

POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT APPROACHES: BENEFITS TO CONSERVATION

August 19, 2021



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Increasing our collective
conservation impact

WHO WE ARE

ABCG is a partnership of practitioners who **convene, collaborate, and co-create** practical approaches in order to address emerging conservation challenges, inform policy, and integrate biodiversity conservation into international development agendas across Sub-Saharan Africa.

HOW WE WORK

ABCG creates innovative conservation solutions by:

- Fostering collaborative and adaptive learning opportunities
- Generating and disseminating user-driven knowledge
- Helping practitioners improve, scale, and replicate

TASK 4: GLOBAL HEALTH LINKAGES TO BIODIVERSITY

Sub-task Population, health
and Environment (PHE)

- The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) through its thematic working group, Global Health Linkages to Biodiversity Conservation, aims to demonstrate a strategic holistic approach to meeting people's needs for health including family planning and reproductive health and maintaining restoring ecosystem services for greater environmental and social impact at multiple levels.



Mentimeter Warm Up

www.menti.com
5441 2037

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group – PHE Webinar Series

Population Dynamics in Africa: Implications for PHE

Tess McCloud – Policy Advisor

August 19, 2021

www.prb.org

Population Dynamics and the Environment

Changes in population size, growth rate, and composition have effects on the environment in which we live, as well as on society, the economy, and individual health and well-being.

Understanding demographic trends and their drivers helps us inform policy and programs to improve health, reduce poverty, build gender equity, and foster a sustainable relationship with the environment.



SECTION 1

World Population Data Sheet 2021: Highlights

2021

WORLD POPULATION

DATA SHEET



Special Focus on Global Fertility

7.8 BILLION
WORLD
POPULATION

14%
% OF ALL BIRTHS GLOBALLY
TO MOTHERS AGES 35+

2.3 BIRTHS
GLOBAL TOTAL
FERTILITY RATE



The world's population in 2021

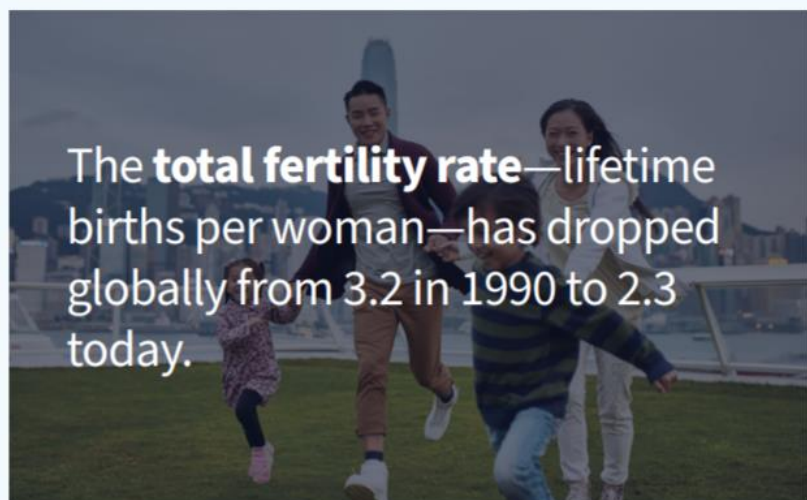
A Year of Uncertainty

We **cannot yet fully know the impact** of the pandemic on global population dynamics.

The pandemic may have compounded impacts of other stressors such as climate change to **increase the crude death rate** in some countries, and decrease to life expectancy.

The pandemic's **impact on fertility rates** is not yet certain.





The **total fertility rate**—lifetime births per woman—has dropped globally from 3.2 in 1990 to 2.3 today.



Mothers ages 15-19 account for 15% of all births in Africa, 12% in the Americas, 6% in Oceania, 5% in Asia, and 3% in Europe.

