



African Development Bank

SUMMARY STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: PROGRAMME FOR PRESERVATION OF CONGO BASIN ECOSYSTEMS



THE 12 LANDSCAPES OF THE CONGO BASIN (in yellow, the five Landscapes identified for the Programme)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 – Monte-Alen-Monts de Cristal | 7 – Lake-Télé-Lake-Tumba |
| 2 – Gamba-Mavumba-Conkouati | 8 – Selonga-Lukenre-Sankuru |
| 3 – Lop-Chailu-Louesse | 9 – Maringa-Lapori-Wamba |
| 4 – Dja-Odzala-Minkebe | 10 – Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega |
| 5 – Sangha Tri-National | 11 – Ituri-Epulu-Aru |
| 6 – Econi-Bateke-Lefini | 12 – Virunga |

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1. INTRODUCTION

The **Programme for Preservation of the Congo Basin Ecosystems**, referred to hereinafter as “the Programme” is the African Development Bank’s response to requests by the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to finance projects that support the sustainable management of ecosystems of the Congo Basin.

In line with the Bank’s environmental and social procedures, the environmental and social impact assessment study is intended to:

- analyze the impact of economic, agricultural, mining and other sector development policies on biodiversity conservation in and around the Landscapes concerned;
- analyze the Programme’s environmental and social issues;
- assess the environmental and social impacts of the implementation of the Programme’s components and activities;
- take measures aimed at mitigating or preventing the adverse impacts or increasing the beneficial impacts (environmental and social management plan);
- describe the Programme’s environmental and social management monitoring plan, including a capacity building plan;
- make recommendations aimed at improving the preparation and assessment of the Programme.

2. GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE PROGRAMME

The Programme comes at a time of heightened awareness about the need to join efforts at the national, sub-regional and international levels to protect the Congo Basin at the political (Declaration of Heads of State of Yaoundé, 1999), operational and practical levels. In this connection, the Heads of State of Central Africa held their second summit in Brazzaville in February 2005, which culminated in the signing of a Treaty on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa, and the adoption of the Convergence Plan. To implement the Treaty, which came into force in September 2006, following its ratification by six of the 10 signatory States, a sub-regional organization, called “Central Africa Forests Commission” (COMIFAC) was established. COMIFAC is an organization set up to guide, harmonize and monitor forest and environmental policies in Central Africa. The COMIFAC Convergence Plan defines the common intervention strategies of the States and development partners of Central Africa in the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

COMIFAC works in close partnership with other regional and African institutions. These include: the African Timber Organization (ATO), the International Agency for the Development of Environmental Information (ADIE), the Organization for the Conservation of African Wildlife (OCAW) the Central African Protected Areas Network (RAPAC), and the Conference on the Dense and Rainforest Ecosystems of Central Africa (CEFDHAC). Apart from these regional institutions, COMIFAC also works with various other partners engaged in the sustainable conservation and management of the Congo Basin forests. At the Johannesburg Earth Summit in 2002, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was launched. Countries participating in the partnership include the initial facilitators – the United States, France and Germany – other countries of the region and many other countries such as South Africa and Great Britain, key multilateral donors, and most major NGOs and other international organizations that advocate for the conservation of forests in this region of Central Africa.

Alongside these interventions, which take place directly as part of sustainable forest conservation and management, the countries formulate and implement sectoral agricultural, mining and other development policies within and around the Landscapes concerned.

In this connection, the ADB and COMIFAC commissioned IUCN to conduct the studies as part of the preparation of the Preservation of the Ecosystems of the Congo Basin Programme.

Legal and Legislative Framework of the Programme

National policies comprise strategic options for population, land, natural resource use and management, and other socio-economic sectors, including the activities leading to the implementation of these policies. This is reflected in Constitutions, through the enactment of natural resource and environmental management laws¹, land tenure and decentralization laws, etc. These laws are followed by implementing provisions and other texts and Ministerial instructions, designed to make them more concrete. Annex 4 gives an overview of the environmental legislative and legal framework in force in the countries covered by the Programme.

For instance, the DRC Constitution highlights four important aspects of four of the five Landscapes selected. The first is the status of natural resources, particularly, those of the biodiversity; the second is the role of customary practices in the Congolese legal system in terms of management and exploitation of natural resources; the third deals with the issue of the division of powers among the central authorities of the country and those of the provinces in matters of biodiversity; and the fourth concerns the issue of “Pygmies”, because of the eventual impact that implementation of the PECBP could have on this social category and others whose living environment is the forest.

¹ In the DRC, the framework law on environmental management is still being drafted prior to adoption; however, environmental management and natural resource issues are addressed by several sectoral legislations.

3. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMME AREAS

The Landscape scale² adopted for preparing up and implementing the Congo Basin Programme is a vast forest domain, often crossing national borders, based on the concept of preserving core zones surrounded by extraction and human impact zones increasing towards the edge. The meetings of the Central African Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE) led to the identification of 12 Landscapes: Monte-Alen-Monts de Cristal ; Gamba-Mavumba-Conkouati ; Lope-Chailu-Louesse ; Dja-Odzala-Minkebe ; Sangha Tri-National ; Econi-Bateke-Lefini ; Lac-Tele-Lac-Tumba ; Selonga-Lukenie-Sankuru, Maringa-Lapori-Wamba ; Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega; Ituri-Epulu-Aru and Virunga (*see Figure 1 on cover page*). The 12 Landscapes span an area of 680,300 km², across Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda. The Landscapes selected for the preparatory studies of the ADB-financed Programme are: Maringa-Lopori-Wamba, Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega, Sangha Tri-National (TNS), Lac Télé–Lac Tumba and Virunga (Annex....). These Landscapes cover six countries, namely: DRC, Congo, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Rwanda and Uganda³.

4. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

4.1. Programme Justification

The Bank's interest in this natural region stems from the fact that the Congo Basin, a vast expanse covering over 6 000 000 km², is the second largest area of dense tropical forests in the world and is considered a green « lung » of the planet. Moreover, ADB organized, on 21 and 22 February 2008, an international conference on financing mechanisms for the forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin. The participants (ministers, donors, research institutions, NGOs and civil society) drew up a document, « Tunis Declaration, February 08 », expressing the desire of all the partners to see the Bank take a lead role in management of the Basin's resources. The present Programme could be viewed as a demonstration of the Bank's commitment to contribute more to the preservation and eco-development of the Basin.

Despite their immense natural resource wealth, the countries of the Congo Basin are classified among the poorest in the world, and countries such as DRC and CAR are experiencing disastrous situations. Most countries in this natural region are unlikely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Preservation of Ecosystems of the Congo Basin will focus on the rehabilitation of highly important ecological “hot spot” zones from gradual degradation. Fauna and flora found in the basin do not exist anywhere else in the world and their preservation will have a planetary impact. Poverty is often the leading factor in the degradation of natural resources, and by improving the living conditions of the population,

² A landscape is a vast ecological entity comprising: 1) intact core areas comparable to protected areas with high ecological potential, often with endemic species such as large monkeys and 2) inhabited areas, where the populations face urgent developmental needs.

³ The Greater Virunga Cross-border Landscape straddles the borders of DRC, Rwanda (which is not a member of ECCAS) and Uganda (not a member of ECCAS or COMIFAC).

the Bank's intervention will contribute to reducing considerably the anthropogenic pressure on resources. Lastly, it is worth pointing out that the economies of the Congo Basin countries are dominated by mineral and oil extraction activities, and the promotion of ecotourism will help contribute to the diversification of those economies alongside more traditional agricultural activities.

The Programme falls within this context and thus responds to the objectives of promoting Regional Public Goods (RPGs) and contributes significantly to regional integration in Central Africa, through ECCAS and its technical organ, COMIFAC.

4.2. Development Objectives Targeted

The sector goal of the Programme is to contribute to biodiversity conservation and the institution of sustainable forest ecosystem management for the benefit of the region's populations and the world community.

The specific objectives of the Programme, while taking into account the need for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, are: (i) to improve management of the landscapes; (ii) reduce poverty and improve the living conditions of the populations.

4.3. Programme Components

The Programme's interventions cover targeted operations in the selected Landscapes as well as more cross-cutting interventions relating to the framework conditions and the capacity building of stakeholders. Thus, based on the strategic thrusts of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and national or regional plans of action, the Programme will comprise four components: (i) **Institutional Support for COMIFAC and its Partners**; (ii) **Community-Based Rural Development**; (iii) **Biodiversity Management and Adaptation to Climate Change**; and (iv) **Programme Management**. The programme also makes provision for cross-cutting actions, particularly in the area of communication and environmental education in urban areas.

5. MAIN PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

5.1. Component 1: Institutional Support for COMIFAC and its Partners, Support for Implementation of the Convergence Plan

- (i) at the COMIFAC sub-regional level, the Executive Secretariat will be strengthened in the area of coordination, planning and monitoring/evaluation; (ii) with respect to COMIFAC partner structures, support the reforms these structures (i.e. ADIE, CEFDHAC, RIFFEAC, OCFSA, research institutions, etc.) are undergoing and provide them with concrete assistance; (iii) for COMIFAC national focal points, the ongoing reforms will allow identification of the areas of intervention; (iv) for the countries, the Programme will cover areas of the economy and national development and support reform of the legal and institutional framework for environmental governance and sustainable environmental management; and (v) with respect to the Landscapes, the Programme will support local stakeholders.

The Programme will also undertake cross-cutting actions for the benefit of vulnerable indigenous communities, and to cover health and social risks as well as environmental education in urban areas.

5.2. Component 2: Community-Based Rural Development

This comprises mainly in activities within the Landscapes involving the organizational capacity building of local communities, building of access infrastructure and development of trade (rural roads), promotion of income-generating activities (eco-tourism, timber and non-timber product development, agriculture and fisheries/fish farming, agro-forestry and domestication), and more generally, meeting essential needs in view of the MDGs. The Programme will set up a local development fund to meet specific requests from local grassroots communities.

5.3. Component 3: Biodiversity Management and Adaptation to Climate Change

This consists in: (i) support for local stakeholders contributing to biodiversity management; (ii) demarcation and/or creation of protected areas; (iii) support for biodiversity management through the preparation and implementation of protected areas development plans; (iv) support for biodiversity management in forest concessions; (v) identification and implementation of climate change adaptation measures.

