



# RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND BIODIVERSITY

*WWF Contribution in the Congo Basin*

*Brown Bag Presentation to ABCG  
(11 April 2016, Washington)*

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# OUTLINE

- **Congo Basin: importance and challenges**
- **WWF support for responsible forestry**
- **Social, economic and biodiversity impacts of responsible forest management**
- **Lessons learned**



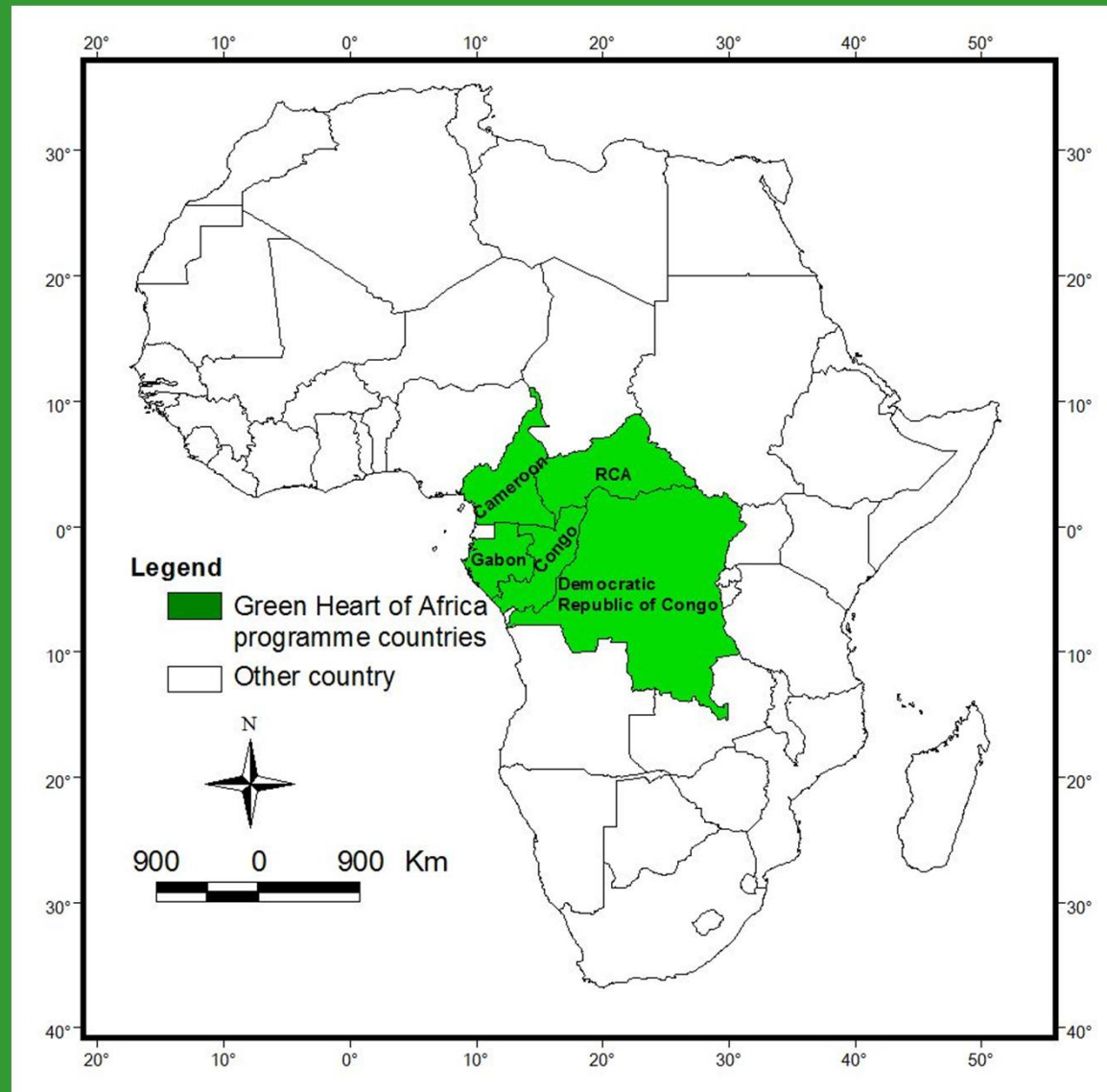
## **World Wildlife Fund**

**Working to conserve nature  
and reduce the most pressing  
threats to Earth's diversity**

- **Largest global conservation organization**
