AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

October 2021

Community-based Forest Management

Agroforestry focus group in Kaami CFCL; Credit: Kambale Chrysostome, JGI-DRC

AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL the Jane Goodall Institute The Nature Conservancy Protecting nature. Preserving life. WCS WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE WWF

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Creating practical tools and collaborative approaches for positive outcomes in community forestry

OUTLINE

1. Strategic approaches
2. Results – Creating best practices in CBFM in DRC
3. Results – Operational guide for simple management plans in DRC
4. Results – Community forestry in RoC
5. Forest cover change in community forests across Africa
6. Lessons learned

THEORY OF CHANGE

Building on the work of Land and Resource Tenure Rights and taking advantage of the new legal instrument in the DRC that grants communities the right to allocate customary forests as local community forestry concessions (CFCLs)......

...the CBFM priority recognizes that each of the ABCG working groups have members working on Community Forestry in the DRC.

This priority extends the LRTR work to collaborate within member and partnership networks in the DRC to build communities of practice and co-create tools that will increase the practice and success of community-based forest management.

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Strategy 1: Promote and understand best practices in the implementation of CBFM management plans in DRC for improved conservation outcomes

- Strategy 2: Improve understanding of the impacts of CBFM on forest cover

- Reallocated funding (WRI, 2021) for engagement in community forestry in RoC

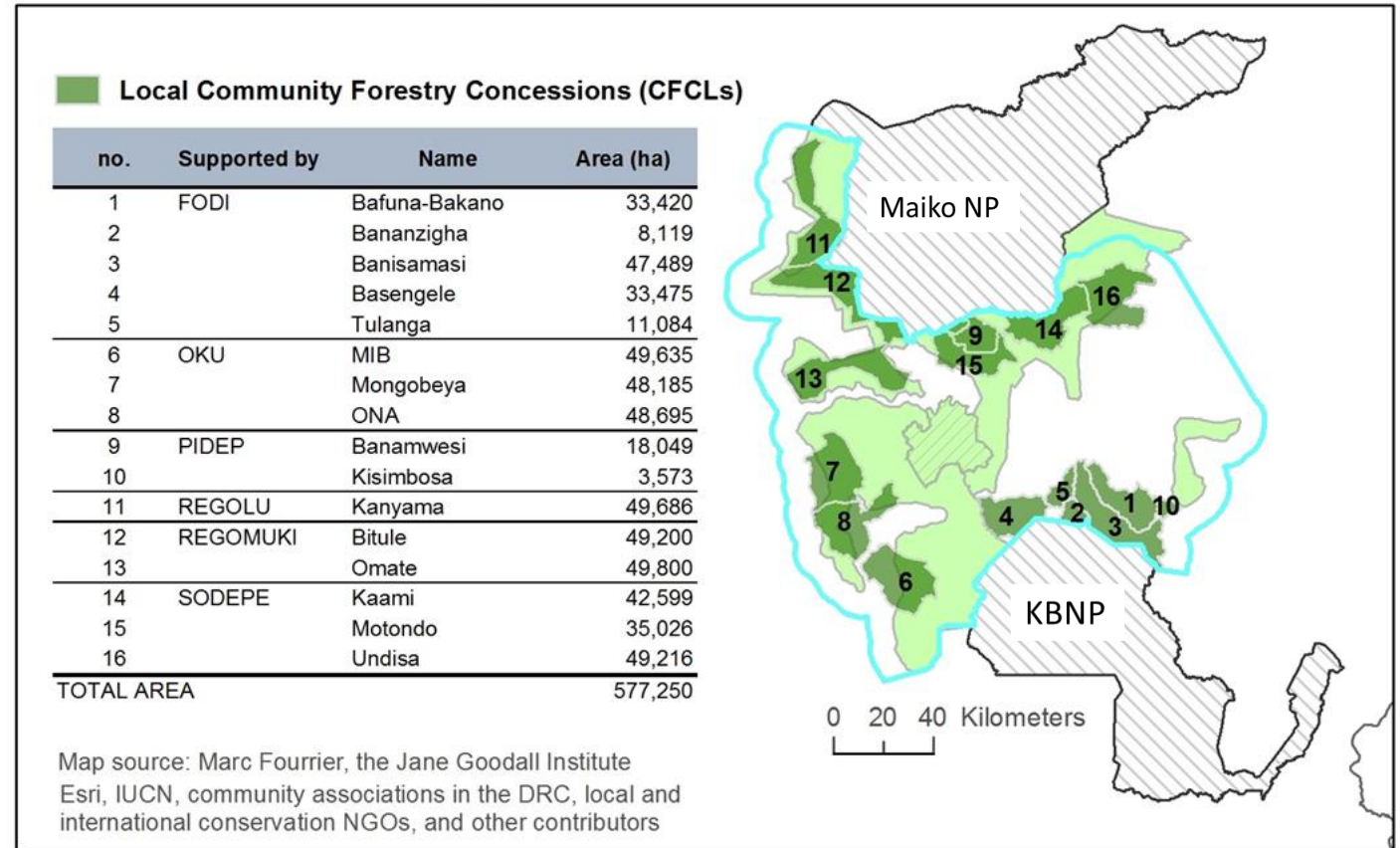# RESULTS (2019 – 2021) – Strategy 1, DRC - JGI