5.4. Component 4: Programme Management

Programme implementation will be entrusted to a management unit based in Kinshasa and will be coordinated by IUCN, under the supervision of COMIFAC, the ECCAS technical organ and ADF grant beneficiary, with the support of technical assistants based at the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat in Yaoundé. With respect to the Landscapes, the Programme will sign memoranda of understanding with the beneficiary associations, regional and/or national technical structures and NGOs operating in the Landscapes for the implementation of activities at that level and on the basis of jointly prepared plans. The COMIFAC national coordinating agencies will be asked to contribute to supervision at the country level. The Programme will lay emphasis on participatory approach, complementary synergy and the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships requiring the participation, involvement and contribution of all stakeholders. In each Landscape, a coordinating committee will be set up, if it does not yet exist, to ensure the complementarity of actions among the various public and private operators.

The expected outcome of Component 1 is good environmental and forest governance. The constraints described in the five Landscapes point in one way or the other to good environmental governance or poor environmental governance. The PECBP should concentrate on good environmental governance by documenting what has already been done, successfully or unsuccessfully, and outlining in concrete terms what the Programme can do while presenting the reality on the ground and implementing activities to establish good environmental governance, under the general supervision of COMIFAC and partner organizations.

For Component 2, the expected outcome is “land use management and planning” in the buffer zones and outside the protected areas. This implies that the approach is based essentially on conservation-related activities and the promotion of the ecosystems of the Landscapes, mainly through eco-tourism. This includes infrastructure, rural development and poverty reduction activities. The concept of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Summary for the Preservation of Ecosystems of the Congo Basin Programme focuses, in this regard, on more effective land management planning with the threefold objective of ecosystem preservation, sustainable management of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits generated from the use of the biological resources. Activities under this component will be designed on the basis of this option. It is under Component 2 that specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) have been recommended, using assessment procedures that are based on the procedures of African Development Bank (ADB): The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) comprises a matrix identifying and linking impacts and mitigating measures for each activity. The expected outcome of this component is the development of modes of sustainable exploitation. At the same time, it is expected that the use of labels certifying the sustainable nature of economic activities will be developed by independent specialized agencies, and which producers could subsequently obtain (FSC, for forest products, organic agriculture, clean tourism, etc...)

The expected outcomes of Component 3 relate mainly to capacity building in biodiversity management in the protected areas and forest concessions and to the adaptation of practices in the face of climate change.

With regard to **Component 4, Programme Management**, the first expected outcome is that the Programme is managed transparently while enabling achievement of the outcomes of the various components. It is also expected that the Landscapes consultative committees are able to fully ensure the coordination of the activities of all actors involved, based on jointly prepared plans.

The Programme also makes provision for cross-cutting actions, particularly in environmental communication in urban areas (Kinshasa Zoo and Botanical Garden) and the creation of a Local Development Fund to meet the demands of actors on the ground in the Landscapes, in the area of socio-economic development. The Programme, at an estimated total cost of UA 44 million, will be co-financed by ADF–XI, to the tune of **UA 40 million**, in the form of a grant from resources allocated to regional programme grants, and by the beneficiaries and other partners, who will contribute up to 10%, or **UA 4 million**, in local currency or other commonly used currencies.

6. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

Three main options were analyzed as part of this social and environmental assessment (SEA): (i) no-action option; (ii) acting in synergy with ongoing experiences, mainly through adoption of the Landscape approach; (iii) instituting a country-based initiative. The analysis was conducted based essentially on the following qualitative criteria: socio-political acceptance of the Programme, consistency with existing programmes, impact on ecosystem conservation, impact on community-based rural development, the populations’ support and their collaboration and effectiveness.

6.1. No-Action Option

The no-action option is not politically acceptable as it means refusing to respond to COMIFAC's and DRC's requests to contribute to the sustainable management of the Congo Basin and to the fight against poverty among the local populations. Although it is probably true that even without this ADB Programme, similar proposed actions would continue, as reflected in the interest demonstrated by an increasing number of international actors, as well as the emergence of increasingly favourable conditions for such interventions, the truth remains also that the immensity and extreme complexity of the problems to be addressed in DRC and CAR are such that no effort could be said to be too much. It is worth pointing out that ongoing actions aim at mobilizing additional resources to enable the successful implementation of the guidelines adopted under the Convergence Plan. In terms of biodiversity conservation and community-based rural development, failure to carry out the ADB Programme will certainly mean maintaining the status quo, or even aggravating completely or specifically anthropogenic pressure as the leading cause of the degradation of the Congo Basin's forest ecosystems.

6.2. Option of Acting in Synergy with Ongoing Experiences

The option of acting in synergy with ongoing experiences, as part of the CBFP and the implementation of the Convergence Plan (with the adoption of the Landscape approach by several major CBFP partners) is consistent with the Paris principle of development assistance alignment, and is therefore politically acceptable. The ADB's specific contribution is to focus on improving the framework conditions at the national and sub-regional levels and combating poverty in the Landscapes, with a view to lessening the anthropogenic pressure, the leading cause of degradation of the forests. In this way, it has the opportunity to capitalize on the comparative advantages of the other actors and programmes. This should translate into enhanced project effectiveness, particularly in terms preventing duplication and reducing management costs. Highlighting the Programme's added value to community-based rural development will facilitate its acceptance by the populations.

6.3. Option of Instituting a Country-Based Initiative

The option of instituting a country-based initiative, within a general Programme context where the Landscape approach has been adopted, might not be understood by the other actors. One of the obvious difficulties will be that of harmonizing such an initiative with the necessity of preserving ecosystems that, in several regards, are not limited to the territorial boundaries of the countries. Overlaps could limit the benefits of actions for biodiversity conservation and community-based rural development. Similarly, this might create confusion among the populations on whom a lot of other demands are already being made and affect their collaboration with the Programme. This option could also result in a duplication of efforts, and in higher management and transaction costs, which will considerably diminish the Programme's effectiveness.

On the basis of this analysis, albeit brief, the **option of acting in synergy with ongoing experiences with emphasis on community-based rural development support** was selected. Table 1 summarizes the alternatives analysis.

Table 1
Alternatives Analysis

Criteria	Scenario (i) : No-Action Option	Scenario (ii) : Acting in Synergy with Ongoing Experiences	Scenario (iii): Instituting a Country-Based Initiative
Socio-Political Acceptance of the Programme	Poor: Refusal to respond to requests from institutions and ADB Member Countries	Good: Consideration of the Paris Conference principle of the alignment of interventions on development assistance	Difficult: Risk of coming up against other actors' misunderstanding
Consistency with existing Programmes	Poor: Ongoing actions are geared towards the mobilization of supplementary resources for the successful implementation of policies adopted	Good: Capitalizing on comparative advantage of other actors	Difficult to implement
Conservation of Ecosystems	Persistence of ongoing anthropogenic pressures	Improved through actions to reduce negative effects of anthropogenic pressure	Persistence of ongoing anthropogenic pressures
Socio-Economic Development	Presumed or possible improved pace of interventions by other Programmes	Accelerated: Through specific actions of ADB Programme in synergy with other partners operating in the field	Limited by overlaps with the interventions of other actors
Population's Support and Collaboration	Not applicable	Strong: Emphasis of ADB's contribution to socio-economic development	Weak: Risk of creating confusion with other initiatives
Synergy with Operations of ADB and Other Partners	Not applicable	Relatively strong	Relatively weak
Effectiveness	Not applicable	Good: Reduction of base and transaction costs and more prudent orientation of available funding	Less effective: Duplication of costs and increased transaction charges
Overall Assessment of Options	Option not selected	Option selected	Option not selected

7. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Since the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) is a planning and decision-making tool, it has been synchronized with the preparation of the PECBP. The conduct and operating procedure of the Programme's preparatory stages coincided with the SESA and included the following the stages:

- Initial documentary research and analyses;
- Preparation of the summary note of the Strategic Impact Assessment for publication on the ADB website for public information;
- Preparation of summary documents of the different Landscapes;
- Preparation of interim expert reports;
- Preparation of interim preparatory programme report;
- Preparation of strategic environmental and social assessment report;
- Organization of consultative workshop in DRC on 17 December; preparation of final version of preparatory report.

The main methodological tools used are: (i) bibliographical analysis of publications and numerous technical reports of biodiversity conservation and management actors in the Congo Basin, including IUCN and its partners (CARPE, SNV, WWF, AWF, COMIFAC, WRI, CBFP, CIFOR, IITA, etc.); (ii) triangulation of secondary data obtained from technical opinions of scientists and professionals working in the assessment area as well as sector experts recruited for this study; (iii) environmental assessment techniques, including matrix approaches and expert decisions, consistent with ADB guidelines, and (iv) consideration of results of public consultations with the population and various stakeholders at the different forums on the sustainable management of the ecosystems concerned.

8. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

After the Yaoundé Declaration (March 1999), several consultations were organized to build consensus among the different partners and actors on the key strategies to guide their activities in the Congo Basin. The latter consists of a broad-based consultative platform called the Conference on the Ecosystems of the Dense Rainforests of Central Africa (*CEFDHAC*), which organizes periodic forums in each COMIFAC country, in accordance with the mandate given it under the Treaty signed by the Heads of State at the Brazzaville Summit. Several meetings on the management of the Landscapes and protected areas have been organized. Table 3 in Annex 1 gives examples of meetings and conferences organized from 1999 to 2008. It shows that several consultations have been held in favour of vulnerable populations whose interests were generally not adequately considered. Thus, in March 2003, a conference was held in Kigali for greater involvement of indigenous communities. Similarly, the Ipfondo Forum in Congo brought together for the first time representatives of the Pygmy communities of the entire Congo Basin and gave them the opportunity to express their expectations for the improvement of their living conditions and the preservation of forest resources. Again, from 13 to 27 June 2008, a series of in-depth consultations of the indigenous Pygmy communities of the DRC were held by LINAPYCO in the form of provincial workshops for the launching of the DRC National Forest Conservation Programme (Annex 2). It emerged from these meetings that the desire of the indigenous communities is to conserve their cultural practices, enjoy the benefits of the exploitation of the natural resources and, above all, have access to land.

This Programme and its strategic environmental and social assessment are in keeping with this momentum of consultation of the local and indigenous communities, with a view to seeking solutions to their problems of sustainable development. They are based on and incorporate the findings of all these forums for the consideration of the concerns of all

stakeholders. Aside these meetings, a public consultation workshop was organized in Kinshasa, on 17 September 2008, to discuss the environmental strategy formulated on ways of more effective mitigation of potential negative impacts that the Programme could engender and to manage the residual impacts that could possibly emerge at one or several stages of the Programme.

