and conservation project (PROGECAP) financed to the tune of 6 billions CFA by GEF-Congo, which seeks to promote biological diversity in four (4) Protected areas (namely the Nouabale Ndoki National Park (NNNP), Conkouati Douli, the Dimonika biosphere reserve, and the LEFINI Wildlife reserve, and create the Lake Tele-Likouala community reserve. The Project which was implemented from 1993 to 1999 provided the opportunity for an overall better acquaintance with the ecosystems of the above protected areas and the mammals biodiversity harboured therein.

Lastly, a research programme was conducted within the Nouabale–Ndoki National Park (NNNP) with focus on Gorillas and elephants (application of collars and monitoring of elephants movements by satellite).

9.1.5-Participation in sub-regional initiatives, agreements and conventions signed by the Republic of Congo

The Republic of Congo is party to all the sub-regional initiatives and agreements (The Yaounde Declaration, CEFDHAC, Libreville Declaration, OCFSA and Lusaka). Like its Central African peers, this country has signed several international conventions (the CITES, B.D.C, Algiers, BONN, RAMSAR, World Cultural and natural heritages, Central Africa and Eurasia migratory aquatic birds, Sea Rights, Bamako convention and Kyoto Protocol)

Unfortunately, most of these conventions still lack coherence vis à vis the forestry or wildlife context. This is the case in particular; with both the CITES office and BDC, where the CITES and the action plan adopted still await to actually go operational

This situation comes to add to the fact that member contributions are not taken up by the State budget, and the most immediate consequence is the effective risk for the country to lose its status as a party to the CITES.

9.2-The Democratic Republic of Congo

9.2- Political and Legal Framework

In spite of the lack of a document on forestry-related policy, the Democratic Republic of Congo has an instrument (Law N°.82-002 of 28 May 1982 to lay down hunting regulations) that serves the purpose of regulating hunting activities in the country. It has also adopted the CITES and its appendixes on species classification as its reference basis for the trade and protection of species.

The law on hunting activities that is presently enforced dates back to 28 may 1982, and seeks to enact the measures necessary, while reconciling the desire to protect and conserve wildlife, with the demands for food by our populations, and particularly by those in the rural areas, so long as they are compatible with the norms relating to good resources management.

The management of protected areas is governed by Ordinance N°69-041 of 22 August 1969, which is assimilated to a law.

This ordinance falls in line with today's preoccupation which are the conservation of biological diversity, and sustainable use of natural resources within a national management context.

The problems arising from this law which regulates hunting activities lie at the level of its applicability on the field, in a context where enforcement instruments to ease implementation measures are lacking. In fact, hunting activities are regulated every year by a ministerial order issued and valid for that period only. The various administrative authorities (State Commissioners) and Wildlife officials on the field are however given the latitude to enforce the above-mentioned law, which essentially focuses on wildlife exploitation and related restrictions.

9.2.2-Institutional Framework

The "Ministry in charge of land property related issues, environment and tourism" is responsible for conceiving and implementing the country's forestry and wildlife policy.

Due to the vastness of the country and tremendous nature of the mission assigned to this ministry, two Public implementation bodies are placed under its supervision, namely the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (CINC) which assist the ministry in both the management of protected areas, and poaching control activities, and SPIAF which specialises in forestry related inventory, management and cartography works.

A technical department of hunting exists within the ministry, which is assigned with standards-related issues. Local committees presided over by Governors and other administrative authorities (according to their individual location – district, etc) are found on the field that are responsible for the management of hunting activities. The Ministry however faces the problem of insufficient field staff, as well as other financial problems that hinder the smooth functioning of its structures.

9.2.3- Wildlife Conservation and Exploitation Programmes

The Congolese Institute for Nature conservation (CICC), which is responsible for managing the protected areas developed the concept of participatory management at least some ten (10) years ago .

In both the Virunga and Kahuzi –Yega National Parks, and on the BATEKE Plateau, several varieties of programmes have been developed in collaboration with the Paix-Vie" initiative, thanks to cooperation bodies such as GTZ, the HEISDEN foundation in Germany and WWF. Most of these programmes aimed at protecting the forests around protected areas, and promoting agro-sylviculture to help in the management of both fuelwood and timber for construction purposes. Though the war situation has impeded several programmes, some protected areas remain concerned by the transboundary management agreement. Such is the case with the Virunga national park and Queen Elizabeth park in Uganda, the Volcano's and Garamba national Parks and their likes in Sudan, whose action is focussed on the protection of the white Rhinoceros

Other initiatives launched in the Katanga Region to protect its forests were unsuccessful.

The country's adhesion to both the Yaounde Declaration and the Convergence Plan provides an opportunity to create a consensus panel acceptable by all the parties, for the sake of a transboundary management of resources

Besides the collaborative management programmes, some NGOs have launched activities aimed at sensitising the populations on the breeding of game species (aulacode, cane

rat) No land allotment plan exists for the country, except few development, designs for some areas, that do not include hunting activities. In fact, the departments of wildlife, and forestry are not only two distinct structures within the ministry, but they also operate individually and wildlife is generally no point of concern whenever a forest concession is attributed for exploitation.

9.2.4- Domestic Financing for Wildlife conservation and sustainable use-related programmes and Activities

Apart from the non accounted financial contributions obtained through some specific field programmes from cooperation bodies, the state's budget fully takes up the entire financing for the wildlife sector. The economic recession resulting from the numerous political circumstances largely contributed to the difficulties faced by the Ministry in terms of both its functioning and operationality of the institutions under its supervision, with all predictable consequences on the staff.

9.2.5- Adhesion to Sub – Regional initiatives, agreements and conventions

The Democratic Republic of Congo at sub – regional level, has subscribed to the Yaounde Declaration and its subsequent Convergence Plan only. On the other hand, this country is signatory to many international agreements and conventions closely or by far interested in the conservation; trade and management of wildlife (RAMSAR, Algiers, Paris, Bonn, Rio de Janeiro, Washington, etc)

9.3-Republic of Cameroon

9.3.1- Political context

Cameroon has adopted a whole range of legal instruments that are all important for the management of natural resources, and based on the forestry policy document approved in 1995. The aim of this document was to seek the perennation of forests, and development of their economic, environmental and social functions within the context of integrated and collaborative management, likely to ensure the sustainable use of resources. The major orientations spelt out by this policy document aimed at.

- Ensuring the protection of the forestry heritage and contributing to the safeguarding of the environment and the preservation of biodiversity;
- Enhancing the contribution of the populations towards the conservation and management of forest resources, for the sake of improvement of their living standard;
- Promoting forest resources, so as to increase the contribution of forestry yields to the GDP, while preserving the yield potential;
- Securing the renewal of the resource through regeneration and reforestations, with the view to perpetuate the potential; and
- Revitalizing the forestry sector by putting in place an efficient institutional system and implicating all the actors in the management of forests and ecological resources

Some new concerns have today, added to those expressed by Cameroon, that consist in:

- Fighting Poverty;
- Securing food governance and
- Encouraging decentralisation in the management of resources

9.3.2- Legal Framework

After several amendments made in 1974 and 1981 the instrument under implementation today is Law n°94/01 of 24 January 1994 to lay down forestry, wildlife and fisheries regulations.

The forestry code divides the forest in Cameroon into two major formations including the permanent forest, which extends on permanently forested estates, and the permanent forest on lands that may be used to carry out other economic activities.

The legal framework of the wildlife sector, which has always been merged into that of the forest, leaves room for four (4) important legal provisions relating to the protection of persons and property against animals, the exercise of hunting rights, and to hunting weapons. Lastly, this new code provides for a decentralized management of hunting grounds through community hunting grounds.

9.3.3-Tax- Related framework

While forestry-related taxation is based enough on the general taxation scheme applicable to all the companies operating in Cameroon, the one relating to wildlife focuses on taxes and fines only.

It should be noted that the contribution of the wildlife sector (0.5 to 1 billion, CFA) to the State's budget are far inferior than those of the forestry sector which amount to about 9% of the GDP. Major sources of revenue include: fees relating to permits and licenses, felling and capture taxes, taxes applicable to hunting weapons. Hunting Zones lease fees, entry fees to protected areas, auction sales, diverse transactions, fines, penalties and damages.