- **Projects in 100 countries**
- **5,000 staff**
- **6 million supporters**



## WHERE WWF WORKS IN THE CONGO BASIN



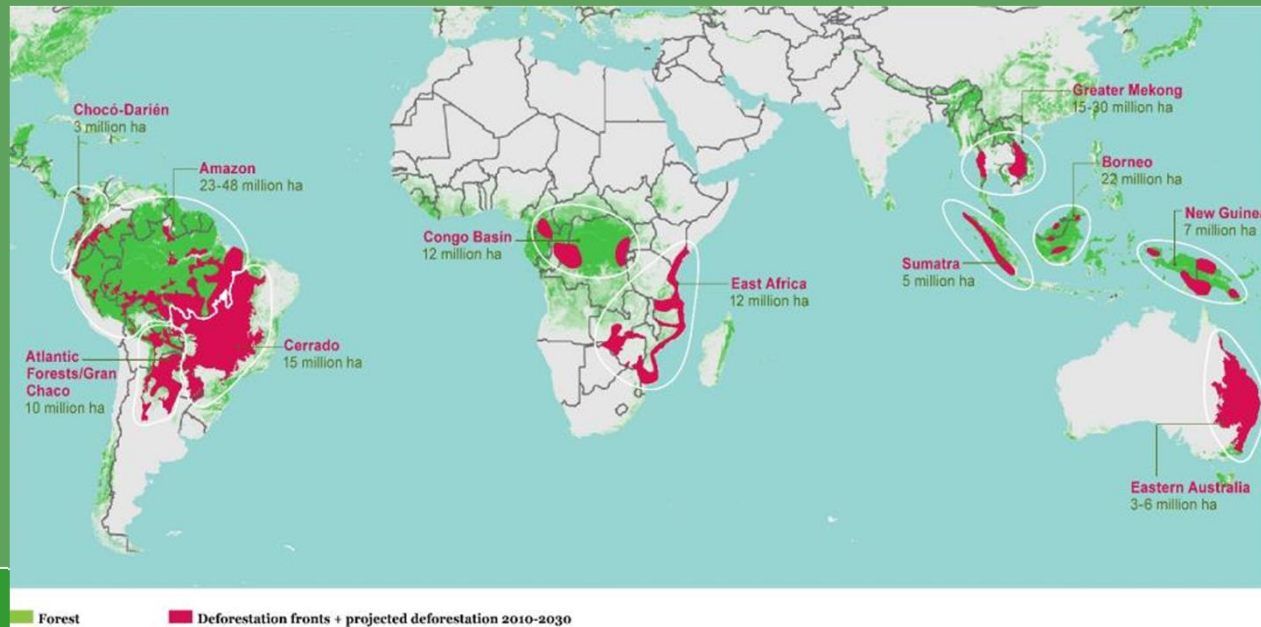
Cameroon, CAR, Congo, Gabon and DRC



# CONGO BASIN: 2ND LARGEST EXPANSE OF TROPICAL RAINFOREST



## CONGO BASIN: ONE OF THE DEFORESTATION FRONTS





# THREAT AND KEY CHALLENGES



- Illegal and unsustainable logging
- Poaching and wildlife crime
- Agriculture (large-scale as well as slash and burn agriculture)
- Mining and Infrastructure (dams, roads...)
- Growing wood demand from markets with little concern for legality/sustainability