The following participated in the public consultation held in Kinshasa on 17 September 2008 : His Excellency, the Minister; representatives of the DRC National Assembly, the Nord-Kivu Provincial Minister of the environment, representatives of the forestry administration (SPIAF, PNFOCO, ICCN, etc.), the Federation of Timber Industries (FIB) and ADB as well as partners of the DRC and Congo (COMIFAC, GTZ, FAO, CARPE, DFID) and international (IUCN, AWF, WWF, WCS/Congo, CI, SNV), and national (REPALEAC, REPAR, REFADD, Avocats verts (Green Lawyers), CODELT, RIFFEAC, ANEE, PECA, UEFA/RAPY) and local (Bikoro Consultative Committee) organizations.

The main recommendations of this consultation were (cf. Annex 2):

- The involvement of ADB in forestry training, which is major issue for the sub-region;
- Financial and material support for the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat as well as its national coordinating agencies;
- Support for the development and implementation of sub-regional guidelines for sustainable management as well as standardization/harmonization of practices employed in the COMIFAC zone;
- Support to existing research institutions.
- Taking into account of the land tenure and cultural factors with a view to driving community-based rural development;
- Promotion of tailored micro-finance and micro-insurance schemes;
- Development of entrepreneurship;
- Development of renewable energies (biomass, solar energy, mini hydro-electric plants...) and the promotion of improved stoves in upper savannah areas;
- Development of exchange of management experiences between protected areas and promotion of a cross-border approach in their management;
- Reconciliation of preservation of the biodiversity of protected areas and adjacent forest concessions with combating poverty through job creation;

- The setting up of a Landscape coordinating committee and a select committee coordinated, respectively, by the Ministry in charge of the environment and the COMIFAC national coordinator.
- The promotion of joint planning among the different partners operating in the Landscapes for improved governance and fostering of coherent leadership in the implementation of the Programme.
- The establishment of the Programme's management tools and mechanisms to allow the technical and financial monitoring/evaluation of the landscapes, the Executive Secretariat and the programme facilitation agency.
- Consideration of capacity building and other priorities of stakeholders in the Landscapes in activities to be financed by the local development fund set up.

9. KEY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES OF THE PROGRAMME

Taking into account the socio-economic and environmental context of integration of the Programme and cross-cutting issues of importance to ADB, a number of issues involved in the Programme have been identified, relating to poverty, the environment and biodiversity, population, health, gender, governance, cross-border factors, indigenous peoples and political instability (see Table 2).

9.1. Poverty

It emerges from the socio-environmental diagnosis of the Programme area that the population concerned can, in many ways, be considered poor. The Programme intends to help reduce poverty by promoting a vision of conservation that incorporates human development, and by contributing to improving the livelihood of the communities concerned through the economy, information, education and communication as well as access to infrastructure and services.

9.2. Environment and Biodiversity

The biophysical environment of the Programme is characterized by the following constraints:

- Insufficient knowledge and data to support decision-making on the use of resources;
- The negative impact of infrastructural development, forest and mineral resource exploitation and agro-pastoral policies;
- The limited effectiveness of conservation measures stemming from lapses in the determination of protected areas and in the conservation of existing protected areas;

- The loss of fauna habitats;
- Disruptions in the water cycle.

The Programme intends to incorporate the necessity of adequately managing the impacts of the Programme on the environment, generally, and on biophysical biodiversity, particularly.

9.3. Population

For proper consideration of population-related issues, the Programme intends to concentrate on the following aspects:

- Characterization and control of population dynamics;
- Management of impacts of Programme components on the human (socio-cultural and socio-economic) environment;
- Quality of life.

9.4. Impacts on Human Health

With respect to this issue, the Programme will lay special emphasis on the following factors:

- Fauna-Human contamination;
- Contamination from pollutions, spills and poor handling of chemical inputs;
- Water-borne diseases;
- Hygiene, health and security issues arising from Programme outputs
- Sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.

9.5. Gender

Gender mainstreaming in the environmental and social assessment process implies the consideration of differences in gender roles, rights, priorities, opportunities and constraints. To this end, the Programme attaches special importance to the following factors for women's development:

- Income-generating activities;
- Access to amenities and services;
- Control of factors of production;
- Capacity-building and involvement of women in the decision-making process.

9.6. Governance

The poor governance of natural resources is one of the leading causes of the unsustainable management of the Central African forests and continuing state of poverty of communities living in and dependent on them, in spite of the increasingly robust legal and

regulatory reference framework in that regard both nationally and regionally. The Programme falls within this framework and must thus absolutely take into account and contribute to efforts geared towards improving this state of affairs, through:

- Harmonization and update of policies relating to the rights to natural resources and their management;
- Transparent and results-based planning, monitoring and assessment of policies and programmes and projects relating to the management of natural resources;
- Collection and dissemination of environmental information through different communication tools such as community radios;

Emphasis will be laid, at the level of the Landscapes, on participation and transparency in the management of projects, particularly, through:

- Institutional analysis and subsequent capacity building of COMIFAC national focal points, implementation structures, NGOs and local and indigenous communities to participate in the management of natural resources and conflicts;
- The participation and involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous communities and women in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of projects identified;
- The putting in place of an appropriate Programme implementation mechanism.

9.7. Cross-border Issues

The Congo Basin constitutes a vast forest ecosystem and calls for joint management in spite of the numerous stakes and stakeholders. Indeed, the ecosystemic approach which perceives the basin as one vast ecological unit must prevail in order to prevent fragmentation and parcelling. It is to this end that the Landscapes approach was developed, and which tends to overlook geopolitical boundaries and rather define coherent ecological sub-entities that may cover several national territories, thus becoming cross-border. With decentralization, there is inter-relation between landscape boundaries and decentralized territorial entities. In this regard, the Programme will endeavour to as much as possible facilitate efforts geared towards:

- Consistency of Landscape and national boundaries as well as those of decentralized territorial entities;
- Harmonization of forest resource management policies and approaches;
- Consistency of sub-regional, national and local interests.

9.8. Integration of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples

The issue of mainstreaming the specificities of the Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa (particularly, Pygmies) is essential in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of policies, programmes, projects and activities likely to affect them.

The Programme draws on the results of earlier consultations on mainstreaming the specificities of indigenous peoples. These results will be further refined through the special consultations planned as part of the Programme preparation. Already, the following actions have been incorporated for better mainstreaming of the specificity of the indigenous peoples:

With respect to the component on support to COMIFAC and its partner structures:

- Capacity building of COMIFAC for the mainstreaming of indigenous peoples in the planning and monitoring/evaluation activities of the Convergence Plan;
- Strengthening of Indigenous People's networks, such as REPALEAC, as partners of COMIFAC;
- Integration of the specificities of indigenous peoples in the revision and formulation of legal and regulatory frameworks for environmental management;
- The legislative recognition of the specific rights of indigenous peoples within the framework of environmental governance;

For the components relating to the conservation and management of biodiversity and community-based rural development, the specific impact assessments of projects to be developed under the Programme in the various Landscapes should allow:

- Consultation of local communities and indigenous peoples, in keeping with the principle of prior, free and informed consent of local communities and indigenous peoples;
- Identification of social conflicts and consideration of complaints by forest-adjacent communities;
- Prescription of measures focusing specifically on the needs of Pygmy peoples;
- Compensation for losses incurred from the Programme's interventions.

9.9. Socio-Political Instability and Displacement of the Population:

Several Landscapes in the Programme area are characterized by more or less pronounced political instability involving several countries such as in the case of the DRC, CAR and Rwanda. The success of the Programme depends largely on the socio-political and military situation in the region. It is hoped that the institutional capacity building programmes underway in most of the countries and the frameworks for consultation and dialogue established would

contribute to a lasting return to normality. Nonetheless, actions are envisaged, under the Programme, for better post-conflict environmental management. Under the component, support to COMIFAC and its partner structures, such actions include:

- Capacity building of COMIFAC and its partner structures in assessing the impacts of armed conflicts on the biophysical and human environment;
- Capacity building of COMIFAC and its partner structures for more effective coordination and mainstreaming of environmental concerns to ensure that the actions of the various stakeholders contribute to reducing the negative effects of war.

For the components relating to biodiversity conservation and management and community-based rural development, the specific impact assessments of some projects could, depending on their location, allow:

- Localized assessment of the impacts of armed conflicts and the post-conflict environmental situation;
- Identification of social conflicts and consideration of complaints by forest-adjacent communities that are linked to post-conflict situations;
- Prescription of measures for mitigating impacts arising from post-conflict situations, in agreement with the local authorities and communities. Such measures could include proposals for incentive-based interventions for the demobilization of armed groups based in certain camps;
- Capacity building of the various stakeholders in conflict management.

Table 2
Key Environmental and Social Issues of the Programme

Cross-cutting Issues	Key Issues
Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of the livelihood of the communities • Promotion of a conservation vision that incorporates human development
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Programme impacts on the biophysical and human environment
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characterization and control of population dynamics • Management of impacts of Programme components on human (socio-cultural and socio-economic) environment • Quality of life
Impacts on Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna-Human contamination • Hygiene, health and security issues arising from Programme outputs • HIV/AIDS
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income-generating activities. • Access to amenities and services • Involvement of women in decision-making process.
Environmental Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable distribution of fiscal revenue between central, provincial and local authorities • Transparency in financial and budgetary management • Land tenure management
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of all stakeholders • Capitalization on experience of previous and ongoing programmes • Capacity building of stakeholder actors
Cumulative Issues, Virunga example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control of Programme's intervention context • Carrying out Programme interventions in synergy with those of other actors • Reconciling conservation imperatives with improvement of populations' living conditions
Cross-border Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of Landscape and national boundaries • Harmonization of forest resource management policies and approaches • Harmonization of sub-regional and national interests
Integration of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of stakeholders for mainstreaming the specificities of indigenous Pygmy peoples (and others) • Implementation of specific activities that take into account this segment of the population
Socio-political Instability and Population Displacements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of stakeholders for consideration of specificities of the post-conflict period, particularly in terms of strategies and approaches to conflict management; • Post-conflict impact assessment; • Consideration of the post-conflict context in the impact assessments of specific projects

10. MAJOR PROGRAMME IMPACTS AND IMPROVEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The Programme has been prepared incorporating the environmental and social issues. Generally, it is banking on combating poverty and improving livelihoods as catalysts for promoting conservation of the ecosystem. To this end, its interventions are expected to have essentially positive impacts that must be improved upon in order to increase the benefits for sustainable development. Thus, for Component (1) Institutional Support and Support to the Convergence Plan, there are virtually no negative impacts while the positive impacts are ever-present. However, in the case of the components, Community-Based Rural Development (2) and Biodiversity Management and Adaptation to Climate Change (3), the construction of access facilities and the development of trade, as well as the promotion of certain income-generating activities and the demarcation and creation of protection of areas could have direct and indirect negative impacts on the biophysical and socio-economic environment, and must therefore be taken into account. The main expected impacts have been identified by component.