Yet this activity generates other indirect revenue (stamp duties, customs duties on wildlife products, veterinary taxes, tax generated by hunting activities trading dues, insurance premium, sales of trophies by products, salaries paid to employees, domestic consumption of meat obtained from sports hunting), that is not directly accounted for under the heading wildlife.

9.3.4 –Institutional Framework

Created in 1992, the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry was later re-organised in 1998. Under its administrative supervision is the National forestry development Agency (ONADEF), a Public Execution body charged with the responsibility to carry out all activities relating to forests inventories and management, promotion of timber species, protection and rehabilitation of soils, desertification, control and regeneration.

MINEF equally has both the Mbalmayo-based national Forestry School; and the Wildlife School in Garoua, under its supervision.

Besides, several ministries contribute closely or from afar to the development of the forestry sector,. Such Ministries include Agriculture, Town Planning and Housing Economy and Finance, Scientific and Technical Research, Tourism, Higher Education, Industrial and Commercial Development, Territorial Administration and National Education

It is particularly important to mention that the award of hunting guns and ammunitions, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Territorial Administration is faced with a problem of poor mastery of the number awarded, and this situation favours the poachers.

To date, the execution of the many missions assigned to MINEF, and some shortcomings at institutional level (lack of strategies relating to the management of both biodiversity and wildlife, etc), have led to the launching of the Forestry and Environment sectoral Programme (P.S.F.E.). A programme assigned with the mission to handle the re-

orientation of the attributions of MINEF, and strive for the harmonious association of these with the resources, so as to ensure the smooth and consistent functioning of the structures of the ministry, and even prepare the ground for the relations with its partners. All these assignments fall in line with an overall reforms known process as the institutional review of the forestry sector.

Cameroon has drafted a land allotment plan for the southern part of the country, where forests exploitation activities failed to integrate wildlife management, and forests exploitation areas here, are known to be high-intensity poaching grounds.

The northern part where game hunting activity is best organized, unfortunately does not have any land allotment plan. This situation has given room to regular land management conflicts opposing the various administrations of the Rural world: Agriculture (extension of cultivation space), Livestocks (transhumance corridors) Tourism (management of protected Areas), or between the Forestry Administration and the local populations, concerning damages caused on the crops by animals.

The organization of hunting activities is pretty – well regulated insofar as third Parties (hunting guides, capturers) are concerned, but remains vague for the populations to whom the right to carry out traditional hunting activities is recognized (see table in Appendix 1). Some two experimentations only are currently underway (South East of, and around the Bénoué National Park), that tend to involve the local communities in the management of wildlife through community hunting grounds.

As concerns poaching control, Cameroon has adopted a strategy integrating the raising of the awareness of all social categories, the increase of the wildlife monitoring force and the development of alternatives. Some key administrations and a number of partners are involved in this strategy. The only problem at the moment is the deployment of staff which remain insufficient.

Just like in the other countries of the sub-region, collaborative management is regarded here as one of the ways out suggested biodiversity conservation strategy. But its experimentation differs from one Project site to another, depending on the orientations of the Donors. Focus in this context, is laid on the sharing of benefits of all nature.

As regard revenue generated through game hunting activities, the law provided that ten percent (10%) of such revenue should be allocated to riparian populations, while forty percent (40%) shall be paid to the territorial hast community, and the remaining fifty percent to the Public Treasury.

9.3.5- Wildlife Conservation Programmes.

Thanks to funding provided by various Donors (E.U, the Netherlands, French Cooperation, World Bank, USAID and GTZ), several conservation agencies (WWF, IUCN WCS) and other Projects and Programmes (ECOFAC, APFT, PCGBC, FOFARI, CARPE, PRGIE, SNV, GEF, TREES) are already very active on the field, in support to efforts made by the Government of Cameroon. Though quite considerable in that they amount to several billions, the funds thus provided are not controlled at national level.

Programmes at national level started with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP), which in 1988 was adopted under the appellation of National Forestry Action Plan (NFA) after having been submitted to donors in 1996 with its 58 projects identified for a total cost of 45.8 billions CFA francs, this action plan remains the sole forestry planning reference document. The National Forestry Action Plan provided the opportunity for higher awareness of forestry problems, the undertaking of a number of reforms in this sector, and increased foreign assistance.

Another initiative launched is the National Environment Management Programme (NEMP), with an overall objective consisting in developing policies strategies and actions aimed at protecting the environment and promoting collaborative and sustainable management of natural resources for the sake of sustainable development.

9.3.6- Domestic financing of Wildlife Conservation.

Three sources of financing today permit to more or less adequately conserve natural resources:

- The ministry's normal budget provides investment and operating appropriations for wildlife management structures both at central level and on the field. The total budget of the ministry amounts to some 2.5 billions CFA francs,
- The DWPA is provided a yearly 40 millions CFA francs budgetary allocation, for administrative functioning. In the some voun, each Provincial Service is allocate 1.6 millions CFA, as against 0.6 millions CFA for each forestry post. Added to these allocations is an investment budget that is managed at Central Level by both the Minister's Cabinet and the Department of General Affairs.
- A Special Fund for the Development and Equipment of Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas was created under Provisions of Law 94/01 of 20 January 1994. The fund which is actually active today in the areas of monitoring and equipment, has within a period of three years from 250 millions effectively raised to 400 millions CFA.
- Lastly in an effort to find financial solutions to past-project management, and experimentation is underway, of two trust funds created within both the mount Cameroon and Waza Projects. The Cameroon Oil Transportation Company (COTCO) a consortium assigned with the construction of the Chad – Cameroon Pipeline will create a Trust Fund known as FEDEC, to handle compensations due for environment related damages, tat will be oriented towards the management of both the Mbam and Djerem, and Campo – Ma'an national Parks

9.3.7 –Adhesion to sub-regional Initiatives and Agreements

9.3.7.1-Sub-regional initiatives

CEFDHAC: Cameroon is one of the countries that have acknowledged the important role of the Conference of Central Africa Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC). The country which spares no effort to help this process gain strength, is even galvanised by the fact that CEFDHAC's Secretariat is hosted by the Yaoundé-based IUCN-ROCA

The Yaoundé Declaration is perceived here as the crowing act of Cameroon's political determination to join efforts with the countries of the sub-region for a concerted management of their common resources.

Other Programmes such as MIKE, CAWHFI, DSEAF and Bush meat are equally implemented to help enhance MINEF's capacity to take action.

9.3.7.2 Conventions signed by Cameroon

Cameroon has signed a number of conventions on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Amongst these are the Washington, Algiers, Bonn, and Rio de Janeiro

conventions. As regard sub-regional agreements, Cameroon is a founding member and host country to the Organization for the Conservation of African Wild Fauna (OCFSA).

9.4 – The Republic of Gabon

9.4.1 Political Framework

The Gabonese forestry policy (Which includes the wildlife policy as well) dates back to June 1992, and is materialized by an overall policy notification relating to forestry and the environment. One of its key orientations is the conservation, sustainable management and promotion of natural resources.

Gabon's Prime Minister took upon him to recall the major aspects of this policy during the national workshop on the country's tropical forestry action plan held on 17 February 1998 (see Jean Prosper Koyo (1999, P.28), in Foundations for the harmonization of policies and legislations in Central Africa Countries).

Given the importance of Gabon's stand vis-à-vis the conservation of biodiversity in the Congo Basin the authorities have demonstrated their marked political determination to undertake the planning and adequate ecological management of wildlife resources. Such political willingness even illustrates the determination of the Gabonese Government to abide by both the Brazzaville Process and the Convergence Plan. Gabon's objective in the long run, is to succeed under the sustainable management of natural resources, in totalling:

- 4 000 000 hectares of protected areas;
- 8 000 000 hectares of Production forests; and
- 10 000 000 hectares of rural community forests.

(See Page 20 of the March 2002 National report on the management of wildlife Fauna and Protected areas, Produced in Libreville). The issue at present is to determine how wildlife resources are taken into account under such objectives.