- 3 Community of Practice meetings among members and partner networks convened in EDRC

    - Harmonization of approaches and communication of local community forestry initiatives among members achieved

    - Forestry concessions strategy working group created (within *Ushiriki* Consortium that coordinates the IUCN great ape conservation action plan in the EDRC)

    - 3 local land disputes to community forests settled using shared experiences and practical tools

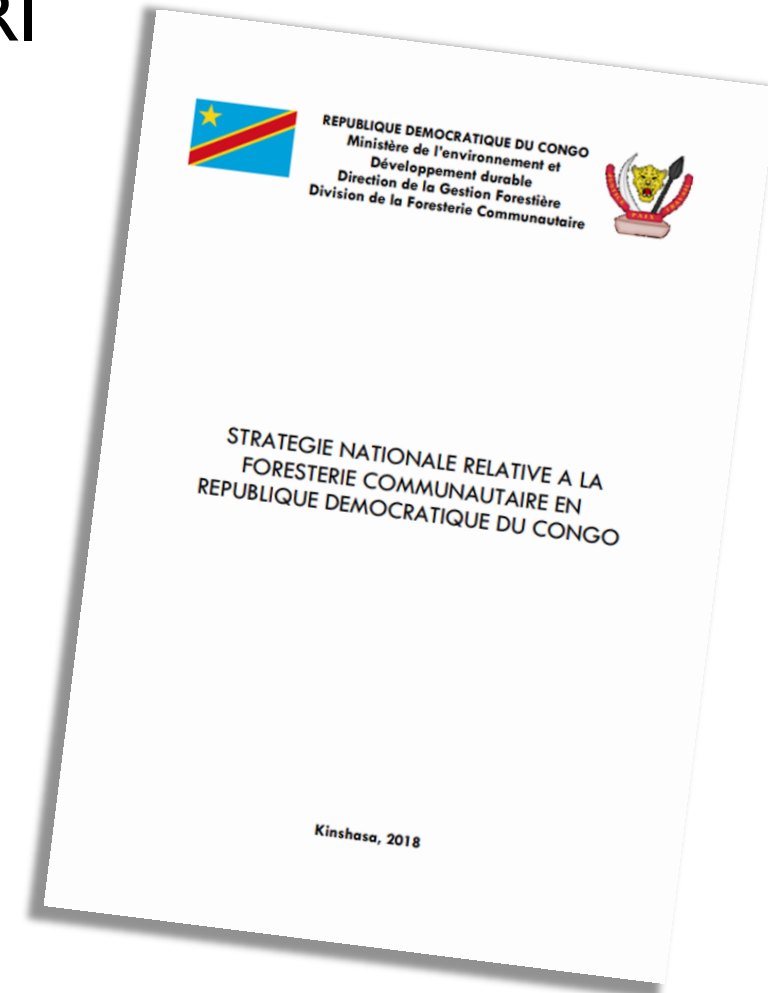# RESULTS (2019 – 2021) – Strategy 1, DRC - JGI

Network of Local Community Forestry Concessions (CFCLs)

- Land use/ land cover using participatory mapping developed for 3 territories

- 3 community forestry concession dossiers submitted (1 title attributed, 2 pending)