Overall, the main positive impacts expected from the Programme are: (i) capacity building of COMIFAC in the planning, coordination and monitoring of sustainable natural resource management actions; (ii) capacity building of COMIFAC partner structures and local actors in the sustainable management of natural resources; (iii) improvement of the framework conditions for the implementation of sustainable development policies; (iv) more effective education, awareness raising and training of a large number of actors in sustainable natural resource management; (v) emphasis on and special treatment of issues relating marginalized and vulnerable groups including indigenous populations (vi) improved local development, employment and revenue through the increase and diversification of the resultant economic activities and sources of revenue with better access to communication facilities and services; (vii) improved access to oversight services and actors in the area of sustainable natural resource management; (viii) increased agro-pastoral outputs and production and collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) as well as improved food security (ix) increased socio-economic benefits of eco-tourism; (x) provision of a potential source of funding to the population for their development projects and programmes (xi) reduced pressure on natural resources; (xii) protection of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems; and (xiii) adaptation to climate change.

In the same vein, the main expected negative impacts of the Programme include: (i) overexploitation and possible increased pressure on natural resources; (ii) degradation of the quality of ecosystems including through the introduction of new species not suited to the environment; (iii) disruption of existing traditional exploitation methods and infringement of the user and access right of communities including indigenous peoples; (iv) disposal of vast expanses of community lands; (v) exclusion of some marginalized groups from the benefits of the Programme; (vi) degradation of the soil, water and air quality from erosion and the uncontrolled use of chemical inputs; (vii) emergence of social conflicts arising from the mixing of populations of diverse origin and from land and water use; (viii) development of water-borne diseases, allergies and other ailments caused by the improper use of chemical products; (ix) occurrence of accidents from construction works and operation of equipment; (x) incidence of communicable diseases including sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; and (xi) modification of the customs, values, traditions, lifestyles and habits of local populations.

Measures to mitigate the negative impacts or significant risks associated with implementation of the Programme, to improve the positive impacts and compensate for residual impacts have been identified by component. In particular, specific environmental and social impact studies are recommended for projects considered particularly risky. The table in the annex presents, depending on the organizational, economic, ecological and social factors, the potential impacts and their importance, the proposed improvement measures, expected results and implementation responsibilities. Costs are not listed and are to be specified during the finalization of the feasibility studies. The results indicators are considered within the framework of the relevant parameters to be monitored.

11. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The Programme implementation strategy, which gives preference to seeking synergy with the other actors and diverse ongoing programmes, is such that it would be quite difficult to dissociate the Programme's impact from that of all the different programmes and projects currently underway in its area of intervention. One of the areas where this cumulative impact could be felt is the social acceptance and ownership of the Programme, which are dependent on the context and feedback from previous and ongoing programmes.

Conservation projects are presently underway in the Virunga Landscape, the largest being that of the WWF, which covers the entire Virunga National Park. Other partners such as AWF and the Zoological Societies of London and Frankfurt are also involved in conservation in this Landscape. All these operations are on-site (within the protected areas) while the ADB Programme, which will be rather off-site (on the periphery of the protected areas), will intervene in complementarity as it will contribute to reducing the pressure of the communities on these natural habitats.

It is therefore important to ensure the harmonization of these interventions in order to create more effective synergies between them and to reduce the costs of baseline studies and monitoring through an efficient information exchange system. The establishment of a centralized environmental information system within the structures responsible for regional planning should contribute significantly to this. The capacity building of the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat and other stakeholders in coordination, planning and monitoring/evaluation as well as the reform support geared towards making ADIE more operational, planned under the Programme, are consistent with this approach.

12. MONITORING PROGRAMME

The need to control the evolution of certain decisive parameters for the success of the Programme and the complexity of the ecological and socio-economic effects that could be produced in the region from the Programme itself or in conjunction with those of other stakeholders, call for a minimum environmental and social monitoring programme which should be hooked up to the overall monitoring mechanism within the framework of the implementation of the Convergence Plan. The targets set in terms of outcomes contribute significantly to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Congo Basin. The particularly pertinent monitoring indicators for the Programme will inform the trend of the following aspects:

(i) the level of improved revenue and status for the population; (ii) changes to the quality of the ecosystems; (iii) the level of capacity building of the beneficiaries including the communities, countries, COMIFAC and associated structures; (iv) the level of public sensitisation and training for sustainable natural resource management (v) the alignment of the framework conditions with the imperatives of sustainable development (vi) the level of consideration of the specificities of indigenous populations (vii) reduction of pressure on fragile areas; (viii) impacts of the Programme and other programmes and projects on the biophysical and human environment; (ix) effectiveness of the mitigating measures recommended; (x) the incidence of accidents and diseases arising from the interventions, including HIV/AIDS; (xi) the level of involvement of women and deprived populations in the decision-making process and their access to the infrastructure and services; (xii) the number, size and location of the protected areas demarcated and created; (xiii) the level of acceptance and participation of stakeholders (including marginalized indigenous groups) in the Programme.

Table 5 summarizes the environmental and social monitoring plan of the Programme. It gives, for each parameter considered important and strategic to be monitored, the means of verification, responsibilities and frequency of measures to support a given reference situation.

13. CAPACITY BUILDING IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT

The organization and management of the Programme are such that the responsibility for the mainstreaming of environmental and social concerns lies with several actors at various levels. To ensure that the actors align their actions with all the issues relating to environmental and social management, a sensitisation and training programme is planned for the chain of actors (management team, partners and service providers and beneficiary communities). Table 6 in the annex presents indicatively the themes and general contents of the most appropriate training and sensitisation sessions. A detailed plan for capacity building at the different levels of intervention, particularly at the level of COMIFAC and its partners, the countries and their central and provincial ministries, and at the level of the Landscapes will be implemented during the first year and will serve as the forerunner of all the other activities of the components. It should be noted that capacity building in environmental governance during the first period will result in the rural development and biodiversity conservation component recognizing forest resource governance as a major challenge of the Programme and thus clearly centre the Programme's implementation activities on this issue.

14. CONCLUSION

The strategic environmental and social assessment of the Programme, in and of itself a planning tool, confirms the potential of the latter to contribute to the sustainable management of the Congo Basin's ecosystems. A consequential social and environmental management plan comprising improvement and mitigating measures is recommended. It must make provision for the use of the specific impact assessments of projects considered at risk. Most of the measures proposed will be incorporated into the Programme. The cost of these measures will be determined during Programme appraisal.

The adoption and implementation of the recommended measures should contribute significantly to optimizing the objectives of the Programme, in terms of improved living conditions for the populations for a sustainable management of the ecosystems of the Congo Basin.

ANNEXES

Summary Description of Landscapes

LS 9 : Maringa-Lopori-Wamba Landscape (DRC):

Presentation: This Landscape, with an area of 74,544 km², is bordered by the Maringa and Lopori river basins, and the administrative and territorial entities of Bongandanga, Basankusu, Befale and Djolu in the Equateur, Mongala and Tshuapa Districts of the Equateur Province of DRC. It has a scientific reserve and a classified forest reserve, and the zoning and planning process is well advanced in the area.

State of the vegetation: The majority of the Landscape is covered by near-intact forest. Deforestation and degradation are limited. Satellite photos show nonetheless increasing destruction of the canopy at the heart of the Landscape, far from dwelling areas – confirming the presence of human settlements.

State of the fauna: Recent censuses confirm the richness of the fauna in the Landscape, as well as the disappearance of fauna in specific areas. Between the 1970s and 1980s, poachers equipped with military weapons had already exterminated the large populations of elephants and hippopotamuses along not only the Maringa and the Lopori rivers but also along remote rivers like the Lomako and the Iyokokala.

Over the last few years, however, traces of elephants have returned and there have been new observations of hippopotamuses. This can be explained by the difficulty that villagers have in gaining access to heavy arms and munitions.

Actors: An impressive array of actors is involved in the area. These include scientific research institutes of the CGIAR network, international NGOs such as the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), which is leading the Landscapes partnership, the World Fish Centre (WFC) and the African Women's Network for Sustainable Development (REFADD), among several others.

Two types of tourism are currently developed in the area: (i) Eco-tourism around the Bonobos, for which AWF has already developed a partnership with a private promoter; (ii) scientific tourism for research on Bonobo primates. The Landscape also has a solid programme on improving livelihoods, based on sustainable agro-forestry and the distribution of improved seeds and varieties.

Population and human activities: The population density of the Landscape is estimated at 3-6 inhabitants/km². The population is mainly concentrated along the major roads in the towns of Basankusu, Befale, Bongandanga, Mompono, Djolu and Lingomo. Nearly the entire population is found on Mongo land (Mongo and Mongando). The centre north-east has a scattering of Pygmy populations. Decline in agricultural activities and lack of market access have compelled the populations to look to the forest for their natural resource supply: game, fish and non-timber forest products. Hunting also takes place across the entire Landscape.

Constraints: The major constraints to the development of this Landscape are the direct (uncontrolled hunting and artisanal and industrial logging) and indirect (economic decline and loss of cultural values) threats.

Areas of intervention: The interventions deemed to be essential are:

- Participatory land use planning, highlighting the proposed protected area, community managed forests, logging areas and sylvo-agro-pastoral areas;
- Creation of a protected area;
- Development of forest management plans;
- Devising community development plans that focus on community resource management and meeting the basic needs of the people;
- Development of tourism activities that create jobs for the local population;
- Development of trading facilities to revive regional economic activity;
- Development of socio-economic job-creation and income-generation activities.

LS 10 : Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega Landscape (DRC):

Presentation: This Landscape comprises the Maiko National Park (1 million hectares), the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (660,000 ha) and the Tayna Nature Reserve (88,600 ha). All the macro-areas of the Landscape have been appropriately demarcated. They have a high potential for conservation concessions under international conventions on climate change and carbon trade.