GLOBAL  
FOREST  
& TRADE  
NETWORK

# WHAT WE DO



Engaging with companies, communities and CSOs that are committed to responsible forestry



# WHAT WE DO

- Development of tools for SFM&C (FSC Standards for Congo Basin, PCI OAB/OIBT, Guidelines for Chinese Companies operating abroad)
- Capacity building and support to logging companies
  - Reduced Impact Logging
  - High Conservation Values
  - Wildlife inventories
  - Monitoring of the impacts of logging activities
  - Corporate Social Responsibility
  - Relations with communities & Conflict resolution
  - Socio-economic studies





# WHAT WE DO

- **Capacity building of Local Communities**
  - Negotiation with private sector and authorities/administration
  - Small size project development and implementation
  - Conflict resolution
  - Identification and denunciation (through local NGO) of illegal logging
- **Capacity building of local NGOs**
  - Conflict resolution
  - Corporate Social Responsibility
  - Norms for environmental and social best practices
  - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
  - Public Policy and Advocacy



## PROGRESS IN CONGO BASIN

AFRIQUE CENTRALE

- 5,35 million hectares FSC-FM certified
- 260,000 ha FSC-CW certified
- 950,000 ha certified in CMR (13% industrial logging area)
- 6 companies joined GFTN
  - PALLISCO
  - WIJMA
  - Groupe Decolvenaere
  - SFID/Rougier
  - Rougier Gabon
  - Mokabi /Rougier
- GFTN Membership about to be signed with Groupe Alpicaam (Cameroon)
- 8 companies are FSC-FM certified

# SOCIAL IMPACTS OF RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

**CIFOR study on “Social impacts of the Forest Stewardship Council certification An assessment in the Congo Basin”, 2014** ([www.cifor.org/fsc](http://www.cifor.org/fsc))

- “The quality of life has improved around certified FMUs since certification was granted”.
- “Active local institutions, in which discussions between the local populations and the companies on a number of issues can occur on a regular basis, are arguably the most distinctive feature of certified FMUs”.
- “All companies with certified FMUs have mechanisms in place for compensation to the rural population when harvesting operations cause losses to them”.

# ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

FSC certified companies confirm that:

- “While the price of wood has not increased despite the FSC label, certification has opened us [to] new markets and has helped us to continue to trade even during the 2008-2009 crisis” (PALLISCO Deputy Manager, GFTN Newsletter, October 2013)
- The biggest gain for us, however, is how FSC has required us to put in place procedures and tools for monitoring and evaluation, helping to increase our efficiency and reduce our costs” (PALLISCO Deputy Manager)
- “Our holistic monitoring system ensures we continuously maintain responsible forest management practices [...] All these result in production cost savings by about 10 to 12 per cent” (WIJMA Director in charge of SFM, GFTN Newsletter, October 2013)

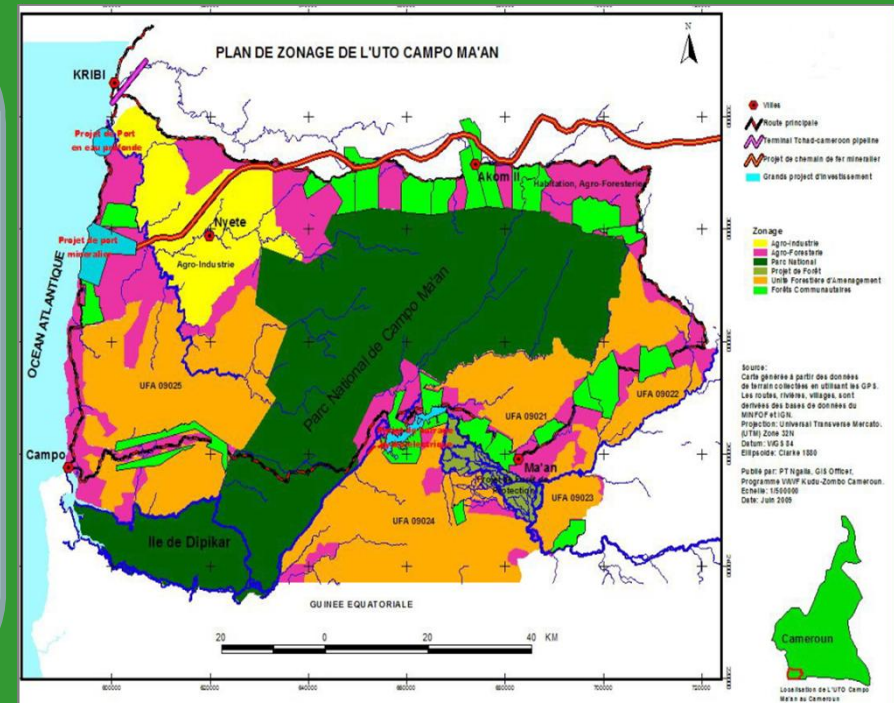
# BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS OF RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