- Biodiversity studies in 3 CFCLs completed

Local Community Forestry Concessions (CFCLs)

no.	Supported by	Name	Area (ha)
1	FODI	Bafuna-Bakano	33,420
2		Bananzigha	8,119
3		Banisamasi	47,489
4		Basengele	33,475
5		Tulanga	11,084
6	OKU	MIB	49,635
7		Mongobeya	48,185
8		ONA	48,695
9	PIDEP	Banamwesi	18,049
10		Kisimbosa	3,573
11	REGOLU	Kanyama	49,686
12	REGOMUKI	Bitule	49,200
13		Omate	49,800
14	SODEPE	Kaami	42,599
15		Motondo	35,026
16		Undisa	49,216
TOTAL AREA			577,250

Map source: Marc Fourrier, the Jane Goodall Institute
Esri, IUCN, community associations in the DRC, local and international conservation NGOs, and other contributors

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RESULTS (2019 – 2021) – Strategy 1, DRC - WRI

- Support the development and adoption of 40 tools for the implementation of community forestry

- Development of an operational guide for the elaboration of simple management plans of the Local Community Forests Concession

- Establishment of a community forestry steering committee

- Development of knowledge products and learning frameworks to support the implementation of community forestry

RESULTS (2019 – 2021) - Recent developments in ROC

1. Pressures

Community lands are unprecedently being squeezed by a broad range of investments, including from nature based-solutions

2. Opportunities

Recent positive legal and institutional developments offer promising avenues: forest law introducing community forest, law on IP rights and customary land recognition and... a broad range of programs

3. Remaining issues

Beware of using the opportunities to increase current inequalities in terms of access to decision-space, fight against poverty

RESULTS - Community forestry in RoC: a multi-purpose solution

Community forests need to be owned and serve as nature-based solution to climate change, support to economic development, and mainstreaming of IPLCs as key governance players

A five-step approach that needs **political will, coordination, investment and inclusion of IPLCs** to get rolling

Multi-stakeholder framework
- Led by Ministry of forest - involving highest authorities
- Inclusion of all major parties inc. IPLCS

Multi-dimensional analyses
- A participatory approach to research
- Topics may include: local governance, stock taking, etc.

Inform consult and train
- Emphasis on IPLCs from the outset and all skills needed to deploy sustainable community forest
- Help all parties own the process

Map customary lands
- Identify customary lands available and eligible for community forest
- Map lands through a robust methodology

