

Timber Best Practice Guidelines for Protected Areas Management in Gabon

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Internship Structure



Mentor:

Connie Clark, Parks Gabon
Cooperative Agreement
and Mentor Forest
Coordinator; Overseer of
the Buffer Zone Task Force



Mentors:

Olivier Desmet, Director of
Management and Certification
Olam Timber Gabon

Johnson Banguerem, Director
of Management and
Certification Makokou

Internship Structure



Context: Timber Expansion and Regulations

- In 2002 13 national parks were established.
- Forest Code established buffer zones regulated by the Ministry of Water and Forests.
- In 2007 Gabon's National Park Agency (ANPN) was established and given mandate to regulate national parks and buffer zones.

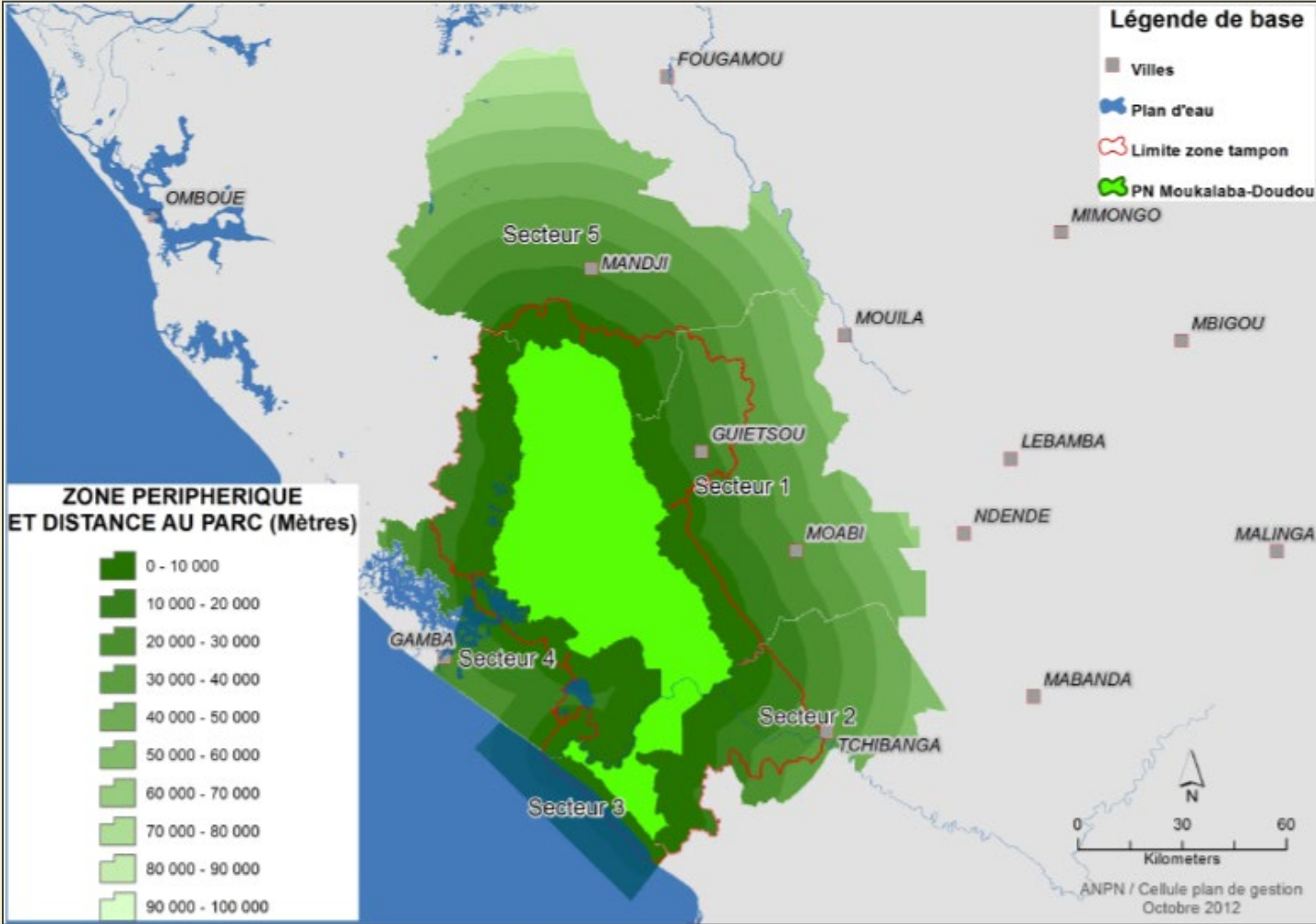


Context: Environmental Evaluation & Compliance Division



- Goals:
 - (1) Define best practices
 - (2) Evaluate EIAs
 - (3) Monitor for compliance
- David Fournier hired as a USFS Technical Advisor to ANPN on Buffer Zone Management.