9.4.2 Legal Framework

Law N° 1/82 of 22 July 1982 to determine the orientations relating to forestry has for twenty five (25) years, constituted the main legal instrument governing wildlife protection in Gabon. The system adopted by the Government of Gabon is quite close to model in Cameroon, in document containing all the provisions applicable to wild fauna. Consequently, there exist no law as such, that regulates wildlife protection per say (as it obtains in the Central Africa Republic, with the ordinance of 1984).

A new forestry code has just been adopted with law N°016/01 abrogating and replacing the 1982 law. In terms of structure, the 1982 model has again been maintained, as provisions relating to wildlife remain included in the forestry code. This obtains with both wildlife management (sections 68 to 92 in the new code) and wildlife exploitation (sections 163 to 213). There is need however, to complement regulatory instruments, presently under finalization. The instruments mentioned her, relate to the following areas:

- The classification of wild animal species living within the Gabonese national territory
- Conditions of detention, transport and trading any wildlife animal trophy or hunting products;
- Conditions for the creation of wildlife animal species breeding units;
- Conditions for the organization of synergetic events within hunting areas;
- The grouping of rural hunters, and bush meat salesmen; and
- Conditions relating to the issuing of hunting or capture permit and licences.

The taxation framework is provided in the draft order to determine tax rates applicable on wildlife and hunting (approval to sale bush meat in restaurants).

9.4.3 Institutional framework

Both the missions assigned to the Ministry in charge of forestry and its organization are specified under Law N° 1746/PR/MEFCR of 29 December 1983. The Department of Wildlife and Hunting is responsible for the management of wildlife and protected areas.

- This department is part of the directorate general in charge of Forestry, which in turn, is placed under the administrative supervisor of the Ministry in charge of Forestry, Fishing, the Environment and Nature Protection. At central level, the Department of Wildlife and Hunting comprises:
 - A Wildlife Management Service;
 - A Hunting Service; and
 - An Anti-poaching Service.

Some collaboration exists between the Department of Wildlife and Hunting and the Ministries in charge of Livestocks, and Defence in as regard the fight against poaching, and the breeding of small game species.

At provincial level, some five (05) Wildlife Brigades exist in Lope, Moukalaba, Sette-Cama, Iguela and Minkebe. Five (05) protected areas extending over 2 902 000 hectares surface area, which represents about 10, 84% of the national territory have been created in Gabon (see Pages 4 and 5 of the March 2002 national report mentioned above).

9.4.4 Adhesion to Sub-regional, Regional and International Agreements

Gabon is a member and Party to all the Sub-regional initiatives and agreements on forests conservation in Central Africa. Amongst these are:

- The Central Africa Protected Areas Network (RAPAC)
- The Brazzaville Declaration (A Consultation Process on the Management of Central Africa's Moist Forests Ecosystems)
- The Yaounde Declaration

The country also has also signed some Major convention on the conservation of species such as RAMSAR, CITES, BONN, BDC, etc...

9.5 –The Republic of equatorial Guinea

9.5.1 Political and Legal Frameworks

According to section 6 of the constitution of Equatorial Guinea, the state shall be responsible for the conservation of both nature and the cultural heritage. This provision illustrates the marked political determination by the state to embark into conservation activities, and the fact that the principle of nature conservation by the state clearly appears in the constitution stands as a materialisation or such commitment.

Equatorial Guinea is beyond this formal dedication, a full party to both the Brazzaville and Yaounde processes and resources in Central Africa

Law N°811988 of 31 December 1988 to lay down wildlife, hunting and protected areas management related regulations, which happens to be the basic legal instrument on wildlife, is somewhat ancient. If the content of this law is almost similar to other wildlife laws in neighbour countries (General conditions relating to the management of wild fauna, hunting regulations, legal regulations applicable to protected areas), some specific provisions are yet to be made as regard bush meat, since the 1988 law remains the one under enforcement.

Some reforms were later initiated to amend the status of forest guards assigned with the responsibility to protect and ensure the conservation of animal resources “Decree N°56/1991 of 22 July 1993 to approve the internal rules and regulations governing the special corps of forest guards in the Republic of equatorial Guinea”). It is however important that in the short or medium-term, the 1988 law be revised so as integrate the objective of the conservation

In fact, besides the 1988 law, the other instruments relating to wildlife handle the bushmeat issue under a fragmented approach regulating the following areas:

- Protected Areas (law N°4/2000 of 22 may 2000);
- Forestry related taxation (law N°1/2000 of 22 May 2000);
- Creation of National Parks (Decree law N°3/1997 of 14 may 1997);
- Creation of a National Forestry Development Fund (FONADERO, Decree N°160/1994 of 15 September 1994)

It therefore appears that a whole series of legal instruments exists, but with only one of them (the 1988 law) taking into account the issue of bush meat in a more of less formal way. This situation commands that some important amendments be carried out at legal level.

9.5.2-Institutional framework

At institutional level, Equatorial Guinea does not have a department specifically in charge of wildlife and hunting. All related issues (including the bush meat issue) are handled by the Directorate General of Forestry, which is the sole Governmental body with competence over wildlife matters.

The basic instrument that organize the Ministry in charge of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment (Ministerio de Bosques, pesva y medio ambiente) is the 1996 Decree still (Decreto N°123/1996 de fecha 23 de septiembre).

This instrument defines bodies of the Ministry in charge of Forestry and the ministerial organization model in use in Equatorial Guinea is for different from the one in other countries such as Gabon (where the Department of Wildlife is a constituent part of the Directorate General of Forestry to which it reports).

Concretely, the Directorate General in charge of Forestry here, is not the only body to handle wildlife issues. There actually exist a whole crew of officials within the ministry, assigned with projects planning and monitoring (Gabinete de Planificacion y Seguimiento de “Proyectos”). This crew is amongst other duties, responsible for the monitoring and follow up of environmental projects and programmes initiated in the country, including those on bush meat (The Malabo based Amigo de Donana Project on the conservation of some species like as turtles is one such example)

Some discrepancies are however observed on the field, between the strategies of implementation of all these projects and programmes, and the legislation currently under Law N°.1988 on wildlife and protected areas;

A new organization chart of the ministry in charge of forestry is being drawn up. This chart still provides for a Directorate General in charge of Forestry (that will equally be responsible for wildlife and protected areas). It will comprise four (4) sections (or divisions) namely:

- The forestry production section;
- The forestry protection section;

- The administrative coordination section, and
- The forestry monitoring section.

Due to the geographical position of the Biocco Island, where the capital city of Malabo is located, the Ministry is represented on the essentially mainland area in Bata, by a delegation with several sections (or Division of Wildlife and Protected Areas (Seccion de Cazas y Area Protegida).

Mention should be made of the fact that follow up of all international conventions is carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

9.5.3 – Adhesion to Sub-regional Regional and International Conventions

In addition to being party to the Brazzaville and Yaounde processes, Equatorial Guinea has also signed most of the conventions on the protection of species (CITES, BONN, BDC, etc). This country however still has to adhere to the Lusaka Convention, as most Central Africa countries have done. Besides, orientations of the Convergence Plan ought to be followed under the component “Adhesion to, and compliance with international conventions on the invironment”

9.6- The Central Africa Republic

The Central Africa Republic is highly concerned the bush meat issue, and has signed the convergence plan and all the agreements concluded in this domain.

The basic instrument currently being enforced is Order N°84-045 of 27 July 1984 to institute wildlife protection and lay down regulations relating to hunting activities in the central Africa Republic. This instrument does not specifically provide for the management of bush meat, but contains several provisions relating to protected areas and their legal status, as well as to conditions to carry out hunting activities as a whole, and traditional hunting in particular.

Provisions under chapter IV (hunting products) are more precise, in that according to Section 73, hunting products refer on the one hand, to meat obtained from the animals killed during a hunting event, and to the hides and trophies of these same animals on the other hand.