Actors: A Ministry of Higher Education approved natural resource management training centre, Tayna College for Conservation Biology, has been set up to develop capacities in management, conservation biology and environmental education. The network of actors in this Landscape include international NGOs like Conservation International (CI), which spearheads the partnership, the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGI), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Innovative Resources Management (IRM), Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), the World Conservation Society (WCS), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and local partner organizations such as the Union of Associations for Gorilla Conservation (UGADEC).

State of the vegetation: With 81% of its area covered by primary forest, the Landscape represents one of the largest expanses of intact forest in Central Africa

State of the fauna: Although the forests are quite well-preserved, the fauna is under severe threat:

- The elephant population has declined sharply in several areas like the high-altitude section of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park and in the southern part of Maiko National Park;
- The eastern gorilla populations are facing various threats. Their current population size is not known, but it is estimated to be between 5,000 and 25,000;

- The *schweinfurthi* form of the eastern chimpanzee lives in the same regions as the gorillas, but occupies a larger area, and its population density is thought to be half that of the gorilla;
- All the other primates are under intense pressure from hunting in certain areas, especially the two types of red colobus monkeys – the Hamlyn cercopithecus and other cercopithecuses;
- A census of the southern part of the Maiko National Park in 2005 revealed frequent traces of large mammals like the bush pig, buffalo, okapi and several species of duiker on every transect;
- The bongo may possibly still exist, but according to local inhabitants this species disappeared at least 20 years ago;
- The leopard still appears to be present and some village inhabitants have reported seeing the Ruwenzori type.

Population and human activities: Apart from the Bukavu area, which now has close to one million inhabitants, the population is estimated at over 400,000 inhabitants in the rural forest areas, and comprises a mosaic of Bantu peoples and small populations of Twa Pygmies, the majority of whom live near the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the south. The lowland regions west of the mountain chain are less populated than the east side. The main economic activities in the Landscape are subsistence farming, hunting, extensive cattle, goat and/or sheep rearing, and small-scale mining. As the terrain gains altitude, the population density increases and farming practices become more intensive, especially on the East side, which produces two crops a year, on dry land and a third crop in the lowlands. The low morning temperatures have endowed the high altitude areas with pastureland and crops of the type found in temperate countries.

Constraints: The major constraints are the direct (uncontrolled farming, hunting and mining activities and capture of live animals for export) and indirect (economic collapse, insecurity, political instability and corruption, weak institutional capacity of the ICCN and the administration, in general) threats, and the continuous activities of armed groups and illegal mining activities in the parks.

Areas of intervention: The interventions deemed to be essential are:

- Capacity building of local organizations and of the park staff;
- Assessment of the biodiversity and needs in areas still under the control of rebels and other armed groups;
- Drawing up of development plans for protected areas and community areas;
- Development of sustainable income-generating activities, which do not take undue toll on forest and fauna resources;
- Formulation and institution of sustainable financing mechanisms for protected areas;
- Implementation of periodic monitoring of key species;
- Meeting the basic needs of the local people, especially the most vulnerable among them;
- Development of tourism activities that would create jobs for the local population.

LS 5 : The Sangha Tri-National Landscape (TNS) (Cameroon, CAR and Congo):

Presentation: The Sangha Tri-National Landscape covers an estimated area of 36,236 km². It comprises the Nouabale-Ndoki National Park (419,000 ha) in the Republic of Congo, the Lobeke National Park (43,000 ha) in Cameroon, the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park (125,100 ha) in the Central African Republic and the Dzanga-Sangha Special Reserve (310,100 ha), also in the Central African Republic.

Actors: Management of the protected areas is under the responsibility of the Ministries of Water and Forests in the three countries. In CAR, the ministry receives support from WWF and GTZ-Gfa; in the Republic of Congo, from WCS, and in Cameroon, from WWF and GTZ. In the CAR, WCS has been conducting research on forest elephants for over 15 years. The main logging companies are CIB, IFO, Vicwood and Rougier in the Congo section of the Landscape; SEFAC, SFIL, STBK and Alpicam in Cameroon and none currently in the CAR, since the liquidation of SBB in late 2005. Hunting tourism is organized in CAR by three companies: Aouk Sangha Safari, National Safari and Safaria, all currently inactive. In terms of the development of sustainable financing mechanisms, it is important to mention the establishment of the trust foundation, TNS, which started activities in 2008. With regard to coordination of TNS, international conventions have been signed under the auspices of COMIFAC. These include the anti-poaching convention, under which, for years now, joint patrols have been organized on the river and on both sides of the borders.

State of the vegetation: A large portion of the forests occupying the banks of the Sangha seem to have been inhabited from 2300 to 900 years BP and transformed into oil palm groves. After the population abandoned the region, it was covered by Entandrophragma forests, but industrial logging has once again affected large swathes of these forests, opening up their canopies in the process. The majority of the forests in the centre of the Lobeke National Park and all the forests of the Nouabale-Ndoki National Park have never been logged, and are still intact.

State of the fauna: In CAR, data collected by the MIKE programme in 2005 showed a sharp drop in the populations of large mammals and a contraction of their distribution areas. Flagship species like the elephant, the chimpanzee and the gorilla are concentrated within the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park.

In the Republic of Congo, the populations of large mammals are still largely intact. In the south of the Nouabale-Ndoki National Park, in the Kabo, Pokola and Toukoulaka concessions, sound management has led to stable and healthy animal populations. These concessions also have large habitats for elephants and bongo antelopes. Protecting these habitats is essential to allowing the bongo antelope population to recover from the epidemic caused by the *stomoxys* fly in 1997. The Mokabi concession has lost a large portion of its fauna since the start of activities in 2001. Human immigration and uncontrolled hunting have taken a great toll on the elephant population in the north of the concession. Large mammal populations live in the south of the concession, bordering the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park.

In Cameroon, the populations of the flagship species are more or less stable in the Lobéké Park, but are sometimes threatened in the surrounding concessions. The superimposition of hunting areas and forest concessions often cause problems for the coordination of interventions and management of resources and space, depending also on whether it involves professional hunting guides or community-managed hunting zones. The Mambéle convention, signed by all institutional stakeholders, the private sector and NGOs, is designed to establish a common basis for organising hunting and managing fauna outside the Park.

Population and human activities: Across the entire Landscape, the density of the human population is estimated at 0.7/inhabitants/km², but this varies from one section to the next. Among the native ethnic groups of the region are the Baaka Pygmies, who are hunter-gatherers in CAR, the Bendzélé in Congo and the Bakas in Cameroon and the Zangha-Sangha, who are fisher folk along the river. The main human activities are logging, services to the employees of the logging companies, mining, hunting, fishing, farming, livestock rearing, gathering, conservation, tourism and trade.

Constraints: The major constraints are direct (uncontrolled commercial hunting activities, ivory hunting, small-scale mining and uncontrolled small-scale and industrial logging) and indirect (inadequate information, limited capacities and resources, poor institutional capacities) threats.

Areas of intervention: The interventions deemed to be essential are:

- Monitoring-evaluation of natural resources and the threats to these resources;
- Planning of community utilization of resources for sustainable community development outside the protected areas and allocated forest concessions;
- Development and introduction of sustainable wildlife management in the forest concessions of the three countries;
- Improving the management of protected areas, as part of the Sangha Tri-national convention;
- Introduction of sustainable financing mechanisms of protected areas;
- Stepping up concerted action with CTPE, as part of sustainable development planning, integrating the population and the private sector;
- Development of activities to expand the tourism potential of parks and buffer zones;

Socio-economic development of the populations, especially the Pygmies, who are in the majority, in some Landscape areas.

LS 7 : Lake Télé–Lake Tumba Landscape (DRC and Congo):

Presentation: The Tele-Tumba Landscape is situated at the heart of the Congo Basin and centred on Lakes Tele in the Republic of Congo and Tumba and Mai-Ndombe in DRC. It extends over an area of 126,440 km², with 54,001 km² in the western section, situated within the Republic of Congo, and 72,439 km² for the eastern section, in DRC. It comprises the Lake Tele Community Reserve (440,000 ha), in the Republic of Congo, and the Mabali Scientific Reserve (1,900 ha), in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Actors: The Lake Tele Community Reserve is managed by the Ministry of Forest Economy and Environment, in partnership with WCS. Local NGOs are also active in the area. They include the Congolese Wildlife Conservation (CFC) group, which is active on the outskirts of the reserve and assists in the development of sustainable resource management in two villages. In the eastern sector, the Mabali Scientific Reserve has been entrusted to the Centre for Ecological and Forest Research, an organ of the Ministry of Scientific Research of the DRC. In this segment of the Landscape, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) works together with the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Water and Forests, the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) and Innovative Resources Management (IRM)

State of the vegetation: In the western section of the Landscape, the forests are still intact, because of their impenetrability, both on foot and by vehicle. In the eastern section of the Landscape, a halo of rapid deforestation has developed around Mbankaka, not only for the construction of homes but also for the production of firewood. In the eastern section of the Landscape, the dry land forests of the south are chiefly old secondary forests. In the scientific reserve, large expanses have been cleared by the staff of the research station to plant cassava. The local population also uses the reserve for farming, fishing and illicit felling of wenge. A tree found in the riparian forest, *Guibourtia demeusei*, is highly prized as firewood and is becoming increasingly rare around Mbandaka; gatherers have to go even further into the forest to find it.

State of the wildlife: In the western section, the swamp and floodable forests of the community reserve still contain substantial populations of large mammals, mainly gorilla. However, certain areas have been overexploited through commercial hunting for bush meat and ivory. In the eastern section, the Angola colobus has become rare or disappeared altogether from the scientific reserve. Indeed, WWF studies currently underway at Lake Tumba show a severe decline, both in terms of the specific composition and the abundance of fish. On the other hand, these studies have revealed the existence small populations of forest elephants in the region between the Tumba and Mai Ndombe lakes, and also between Bomongo and the Congo River. These studies have supplemented those conducted by BCI and make it possible to pinpoint six groups of bonobos in the area between the Tumba and Mai Ndombe lakes, and also at the edge of the Landscape between Bolobo, Fimi and Mushie, in Bandundu Province.

