

DRC-PCLG: Experience & lessons learnt

Presented by

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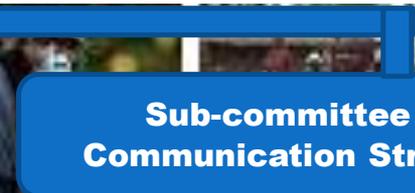
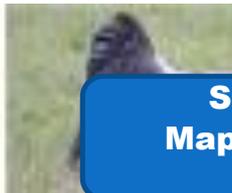


1. Brief History of DRC-PCLG
2. Organization of DRC-PCLG: flow chart
3. Key conservation-poverty issues in DRC
4. Key conservation and development priorities
5. Focus of DRC-PCLG
6. Value added and gaps of working as a network
7. Key achievements
8. Lessons learnt
9. Challenges
10. Conclusion



- 2011: Start of the Arcus project in April 2011 (Uganda and Cameroon)
- 2014: on 21st - 22nd of May 2014, a workshop took place in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which brought together people (+40 persons) working on conservation and development issues in DRC, with a focus on the conservation of great apes. This was the launch of PCLG-DRC;
- Toussaint MOLENGE, worked as facilitator of DRC-PCLG to the establishment of a PCLG chapter in DRC;
- 2015: today, DRC-PCLG is a learning network that brings together DRC conservationists and development practitioners to share their experiences and to work together to better inform development and conservation policy and practice. DRC-PCLG is coordinated by Dr Trinto Mugangu, with support from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and ARCUS Foundation





Key conservation-poverty issues

- Bushmeat hunting
- Habitat destruction (Encroachment for livelihoods & firewood collection and charcoal making)
- Illegal logging and mining
- Little scientific information accessible to local
- Little sharing of scientific information
- Lack of communication strategy



Key conservation & dev. priorities (future)

- Develop adaptive strategies: livelihoods for conservation & conservation for livelihoods improvement
- Implement research to document the linking of conservation and poverty alleviation
- Development of communication strategy with focus on conservation and poverty alleviation efforts
- Long-term funding for livelihoods projects
- Long-term funding for great apes conservation projects
- Building capacity of local NGOs on developing M&E programs, result chains, and on theories of changes (to help them improve targeting and outcomes of anti-poverty projects)



- Research for an improved understanding of DRC Great Apes conservation sites and the livelihoods efforts for poverty alleviation among local communities;
- Development of a communication strategy to be implemented for local communities, decision-makers, policy-makers in order to improve conservation and livelihoods efforts and their impacts;
- Involve private sector in conservation & livelihoods efforts
- **Why focus on points above:** To identify where improvement is needed and formulate recommendations on how to bring change, the role of conservationists and development practitioners network through sharing information and lessons learnt to taking joint actions



Value added:

- Mutual concerns are identified and shared through the inclusion of representatives from the government (ICCN...), conservation practitioners and involvement of private sectors
- A network brings together more capacities and resources, access to field information regarding local context (local CBOs)
- Involve private sectors, policy makers, local authorities, youth & women

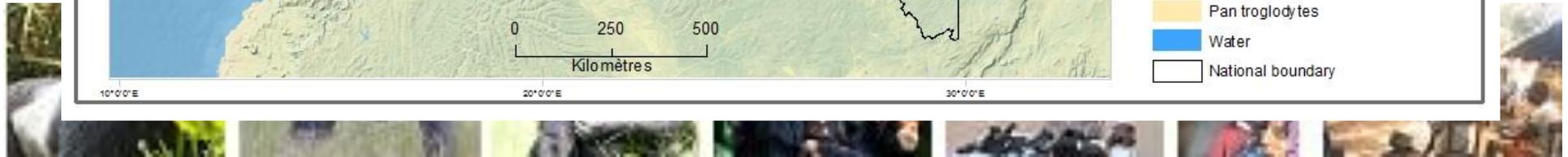
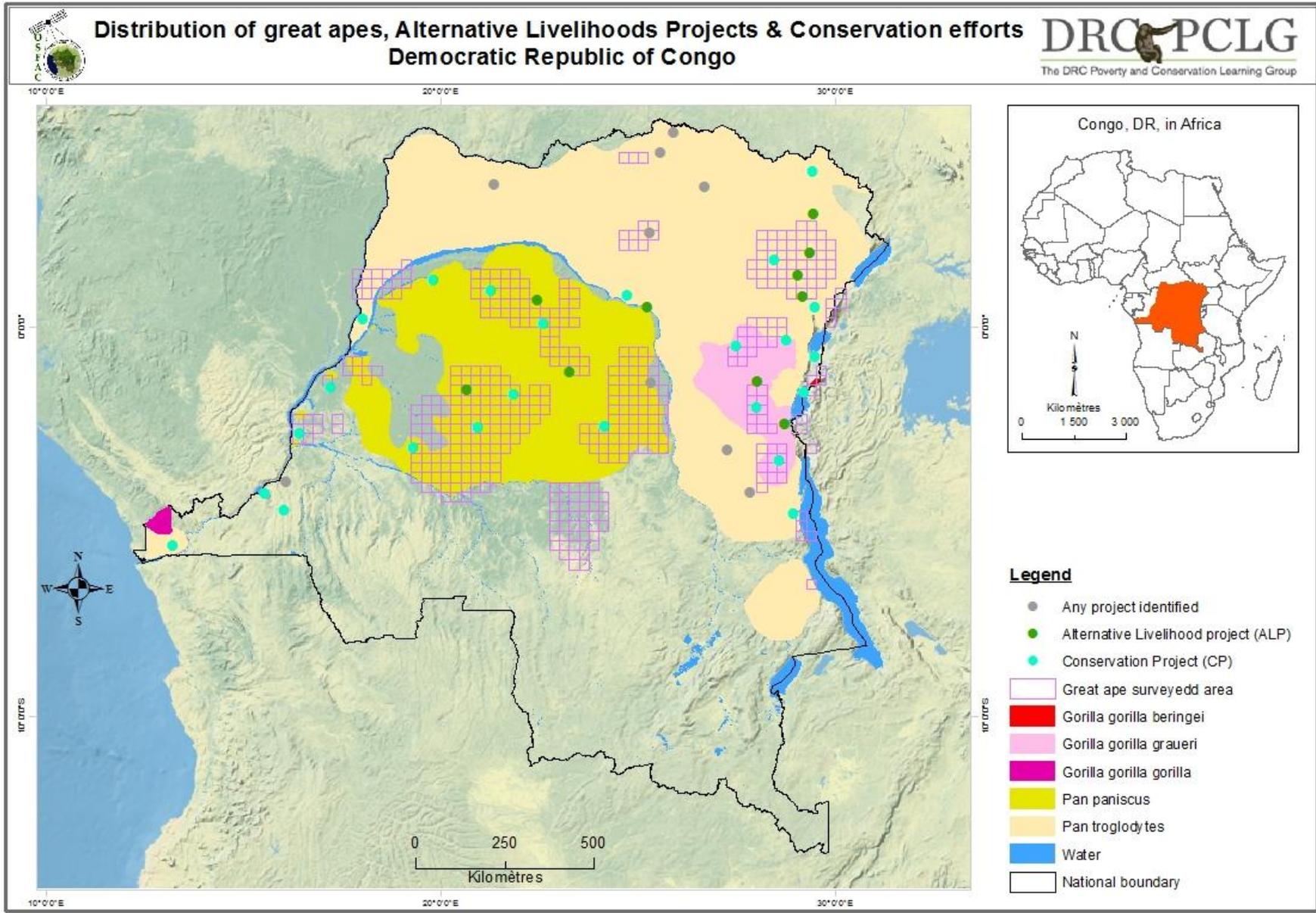
Gaps filled:

- DRC-PCLG is the first **national** network of this type: conservation practitioners network to share to collaborate and exchange lessons learnt;
- Document the impact of alternative livelihoods projects implemented at community level
- Highlight the evidence of impact of these projects on great apes and poverty alleviation
- Increase the understanding of the linkage between great apes conservation and development policy
- Understanding the use of best practices of livelihoods approaches as conservation tools



- Bringing together DRC conservationists and development practitioners to share their experiences and to work together (workshops, steering committee meeting and other working meetings among members);
- Research and mapping of DRC Great Apes conservation sites and the livelihoods efforts for poverty alleviation among local communities (ongoing);
- Development of a communication strategy to be implemented for local communities, decision-makers, policy-makers; and how to involve private sectors (ongoing)
- Commitment from members to participate in the implementation of activities planned by PCLG-DRC, from June to December 2015 and creation of two subcommittees (mapping and communication)





- Adoption of the ToRs on the communication strategy
- Desk review on members of private sectors;
- Categorization of political and legislative actors targeted by the advocacy;
- SWOT analysis of stakeholders;
- Identification of key problems for conservation sector and poverty alleviation in great apes sites;
- Identification of communication channels, types of messages, communication approach for every category of stakeholders;
- Communication strategy and integration of poverty alleviation (ongoing)
- Elaboration of work plan of advocacy for the political and legislative authorities (ongoing)
- Elaboration of work plan of advocacy for actors of private sector (ongoing)



Lessons learnt from working as network

- Sharing information and knowledge and joint efforts involved
- Communication is promoted among members
- National NGOs which are lacking expertise and access to funds can find support through the network (e.g. in October 2015, DRC-PCLG has supported MBOU-MON-TOUR , a CBO, to prepare and submit one proposal to the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund Request For Proposal



Challenges from working as network

- Generally, members of DRC-PCLG do not easily share material, information and knowledge with the group (lack of time, lack of resources, etc.)
 - Need strategy to involve private sector: conservation & collaboration
 - Lack of opportunities and funds to organize face-to-face meetings (workshops among members, meetings...)
 - Communication strategy needs to involve School children & women through community radios & other channels
 - Distance & lack of reliable internet access;
 - Different languages and heterogeneity of members (big/small; conservation/developmentt NGOs; government/private actors
- ➔ Facing different challenges in their day-to-day work



Conclusion

- From April 2014 to date, DRC-PCLG has become a learning network that brings together DRC conservationists and development practitioners who are sharing experiences, and working together on conservation and poverty key issues.
- As a network, we are learning valuable lessons, in spite of some challenges we are committed to overcome, while achieving our commitments.
- We are excited to find more support to tackle our key conservation & dev. priorities: particularly field research, development of communication strategy and long-term funding for livelihoods projects, and continue to provide support to our members.



Take care



Wildspecies trade is the major threat for great apes in DRC: Gorilla, Chimpanzees and Bonobos are killed by hunters for bushmeat.

*This image was taken from TL2 in heartland of DRC © Terese Hart.
Source: Plan d'action pour la conservation des Gorilles 2012-2022*

Why do people hunt wildspecies: POVERTY is among roots causes

Source: Plan d'action pour la conservation des Gorilles 2012-2022

So, "We cannot save great apes without saving local communities, and vice versa."

- Dominique Bikaba, Executive Director, Strong Roots

Source:

www.povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/drc-pclg

Poverty and conservation in DRC – what role for a network? (Blogs)

