



Terms of reference of the research on great ape conservation projects with a livelihood component in DRC

I. Introduction

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a country with enormous wealth in natural resources. Its forests are home to a rich biodiversity, including numerous endemic and endangered species. DRC plays a particularly important role for primate conservation, since there occur three of the four species of great apes: gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos. However, habitat destruction and bushmeat hunting pose serious threats to biodiversity in DRC, particularly for the survival of great apes. Furthermore, while DRC is considered one of the richest countries in the world in terms of natural resources and biodiversity, its citizens are among the poorest on the planet.

In response to this situation in 2014, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), with support from the Arcus Foundation and UK-Aid for International Development, set up a network called DRC Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (DRC PCLG). This network is modelled on similar groups previously established in Cameroon and Uganda.

The DRC PCLG started with an inception workshop held in Kinshasa on 21 and 22 May 2014. The objectives of that workshop were:

- To provide a space for DRC based conservation and/or development organisations where they could share their practical experience of linking ape conservation and poverty alleviation, particularly reflecting on what has worked, what hasn't and why.
- To understand to what extent ape conservation and poverty are linked in official DRC conservation and development policy.
- To identify what needs to change - from specific practices to national policies - in order to maximise conservation-poverty linkages and what role a network of conservation and development organisations in DRC could play (for example through information exchange, learning and joint action).

On June 3rd 2015 a meeting was held in Kinshasa of a select steering committee of DRC PCLG members. During this meeting, among other things, a sub-committee was established to formulate a communication and advocacy strategy for great ape conservation and poverty alleviation in DRC.

The subcommittee will make progress through email exchanges, and will meet whenever possible at the headquarters of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) or the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), with the facilitation of a communication consultant.

II. Elements of the terms of reference of the research on great ape conservation projects with a livelihood component in DRC

During the steering committee meeting held in Kinshasa in June 2015, the terms of reference of a study aimed mapping great ape conservation projects with a livelihood component in DRC were also debated, improved and eventually adopted.

The study will provide a baseline to monitor and assess the impact of future conservation and development projects in DRC, will provide lessons learned and refocus activities, if necessary, in a harmonised way throughout great ape sites in DRC.

The study will last five months: four months spent carrying out a survey of organisations active around great ape sites in DRC, and one month devoted to the analysis of the results and drafting of reports, conclusions and recommendations for the future.

The study will be overseen by a University Professor¹, specialised in community development, biodiversity conservation, mapping, GIS and remote sensing, in conjunction with the Satellite Observatory of the Forests of Central Africa (OSFAC). OSFAC will provide a training place for an intern for a period of six months between June and December 2015. OSFAC will provide equipment and expertise and will support the production of GIS maps of the major great ape sites in DRC, overlapping with data on conservation efforts and the fight against poverty. The student will be chosen from candidates having a degree in college education (+5 after high school) or equivalent obtained in the fields of natural sciences, rural development, agronomy, or conservation of nature. He/she will be in charge of the research with the support of DRC PCLG facilitator, Dr Trinto Mugangu. Data on conservation efforts will come from DRC PCLG members and other national conservation institutions. Socioeconomic and demographic data on household incomes and the fight against poverty will come from the same organisations, as well as from a desk based study of the available data and literature.

The DRC PCLG facilitator, in conjunction with the mentoring Professor, will prepare an ad-hoc questionnaire to collect information on who does what, how, where and with whom in the conservation arena, as well as efforts for setting up income generating activities or other improvements of local communities (schools, dispensaries, health centres, water sources built in groupings of villages around great ape sites).

The questionnaire will be sent for approval to DRC PCLG members. Responses will come from emails by the site, and be relevant to the species and / or sub species of great apes and local communities they serve. Network members will also be asked to help with the geo-location of great ape sites and the groups of villages in which they operate, by providing GPS coordinates.

III. Study objectives

1. Map great ape habitats in DRC, by species and / or subspecies
2. Map the ongoing activities of conservation organisations aimed at improving the socio-economic development of the local populations by village clusters
3. Collect socio-economic and demographic data at households' level in the village clusters around great ape sites and put them on geo-referenced maps
4. Archive data on great ape conservation and poverty alleviation efforts (through income generating activities, management schemes and equitable sharing of revenues) and the infrastructures built in local areas, and
5. Provide recommendations for future priorities for DRC PCLG in their efforts for the development of sustainable communities and the conservation of great apes.

¹A professor at the School of Regional Development and Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands (ERAIFT) at the University of Kinshasa was contacted to identify and mentor the student, who will be chosen for the mapping work and the practical arrangements to acquire necessary information from each site from PCLG members-DRC. The Director of the Satellite Observatory of Central African Forests (OSFAC) was also contacted for generous support to the work of mapping and coaching of the intern student for six months in collaboration with the mentoring Professor and the Facilitator of DRC-PCLG.

IV. Deliverables

1. Production, by the student, of socio-economic and conservation data around great ape sites.
2. Production by OSFAC of maps depicting conservation and development efforts in DRC by conservation NGOs (DRC PCLG members and others) and other institutions around great ape sites.
3. Production of specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound (SMART) indicators for future data collection and monitoring.
4. Construction of an electronic archiving scheme (using Excel or Arc-Info) of socio-economic, demographic, and conservation data around great ape sites.
5. Production of a final report containing the results of this study, its conclusions, and the recommendations for how best to direct DRC PCLG future efforts around ape sites.

V. Implementation timeline

June 2015:

- Completion and pre-test of the questionnaire (by Professor, student and facilitator of DRC PCLG)
- Determination of SMART indicators for data collection and subsequent monitoring
- Identification of the OSFAC member of staff who will supervise the student and help with the mapping of conservation and development efforts in great ape sites, and
- Collection of the names and emails of all partners and DRC PCLG members who should be included in the study.

July-August 2015

- Survey questionnaire sent out and replies gradually collected
- Desk based literature review carried out, and
- Establishment of an archive plan (student and supervisors in OSFAC).

September-October 2015

- Completion of the data collection and analysis
- Finalisation of data archiving, and
- Writing of the report.

November-December 2015

- Final report circulated to the members of DRC PCLG and donors.
- Translation of the report into English.

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