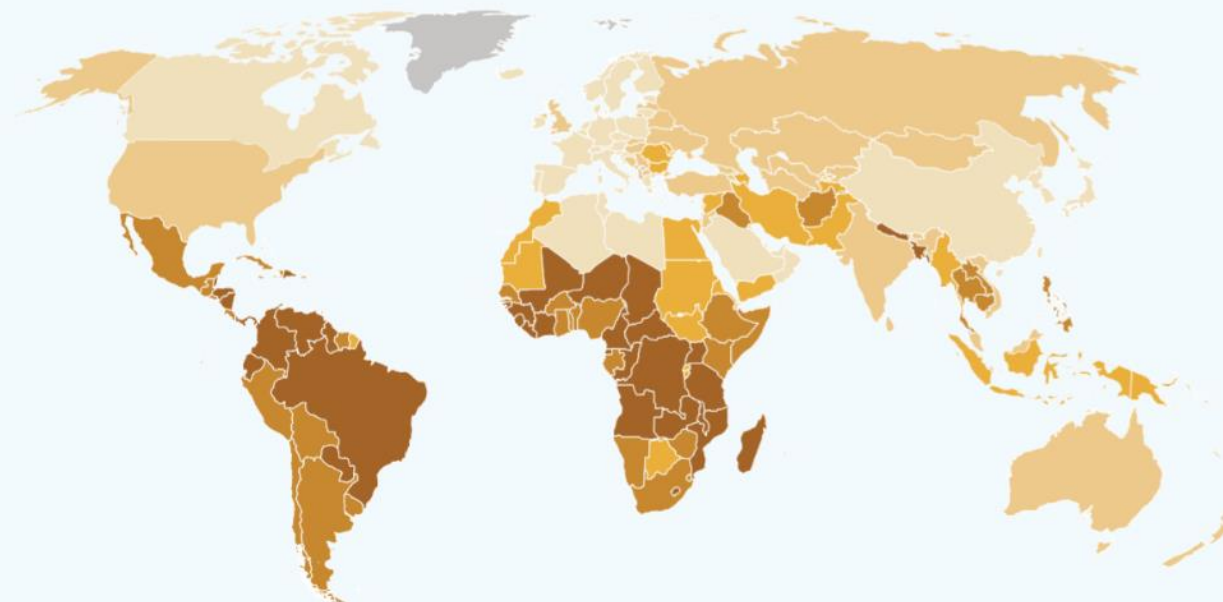
Special Focus on Global Fertility

Share of Births to Adolescents Remains High in Some Countries

Childbearing among adolescent girls is associated with poorer health and educational outcomes for mothers and their children. The share of births to adolescent mothers is relatively high in parts of Africa, Asia, and the Americas and lower in Europe and Oceania, but large variations exist within these regions as well.

Percent of Births to Mothers Ages 15-19

LOWEST (0-2%) LOW (3-6%) MID (7-10%) HIGH (11-15%) HIGHEST (16%+) NO DATA



SECTION 2

World Population Data Sheet 2021: Spotlight on Africa

Africa's population in 2021

2021

World Population Data Sheet

AFRICA

AFRICA

1.4 BILLION

LARGEST COUNTRY:

NIGERIA

211 MILLION



Overall population in Africa

Africa's Population is Large, Young, Urban, and Growing

As of mid-2021, **Africa's population is 1.4 billion**, or 18% of the world's population

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts **for 1.1 billion (82%)** of Africa's population

In sub-Saharan Africa, the top three most populous countries (Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the DRC) account for **more than a third (38%)** of the region's total population

Nearly half (43%) of Africans **live in urban areas**

42% of sub-Saharan Africa's population is under 15 years of age



Fertility and growth rates in Africa

Africa's Population is Rapidly Growing

Africa has the **highest fertility rate** (4.3) and **highest projected population growth rate** of any region worldwide