Part one of chapter IV focuses on meat, and comprises three sections (74-76). According to Section 74, hunters have the liberty, sections 75 and 76 notwithstanding, to determine what becomes of the meat derived from the animals they would have killed. Section 75 on its part, provides that meat abandoned by the hunters becomes the property of the populations of the villages that are most close to the hunting grounds.

Any hunter willing to abandon part of, or all the meat of an animal killed by him, shall be compelled to inform the first village inhabitant or village group on his way.

Section 76 however focuses most on the issue of bush meat, as it provides ‘Bush meat sale and resale activities shall be carried out on the market of hunting meat, from the date of opening of hunting activities to the 30th day after the date of closure of the same . These activities shall be regulated by a joint order of the Ministers in charge of both wildlife, and commerce”

Already in 1974, the trade of hunting meat was regulated by order N°74-72 of 28 June 1974. Section 2 of that Order provides the opportunity for any interested individual or cooperates body to undertake bush meat trading activities within the Central Africa Republic. The sole requirement to carry out this activity consisted in obtaining a prior authorization issued by the Minister in charge of Commerce, upon approval by the Minister in charge of Hunting and payment of a 25 000 Frs CFA licence fee.

The authorization referred to, under section 2 was deemed strictly personal and non transferable to some third party. More over this activity shall focus on hunting meat only, to be accompanied with counterfoil books duly filled in by both the customer and seller, in compliance with the sample provided by the Administration in charge of Hunting.

It should be specified that the 1984 Order still contains provisions that are absolutely appropriate, as concerns the protection of wildlife and protected areas.

However, the sectors of commerce (Taxation, licences, tariffs) and weapons monitoring (authorizations issued by the ministry in charge of defence) ought to be subjected, in our opinion, to a more clear regulation so as to help encourage a better enforcement of the law.

Naturally the order mentioned above ought in turn to be adopted to the changes observed in the requirements relating to wildlife management (See modification proposals submitted by the ECOFAC Project.).

9.6.2- Institutional Framework

The ministry in charge of Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries (MEEFCP) is the Governmental body responsible for the management of wildlife and Protected Areas. Decree N°02-025 of 23 January 2002 was recently signed, to organize the Ministry in charge of Forestry, Hunting,, Fisheries, Environment and Tourism. This Decree also defines the missions assigned to the said Ministry (See Bibliography)

Globally, some effort has been noticed in the above Decree, that is aimed at reorganizing the action of the ministry but, the attention paid to wildlife management appears in our opinion, to be the same as before, as concern management-related duties and authority entrusted to the competent services. Additional efforts should consequently be made in order to concretely translate the orientations of the Convergence Plan on the field.

9.6.3- Adhesion to Sub-regional Regional and International Agreements

The Central Africa Republic, like the other Countries of the sub-region, is party to several agreement and conventions on the protection and conservation of species. It is consequently very active in the process of implementation of the orientations of the convergence plan.

X – ANALYSIS OF THE POLITICAL LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

ANALYSIS OF PLOITICAL, LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

A Close look at the policies and institutions of countries of the sub-region shows that have convergent orientations and similar problems. During the mission, we realised that:

10.1 Similar orientations

10.1.1 At the political level

By and large, the forestry development strategy in the countries of the sub-region is hinged on the basic principles of sustainable and integrated management of forest resources as well as the participatory management that brings in all the stakeholders.

10.1.2 At the legislative level

Two main points stand here:

- i) Readiness to improve and promote sustainable resources use by the populations and the State through the various legal ways of exploitation, namely:
 - The rights recognized to the population (traditional and subsistence hunting, user right). These are rights recognized to the rural population to use forest products in their feeding, cultural practices and basic needs. However, there are restrictions as regard protected areas and hunting arms, tools, and methods used. The organization of hunting areas actually allows the populations to have better legal access to the resource and hence, to the sharing of profiles they may derive from it.
 - Sport hunting: This type of hunting practised by some nationals, residents and tourists in search of trophies, it is a very rewarding activity (in terms of the income it fetches) for safari organizations.
 - Commercial hunting: For this type of hunting to be deemed legal, it must be backed by a permit according to the quotas that have earlier been clearly fixed, and concern the sale of small mammals and birds captured alive (parrots and primates, chameleons, insects) or animal parts ‘skin, eg). Illegal hunting activities mostly concern poaching, which is unfortunately developing into a complex network, thereby making it difficult to implement any strategy adopted
 - Scientific hunting: this is authorised for purposes of scientific research (parasite research, vaccine, collections from zoological garden, etc...)
 - Participatory management: Within the framework of the strategy for the fight against poverty and the implementation of the management plan, participatory management offers a good opportunity for the use of resources in protected areas and, in some countries, within FMUs and common areas that are beneficial to all stakeholders.

- ii) Constant need to preserve and protect resources by:
 - Classifying animals into national protection categories (total, partial, un-protected) or by adopting the international classification (UICN red list or CITES appendices). This goes a long way to protect the most endangered species, regulating hunting types of permits and their validity for opening and closing hunting activities.
 - Prosecuting offences by embarking on the fight against poaching and meting out sanctions (fines, settlements, imprisonment) on poachers.
 - Creating national protected areas with the ultimate goal of increasing the network up to a level that varies from one country to another (10 to 30 %)
 - The creation of transboundary protected areas (such as the Sangha-Mengame-Minkebe Tri-national).

10.1.3 At the institutional level

With a few differences here and there, ministries have:

- Department or Technical services which, in conjunction with decentralised field structures, play a technical and normative role.

- Technical services, which implement partnership agreements signed with international bodies for support to the formulation and implementation of national policies on the protection of species, protected areas, and capacity building in the personnel.
- A workforce whose deployment on the field in various decentralised structures, is made difficult due to lack of material and equipments.

10.1.4 At the level of initiatives, agreements and conventions

States take part in sub-regional cooperation through such initiatives as MIKE, BWG, RAPAC, GSEAF, CAWHFI, OCSFSA. All the countries have ratified most of the international conventions relating to wildlife in one way or the other (CITES, Bonn, Ramsar, Biological Diversity, Natural and cultural Heritage, migratory Birds of Africa and Asia, Law of sea, Bamako, Kyoto Protocol, etc...

10.2. Common difficulties

Here, we are talking about shortcomings due to particular country policies, the legislation in force and the below-optimum operation of related institutions. It should however be noted that numerous reforms are currently underway or planned for the new future to address these shortcomings and take into account the innovative approaches to conservation as adopted by international conventions and agreements.

10.2.1 At the political and legislative level

While there is currently a political resolve on the part of the countries of the sub-region to go from the consultation phase to the practical phase that involves implementing the actions that have been identified to harmonise the joint management of forest resources, it should be recognised that there continues to be a wide rift between declarations, conventions, agreements and their implementation, due to various obstacles:

- Many laws are now unsuitable for the political dispensation ushered in by the Yaoundé summit on the Conservation of natural resources of Congo Basin.
- Not all the stakeholders were involved in the formulation of the laws (public administration, private operators, NGOs, civil society, particularly the local population with crucial daily preoccupations). Consequently, these stakeholders find themselves under the brunt of laws, thereby putting a damper on their participation.
- Furthermore, being underused and poorly understood, the laws are not properly implemented by the various field players.
- The various forestry policy have always put wildlife and the other natural resources components to the back bench
- Wildlife management methods within forest reserves and production forest are often not clearly set out. Given this poor perception of the importance of the wildlife sector, prosecution of offences in this sector is not dissuasive enough. Some with the little motivating fiscal policy when it comes to the use and management of wildlife resources.
- The above vague definition of the recognised to the population is a source of a latent conflict between the populations and forestry officials on the field. In effect, the concepts of subsistence hunting, traditional hunting and user rights are all given confusing and mistaken interpretations and hence implemented

haphazardly. But for a few (of them), the current legal provisions tend to put the population out of the game because these rights are actually not regulated.

