Part 2 Integration of priority setting with industry standards
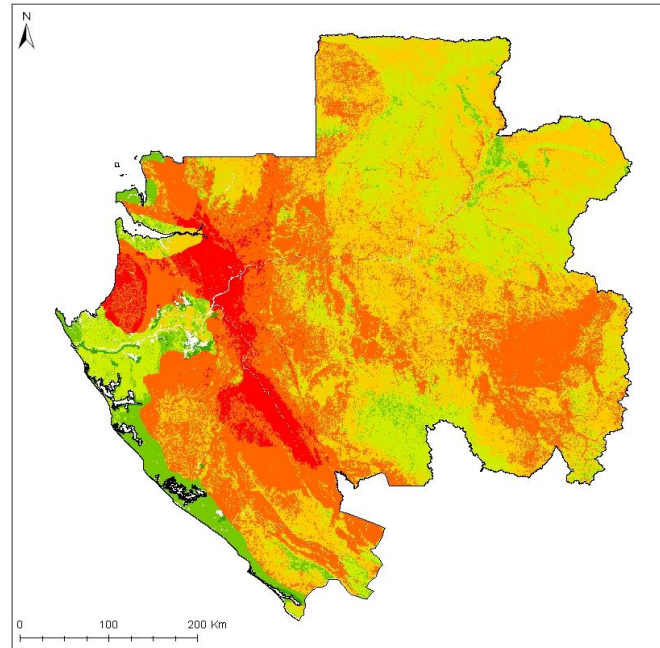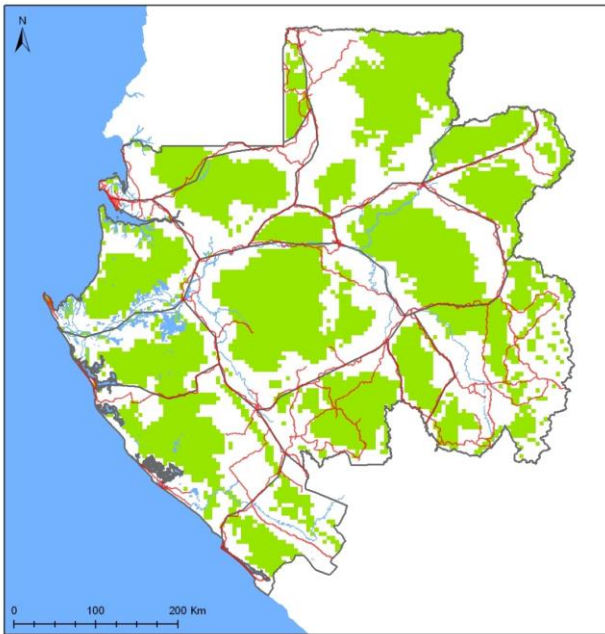
Critical habitat &

High Conservation Value

Potential conservation area for a target of 80% of the current elephant population

- Potential conservation area
- Bloc
- Road
- Water
- Gabon

-Cost layers-
Palm Oil Suitability

Palm Oil Suitability cost
- 0
- 5
- 10
- 20
- 80
- 100
- Gabon

Integration with industry standards

- Highest value areas would, ideally, be formally protected

- However, most will fall within *commercial concessions* or areas targeted by industry (mining, palm oil etc)

- Decisions should therefore *involve* government and industry stakeholders.
  - Protecting priority areas in commercial concessions incurs a cost on the operator, so needs to be based on science, and be transparent

- Approaches:
  - Macro-zoning (allocation of permits... No go areas for plantations)
  - Micro-zoning (management areas plans within concessions)

- Both must link to industry standards for biodiversity protection:
  - IFC standards and *Critical habitat*
  - FSC and RSPO standards and *High Conservation Value* areas

IFC Performance Standard 6

- Critical habitat definition
  - *Habitat of significant importance to Critically Endangered and/or Endangered species;*

- No intervention in critical habitat that would lead to a NET reduction in the global or national/regional population of any recognized Critically Endangered or Endangered species over time
- Offsets may be used to ensure residual impacts are mitigated.

High Conservation Value areas

- The 'High Conservation Value' concept was developed by the FSC for forest certification (a voluntary industry standard)

- A safeguard criteria for biodiversity and cultural values

- HCV criteria provide a framework for *stakeholders* to define what they think are important attributes

- The criteria are based on attempts by Birdlife International and The Nature conservancy to define *significant* or *important concentrations* of biodiversity

- Adopted by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (**RSPO**)

- An HCV area is any are that holds a **significant concentration** of biodiversity values (endangered or endemic species) at the **national, regional or global level**.

- This could be a significant concentration of one endangered species
  - E.g. A nationally significant population of great apes
  - *Ex. Une population des grands singes significative au niveau national*

- Or, a concentration of several endemic species
  - i.e. An important bird area (*sensu* Birdlife International)

- Or a significant congregation of migratory species

Why is it important?

- Companies who are committed to the certification process (FSC forest management), are committed to safeguard these areas from threats that will have negative impacts on the conservation value

- HCV areas must be managed in such a way as to ensure the conservation value is *maintained or enhanced*

- HCV designation maybe compatible with low impact forestry activity

- But,

- HCV areas *cannot be converted* to plantations (RSPO criterion 7.3)

Interpretation of the definitions

- Threshold values for these attributes need normally to be defined at country level by relevant stakeholders.

- However the lack of data and expertise has slowed this process

- Result: companies and their auditors define their own values!

- Objective of this workshop is to develop a standard and widely accepted definition of *significant concentrations* of great apes, which can be used to map HCV areas

- This definition can be adopted by industry standards, creating a transparent generating leverage over land use decisions

Aligning great ape priorities and HCV

- Discussion: best methods to define and delineate significant populations:
    - Absolute density threshold
    - Population size and intactness
    - Target population level

- Modelling populations permits decisions to be taken about priority zones in a stakeholder forum

- Different methods are available to define thresholds

- Important that these thresholds are consistent with the language of industry standards to ensure priority areas are considered High Conservation Value areas

- Transparent process allows government and industry buy in and increases the uptake and impact of the exercise

Example: using population size to define priority level

- John Pilgrim: The Biodiversity Consultancy

Vulnerability of biodiversity feature[35] / Irreplaceability of management unit	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Near Threatened/ Least Concern	Data Deficient/ Not Evaluated
Sustaining ≥ 95% of global range/population	Extremely High Risk	Extremely High Risk	Very High Risk	High Risk	
Sustaining ≥ 10% of global range/population	Extremely High Risk	Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Assign to a threat level or apply precautionary principle[36]
Sustaining ≥ 1% of global range/population	Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	
Sustaining ≥ 0.1% of global range/population	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	
Sustaining < 0.1% of global range/population	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	