All of the world's countries with **fertility rates over 5** are in Africa

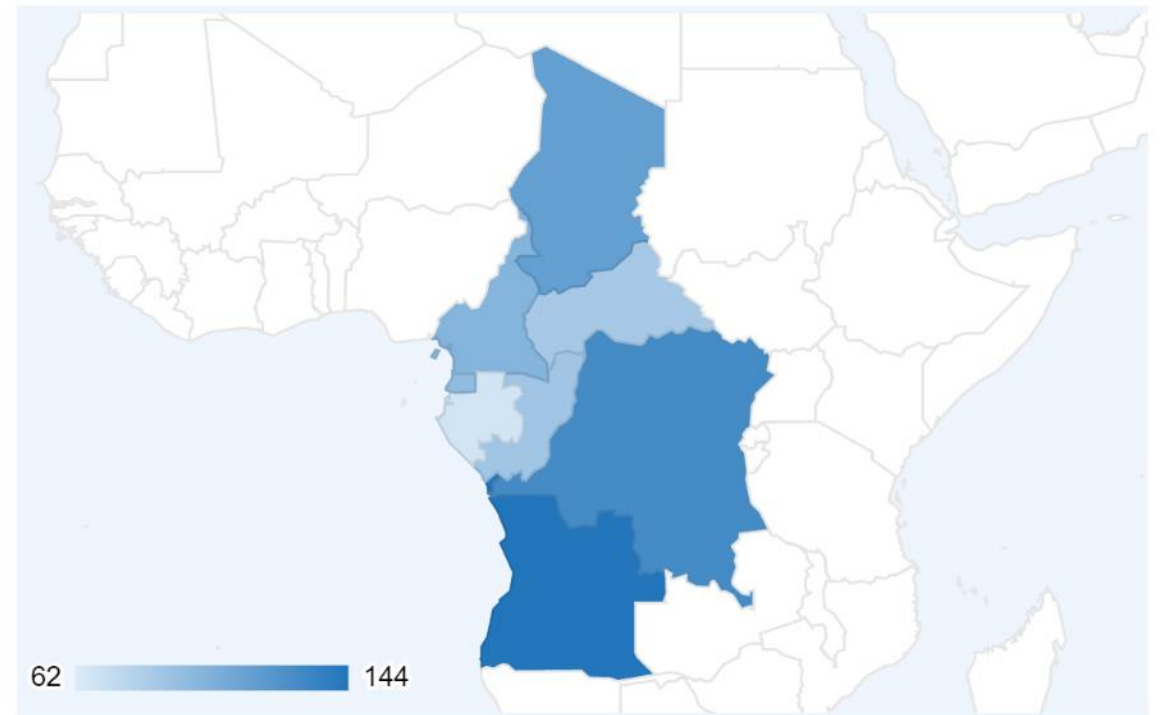
Africa's population is projected to grow from 1.4 billion in 2021 to **2.5 billion in 2050**

- Africa's growth accounts **for more than 60% of projected global population growth** in this period

Middle Africa is growing at the fastest rate, set to **increase by 123%** by 2050

Projected Population Change 2021-2050

Percent change in population



Source: World Population Data Sheet 2021, PRB. <https://interactives.prb.org/2021-wpds>

Age distribution in Africa

Africa's Population Remains Young and Has Children Early

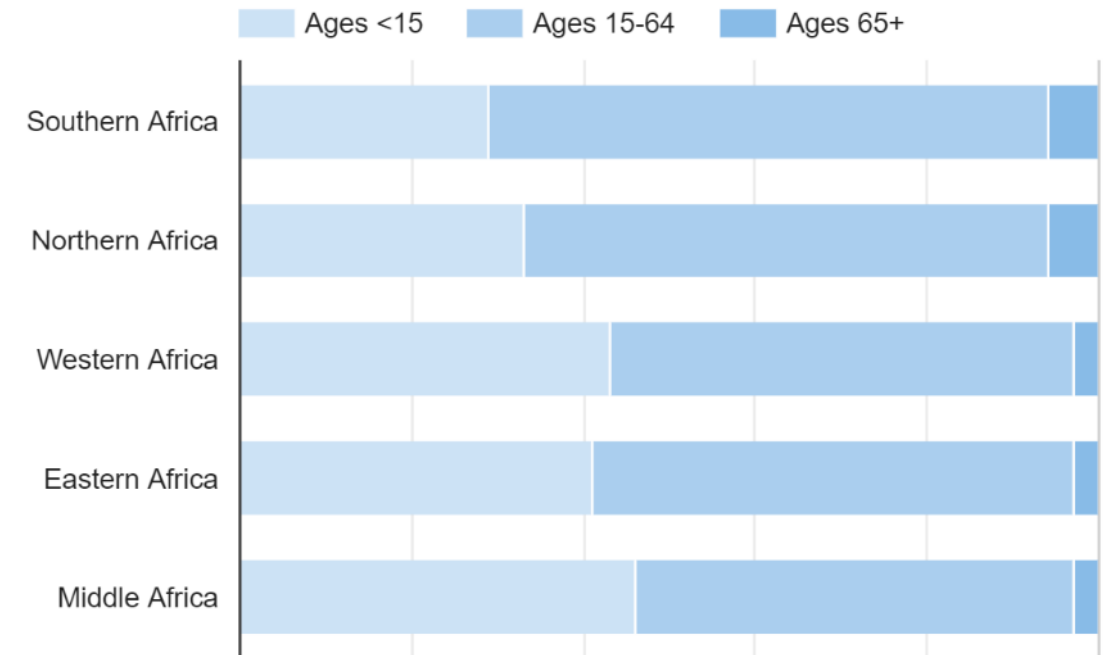
Overall, **Middle Africa** has the youngest population worldwide.