Context: Buffer Zones



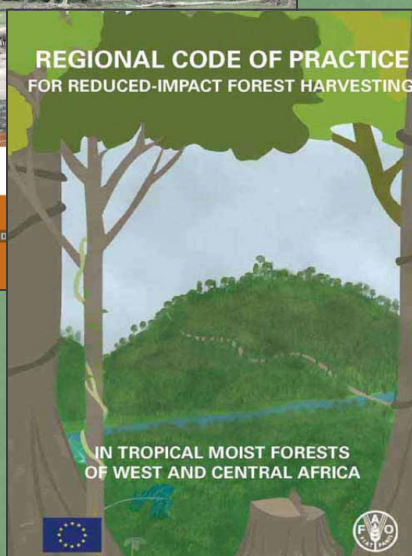
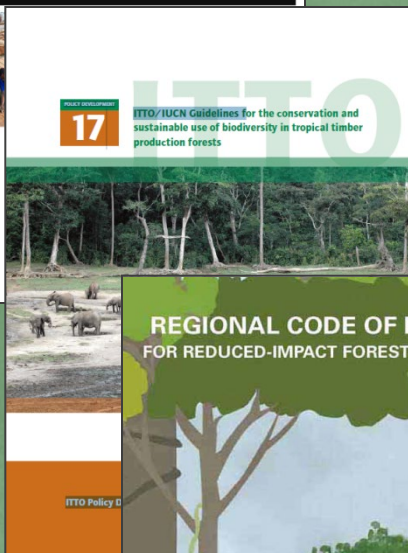
Proposed Buffer and Peripheral Zone for Moukalaba-Doudou National Park (Not Validated)

My Task: Create Timber Guidelines

Task: Create specific timber best practice guidelines for how timber operations should be conducted in buffer zones to ensure the integrity of Gabon's national parks remains intact.

Steps:

- Assembled internationally accepted timber best practice guidelines.
- Incorporated the priorities of ANPN.
- Integrated the realities of timber operations in Gabon.
- Included context specific information for each national park.



Assembled Regulations and Timber Best Practice Guidelines

- Read the relevant laws governing timber operations and environmental protection in Gabon.
- Compiled 12 internationally accepted timber best practice guidelines into one document.

Assembled Guidelines

ANPN's Priorities

Realities of Logging

Park Specific Information

Incorporated ANPN's Priorities

- Spoke with several ANPN representatives.
- Observed a meeting during which ANPN personnel gave feedback on a buffer zone timber management plan from an FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified timber company.



Assembled
Guidelines

ANPN's
Priorities

Realities of
Logging

Park Specific
Information

Priorities of ANPN

- Threat of hunting and elephant poaching.
- Transport of bushmeat in timber vehicles.
- Road construction near national parks and associated threats (hunting, immigration, etc).
- Villages and population growth near national parks.
- Habitat conversion to agriculture.
- Impairment of water quality.



Assembled
Guidelines

ANPN's
Priorities

Realities of
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Park Specific
Information

Integrated the Realities of Timber Operations

- Toured an FSC certified company with David Fournier.
- Spent a day with Jack Putz, Professor at the University of Florida and Senior Research Associate with CIFOR Indonesia, on an Olam concession.



Assembled
Guidelines

ANPN's
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Integrated the Realities of Timber Operations

- Worked with Olam Timber Gabon in Makokou, northeast of Ivindo National Park.
- Observed all timber operations on-site.
- Will produce a strategic plan for Olam to comply with guidelines in the future.



Assembled
Guidelines

ANPN's
Priorities



Realities of
Logging

Park Specific
Information

Included National Park Specific Information

A checklist based on each park's Management Plan will be a separate but interrelated appendix to the timber best practice guidelines:

Draft Management Plan for Moukalaba-Doudou (Not Validated)

| Valeurs Spécifiques | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Photo | Valeurs majeures | Priorité de la valeur | Ligne de base 2012 | Conditions souhaitées |
|  | Population importante de chimpanzés (<i>Pan t. troglodytes</i> : EN) et de gorilles (<i>Gorilla gorilla</i> : EN) | TRES HAUTE | Probablement la population la plus importante au Gabon, dont la densité est estimée à 1.3 individu/km ² en 2006 (Khuel, H. 2005) | Maintenir les populations de grands singes au moins à leurs niveaux de 2005 |
|  | Population importante de cobes défassa (liée aux savanes) | HAUTE | Les populations de cobes défassa n'ont jamais été recensées scientifiquement et leur distribution dans le PN n'est pas connue | Favoriser l'augmentation des populations de cobes à un niveau écologique soutenable pour l'espèce par rapport à son niveau supposés en 2012 |



Lessons Learned: Forming Relationships with Timber Companies

- (1) You must acknowledge both conservation and private timber company interests to form trusting relationships.
- (2) Timber companies are open to working with the Ministry of Water and Forests, ANPN, and environmental organizations, and these public-private sector partnerships should continue.
- (3) Public-private sector partnerships between ANPN and timber companies are being discussed as a way to promote and enforce best practices in buffer zones.

Lessons Learned: Creating Timber Best Practice Guidelines

- (1) When working with buffer zone issues, it is important to understand context-specific information, including the relationships between local villages and the timber company.
- (2) Certification is costly and not a fast process – companies already face financial hardships due to local transformation requirements, and they can be deterred when other companies conduct poor practices with delayed punishment.
- (3) Certification schemes that only require the legality of wood are not sufficient to properly conserve an ecosystem and protect the integrity of national parks.

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- Dean Urban: MP Advisor, Duke University Professor
- David Fournier: USFS Technical Advisor to ANPN on Buffer Zone Management
- Jack Putz: University of Florida Professor, Senior Research Associate with CIFOR Indonesia
- Olivier Desmet, Director of Management and Certification Olam Timber Gabon
- Johnson Banguerem, Director of Management and Certification Makokou
- Jacky Riviere, General Director Olam Timber Gabon
- Sophie Dirou, Director of Forests TERE A Gabon
- Lynn Maguire, Duke Professor and Decision Analysis Specialist
- Christian Mbina, Technical Director of ANPN
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Questions?

For further questions
and information,
please contact me at:

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