- Inadequate action taken harmonise the conventions and agreement ratified with national legislation is sometimes the cause of various forms of difficulties: financing contributions, implementing provisions and profit sharing.
- Sometimes, the imbalance between legal provisions and their implementation texts (where they exist) makes their implementation even complicated (funding, logistics, personnel)
- The little coherence between forestry, land ownership and traditional laws is another factor hindering the harmonious management of wildlife resources.
- Legal and regulatory provisions on the protection of persons and property against animals are not clearly spelt out as far as compensation is concerned. This leaves the population helpless when animals are considered to be more important than human beings. Moreover, there is no training or initiative being taken at the level of the village in order to protect the population from animals. Yet there exist a multitude of ways which need to be put to maximum use (eg. Pepper bomb for elephants).

10.2.2. At the institutional level

Here many aspects are fraught with shortcomings and weakness, which need to be addressed.

a) Organisational aspect

- The internal organizations of the various departments of wildlife does not allow to fully carry out the missions conferred on this state of affairs are the lack of adequate means and personnel.

To this can be added the little integration of wildlife management structures within the institutional structure, under the authority of which they fall (technical service in charge of wildlife is not activities, operational means and even organization). This also creates an atmosphere of frustration, the very underpinnings of calls for the creation of autonomous structures with management and operational mechanisms such as Agencies.

- Personnel management is far from efficient (absence of a career profile, qualitative and quantitative inadequacy of personnel)
- The profession is not organized, but for some toothless-building texts. Only field workers are called upon to wear uniforms without any incentives. This explains the little consideration people have for this profession.

b) Wildlife conservation aspect

- A national network of protected areas that remains below expectation and possibility. As it stands, the network of protected areas covers an area of a little more than 50 million ha, which is far below the desired surface area as per various laws.
- A rather cloudy vision of wildlife management in government policies as seen in the absence of a wildlife and biodiversity management strategy, and an unsuited taxation policy, coupled, for states, by the poor knowledge of the activities of a good number of stakeholders and external sources of funding.
- Little collaboration with other services that are concerned with forestry development in one or the other (Agriculture, Town and Housing, Economy and Finance, Scientific Research, Tourisms, Higher Education, Trade and Industry, Territorial

Administration, Education). This explains the absence of synergy that has been observed.

- Few and negligible instances of prosecution of cases of offences with very little impact on the ground. The limited number and inefficient of control measures account for the impunity, given the level of poaching and illegal occupation of protected areas, particularly, those which do not have operational budgets.
- Low-keyed awareness raising campaigns, aimed at the population, on all wildlife-related issues (laws and enabling instruments, role and importance of wildlife, user rights, etc...). This is a direct consequence of over centralisation of wildlife management.
- Absence of an anti-poaching strategy (except for Cameroon)
- Coupled with this absence of a strategy and the structural adjustment plan now implemented in the countries, the workforce on the field is still very small and the material is insufficient, given the volume of work and universally accepted standards.
- Moreover, job description on the field is not usually clearly defined for field workers.
- The State dedicates very little national funds to the wildlife sector. Very few economic operators have been sensitised on financing resource conservation activities.
- Absence of management plans for most protected areas. In spite of the assistance given by cooperation agencies, very few protected areas have management plans.
- Failure to include wildlife management in rural and territorial development plans is a pointer to the little importance attached to this sector. This leads to territorial management conflicts.
- Insufficient protection and surveillance of protected areas. In fact, with the lack of personnel and working material, it is very difficult to carry out any meaningful surveillance within protected areas and effectively fight against poaching within protected areas, illegal occupation of protected areas by neighbouring populations for cultural, grazing, fishing and mining activities. This state of affairs is exacerbated by the absence of material boundaries for protected areas.
- Little involvement of all social classes. The great importance more populations attach to aspect of wildlife management complicates the solution of problems related to this sector
- The project approach management of protected areas is some concerned with the continuity of activities and the sustainance of logistic and scientific achievements than with capacity building.

c) **Wildlife exploitation**

- Poaching is actually a threat to the survivals of species. Due to the inability of the administration (lack of necessary means) to check this problem, poachers go about their business unperturbed.
- Most existing legal and regulatory provisions do not cover trade in bush meat. The different countries are wrongfully not ready to regulate this activity, which happens to be gaining a lot of ground, under the spurious and misguided pretext that they do not want to end up encouraging the trade in bush meat. They instead prefer to suffer the loss of huge earnings that the informal activity could generate..
- That countries do not have a proper knowledge of their resource potential is a damper to planning of rational management of protected areas. It is difficult to make the necessary inventories without the relevant wildlife inventory standards

d) Participatory Management

- Participatory management could facilitate the taking into account of the interests and skills of the various actors as well as their participation in resource management. Unfortunately, as it stands, participation in resource management is not a daily concern of the population, because they are not organised. This is due to the inadequate assistance from local NGOs and little coordination of the actions of the various stakeholders of the participatory management process.

e) Wildlife-Centred research and follow-up

- Although knowledge of the resource and its use are a major concerns, the technical services do not have any research programme on improved wildlife management.
- No elementary animal collection studies and economic analyses on trade are being undertaken. Where they are, there is no coherence. At the Ministry of Scientific and Technical Research and within Project sites, a lot of research on wildlife has been done in an uncoordinated manner, without any consultation with the technical services of the Ministries in charge of wildlife.
- Within the technical services, there is no coordination structure that can take into account the indifferent concerns and allow for the best use of earlier research works.

f) Technical and financial assistance

- Cooperation, bilateral or multilateral, with international NGOs and donors, is being developed without a common strategy or plan. This situation is complicated by the near-to absent collaboration with the various Ministries in charge of Foreign Affairs, which are officially responsible for agreements and treaties, as well as their follow-up.
- Field services in charge of wildlife do not also have a good knowledge of the activities of some executing bodies. This makes it difficult to really appreciate the level of technical and financial cooperation.
- Some of these bodies have even mounted projects on the field, some of which have been completed and for which the problem of continuity of activity and financial means has cropped up.

g) International conventions

- Although the countries of the sub-region have signed and ratified most of the conservations that are in one way or the other concerned with the conservation of and trade in wildlife species, there are still others which have not yet been signed or ratified, but which could be of help to these countries in wildlife management (RAMSAR for Cameroon, LUSAKA agreement for all the countries of the sub region, but for Congo, etc)
- But the major problem here lies in the harmonisation of some of these international conventions with national legislation, which will only be strengthened along with the management bodies. Furthermore, the non-implementation of these conventions and agreements means loss of all the advantages they bring.

h) Follow-up and Coordination of Projects

- Most projects on biodiversity that fall under the authority of the Ministries in charge of wildlife management or other services are being executed without these services and Ministries having taken part in their design. This makes their follow-up even more difficult.

- There is also the absence of synergy, meaning that the missions of wildlife technical services are not really included in the activities of field projects. Moreover, where it exists at the organic level, project coordination is not really operational such that not only the projects are not properly followed up but also, their achievement are not considered for use elsewhere

i) Financing Conservation Activities

- Until now, the State and foreign donors have been responsible for financing conventions activities. Yet there exist many other avenues at the national level, particularly the big companies, the activities of which impact on the environment
- Lack of sensitisation on marshalling national financial means is a major obstacle, particularly when projections are made into the future, when each country will have to defray its own costs and rid itself free of the ever-present assistance syndrome, which will one day come to an end.

Conclusion

In spite of the political will, coupled with an abundant legal paraphernalia and an institutional framework, after numerous meetings with administrative and field officials as well as with officials of conservation bodies, we agree with the generally recognised fact that wildlife degradation is a result of a poor conception of its management in which the State is very much present, with its attendant centralization, harshness and lack of consideration for the concerns, needs and interests of the population; Yet, wildlife management had and still has solid foundations.

XI FOUNDATIONS

Despite the numerous difficulties, States have always had assistance that can be classified under three categories sub-regional initiatives and agreement, international cooperation through regional programmes and international conventions.

11.1 Sub Regional Initiatives and Agreements

The Yaounde Declaration (1999). To show their political will to develop their forestry sector, each State created its own Ministry responsible, among others for forest resource management.

There are serious actions at the level of the highest authorities, intended to step up collaboration in resource management.

Consequently, the Yaounde summit that brought together Central African Heads of State on the conservation and sustainable management of forests of the Congo basin, developed a follow-up process labelled “the conference of Central African Ministers in charge of forestry (COMIFAC) which set the principal convergent lines of action, among which are the harmonisation of policies and forest resource enhancement.