- Middle Africa has the largest proportion of its population under 15, at **46%**
- In Africa, Southern Africa has the lowest share of its population under 15, at **29%**

15% of all births in Africa are to **mothers ages 15-19**, the highest of any region.

Population Age Structure

Age distribution by sub-region

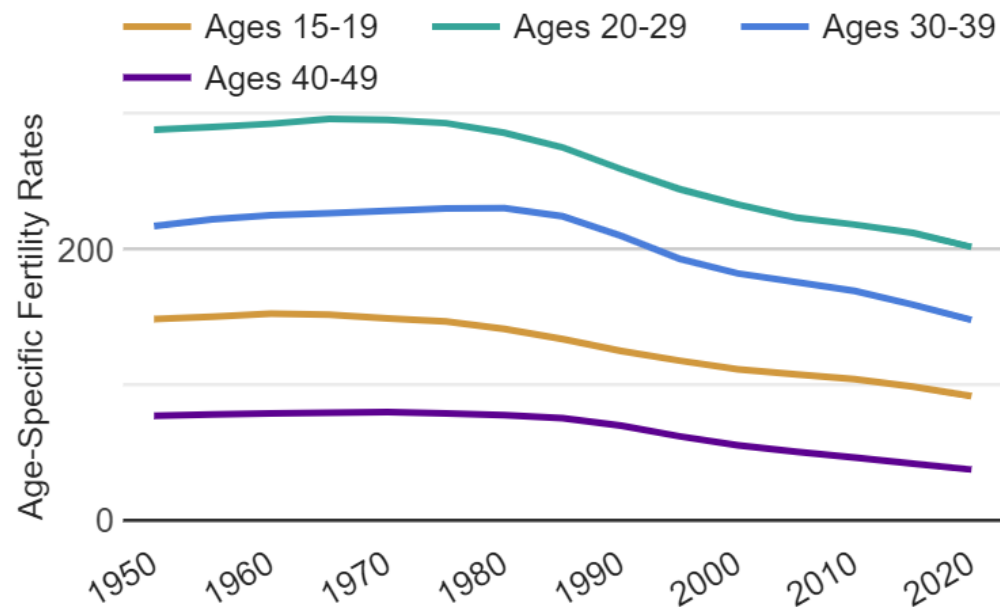


Source: World Population Data Sheet 2021, Middle Africa, PRB. <https://interactives.prb.org/2021-wpds/africa/#middle-africa>

Progress over time, but challenges remain

Africa

Age-Specific Fertility Rates, 1950-2020



Source: World Population Data Sheet 2021, PRB. <https://interactives.prb.org/2021-wpds>

Following worldwide trends, **fertility is declining in Africa.**

- The fertility rate in Africa has declined **27%** since 1990
- Fertility declines in Africa follow trends seen among low-income countries

As fertility declines on the continent, the **share of the young dependent population will decline** in favor of working wage-earners, prompting economic growth towards a demographic dividend.

SECTION 3

Population, Health, and Environment Implications

What are the implications?

Sub-Saharan Africa's population is young and growing rapidly, with **nearly half of the subregion under age 15**. While fertility has decreased somewhat, **early childbearing is still prevalent** and only **half of married women (49%)** have their demands met by modern family planning methods.

Sub-Saharan Africa is at a crossroads for **population growth, climate vulnerability, and high unmet need for family planning** and reproductive healthcare.

These trends are on track to continue in the coming decades.



Actions



- **Reducing barriers to family planning access** across sectors by prioritizing voluntary family planning as a multisectoral best practice
- Investment in the fastest-growing and most vulnerable geographies, especially **Middle Africa** and **Western Africa**
- Adapting to the specific needs of **youth and adolescents**, as well as implicating them as champions and leaders
- Building **broad and multisectoral coalitions** to address interlinked challenges



Access the **World Population Data Sheet 2021** here to download a free copy or order a poster:

<https://interactives.prb.org/2021-wpds/>



Thank You

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ABCG POPULATION HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT – LESSONS LEARNED CAMEROON