Population and human activities: Villages in the western section are home to some 64 to 2,280 people, belonging to the Bomitaba group, where youths under 20 years make up 59% of the population. A few semi-nomadic Bendzele Pygmies also live around the reserve for short spells. The Ntomba are dominant in the Bikoro territory in the Equateur Province of DRC. The north-western section, between River Congo and the Ubangi, is inhabited by a cultural mosaic of some thirteen ethnic groups. The main activities of the population are farming, fishing, hunting, trading, livestock rearing, gathering of non-timber forest products and the sale of firewood. About 15% of the population are permanently employed in teaching, territorial administration or the police. The south-eastern portion of the eastern section is inhabited by six Mongo groups, who cohabit with the minority Batwa Pygmies.

Constraints: The major constraints are direct (uncontrolled commercial hunting and fishing activities, bush fires, diseases) and indirect (its geographical location at the confluence of several major waterways, inadequate knowledge, poverty and the lack of alternative means of subsistence, lack of surveillance, climatic vagaries and hydrological problems) threats.

Areas of intervention: The interventions deemed essential are:

- More effective evaluation of resources and the threats to them;
- Planning the sustainable exploitation and community management of natural resources;
- Collaboration with the authorities to reduce illicit hunting and improved security;
- Improving environmental governance;
- Developing alternative means of subsistence, including eco-tourism;
- Introducing a monitoring-evaluation mechanism.

LS 12 : Virunga Landscape (DRC, Rwanda and Uganda)

Presentation: The Virunga Landscape covers an area of 15,155 km² and comprises two contiguous national parks – the Virunga National Park, with 772,700 ha in DRC and the Volcanoes National Park, with 16,000 ha in Rwanda, the Rutshuru Hunting Zone (64,200 ha) in Uganda and a 10-km wide strip at the edge of the national parks.

Actors: The ICCN in DRC and the ORTPN in Rwanda are responsible for managing the protected areas. Conservation NGOs are represented by AWF, FFI, WWF, FZS, DFGF-Europe, DFGF-International, MGVP, ZSL, BRD, CBO and CBV. The largest conservation project is that of WWF, which covers the entire Virunga National Park, and that of the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (AWF, FFI and WWF), which covers both national parks. The zoological societies of London and Frankfurt also have major projects in support of ICCN, for the Virunga National Park. WCS, DFGF and other actors also support conservation efforts in this Landscape. The Declaration made at the Conference of Ministers of Tourism and Environment of DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, held in July 2008 in Gisenyi, Rwanda, expresses the willingness to strengthen the tourism sector, fight poverty and preserve the extraordinary biodiversity of this Landscape. The Declaration however expresses concern about the presence of armed groups, which has led to the displacement of local communities and the destruction of infrastructure.

State of the vegetation: In 2004, the Virunga National Park lost 1,500 ha of forests, following an influx of people from Rwanda. In 2005, large-scale deforestation for charcoal production continued in the Nyamulagira section of the Virunga National Park, and land clearing for farming extended beyond the protected areas. In the Rutshuru hunting area, 90% of the area is totally degraded. The dramatic drop in the elephant and hippopotamus populations has led to an invasion of the remaining savannah by dense ligneous vegetation.

State of the wildlife: The observations of 2003 mainly reveal the following:

- There were 400 gorillas, comprising 380 mountain gorillas (*Gorilla b. beringei*) around the volcanoes, and 20 Grauer gorillas (*Gorilla b. graueri*) on the Tshiaberimu;
- The elephants numbered 376, of which 286 were savannah elephants and 90 were forest elephants in the Volcanoes National Park and in the Mikeno section of the Virunga National Park. The number of elephants present in the north and south of the Virunga National Park remains unknown because of the insecurity in these areas;
- The number of chimpanzees in the Virunga National Park was estimated at 150, however, they decreased to only 130 in 2005, due to destruction of their habitat through clearing for charcoal production and farming;
- The hippopotamus population of the Virunga National Park was estimated at 26,359 in 1959 and 22,875 in 1989; the number dropped to 1,309 in 2003 and fewer than 900 in August 2005;
- In the Rwindi-Rutshuru plains, the ungulate biomass dropped from 27.6 tons/km² in 1980 to 2.5 tons/km² in 2005 – a reduction of over 90%;
- Fish populations in Lake Edward are suffering from the effects of overharvesting.

Population and human activities: The average population density is 300 inhabitants/km², and varies from six to 600 inhabitants/km². The populations are scattered all over the Landscape, especially outside the protected areas, as well as locally, within the protected areas like the fishing villages around Lake Edward. Urban centres with over 10,000 inhabitants include Goma, Beni, Rutshuru and Kiwanja in DRC, and Ruhengeri in Rwanda. The major groups are the Nande of Lubero, Beni and Rutshuru, the Hunde of Masisi, Rutshuru and Goma, the Nyanga of Walikali, the Pere, the Kumu, the Twa and the *Banyarwanda* (Hutu and Tutsi). The major activity is intensive permanent farming, practised by about 80% of the population. About 5% of the population practises fishing – partly illegally – and less than 1% are involved in pastoralism. Many people hunt, but hunting is not their main activity; it is only to supplement their farming activities. About 14% of the inhabitants of the Landscape have jobs in town

Constraints: The major constraints are direct (invasion of the park, by soldiers, for instance, mining, disease and volcanic eruptions), and indirect (war, insecurity and political instability, lack of capacity for National Park management, lack of jobs, political interference, which incites the people to invade the protected areas).

Areas of intervention: The interventions deemed essential are:

- Political and institutional support to improve coordinated action to evict the armed bands in the protected areas, and secure the inhabited peripheral areas;
- Improving communication among the many actors and with the decision-makers;
- Developing a reliable database for managing forest resources;
- Drawing up and implementing rural development plans in the different sections of the Virunga Landscape to revive socio-economic activities;
- Support to the improvement of conditions for the development of tourism and sight-seeing;
- Development of socio-economic income and job-creating activities;
- Meeting the basic needs of the local communities.

Table of Major Consultations of COMIFAC and CEFDHAC/RAPAC Partner Organizations

Dates	Description/Event/Venue	Main Actions/Resolutions
March 99	Heads of State Summit in Yaoundé	Heads of State Yaoundé Declaration on management of the Congo Basin forests.
5-7 June 00	3 rd CEFDHAC Bujumbura[Strengthening of national contact groups, integration of underlying principles for the harmonization of forest policies, CEFDHAC basic regulations, capacity building of women, youth, etc.
Sep. 2000	Conference of Central African Experts in Yaoundé (Countries+NGOs+Partners+Donors)	Agreement on the principle of a Convergence Plan for the implementation of the resolutions contained in the Heads of State Yaoundé Declaration of March 99. Determination of the components of the Convergence Plan and contents. Designation of a drafting team for the first Convergence Plan.
Dec. 2000	Conference of Central African Forestry Ministers (preceded by a country experts meeting)	Discussion of the Convergence Plan document (in four parts: Harmonization of Forest Policies, Forest Development, Management of Protected Areas and other Cross-cutting Issues) Adoption of the Convergence Plan by the Council of Central African Ministers in charge of Forests
20-23 Sep 2001	Workshop for the formulation of the 2002-2005 Operational Plan/Brazzaville	Preparation and validation of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan Operational Plan for 2002-2005 with sub-regional actions and the briefs of actions to be undertaken in each Member State
January 2002	Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (PNKB)	Assessment of damage to the PNKB from the war, staff regulations, planning of activities to be undertaken in and around the PNKB, putting in place of sustainable financing tools, ongoing changes to staff regulations
21-22 March 02	Workshop of CA Parliamentarians (Douala)	Strengthening the involvement of parliamentarians in the management of forest ecosystems. Development of the REPAR network and improvement of the regulatory framework in countries of the Congo Basin
10-14 Sep 02	Regional Workshop on Sustainable Forest Management Practices in Central Africa (Kribi)	Ways of supporting in the field the implementation of forest development plans, developing partnerships and integrating all over the notion of multi-purpose forest management
24-26 March 03	Sub-regional Conference on Involvement of Indigenous Peoples – Kigali-Rwanda	Planning of actions for greater involvement of indigenous peoples in Sustainable Natural Resource Management, financing mechanisms, strengthening of the network
13-17 Oct. 2003	AFLEG Conference Yaoundé – Cameroun	International conference bringing together 39 ministerial delegations and all partners, international and national NGOs, governments, etc. for a common declaration of commitment of Africa towards improved forest law enforcement and governance
16-17 Dec. 2003	Zonal Conference on the Involvement of the CA Civil Society in NEPAD (Douala)	Mainstreaming gender and youth issues in the NEPAD Environmental Plan, support to organization of the civil society, strengthening of the CEFDHAC networks
25-26 March 04	Workshop on the Volcanoes National Park Stakeholders Consultation Framework (Rwanda)	Strengthening of the consultative and management organs of the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda
May 04	5 th CEFDHAC meeting in Yaoundé	Governance, partnership, networks, forest communities, incentives, training and research
13-14 June 2004	Review Workshop on the Operational Plan of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan – Yaoundé	Mid-term review of the Operational Plan of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan. Decision to review the Convergence Plan on the basis of 10 strategic thrusts to be rolled out to Member States in the form of national plans
Feb. 2005	2 nd Heads of Summit in Brazzaville – Congo	Signing of the COMIFAC Treaty by 10 member countries. Adoption of the Convergence Plan as a common working basis in the Congo Basin forests, at the sub-regional and national levels. Putting in place of a formal framework defining the responsibilities of COMIFAC, ECCAS and CEMAC.