AFRIQUE CENTRALE

Wildlife inventories are used to:

- develop/revise logging concession management plans
- Monitor the status of wildlife in concessions, PA and its peripheries

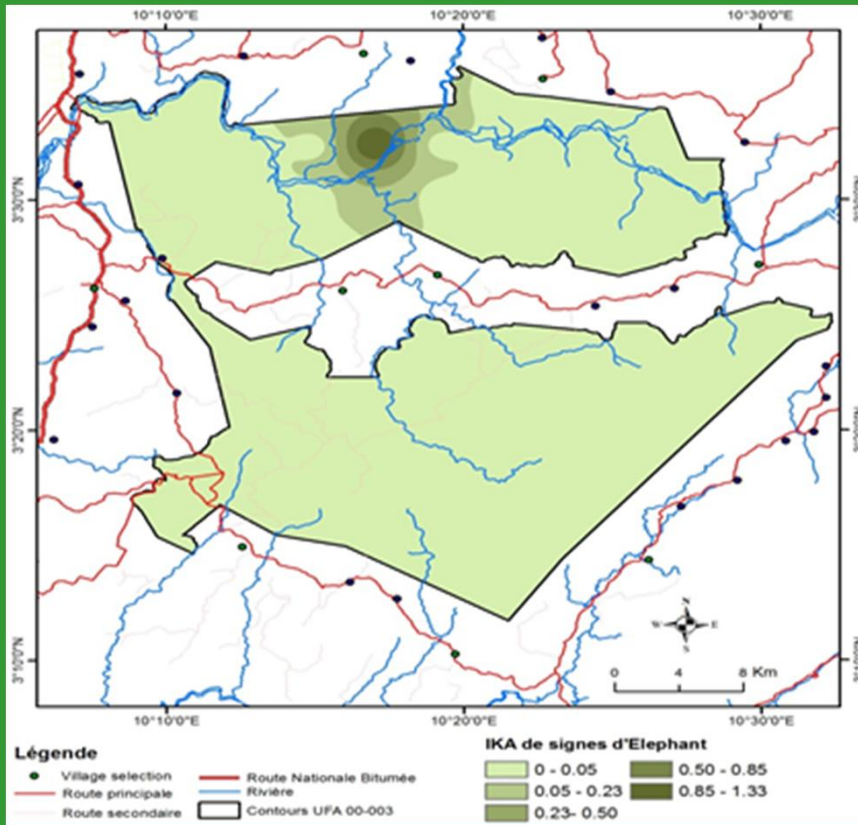
“A wildlife inventory conducted by WWF Cameroon in Campo-Ma’an National Park and its peripheries (including FSC concessions) indicated that flagship species populations remained relatively stable between 2008 and 2014, despite increasing pressure (for details, report in the folder)