Presented by

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Cameroon**



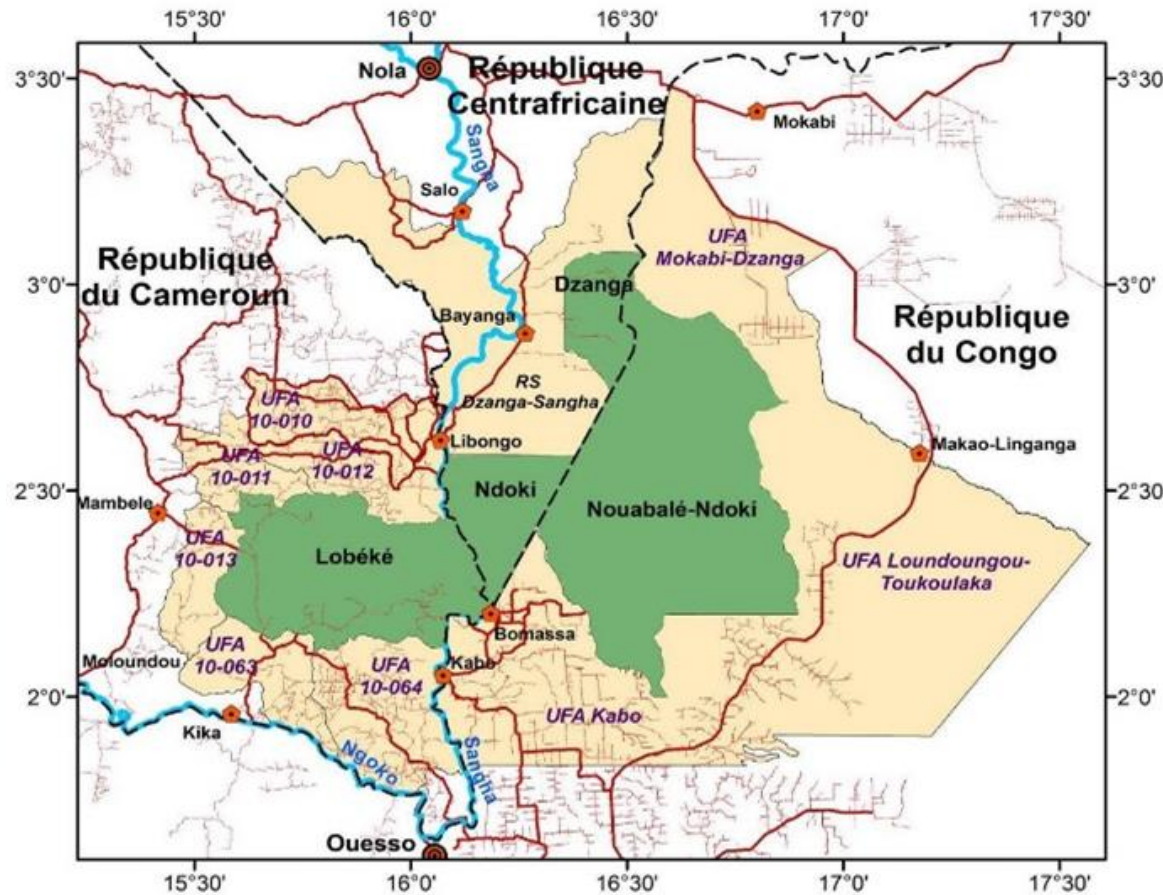
together possible.

Presentation plan

- ☐ Presentation of Lobeke National Park
- ☐ Main activities implemented
- ☐ Lessons learnt