Dates	Description/Event/Venue	Main Actions/Resolutions
March 2005	Planning Workshop for Operational Plan (OP) 2006-2008 of the Convergence Plan (CP) – Kinshasa – DRC	Preparation and validation of OP 2006-2008 of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan; analysis and summary of national OPs, recommendations for the finalization of the sub-regional OP and national OPs.
13-14 June 06	COMIFAC Focal Points Workshop (Malabo – Equatorial Guinea)	Consultations and validation of missions of COMIFAC focal points, positioning, operation, etc.
15- 16 June 06	Sub-regional Workshop on the Self-financing Mechanism (Malabo)	Presentation of the findings of the study on COMIFAC self-financing. Validation of expert proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Council of Ministers
07-10 Oct. 06	2 nd International Conference on the Involvement of Parliamentarians	Strengthening the bases of the Parliamentarians Network for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPAR)
8-10 March 07	Board of Directors meeting of Member Countries of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) Foundation	Follow-up of TNS activities, establishment of local consultative bodies (CTPE, committees, etc.), information on level of readiness of the TNS Foundation
26 March 07	FORAF Launching Workshop – Kinshasa	Launching of the FORAF Project, observatory of Central African forests, charged with periodically updating the database on the state of CA forests
March 07	COMIFAC Sub-Regional Monitoring/Evaluation Workshop	Presentation of the assessment and validation of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan Monitoring/Evaluation Mechanism in Bata
April 07	International Forum of Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa (Ipfondo-Congo)	First international forum of the indigenous peoples of Central Africa at Ipfondo, northern Congo, (Lake Télé-Lake Tumba Landscape) with the representatives of Pygmy peoples from all over Central Africa
11 Oct. 07	RIFFEAC Constituent Assembly	Institutionalization of the network into a sub-regional organization of training institutions (Yaoundé)
20-22 Nov. 07	6 th CEFDHAC meeting in Libreville – Gabon (300 participants/ 10 COMIFAC countries)	Recommendations on sustainable management of CA forests. Validation of CEFDHAC reform including several parallel events for consultations among actors, groups, networks, etc.
Dec. 2007	TNS Planning and Implementation Technical Committee (CTPE) meeting in Bayanga – CAR	Technical committee partnership, consultative and planning meeting of the three TNS countries in Bayanga
21 – 23 April 08	PBF Planning Workshop with the MECNT and ICCN in Kinshasa, DRC	Planning of capacity building, restructuring, institutional reform implementation, rehabilitation of premises, etc of the MECNT and ICCN head office, incorporating similar activities at the provincial level
29-30 April 08	Workshop for the Planning of Activities in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park Area	Participatory planning of activities to be carried out in the Park and its peripheral areas, in eastern DRC (Bukavu)
9-11 June 08	RAPAC Workshop on Responsible Tourism in the Protected Areas	Consultative workshop on strategies for the development of responsible tourism in the protected areas of the RAPAC Network (Kribi – Cameroon)
July 08	Consultative Workshop of Great Lakes/Virunga Landscape countries	Consultative meeting between managers of Rwanda, Uganda and DRC parks and peripheral areas, in Kigali.
17 Sep. 08	PECBP Public Consultation	Public consultative meeting on the PECBP's ESA in Kinshasa with all the major stakeholders concerned/PECBP

Final Communiqué of the Public Consultation Workshop
PUBLIC CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE PROGRAMME FOR
PRESERVATION OF CONGO BASIN ECOSYSTEMS

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Public Consultation on the Programme for Preservation of Congo Basin Ecosystems was jointly organized by the Minister, IUCN, COMIFAC and ADB in Kinshasa (Grand Hôtel), on 17 September 2008, following the process initiated at the Tunis meeting on self-financing mechanisms and in conformity with the contract between African Development Bank and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, to prepare the said Programme.

In attendance were, His Excellency the Minister, representatives of the Democratic Republic of Congo National Assembly, the Nord-Kivu Provincial Minister of the Environment, representatives of the Forestry Services (SPIAF, PNFOCO, ICCN, etc.), the Timber Industry Federation (FIB) and ADB as well as partners of DRC and Congo (COMIFAC, GTZ, FAO, CARPE, DFID) and international (IUCN, AWF, WWF, WCS/Congo, CI, SNV.), national (REPALEAC, REPAR, REFADD, Avocats verts (Green Lawyers), CODELT, RIFFEAC, ANEE, PECA, UEFA/RAPY) and local (Bikoro Consultative Committee) organizations.

The Workshop was facilitated by Mr. Jean Marie Noiraud, JMN Consultant.

The overall goal of the Workshop was to ensure that all stakeholders are adequately informed about the Programme's linkages and that their concerns are duly taken into account.

Specifically, it was intended to:

- Inform systematically all stakeholders about the Programme's objectives and its linkages with ongoing initiatives as well as incorporate the comments, suggestions and recommendations of the stakeholders;
- Recapitulate the conclusions of the Programme's Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and the Thematic Studies
- Identify and consolidate the links of synergy with the programmes and projects of the CBFP member stakeholders

The Workshop's programme mainly consisted of the following:

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Plenary Presentations
3. Recapitulation Sessions
4. Closing Ceremony

1. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the Workshop was chaired by His Excellency the Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Forests and Tourism, who recalled the substantial

reforms undertaken by his Ministry since 2002 through the promulgation of a new Forestry Code, implementation of the national agenda and of a Nature, Forests and Conservation policy as well as the signing of the implementing legislation of the Forestry Code. He then went on to express his support for this initiative and thanked ADB for its prompt response initiative to the requests from COMIFAC and the DRC as well as IUCN, which is charged with facilitating the participatory preparation of this Programme.

As a prelude to the opening speeches for the Workshop deliberations, the opening ceremony was also marked by speeches from Mr. Cléto Ndikumagenge, the Forests Regional Coordinator, PACO, and the ADB Representative.

All the speakers welcomed the innovative and unifying nature of this initiative, reiterating the importance of developing synergies with partners, promoting internal communication and capitalizing on the lessons learnt from the four components of the Programme, namely, institutional support to COMIFAC and its partners, support to the putting in place of the Convergence Plan, community-based rural development, biodiversity conservation and management and Programme management.

In spite of the significant strides made over the past decade in terms of the involvement of all stakeholders, consideration of the wishes of partners and the population remains the foremost measure of success of the entire ecosystem preservation programme.

2. *Introductory Presentations*

Continuing their deliberations, the participants followed presentations from Messrs Jean Marie Noiraud, Coordinating Consultant of the Preparatory Assessment, and Dieudonné Bitondo, Consultant for the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Presenting the Congo Basin Ecosystem Preservation Programme, Mr. Jean Marie Noiraud explained the approaches used in this regional programme, namely the regional approach covering the Congo Basin within the framework of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, the Landscape approach with five targeted Landscapes of which three straddle six countries and of which five are eligible for ADF financing, and the Landscapes complementarity approach.

He also dwelt at length on the background to the Programme so as to explain more clearly to the participants the four components of the Programme, which are key principles that lay emphasis on the Programme's complementarity with other actions already underway in the Landscapes, its integration into existing plans, combating poverty, socio-economic development for improved living conditions of the populations and the development of ecotourism whenever possible.

Some reference data on the ADF grant, the 10% contribution from stakeholders and the project implementation period (5 years) were completed with the listing of documents to be prepared by the IUCN team, depending on the timetable of the assessment.

In his presentation on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, Dr. Dieudonné Bitondo, recalled the objectives of the four components of the Programme whose implementation will be supervised by COMIFAC and effected through a Programme Management Unit, based in Kinshasa and coordinated by IUCN with the support of technical assistants based in Yaoundé, all under the supervision of COMIFAC.

After outlining the principles and approach adopted, the Mr. Bitondo's report described the Programme's areas of intervention and highlighted the main environmental and social constraints expected.

Based on the general context of integration of the Programme, he described the positive and negative impacts and the mitigating, improvement, compensatory and monitoring measures for environmental and social management. Lastly, he proposed a plan for building the capacity of the entire chain of Programme actors in order to ensure the mainstreaming of environmental and social issues.

3. Working Groups

After discussion of certain points of clarification, the participants broke up into four working groups, namely Biodiversity Conservation and Management, Institutional Support to COMIFAC, Community-Based Rural Development and Programme Management, according to the terms of reference defined.

4. Summary

During the summary session, the following recommendations were made:

Group I: Institutional Support to COMIFAC:

- For ADB to involve itself in forestry training, which constitutes a major issue for the sub-region;
- For ADB to provide financial and material support to the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat and its national coordinating agencies;
- Provide support to the development and implementation of the sub-regional directives for sustainable management as well as the standardization/harmonization of practices employed in countries of the COMIFAC zone.
- Provide support to existing research institutions.

Group II: Community-based Rural Development

- For the assessment to take into account land tenure and cultural factors with a view to driving community-based rural development;

- For the assessment to make provision for the establishment of tailored micro-finance and micro-insurance schemes;
- For entrepreneurial activities derived from renewable energies (biomass, solar energy, mini hydro-electric plants...) to be developed and improved stoves be promoted in highland areas

Group III: Biodiversity Conservation and Management

- For the initiative to foster the development of exchange of management experiences between national and cross-border protected areas;
- For ADB to promote the reconciliation of preservation of the biodiversity of protected areas and in adjacent forest concessions with combating poverty through job creation;

Group IV: Programme Management

- Promote the setting up of a Landscape coordinating committee and a select committee coordinated, respectively, by the Ministry of the environment and the COMIFAC national coordinator.
- Promote joint planning among the different partners operating in the Landscapes for improved governance and foster coherent leadership in the implementation of the Programme.
- Put in place management tools and mechanisms for the Programme that allow the technical and financial monitoring/evaluation of the Landscapes, the Executive Secretariat and the Programme facilitation agency.
- Establish a local development fund with objectives that focus on capacity building and other priorities of stakeholders in the Landscapes.

5. Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was chaired by Chief of Staff of His Excellency the Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Forests and Tourism, after the reading of the final communiqué.