Experimentation phase
- Pilot community forest initiatives across the country – various contexts
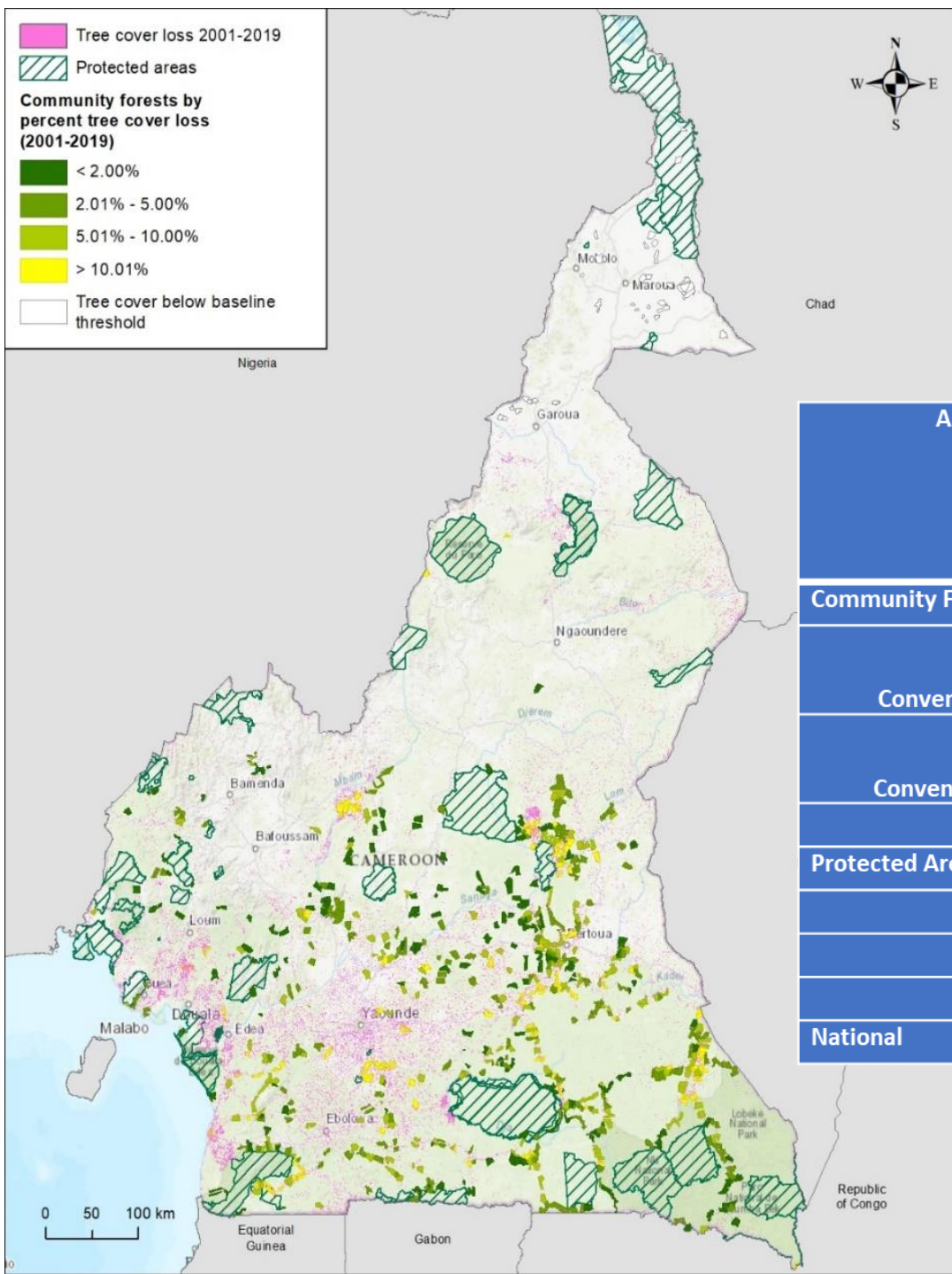- Take stock of all lessons in implementing texts

RESULTS (2019 – 2021) - Strategy 2

Forest Cover Change in Community Forests:
An Assessment of Outcomes in Five African Countries

- A geospatial analysis of community forests and forest cover change/loss over an 18-year period for Liberia, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cameroon
- Data availability was a key factor in the selection of countries.
  - Spatial data on the boundaries of community forests
  - Forest cover data has higher accuracy in areas of dense forest cover, as opposed to areas of low-density tree cover canopy, such as dry, sparse woodlands
- We estimated baseline forest cover for the year 2000 and forest cover loss per year from 2001 to 2019.
- We estimated forest cover change in community forests, protected areas, and nationally.

Forest Cover Change in Community Forests: An Assessment of Outcomes in Five African Countries