Introduction

Lobeke National Park

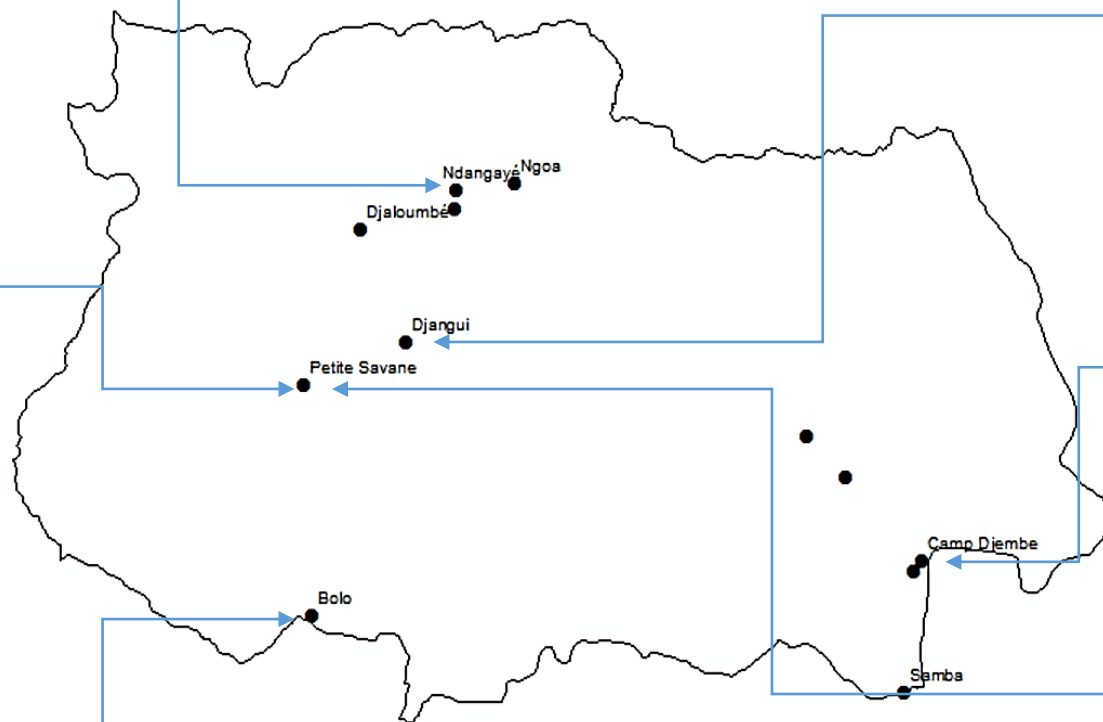
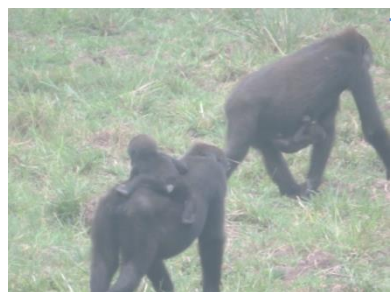


- **Date of creation: 19 March 2001, Creation of Lobeke national park Décret n° 2001/107/CAB/PM**

Lobeke National Park (LNP), Jengi Forest, Southeast Cameroon (**217 854 ha**)

- Part of the Sangha Tri-National Protected Area Network;
- Remote area very rich in biodiversity;
- Under high poaching and logging pressure;
- Buffer zones of LNP include 21 communities with an estimated population of about 23245 of which 26% Baka, 52% Bantou & 22 % immigrants.
- Population lives in high poverty; many lack access to basic health services, safe drinking water & economic opportunities;
- Forest concessions in the area provide some benefits for infrastructure development;
- Along side the conservation program, funding for PHE and WASH initiatives has been present for over a decade.

Rich Biodiversity of Lobeke National Park



Purpose of PHE in Lobeke

- Use integrated approaches to inform organizations seeking to improve ecosystem health and conservation outcomes along with improved human well-being, living in and around areas of key biodiversity.
- Recognize and respect local knowledge of both women and men and most marginalized groups, including the Baka Indigenous People, who depend the most on natural resources for their survival.



Main activities

- Training of Health and Environment Scouts (HES) and School Clubs, local NGOs and government partners on PHE messages and best practices
- Train women focal points to facilitate mothers' groups on nutrition, food prep. demonstrations, supported by health staff; Train Baka traditional birth attendants, male and female youths on reproductive health issues to educate peers
- Collaborative work with local partners (CSOs/LNGOs, government - Health, Agriculture, Education and Forest/Wildlife Ministries)
- HES conduct mass campaigns and small group demonstration on integrated PHE messaging and best practices; technical assistance for household latrines; promoting WASH concepts
- Provide technical support to communities (including women's groups) in the various PHE cross-sectors



Challenges

- Low participation of women and youth
- Unmet need for health care and contraception
- Lack of economic opportunity
- Food insecurity



Solutions

- Recognize and respect local knowledge of both women and men and most marginalized groups who depend the most on natural resources for their survival.
- Assess the context at the local level to design appropriate activities that address local priorities, including food resources, seasonality of food production, access to productive resources, market opportunities, etc.

Lessons learnt

- Engagement and commitment of local authorities, village chiefs, government partners is necessary for community participation
- It's essential to conduct assessments on the knowledge, attitude, beliefs of communities relating to PHE sectors, to target activities
- The fight against malnutrition and food insecurity engages community conservation discourses – efficient tool for positive actions against poaching
- More in-depth research into the **cultural beliefs and taboos of IPs on family planning practices** is necessary to target awareness raising and behavior change to address high rates of teenage pregnancies



Lessons learnt

- Strengthening the capacities of traditional midwives and traditional healers in sexual and reproductive health and linking them to the chain of healthcare makes them feel valued and quickly refer cases of pregnancy complications to the nearest health centers.
- Engage and train male and female youths in issues relating to family planning/reproductive health to become peer-to-peer educators and more effectively reach out to teenage peers to raise awareness on these issues.