With the 24 month minimum period that the states, parties to this declaration, have within which to fully implement their national plans in order to achieve projected results, we fear that most states would not respect this timeframe due to the late distribution of this document

Conference on Central African moist forest ecosystems (CEFDHAC)-1996 CEFDHAC, also known as the Brazzaville process, is a consultation platform for countries of the sub-region a which, in its initial declaration, expressed their willingness to work together

in promoting sustainable use of the resources that abound in the ecosystems and in harmonising sub-regional ecosystem management policies..

Within the framework of the implementation of this declaration, the Secretariat of CEFDHAC took the bull by the horns to lay the groundwork for the harmonisation of forestry policies and legislations with a study carried out under the supervision of Jean Proper KOYO

Organization for the conservation of wild fauna in Africa (OCFSA)

Created in the 1980s by five central African countries (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon Chad, CAR), later joined by Sudan, OCFSA had as objective to provide assistance to States in wildlife management by creating a consultation forum (Conference of Ministers) and by harmonising anti-poaching laws and strategy. Today the organization is still to take off and faces two major problems/ membership of some countries (DRC, Equatorial Guinea of the sub-region and ratification by others which have already the cooperation agreement with a view to relaunching or operationalising the financial mechanism set out by the establishment agreement of a fund

-The Libreville Declaration Centred on the strategy for the fight against poverty.

-The LUSAKA Agreement (1994)

This agreement that bring together mostly east and southern African countries has as goal to hence or even eradicate illegal trade in wild fauna and flora.

Unfortunately, this mechanism, which falls in line with the need to combat plundering or illegal use of resources, does not lay enough emphasis on poaching, which begets illegal trade. Congo, a party to this agreement, has set up an operational bureau in Brazzaville, Payment of contributions is a real problem to the other states because of the high amounts.

-Bushmeat coordination now being set up with the support of BCTF and CITES

-MIKE Programme

With all its branches in the countries of the sub-region, the MIKE programme is aimed at monitoring illegal killing of elephants in particular, but also poaching, in general.

GSEAF Coordination

This is a fallout of the IUCN specialist group and has as objective to examine all issues related to elephant population in Central Africa.

CAWHFI Programme

THIS UNESCO supported programme is involved with addressing the issue of bushmeat within protected areas classified as world Heritage sites by UNESCO.

-The Abuja Declaration and the Lake Chad Basin Commission

They are primarily concerned with coordinating all the activities associated with the problem of bushmeat so as to mitigate its adverse effect.

11.2-International cooperation through National and Regional conservation programmes

In addition to the efforts made by the various countries in the implementation of wildlife conservation and management policies, states have signed cooperation agreements with donors or executing bodies either on the financing or execution of projects and programmes.

Some of such donors and executing agencies are:

The world Bank, European Union; the Netherlands, DFID, WWF, GTZ, IUCN, UNDP, French Cooperation; WCS.

It should be noted that international cooperation provides considerable assistance in terms of financial support and national capacity building, though such assistance is not understood by the receiving countries. For instance, the GEF-Congo and GEF-Cameroon Programmes alone cost nearly 13 thousand million CFA francs.

But because it is the same donors working in the same countries, the tendency is for little dispersion of efforts (financial and technical). Consequently, priority is given to huge regional programmes, which are more sustainable and more perceptible, given the current shortcomings of national project. It can therefore be said that the joint management of the said transborder-protected areas is an appropriate framework for donors.

Some transnational conservation programmes are GEF, ECOFAC, Tropical Forest People Future, The Central African Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE), Training and Dialogue Programme on Forestry Policies in the Congo Basin Regional Project for the Management of Environmental Information (PRGIE), IUCN with its projects and processes (CEFDHAC, PAS and its critical sites, natural resource use projects, collaborative management of natural resources), WWF collaborative with its vast programme on eco-region, and finally, WCS which is carrying out studies regulating within the sub-region, with a view to better regulate hunting and hence improving wildlife management in addition to the other conservation activities it undertakes through protected areas.

Finally, networks have been developed to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing (RAPAC, RIFFEAC, REPOFBAC, etc).

Unfortunately, all these programmes do not attach strategic importance to the wildlife component

11.3- International conventions

At the regional and even national levels, legislations and initiatives have not integrated the provisions of conventions that have been ratified. Here and there, orders are being prepared for the implementation of the CITES, whereas harmonising international conventions with national laws will give more weight to the latter in addressing issues concerning bush meat and the managerial capacity of management bodies.

Some states have drawn up their national biodiversity conservation strategy, which only has to be adopted.

Any other actions have been taken or are being taken within countries concerning the issue of bush meat. These are multi-dimensional studies (socio-economic, anthropological, legal, administrative, fiscal, financial, etc).

XII Vision For the Future

The future of wildlife management depends on the outcome of some activities being undertaken on the field, aimed at changing behaviours towards bush meat. These field initiatives should then be exploited and translated into policies and laws negotiated, accepted and applicable to all.

These activities mainly concern:

- Education and sensitisation of political leaders, officials of the administration, various stakeholders and users of wild fauna specimens, on the relevant national laws, conventions (CITES, Biological Diversity, etc) and on the threats to the resource, in general;
- Development of innovative activities, alternatives to exploitation practices, in towns and within forest concessions, that do not attach importance to the sustainable use of wildlife resources

- Provision of more material and equipment for the control of the movement of, and trade in wildlife species, and stepping up regional cooperation in the fight against poaching through a common strategy;
- Increasing collaboration with the judiciary and forces of law and order, including administrative authorities,
- Training and strengthening the capacity of persons called upon to manage protected areas and other zones where poaching is rampant,
- Increasing the financial capacity of institutions in charge of wildlife management;
- Mobilisation of national funds to support wildlife management.

XIII POTENTIALS

- National laws should be revised and harmonised; this, for many reasons such as
- Common natural resources;
- Peoples with similar cultures;
 - A clearly defined common political will,
- -Common challenges in the areas of development and conservation of wildlife resources and their habitat;
- Common donors;
- Parties to the same conventions, agreements and treaties, sub-regional initiatives

XIV RECOMMENDATIONS

After analysing the current problems, highlighting future orientations and considering existing sources of assistance and potentials, we would like to make the following recommendations, which would go a long way to curb poaching and the illegal trade in bush meat in Central Africa.

14.1 General recommendations

We recommend that policies and laws be harmonised by adopting new legal instruments that are suitable to the current situation in the countries of the sub-region and to their international commitments.

14.2 Specific Recommendations

a) For Politicians,

We recommend:

- The signing of a sub-regional agreement or convention on bush meat. This will be on indication of the resolve of the States to address this topical issue and cause them to undertake meaningful actions intended to facilitate the implementation of existing conventions and agreements
- Continuation of collaboration at the highest strategic level, in order to give strong indications in the execution and follow-up activities both at the national and sub-regional levels (accelerating the implementation of the Yaounde process)
- Including wildlife development policy in the rural development policy: in management plans, areas set aside for wildlife management should be open enough, marked out and set apart in order to minimise all forms of clashes. In exploiting the resource, thought should be given to renewing it as well.