Issued in Kinshasa on 17 September 2008

Summary Table of Measures to Improve and Mitigate Impacts of Programme Implementation

Potential Positive and Negative Impacts	Importance	Improvement and Mitigating Measures	Expected Outcomes	Responsibility for Implementation
Organizational Aspects				
Better collection and management of environmental and social data	High	Rigorous identification of areas to be strengthened and implementation and monitoring of concrete actions in agreement with the other CBFP stakeholders.	Environmental and social data are better collected and managed	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC CBFP
Better natural resource governance through more effective involvement and coordination of stakeholder actions	High		Natural resource governance is enhanced through more effective involvement and coordination of stakeholder actions	Other projects and programmes Local authorities Relevant Departments
Operationality of COMIFAC country offices (focal points)	High		COMIFAC country offices are improved	
Operationality of COMIFAC partner structures	High	Same as for COMIFAC capacity building	COMIFAC partner structures are operational	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC CBFP
Improved framework conditions for the implementation of sustainable development policies	High	Same as for COMIFAC capacity building	The framework conditions for the implementation of sustainable development policies are improved	Other projects and programmes Local authorities Relevant Departments
Capacity building of actors in direct contact with the biophysical and human environment of the Programme area	High	Rigorous selection of actors for capacity building and areas of focus based on transparent and participatory sustainability criteria.	The capacity of actors in direct contact with the biophysical and human environment of the Programme area is strengthened	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC CBFP Other projects and programmes Conservation NGOs
Economic Aspects				
Increased local development and jobs through income-generating activities (increased agricultural and fish yields and collection of NTFPs)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise beneficiaries' awareness of possibilities available - Build beneficiaries' capacity in relation to the possibilities available - Facilitate access to investment resources (micro-credits) 	Local development and jobs increase through the resultant income-generating activities, in particular ecotourism	Programme Implementation Unit Administrative authorities NGOs Other relevant projects and programmes Relevant authorities Service providers
Potential general price hikes (staple food products, driven by tourist demand);	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education, information & raising awareness of population - Implementation of compensatory measures 	Potential general price hikes from tourism are mitigated.	Programme Implementation Unit Administrative authorities Service providers Other projects and programmes Maintenance committees
Improved access to services and markets (Improved local availability and supply of agricultural, fish and other products)	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure the operationality and sustainability of infrastructure - Build beneficiaries' capacity and raise their awareness of possibilities available - Facilitate access to investment resources (micro-credit) 	Access to services and markets are improved	Programme preparation mission Administrative authorities Service providers Maintenance committees Programme Implementation Unit Other projects and programmes
Promotion of inter-communal and regional trade	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure proper spatial planning of infrastructure taking into account the objective (roads, telecommunications...) - Ensure operationality and sustainability of 	Inter-communal and regional trade is promoted	Administrative authorities NGOs Other relevant projects and programmes

Potential Positive and Negative Impacts	Importance	Improvement and Mitigating Measures	Expected Outcomes	Responsibility for Implementation
Organizational Aspects				
		infrastructure		
Ecological Aspects				
Increased pressure on resources from uncontrolled migration	Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate planning of infrastructure - Harmonies interventions with other ongoing programmes and projects 	Resources are not subjected to pressure	Programme Implementation Unit Service providers Environmental monitoring organizations
Loss of vegetation in rights of way and fragmentation of wildlife habitat	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate spatial planning and location of infrastructure - Provide wildlife transitional corridors - Promote agro-forestry - Protect known productive habitats, moist areas and spawning areas - Remove all temporary structures used to cross water bodies during works - Select borrow areas that cause the least damage (erosion, sanding up, ...) 	There is less destruction of vegetation and disturbance of wildlife habitat	Programme Implementation Unit Service providers Environmental monitoring organizations Maintenance committee
Gullyng and instability of slopes	Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build embankments with a mass adapted to the carrying capacity of the soil - Reforestation of sides of rehabilitated tracks 	Gullyng and slope instability are limited	Programme Implementation Unit Service providers Relevant Departments Environmental and social monitoring bodies Maintenance committee
Introduction of new animal and plant species, diseases or pests to which indigenous species are not resistant;	Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where necessary, follow the recommendations of the specific impact assessment - Train and raise awareness of guides - Raise awareness of tourists - Planning of tourist routes 	Introduction of new animal and plant species, diseases or pests to which indigenous species are not resistant is avoided	Programme preparation mission Programme Implementation Unit Administrative authorities Relevant authorities Service providers Other projects and programmes
Increased fuel-wood demand for fish smoking	Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote alternative fish conservation methods - Promote agro-forestry 	Demand in fuel-wood for fish smoking is limited	Programme Implementation Unit Relevant authorities Service providers Other projects and programmes Fishermen's associations
Poisoning from improper use of chemical inputs	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness and train populations in the safe use of chemical inputs 	Poisoning from improper use of chemical inputs is limited	Programme Implementation Unit Administrative authorities Relevant authorities Service providers Other projects and programmes
Social Aspects				
Emphasis on and special treatment of issues relating vulnerable indigenous populations	High	Preparation and implementation, where necessary, of a compensatory plan and consideration of indigenous populations	Issues relating to vulnerable indigenous populations are emphasized and given special attention	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC CBFP Other projects and programmes

Potential Positive and Negative Impacts	Importance	Improvement and Mitigating Measures	Expected Outcomes	Responsibility for Implementation
Organizational Aspects				
				Local authorities Relevant Departments
Increased workload for women given that their procreative activities are not reduced	Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train and raise awareness of beneficiaries on the role women - Promote activities that reduce women's workload 	Women's workload is reduced	Programme Implementation Unit Service providers Other projects and programmes
Disruption and exclusion of existing rural groups (farmers and fish farmers) due to their lack of knowledge.	Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze the method of operation of the existing groups - Propose changes in a participatory manner 	The method of operation and knowledge of the existing groups are respected and taken into account	Programme Implementation Unit Administrative authorities Relevant authorities Service providers Other projects and programmes
Risk of social conflicts caused by the presence of non-resident and immigrant workers; loss of sources of livelihood for persons affected by work; loss of traditional values and heightened risk of spread of STIs/AIDS	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give preference to local manpower; - Appropriate planning of infrastructure; - Consult with local communities right from preparatory stage in order to incorporate their concerns; - Compensate persons affected by works; - Raise awareness and provide information on STIs/AIDS to communities and workers 	Social conflicts are reduced	Programme Implementation Unit Service providers Relevant Departments Environmental monitoring bodies Ministry of Health Service providers
Stagnation of construction water and accumulation of waste with risk of spreading diseases and different kinds of pollution.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build infrastructure (canals, etc) in a way that prevents water stagnation near dwellings - Raise awareness of service providers and workers - Establish adequate staff training procedures in environmental protection; - Strengthen resources for intervention of local health services - Commission local environmental NGOs for the environmental monitoring of road construction sites 	Water stagnation and accumulation of waste near dwellings from works are limited; environmental protection measures are implemented.	Programme Implementation Unit Service providers Relevant Departments Environmental and social monitoring bodies Maintenance committee
Possible occurrence of accidents and incidence of diseases at the road construction and operation stages	Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance workers' security by putting in place an emergency response plan; - Ensure entire staff 's adherence to the security plan; - Provide and require the wearing of appropriate gear by staff (boots, gloves, nose masks); - Comply with work hygiene, health and safety measures in force - Secure access to private properties and ensure security of residents and passersby during works, by applying the appropriate measures (e.g. fencing...) - Speed limitation in areas with high human traffic (for example, near schools) 	Hygiene and security measures are complied with at sites and road accident risks reduced	Programme Implementation Unit Service providers Relevant Departments Environmental and social monitoring bodies Relevant Departments
Resentment and attacks on tourists (increased incidence of begging, crime and theft).	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where necessary, follow recommendations of specific impact assessment - Education, information & sensitisation of population - Appropriate planning of tourist routes (avoid high-risk zones) <p>Take adequate security measures</p>	Resentment and attacks on tourists are limited	Programme preparation mission Programme Implementation Unit Administrative authorities Relevant authorities Service providers Other projects and programmes

Summary Table of Programme Implementation Monitoring Plan

Parameters	Means of Verification	Responsibility	Frequency of Measure
Institutional Aspects			
Coordination, planning and monitoring capacity of the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat	Quality of coordination and follow-up report of the Executive Secretariat	COMIFAC CBFP	Alongside the assessment of the Convergence Plan
Operationality of COMIFAC national focal points	- Quantity and quality of staff, equipment and logistics - Level of implementation of Work Plans	COMIFAC CBFP	Annually, prior to adoption of Work Plans and the budget for the following year
Operationality of partner structures, such as ADIE	- Quantity and quality of staff, equipment and logistics -Level of implementation of Work Plans	COMIFAC CBFP	Annually, prior to adoption of Work Plans and the budget for the following year
The capacity of actors in the Landscapes	- Quantity and quality of staff, equipment and logistics -Level of implementation of Work Plans	COMIFAC	Annually, prior to adoption of Work Plans and the budget for the following year
Level of public sensitisation and training in sustainable natural resource management	Opinion poll Survey	COMIFAC CBFP	Ongoing in the different programmes and projects
Alignment of framework conditions with imperatives of sustainable development	Analytical studies	COMIFAC (ADIE, Member Countries (Ministries in charge of sustainable development)	At commencement of Programme Regularly, by monitoring unit
Economic Aspect			
Level of revenue increase from biodiversity conservation and management	Survey	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC	Ongoing, and as Programme is implemented
Social Aspect			
Sustainable improvement of incomes and status for population	Survey	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC PBFC	Ongoing, and as programmes and projects are implemented
Acceptance and participation of Programme stakeholders, particularly the population and indigenous communities	Survey Opinion poll	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC PBFC	Ongoing, and as programmes and projects are implemented
Incidence of accidents and diseases resulting from interventions, including HIV/AIDS;	Surveys	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC PBFC	Ongoing, and as programmes and projects are implemented
Ecological Aspect			
Reduced pressure on fragile areas	Survey Observation	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC PBFC	Ongoing, and as programmes and projects are implemented
Number, area, location and conservation of protected ecosystems	Survey Cartography Observation	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC PBFC	Ongoing, and as programmes and projects are implemented
Changes in quality of ecosystems	Assessment	Programme Implementation Unit COMIFAC CBFP	Ongoing and incorporated into COMIFAC ecosystem monitoring systems

Annex 6: Table of Topics and Contents of Training and Sensitisation Activities for Programme Actors

Actors	Training and Sensitisation Topics	Contents of Training or Sensitisation Activities
Programme Implementation Unit officials	Relationship between programme activities and all environmental and social management-related issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notion of sustainable development - Environmental and social issues of the Congo Basin - Direct and indirect impacts - Cumulative impacts - Social acceptability and sustainability of Programme - Conflict analysis and resolution approaches
Monitoring/evaluation officials	Integration of environmental and social aspects in monitoring Programme activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collection - Monitoring criteria and indicators - Making of follow-up card - Analytical tools
Officials of implementation structures in Landscapes	Integration of aspects relating to the biophysical environment and sustainability of interventions in Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Typology of impacts of high-risk activities of components - Indirect impacts of activities (IGAs) on biophysical and human environment - Identification of critical aspects - Integration of sustainability aspects in social mobilization drives - Integration of critical aspects of social and environmental sustainability in design, contracts, bid invitations, implementation and monitoring of high-risk interventions - Conflict analysis and resolution approaches
Various service providers	Importance of environmental and social aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration of environmental and social aspects in dialogue, negotiation, contracts and partnership agreements and service providers - Monitoring and sensitisation on social and environmental sustainability in relation to various services - Conflict analysis and resolution approaches
Beneficiary communities	Relationship between impacts of Programme activities and sustainability of communities' livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vicious circle of poverty and degradation of ecosystems - Ecological values and exploitation of ecosystem resources - Environmental services of ecosystems and their long-term benefits - Conflict analysis and resolution approaches