Lessons learnt

- The cultural food taboos among the IPs are challenging to address; practical demonstrations help in getting them to adopt best practices
- Involvement of household heads – most often men – is essential for a successful nutrition and food security program, for lasting solutions



Opportunities for future PHE interventions

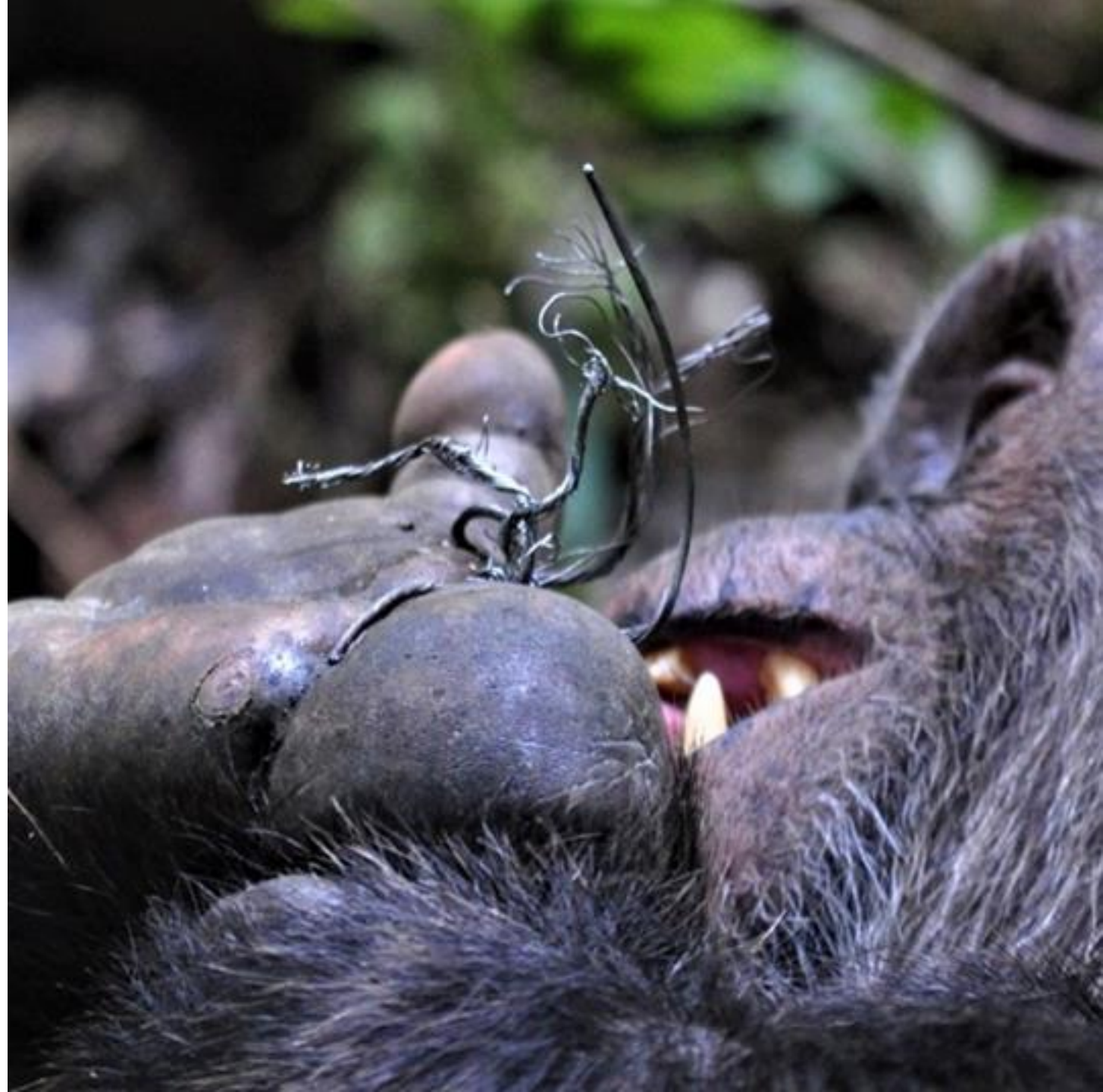
- Facilitate dialogue across gender and age groups on the importance of reproductive health to people and their environment
- Present conservation messages alongside health and livelihood information across multiple channels
- Health systems strengthening
- Introducing sustainable alternative livelihood practices
- Introduce integrated outreach activities in Baka communities