- Political decision makers should manage the wildlife sector with a lot of objectivity, because though the sector, as it stands, does not generate large revenue for the different State budgets, it is a promising sector for the future as far as forests are concerned. Today, it is instead at the origin of social problems which political decision makers may not like to address.

b) For Lawmakers

We recommend:

- Harmonising conventions, such as CITES, with the various legislations. Harmonisation would facilitate a more rigorous control of trade in bush meat. The other countries of the sub-region should also ratify the OCFSA and LUSAKA accords, so that they can effectively fight against poaching in general, and particularly elephant poaching, in conjunction with the MIKE programme.
- Harmonising wildlife management at the level of promotion and exploitation (titles granted, opening and closing of hunting seasons, species classification and taxation).
- As for the protection, harmonisation and improvement of the lot of the profession incentives, sanctions and prosecution procedures should be adopted, particularly in the participatory and transborder management of resources or protected areas.
- Clearly defining and laying down conditions for the application of rights and benefits recognised to local neighbouring population of production and exploitation zones.
- Defining the procedure for the resolution of conflicts because current legislations are silent on damage of crops and property caused by wild animals.
- Drawing up forest management plans to include the wildlife component so as to bring forest exploiters to give importance to wildlife. This actually means developing a synergy with forest management units (FMUs) where a hunting area is found or not in FMU.
- Collecting taxes on wildlife products within the framework of short-term reforms, by referring to the environment related taxation and this for many reasons:
 - Encourage the participation of neighbouring populations through profit-sharing
 - Poverty and the pervading economic crisis have forced States not to impose taxes on hunting activities carried out by rural populations. But since these activities generate revenue, a change in behaviour will be hard to come by, yet we have to start somewhere
 - Encourage economic operators, particularly those of sensitive social sectors (brewing, railway, etc) to invest in the wildlife sector (game ranching, farming, sport hunting and trade in fauna products).
 - Discourage poaching by instituting fines, divided into categories depending on social status.

c) For Officials of Institutions

We recommend:

- The organization of national then regional, meetings on wildlife and the issue of bush meat, regrouping all the stakeholders whose activities impact on the wildlife sector
- Develop a strategy for the conservation and management of wildlife and its conservation sites, in accordance with studies that have already been finalised (situation, geo-referential map and institutional review) with a view to refocusing the

various activities of stakeholders. This strategy should be in line with the Convergence Plan that includes the poverty alleviation strategy.

- Adoption and harmonisation of a common anti-poaching strategy. Such a strategy should serve as a warning system and should concentrate on the strongest links of the chain; It is even necessary to include the fight against poaching among the environment related good governance criteria, centred on:

-Sensitisation (at the level of the administration, stakeholders and the general public)

-Stepping up control activities with high-poaching areas and along transportation routes (air, rail, water, land)

-Alternatives (breeding of small game, promotion of non-timber forest products, etc)

From the foregoing, it is necessary for OCFSA to be revamped, so that it can play its role fully

The harmonisation of training modules in order to limit differences in approaches among field players. Field workers need to undergo recycling and it is imperative to clearly define the role of each and everyone

- Setting up of national coordination structures to handle the issue of bush meat in the face of the proliferation of project concerned with bush meat (IUCN, WWF, WCS, CAWHFI). Such a structure will work in synergy with those already existing on the field.
- The management of transborder protected areas should be entrusted to a fluid administrative (coordination) structure and should follow rather flexible and tested management procedure manuals.
- Carrying out participatory management according to the specific features of each area, and the methodology developed by the network for the collaborative management of natural resources of the Congo basin, with the support IUCN, such that job description is done at the base and on the basis of the anti-poaching strategy., Whatever the cultural and religious values, change of attitudes in relation of wildlife resources is difficult but necessary.
- Increasing the network of protected areas and elaborating texts to lay down the conditions for their management while maintaining the existing ones. Such increase should take into account critical sites that are relics of the biodiversity;
- Implementation of the “ten commandments”, the outcome of the workshop on the impact of forest exploitation on wild fauna, this with a view to limiting the direct and indirect problems (see ADIE, forests N°1)
- Putting some order in the bush meat activity by regulating it and taking measures to facilitate its control.
- Exploring all other sources of funding, particularly innovative sources of funding at the national level State budget and funds, trust funds, etc).

Implementing these actions will require authorities to:

- Redefine the mission of technical services, which will continue to assume the regalian responsibilities and ensure the follow-up of agreements and conventions. These technical services may, if need be, receive assistance from flexible and smaller parastatal public structures (such as agencies), the functions of which (polices, research, development, administration, scientific authority of CITES) can be divided or given to other partners.

Redeployment, following, workforce organization plans and emergency action plans where they exist, of field staff both in quantity and quality while empowering those who have receive adequate training

- Training personnel in order to increase their knowledge and intervention capacity. This certainly requires increasing the capacity of training structures
- Providing wildlife management structures with efficient and sufficient working material in order to improve their intervention capacity; particularly the police.
- Strengthening the capacities of national and Sub-regional coordination structures (focal points) for bush meat by the BCTF and other partners.

d) For Donors

We recommend that

- The support of the international cooperation should be increased and directed more towards transnational programmes, and that the mobilisation of external funds should be done for only one administrator who will be in charge of dispatching such funds to the executing bodies, depending on the resource concerned.

XV STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategies for the implementation of these recommendations should be worked out from three levels national, transnational and international.

a) At the national level

- Institutional support structures within wildlife management services should adopt all the reforms envisaged (such as FESPs, in Gabon, Central Africa Republic, Cameroon).

It is already obvious that laws and regulations in this domain need revision, for the ones, and elaboration, for the others, while harmonising them with the Convergence Plan and with conventions that have been signed and existing agreements. This is the responsibility of services in charge of wildlife a bottom-top participatory process involving all the partners.

- Using channels offered by CEMAC and CEAC for the revision and adoption of transnational instruments.
- Using all available means of communication (TV, Radio, Print media, etc) to map out a communication strategy, in conjunction with the PRGIE.
- The mobilisation of funds for wildlife conservation should mainly be directed at big companies and economic operators.

b) At the Sub-regional level

OCFSA or the regional bush meat Coordination may be used to make the most of all the actions already undertaken and carry out studies on the financial cost of poaching and trade in bush meat, as well as adopt strategies for the future. This will entail:

- Organising a reflection to seek ways of making the most of works and actions undertaken by working out a synthesis for each country, in order to rationalise the fight against poaching within the framework of the Convergence Plan or SAP.
- Drafting the sub-regional agreement or convention on the management of bush meat under the supervision of OCFSA, while involving the other partners.

- Implementing the Convergence Plan and the SAP in the short and medium run to handle all transborder issues. CEFDHAC could play the role of auditor or be in charge of the follow-up of the implementation of the action adopted.
- Causing OCFSA to play a role similar to that of the LUSAKA agreement for the sub-region.
- Seeking the support of the Network of parliamentarians for the necessary legal reforms and sensitisation campaigns.
- Maintaining the administrative role of IUCN in the follow-up of the management process of bush meat in Central Africa, right to the adoption of the sub-region agreement of convention by OCFSA.
- Strengthening the technical capacity of the personnel in charge of wildlife management. The Garoua Wildlife school should be used to address problems of training and further training

c) At the International Level

- Accelerating the process for the implementation of conventions (CITES, Biodiversity, etc) not only to tackle the problem of trade, but also to benefit from the multi-faceted support that comes with participation in such convention.
- Seeking for more financial and technical support from donors and conservation bodies

XVI UNDERSTANDING SOME CONCEPTS

That the concepts “traditional hunting, subsistence hunting, commercial hunting and user right” are defined differently in different legislative texts show how difficult it is to give a precise meaning to these notions

Before proceeding, it is necessary to recall certain aspect before drawing conclusions.

16.1 Commercial hunting

Though most laws of the sub-region do not clearly define the term commercial hunting, it should be noted that:

- Sports hunting, the capture of animals for commercial purposes are legal forms of commercial hunting because they are authorised and regulated by the provisions, of forestry laws
- Consequently, poaching for sale of game, now being practised in total disregards of the law, can be considered as a form of illegal commercial hunting.

In all the countries of the sub-region, land and resources are the property of the State and collectivities. Commercial hunting, apart from the forms provided for by law (hunting or capture for purposes of commercial export, and after payment of related fees) cannot be carried out by an individual for his own needs only, since the traditional organization of the society has always been based on the distribution of resources or profit sharing.

16.2 Traditional Hunting

The various laws define traditional hunting as hunting in which traditional tools or equipment are used, and which seeks to perpetuate a particular cultures (e:g pygmies who use lances to kill an elephant for the Djenqui myth). Today the problem is at the level of the equipment used. As a mater of fact, steel lines and locally made dane guns are some of the

tools the population use on a daily basis and which they also use when it comes to traditional and subsistence hunting, and particularly protecting some traditional values.