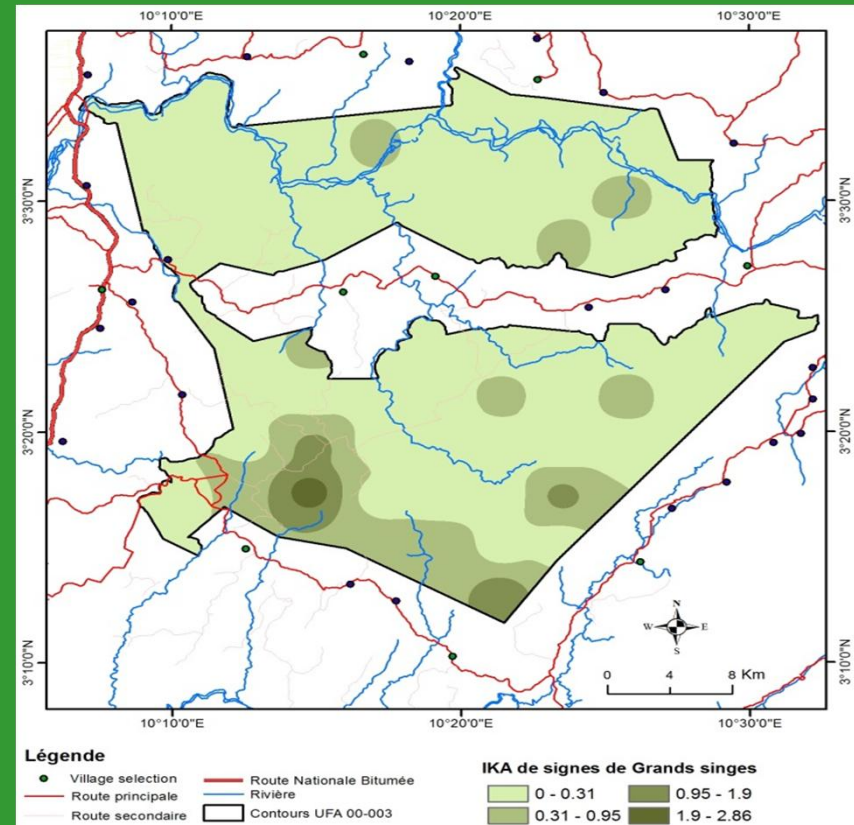
# BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS OF RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

AFRIQUE CENTRALE

Wildlife inventory are used to identify HCV and make suggestions for appropriate management measures



Elephants distribution in FMU 00-003, Cameroon



Great Apes distribution in FMU 00-003, Cameroon

# BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS OF RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Detailed study on the impacts of FSC certification on wildlife envisaged (Karen, coordinating)

- Methodology workshop held in July 2015 in Yaoundé (WWF, WCS, ZSL, SPYGEN, CEFE)
- Funds being mobilized for the study



# LESSONS LEARNED



Responsibly managed logging concessions offer more secure habitat to wildlife than most of the protected areas do.

Focusing the work on companies going for FSC is not enough to conserve biodiversity and optimize social impacts. It is very important to push other companies towards legality at least.





# LESSONS LEARNED

- Asian investments are more and more important in the forestry sector in CB (especially Gabon). Particular strategy needed to be implemented to reduce the environmental and social impacts of these investments.
- EUTR and Lacey Act may end up “slowing down” FSC certification as legality is cheaper than FSC; is legality always sustainable?
- The work is massive “Extreme-left NGOs actions are likely obstacles than a stimulus to responsible forest management (some companies prefer to fly out of the Radar scope).



## FOR MORE DETAILS

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## I AM SIMPLY A SPOKESPERSON OF A TEAM INCLUDING

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- **Bruce NDENGUENE, *Forest Programme Coordinator, CAR***
- **Flory BOTAMBO, *Forest Programme Coordinator, DRC***
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- **Zacharie NZOOH, *Wildlife and Bio-monitoring Coordinator, CMR***
- **Paul N'GORAN, *Regional Bio-monitoring Coordinator***



**THANKS**