Thank You

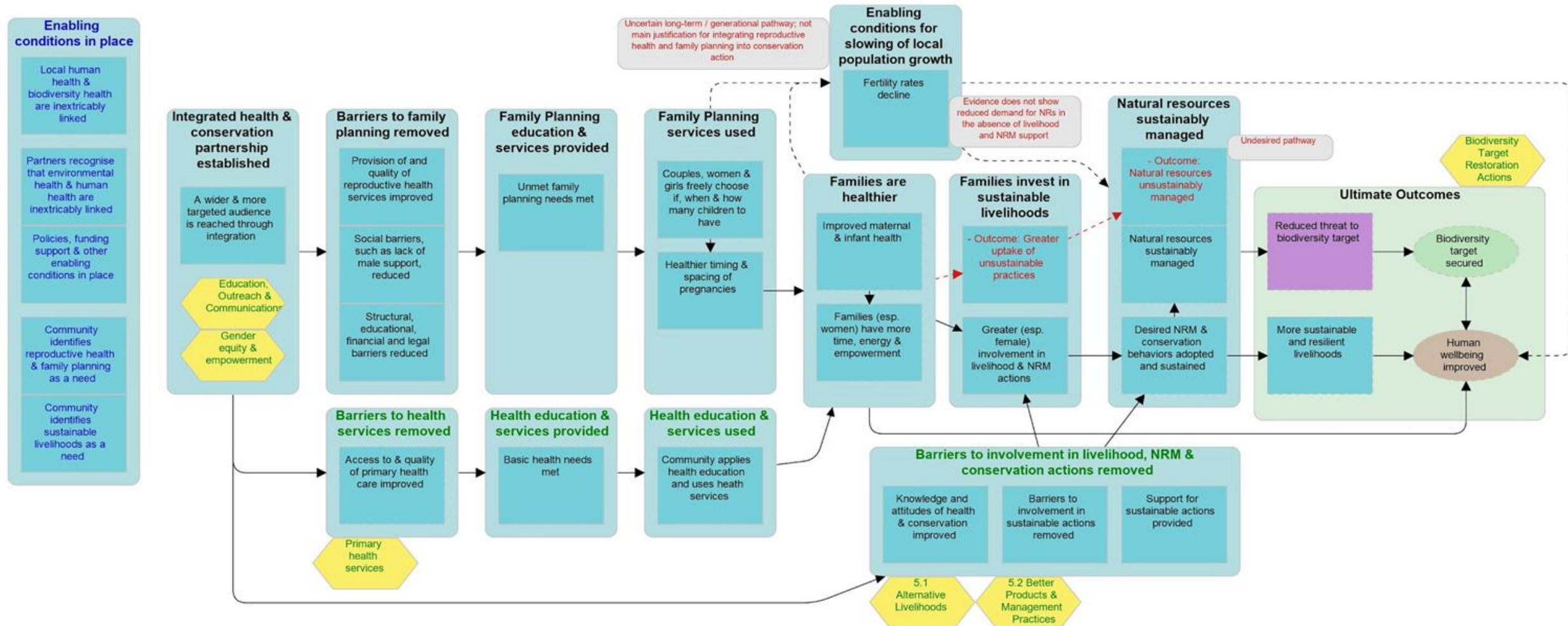
ABCG PHE Insights on Benefits for Conservation

- PHE approaches offer entry point for addressing community needs in holistic manner, enabling positive conservation behavior change
- Synergy and value added



Integrating Reproductive Health & Family Planning into Conservation Action

5.5 Integrating reproductive health & family planning into conservation action



Behavior Change

- Increased community commitment to environment and health links
- Messaging and participatory activities and leadership to create opportunities for changes in community health and well-being underpinned by nature



Livelihoods

- Key component of the PHE results chain is the livelihoods aspects on the path to improved conservation outcomes
- Improved health services, especially for women and girls, leads to healthier families, more energy and time for improved natural resource management practices



Resilience

- Ability of individuals or communities to cope or adapt to environmental and other shocks and stressors
- PHE's multisectoral dimensions involves including diverse perspectives from all segments of society to ensure participatory planning, community leadership, and visions for sustainable biodiversity conservation.





Next Steps

- Disseminate PHE Reference Sheet through August/September webinars
- Increase donor and practitioner awareness through ABCG, WCC 2021, CMP Learning Initiative and beyond



QUESTIONS?



Photo Credit: Patrick Nease/CI

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