16.3 Subsistence hunting.

This is hunting carried out by rural inhabitants in search of animal proteins for household consumption. This is mostly the case where there is no possibility for the people to rear their own animals or where the network for the sale of domestic meat is not well organised. Moreover, the rural people cannot afford the exorbitant prices of the products.

Sometimes, the two forms of hunting are undertaken concomitantly. The problem here is that incidentally, the means used and the need to have basic necessities (soap, salt, etc;) lead the peasants to killing more game than needed for consumption so that they can sell the surplus, if possible. At this juncture, problems arise between the people and the forestry administration.

16.4 User right

This is the right recognised to the neighbouring population of a protected area or zones of production of the resource (hunting area or lease to hunting guides or forest concessions) . Generally, the user right is negotiated with the population on the strength of payment or undertakings.

Is there any need to propose other definitions for these concepts? We rather think that these rights should be regulated. Two sceneries are possible here:

a) These concepts are variously defined depending on the particularities of each country, but within the purview of participatory management and considering eco-regional zones, the competent authorities of states should be able to find and draw up a mart platform.

b) Today, be it for poaching or the rights recognised to the population, it is imperative to regulate these concepts. This will require considering and adopting wildlife management methods for the production of bush meat that will be used particularly by the rural population, and taking into account economic, social and environmental factors. Such actions may concern:

- Recognising bush meat production as an economic activity by its own right and limiting (to the barest minimum) or putting an end to the myth of the traditional use of the game resource which no longer corresponds to reality (eg a reflection is underway in Cameroon to lay down the condition for carrying out small-scale hunting

- Bringing communities to adopt statute law (legislative texts) in their use of this resource.

Setting up an official, transparent and viable economic activity that is environmentally friendly and protective of public health, while making sure that initial studies are undertaken in related areas.

This could be for instance, by limiting the sale of game to small areas and in a manner well defined by law. This could also be by prohibiting all form of transportation and sale of game in big toms:

Other alternatives can be explored. This explains the innovative solutions which are the growing of game, now underway at the experimental phase in Cameroon, Gabon and DRC

XVII SOME ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED IN REGULATING HUNTING BY THE LOCAL POPULATION

Notwithstanding the procedures and reflection now going on elsewhere and more precisely in Cameroon (with the Community Forestry Development Project (CFDP) MINEF)

it should be understood that regulating the hunting activities of the population today means co-management of the hunting areas with them, given their lack of expertise and organization.

Such actions include:

- Marking out and allocating the area to a community
- Organising the community into a recognised legal entity (such as a development committee, a village committee)
- Elaborating a collaborative management convention within the confines of the law.

The collaborative management convention defines:

- The zoning of the area concerned, according to its different uses: biodiversity conservation areas, hunting areas, transhumance corridors;
- Management procedures for hunting, by fixing the killing quotas, hunting seasons, defining traditional and sport hunting as well as types of animals.
- The management of specific products: timber, medicinal plants, apiculture, agriculture, grazing, water resources, mining resources,
- Various work posts and the duties involved,
- Movement of persons,
- Fight against poaching and surveillance of the habitat
- Sanctions/punishment

XVIII FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TRANBOUNDARY PROTECTED AREAS

Apart from the other favourable conditions that obtain in the region, biodiversity conservation is today a major concern both for countries of the sub-region and the world at large. This is what explains the assistance donors and other conservation bodies provide. In order to ensure the constant availability of support initiatives of partners in this joint endeavour, many factors should be taken into account:

18.1 Increasing inter- and intra-state security

Cases of civil war in Congo, armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the climate of instability reigning in the CAR over the last years are indicative of the absence of social peace. This state of affairs greatly jeopardises efforts aimed at biodiversity conservation and, in the process, exposes it to unbridled mass destructions.

The States involved in this initiative should therefore take all measures necessary to preserve social peace and security both within and outside border areas where there is collaborative management of resources.

In the long run, thought could be given to setting up a trust fund in case of loss of biodiversity due to war or natural disaster. The only thing to be precised here is who would pay such compensation.

18.2 Consolidating Sub-region Cooperation and Collaboration

Transborder management of forest ecosystems within the sub-region requires the putting in place of an environmental data collection processing and dissemination mechanism in the countries involved in this initiative. To this effect the PRGIE in its active phase, could play this role by providing, assistance to the different notional information systems on biodiversity. On its part, CEFDHAC would serve as a consultation platform for the sharing of experiences on the conservation of forest ecosystems in Central Africa

As for the fight against poaching and other practices that do not guarantee resource sustainability, it is necessary to harmonise legislations in order to facilitate coordinated and concerted action between the States.

One of the ever-lingering problems associated with biodiversity conservation is the inadequacy of personnel (both in quantity and quality) and absence of experience – sharing.

Yet, training capacities exist and only need to be strengthened and better exploited. For instance, we have the Garoua Wildlife School, the Mbalmayo Forestry School, the Education and Training Centre of Somalomo in Cameroon, the Forestry School of Gabon, and the Regional Centre for the Integrated Management of Tropical forest (ERAIFT) in the Democratic Republic of Congo

18.3 Respecting International and regional Conventions on Biodiversity

Due to lack of financial and sometimes human resources (a direct consequence of the non-respect of commitments made by party States), many initiatives geared towards the conservation and management of renewable natural resources (OCFSA and ATO) are facing serious operational difficulties.

Most Central African countries are already members or partners of sub-region organizations (OCFSA, IUCN, ATO, CEFDHAC,) or are signatories to some of the above mentioned conventions. This is a strong positive point for the establishment of a more dynamic regional cooperation.

18.4 Carrying out the necessary studies with a view to making concrete and documented Proposals for the production of a management Plan

This proposal lays emphasis on the areas linking existing protected areas and those being or to be created, particularly critical sites. This also means that each country has set out its biological outlook on conservation, as it is the case in Gabon and Cameroon.

The approach used in this transborder resource management initiative needs to work out a transborder management plan which will make it easy to link up critical sites to existing protected areas by proposing communication channels. The elaboration of such a management plan will require serious consultations between the countries and reconnaissance missions to complete available information.

The necessary studies concern many domains: socio-economic, bibliographic, forestry and legislative

18.5 Financial support.

Apart from the national budgets of the various countries and the considerable contribution from donors and conservation agencies, the putting in place, within each member country, of national forest Funds and other funds, such as fiduciary Funds, with a flexible and transparent operational mechanism, would go a long way to easing the realisation of this initiative and many others .

In our opinion, funding of biodiversity related activities should not depend on a loan system.

18.6 Preparation of a national biodiversity conservation strategy in each country

Such a strategy will highlight the main orientation and actions to be undertaken as well as enable partners to better situate themselves in relation to the various national programmes of action, instead of carrying out activities that could be a repeat of others and may not correspond to the concerns of the countries

As such, these should be a clearer perception of the political will, clearly expressed by the countries concerned in matters of biodiversity conservation.

18.7 Expected Results

The main results expected of this initiative are:

- Formulating a draft transborder management plan;
- An official undertaking to classify all protected areas and their relay communication corridors;
- Setting up a flexible regional coordination structure;
- Strengthening regional capacity in the implementation of the management plan of a transborder area;
- Setting up of consultation forums.

XIX REMARK

As this point of recommendation, it is not possible to make a budgetary estimate of expenses corresponding to the action envisioned. This will be the responsibility of the different states. Only estimates for the immediate needs for the continuation of the on-going process have been identified and classified according to countries in the appendix of the report.

XX CONCLUSION

The issue of use of, and trade in bush meat is directly linked to the change in the way of life of rural and urban populations. The rapid change in the national and international context of national resource conservation makes some legal and regulatory provisions inadequate.

The harmonisation of laws and institutional frameworks, that results from political choices, is a very demanding task, the success of which depends on the combination of efforts and common concerns. Success also depends on the harmonisation of positive achievements. This will allow for the gradual removal of points of disagreement.

Combining the different strategies would lead to the reduction of poaching in the so called re-listed” areas or zones of intensive poaching, along transportation routes and within consumer areas of products derived from poaching both within the countries or among them.