May 15, 2021

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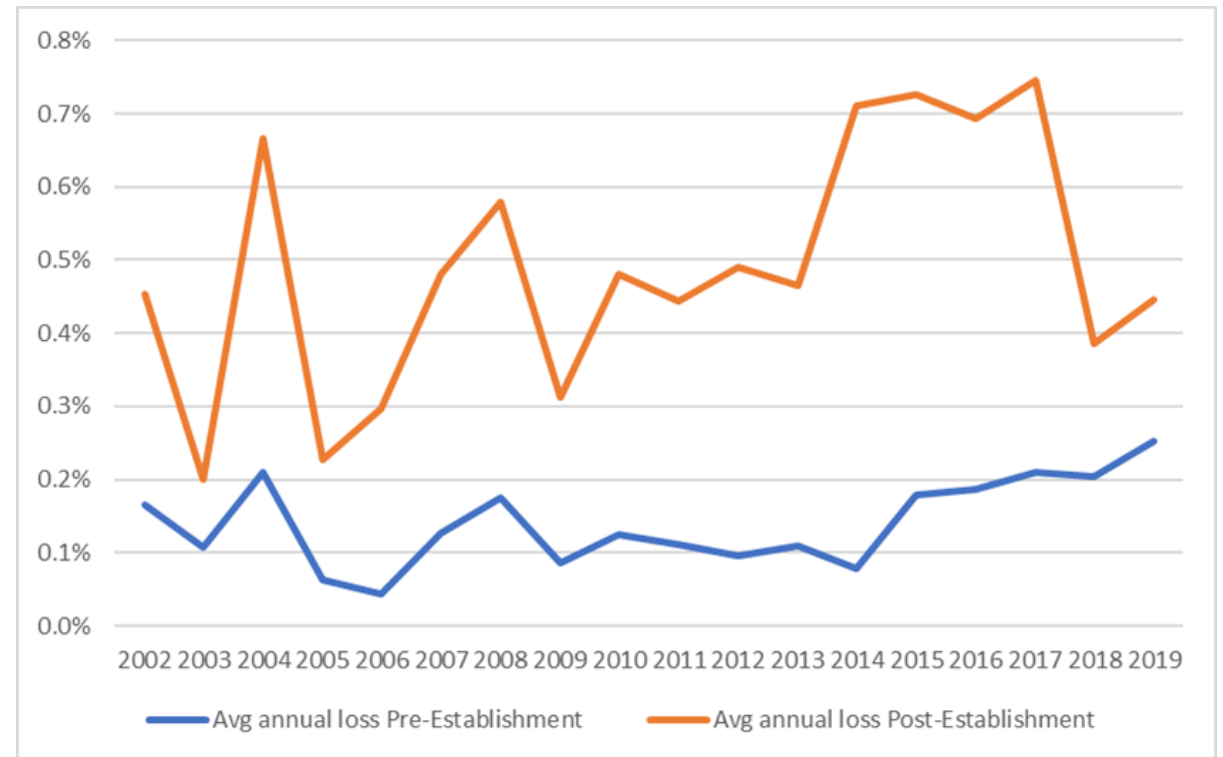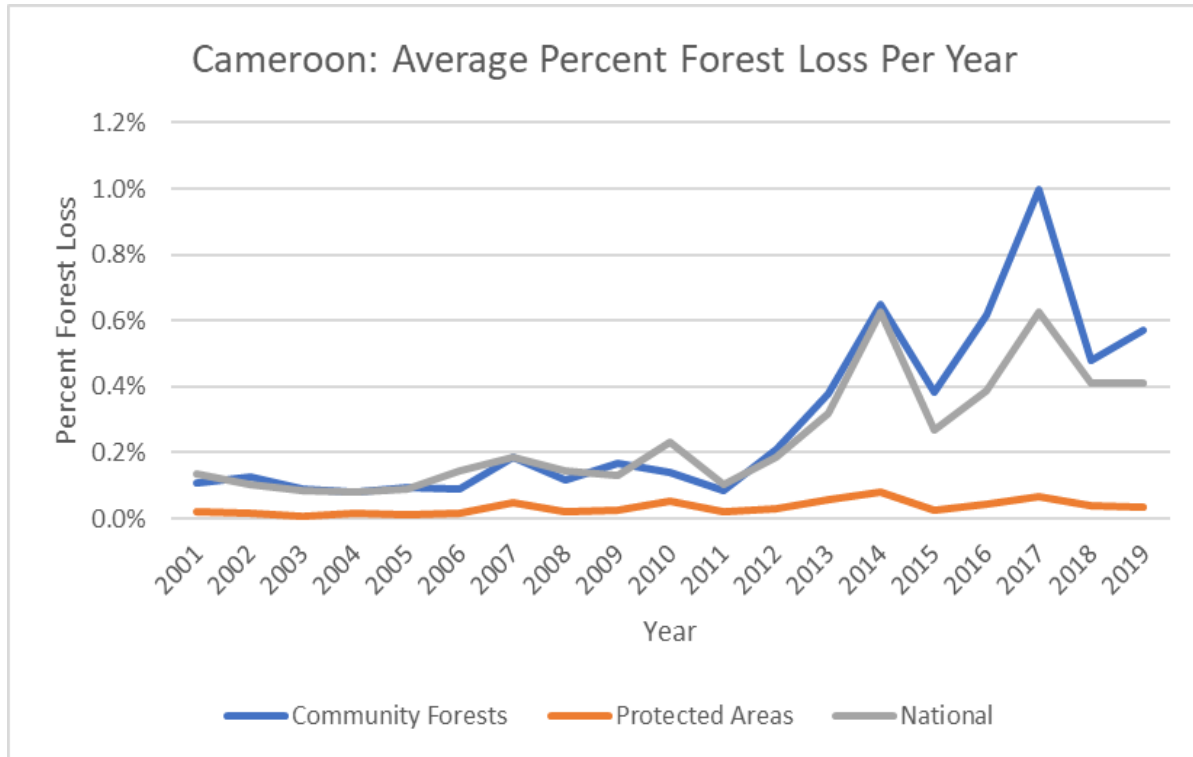# RESULTS (2019 – 2021) - Strategy 2

Case Study: Cameroon

Area	Number of Units	Forest Cover in 2000 (ha)	Cumulative Forest Loss 2001-2019 (ha)	Percent Cumulative Forest Loss 2001-2019	Average Annual Forest Loss
Community Forests	682	2,126,919	118,187	5.6%	0.29%
Convention définitive	323	998,682	59,232	5.9%	0.31%
Convention provisoire	269	875,456	45,895	5.2%	0.28%
Unknown	90	252,782	13,060	5.2%	0.27%
Protected Areas	48	3,460,642	22,025	0.6%	0.03%
Designated	37	3,040,211	19,541	0.6%	0.03%
Inscribed	2	5,649	154	2.7%	0.14%
Proposed	9	414,782	2,330	0.6%	0.03%
National	N/A	31,277,278	1,455,235	4.7%	0.24%

RESULTS (2019 – 2021) – Strategy 2

Case Study: Cameroon

RESULTS (2019 – 2021) – Strategy 2

Forest Loss in Community Forests, Protected Areas and Nationally in 5 African Countries

COUNTRY		Commulative forest loss (2001-2019)	Average Annual Deforestation Rate	Commulative forest loss (2001-2019)	Average Annual Deforestation Rate	Commulative forest loss (2001-2019)	Average Annual Deforestation Rate
		Community Forests		Protected Areas		National	
Liberia		10.2%	0.54%	4.3%	0.23%	18.0%	0.96%
Equatorial Guinea		6.2%	0.33%	1.5%	0.08%	4.5%	0.24%
Gabon		4.2%	0.22%	1.3%	0.07%	1.8%	0.10%
Cameroon		5.6%	0.29%	0.6%	0.03%	4.7%	0.24%
DRC		4.4%	0.23%	4.0%	0.22%	7.5%	0.40%

* Green numbers indicate deforestation rates lower than community forest deforestation rates

Red numbers indicate deforestation rates higher than community forest deforestation rates

IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Harmonization of approaches among members and partners in the creation of Local Community Forestry Concessions in the DRC

- Best Practice Guidelines for Simple Management Plans collaboratively developed in the DRC

- Multiple validation exercises for the Practice Guidelines in the DRC

- Community of Practice Forum established, meetings occurring at multiple scales with participation of ABCG partners

- Land use maps developed in three territories in EDRC

- Stakeholder meeting in the ROC on community forestry next steps

- Better understanding of forestry cover outcomes in community forestry in Africa

TOOLS

- Development of an operational guide for the elaboration of simple management plans in Forestry Concessions in the DRC

- Establishment of a community forestry steering committee in the DRC

- New tools and approaches to implementing community forestry in the DRC

- Establishment of a community of practice among members and partners in EDRC

- 5-step approach to implementing community forestry in the ROC

- 5-country study on the impacts of CBFM on forest cover

LESSONS LEARNED

- Members and the Partner network must be more proactive in communicating outputs, ensuring that knowledge products reach the intended audience

- Not only does it take longer than expected for communities to obtain title to Forestry Concessions in the DRC, some of the lessons in CBFM from other countries, such as Cameroon haven't been learned
  - Eg., in Cameroon, "simple" management plans aren't very simple

- The Enabling Environment and the voluntary engagement of communities continues to be weak. WRI multi-country study demonstrates the promise of community forests hasn't yet materialized

NEXT STEPS IN CBFM

- Streamline the process of title acquisition of CFCLs to communities

- Share more widely the tools and knowledge products created
  - operational guide for the elaboration of simple management plans
  - Support on-going management plan development in community forests

- Co-create and share tools on long-term governance of community forests

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME