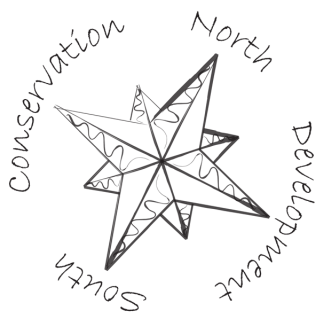
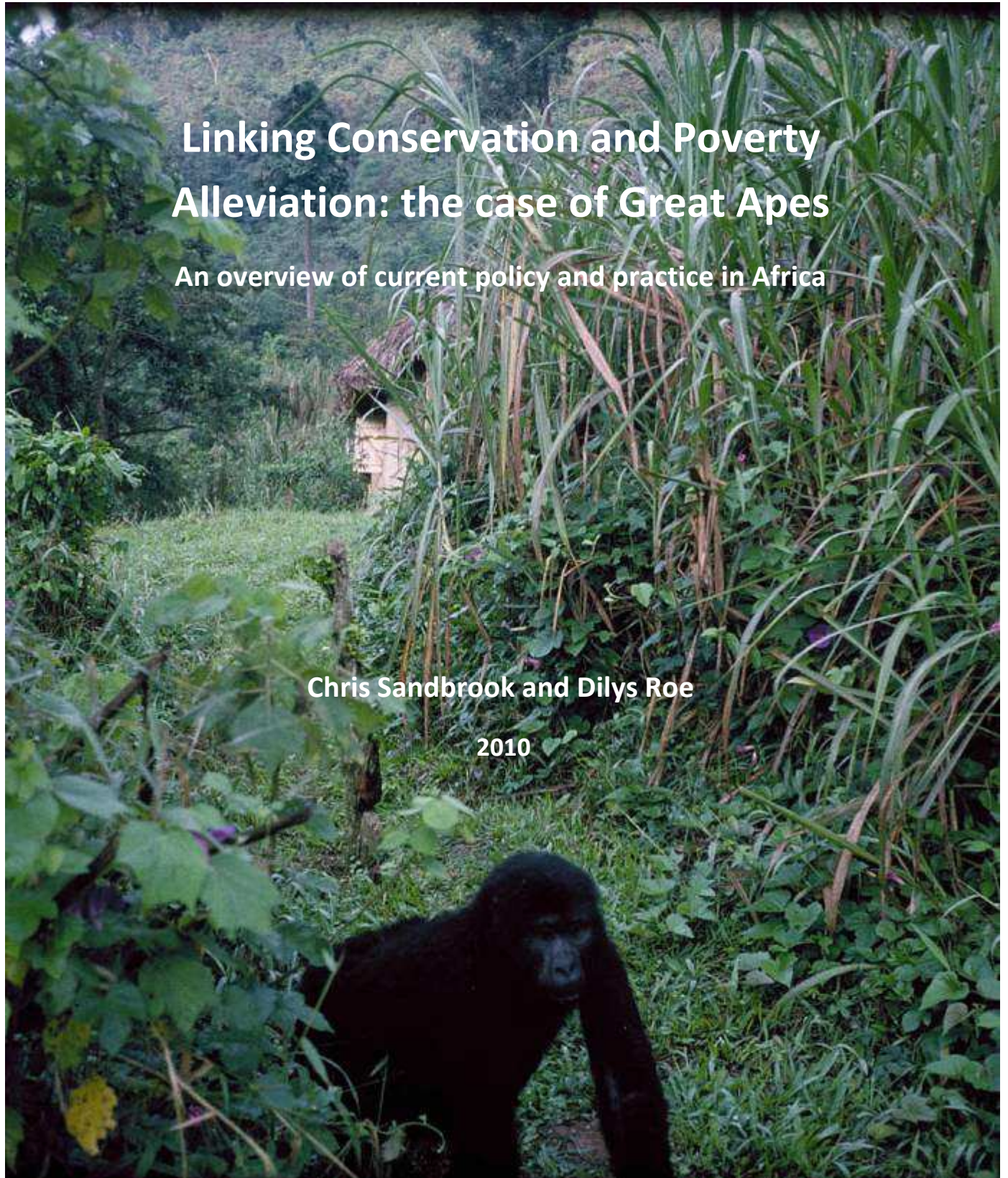


# Linking Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: the case of Great Apes

An overview of current policy and practice in Africa

Chris Sandbrook and Dilys Roe

2010



The Poverty and Conservation  
Learning Group

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Cover photo: Alastair McNeilage



## Acronyms

ACF	African Conservation Foundation
ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
AFLEG	African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
AMFN	African Model Forests Network
ARA	African Research Association
ARCOS	Albertine Rift Conservation Society
BCFS	Budongo Conservation Field Station
BCI	Bonobo Conservation Initiative
BCT	Bushmeat Crisis Taskforce
BMCT	Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust
CAR	Central African Republic
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFM	Community Based Forest Management
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CDC	Community Development Committee
CED	Centre for Environment and Development
CERCOPAN	Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CFR	Community Forest Reserve
CI	Conservation International
CIAD	Centre International d'Appui au Developpement Durable
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
COMIFAC	Central African Forests Commission
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CRSFS	Cross River State Forestry Service
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSSL	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
CSWCT	Chimpanzee Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Trust
CTPH	Conservation Through Public Health
DAE	Decentralised Administrative Entity
DFGF	Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund
DFGFI	Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International
DIN	Development in Nigeria
DNFF	Guinea Forest and Wildlife Department
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EEEGL	Enterprise, Environment and Equity in the Great Lakes region
EG	Equatorial Guinea
ERuDeF	Environment and Rural Development Foundation

FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FF	Forest Fragment
FFI	Flora and Fauna International
FGLG	Forest Governance Learning Group
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FPP	Forest People's Programme
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FZS	Frankfurt Zoological Society
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GO	The Gorilla Organisation
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRASP	Great Ape Survival Partnership
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HDI	Human Development Index
ICCN	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
IF	Intact Forest
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGCP	International Gorilla Conservation Programme
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
INCEF	International Conservation and Education Fund
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
LAMIL	Landscape Management for Improved Livelihoods
LTCR	Lac Tele Community Reserve
MBIFCT	Mgahinga Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Conservation Trust
MEF	Ministry of Forestry Economy
MGVP	Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project
MUZ	Multiple Use Zone
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCF	Nigerian Conservation Foundation
NGASP	National Great Ape Survival Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NNF	New Nature Foundation
NP	National Park
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
PA	Protected Area
PAB	Protected Areas for Biodiversity
PACT	Private Agencies Collaborating Together
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PEI	Poverty and Environment Initiative

PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
PGS	Projet Grands Singes
PHE	Population, Health and Environment Initiative
PMC	Population Media Centre
PRB	Population Reference Bureau
PROBICOU	Pro Biodiversity Conservationists of Uganda
PROGEPP	Project for Ecosystem Management in the Nouabalé-Ndoki Periphery Area
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSG	Primate Specialist Group
RDB	Rwanda Development Board
REDD	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
REMA	Rwanda Environmental Management Authority
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SACOLA	Sabyinyo Community Livelihoods Association
SCNL	Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia
SODEFOR	Societe De Developpement Forestier
SATP	Sustainable Agriculture Training Project
TACARE	Tanzanian Lake Tanganyika Catchment Reforestation and . Education
TANAPA	Tanzania National Parks
TCCB	Tayna Centre for Conservation Biology
TL2	Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba project
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TNS	Tri-National de la Sangha
TRIDOM	Dja-Minkebe-Odzala Tri-National
UGADEC	Union of Associations for Gorilla Conservation and Community Development in Eastern Democratic of Congo
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
VEF	Village Enterprise Fund
VLFR	Village Land Forest Reserves
WCF	Wild Chimpanzee Foundation
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WILD	Wildlife Landscapes and Development for Conservation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund/Worldwide Fund for Nature
WWP	Wildlife Wood Project
ZICGC	Zones d'Intérêt Cynégétique à Gestion Communautaire



## 1. Introduction

Since 2004 IIED has coordinated an international network of conservation, development and indigenous/local community rights organisations who are interested in improving their understanding of, and sharing their experience in, the links between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) works by collecting, analysing and disseminating information that can help shape better policy and practice – through its web portal ([www.povertyandconservation.info](http://www.povertyandconservation.info)), through workshops and symposia, and through occasional publications. Since 2009 the PCLG has received additional support from the Arcus Foundation to help achieve three goals:

1. To promote ongoing learning and dialogue on poverty-conservation linkages at the international level.
2. To increase attention to mainstreaming poverty concerns within conservation policy and programmes – particularly at the national level – and to build better and stronger linkages with existing initiatives that are focusing on development policy.
3. To introduce a great ape component to PCLG - by including ape-specific elements within our core networking and information dissemination activities and by focusing our mainstreaming efforts on conservation policies, programmes and locations that are relevant to great ape conservation.

This report is the third PCLG output supported by the Arcus Foundation grant.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this report is to document current efforts to link great ape conservation and poverty reduction in the African, ape range states. It is intended to provide a quick inventory of which organisations are working in which countries and using which approaches in order to highlight potential areas of collaboration and/or potential sources of experience and lessons learned. It is also intended to highlight other initiatives that are intended to link environmental management with social concerns - poverty reduction, governance, economic development - with a view to encouraging greater linkages between these initiatives and those that are focussed on conservation. Following this report we are planning the following activities:

- 1) A learning event for ape conservation organisations to share experiences on their attempts to link conservation and poverty reduction. This would improve their effectiveness and efficiency, where so many conservation organisations still carry out development oriented interventions uninformed by previous experiences elsewhere, both good and bad.

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<sup>1</sup>The other two outputs include a presentation on great ape conservation and poverty reduction at our 2010 symposium (details available on [www.povertyandconservation.info](http://www.povertyandconservation.info)); and a report in IIED'S Natural Resource Issues series reviewing experience of integrated conservation and development projects in Mgahinga and Bwindi Forest National Parks in Uganda (Blomley, T., Namara, A., McNeilage, A., Franks, P., Rainer, H., Donaldson, A., Malpas, R., Olupot, W., Baker, J., Sandbrook, C., Bitariho, R. and Infield, M. (2010) Development and Gorillas? Assessing the impact of fifteen years of integrated conservation and development in South Western Uganda, Natural Resource Issues No. 23. IIED, London)  
<http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14862IIED>



- 2) South-South learning exchanges / events around key issues where knowledge gaps are the major problem. Examples emerging include (i) experience of other species-based programmes in addressing poverty reduction; (ii) community-based monitoring approaches; (iii) human wildlife conflict mitigation strategies and experiences with compensation, and (iv) REDD / carbon mechanisms that accommodate biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation.
- 3) Establishment of multi-stakeholder learning groups in selected countries, potentially building on existing groups where there is interest, and using models of good practice. These might include the IIED-supported Forest Governance Learning Groups (FGLG) and Environmental Mainstreaming Learning and Leadership Groups.
- 4) Facilitating a high-level workshop in at least one country to encourage mainstreaming of biodiversity into development policy / practice – in coordination with the UNDP/UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative.

This report is intended to be a discussion document. It was compiled by means of a desk-based review of literature and on-line resources, complemented by email correspondence - and in some case personal interviews – with representatives of the different organisations listed. We are aware that there is a bias towards conservation organisations and their work on poverty reduction, with few entries for development-oriented organisations and their work on biodiversity. There are also few entries for state-based actors and initiatives. We hope that the production of this report will encourage those that have not been included (and indeed those that we may have unintentionally misrepresented) to inform us of their work in order that we may include it in a revised version. Please do not hesitate to contact us with details of your work where appropriate and/or if you would be interested to be involved in other activities of this project: [pclg@iied.org](mailto:pclg@iied.org).

## 2. Apes, poverty and livelihoods in Africa

Great ape ranges coincide with some of the poorest countries of the world – particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Great apes attract a great deal of conservation interest and funding, due to their close genetic relationship with humans and their status as global flagship species for conservation. Highly endangered great apes are often protected through strictly controlled and enforced conservation areas that can – intentionally or otherwise – have negative impacts on the livelihoods of the already poor local communities, through restrictions on resource access and so on. Great ape conservation projects, such as the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) have been at the forefront of efforts to assess and monitor the socio-economic impacts of conservation, and to create meaningful conservation incentives for local people. At the same time, the economic benefits derived from great ape conservation – for example from tourism – are not often shared with local people at a level that generates real incentives for landscape-scale conservation. As a result a potentially valuable resource does not only fail to realize its full poverty reduction potential, but the actual, or perceived, negative impacts of conservation may result in local antipathy – or even outright hostility - to conservation efforts.

### The distribution of great apes in Africa

Africa is home to four species of great ape. These are the bonobo or gracile chimpanzee (*Pan paniscus*), the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), the western gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) and the eastern gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*). Chimpanzees and gorillas are further divided into eight sub-species. These are the western chimpanzee (*P. troglodytes verus*), the Nigeria / Cameroon chimpanzee (*P. troglodytes ellioti*), the central chimpanzee (*P. troglodytes troglodytes*), the eastern chimpanzee (*P. troglodytes schweinfurthii*), the cross river gorilla (*G. gorilla diehli*), the western lowland gorilla (*G. gorilla gorilla*), the eastern lowland gorilla (*G. beringei graueri*) and the mountain gorilla (*G. beringei beringei*). Great apes are distributed across 23 countries in Africa although in two of these (Mali and Sudan) populations are very small and in a further two (Burkina Faso and Togo) populations are likely extinct (Table 1). The distribution of great apes in Africa, as well as the locations of protected areas and some information on threats, can be seen using the interactive mapping service provided by Apes Mapper at <http://www.apesmapper.org/>.

**Table 1: The distribution of great ape sub-species in African range states**

Country	No. of ape sub-species	Ape sub-species	Population size	Forest area (Km <sup>2</sup> ) & % of total land forested
Angola	2	Central chimpanzee	200-500	
		Western Lowland Gorilla	Rare	
Burkina Faso	0 or 1	Western chimpanzee	Likely extinct	
Burundi	1	Eastern chimpanzee	300-400	940 (3.7%)
Cameroon	4	Nigeria / Cameroon chimp	3,380	238,580 (50.2%)
		Central chimpanzee	30,000	

		Cross river gorilla	150	
		Western Lowland Gorilla	15,000	
<b>CAR</b>	3	Central chimpanzee	No census	229,000 (32%)
		Eastern chimpanzee	No census	
		Western Lowland Gorilla	No census	
<b>Congo (Republic of)</b>	2	Central chimpanzee	10,000	220,600 (64.6%)
		Western Lowland Gorilla	34-44,000, declining	
<b>Cote D'Ivoire</b>	1	Western chimpanzee	8-12000	71,170 (22.4%)
<b>DRC</b>	6	Central chimpanzee	Low numbers	1,352,000 (59.6%)
		Eastern chimpanzee	70-100,000	
		Western Lowland Gorilla	Low numbers	
		Eastern lowland gorilla	Few thousand?	
		Mountain gorilla	183 in 2001	
		Bonobo	10-100,000	
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	2	Central chimpanzee	600-1500?	17,520 (62.5%)
		Western Lowland Gorilla	1000-2000	
<b>Gabon</b>	2	Central chimpanzee	64,000 (but declined since)	20,600 (80%)
		Western Lowland Gorilla	35,000?	
<b>Ghana</b>	1	Western chimpanzee	1,500-2,200	63,350 (26.5%)
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	1	Western chimpanzee	600-1000	21,870 (60%)
<b>Guinea</b>	1	Western chimpanzee	8-29,000	69,290 (28%)
<b>Liberia</b>	1	Western chimpanzee	1-5,000 (1970s)	34,810 (31.3%)
<b>Mali</b>	1	Western chimpanzee	less than 4,860	131,860 (10.8%)
<b>Nigeria</b>	2 or 3	Western chimpanzee?		135,170 (14.6%)
		Nigeria / Cameroon chimp	3,050	
		Cross river gorilla	80-100	
<b>Rwanda</b>	2	Eastern chimpanzee	500	463 (1.8%)
		Mountain gorilla	~130	
<b>Senegal</b>	1	Western chimpanzee	200-400	62,050 (31.6%)
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	1	Western chimpanzee	Less than 2000	10,550 (14.7%)
<b>Sudan</b>	1	Eastern chimpanzee	200-400	
<b>Togo</b>	0 or 1	Western chimpanzee?		
<b>Uganda</b>	2	Eastern chimpanzee	4,950	41,900 (21%)
		Mountain gorilla	392	
<b>Tanzania</b>	1	Eastern chimpanzee	1,500-2,500	388,110 (43.8%)

(Data drawn from sources cited in the World Atlas of Great Apes, 2005)

Within the range states, certain sites have become particularly famous for their great apes. This is often driven by the location of long-running field study or tourism sites. Examples of the former are Gombe Stream National Park (NP) in Tanzania, Tai Forest NP in Cote d'Ivoire, and Bossou in Guinea. Examples of the latter include the mountain gorilla parks of DRC, Uganda and Rwanda, western lowland gorilla sites in CAR/Congo and various chimpanzee sites in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. Many other sites with important ape populations are relatively unknown due to their inaccessibility and lack of tourism or research to raise their profile.

All great apes are listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as endangered or critically endangered.<sup>2</sup> The main threats to their survival are “habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation due to logging and clearance for agriculture...and hunting (particularly in West and Central Africa)”<sup>3</sup>. These threats are exacerbated by the facts that apes reproduce slowly, are susceptible to human diseases and are relatively easy to hunt. However, formal protection of great apes in Africa is limited. Mountain gorillas and to some extent eastern lowland and cross-river gorillas are largely contained within protected areas, but these are the exception. Indeed, most great apes live outside existing or planned protected areas, often in logging concessions (ibid).

### **Human Development in African range states**

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite measure of development calculated by UNDP based on life expectancy, literacy, education and standards of living for countries worldwide. Out of the 182 countries listed in the 2009 HDI ranking the highest African great ape range state ranking is Gabon (103) while the lowest is Sierra Leone (180). These statistics demonstrate very clearly that the countries where African great apes are found are also some of the very poorest in the world. Even some of those countries that are doing relatively well on the HDI (Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Angola and Sudan) have inflated scores due to the presence of large oil revenues which boost GDP but have little impact on the poverty of their rural populations living in close proximity to great apes.

It is also interesting to consider the population density and levels of urbanisation in the ape range states. Some countries with high urbanisation rates (Gabon, Congo, Liberia) also have low overall population densities, meaning that their rural areas (where great apes reside) have extremely small human populations. This is in stark contrast to countries such as Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi which have very high population densities and relatively very low urban populations, meaning rural areas are densely populated. These distinctions are important for understanding the relationships between ape conservation and poverty, as shall be discussed in more detail later in the report.

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<sup>2</sup> Species are considered endangered if their population declines by 50-80% over ten years or three generations (whichever is longer), and critically endangered if declines are >80% over a similar period. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/categories-and-criteria>

<sup>3</sup> “World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation”, Caldecott, J. & Miles, L. 2005. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

### 3. Poverty focus of major ape conservation initiatives in Africa

#### Ape-specific initiatives

There are eight multi-country initiatives that focus specifically on ape conservation in Africa. One – The Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP) covers all apes; four focus on gorillas - Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI), The Gorilla Organisation (GO), the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) and the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP); and two focus on chimpanzees - the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF).<sup>4</sup> In addition, the IUCN Primate Specialist Group has published action plans for the conservation of sub-species of both chimpanzees and gorillas. A brief description of each of these initiatives – and the extent to which they address poverty or livelihoods issues – is provided below.<sup>5</sup> There are also great ape specific donors such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service Great Apes Program and the Arcus Foundation, but these are not reviewed here as they do not carry out activities themselves but rather work through grants to organisations and initiatives that do.

#### Great Ape Survival Partnership

GRASP was launched by UNEP in 2001 and was joined by UNESCO in 2002. It works as a partnership with a range of organisations including range state governments, donor country governments and conservation NGOs. It is intended to add value to existing ape conservation efforts through high level national and inter-governmental dialogue (by virtue of its UN affiliation) and international, regional and national coordination of individual conservation efforts. In 2005 GRASP convened an inter-governmental meeting in Kinshasa which resulted in the adoption of a Global Strategy for the Survival of Great Apes and their Habitat, and the Kinshasa Declaration - a high-level political statement on the future of great apes.

The GRASP website clearly states that “endangered great apes share their habitat with millions of people in west, central and east Africa and in southeast Asia. The majority of these people live below the poverty line. The need to link the welfare of humans and wildlife is a central objective of the GRASP Partnership.” It goes on to note that this is one of the key criteria for choosing projects for GRASP support and that poverty reduction is a key theme of GRASP's National Great Ape Survival Plans (NGASPs) and other conservation planning processes. The Kinshasa Declaration is also strongly focussed on the integration of ape conservation and poverty reduction. According to Johannes Refisch of GRASP, “The GRASP Partnership works with local, national and international NGOs, range state governments, donor states and the scientific community to ensure that conservation activities meet development goals as well as the needs of communities and indigenous populations that rely directly on forest resources. Specific GRASP initiatives with a focus on this human dimension to

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<sup>4</sup> There is also a bonobo-specific initiative – the Bonobo Conservation Initiative - but since bonobos are endemic to the Democratic Republic of Congo this is covered in the country-level analysis below (Section 3) rather than in the international initiatives section.

<sup>5</sup> These descriptions are based on an online review of websites and organisational literature and - where possible – interviews and/or email exchanges with organisational representatives.

conservation can be categorized as either, direct support and capacity-building or as enabling conditions for the provision of livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through the development of alternatives to extractive revenue sources...With regards to the former, GRASP is engaged in several great ape range states providing direct support to protected area authorities and community conservation activities. In addition, the GRASP Partnership oversaw the implementation of European Commission funded project entitled 'The preservation of forest and improved livelihoods of forest people through conservation of great apes as flagship species' with field projects in Ivory Coast, Cameroon, DR Congo and Indonesia. GRASP and partners have also initiated innovative research and pilot projects in Indonesia and Cameroon which explore the potential for low-carbon economies and economic incentives for the preservation of high conservation-value forests and the communities they sustain." (J. Refisch, pers. comm.) The impact of these activities on the ground is not clear.

**More information:** [www.unep.org/grasp](http://www.unep.org/grasp)

### **Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International**

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (DFGF) was established in 1978 "to preserve and protect the world's last mountain gorillas". A European wing was set up in 1989 and the Fund subsequently split into two independent organisations - DFGF International, and the Gorilla Organisation, formerly DFGF Europe). DFGI works in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), mostly with mountain gorillas.

The DGF website states that "In collaboration with government agencies and other international partners, we also provide assistance to local communities through education, health, training and economic development initiatives". DGF runs a number of "people programmes" including Ecosystem health – focussed on primary healthcare; Community Development and Support – focussed on small-scale enterprise development (non-wildlife linked) and humanitarian support (primarily targeted at orphans in conflict areas); and conservation education (focussing on building a cadre of local conservation professionals). DGF has been the primary support organisation for the community-run Tayna Gorilla Reserve in Eastern DRC, and a network of community reserves that have grown from it (Union of Associations for Gorilla Conservation and Community Development in Eastern Democratic of Congo; UGADEC). All of these activities are reviewed in more detail in the country sections below.

**More information:** <http://www.gorillafund.org/>

### **The Gorilla Organisation**

The Gorilla Organisation - formerly the European branch of DFGF - works in Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda and has projects on all gorilla subspecies.

Poverty reduction appears to play a more central role in the work of the GO than that of DGF: "We understand that if gorillas are to have a realistic chance of survival in the context of Africa's



significant challenges, conservation and poverty alleviation need to happen side-by-side.” The focus of GO’s poverty reduction work is on reducing pressure on gorilla habitat by developing alternative livelihood projects – such as beekeeping – and alternative or more efficient resource supplies (tree planting, fuel efficient stoves, improved agriculture etc). To this end they have implemented a large number of development oriented projects in several countries.

**More information:** [www.gorillas.org](http://www.gorillas.org)

### **International Gorilla Conservation Programme**

The International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) is a joint initiative of WWF, Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). Its goal is to ensure the conservation of mountain gorillas and their habitat in Uganda, Rwanda and DRC. IGCP states boldly that “Conservation is all about people” and the website notes: “Socio-economic development and conservation are inextricably linked. By improving livelihoods, encouraging sustainable use of resources and tackling other local issues via a range of community initiatives, the programme aims to influence attitudes to conservation at all levels and reduce the threats facing the parks, forests and wildlife.” The logic is that if poverty is reduced, threats to conservation will reduce (Mark Mwine, Enterprise Officer, Pers. comm.).

A major area of activity is focussed around enterprise development and IGCP has a dedicated enterprise team that works specifically works with local people. This includes enterprises focussed on “alternative livelihoods” such as bee-keeping, but also conservation-based enterprise in the form of community-based tourism. Two high-end tourist lodges have been established as community-private sector partnerships, with a proportion of revenue going to local people. They are generating large amounts of revenue for the community (e.g. the SACOLA community lodge in Rwanda generated around \$300,000 in its first year of operations) but the sheer number of people and depth of poverty means that the impact can still be limited (e.g. the per capita benefit from SACOLA was only \$10/year).

**More information:** [www.igcp.org](http://www.igcp.org)

### **Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project**

The Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP) operates in Rwanda, Uganda and DRC, with its headquarters in Rwanda. It has a ‘one health’ philosophy, which sees gorilla health as linked to that of local people. Consequently they provide community health care and health education services as well as direct veterinary services to the wild mountain gorilla populations. The One Health approach is based on the logic that gorillas are vulnerable to many of the same diseases as humans and livestock, and come into regular contact with them through interactions with tourists and when they leave forest areas to forage in farmland. Consequently it makes sense to see the health of gorillas, local people and livestock as connected, and MGVP argues that there should be both a poverty and conservation benefit to supporting healthcare interventions for all three. “Toward this end, the

MGVP staff not only monitors and treats gorillas, they conduct relevant health studies of other wildlife and domestic animals, provide employee health programs for park staff and researchers, and disseminate information about the health of gorillas and other animals, wild and domestic.”

In practice the focus of the MGVP One Health programme seems to be on healthcare programmes for park staff and those who regularly encounter gorillas (e.g. porters and guides), rather than the wider park adjacent human population. This suggests that any poverty impact of improved health status for local people is limited. MGVP has plans to implement a broader programme of public and livestock health work as part of its One Health programme, but to date a lack of funding has seriously constrained these activities (John Huston, pers. comm.).

**More information:** [www.gorilladoctors.org/](http://www.gorilladoctors.org/)

### **Jane Goodall Institute**

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a chimpanzee conservation NGO that works in Tanzania, Uganda, DRC, Congo and Guinea and Sierra Leone. JGI describes its conservation approach as “community-centered” recognising that “to be effective, forest and species conservation must address the deeply rooted human problems associated with poverty”. JGI works with communities who live adjacent to protected areas and focuses on four key issues: protecting forests, creating sustainable livelihoods, creating healthy families, and supporting education.

In addition to the “traditional” interventions of enterprise development and promotion of “alternative livelihood strategies”, JGI also works on improving local level natural resource governance – including supporting the development of village level natural resource and land use planning committees, and village-managed forest reserves. JGI’s flagship initiative is the Greater Gombe Ecosystem Program in Tanzania. This has supported the creation of a regional community-based organization involving village representatives and local and regional government officials to act as an umbrella for coordinating ecotourism activities. Like DFGFI, JGI also works on public health interventions that are more typical of development programmes - including family planning, water and sanitation, and HIV/AIDS.

**More information:** [www.janegoodall.org/](http://www.janegoodall.org/)

### **Wild Chimpanzee Foundation**

The aim of the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) is to enhance the survival of the remaining wild chimpanzee populations and their habitat. Their overall approach is to implement projects of education, conservation, and research “for and by the African people” and their work is focussed in Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. A major area of activity is conservation education – through theatre groups etc. The website notes an intention to “integrate environmental issues in the development policy of the concerned countries” but there is no information available on how this is achieved.

More information: [www.wildchimps.org](http://www.wildchimps.org)

### **IUCN Primate Specialist Group**

The IUCN Species Survival Commission Primate Specialist Group (PSG) is “a network of scientists and conservationists who stand against the tide of extinction which threatens humanity’s closest kin.” PSG supports field research, conservation measures and education programmes in primate range states, including the African great apes. The most relevant activity of the PSG is the publication of regional action plans for the conservation of great ape subspecies in Africa. These have been published for West African Chimpanzees, for Chimpanzees and Gorillas in West Africa, for the Cross River Gorilla and for the Eastern Chimpanzee. These reports give considerable attention to the needs of local people living with wild apes. For example, the eastern Chimpanzee report identifies the high level of poverty in East Africa as a threat to chimpanzees and calls for public health interventions and the development of “ecotourism projects, ensuring employment and benefit sharing with local communities”. Similarly, the action plan for gorillas and chimpanzees in West Africa calls for the establishment of “community-based biodiversity enterprises” at Dja in Cameroon.

More information: <http://www.primatesg.org/>

### **Other international conservation organisations and initiatives**

In addition to these eight ape-specific initiatives a large number of other conservation organisations and initiatives are active across ape range states and include ape conservation amongst their portfolios of activities. These are summarised in Table 2 below. Other relevant initiatives are not reviewed here as they do not themselves carry out activities. These include the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), a new donor for conservation and poverty projects in the Congo basin countries, and various transboundary initiatives that have been established and are reviewed under the relevant implementing organisations in Section 4.

**Table 2: Integration of ape conservation and poverty reduction amongst international conservation organisations and initiatives**

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Name	Ape states included in coverage	Description
<b>African Conservation Foundation (ACF)</b>	Cameroon, Tanzania	ACF works with local partner Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERUDEF) in Cameroon on projects to conserve the Nigeria / Cameroon chimpanzee and the Cross River Gorilla. Both projects include conservation education and community participation in resource management. The chimp project will establish community conservation areas, and the gorilla project includes provision for alternative livelihood activities, although these are not specified
<b>African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)</b>	IGCP countries and DRC	AWF is a partner in IGCP described above. Beyond this they have a wider conservation programme where their approach is based on “empowering Africans to be Africa’s stewards”. In DRC they are active in bonobo conservation. Communities benefit from a share of gate fees and employment in tourism enterprises. In addition AWF support for agricultural development has been negotiated by the community in return for land set aside for bonobo conservation.

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<b>Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)</b>	Albertine Rift (Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania, Zambia)	Although ARCOS does not include a specific focus on apes, one of its focal programme areas is Albertine Rift montane forest ecosystems – which are home to both gorillas and chimpanzees. A further programme area is “poverty, environment and ecosystem services” within which ARCOS aims to support local involvement in district and national planning processes “advocating for pro-poor policies to access to natural resources whilst promoting its sustainability and development alternatives for poor communities.”
<b>Bushmeat Crisis Taskforce (BCT)</b>	West and Central Africa	A partnership of member organisations, most of which are conservation NGOs based in North America. The aim is to eliminate the illegal bushmeat trade, including of great apes. BCT does education and awareness raising work, and recognises complex links between poverty and bushmeat trade. Most field programmes focus on strengthening law enforcement. They advocate for alternative protein projects to reduce hunting
<b>Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE)</b>	Central Africa	CARPE is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) initiative running since 1995 aimed at promoting sustainable natural resource management in the Congo Basin. They work mostly through partner organisations. Has adopted what they call a ‘people centred approach to conservation’, which aims to find alternatives for local people to destructive resource use. They have worked a lot on capacity building (through a small grants scheme), governance reform, land use planning, alternative livelihoods and community forestry. They also work on poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation with the logging industry, including nearly 30 concessions in 6 countries covering over 40 million hectares. Most of their focal sites are great ape habitats. CARPE published the excellent “State of the Forest 2008” report on the Congo basin forests, available at <a href="http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/edf2008.php?l=en">http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/edf2008.php?l=en</a>
<b>Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)</b>	Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), DRC, Equatorial Guinea (EG), Gabon, Republic of Congo	CBFP is a voluntary multi-stakeholder partnership of states, NGOs, donors and the private sector. Focus is on communication and collaboration rather than field projects. It works in support of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and hosts a useful website. Improving living standards is given as one of CBFP’s goals, but there is little detail on how this might be achieved. One goal is “to channel assistance to communities that depend on the conservation of the forest and wildlife resources of 11 key landscape areas in the participating range states”

<b>Conservation International (CI)</b>	Liberia, DRC, Equatorial Guinea	CI has a country office in Liberia, a western chimpanzee range state. CI believes “that maintaining healthy ecosystems and the services they provide is the foundation for healthy human societies that thrive on sustainable economic development.” They run the ‘Green Economy’ project in Liberia to promote low-carbon development. This includes a field project at East Nimba Nature Reserve to demonstrate the value of ecosystem services for local people. CI also works in DRC on training in conservation biology and supporting the Tayna Gorilla Reserve, a community-run conservation area for eastern lowland gorillas that benefits locals through “healthcare, education and economic development programmes.”
<b>The Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)</b>	Cameroon, CAR, Republic of the Congo, DRC, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, and Rwanda	COMIFAC is the “primary authority for decision-making and coordination of sub-regional actions and initiatives pertaining to the conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests”. It is made up of the ministers of the participating countries, and has a secretariat in Yaoundé. COMIFAC does not actually fund or do projects itself on the ground, but acts to ensure that the member countries are all working towards the same goals and shares information. Poverty alleviation is directly cited in axis 6 of the COMIFAC convergence plan, but it is hard to assess the impact
<b>Conservation and Rational Use of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (ECOFAC)</b>	Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, CAR, DRC	ECOFAC gives technical and financial support to PAs in several great ape range states in an ongoing programme since 1992. Most activities are law enforcement and research, but there are also some livelihood interventions. These include support for ape-based tourism at at Lopé (Gabon), Odzala (Congo) and Monte Alen (EG). The project manager argues that their work to protect resources and biodiversity contributes to the fight against poverty. The programme is currently in its 4 <sup>th</sup> phase, supported by a €38 million grant from the European Commission
<b>Fauna and Flora International (FFI)</b>	IGCP countries and Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Cameroon	FFI is a partner in IGCP described above. FFI is a conservation organisation, but has a major focus on livelihoods, and more recently on governance. This work includes traditional ICDPs, tourism projects, setting up community based conservation areas and advocacy for policy reform. They have established a multi-stakeholder forum including local community groups in Guinea
<b>Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)</b>	DRC, Tanzania	FZS is an international conservation NGO. They work with ICCN in DRC to support the Virunga NP, which has mountain gorillas. This includes support for tourism and efforts to improve understanding of costs and benefits of wildlife to communities. Their work at



		Mahale Mountains NP in Tanzania, which has chimpanzees, includes support for tourism, environmental education and Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and conservation-compatible development activities
<b>International Conservation and Education Fund (INCEF)</b>	CAR, DRC	INCEF's approach focuses on the use of locally produced and disseminated video as an educational tool to foster improvement of the health and well-being of human and wildlife populations. Their DRC Great Ape Public Awareness Project includes public health as there is a risk of ebola infection from handling bushmeat. Videos feature local people and have been seen by over 90,000 people
<b>Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)</b>	Congo, Gabon, DRC, Cameroon, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda	WCS is an international conservation NGO working at many great ape sites. They mostly work at PAs, and have been influential in the creation of new parks and in their management. They argue that “for WCS to be successful in its mission to save wildlife and wild places, our conservation work must benefit people as well as animals....We help local people create new agricultural products and practices, modify fishing techniques, generate ecotourism revenue, and provide recovery aid to areas devastated by violence and natural disasters. Investing in the current and future quality of life is the key to sound conservation practice.”
<b>WWF</b>	Cote d’Ivoire, Nigeria, CAR, Gabon, DRC Cameroon	WWF is a partner in IGCP as described above. WWF’s African Great Apes Program includes as objectives community support, policy and capacity building, all of which are relevant to poverty reduction. Field work relevant to poverty reduction includes support for ecotourism in Gabon and CAR, and joint gorilla and public health work on ebola in Gabon. Most of WWF’s work is on traditional law enforcement, through anti poaching and monitoring
<b>Zoological Society of London (ZSL)</b>	Ghana, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, DRC and Gabon	ZSL is an international conservation NGO. All of their great ape projects directly involve poverty and livelihoods in some way, through tourism, alternatives to bushmeat, or improved forest governance and community hunting areas. The rationale is necessity – they see poverty as a driver of conservation threat at the sites where they work. Their Wildlife Wood Project in Ghana and Cameroon is an unusual example of working with the forestry sector

Beyond these conservation-focussed initiatives there are a number of other programmes that are specifically focussed on linking environment and poverty/livelihood issues. Many of these include community use and management of forests - e.g. through improved forest governance, in the context of forest carbon initiatives, or through rights based approaches to forest conservation.

Others have a broader focus on poverty reduction, health and population pressure. Table 3 summarises these initiatives and reviews the extent to which they include a concern with biodiversity conservation.

**Table 3: Integration of conservation issues into environment-development initiatives**

Name	Ape states included in coverage	Description and conservation focus
<b>African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (AFLEG)/Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Task Force</b>	Central Africa	AFLEG is a world bank funded programme focusing on the supply side to reduce illegal logging at source. FLEGT is an EU programme that works at the supply and demand side, curtailing trade of illegally logged timber in the EU. The FLEGT taskforce was established to implement the COMIFAC convergence plan. Although this has no direct link with ape conservation, the focus on forest governance should improve the conservation status of ape habitat.
<b>Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG)</b>	Cameroon, Uganda	Independent country teams – with overall coordination from IIED – aim to improve forest governance at regional and national levels through research and advocacy. Currently no explicit focus on conservation but interest in addressing this in future agendas.
<b>Forest People’s Programme (FPP)</b>	Congo Basin	FPP’s focus is on securing forest peoples’ rights through research, advocacy and capacity building. Conservation programmes are often seen as violating those rights.
<b>Livelihoods and Landscapes</b>	Cameroon, CAR, DRC	IUCN has a Livelihoods and Landscapes initiative which is intended to add value to their existing forest conservation projects by drawing out lessons on local use of and rights to forest resources and feeding this into national policy processes focussed on poverty. Currently no specific focus on ape conservation
<b>Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)</b>	Rwanda, Uganda	The PEI is a collaborative initiative of UNDP and UNEP. It is focused on getting environmental issues better mainstreamed into national development policy, particularly through Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). The current focus of the PEI is very much on environment issues

such as water services and fuel supply, rather than biodiversity.

**Population, Health and Environment Initiative (PHE)**

Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda

An initiative of the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), PHE is intended to “simultaneously improve access to health services, especially family planning services and reproductive health care, while also helping communities manage their natural resources in ways that improve their health and livelihoods and conserve the critical ecosystems upon which they depend.” They work with conservation organizations to provide family planning to remote communities. The overall rationale is “helping rural communities in biodiversity rich areas better understand the relationship between having smaller, healthier families and improving stewardship of natural resources”

**Rainforest Foundation**

Cameroon, CAR, Gabon, Congo, DRC

With funding from the Congo Basin Forest Fund, Rainforest Foundation is working with regional NGOs to support the development of legislation which will ensure improved security of land tenure for forest dependent peoples. This legislation will provide a sound basis for community-based approaches to forest management, small forest enterprise, and mechanisms for Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).

**United Nations – Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (UN-REDD)**

This programme is a collaboration among the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP and UNEP aimed at managing forests in a sustainable manner so they benefit communities while contributing to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Currently no specific link with biodiversity conservation. UNREDD sees REDD as an entry point to transform national economies so that they become more sustainable, at a scale that is not possible with traditional small-scale ICDP projects

## 4. Inventory of initiatives to integrate ape conservation and poverty reduction in ape range states

In this section we review the degree to which poverty and conservation appear to be integrated – in policy and practice - in each of the ape range states in Africa.<sup>6</sup> For each country we provide a very brief overview of its conservation and development status.<sup>7</sup> Where documents are available we review the extent to which: a) biodiversity issues have been addressed in the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) b) poverty issues have been addressed in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and c) sectoral policies provide space for community involvement in natural resource management.<sup>8</sup> We then list the organisations and initiatives that are working on ape conservation in each country and the degree to which they address poverty issues. .

This is not intended to be an exhaustive inventory of initiatives – those listed are those that were identified within the time available for this study and for which information was available, via the website or email/face to face discussions with key personnel. As a result there is a strong bias towards NGOs and their projects, which have a generally strong web presence, with few examples of state agencies and initiatives listed in their own right. Where NGO initiatives work in collaboration with state agencies, these are listed as appropriate, but the lack of information on state agencies is recognised as a limitation of this review.

### Angola

#### Apes and people in Angola

According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)<sup>9</sup>, Angola has one of the highest rates of poverty in the world - despite its immense natural wealth. In 2001 about 68 per cent of the population was living below the poverty line. Poverty is far more severe and widespread in rural areas, where an estimated 94 per cent of households are poor.

Great apes in Angola only occur in Cabinda, a tiny exclave 30 km north of the rest of the country, separated by the Congo River and DRC. There are believed to be 200-500 chimps, and a population of Western Lowland gorillas of unknown size. The greatest threats to apes are believed to be hunting, both for subsistence, trade and to protect crops. The forest is also being logged for

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<sup>6</sup> We omit Burkina Faso and Togo where populations are likely extinct, and Mali and Sudan where populations are extremely small.

<sup>7</sup> Much of this summarised background information is drawn from the “World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation”, Caldecott, J. & Miles, L., 2005, UNEP WCMC, and references therein

<sup>8</sup> For more information please see “Community Management of Natural Resources in Africa: Impacts, Experiences and Future Directions” Roe, D., Nelson, F. & Sandbrook, C. (Eds.) (2009), IIED Natural Resource Issues No. 18. Available for download at <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=17503IIED>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.ifad.org/operations/projects/regions/pf/factsheets/angola.pdf>

subsistence and commercial purposes, so the ape populations in this area are highly threatened. Hardly any of the Maiombe forest in which the apes live is gazetted as a PA. There is virtually no enforcement of wildlife laws in Angola, and those laws are very weak anyway.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

According to IFAD (op cit) Angola's 2004-2008 Poverty Reduction Strategy was approved in 2004. Its main goal is the consolidation of peace and national unity and the revival of the agricultural sector is a priority with food security and rural development identified as one of ten specific objectives. No further information is available

### **Poverty and development issues in the NBSAP**

The Angola NBSAP (2007) considers poverty to be a major driver of biodiversity loss, and recognises to some extent the role of biodiversity in underpinning the livelihoods of the poor "The conditions of poverty of the majority of the population and the pressure on natural resources sustain a vicious cycle of environmental degradation and reduction of quality of life. Most of the population lives below the poverty line depending daily on biological resources for their livelihood or commercialization". The importance of community engagement in natural resource management is stressed: "The local communities should ... have a key role to perform in the conservation and management of biodiversity, which is strongly related to the sustainable use of biodiversity resources". However, the lack of implementation of this policy objective is recognised: "Little attention is given to the involvement of the communities in decision making processes in development projects...The environmental law is not always applied and there is lack of monitoring of its application." Overall the NBSAP shows some recognition of linkages between poverty and biodiversity loss, but the analysis is not sophisticated.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

The 2004 Land Law recognizes the rights of communities to land acquired according to customary law.

### **Initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

Angola participates in the Mayombe transboundary initiative and signed a tripartite transboundary declaration in 2009. This initiative tries to create a Mayombe transboundary protected area and takes into account that so far the Mayombe forest in Cabinda does not benefit from any protection status. This transboundary initiative is also looking into economic opportunities such as REDD and ecosystem restoration. The other two partner countries are DR Congo and Congo.

## **Burundi**

### **Apes and people in Burundi**

Burundi is a tiny country of just 25,560 Km<sup>2</sup> land area, lying on the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika and just to the south of Rwanda. Over 90% of the population is engaged in farming, and the country

has very little forest remaining. What is left is threatened by legal and illegal logging. There has been considerable interethnic conflict over the last several decades, resulting in very weak economic growth.

The eastern chimpanzee occurs in Burundi. It is thought there are 300-400 individuals, mostly in Kibira NP, which is contiguous with Nyungwe NP in Rwanda. The greatest threats are believed to be habitat loss and fragmentation rather than hunting. Overall little is known about the chimpanzees of Burundi, and due to the very low population it is not a priority country.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Burundi PRSP (2006) is noticeably weak on biodiversity related issues. Environmental strategy is based on the following themes “(i) upgrade institutional, technical, and financial capacities; (ii) promote the national policy on natural resources management; (iii) promote the sustainable use of natural resources.” Specific policies include to “develop natural resources management plans and support and assist local communities in managing natural resources...introduce substitutes to protect threatened natural resources; develop a land use plan and explore the use of community reforestation schemes as a source of income” but there is little detail on implementation.

### **Poverty and development issues in the NBSAP**

The NBSAP for Burundi (2000) recognises anthropogenic as well as natural causes of biodiversity loss, of which human population growth and poverty are considered an underlying driver. It also recognises that efforts to develop the country risk damaging the natural resource base, with consequent negative impacts on human wellbeing. The need for local communities to play a greater role in conservation and resource management is emphasised, because at the present time most decisions on these issues are taken without taking account of local wants and needs. It is also recognised that the political system currently fails to take sufficient account of the value of biodiversity. Overall it seems the NBSAP pays reasonable attention to the links with poverty and development, mostly emphasising the threat to biodiversity from poverty and population growth, but also recognising to some extent the role of natural resources in sustaining livelihoods in the country.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

No relevant information could be found.

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

#### **IUCN**

The only initiatives that could be identified are at the Kibira NP. An earlier project at this site, the Parks for Peace Project, was implemented by the **IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa** and focused on community involvement in park management. A new **IUCN - Netherlands** funded project initiated in 2009 gives support to **Twizeregukira**, a local NGO. Twizeregukira collaborates with park authorities to improve the relations with local communities, support the conservation of the park



and develop livelihood alternatives that reduce pressure on park resources. Livelihoods will be improved through agroforestry interventions based on bamboo seedlings.

**More information:**

[http://www.iucn.nl/funded\\_projects/involving\\_local\\_communities\\_in\\_the\\_conservation\\_of\\_kibira\\_national\\_park\\_burundi\\_1/](http://www.iucn.nl/funded_projects/involving_local_communities_in_the_conservation_of_kibira_national_park_burundi_1/)

## Cameroon

### Apes and people in Cameroon

Cameroon is a large and highly diverse country, with semi-arid lands near Lake Chad in the north, ranging through to lowland tropical rain forest in the south. The national economy depends on oil, timber and cocoa exports. The country is officially bilingual, being formed from former French Cameroon and the smaller, English speaking southwest. It is relatively stable compared to other countries in the region, and has a relatively successful economy.

Cameroon has western lowland gorillas, cross river gorillas, central chimpanzees, and Nigeria / Cameroon chimpanzees. Cameroon is a particularly important country for western lowland gorillas with a population of about 15,000. The majority of these live in the TNS cross border park with other important populations in Dja Biosphere Reserve, Campo-Ma'an NP and several other protected areas in the south and east. However many are also in logging concessions outside the protected areas. Central chimpanzees have a similar distribution to the western lowland gorillas, and are believed to number about 30,000. West of the Sanaga River, cross river gorillas are found in Takamanda NP and in the surrounding hills, in several isolated populations numbering about 150 in total. The Nigeria / Cameroon chimp occurs in the same locations as well as in Korup NP, Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, and several other forest fragments in western Cameroon, not all of which are protected.

The main threats to apes in Cameroon are hunting and logging. In southern Cameroon around 76% of the land is in logging concessions, and some companies have felled trees well outside their official concession areas. Logging is also opening access for commercial bushmeat hunting. Hunting has had a big impact on apes in some areas. As a result ape populations are believed to be declining steadily. Results from a project implemented by Bristol Zoo note "Poaching, particularly the take of high profile endangered species such as elephants and great apes, is inextricably linked to corruption at all levels. The demand from elites in Yaoundé and Douala, the impunity with which well-connected poachers can buy off game guards, the ease with which game guards can supplement (often unpaid) salaries through supplying the bushmeat and ivory markets are major factors in the decline of endangered species in Cameroon. Enforcement efforts do not target powerful interests and are instead focussed on local communities." Considerable progress has been made in recent years to

improve the performance of the logging industry, with 13 concessions awarded Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification by the end of 2008, covering over 900,000 hectares<sup>10</sup>.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The PRSP (2003) makes considerable reference to the environment and conservation, particularly with respect to forestry, which is a mainstay of the Cameroonian economy. However, environment is not treated as a central pillar or cross-cutting issue. The PRSP notes that there has been considerable damage and degradation to the natural environment in recent decades and seeks to overturn it through sustainable management. Community forestry is specifically recognised as a future tool for management. “The government wants to further develop community forestry, helping local communities to become long-term rights holders and managers of forest and wildlife resources.” Similarly, “a major objective of the forestry reform program is to enhance forest-based income opportunities for village communities, and thus improve the livelihood of the rural population living in the forest zones. In this context, the government plans to grant interested local communities priority rights to designated ‘community forests’ and to remit part of collected forestry tax revenues to local communities.”

The PRSP also notes that the government has prepared a Natural Resources Development and Protection Program, especially targeting Cameroon’s fauna. This has focussed predominantly on the creation of a protected area network. How biodiversity might contribute to development is not made clear.

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The Cameroon NBSAP (1999) identifies poverty as a major driver of biodiversity loss. The role of community management as an approach to addressing this problem is identified, specifically through the 1994 Forestry Law, which allows “the local population to “own” the forest resources on Government land through Community forestry. Similarly, provisions in the new law allow the population to manage wildlife in community hunting zones.” Overall the Cameroon NBSAP is unusual in the explicit focus it gives to poverty as a driver of biodiversity loss, particularly when one considers the likely role of other issues such as unsustainable commercial logging as drivers in the country.

Cameroon has also developed a National Action Plan for the Conservation of Great Apes<sup>11</sup>. This includes as strategic areas, “Education, Information & Awareness, and Ecodevelopment”. The latter includes implementing income generating projects, and promoting ecologically friendly activities such as ecotourism and sustainable fishing. Relevant activities are proposed for several key ape sites in Cameroon. Community involvement is listed as a goal for several sites, but the action plan gives

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<sup>10</sup> “The Forests of Cameroon in 2008”, 2008, Cerruti *et al.* In State of the Forest 2008: The Forests of the Congo Basin, CARPE. [http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF\\_02\\_Cameroon.pdf](http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF_02_Cameroon.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> “National Action Plan for the Conservation of Great Apes in Cameroon”, Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, 2005

no background information on the role of poverty as a threat to ape conservation in Cameroon, or the rationale for including community benefit programmes as part of the plan.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

Forestry law in Cameroon allows for different forms of community based forest management. Within the domain of permanent forests, community forests can be owned privately by a municipality. Within non-permanent forests, a 2001 order specifies additional community rights to acquire community forests, up to 5000 ha on a fifteen year contract. 116 community forests had been granted by 2006. In South-East Cameroon, Zones d'Intérêt Cynégétique à Gestion Communautaire (ZICGC) are community based hunting zones.

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

#### **African Conservation Foundation**

The African Conservation Foundation (ACF), in collaboration with the Environment and Rural Development Foundation (**ERuDeF**) is working in the Lebialem Highlands and Mone Forest area in Western Cameroon to protect Cross River Gorillas and chimpanzees through research, conservation and development of alternative income generating opportunities. The project fosters community participation in conservation planning and provides immediate action to protect key wildlife areas. Local community members are trained in conservation management and enterprises such as ecotourism are being developed.

**More information:** <http://www.africanconservation.org/content/blogcategory/9/91>

#### **African Model Forests Network**

Model Forests are based on an approach that combines the social, cultural and economic needs of local communities with the long-term sustainability of large landscapes in which forests are an important feature. They are designed to provide a practical and operational platform from which to translate sustainable development objectives into action. The African Model Forest Network (AMFN) is one of a number of regional networks making up the International Model Forest Network. It is a partnership between different stakeholders in forestry management - including local communities, government agencies and NGOs. It provides a platform for dialogue and consensus building. The website notes that "The motivations behind Model Forest development in Africa relate to issues of good governance, capacity-building, poverty alleviation, biological conservation and stewardship and resource expansion". In Cameroon AMFN operates in Campo-Ma'an NP and in Dja Biosphere Reserve – both home to significant ape populations.

**More information:** <http://www.imfn.net/?q=node/154>

#### **Bristol Zoo**

In collaboration with the Living Earth Foundation, Bristol Zoo has been working in Dja Biosphere reserve since 2003 and is focussed on developing sustainable alternatives to the illegal commercial bushmeat trade in apes. Poor people who are involved in hunting are supported in new revenue activities e.g. cane rat farming, bee-keeping. Director, Neil Maddison notes “Conservation is the end goal, with poverty alleviation the means to achieve it.” One of the project conclusions is that “Unless a new development/conservation paradigm is developed, whereby communities are rewarded for their stewardship of this globally valuable resource, the long term prospect for survival of flagship species such as great apes in this part of Cameroon is bleak. Unless the common interest of communities and conservationists is recognised and built upon to provide the stimulus for communities to become active participants in conservation efforts, the loss of the Dja’s biodiversity will continue as a result of its proximity to Cameroon’s main cities and its excellent road infrastructure.” (Neil Maddison, pers. comm.).

**More information:** <http://www.bcsf.org.uk/cameroon>

### **Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment**

The Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE) works on the ground through partner organisations that it funds and supports. In Cameroon support has been given to **WWF** for their Jengi project, which includes a CBNRM component. CARPE has also worked on the national scale, lobbying for reforms to improve governance for conservation. This has been done through national focal points and a country team that works closely with the relevant ministries. Achievements include support for the process to establish norms for management of Community Hunting Zones, and support for civil society engagement in reforms to community forestry legislation. Such reforms are expected to improve the enabling environment for sustainable resource use and livelihood benefits on the ground. CARPE supports two important transboundary conservation initiatives that involve Cameroon. These are the Tri National de la Sangha (TNS; between Cameroon, CAR and Congo) and the Dja-Minkebe-Odzala Tri-National (TRIDOM; between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon). Both include livelihood components.

**More information:** <http://carpe.umd.edu/>

### **Centre for Environment and Development**

The Centre for Environment and Development (CED) was established in 1994 in response to the need for grassroots and independent voices to contribute to the policy reforms in the forest and environment sector in Cameroon at that time. CED’s work is based on people-centered conservation. It seeks to link biodiversity conservation, as a whole, to improved livelihoods or poverty reduction, by providing incentives and support to develop community activities that protect and restore forest cover and biodiversity while improving livelihoods. Addressing the common problem of elite capture, CED is developing mechanisms that will ensure benefits reach all community segments, including the most vulnerable groups (Sam Nnah, pers. comm.) An example is the Community Payments for Ecosystem Services project which seeks to integrate PES and community forest

management. The project started in January 2009, and is working in two pilot community forest sites in Cameroon. The Nkolenyeng community forest of about 1,020 hectares situated at the periphery of the Mengueme Gorilla Sanctuary, in the Dja and Lobo division of the South region, and the Nomedjo community forest of about 1,950 hectares situated north of the Dja reserve, in the East region of Cameroon.

**More information:** [www.cedcameroun.org](http://www.cedcameroun.org)

### **Centre International d' Appui au Developpement Durable**

The Centre International d' Appui au Developpement Durable (CIAD) is a local NGO created in 1992. It works in the eastern Dja Biosphere Reserve in Cameroon to promote poverty alleviation through sustainable development. They worked to habituate gorillas in the area for ecotourism, with the goal of benefiting 3 local communities. Revenues are to be shared by a community association, and used for improving infrastructure and creating other livelihood opportunities. **FFI** was a partner of CIAD in Cameroon between 2003 and 2007 (see below). The ecotourism project seems now to have finished, and no information on its present status could be found.

**More information:** [http://www.equatorinitiative.org/knowledgebase/files/2002-0030\\_Nom\\_CIAD\\_Cameroon.pdf](http://www.equatorinitiative.org/knowledgebase/files/2002-0030_Nom_CIAD_Cameroon.pdf)

### **Environment and Rural Development Foundation**

**The Environment and Rural Development Foundation (EruDeF)** describes itself as “the premier indigenous Great Apes research and conservation organization in Cameroon”. One of its goals is to provide local communities with the means to efficiently manage their natural resources and to alleviate poverty. They work in collaboration with the African Conservation Foundation (see above) and also have a micro finance and enterprise development programme which is intended to reduce illegal wildlife harvesting and promote more sustainable agricultural on marginal lands – particularly those subject to landslides in the Cameroonian highlands.

**More information:** <http://erudefconservation.org/index.html>

### **Fauna and Flora International**

The Fauna and Flora International (FFI) work in the Dja Biosphere Reserve where they focus on community-led law enforcement, to prevent bushmeat logging and mining. They are using a free SMS text message service called ‘front line SMS’ as a biomonitoring tool. Communities can send in information on illegal activity and then the guards can target the threats directly. Near the Nigeria border they are setting up a community wildlife sanctuary, the first in Cameroon. Enforcement will be led by the community. They are also setting up a Forest Conservation fund, which will fund local development activities. FFI are concerned that where tourism – or other big money earners – are not an option it is hard to generate local incentives for conservation. FFI works in Cameroon with **CIAD**

(see above) and since 2008 with the **African Conservation and Development Foundation**. No details of the latter organisation's work in Cameroon could be found .

**More information:** <http://www.fauna-flora.org/africa.php>

### **Forest People's Programme**

The Forest People's Programme (FFP) has been exploring indigenous rights in Cameroon (and elsewhere) and the degree to which they are affected by conservation.<sup>12</sup> One project - conducted in collaboration with CED and local partners - was to work with Baka hunter-gatherer settlements located near the new Boumba Bek NP to map their traditional territories, which overlap areas of high concentrations of western lowland gorillas and chimpanzees, and to help them secure their rights while also protecting the apes. FPP is also working with WWF to address the divide between conservation organisations and authorities and indigenous communities through greater involvement in forest management.

**More information:** [http://www.forestpeoples.org/documents/africa/bases/cameroon\\_base.shtml](http://www.forestpeoples.org/documents/africa/bases/cameroon_base.shtml)

### **Last Great Ape Organisation**

The Last Great Ape Organisation is an Israel based NGO which focuses on the enforcement of Cameroonian law regarding great apes. In particular they work with the Cameroonian government to prevent illegal wildlife trade.

**More information:** [www.laga-enforcement.org](http://www.laga-enforcement.org)

### **The Lebialem Hunters' Beekeeping Initiative**

The Lebialem Hunters' Beekeeping Initiative aims to reduce financial dependence on bushmeat and the volume of species harvested by providing hunters with an alternative income through beekeeping. It aims to dissuade people from hunting five species – Cross River gorilla, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, drill, Preuss's guenon and red-eared guenon. The strategy for doing this is two-fold, through conservation education and through providing people with an additional income source from beekeeping. The conservation aims of the beekeeping project are strongly emphasised so that the hunters who participate connect the external assistance received with the conservation of primates, which it is hoped will give these primate species a value alive. All hunters that join the project are required to sign a pledge to say that they will attempt to reduce their hunting activities and stop hunting the five focal primate species. "The overall goal is conservation, but we do not

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<sup>12</sup> "Securing indigenous people's rights in Conservation: Reviewing and promoting progress in Cameroon", 2009, Venant, M.

want to promote a conservation strategy that is detrimental to the local people and alienates them.” (Juliet Wright, pers. comm.).

**More information:** [www.bee4bushmeat.org](http://www.bee4bushmeat.org)

### **Projet Grands Singes**

Projet Grands Singes (PGS) is principally a great ape research project, of the **Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp**, Belgium, with the ultimate objective of great ape protection in non-protected forests (logging concessions and community forests). PGS currently works in the northern periphery of the Dja Biosphere Reserve. It provides development assistance in the form of micro-projects, loans and capacity building for resource management (sustainable hunting management plans, etc) in 'exchange' for local conservation (i.e. no hunting of protected species, no hunting with guns, reduced and controlled/zoned snare hunting, etc). The project also uses “scientific tourism” (collection of fees from researchers and volunteers) as a form of revenue generation. Local people are employed in all project activities (cooks, guides, builders, porters, research assistants, botanists, etc) and all activities are clearly focussed on great ape conservation.

**More information:** [http://webh01.ua.ac.be/crc/PGS/PGS\\_home.html](http://webh01.ua.ac.be/crc/PGS/PGS_home.html)

### **San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research**

The Institute for Conservation Research includes a Central Africa programme whose main activities focus on the Ebo forest. According to the website efforts in Cameroon revolve around “defining the habitat needs of these endangered primates and educating local people about how the bushmeat trade severely impacts endangered populations of great apes and other forest-dwelling animals.”

**More information:**

[http://www.sandiegozoo.org/conservation/places/africa/central\\_africa\\_regional\\_conservation\\_program/](http://www.sandiegozoo.org/conservation/places/africa/central_africa_regional_conservation_program/)

### **Tri-National de la Sangha Foundation**

The TNS foundation is the fundraising body for the TNS cross-border park. In particular it is seeking to develop tourism facilities and to help local communities gain access to – and benefits from – tourists. They are also implementing alternative livelihoods projects, based on agriculture and agro-forestry, with a grant from the **Congo Basin Forest Fund**.

**More information:** [http://carpe.umd.edu/tns\\_foundation](http://carpe.umd.edu/tns_foundation)

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

The Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) work in Cameroon mainly focuses on cross-river gorilla habitat and is primarily concerned with law enforcement (to address the bushmeat trade), protected

areas creation (e.g. WCS helped Cameroon create Takamanda NP, the Kagwene Gorilla Sanctuary and the Deng Deng NP) and education. The gorilla focus, however, is intended as a flagship for broader biodiversity concerns. WCS sees poverty alleviation as necessary for achieving conservation goals and focus on alternative livelihoods interventions to address this. An example is the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources South West Region which includes Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) cultivation, cocoa and palm oil production, improved roads etc; and also tries to involve local people in conservation activities through community monitoring, conservation agreements and so on.

**More information:** <http://www.wcs.org/where-we-work/africa/cameroon.aspx>

### **WWF**

The WWF has a number of projects in Cameroon: The Kudu-Zombo Programme (formerly the Campo Ma'an project); the Jengi South East Forests Programme and the Coastal Forests Programme, in the south west, covering a vast area including the well known parks of Korup, Mount Cameroon and Ebo Forest. The Kudu-Zombo project includes amongst its specific objectives both conservation of endangered species (including great apes) and enhanced livelihoods for local communities. The strategy for the project focuses on better forest practices (with logging concessions), collaborative management and benefit sharing inside and outside protected areas. One specific intervention strategy of WWF is supporting community based forest enterprise, another is the African Bushmeat Programme which seeks to reduce the threat on bushmeat species through inter alia the introduction of alternative protein sources.

**More information:** [http://wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/wwf\\_offices/cameroon/](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/cameroon/)

### **Zoological Society of London**

The Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) Wildlife Wood Project (WWP) works with the timber industry in Cameroon and Ghana and is assisting companies to manage their concessions in a "wildlife friendly" way. From 2010 "WWP plans to focus its activities and research work on great apes conservation, working with timber companies to test and apply great ape conservation guidelines in logging concessions and assisting local communities in setting up community hunting zones in the periphery of and within logging concessions in order to ensure sustainable bushmeat harvest and the preservation of protected species populations in timber production forests" (Eric Arnhem, pers. comm.)

**More information:** <http://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/wildlife-wood-project/>  
<http://www.zsl.org/wildlifewoodproject>

## **Central African Republic**

### **Apes and people in the Central African Republic**



Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country to the east of Cameroon. It is one of the poorest nations in the world, and has suffered decades of political instability since gaining independence from France in 1959. The main sources of income to the country are diamonds and logging, with logging centred on the moist forests of the south west. Northern CAR is too dry for closed canopy forest, and forests now are mostly limited to the south west and south east regions.

CAR is home to several thousand western lowland gorillas, and around 1000 central and eastern chimpanzees. The major site for gorillas and central chimps is the Dzanga Sangha area, where the country spikes south between Cameroon and DRC. This area forms part of the TNS cross border park, shared with Republic of Congo and Cameroon. Gorillas and chimps are also found in the Ngotto forest - the second largest forest block in the country - to the north east of the TNS. The eastern chimpanzee is also reported from the forests of the south east, but little is known about these populations.

There are few conservation efforts outside the TNS region, which has been developed for gorilla tourism. Bushmeat trade is considered the greatest threat to wildlife in CAR, including inside protected areas. Chimpanzees are hunted for food, whereas it seems gorillas are not. Mining is also seen as a growing threat in southern CAR.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The CAR PRSP (2008-2010) recognizes the value of the country's rich and diverse fauna and flora. In particular it identifies the role of community involvement in tourism as a mechanism for poverty reduction: "The involvement of local communities in the management of tourist businesses would enable natural resources to be used viably, poverty to be reduced, the environment to be protected and awareness-raising work about the scourge of HIV / AIDS to be carried out." Beyond tourism the PRSP advocates local involvement in natural resource management as a means to contribute to poverty reduction: "the aim is to channel the Compte d'Affectation Spéciale de Développement Forestier et Touristique (a funding mechanism for forestry and tourism development) towards a more social objective, bringing together local communities and the private sector. " It also recognizes the need for sustainable use: "The planning and management standards for village hunting grounds will be updated in order to ensure sustainable development."

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The CAR NBSAP (2000) is excellent from the perspective of poverty and development. It explicitly recognises both the role of biodiversity in underpinning livelihood activities, and the consequent threat to biodiversity caused by over exploitation. Addressing this mutual risk through improved sustainable management is a major theme of the strategy. Increasing the role of local communities in resource management is particularly emphasised, through statements such as "involve local communities in the management of biological resources, and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the exploitation of such resources". Specific recommendations are given for how to make this happen, under the heading of "helping local communities to manage their wild resources and reinforcing incentives to preserve biological diversity". These include revenue sharing, improved clarity of land tenure and improved access to resources. Particularly interesting is the commitment to "treat in an integrated and exhaustive manner the questions of conservation and development".

## **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

Under the current forest policy, logging permits are provided to mainly international timber companies, which are valid for indefinite periods, and in 2004, 86% of forest in CAR was under concession. However, there is a growing shift in CAR from centralised management of timber to multi-use, co-management of natural resources and the country is considered one of the most innovative of the sub-region in the field of forest management. The 1994 Forest, Wildlife & Fishing law allows for forest co management with local people, but this is thought to be weakly enforced.

## **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

### **ECOFAC**

The Ngotto forest in south west CAR is one of the ECOFAC sites and they have worked there to create a new protected area and reduce unsustainable bushmeat hunting and logging. However, this project does not seem to include any poverty reduction component.

**More information:** [www.ecofac.org/Composantes/CentrafriqueNgotto.htm](http://www.ecofac.org/Composantes/CentrafriqueNgotto.htm)

### **WWF**

The WWF have a long-running project in the Dzanga-Sangha landscape. Since 1997, WWF has supported the Dzanga-Sangha Primate Habituation Programme in its efforts to develop ecotourism through gorilla-viewing. According to the WWF website, an explicit goal of the programme is to generate income for conservation and the socio-economic development of the area. This has included revenue sharing, employment (an estimated 150 people, many forest dwelling BaAka are employed within the Dzang Sangha reserve while tourism, research and safari hunting have provided additional employment over time) and rural development activities (such as infrastructure development and maintenance, schooling and training, agriculture extension work and health care). “This programme is run almost exclusively by BaAka and they fully understand that their livelihoods depend on the gorillas” (Allard Blom, pers. comm.). Independent research carried out at the site suggests that tourism makes a very limited contribution to poverty reduction, and has had little impact on conservation threats.<sup>13</sup>

**More information:**

[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/endangered\\_species/great\\_apes/gorillas/save\\_solutions\\_gorillas/dzanga\\_sangha/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/great_apes/gorillas/save_solutions_gorillas/dzanga_sangha/)

## **Cote d’Ivoire**

### **Apes and people in Cote d’Ivoire**

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<sup>13</sup> “Tourists, gorillas and guns: Integrating conservation and development in the Central African Republic”, Hodkinson, C. (2009). PhD Thesis, University College London

Cote d'Ivoire is a primarily agricultural country, with the main exports being coffee, cocoa and palm oil. After decades of relative stability, a civil war broke out in 1999 and ran until the mid 2000s.

The forest area in the south of Cote d'Ivoire crashed from 160,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the 1960s to 71,000 km<sup>2</sup> by 2000, and the population of western chimpanzees fell from 100,000 to around 10,000 in the same period. In 2003 the population was estimated at 8-12,000 individuals located in the southern rain forest zone. Over half are believed to live in PAs, with the rest in poorly protected forests. The best-known site is Tai NP in the southwest, with a population of c. 4,500 chimps. Habitat loss remains the greatest threat, but chimps are also hunted, for meat, medicine and to prevent crop raiding, although there are taboos against eating chimp meat in much of the country.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Strategy for Relaunching Development and Reducing Poverty (2009) emphasises the contribution of the natural environment to quality of life. Degradation of biodiversity is recognised as a problem, but linkages with poverty are not specified beyond the general contribution to quality of life. In terms of actions, "Of utmost importance is preserving or restoring the capacity of ecosystems to supply the goods and services needed to drive economic activity and maintain harvests." Goals to this end are measured in terms of increasing the national protected areas estate. To achieve this goal, "the Government has embarked on (i) mainstreaming forestry into rural development through reconstruction, development and management of forest resources; (ii) decentralizing forest planning and improving governance of forest, livestock and fishery resources."

### **Poverty and development issues in the NBSAP**

This NBSAP (undated) identifies a long list of ways in which biological diversity and natural resources underpin human development and livelihoods, and recognises that the loss of such resources would threaten long term development of the country "the degradation of the environment can compromise the achievement of human and economic development objectives". However, the level of analysis regarding the nature of threats to biodiversity and the role of poverty is rather weak. The need to include local people in management is recognised in several places: e.g. in the context of revising laws, the document states that "it is necessary to take into account the rights of local communities on resources use, to define legislation regarding access to biological resources and to guarantee intellectual property rights".

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

The Societe De Developpement Forestier (SODEFOR) embarked on a 'forest co-management' strategy in 1994. This set up 'Farmer Forest Committees' within state owned forests. Implementation has been limited. A new law on community conservation has recently been passed, although details were not available.

## **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

### **Wild Chimpanzee Foundation**

The Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) is based in d'Ivoire, and is closely linked with the Tai forest - although it also works in other countries (see international initiatives in section 2). Projects are focussed on education and on environmental mainstreaming. Working with GRASP, WCF has kick-started a transboundary process between Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia for the establishment of transboundary wildlife corridors between the Tai forest in Cote d'Ivoire and Grebo and Sapo on the other side of the border. This project also has a livelihood component.

**More information:** [www.wildchimps.org](http://www.wildchimps.org)

## Democratic Republic of Congo

### Apes and people in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the three largest countries in Africa, at over 2.3 million km<sup>2</sup>. The country has been in a state of economic collapse for decades, and there has been a massive war in the east of the country since the late 90s, which is believed to have killed several million people. The country has vast mineral reserves and timber, and natural resources are the mainstay of the economy. Nonetheless DRC is one of the poorest countries in the world.

DRC has more than half of Africa's broad-leaf tropical forest, and forest covers 59.6% of land area. As a result, DRC can be thought of as primarily a vast tract of forest, with relatively few people living in it, with the important exception of the extreme east of the country (where mountain gorillas are found), which has very high population densities and relatively little forest, similar to the neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi. Due to the abundance of forest in DRC, the country is a UNREDD pilot country, taking into account the country's huge potential for climate change mitigation, PES and biodiversity conservation.

DRC is incredibly important for apes, including the bonobo and eastern lowland gorilla which are both endemic to the country. The eastern chimpanzee, western lowland gorilla and mountain gorilla are also found in DRC. Bonobos are only found to the south of the Congo river, and the enormous Salonga NP was established largely to protect them. There are estimated to be anything from 10 to 100,000 bonobos and up to 100,000 eastern chimps in DRC. There may be a few thousand eastern lowland gorillas, and just about 180 mountain gorillas. The western lowland gorilla and central chimp are present near the mouth of the Congo river, but in very low numbers.

There is little information on the status of apes in DRC, but they are all likely to be declining apart from the heavily protected mountain gorilla. Forest clearance for charcoal is a major threat to the mountain gorilla habitat, driven by the increased population of Goma following the civil war and conflict with Rwanda. The conflict has led to many parks being invaded by rebels and refugees, with wildlife slaughtered for food in great numbers and considerable habitat loss. Kahuzi-Biega NP, home to eastern lowland gorillas, has been particularly badly hit by the conflict, and is also heavily impacted by mining for rare minerals. Yamagiwa (2003) describes how in four years the highland sector of the park lost 50% of its gorillas to poaching. This was due to the starvation and desperation of the local population, the abundance of small arms from the war, and the collapse of park

management. Ebola is also seen as a major threat to ape populations living in the western forests of DRC.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper (2006) notes the incredible forest cover and biodiversity of DRC, and the degree to which the human population relies on forest products for survival. It also notes the problems in existing forest management due to corruption and poverty. The PRSP sees a link between forest protection and future development, and among other things states as a goal “implementing the strategy on the conservation of biodiversity, in particular through the protection and restoration of plant cover”. A total overhaul of the forestry sector is called for, which will among other things: “involve abutting and local communities in the management and protection of forests and the environment in order to enhance their rights and improve their living conditions thanks to the benefits that will accrue.” It aims to rebuild institutions responsible for forestry and conservation. Community forestry is specifically called for, as is support to the protected area network: “the organized participation of grassroots communities in forest management is essential to maintaining and safeguarding biodiversity”.

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The NBSAP (2002) is very brief, lacking in any description of the nature of threats or background to the status of biodiversity in the country. There are plans to “favour participation of local population in management of PAs” but the meaning of this in practice is unclear. The plan also talks about helping to develop micro-projects for income generation “in exchange for cooperation in the effective protection of PAs”. This suggests an aim to create incentives for sustainable resource management, and possibly to decouple local livelihoods from natural resources. Alternatives are also discussed in the context of sources of protein, but in no case is any detail given on how to avoid such interventions being treated as additions rather than substitutes.

DRC also has a NGASP, as promoted by GRASP. This repeatedly and explicitly discusses the links between ape conservation and poverty alleviation, identifying poverty as a driver of threat to apes and conservation solutions as factors contributing to poverty alleviation. It identifies community conserved areas as one key mechanism for linking conservation and poverty alleviation, as well as the need for generating community benefits: “Poverty should be gradually eradicated from around the great ape protected areas and sanctuaries through the creation of alternative income-earning schemes that respect nature and the environment.”

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

The 2002 forestry code classifies the forest into three types, depending on use: ‘gazetted forests’ which are mainly PAs, ‘permanent production forests’, and ‘protected forests’ which are primarily for local development. The code recognises the rights of local communities to manage their traditional forests, on application to the relevant authorities. It also stipulates that 40% of logging fees must be transferred to ‘Decentralised Administrative Entities’ (DAEs), to finance socioeconomic

infrastructure for local populations<sup>14</sup>. The code also allows for the possibility of local communities in the forest zones to obtain communal forest concessions in their zones. These reforms create space for greater development benefits derived from the forestry sector, but in practice no payments have been made to DAEs under the former regulation to date.

## **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

### **African Wildlife Foundation**

The African wildlife foundation (AWF) takes a landscape-level approach to conservation working in a number of landscapes, which it describes as “heartlands” with the Congo Heartland covering a major part of DRC. A large part of their work in this region focuses on bonobo conservation but the website includes an emphasis on poverty reduction: “developing sustainable livelihood strategies for a population struggling with poverty”. AWF is involved in a multi-organisation initiative in Northern DRC at the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba Landscape, which is supported by **CARPE**. According to CARPE<sup>15</sup> “The goal is to support the DRC Government in its efforts to complete and implement a landscape-wide sustainable resource management programme, including a participatory land use planning and zoning process. It aims to decrease the destruction of habitat and loss of biodiversity as well as to reduce levels of poverty and increase the wellbeing of local communities through improved governance of natural resources strengthening local institutional and civil societies, and support for alternative livelihoods”. As part of this initiative AWF works at the 3,625km<sup>2</sup> Lomako Yokokala Faunal Reserve – the first reserve in DRC that formally recognizes the local community in the development of its management plan. Within the reserve is a research centre focussed on bonobo conservation. Working in collaboration with the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (**ICCN**), local people have been trained as research assistants to help with biological surveys, detailed mapping, and recording human activity and bushmeat hunting. Ecotourism development is planned as a major source of local income. Under the CARPE initiative AWF have also supported the return of a cargo boat to provide access to markets for famers crops – thus incentivising a return to farming and hence less dependence on forest resources.

**More information:** <http://www.awf.org/content/heartland/detail/1288>

### **Bonobo Conservation Initiative**

The Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) works to increase knowledge about bonobos and their conservation status, establish protected areas, build capacity of Congolese partners and indigenous communities, and to increase global awareness about bonobos. The website notes that their principles include “a belief in the importance of indigenous knowledge, stakeholder involvement, and the empowerment of Congolese organizations and communities.” Their approach revolves

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<sup>14</sup> “Forest Revenue Decentralisation and Profits Redistribution in the DRC”, Malele Mbala, S. & Karsenty, A. (2010) in *Governing Africa’s Forests in a Globalized World* (German, L., Karsenty, A. & Tiani, A-M. Eds)

<sup>15</sup> “The role of alternative livelihoods in conservation: Lessons learned from the Maringa – Lopori – Wamba Landscape”, Dupain, J. *et al*, In CARPE lessons learned document, 2009.

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons\\_learned\\_chapter5\\_case\\_study2.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons_learned_chapter5_case_study2.pdf)

around reducing the pressure on bonobo habitat through improved agriculture (cassava project), micro-enterprise development and micro credit. They are also working to restore infrastructure devastated by conflict. Linked to their agriculture development programme, BCI has rehabilitated a barge - The Ketsey – the main provider of river transport, restoring access to markets for agricultural crops and other goods. BCI has also recently launched a REDD initiative, generating carbon credits from the Sankuru Nature Reserve - the first protected area to be established in the Bonobo Peace Forest, a planned constellation of community-managed protected areas linked by conservation corridors.

**More information:** [www.bonobo.org](http://www.bonobo.org)

### **Conservation International**

Conservation International (CI) works in eastern DRC in areas of eastern lowland gorilla habitat. They support the Tayna Centre for Conservation Biology (TCCB; also known as the Kasugho University for Conservation and Rural Development), and the Tayna community-based nature reserve, with funds from their Global Conservation Fund allocated to **DFGFI** who implement the project on the ground. Tayna has been successful, with a radical decline in hunting and mining, and there is now a network of seven new community reserves in the area (UGADEC). TCCB is described as “a university at the heart of the landscape, which has grown out of the community reserve movement”. It teaches courses in conservation biology. Graduates of the university are now working in the area as teachers, outreach workers and various conservation roles. Funding for CI’s work in eastern DRC also comes from **CARPE**, reviewed elsewhere.

**More information:**

[http://www.conservation.org/explore/africa\\_madagascar/congo/pages/overview.aspx](http://www.conservation.org/explore/africa_madagascar/congo/pages/overview.aspx)

### **Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)**

GTZ has been supporting Kahuzi Biega NP for more than 20 years, has a strong forest sector programme in DRC, has supported many ICDPs, and is key partner of the Ministry of Environment and coordinating environmental programmes in DRC on behalf of the DR Congo government with a livelihoods focus.

### **Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International**

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) has been supporting the Tayna Gorilla Reserve, and subsequently the UGADEC network of community reserves, since 2000, with additional support from **CI** since 2003<sup>16</sup>. The Tayna reserve was initially founded by an ICCN warden on home leave, and Tayna is now a formally recognised Nature Reserve with a core area of 900 km<sup>2</sup>. DFGFI have carried out development projects in the area to create incentives for supporting the conservation area.

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<sup>16</sup> “Protected Areas Land Use Planning: Lessons learned from the Tayna Community Managed Nature Reserve”, Mehlman, P. 2009. [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons\\_learned\\_chapter2\\_case\\_study3.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons_learned_chapter2_case_study3.pdf)

These include refurbishing 4 primary schools and creating 2 health clinics. There has also been a sensitisation campaign as it was recognised that these development projects were not a quid pro quo compensation for costs of conservation. DFGFI also supports the “Widows for Tayna” association. “Support includes community agriculture, small mammal farming, and palm oil production projects, all of which help take pressure off of the Tayna Nature Reserve and its natural resources. Plans call for expansion of these programs to villages abutting the Tayna Nature Reserve”. DFGFI also supports a large orphanage near Tayna, helping them with school fees, uniforms, nutrition etc.

**More information:** [www.gorillafund.org](http://www.gorillafund.org)

### **Frankfurt Zoological Society**

The Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) works in Virunga NP, supporting the work of **ICCN**, the park management authority. This includes support for tourism development and work to “Gain better understanding of natural resource use and needs, and costs and benefits to communities from wildlife”. This has included the development of a nursery for woodlots and a wall to protect farmers’ crops from elephants and buffaloes. Chimpanzees are being re-habituated for a tourism development.

**More information:** <http://www.zgf.de/?id=65&projectId=7&language=en>

### **The Gorilla Organisation**

The Gorilla Organisation (GO) (see section 2 above) lists various development oriented projects in Eastern DRC on its website. These include pig rearing and distribution at Mount Tshiaberimu, located in a northern annex of the Virunga NP, DR Congo, where a tiny gorilla population is facing extinction. This is intended to reduce pressure on the reserve – where bushmeat is trapped and firewood collected. For the same reason they also produce and sell fuel efficient stoves to the communities surrounding the Virunga NP; build water cisterns (with local partners **AIDE-Kivu**) that collect water from their school and church roofs, and supply water for approximately eight months of the year; and operate a micro-credit scheme in collaboration with local partner **Programme d'Appui aux initiatives de Developpement Economique du Kivu** around Virunga NP for agriculture, small businesses, marketing agricultural produce, and arts and crafts. They pay particular attention to the indigenous Bambuti who were evicted from the Park when it was gazetted and work with the **African Indigenous and Minority Peoples Organisation** to secure agricultural land for them, provide training in basic farming techniques and health and social issues, and provide adult literacy training and schooling.

In Kahuzi-Biéga NP, the GO works with national partners - the **Comité de Suivi de Processus de Durban** and **ICCN** as well as various local partners to discourage illegal mining through the provision of alternative livelihood projects such as livestock rearing and agriculture. They focus in particular on women – the wives of miners.

**More information:** <http://www.gorillas.org/Projectt!DR Congo>



### **Institut Congolaise pour la Conservation de la Nature**

The Institut Congolaise pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) is the state conservation agency which manages national parks, faunal reserves and game reserves, as well as scientific research. It has received support from several of the other organisations mentioned in this section through partnerships at various protected areas. ICCN has had very limited capacity and has not had control of several PAs in eastern DRC at times during the past decade due to chronic insecurity in the region. ICCN is the implementing partner for the Durban Process, a Congolese-led, multi-stakeholder initiative established in 2003 to mitigate the effects of illegal mining, mainly for Coltan, at Kahuzi-Biega NP. The process established working groups that have distributed the mining code to miners, trained women in livestock rearing, supported park rangers and established mining best practice.

**More information:** <http://www.iccn.cd/accueil.php>

### **International Gorilla Conservation Programme**

As part of its Improving Livelihoods programme, IGCP has several projects in eastern DRC. The feasibility of developing a community tourism lodge, as IGCP has done in Rwanda and Uganda, is being explored but depends on improved security in the area. They have worked with the **Union des Apiculteurs du Secteur Mikeno et Nyamulagira** to develop beekeeping skills and relocate hives outside the Virunga NP. Honey and other bee products are now sold to boost income. IGCP has also helped solicit donations from the **World Food Programme** to meet basic survival needs in eastern DRC. Help has been given to local people to build a 1 meter high stone wall around PN Virunga to reduce crop raiding and human-wildlife conflict. Meetings have been held to promote community participation in conservation management.

**More information:** <http://www.igcp.org/about/our-work/>

### **Jane Goodall Institute**

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) (see section 2 above) works with **DFGFI** and **UGADEC** in the Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi Biega Landscape to the west of the Virunga volcano range. The project is intended to provide supplies and build capacity for park guards. In addition, JGI applies the same model used in their Tanzanian Lake Tanganyika Catchment Reforestation and Education (TACARE) project, to improve health services and support the development of sustainable agricultural practices for local communities near the parks.

**More information:** [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org)

### **Lukuru Foundation**

The Lukuru Foundation, Inc. is the umbrella organization supporting independent projects taking place in the Lukuru region of the DRC, which includes a large population of bonobos. The primary mission of the Lukuru Foundation is to conduct scientific research on, conservation of, and educational activities about the bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) in the DRC. Currently, the Foundation has

been the programme platform organization for the field work of the Lukuru Wildlife Research Project since 1992, the field work of the Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba (TL2) Project since 2007. The TL2 project includes working closely with local people to establish a new protected area for bonobo conservation.

**More information:** No website available

### **Pole Pole Foundation**

The Pole Pole Foundation is a local conservation NGO based at the Kahuzi Biega NP in eastern DRC. It has two basic objectives: “the conservation of gorillas and their habitat and the attainment of food security in local communities”. They have a project in Kahuzi-Biega National Park working with local communities on a programme called Poachers to Artisans. This includes, environmental education, reintegration of displaced indigenous families, tree nurseries, wood carving, and protection of local gorilla populations. They recognise that poverty and hunger are a critical constraint to conservation and thus focus on income generation and meeting basic human needs, followed by environmental education. “Promoting the welfare of the communities is the basic line towards sustainable great ape conservation”.

**More information:** [www.great-apes.com/popof/](http://www.great-apes.com/popof/)

### **Union of Associations for Gorilla Conservation and Development in Eastern DRC (UGADEC)**

The Union of Associations for Gorilla Conservation and Development in Eastern DRC (UGADEC) is a federation of eight local NGOs that have established a series of community managed nature reserves with the intention of creating a biological corridor between Maiko NP and Kahuzi-Biega National Park. The Union emerged from the success of the original Tayna Gorilla Reserve, and aims to include a total of more than 12,000 km<sup>2</sup> in its network, creating a biological corridor between Maiko NP (10,000km<sup>2</sup>) and Kahuzi-Biega National Park (6,600km<sup>2</sup>). It is not clear to what extent the intended community reserves have actually been implemented, how well they are performing, or their impacts on poverty.

**More information:** No website available

### **WWF**

WWF is active at Lac Tumba and at Virunga NP. Lac Tumba is a community reserve partnered with Lac Tele reserve across the Congo river in Republic of Congo. It includes a large population of bonobos which are threatened by hunting for bushmeat. WWF is involved in the development of public-private-community partnerships for tourism and is also working to develop community based fisheries – as an alternative protein source to bushmeat. In Virunga NP WWF’s work is focussed on providing alternative fuel wood supplies to the more than 375,000 people who have settled in and near the Park to escape the continued conflict in DRC. In particular, The Eco-Makala project aims to supply the population of Goma with sustainable energy sources. More conventional conservation

work focuses on environmental education of local communities. WWF is also engaged in Virunga as part of the **IGCP** consortium described in section 2 above.

WWF is the lead partner on a **CARPE** grant in the Salonga-Lukenie-Sankuru landscape, working alongside **WCS**, Private Agencies Collaborating Together (**PACT**) and the **Zoological Society of Milwaukee**<sup>17</sup>. PACT is focusing on capacity building in civil society organisations (CSOs), and on setting up grassroots governance structures and other networks in order to forge links between the government, the private sector and CSOs in a bid to promote social, economic and environmental justice through the creation of Community Based Natural Resource Management zones. Communities are supported to develop and implement Community Action Plans with poverty alleviation as their main goal. Activities include agriculture, healthcare, income generating activities and animal husbandry (ibid). WWF is also working in PNKB and Ithombwe, implementing the Kahuzi Biega NP part of the CARPE grant to Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi Biega.

**More information:** <http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/wherewework/congo/index.html>;  
[http://wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/wwf\\_offices/belgium/projects/index.cfm?uProjectID=CD0015](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/belgium/projects/index.cfm?uProjectID=CD0015)  
[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/endangered\\_species/great\\_apes/apes\\_programme/projects/index.cfm?uProjectID=CD0014](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/great_apes/apes_programme/projects/index.cfm?uProjectID=CD0014) re WWF work in Luki Biosphere Reserve

[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/endangered\\_species/great\\_apes/apes\\_programme/projects/index.cfm?uProjectID=GA0861](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/great_apes/apes_programme/projects/index.cfm?uProjectID=GA0861) re cross border work with Gabon/DRC

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) website notes that it “works closely with the Congolese government to find ways to preserve its wildlife and wild lands, while alleviating human poverty.” WCS partners **WWF** in the Salonga-Lukenie-Sankuru landscape described above. No information is available on the WCS website as to the livelihoods aspects of this work. WCS works in partnership with local governments to recruit and train ecoguards. Through these collaborations, they help communities to “manage their natural resources sustainably, and to combat illegal commercial exploitation”. In addition to working with communities to address the varied and growing threats to their natural heritage, WCS works closely with the Congolese government to find ways to preserve its wildlife and wild lands, while alleviating human poverty.” WCS has also worked at Kahuzi Biega NP. This work has primarily been on monitoring, but they have also worked with the **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** on a conflict resolution strategy, building on an earlier project between these partners called “conserving the peace” that worked at both the Kahuzi Biega and Virunga NPs.

**More information:** <http://www.wcs.org/where-we-work/africa/congo.aspx>

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<sup>17</sup> “The Role of Alternative Livelihoods in Conservation: Lessons Learned from the Lakolama Area of the Salonga-Lukenie-Sankuru Landscape”, Makambo, E. 2009.

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons\\_learned\\_chapter5\\_case\\_study3.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons_learned_chapter5_case_study3.pdf)

## **Zoological Society of London**

The Zoological Society in London (ZSL) supports the work of ICCN in Virunga NP in Eastern DRC, home of mountain gorillas, eastern lowland gorillas and eastern chimpanzees. They have worked there since 2001. Since 2004 they have focused on rebuilding the capacity of ICCN and are now working with local people to develop alternative livelihoods (including through REDD) around the north of the park. . See **FZS** section above for more details of the work on the ground.

**Further information:** <http://www.zsl.org/virunga/>

## Equatorial Guinea

### **Apes and people in Equatorial Guinea**

Equatorial Guinea is a tiny country, divided between an island (Bioko) and a mainland portion (Rio Muni). The latter is almost all forest, and is home to western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees. It is Africa's third largest producer of oil, and one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Although it now has one of the highest per capita GDPs in the world as a result of its oil boom the majority of rural people remain poor. The population of the country is only around half a million, and the population density is very low.

The number of apes in Equatorial Guinea is unclear, but there could be about 1-2,000 gorillas and about 1,000 chimpanzees. The greatest threat to apes is bushmeat hunting, which is widespread. Apes are increasingly targeted, and the presence of guns makes them easier to hunt. Bushmeat was once consumed locally, but is now increasingly being transported to cities for the urban market. Logging is also a major threat, with forest concessions in many parts of the country, including some protected areas.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Equatorial Guinea PRSP could not be found for review

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The Equatorial Guinea NBSAP could not be reviewed due to language constraints.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

Community customary rights are recognised in theory by forest legislation. The concept of community forest reserves (reservas de poblado) was written into the 1948 forest law, with their primary aim being to provide land security and access to resources for forest dwellers. In these areas a form of co-management between the community and the logging company in the area ensues with 70% of the taxes from forest production going towards community projects. In April 2006, President Obiang signed an agreement with Conservation International, committing to the establishment of a "Community Based Natural Resource Management National Forest", joining the existing PA network which includes Monte Alen, Estuario Rio Muni, Altos de Nsork and Piedra Nzás. The new Community Based Natural Resource Management National Forest has not yet been legally established, but will cover 500,000 ha, cancelling the timber concessions that currently exist there.

## **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

### **ECOFAC**

Until 2009 ECOFAC supported a tourism programme in the Monte Alen NP in Rio Muni, home to both western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees). ECOFAC has trained local people to guide visiting researchers and ecotourists, and constructed a guest house to encourage community-based conservation through tourism revenues. The tourism project has not been successful, and hunting and trapping continue within the park<sup>18</sup>. Efforts to set up alternative livelihoods based on cane rats and snails have been technically successful but have not been adopted by local people as they are unfamiliar activities.

**More information:** <http://www.ecofac.org/Composantes/GuineeEquatMonteAlen.htm>

### **Zoological Society of London**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) are working with local communities to evaluate, test and implement potential bushmeat alternatives. The overall goal of this project is to support the government in its attempts to prohibit the illegal hunting, sale and consumption of apes, other primates and other threatened wildlife by working with government, national and international institutions and local communities to develop culturally and economically feasible alternatives to bushmeat, both in terms of a source of food and income, and then to implement pilot projects to test the most suitable options.

**More information:** <http://www.zsl.org/equatorial-guinea/>

## **Gabon**

### **Apes and people in Gabon**

Gabon is a small country that is very densely forested, at 84% of the total land area. Like Equatorial Guinea, it has a low and very sparse rural population, as most people live in the capital city. It has also grown rich on oil over the last few years. The GNP per capita is over six times the sub-Saharan average, and Gabon is rich enough not to qualify for most multilateral development aid. The country is relatively stable, having had the same president from 1967 until his recent death. Oil is predicted to run out in 2015, and the government is now trying to develop forestry as an alternative.

Gabon has western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees. The country has large populations of both, estimated at 35,000 gorillas and 64,000 chimpanzees in the 1990s. However these numbers are believed to have collapsed as a result of commercial hunting and Ebola, outbreaks of which occurred in 1994 and 1996. The other major threat is mechanised logging, and much of the forest in

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<sup>18</sup> "World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation", Caldecott, J. & Miles, L. 2005, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Pg 345

Gabon has been selectively logged at some point. Logging opens access to bushmeat hunting, and loggers themselves consume a lot of meat as well. Ape meat is considered a delicacy in much of the country. Progress is being made by the logging industry to improve performance, through the signing of memoranda of understanding between the Forest Economy Ministry, the park service, 22 logging companies, local communities and local authorities. The aim is to regulate hunting in each of these zones, totalling over 20,000 km<sup>2</sup><sup>19</sup>.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Gabon PRSP could not be found for review.

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The NBSAP (1999) places great emphasis on the role of all people in Gabonese society in helping to reduce biodiversity loss, but far less emphasis on the role of biodiversity in achieving development or the extent to which people currently depend on natural resources. This may reflect the unusual Gabonese conditions, where over 73% of the population live in towns and cities, and the economy is built on the petrol industry rather than living natural resources.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

Thirteen National Parks were created in 2002 and designed to fit within a 'multiple-use' landscape of different levels of protection and management, including a surrounding buffer zone for the sustainable use of natural resources by local communities. All forests in Gabon are owned by the state, although rural communities have usufruct rights to forest use, and state laws are seldom enforced. The forest code in Gabon has recently been revised and divides the forest into two subsets: the permanent sector which comprises productive forests (for timber exploitation) and the state-owned rural forest areas, where use is limited to local communities (within 5km of each village), and this includes the potential for community forestry. However, to date no community forests have been established.

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<sup>19</sup> "Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (Tridom) Landscape", 2008, De Wachter, P. *et al.* In State of the Forest 2008: The Forests of the Congo Basin, CARPE. [http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF\\_18\\_Dja.pdf](http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF_18_Dja.pdf)

## **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

### **Aspinall Foundation**

The Aspinall Foundation is the charity which manages the Port Lympne and Howletts Wild Animal Parks in the UK. They have field projects in both Gabon and the Republic of Congo, at which they reintroduce western lowland gorillas. These are either confiscated individuals or individuals captive bred in the UK. The field project is in the Bateke Plateau, which spans the boundary of Gabon and Congo. Local communities benefit from the project in Gabon through employment. Aspinall is also supporting a law enforcement campaign.

**More information:** <http://www.aspinallfoundation.org/aspinall/conservation-work/view/167/Congo-and-Gabon>

### **ECOFAC**

ECOFAC supported the development of gorilla tourism in Lope NP in central Gabon. Since 2001 ZSL has assisted with this project, taking over full responsibility in 2005.

**More information:** <http://www.ecofac.org/Composantes/GabonLope.htm>

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has worked in Gabon since 1985. It was instrumental in lobbying the government to establish the first thirteen national parks in Gabon in 2002, covering over 10% of the land area. “WCS is helping train government conservation workers and supports pilot ecotourism initiatives. A major new PES project is helping protect the country’s most important watershed in the Monts de Cristal NP, also a biodiversity gem”

**More information:** <http://www.wcs.org/where-we-work/africa/gabon.aspx>  
[http://wcs-gabon.org/index.php?option=com\\_xmap&sitemap=1&Itemid=2&lang=en](http://wcs-gabon.org/index.php?option=com_xmap&sitemap=1&Itemid=2&lang=en)

### **WWF**

WWF has worked in the coastal Gamba complex, home of both gorillas and chimpanzees, since 1992. WWF describe their work here as an Integrated Conservation and Development Project (ICDP) that intends to promote rural development alternatives. “WWF is actively supporting community development in areas of natural resource management, and is seeking to encourage alternative activities, such as tourism, to aid in sustainable local development. An important aspect of this development is the further training of local people: training as research assistants, eco-guards, eco-guides, technical staff, teachers, community-based organizations, private sector staff and local conservation collaborators”. WWF also works at Minkebe forest in northern Gabon, also home to both gorillas and chimpanzees and part of the TRIDOM transboundary protected area network, although few details of this project could be found.

**More information:**

[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/endangered\\_species/great\\_apes/apes\\_programme/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/great_apes/apes_programme/)  
[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/where\\_we\\_work/project/projects\\_in\\_depth/gamba/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/project/projects_in_depth/gamba/)  
[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/where\\_we\\_work/project/projects\\_in\\_depth/minkebe/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/project/projects_in_depth/minkebe/)

**Zoological Society of London**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) manages the Mikongo Conservation Centre within Lopé NP. Activities include development of sustainable eco-tourism with a focus on gorilla viewing, field surveys, research and community outreach to support wildlife conservation and community development, with a particular focus on monitoring and mitigating the risks of disease transmission between great apes and humans.

**More information:** <http://www.zsl.org/mikongo>

**Ghana****Apes and people in Ghana**

Ghana has been relatively stable since becoming the first African country to declare independence, in 1957, and has a strong economy in the regional context. Over half the land is devoted to agriculture, with cocoa and oil palm major export crops. There is not much forest left in the country, this being limited to fragmented patches in the south west of the country.

The western chimpanzee is found in Ghana, with around 2000 individuals believed to persist in the south western forests. The species is considered to be in danger of local extinction in Ghana, having fallen from much higher levels before. Bushmeat hunting is the biggest threat, and the pet trade is also a problem for chimpanzees. On top of this there has been massive deforestation in Ghana, reducing and fragmenting remaining chimpanzee habitat.

**Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2006-2009 (2005) treats environment as a cross-cutting issue. Environmental degradation associated with traditional farming practices is identified as a major impediment to economic growth. Various policies are identified to address environmental problems, including “promote the development and use of alternative wood products, as well as plantation/woodlot development among communities; ... manage and enhance Ghana's land and permanent estate of forest and wildlife protected areas” There is a mention of the role of local people in conservation: “promote integrated ecosystem management as well as human centred biodiversity conservation initiatives”. Developing sustainable ecotourism is mentioned as a goal, but only very briefly.

**Poverty and development in the NBSAP**



The Ghana NBSAP (2002) identifies many human caused threats to biodiversity, such as “agricultural expansion, mining, timber extraction and other socio-economic factors [which] have negatively impacted the biological resources of the country”. Overhunting for bushmeat is also recognised: “In many areas over hunting has contributed to a steep decline in species numbers and diversity”. Despite this extensive list of threats, little attention is given to the underlying root causes driving them. A few references are made to population growth, but there is hardly any mention of poverty, none at all of livelihoods and very little of community.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

As with general land tenure in Ghana, there is history of government control and regulation of the forest sector, as well as in the collection and distribution of timber revenues. However, reforms introduced with the 1994 Forest and Wildlife policy provide for co-management agreements between timber companies and communities, while mandatory Social Responsibility Agreements that were introduced by the Government in 1997 entitle communities within and around timber concessions to 5% of the value of the stumpage fee, and other forms of compensation from timber companies. The Wildlife Division, with UNDP Global Environment Fund (GEF) funding has established a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) initiative which gives communities authority to control access and harvesting within community forest areas (details below).

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

#### **Ghana Wildlife Division**

The Wildlife Division of Ghana’s Forestry Commission is responsible for all wildlife in the country and administers 16 Wildlife Protected Areas, 5 coastal Ramsar Sites and the Accra and Kumasi Zoos. It also assists with the running of 2 community owned Wildlife Sanctuaries. Under the Collaborative Community Based Wildlife Management policy of 2000, the WD oversees CREMAs. These areas are established through agreements between communities and the WD with the aim to assist communities to manage natural resources in their own forests. Participating communities are given full authority to control access and harvesting of resources within their management area. To date, the project has surveyed and demarcated over 200,000 hectares of traditional community forest, and is currently in the process of obtaining formal transfer of authority for the management of the areas to the local communities<sup>20</sup>. CREMAs have delivered some success for conservation of natural resources through a reduction in illegal activities, believed to be based on the expectation of future returns. It is too early to judge impacts on livelihoods, although early experiences suggest negative sentiments as CREMA regulations restrict certain activities. Social capital indicators, in contrast, are very positive, as CREMA members perceive the institutions to be working for the common good. It is also considered too early to evaluate issues such as the governance performance of CREMAs. Overall there has been good progress with CREMAs and considerable enthusiasm at the community level. However there have also been challenges and delays, most of which are institutional, centring on

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<sup>20</sup> “Community Resource Management Areas: A review of progress and implementation in the western region of Ghana”, Murphree, Michael. 2008. Ghana Wildlife Division

poor communication, lack of technical capacity and lack of clarity of goals. It is not clear if there have been any specific impacts on chimpanzees.

**More information:** [http://www.fcghana.com/forestry\\_commission/wildlife.htm](http://www.fcghana.com/forestry_commission/wildlife.htm)

### **Zoological Society of London**

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) Wildlife Wood Project operates in both Ghana and Cameroon. Fuller details are given in the Cameroon and International Initiatives reviews.

**More information:** <http://www.zsl.org/wildlifewoodproject>

## **Guinea**

### **Apes and people in Guinea**

Guinea's economy is based on agriculture in rural areas, and mining, which accounts for 75 % of exports. The country has a flat coastal plain, and then a heavily mountainous interior. The country has been affected by conflicts in neighbouring Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Guinea has a large number – up to 29,000 - of western chimpanzees, possibly as much as 50% of the total population, and they are widespread in the country. The best known chimpanzee sites are in the Bossou area of the south east, close to Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia - where the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve is found. The biggest threat is deforestation, largely driven by agricultural expansion. Selective logging, mining and infrastructure development are also problems for chimpanzees. Hunting is a problem, both for food and to kill crop pests.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The PRSP 2007-2010 includes natural resource management at its heart. "Rational and sustainable management of natural resources, and protection and enhancement of the environment" is identified as one of the six approaches to increasing national GDP. Sustainable resource management is also seen as a cross-cutting issue. Specific relevant activities are: "(i) evaluation, protection and exploitation of national resources, including biodiversity; (ii) expanding and strengthening management of the protected areas; (iii) community forestry as part of a rational soil management policy; (iv) expanding forest areas; and (v) institutional and legal capacity building." Tree resources are given particular attention, as 53.63% of Guinea is under some kind of woodland, including 5% of Guinea that is classified as forest. Community forestry is explicitly recognised. Unusually, attention is given to catchment areas and the role of natural resources therein, which differs from the usual focus on tourism as the major development benefit of conservation.

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The NBSAP for Guinea (2002) is strong in its recognition of poverty as a cause of biodiversity loss, and of the dependence of the poor on natural resources: "The rural population is destroying the

natural resources and the nature that is required for their very survival. This degradation in turn, contributes to more poverty.” This situation is blamed in part on “A system that has not had the equitable mechanisms for fair distribution and no rights or clear directions”. The lack of economic alternatives to natural resource exploitation is lamented: “Economic alternatives are insufficient and non-existent. As a consequence, almost the entire population is actively oriented toward the exploitation and use of natural resources which are notably biological resources.” Whilst the recognition of the relationship between poverty and conservation is therefore quite strong, there is less detail on how this situation will be addressed. The plan calls for the development of ecotourism but this is an ambitious target and for the long term. Alongside this goal there are calls for improved sustainable resource management, but little detail on how this might be achieved or on the role of local people in doing so. Overall this NBSAP is unusually strong on the analysis of poverty / conservation linkages, but weak on identifying solutions.

Guinea has also elaborated a National Action Plan for Chimpanzee Conservation<sup>21</sup>. Unfortunately we were not able to review this due to language constraints.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

Guinea enacted a Forest Code law in 1999. This recognises the need for collaborative management plans with local populations. No information on implementation could be found.

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

#### **Centre for International Forestry Research**

In collaboration with **ICRAF**, the centre for international forestry research (CIFOR) is implementing the Landscape Management for Improved Livelihoods (LAMIL) project - a forest co-management initiative – in four of Guinea’s classified forests - Balayan Souroumba, Sincery Oursa, Souti Yanfou and Nyalama. The project has dual goals of better forest management and improved local livelihoods. Management plans, drawn up in consultation with Guinea Forest and Wildlife Department (DNFF), determine local resource use. Besides ensuring that these regulations are respected, the forest management committee undertakes a number of conservation activities, including tree planting, the monitoring of chimpanzee populations and the creation of firebreaks. The success of co-management owes much to the introduction of a range of farming and agroforestry practices in the villages around the four classified forests.

**More information:** [http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Highlights/lamil\\_WestAfrica.htm](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Highlights/lamil_WestAfrica.htm)

#### **Fauna and Flora International**

FFI works in Haut Niger NP in central Guinea, on a chimpanzee reintroduction project that includes environmental education for local people, and in the Nimba Biosphere Reserve. At Nimba a partnership has been established with the **Centre de Gestion de l’Environnement des Monts Nimba**

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<sup>21</sup> [http://www.unep.org/grasp/docs/Guinea\\_NGASP\\_F.pdf](http://www.unep.org/grasp/docs/Guinea_NGASP_F.pdf)

**et Simandou** with the intentions of reconciling conservation goals, mining interests and the livelihood concerns of local communities. The Nimba bushmeat project engages directly with women's groups to establish a viable system that will allow the trade in wildlife across the region to be monitored and managed.

**More information:** [www.fauna-flora.org](http://www.fauna-flora.org)

### **Jane Goodall Institute**

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) works in the Boke Prefecture in Guinea and began implementing integrated conservation and development activities in 2005 with a significant education and awareness-raising campaign focused on chimpanzees and environmental conservation.

**More information:** [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org)

## **Guinea Bissau**

### **Apes and people in Guinea Bissau**

Guinea Bissau is a tiny country which has been affected by military violence in the 1990s. The country depends on fishing and farming, and is extremely poor. The country remains heavily forested, at 60% of the total land area. Western chimpanzees are the only great ape, with an estimated population of 600-1000 individuals. The major threat is believed to be deforestation linked to local population growth. Chimpanzees are not hunted for food, but can be caught in snares or captured for the pet trade.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Guinea Bissau PRSP could not be found for review.

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The Guinea Bissau NBSAP could not be reviewed due to language constraints.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

No information on policy provisions for CBNRM could be found for review.

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

There are no relevant initiatives in Guinea Bissau that could be identified.

### **Apes and people in Liberia**

Liberia is about one third forest, but this area is being rapidly depleted. Since 1980 there have been over 14 years of sustained military conflict, which has devastated the country. Some degree of peace has prevailed since about 2004. Very little information is available on the state of Liberia's shattered economy, but it is certainly one of the world's poorest countries.

Western chimpanzees are found in Liberia. In the 1970s there were estimated to be between 1,000 and 5,000 individuals. It is not clear what the remaining population might be. The greatest threat seems to be logging, with large areas of forest being cleared for timber and mining. There are nearly a million refugees from the conflict, and this does not help the chimpanzees, which are hunted for meat through many parts of the country, although hunting taboos exist in the area close to the border with Cote d'Ivoire.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008) of Liberia includes environment in detail as a cross-cutting issue. Increasing the PA estate for biodiversity conservation is listed as a goal, and the poor coverage and management of existing PA estate is recognised. Community forestry is very strongly recognised, through the following objective: "To encourage local communities to sustainably manage their forests by creating rights, transferring control, and building local capacity for forest management within the communities". The linkages between poverty and environment recognised by this PRSP are stated here: "Taking strategic actions based on knowledge of the poverty-environment relationship is a prerequisite for enduring success in the effort to reduce poverty." The 'resource-curse' of poor NR management in the past is recognised as a key contributor to war and insecurity. A Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has been established which aims to balance conservation, community and private sector needs. The FDA will work a lot on community forestry, protected areas and tourism development, and carbon credits. The need to create alternative livelihoods around national parks is stated, as is the need to improve land tenure.

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The NBSAP for Liberia (undated) is very strong on poverty and development issues. It identifies poverty as an overarching root cause of biodiversity loss, as well as a consequence of further biodiversity loss. Addressing poverty is therefore seen as a pre-requisite to biodiversity conservation. The role of biodiversity in human livelihoods is also detailed: "Biological resources provide bush meat for protein, fire wood for domestic heating, wood for construction and employment opportunities for rural inhabitants." The plan goes on to identify local community involvement as critical to achieving its goal of sustainable use and sound management of natural resources. It also recognises the link between biological and cultural diversity: "One way to maintain traditional knowledge is to establish community forests, which can be preserved for the survey of plants and other products of significant values, enhanced through the use of traditional knowledge".

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

The Protected Forest Area Network Act (2003) states that a Communal Forest can be established as an area legally set aside for the sustainable use of NTFPs by local communities on a non-commercial basis.

## **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

### **Conservation International**

CI, together with other international NGOs (including **FFI** below) has focussed its efforts in Liberia on forest governance and legislative reform in a collaborative effort called The Liberia Forest Initiative. The CI website notes that the “3Cs” - conservation, community use, and commercial use - are each accounted for. CI is also working on carbon projects that integrate community development and biodiversity conservation goals. As with other conservation organisations (below) Sapo NP is a major focus for CI activities.

**More information:** [www.conservation.org/explore/africa\\_madagascar/liberia/Pages/liberia.aspx](http://www.conservation.org/explore/africa_madagascar/liberia/Pages/liberia.aspx)

### **Fauna and Flora International**

FFI has had a long term presence in Liberia. As with **CI** (above), the focus is on forest management in general rather than ape conservation specifically. Its current efforts focus on Sapo NP where their work includes the establishment and management of communal forests and the piloting of small-scale income generating activities and sustainable agriculture. FFI also works with CI on forest sector reform and is developing a REDD demonstration project in the south-eastern protected areas of Krahn-Bassa National Forest, Sapo NP and Grebo National Forest together with community forests, potential logging concessions and agricultural lands.

**More information:** [http://www.fauna-flora.org/africa\\_liberia.php](http://www.fauna-flora.org/africa_liberia.php)

### **Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL)**

SCNL is Liberia’s only conservation NGO. Their main focus is on environmental education and legislative reform. SCNL works closely with local communities bordering the Sapo NP to promote sustainable agriculture, end the bushmeat trade, and encourage resource conservation. The website notes that partnerships with the indigenous Sapo people, for example, have led to breakthroughs in research on the common chimpanzee, which is considered a sacred animal. However no further details are available on the practical nature of this work.

**More information:** [www.scnlib.net/about.php](http://www.scnlib.net/about.php)

## **Nigeria**

## **Apes and people in Nigeria**

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country, with about 134 million people. There has been a history of political instability in Nigeria, with the Biafran civil war in the 1960s and a succession of military coups. Nigeria has oil revenue and is in theory a quite wealthy country, but terrible corruption has led to underdevelopment of much of the country. There has been ongoing conflict in the Niger Delta oil region, with local groups demanding a greater proportion of oil revenues.

Cross river gorillas are found in the extreme south east of Nigeria, in Cross River state. They are located in the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, in the Mbe Mountains community forest, and in the Okwangwo Division of the Cross River National Park. There are around 100 gorillas in Nigeria in total, and they are critically endangered. They survive in isolated patches, most of which are very difficult to access for hunters, which has left them as sanctuaries for the gorillas. Between these mountains are areas used by people, which make it difficult for gorillas to move through them. However, recent genetic evidence suggests more gorilla movement between fragments than had been thought possible.

There are also believed to be about 3000 chimpanzees in Nigeria with the largest population at Gashaka Gumti NP. Surviving chimps in south west Nigeria and the Niger Delta are in very small fragmented habitats and seem in imminent danger of local extinction.

Threats to apes in Nigeria are hunting, forest degradation and deforestation. There are logging concessions in almost all forest reserves, and illegal logging is rife. Expanding agriculture, particularly palm oil, is further degrading habitat. Chimpanzees are hunted for food in many parts of Nigeria. Gorillas were previously heavily hunted, but this has reduced due to intense conservation efforts.

## **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The PRSP (2004) - "Meeting Everyone's Needs: National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy" - recognises the vicious cycle of poverty and environmental degradation. Loss of biodiversity and deforestation are both recognised as areas of concern in environmental management. Reversing the loss of biodiversity is given as a policy target. A lot of the policy interventions to achieve these targets involve private sector partners. However, some mention is made of community action: "Adopt community-driven development approaches to environmental management". "Promote sustainable measures for reforestation and afforestation that foster community-based industries and improve food security". Despite this emphasis on environment, little attention is given to biodiversity or its role in poverty reduction.

## **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The Nigerian NBSAP (undated) is very strong in terms of recognising linkages between poverty and conservation. It is claimed that "the biggest threat to conservation of Nigeria's biological diversity is poverty" and that "In Nigeria poverty is directly linked to biodiversity loss. This is because rural livelihoods depend almost entirely on biodiversity. In order to address biodiversity concerns, the problem of poverty must be addressed by providing alternative livelihood options to rural communities". The plan also recognises the role of local communities as custodians of biodiversity noting that "local rights to biodiversity resources must be recognized and maintained... Integrate

community management of biodiversity as a means of poverty reduction”. However, there are no specific details of how this will work in practice, such as through legislation for community forestry or any other process. Ecotourism is called for briefly, but with few details.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

There are no over-arching sectoral policies for CBNRM in Nigeria. Such policies are established on the state rather than the federal level, and vary from state to state.

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

#### **Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature**

The Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature’s (CERCOPAN) mission is “To conserve Nigeria’s primates through sustainable rainforest conservation, community partnerships, education, primate rehabilitation and research”. It works with communities on the border of the Oban Division of the Cross River National Park. The focus is on primates, but not specifically on great apes. They promote sustainable resource use – through environmental education programmes and alternative livelihood projects. They also provide employment in conservation activities (patrols, primate care and rehabilitation), and generate tourism royalties for the community. They recognise, however, that the scale of income required to reduce poverty is at another order of magnitude (Claire Coulson, pers. comm.). Consequently CERCOPAN is exploring the potential of carbon projects.

**More information:** <http://www.cercopan.org/>

#### **African Research Association**

The African Research Association (ARA) has been tackling forest degradation and environmental degradation in the tropical forests and savannah grassland areas of Cross River State, Nigeria since 1996. The ARA works through its rural based community action project, **Development in Nigeria** (DIN). Research by DIN in rural communities over the years has repeatedly highlighted a correlation between poverty and forest degradation where rural based households battle poverty through forest-dependent livelihoods. Completed projects include the Cross River Environmental NGO Capacity Development Project, which established several alternative livelihood activities such as bee-keeping and tree nurseries. This was achieved by working with five existing environmental NGOs in Cross River State, including at Cross River National park, home to Cross River gorillas and Nigeria / Cameroon chimpanzees. An ongoing project aims to strengthen community governance for conservation of the Mbe Mountains, a community based protected area that is home to both the aforementioned species. Again, this includes income generating activities as well as building capacity for natural resource management.

**More information:** <http://www.aradin.org/>

#### **Fauna and Flora International**



FFI ape conservation work in Nigeria is focussed on the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. Their “Community Management Planning for Sustainable Forest Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation Project” includes work with technology firm Helveta Ltd to develop a Global Positioning System (GPS) mapped forest resource inventory. FFI also recently commissioned a study on the feasibility of habituating cross-river gorillas for tourism.

**More information:** <http://www.fauna-flora.org/newsafi2.php>

### **Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF)**

NCF is a national conservation NGO that has been operating since 1980. “NCF projects which cut across Nigeria are dedicated to solving environmental problems through the improvement of livelihood of the host communities and in the long run protecting the vast biodiversity inherent in the community”. Projects relevant to apes include support for the management of Afi Mountain Reserve (home of cross river gorillas) and support for Gashaka Gumti NP (home of Nigeria / Cameroon chimpanzees). Neither of these projects seems to have a major poverty component, although the Afi project included support for FFI’s research into the future feasibility of gorilla habituation for tourism, which could create income generating opportunities for local people but is very controversial.

**Further information:** <http://www.ncfnigeria.org/about.php>

### **Pandrillus**

Pandrillus was established to conserve drill monkeys, but now also includes chimpanzees. It helped set up the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (with **FFI, WCS, NCF** and **Cross River State Forestry Service (CRSFS)**). Poverty alleviation is not a fundamental goal of their work, but they provide local benefits through employment, provision of seedlings from tree nurseries, support to local craftsmen, infrastructure development etc. Afi mountain includes high end tourist facilities and a tax on tourism revenue fund an annual “green grant” award to local communities.

**More information:** [www.pandrillus.org](http://www.pandrillus.org)

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

WCS’s ape conservation work in Nigeria focuses on “protected area management and creation; transboundary conservation; landscape conservation and corridor management; research and monitoring; conservation education and last but not least community conservation”(Andrew Dunn, pers. comm.). WCS works at all 3 sites in Nigeria where gorillas occur: Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (in collaboration with CRSFS) at Cross River National Park (with the National Parks Service of the Federal govt) and in the Mbe Mountains (a community owned and managed site). There are also chimps present at all 3 sites. Although WCS does not focus on poverty per se it is engaged in alternative livelihoods projects – as a means to reducing hunting pressure. It also generates employment through its eco guards scheme. Dunn notes: “Tourism is not yet a source of revenue for

rural areas in Nigeria, though there are plans to develop ecotourism in the area by the state government. The focus for now is REDD and opportunities of sharing revenue with local communities. Mbe has been proposed as a pilot REDD site”

**More information:** <http://www.wcs.org/where-we-work/africa/nigeria.aspx>

## Republic of Congo

### Apes and people in Congo

Congo is a large central African country, which has important oil revenues based on off-shore drilling from its relatively short coastline. Timber is the other main source of foreign exchange, and agriculture is only 10% of GDP. Much of rural Congo has fewer than four people per km<sup>2</sup>. Farmland is less than 1% of the country, and nearly 2/3 of the land is forested. The north of the country is a vast tract of Congo basin rainforest.

Congo has a large population of western lowland gorillas and central chimpanzees. The majority of gorillas are in the Odzala-Koukoua NP.

The main threats to apes in Congo are civil war, hunting, disease and habitat loss. Civil war affected the south of the country, and some apes must have been killed. However, it probably reduced travel in many parts of the country and may have benefited apes in the north. Hunting is a big problem and there is increasing demand from urban centres for bushmeat. Apes are also used in traditional culture and medicine in some areas. Ebola is the other big threat to apes in Congo. In areas near the Gabon border up to 90% of gorillas and chimps have been killed by the disease in the past few years.

Considerable progress has been made to improve the management of forest concessions in Congo in recent years. Two Forest Management Units (FMUs) are now certified by FSC, and several others are upgrading their management systems<sup>22</sup>.

### Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP

The Interim PRSP (2004) makes little mention of biodiversity conservation or the environment. Unsurprisingly, forest, which covers 60% of the country, is identified as a major engine for economic growth. Wildlife and NTFPs are mentioned, but the focus is very much on timber and commercial forestry products and what they can do for the economy. Poverty is recognised as a contributor to forest degradation but there is no mention of devolution of tenure to local people or other values of biodiversity apart from the timber industry. The PRSP explains the formation of the National Environmental Action Plan to help with environmental protection and management, but its key goals are pollution and waste management.

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<sup>22</sup> “The Forests of Congo in 2008”, 2008, Bayol & Eba’a Atyi. In State of the Forest 2008: The Forests of the Congo Basin, CARPE. [http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF\\_06\\_Congo.pdf](http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF_06_Congo.pdf)

## **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The Congo NBSAP (2001) is focussed on biodiversity within the agricultural sector, noting that “inappropriate agricultural production, as well as the poverty of farmers and the majority of the rural and urban population, constitute both causes and consequences of the pressure on, and loss of, biological diversity”. It goes on to argue that “the development and sustainable management of agriculture capable of meeting the needs of the population [whilst avoiding biodiversity loss] is of cardinal importance for the conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity”. However there is no broader mention of poverty and development issues beyond the agriculture focus.

Congo also has a NGASP. This identifies poverty as the number one threat to apes in Congo, but the objectives it lists do not really target this as an issue. This is a weak document compared to the DRC equivalent.

## **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

New forest laws from 2000 aim for sustainable, participatory, forest management with the joint involvement of the public service agencies, the rural public, the private sector and NGOs. The laws recognise usufruct rights of local communities and also have provision for community forestry. Communal forests are classified by government decree, and then become the private domain of the community group. Forest products of any kind resulting from the exploitation of local community forests are the exclusive property of the community.

## **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

### **ECOFAC**

ECOFAC have supported the Odzala NP and the nearby Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary (in collaboration with **Avenir des Peuples des Forêts Tropicales**) including the development of tourism activities. Around Odzala, local people are being supported with income generating projects such as beekeeping, replacing infected manioc shoots, pisciculture; sustainable fisheries; small scale sheep, goat and poultry raising; re-launching cocoa crops; developing non-wood forest products; and developing village hunting and sporting zones.

**Further information:** [www.ecofac.org/Ecotourisme/EN/Odzala/Presentation.htm](http://www.ecofac.org/Ecotourisme/EN/Odzala/Presentation.htm),  
[http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF\\_18\\_Dja.pdf](http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF_18_Dja.pdf)

### **Jane Goodall Institute**

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) (reviewed in section 2 above) works in Congo at the Tchimpounga Natural Reserve site. Local people are employed as eco-guards. No further details available.

**Further information:** [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org)

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) works with the **Ministry of Forestry Economy** (MEF) to manage protected areas in Congo. They operate in Nouabale Ndoki NP, Lac Tele Community Reserve (LTCR), and Conkouati-Douli NP. LTCR was established in 2001, and has 16,000 people and 10,000 western lowland gorillas, as well as chimpanzees at a lower density<sup>23</sup>. Partners of WCS at Lac Tele include **PACT** and **WWF**. “The goal of the community land-use planning programme implemented in and around LTCR by WCS and MEF is to reinvigorate traditional land use rights and use customary laws, reinforced by modern laws, to provide communities with authority over their land”. They consider it likely to work as 90% of the people are one ethnic group who have been there a long time and have customary laws in place. It seems this project is not yet at a stage where impacts could be measured. Around Nouabale Ndoki WCS has worked with the CIB logging company to manage wildlife in four logging concessions. This collaborative project is called PROGEPP (the Project for Ecosystem Management in the Nouabalé-Ndoki Periphery Area). Following this work, CIB has received FSC certification for the site.

Details of poverty oriented components of WCS work at other sites not available.

**More information:** [www.wcs-congo.org/](http://www.wcs-congo.org/)

### **WWF**

WWF works in the Lac Tele / Lac Tumba landscape. The landscape comprises two community reserves, Lac Tele is in Republic of Congo and Lac Tumba is in the DRC. WWF works “for the conservation of great apes by strengthening the ability of local communities to partner with governments and the private sector.” This will include tourism development with bonobos on the DRC side, but it is not clear if tourism is being developed in Republic of Congo. “WWF, with partners such as the **WorldFish Center**, is also surveying fisheries and working to develop community-based fisheries. Local people depend on fishing, the source of as much as 90 percent of their protein. Community-based fisheries can alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of local people. Sustainable fisheries may also reduce the demand for other wildlife species, leading to a decrease in hunting for bushmeat”. More details on Lac Tele reserve are given under **WCS** (above), with whom WWF partners on the project

**More information:** [http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/where\\_we\\_work/congo\\_basin\\_forests/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/congo_basin_forests/)

## **Rwanda**

### **Apes and people in Rwanda**

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<sup>23</sup> “CBNRM land use planning: Lessons learned from the Lac Tele Community Reserve”, Rainey, H. & Twagirashyaka, F. 2009. CARPE.  
[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons\\_learned\\_chapter4\\_case\\_study1.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons_learned_chapter4_case_study1.pdf)

Rwanda is a small and mountainous country, with an exceptionally high population density. 90% of the workforce is employed in subsistence agriculture, and almost half of the country is farmland. Very small amounts of natural forest remain, with the only significant tracts being in the Nyungwe and Volcans national parks. The country had, until recently, the highest rate of forest loss in the region, with Gishwati forest in particular having been almost totally destroyed by returning refugees in the last decade. This situation seems to have improved in recent years. Following the genocide of 1994 the country has recovered quite well, and now enjoys relatively strong economic growth. However, it is still among the poorest countries in the world.

Rwanda has mountain gorillas and eastern chimpanzees. Mountain gorillas occur in the north of Volcans national park which is contiguous with Virunga NP in DRC and Mgahinga Gorilla NP in Uganda. Eastern chimps are found in the SW of the country, mostly in the Nyungwe forest, which is contiguous with Kibira NP in Burundi. They were previously found in Gishwati in the North West, but this population is now almost extinct.

Apes in Rwanda are under considerable threat due to the lack of available land for agriculture and constant pressure on remaining forest for land, timber and particularly firewood. The remaining protected areas have all been reduced in size over time, but now seem stable. The mountain gorillas in particular enjoy strict protection, and the population has actually increased, which is unique among the African great apes in recent history. Apes are not generally hunted but can be injured or killed by snares intended for other species. Diseases are also a threat, particularly given the high human population density (and poor health) around the parks, and the fact that over 70% of Rwanda's gorillas are visited by tourists every day. The same threat applies to habituated chimps for tourism at Nyungwe, although they receive far fewer visitors.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy 2008-2012 (2007) includes environment as both a specific sector, and a cross-cutting issue. It includes plans for the restoration of several 'Critical Ecosystems' including a wetland, which is needed for hydroelectricity generation. Land under protected areas is planned to increase from 10% to 12% by 2012 – an ambitious target considering the human population density. There is a particular focus on wetlands as these are being degraded which undermines water security and agricultural productivity. Land registration is seen as a mechanism for promoting sustainable resource use. The value of biodiversity to the Rwandan economy through tourism is specifically recognised: "The [tourism] strategy focuses on the primate product... Important for this type of tourism is the conservation of Rwanda's natural environment and especially its national parks. The Government of Rwanda will therefore promote and develop tourism which is ecologically friendly and environmentally sustainable. It will improve planning for wildlife and national park conservation, promote research and monitoring of wildlife, including restocking NPs with relevant wildlife, involve and engage local communities, and provide for the channelling of tourism revenues towards the protection of the natural resource base."

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The Rwanda NBSAP (2003) identifies poverty as a threat to biodiversity and as a threat to implementation of the Plan. There is far less details on the role of biodiversity in poverty

alleviation/economic development. The plan does intend to improve conditions for community management of resources, arguing that implementation of the NBSAP will benefit from the ongoing “process of decentralization and accountability of the Community Development Committees (CDC) [and] ...the land policy and law which will reduce human pressure on protected areas.” The 2009 update however notes that “Biodiversity mainstreaming in Rwanda is part of the general effort of mainstreaming environment in different sectors of development. Rwanda has successfully mainstreamed biodiversity in other sectors besides the environment, such as agriculture, education, health, rural development, forestry, mining, tourism, finance, trade and industry. Biodiversity issues have also been integrated in the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy and in the District Development Plans.”

Rwanda has also developed a NGASP (2003) which identifies poverty as a driver of population declines, linked to a lack of alternative sources of income, population pressures, poor soils / land. One of the objectives specified in the Plan is to boost local benefits from conservation, and another is to improve human health alongside wildlife health.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

No information on relevant sectoral policies could be found. A new wildlife policy is current in development.

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

#### **CARE International**

CARE is working with **IGCP** on a project called “Enterprise, Environment and Equity in the Virunga Landscape of the Great Lakes Region (EEEGL)”. The project seeks to link the conservation of protected areas with the development of the neighbouring rural region. This link is based on the economic benefits of protected areas (sustainable management of natural resources and tourism). It also seeks to link conservation (within and outside protected areas) to mainstream development processes, such as local and regional level development planning, regional transboundary collaboration, development of agriculture market linkages and the growth of the role of civil society in each country.

**More information:** [www.virunga.net](http://www.virunga.net)

#### **Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International**

In Rwanda, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) (reviewed in section 2 above) works with the Tujijurane programme to provide financial independence to poor widows through enterprise opportunities such as sewing (of school uniforms, lab coats and other products), hair dressing (training women for work in salons), a soap-making business and a nursery school. Their Ecosystem Health programme is intended “to create healthy environments for both people and gorillas” and includes provision of basic medicines and medical supplies to local hospitals and clinics; working towards clean water access and improved sanitation, and supporting rural health clinics.

**More information:** [http://www.gorillafund.org/people/ecosystem\\_health.php](http://www.gorillafund.org/people/ecosystem_health.php)

### **The Gorilla Organisation**

In Rwanda the Gorilla Organisation (GO) (reviewed in section 2 above) is promoting the production of environmentally-themed works of art and handicrafts amongst the communities living around Volcans National Park. This is intended both to raise awareness about the gorillas and their habitat, and also to generate income. They also implement a the Sustainable Agricultural Training Project (SATP) in communities living alongside the park which teaches local farmers about organic agriculture in order to improve crop yields and reduce pressure on land. In addition to agricultural training, the SATP has introduced fuel-efficient stoves to the local communities, reducing the consumption of charcoal and firewood by up to 70% and therefore further decreasing reliance on the park's resources. A project with **Association Rwandaise pour l'Aménagement et le Sauvegarde des Infrastructures Socio-economiques** to build water cisterns in the communities surrounding the NP has also reduced pressure on Park resources. The GO gives an explicit focus on the indigenous Batwa.

**More information:** [www.gorillas.org/](http://www.gorillas.org/)

### **Great Ape Trust**

“Great Ape Trust is a scientific research facility in Des Moines, Iowa, dedicated to understanding the origins and future of culture, language, tools and intelligence, and to the preservation of endangered great apes in their natural habitats.” In Rwanda they run a project at Gishwati forest called ‘Forest of Hope’. Gishwati was almost totally destroyed by refugees after the genocide, and is home to a small remnant population of 15 eastern chimpanzees. The project includes considerable reforestation and a proposed 50 km forest corridor to link the area to Nyungwe NP. How this will be possible in the densely populated Rwandan context is not made clear. So far 150 families have been resettled to make the expansion of Gishwati possible, and it is argued that the recovering forest will provide ecosystem services that help to alleviate poverty in the area. They are doing education work in local schools.

**More information:** <http://www.greatapetrust.org/forest-of-hope/>

### **International Gorilla Conservation Programme**

The International gorilla conservation programme (IGCP) (reviewed in section 2 above) is very active working with communities around PN Volcans in Rwanda, home to mountain gorillas, on alternative livelihoods projects such as beekeeping. One such project is the upmarket tourist development Sabinyo lodge, which is operated by the private sector but owned by **SACOLA**, a community institution they helped to found. This was funded with money from USAID and the private sector partner. In 2009 the revenue generated was \$300,000, of which \$270,000 went back to the community (albeit shared between 300,000 people). IGCP works with the **Forum des Apiculteurs des**

**Volcans** to promote apiculture around PNV, and has helped to build a stone wall to reduce crop raiding from buffaloes and other animals.

**More information:** [www.igcp.org](http://www.igcp.org)

### **Kageno**

Kageno is an NGO whose mission is “to transform impoverished communities into places of opportunity and hope – through the development of self-sustaining community directed programs in Education, Health, Ventures (Income Generation) , and Environment”. In Rwanda it works at Banda Village just outside Nyungwe NP where it is developing an ecotourism initiative. This includes development of a tourism lodge and village walk, training in craft production, and agricultural training activities. The philosophy is that providing local people with tourism benefits will reduce threats to the park as there will be economic alternatives to hunting and encroachment, and because people will see the value of the forest as a tourism asset.

**More information:** [www.kageno.org/3-where-we-work/10-rwanda](http://www.kageno.org/3-where-we-work/10-rwanda)

### **Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project**

In Rwanda the mountain gorilla veterinary project (MGVP) works with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB, formerly ORTPN). MGVP has planned to carry out human and livestock health interventions under its One Health philosophy, but to date this has not been possible due to funding constraints (John Huston, pers. comm.)

**More information:** <http://gorilladoctors.org/>

### **Population Reference Bureau**

The population reference bureau (PRB) provides information and advice on the links between population, health and environment. Within their PHE programme they address 4 priority issues, one of which is “Biodiversity, Healthy Parks and Healthy People”. Rwanda is one of the focal countries of the new PHE East Africa Network, which is intended to "provide leadership and create partnerships to promote and support the integration of population, health, and environment for sustainable development in Eastern Africa." According to the PRB website, “PRB works with the group to facilitate an active network for information exchange, professional networking, capacity building, and collaborative advocacy to raise awareness about PHE issues and promote greater cross-sector integration in the region. “ PRB carried out an analysis of the current extent of integration of PHE issues in Rwanda, and provided several policy suggestions to improve the situation. These included analysing the institutional capacity and interest in PHE integration, and developing a framework for institutional coordination and policy dialogue.

**More information:** <http://www.prb.org/Articles/2009/rwandaphenetwork.aspx>



### **Population Media Centre**

The population media centre (PMC) works around the world “using entertainment-education for social change”. In Rwanda they have launched an educational radio drama designed to raise awareness and to motivate discussions about issues such as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, wildlife habitat and natural resource preservation, land conservation, and the promotion of civil harmony. This included a storyline that promotes conservation of gorilla habitats and promotion of tree planting.

**More information:** <http://www.populationmedia.org/where/rwanda/>

### **Rwanda Development Board**

The Rwanda development board (RDB) is the government agency responsible for managing the Rwandan national parks, since ORTPN was merged into this broader body. It includes a community conservation unit that was started in 2003. Five % of tourism revenue (park fees) is collected by this unit to be shared with local communities. This includes revenue from gorilla tracking, which is currently \$500 US per permit, as it is in Uganda. 40% of revenue sharing money goes into supporting small enterprises, and 60% into infrastructure. Benefits have included schools, water tanks, income generating activities and new partnerships in conservation and development like the SACOLA lodge (detailed under **IGCP** above). Although Volcans National Park generates 90% of total tourism revenue sharing funds the money is distributed more evenly across the country’s three national parks (30% for Nyungwe and Akagera, 40% for Volcans). At PNVolcans RDB employs many local staff; in the region of 1000 people directly or indirectly at the park and in local conservation projects. Nyungwe NP also has chimpanzees, which can be visited by tourists. However, this activity is far less popular than gorilla tracking at PNVolcans. There are plans to develop tourism to a greater extent at Nyungwe, and a USAID funded project called **Destination Nyungwe** is developing tourism infrastructure. This project intends to create economic benefits for local people through tourism, thereby creating incentives for conservation. However, it is recognised that the scale of poverty around Nyungwe is too large to be significantly altered through such a project, and the focus is on showing that the park cares about local people.

**More information:** [www.rdb.rw](http://www.rdb.rw)

### **Rwanda Environmental Management Authority**

Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA) hosts a GEF funded project called **Protected Areas for Biodiversity** (PAB). This has been active since 2006 and will run for 5 years. They do capacity building, socioeconomic development and biodiversity conservation through partner organisations working at the forest parks. They are trying to create alternative livelihoods outside parks, based on the hypothesis that this will reduce threats. They helped to build a buffalo wall at PNVolcans, with local people providing the labour. They see poverty as the biggest threat to conservation, particularly as the poorest people tend to live near the parks. These people are involved in poaching and bamboo cutting. PAB is financing work on a new wildlife policy and biodiversity law.

**More information:** [www.rema.gov.rw](http://www.rema.gov.rw)

### **The UNDP/UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative**

PEI (reviewed in section 2 above) completed its first phase (mainstreaming environment into the PRSP) in Rwanda in 2007. The current focus is on capacity building at all levels of government. PEI in general is not considered to focus much on biodiversity, but in the Rwandan case there is considerable attention to this issue, particularly through mountain gorillas and tourism. This is perhaps because Rwanda is unusual in having a biodiversity product which is so important to the national economy.

**More information:** [www.unpei.org/programmes/country\\_profiles/rwanda.asp](http://www.unpei.org/programmes/country_profiles/rwanda.asp)

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

The wildlife conservation society's (WCS) main activity in Rwanda is working with the **RDB** in support of the management of Nyungwe NP through their Nyungwe Project. This is funded for 5 years by **PAB** (see above). "WCS is working with local communities and leaders to find ways of preserving Nyungwe Forest through tourism development, awareness campaigns, capacity building, and policy development". WCS has worked at Nyungwe for 20 years, and claims partial responsibility for the site being declared a national park in 2005. It is a partner of RDB on the **Destination Nyungwe** project, with responsibility for the biodiversity elements of the project.

**More information:** <http://www.wcs.org/saving-wild-places/africa/nyungwe-forest-rwanda.aspx>

## **Sierra Leone**

### **Apes and people in Sierra Leone**

Agriculture is the main economic activity in Sierra Leone, employing two thirds of working people. Diamonds, other minerals, cocoa, coffee and fish are all important, but diamonds in particular are a dominant export. The country is recovering from a long civil war during the 1990s that finished in 2002. Over a third of the population were displaced as refugees during the conflict. The economy has been devastated by war and diamond revenues benefit a tiny minority. As a result Sierra Leone is one of the very poorest countries in the world.

Sierra Leone has western chimpanzees, which are widely distributed through the country at low densities. The population is believed to be less than 2000 and is in steep decline outside protected areas due to logging, hunting and the pet trade. Deforestation is linked to population growth and agricultural expansion.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The PRSP (2005) claims to mainstream environmental concerns into various sectors, and identifies that “key challenges in Sierra Leone’s poverty reduction drive are to recognise the inevitable linkages between poverty and the environment, and to work towards better environmental management for sustainability.” The first medium term priority in this context is “land degradation, deforestation and biodiversity loss”. Better institutional frameworks are called for, but no details given. Governance reforms to introduce concepts such as community forestry are not mentioned. Nor are carbon or ecosystem services.

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

The NBSAP for Sierra Leone (undated) notes that “poverty is of the biggest indirect threats to biological diversity in Sierra Leone.” In terms of practical action to address this situation, the plan calls repeatedly for greater community involvement in resource management, such as “Promote awareness raising activities and empower the local communities to manage parks, and reserves.... Promote and encourage community participation in forest management...Promote the participation of local communities NGOs and private sector in the areas outside the PAs.” There is also a call to “Provide incentives and benefits to communities engaging in sustainable management of forest resources” demonstrating recognition that local people will need to benefit from such processes if they are to be successful.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

No information on policy provisions for CBNRM could be found.

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

#### **Conservation Society of Sierra Leone**

The conservation society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) was founded in September 1986, in response to the need for a local organization committed to promote conservation and management of environmental issues in the country. CSSL, in partnership with the **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds** (RSPB), has been granted a “conservation concession” for management of the Gola Forest Reserves, home to western chimpanzees. This area has been in logging concessions up to now, but the government has agreed to suspend them for biodiversity conservation. “To achieve the protected area objectives through a conservation concession approach, RSPB and CSSL will engage stakeholders at a variety of levels. They will: form a project partnership that will jointly own the concession; engage the **Forestry Division** and build its capacity to enable it to patrol the reserves effectively, and engage the seven chiefdom communities around the reserves by supporting community development and participation in the day-to-day management of the reserves.” The project is funded by donors including **Birdlife International** and the **Global Conservation Fund**. The aim is to establish a \$10 million endowment, so that payments can be made in perpetuity, providing local benefits and incentives to protect the forest. To date the level of illegal logging has reduced considerably, and there has been community support following funding for development projects. Gola forest is itself part of a larger transboundary Peace Park shared with neighbouring Liberia.

**More information:** <http://conservationsl.org/about/>, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/side-events/wgri-02/wgri-02-presentation-birdlife-en.pdf>

## Tanzania

### Apes and people in Tanzania

Agriculture is by far the mainstay of the Tanzanian economy, employing 80% of people and providing for half of GDP. However, as much of the country is fairly arid, only 4% of the land area is farmed for crops. The country remains one of the poorest in the world. Eastern chimpanzees are found in Tanzania, in several sites close to the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika in the west of the country. Chimpanzees are not eaten traditionally in Tanzania, and are rarely hunted, although DRC immigrants may change this. Deforestation due to population growth and agricultural expansion is a major problem in the chimpanzee range, with remaining sites becoming isolated forest fragments. The best known sites for chimpanzees in Tanzania are Gombe Stream and Mahale Mountains NPs, both of which are small patches of forest on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Overall population estimates are around 2000 individuals for the country.

### Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP

The Tanzania PRSP (2005) or “Mkukuta” includes reducing the loss of biodiversity as an operational target. The PRSP is particularly strong on Community Based Natural Resource Management, saying that “Sustainable use of natural resources through CBNRM and enhanced district level planning will be pursued. Village titling and issuance of Certificate of Village Land will assist communities to secure tenure over natural resources and encourage participatory forestry and wildlife management.” This establishes Village Land Forest Reserves, which are seen as crucial for both conservation and development. This is not so relevant from an ape conservation perspective though, as almost all chimpanzees are found in two National Parks in the west of the country. Maintenance of forest cover in highland areas as a component of water management strategy is recognised, as is the contribution of wildlife to the tourism industry. Carbon finance is not mentioned, although Tanzania is now a UN-REDD pilot country. Whilst environmental issues are clearly mainstreamed in the Mkukuta, there is not much discussion of the linkages between poverty and conservation. It is suggested that poverty is a factor in unsustainable resource use, but no details are given.

### Poverty and development in the NBSAP

The Tanzania NBSAP was not found for review. However, the 4<sup>th</sup> Report on the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Tanzania (2009) demonstrates clearly the strength of the Tanzanian NBSAP and implementation thereof with respect to poverty and development issues. The role of biodiversity in underpinning livelihoods and development is clearly articulated in the implementation report: “Biodiversity is the source of economic and ecological security of present and future generations. Thus, the current and future economic, social and ecological contributions of genes, species, and ecosystems make the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, not just a technical concern but a political imperative as well.” Threats and underlying drivers are explored in detail for different categories of biodiversity (aquatic, terrestrial, etc.), with poverty identified as a

key driver for loss of forest, marine and wetland biodiversity. Tanzania has made good progress with the development of new legislation to empower communities to manage natural resources, with the aim of creating incentives for sustainable resource use. For example, “Participatory Forest Management (PFM) which is contained in the Forest Act, 2002 provides a legal basis for communities to own, manage or co-manage forest under wide range of conditions, including benefits from the forest resources.” The implementation report also includes a specific section detailing progress with the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues into other sectors, including the work of the PEI in carrying out this work with the national PRSP.

### **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

There is no unifying CBNRM policy as such but under the Local Government Act of 1982, villages are entitled to make their own by-laws which are legally binding as long as they do not violate any state laws. This provides communities with a powerful tool for creating statutory land and natural resource management rules and procedures at the local level. By-laws passed by communities commonly address issues such as use of natural resources (trees, hunting, grazing) as well as sanctions and fines for those who infringe local rules. Despite a history of centralised forest management, since the mid 1990s, Tanzania has experimented with community-based forest management, and in 1998 adopted a National Forestry Policy which aims to strengthen the “legal framework for the promotion of private and community-based ownership of forests and trees” (MNRT, 1998). The subsequent Forest Act of 2002 calls for PFM at the lowest possible level of government and provides flexible institutional arrangements for local forest management and ownership including Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs) which are managed by villages, as well as Community Forest Reserves (CFRs) which may be managed by a sub-group of people within the village. This legal and policy framework is very supportive of community management and ownership of forests and has led to the rapid expansion of statutorily recognized local forest reserves (mainly VLFRs).

### **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

#### **Frankfurt Zoological Society**

The Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) worked in Mahale between 2003 – 2009 in collaboration with **Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA)** to set up legally registered community conservation areas. The project involved the establishment of Community-Conservation Banks, a micro-financing scheme for conservation compatible income generating projects. Furthermore, the project helped nine villages to develop land-use plans and to establish the Kashagulu Village Land Forest Reserve, an area of 38,000 ha of woodland, forest and lake shallows which the villagers of Kashagulu have set aside for conservation and zoned sustainable use only. The current status of this project is unclear.

**More information:** [www.zgf.de/?projectId=11&id=65&language=en](http://www.zgf.de/?projectId=11&id=65&language=en)

#### **Jane Goodall Institute**

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) has a long-standing engagement at Gombe Stream NP, which was Jane Goodall's original chimpanzee field research site, and they also work at Masito-Ugalla. The Greater Gombe Ecosystem Programme is described as JGI's flagship community-centered conservation initiative. It has involved the creation of a regional community-based organization involving village representatives and local and regional government officials to act as an umbrella for coordinating ecotourism activities. Now working in collaboration with **The Nature Conservancy** (TNC), Priority strategies include: continuing existing, and developing new, land-use plans in partnership with local communities; public awareness campaigns and; improved agricultural extension services, including training and resources to enable sustainable farming. A 4 year (2010-2014) USAID grant is intended to expand the community conservation programme in Gombe and Masito-Ugalla in collaboration with Tanzanian district councils of Kigoma and Mpanda, **TNC** and **FZS**.

**More information:** [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org)

### **The Nature Conservancy**

The nature conservancy (TNC) has facilitated a national planning process for the conservation of chimpanzees in Tanzania, on the invitation of **JGI**. A conservation action planning workshop was held that brought together more than 40 people, representing 25 institutions including government agencies, research institutions and local and international NGOs to develop a national plan that will protect chimpanzees both within the national parks and in the rest of the country. This plan includes integrated land use planning within villages and inclusion of local people in the planning process. TNC is also carrying out reforestation activities in western Tanzania over 20,000 acres of highland forest.

**More information:**

<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/washington/misc/art31227.html>,

<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/africa/wherewework/art25446.html>

### **UNDP/UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative**

Following successful integration of environmental issues into the PRSP, the current phase of PEI in Tanzania is focussed on capacity building, improving access to and utilisation of poverty-environment data and financing environmental targets in the Mkukuta PRSP. Biodiversity is not, however, a specific focus.

**More information:** [www.unpei.org/programmes/country\\_profiles/tanzania.asp](http://www.unpei.org/programmes/country_profiles/tanzania.asp)

## **Uganda**

### **Apes and people in Uganda**

Since the devastating civil wars and unrest of the 1970s and early 80s, Uganda has made considerable progress and is now a relatively stable country with a growing economy. Uganda has one of the world's lowest urbanisation rates, and agriculture accounts for over a third of the land area. Particularly in the wet and fertile south and west of the country, it can be understood as a patchwork of densely populated farmland, interspersed with forest fragments, wetlands and lakes. The population growth rate is one of the highest in the world.

Uganda is home to mountain gorillas and eastern chimpanzees. Mountain gorillas are confined to Mgahinga NP, part of the Virunga range shared with DRC and Rwanda, and the nearby, but isolated, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. These areas together have about 350 gorillas. Chimpanzees are found in several sites in the west of the country, including Bwindi INP, Kibale Forest NP, Queen Elizabeth NP and several forest reserves and private forests. There may be around 5,000 chimpanzees in Uganda, although this number is certainly declining. Several thousand people were controversially relocated from the area outside Mgahinga NP when it was gazetted a national park, resulting in considerable conflict between Uganda Wildlife Authority and local people<sup>24</sup>.

Mountain gorillas receive strict protection and their numbers are slightly increasing. Chimpanzees are more widespread, and much of their habitat is gravely threatened by habitat loss, for timber, charcoal and agricultural expansion, particularly in private forest land. Much of the logging is illegal. Corridors between forest fragments are being lost to commercial crops such as tobacco, tea and sugar. Chimpanzees and gorillas are not traditionally hunted for meat in Uganda, but this may change as DRC refugees enter the west of the country. However, apes are commonly injured and sometimes killed by snares set for other species. Disease transmission is also considered an important threat due to the dense and poor human population around ape habitat, and the large number of tourists visiting the gorillas and some chimpanzees.

### **Biodiversity conservation in the PRSP**

The Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) of 2005 gives considerable attention to the environment, arguing that "Uganda's economic growth and its sustainability will depend on how well the environment and natural resources are managed and used." The plan includes a specific section on wildlife and recognises the potential contribution to poverty alleviation through the distribution of tourism fees and job creation. 20% of all park entry fees are to be disbursed for the benefit of local people. Wildlife based tourism is specifically recognised for its contribution to the economy: \$163 million dollars and 70,000 jobs. Biodiversity is emphasised as the resource underpinning such benefits. The need for better land demarcation to strengthen land rights of the poor is recognised, and it is expected that this will contribute to reduced deforestation through increased incentives. Environment is seen as a cross-cutting issue, but is not included as a sectoral programme, although the PEAP recognises this as a weakness. Environment is one of the six central 'pillars' of the 2009 PEAP - although this was not available for review at the time of writing.

### **Poverty and development in the NBSAP**

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<sup>24</sup> "Park outreach and gorilla conservation", Adams, W. & Infield, M. 2001 in African Wildlife and Livelihoods: The promise and performance of community conservation (eds D. Hulme & M. Murphree)

The NBSAP (2002) recognises that “As well as having a high socio-economic value currently, the conservation of Uganda’s rich biodiversity base forms a key part of future sustainable economic development and growth”. It further notes that “Biodiversity is thus tied intimately to sustainable and equitable socio-economic development and poverty alleviation in Uganda.” The NBSAP calls for increased involvement of local people in the management of natural resources - despite the fact that most biodiversity in Uganda is within state protected areas where community management is not possible. It is also recognised that local people bear the costs of biodiversity conservation and receive few benefits. Thus, “provision of local economic incentives such as biotrade forms the central strategy of the NBSAP”.

## **Policy provisions for community-based natural resource management**

The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2001) provided the legal basis for what is termed Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) as well as Community Based Forest Management (CBFM; in forest lands outside forest reserves). However, establishing CFM has proven difficult in practice, and has only happened so far in Masindi district. In some cases those applying for CFM want to carry out activities, which will always be illegal in state reserves, such as charcoal burning. The Wildlife Statute, passed in 1996, provides for collaborative management of natural resources within state PAs such as national parks. Regulated harvesting of NTFPs has been agreed and is active in Bwindi, Queen Elizabeth, Mount Elgon and Kibale NPs.

## **Organisations and initiatives working on ape conservation and poverty/livelihoods**

### **Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment**

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) is an independent public policy research and advocacy think tank. They convene the Uganda team of the IIED-coordinated FGLG. This is not currently working on conservation issues but is interested to do so.

**More information:** [www.acode-u.org](http://www.acode-u.org)

### **Budongo Conservation Field Station**

Formerly the Budongo Forest Project (BCFS) is a conservation and research initiative focusing on chimpanzees. A community conservation programme is in operation which currently focuses on environmental education, farm income generating activities, mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and bush meat hunting.

**More information:** <http://www.budongo.org/>

### **CARE International**

CARE has had a long running involvement in great ape conservation and poverty reduction projects in south west Uganda. From 1988 to 2002 it ran the Development Through Conservation project,



which was an ICDP working in the parishes neighbouring Bwindi Impenetrable NP, home to both mountain gorillas and eastern chimpanzees. Interventions included support for an agricultural programme, the establishment of multiple-use zones within the park, and a resource substitution programme that supported on-farm woodlots to reduce demand for fuelwood and timber from the NP. These interventions had a generally positive impact on relations between local people and the NP, but a relatively limited impact on levels of poverty, mostly due to the scale of poverty in an area that is very densely populated. More recently, CARE has established the EEEGL project, reviewed above in the Rwanda section.

### **Chimpanzee Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Trust**

The Chimpanzee Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) runs the Ngamba Island chimpanzee sanctuary on Lake Victoria. It also has projects in Hoima district that aim to conserve chimpanzees in the wild and provide benefits to local people. To this end it is launching a major new project to use PES to provide incentives for local people to protect forest and chimpanzees on their land in a corridor area between two forest reserves. This is funded by **GEF** and the UK **Darwin Initiative**, in collaboration with **IIED**.

**More information:** <http://www.ngambaisland.org/>

### **Conservation Through Public Health**

The Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) focuses on the interdependence of wildlife and human health in and around Africa's protected areas – in Uganda these are Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Queen Elizabeth NP.

According to their website, "CTPH spearheads gorilla conservation with a multi-disciplinary approach which not only focuses on gorilla health, but human and livestock as well, for in areas where wildlife, people, and livestock intersect, a downturn in any one invariably affects the survival of the others." They operate by facilitating the formation of community health volunteer networks with livestock projects to generate an income to sustain the networks.

**More information:** [http://www.ctph.org/about\\_ctph.php](http://www.ctph.org/about_ctph.php)

### **The Gorilla Organisation**

The Gorilla Organisation (GO) is active around Mgahinga NP in Uganda, a small park with a very large neighbouring human population. Interventions include Mushroom Growing – as an alternative to mushroom collection within the park; agricultural extension work and beekeeping. There is a particular focus on the indigenous Batwa, who are amongst the poorest communities living alongside the Mgahinga NP.

**More information:** [www.gorillas.org](http://www.gorillas.org)

### **International Gorilla Conservation Programme**

The International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) is very active in Uganda, and has poverty alleviation as a major focus of its work around Bwindi and Mgahinga NPs, based on the rationale that poverty is a major threat to the conservation status of the parks and the mountain gorillas living in them. IGCP has supported various Integrated Conservation and Development interventions in the area, including support for community based tourism enterprises, alternative livelihoods such as beekeeping, and institutional support for the revenue sharing programme that is designed to ensure local people benefit from park tourism fees. Recently, as in Rwanda, IGCP has been a key partner in the development of a luxury tourism lodge that is a Public-Private Partnership between a local community institution and a private sector operator. This is intended to generate development benefits for local people through the distribution of a bed-night levy. The project has been successful so far in generating revenue, but has been beset by political conflict over the distribution of resources and preferential access to gorilla tracking permits for the lodge.

**More information:** <http://www.igcp.org/>

### **Jane Goodall Institute**

In Uganda the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) works in collaboration with the **National Forest Authority**. It is active in Hoima, where it is trying to establish a corridor between Bugoma Forest Reserve and Wambabya Forest Reserve and is attempting to reduce agricultural pressure through enterprise development, beekeeping and collaborative forest management, working with **Heifer Project**, a Christian development NGO. There is also an ecotourism programme based on chimpanzees at Kaniyo Pabidi which employs local people as rangers. It also works in Northern Uganda on the Wildlife Landscapes and Development for Conservation (WILD) project in Northern Uganda, in collaboration with **WCS** and funded by **USAID**. In this project JGI is implementing a community-based conservation programme integrating wildlife conservation and socio-economic development to ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts in the Otzi-Nimule Landscape. This project includes involving local people directly in the management of this landscape and carrying out conservation education activities. It is not clear if this is expected to reduce poverty.

**More information:** [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org)

### **Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project**

No further information on MGVP in Uganda could be found in addition to what is already covered under DRC and Rwanda.

**More information:** <http://gorilladoctors.org/>

### **Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust**

“Established in 1994 under the Uganda Trustees Laws, the Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Trust’s

(BMCT) mission is to foster conservation of biodiversity of [Mgahinga and Bwindi NPs] through investments in community development projects, grants for research and ecological monitoring, funding park management and protection and programmes that create greater conservation awareness". BMCT is primarily funded through interest earned on the investment of an endowment fund that was set up in 1994 with several million dollars from GEF and other donors. The trust is currently implementing three projects: A Batwa Livelihoods Project (the Batwa are an indigenous group of forest people), a sustainable water management project and an agroforestry project. All three are directly trying to link poverty reduction benefits to conservation of the parks and their resident gorillas and chimpanzees. Data on impacts of these projects to date could not be found. BMCT was formerly known as the Mgahinga Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Conservation Trust (MBIFCT).

**More information:** <http://www.bwinditrust.ug>

#### **New Nature Foundation**

The New Nature Foundation (NNF) is an NGO working focussed on Kibale Forest NP - home to chimpanzees - in Uganda. Its mission is to "promote people living in harmony with nature". Since 2006, the Kibale Fuel Wood Project has been working to protect Kibale NP from encroachment and improve park-people relations through providing alternatives to fuelwood collection within the Park – through tree planting and building of fuel-efficient stoves.

**More information:** [www.newnaturefoundation.org](http://www.newnaturefoundation.org)

#### **Population Reference Bureau**

The Population Reference Bureau's (PRB) PHE initiative is reviewed in section 2 above and in the Rwanda country review. Beyond a national PHE assessment no information is available as to what activities are underway.

**More information:** <http://www.prb.org/Countries/Uganda.aspx>

#### **Pro Biodiversity Conservationists of Uganda**

The Pro Biodiversity Conservationists of Uganda (PROBICOU) mission is to conserve biodiversity by promoting sustainable development through shared responsibility and networking. Projects include promotion of Batwa heritage as an alternative source of livelihood and incentive for conservation and awareness raising on the impact of gorilla conservation for the local communities around Bwindi.

**More information:** [www.probiodiversity.org/](http://www.probiodiversity.org/)

#### **Uganda Wildlife Authority**

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) is the protected area authority for the national parks and wildlife reserves of Uganda. It includes a community conservation unit which takes responsibility for revenue sharing, problem animal control, resource access, collaborative management and conservation education. A lot of chimpanzees occur outside protected areas and UWA are exploring mechanisms for incentivising their protection – e.g. through carbon finance. The tourism revenue sharing scheme shares 20% of park entry fees with local communities, intended to contribute to development and reduce conflict with the parks. Gorilla tracking permits are not included in the calculation, leading to conflict at the gorilla parks and a recent decision to implement a ‘gorilla levy’ of a further \$5 per tracking permit. To give an example, shared revenue around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park was between \$50-\$75,000 per year between 2005 and 2007.

**More information:** [www.uwa.or.ug](http://www.uwa.or.ug)

### **UNDP/UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative**

The overall objective of the PEI in Uganda is “to integrate environmental concerns into policies, plans, programmes and budgeting processes both at local and national levels. Its specific objectives include raising awareness on the poverty-environmental linkages and bringing the linkages into development policies and poverty reduction strategies”. A focus has been on mainstreaming environment issues into the new PRSP – not available at the time of writing. There is currently no specific focus on biodiversity. PEI is hosted by the National Environmental Management Authority, the principal agency in Uganda charged with the responsibility of coordinating, monitoring, supervising and regulating all environmental management matters in the country.

**More information:** [www.unpei.org/programmes/country\\_profiles/uganda.asp](http://www.unpei.org/programmes/country_profiles/uganda.asp)

### **Village Enterprise Fund**

The Village Enterprise Fund (VEF) is a micro-enterprise organization with a three-pronged program: training, grants (not loans), and mentoring. They are primarily a development organisation, but have added conservation as an additional component for their work outside Budongo Forest Reserve where they collaborate with JGI. VEF has funded over 370 businesses around Budongo. The rationale is that local development will reduce threats to conservation (hunting, pole harvesting, illegal timber and honey collection).

**More information:** [www.villageef.org](http://www.villageef.org)

### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

“Since commencing biological surveys of Uganda’s savanna parks in 1957, the Wildlife Conservation Fund (WCS) has supported Ugandan conservation continuously despite periods of civil unrest. WCS’s renowned Kibale Forest Project of the 1970s and 1980s pioneered studies of primates and the impact of logging, built the Makerere University Biological Field Station and led to the creation of the park in 1993. Since then, WCS has helped establish and manage the Institute for Tropical Forest

Conservation in Bwindi Impenetrable NP and Bwindi Trust; improved park management across Uganda through training and help with management planning; catalyzed cross-border collaboration; and supported numerous Ugandan students”. WCS projects relevant to poverty reduction include work with the oil industry in the Albertine Rift to minimise damage to local livelihoods, and the Conservation Cotton Initiative, which provides a market for organic cotton grown by local people living around high biodiversity areas. WCS works in partnership with **CTPH** through a sub award of the **PHE** Initiative. WCS coordinates the WILD project, funded by **USAID** and delivered in partnership with **JGI** and **CTPH**.

**More information:** <http://www.wcs.org/where-we-work/africa/uganda.aspx>

## 5. Summary of experience

### **Attention to biodiversity conservation within national poverty reduction policy**

Considering the African great ape range state PRSPs together, several key themes emerge.

First, 'the environment' as a general issue receives a lot of attention for its role in development and poverty alleviation, whereas biodiversity in particular does not. Certain countries (e.g. Liberia, Uganda, Rwanda) recognise biodiversity explicitly for the values it has as a tool for poverty alleviation, but they are the exception. Several countries (e.g. Cameroon, Tanzania) state biodiversity conservation as a goal in the PRSP, but do not give a rationale for why it is important within the development context, suggesting a lack of detailed thinking about the role of biodiversity.

Second, there is a general lack of recognition of indirect benefits of biodiversity for poverty alleviation. All the PRSPs mention sectors such as forestry, but very few mention other ecosystem services such as watershed protection (e.g. Guinea, Tanzania) or carbon finance opportunities (e.g. DRC, Liberia). This is an area where improvements could be made. It must be noted though that many of the PRSPs date from the early years of the century when carbon finance was not as hot a topic as it is today. Unsurprisingly, nature-based tourism gets a lot of attention in those countries where it is an important sector of the economy (e.g. Rwanda, Uganda), but very little where it is not (e.g. Nigeria, Guinea).

Third, the nature of the relationship between poverty and biodiversity is rarely given much attention in the PRSPs. Several countries identify poverty as a consequence of biodiversity loss, and others note that poverty itself can be a cause of environmental degradation. Nigeria is fairly typical in that it explicitly recognises interlinkages between the environment and poverty, but doesn't detail how biodiversity fits into the equation. Although the purpose of this review was not to consider NBSAPs, it is worth noting that the role of poverty in driving environmental degradation and biodiversity loss is generally much better explored in NBSAPs than in PRSPs (e.g. Cameroon, Sierra Leone).

Overall, the PRSPs appear to include a fairly impressive coverage of environmental issues in general, with some countries (e.g. Liberia, Uganda) notably stronger than others (e.g. Burundi, Republic of Congo) with respect to biodiversity conservation in particular. The caveat must be added though that what is said in a policy may not occur in practice, with DRC and Guinea being good examples of states which are currently unable to implement what appear to be strong PRSPs from a biodiversity conservation perspective. There remains much room for improvement in recognising the diverse ways in which biodiversity can contribute to poverty alleviation, and in exploring in more detail the direct relationships between poverty and biodiversity loss as drivers of one another.

### **Attention to poverty and development within national biodiversity policy**

Considering the African great ape range state NBSAPs together, several key themes emerge.

First, most of the NBSAPs explicitly recognise poverty as a driver of biodiversity loss (e.g. Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Guinea, Nigeria, Tanzania, and others). Indeed some almost seem to

overemphasise it – both Cameroon and Nigeria recognise poverty as the major driver of biodiversity loss and give relatively little attention to other issues such as commercial industry that are also likely to be major drivers of biodiversity loss in those countries. However, in several cases countries give lists of anthropogenic threats to biodiversity, but don't explicitly identify or explore the role of poverty as an underlying driver (e.g. Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Rwanda).

Second, in several cases the analysis of how biodiversity underpins livelihoods is weaker than that of how those livelihoods threaten biodiversity (e.g. Angola, Burundi). In some cases this is couched in terms of a national responsibility of all citizens to address biodiversity loss, with little recognition of the impact this could have on resource dependent people (Gabon). Most of the NBSAPs do mention to some degree the two way linkages between conservation and poverty, but often the analysis is not sophisticated (e.g. Angola, Burundi). However, some have really strong analysis of poverty and conservation linkages (CAR, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda).

Third, in terms of proposed actions to address poverty and conservation issues together, several NBSAPs mention community based management mechanisms (e.g. Liberia, Nigeria). However, in several cases this isn't really explored in detail in terms of actual policy interventions (e.g. Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria, Rwanda). Exceptions include Cameroon and Liberia, which both give details of specific relevant policies. Several countries mention tourism as a way of generating development benefits from biodiversity, either now or in the future (e.g. Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda). This seems slightly unrealistic in countries such as Nigeria and Guinea, which have almost no tourism industry at present.

Finally, it is worth noting the range of quality in the NBSAPs with respect to poverty and development issues. Some are very strong, with good analysis of linkages and specific relevant policy recommendations (e.g. CAR, Liberia, Tanzania, Uganda). Others are very weak, and seem to be some kind of interim document (DRC, Republic of Congo).

Overall it is clear that there is more attention given to poverty and development issues in the NBSAPs than to biodiversity conservation issues in the PRSPs, and the level of analysis is generally quite good. This can be explained in two ways. First, it is rather easier to ignore biodiversity in a development plan than it is to ignore development in a biodiversity plan, because of the generally higher level of awareness of the impact of human activity on biodiversity than biodiversity on livelihoods. Second, the CBD has been actively holding workshops to promote the inclusion of poverty issues in revised NBSAPs, which may explain some of the stronger more recent documents. The caveat must be added though that what is said in a policy may not occur in practice. There remains much room for improvement in the specific analysis of how poverty and biodiversity loss are linked, and in the provision of greater detail on policy interventions to address these problems together.

## **Policy Provisions for Community Based Natural Resource Management <sup>25</sup>**

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<sup>25</sup> This section is based on Roe et al (2009)

Although there is a great diversity of laws and policies relating to CBNRM a number of patterns emerge. In many cases states retain formal ownership of all land but in most countries there is some degree of recognitions of local tenure rights (whether de jure or de facto). As many observers have noted, however, governments around the world have adopted the rhetoric of decentralisation, devolution, and local empowerment, but rarely has such language been matched by the depth of institutional reforms. Further, there is often a vast gap between policy rhetoric and on the ground practice as a result of lack of implementing legislation or enforcement of existing laws – either through weak institutional capacity or through poor governance – lack of political will, vested interests and absence of rule of law.

Formal laws and policies relevant to CBNRM can be somewhat contradictory. For example, Uganda has decentralised state services to the district level but retains highly centralised control over most wildlife resources through the national Uganda Wildlife Authority. Laws specific to CBNRM are unusual, and in all cases the legal framework for CBNRM emerges from a bundle of sectoral legislation relating to issues such as local government, land, forests, wildlife and fisheries. In countries with very high levels of forest cover, provisions for CBNRM can to some extent be made through a single piece of sectoral legislation, because issues of land and wildlife converge within forestry legislation (e.g. Republic of the Congo, Guinea). However, even here there can be contradictions, as in Liberia where post-conflict land reforms strengthening the land rights of forest dwellers has met resistance from the forestry bureaucracy.

## **Experience in linking conservation and poverty reduction in practice**

### **Different approaches to linking conservation and poverty reduction**

The international and country reviews above have revealed a wide range of activities intended to make some kind of link between the conservation of great apes and poverty alleviation. These include the following:

- Great ape tourism
- Providing alternative sources of protein to bushmeat
- Providing energy alternatives to firewood and fuel efficient stoves
- Creating various forms of community protected areas / co-management interventions / CBNRM
- Providing 'alternative livelihoods' such as beekeeping, improved agriculture, piggeries etc. These are often in some kind of traditional ICDP
- Working with the forestry industry to reduce hunting in concessions
- Revenue sharing
- Public-private partnerships between community based organisations and private sector partners
- Human health and family planning initiatives



- Strategies to mitigate Human-Wildlife Conflict
- Various forms of capacity building for local institutions, such as enterprise training, book-keeping, natural resource management, etc.
- Facilitating market access for community products
- Payments for ecosystem services
- Multiple-use zones
- Multi-stakeholder platforms
- Land-use mapping and land-use planning
- Policy advocacy and lobbying

This list is by no means comprehensive, and it must be reiterated that this review cannot be considered comprehensive, due to the limitations of the methodology. In particular, almost all of the initiatives reviewed here are some kind of donor funded project run by an NGO or governmental organisation. This no doubt misses many grass-roots initiatives that lack websites or publications, and makes it difficult to assess the impact of policies, because many donor-funded projects are able to find ways around unhelpful policies because they have the power to do so.

Much has been written on different types of conservation / development initiatives, and how they can be categorised. One approach is to see them on a continuum from simple protected area outreach initiatives, which are designed to improve local attitudes to conservation but involve no handover of control, through to CBNRM initiatives in which local people have decision making power over natural resource management and are able to benefit from them<sup>26</sup>. This review has identified initiatives across this spectrum, from simple conservation education and outreach programmes through to the creation of Community Conservation Areas, such as the Tayna reserve in DRC. Another approach is to categorise conservation / development interventions according to whether they seek to 'couple', or 'decouple' local livelihoods from the resource of conservation concern, and whether they are financial or natural resource based (Figure 2)<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>26</sup> "Conservation and Community: Changing Narratives, Policies and Practices in African Conservation", Adams, W.M. & Hulme, D. 2001 in *African Wildlife and Livelihoods: The promise and performance of community conservation* (eds D. Hulme & M. Murphree), James Currey, Oxford

<sup>27</sup> Blomley et al (2010)

	Park resource dependent “coupling” strategies	Park resource independent “de-coupling” strategies
Financial resources-based strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Revenue Sharing</li> <li>• Conservation Trust Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture development</li> </ul>
Natural resource-based strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to forest resources (Multiple Use)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Substitution</li> </ul>

Figure 2: Examples of Integrated Conservation and Development strategies categorised according to the Blomley & Namara (2010) framework

Many examples of interventions in each of these categories have been found in this review, such as protein alternatives to Bushmeat (natural resource based de-coupling), support for access to market for farm goods (financial based de-coupling), several tourism and revenue sharing interventions (financial based coupling) and several agreements to allow resource access (natural resource based coupling). The type of interventions attempted depends of course on the local context, with several variables such as the density of people, the abundance of forest and wildlife, and the potential value of natural resource exploitation playing a part in project choices. The significance of these biogeographical factors is reviewed in more detail in the following subsection. Looking at these two different approaches to categorising conservation / development interventions, it is difficult to pick out any strong themes in which approaches are more popular, due to the role of context and the patchy nature of this review, and because some other interventions (like policy advocacy) fall outside their scope. However, the following points emerge:

- There has been an increase in recent years in the number of initiatives that seek to hand over some form of control over natural resource management to local people, and with it access to resource use within protected areas
- There continue to be a large number of ICDP type projects that seek to substitute another activity for natural resource use, on the assumption that such activities will replace rather than add to the existing resource-destructive activities (more on this in section 5.4 below)
- Ape tourism remains by far the most popular way of converting the presence of great apes into money for local development activities, and it continues to be seen as a first option by many new projects, even where ape tourism seems unlikely to be viable
- There are relatively few projects that work directly with forestry concessions, given that vast areas of ape habitat are within forestry concessions. However, rapid progress is being made in this area, particularly in the Congo basin countries covered by the CARPE project<sup>28</sup>

<sup>28</sup> See various chapters in “State of the Forests 2008: The forests of the Congo Basin” 2008, CARPE. <http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/edf2008.php?l=en>

- Initiatives that seek to deliver general development benefits to local people, such as infrastructure like schools and hospitals, are far more common in areas with very high human population densities

### **Different approaches in different contexts**

Initiatives and their outcomes are always highly context specific, and it is not possible to make highly generalised statements about how initiatives differ across countries or biogeographic regions. However, one important trend emerges. This is that the great ape habitats in Africa can be divided broadly into those that are in relatively intact forests, with very low human population density, and those that are in forest fragments, with high human population densities between the fragments. For the purposes of this review we refer to these as Intact Forest (IF) and Forest Fragment (FF) areas respectively. The division is not absolute – some countries like Cameroon have forests in both categories.

The FF areas have apes living in small remnant patches of forest, typically surrounded by dense human populations of farmers. Examples include Uganda, Rwanda and the chimpanzee habitat in south-western Ghana and Nigeria. In these cases the main threats to apes and their habitat are typically from forest clearance by the poor for farming, from hunting (normally for subsistence as wildlife densities are too low for commercial hunting) and from conflict and disease transmission stemming from apes crossing into agricultural land. Biodiversity conservation is inevitably a big issue, backed by considerable resources, in such places, as they are usually home to critically endangered populations of apes and other valued biodiversity.

In contrast, the IF areas tend to have apes living in very large tracts of forest, with low density human populations dotted within the forest area. Example countries include DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo and southern CAR. In these cases the main threats to apes are from commercial bushmeat hunting, commercial forestry and epidemic diseases such as ebola. As such the link to poverty is likely to be different, as commercial hunting and logging activities are less likely to be carried out by the very poor than the farming and hunting going on in the FF regions. Biodiversity conservation is also a less pressing issue across large tracts of forest in IF countries which are outside protected areas and which receive very little focus from conservation organisations due to the large areas of forest habitat and limited conservation resources. An exception to this categorisation is the Cross River gorilla habitat, which is largely intact forest but is effectively divided into fragments of mountainous, viable gorilla habitat by high levels of hunting in more accessible lowland areas.

As this analysis makes clear, there are important differences in the relationships between poverty and conservation across these two different habitat categories. These differences are reflected in the type of linked conservation and poverty interventions attempted in each. In the IF habitats, common interventions include alternative protein projects and efforts to encourage forestry companies to improve their practices from a wildlife perspective. In the FF habitats, it is much more

common to see more generalised 'development' interventions, such as support for schools and hospitals, public health, family planning, problem animal control and enterprise development. It is also less common to see CBNRM type initiatives in the FF habitats, because they are typically state supported national parks, with little room for the flexibility of co-management arrangements. However, it is unfortunate that several of the conservation organisations continue to be heavily focused on supporting state protected areas, even in IF areas where it would seem that achieving forest governance arrangements best for wildlife and people in the vast tracts of forest outside the PA network would be a priority.

### **Mixed experience in tackling poverty**

When attempting to review the poverty impacts of the policies and practices reviewed in this report, it immediately becomes clear that there is a startling lack of data. Very few initiatives seem to measure and / or publish the impacts of their work for either conservation or poverty alleviation, and most exceptions to this are because of research carried out independently of the project in question. It is common to find website of completed projects that enthusiastically proclaim activities to be done, but have not been updated as the project has continued. This is a big problem that requires urgent attention. That said, some evidence of poverty impacts was found in this review, and relevant case studies drawn from many different kinds of intervention are summarised below.

Much of the best poverty impact data comes from studies of great ape tourism. Public Private Partnerships based around high-end lodges have delivered large sums of money to community development organisations, such as \$300,000 US to SACOLA in Rwanda in the first year of operations. The actual poverty impact is less clear, and there has been conflict over the distribution of these funds. Tourism revenue sharing schemes at gorilla and chimpanzee sites in Uganda and Rwanda have also distributed funds for development. For example, parishes adjacent to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda received between \$50-\$75,000 in total per year between 2005 and 2007, and spent the money on a range of projects, mostly infrastructure such as roads and health facilities. Tourism can also have more direct impacts on poverty, through the creation of jobs and opportunities to sell goods and services. These were worth around \$360,000 in retained revenue for a single parish at the Bwindi tourism hub in 2004 – about four times the value of all other sources of revenue to the area combined<sup>29</sup>. Other sites with ape tourism have fared less well in their ability to generate poverty benefits. A good example is the Dzanga Sangha site in CAR, which has been running since 1997 but has barely been able to cover running costs and has not generated poverty benefits beyond a small number of jobs.

In some cases benefits are gained from selling products to 'tourists' who never visit the site, by exporting crafts to foreign markets. An example is the Pole Pole Foundation in DRC, which switched to exporting crafts to Japan, Canada and the USA after tourism in their area collapsed due to insecurity. Carvers in the scheme make around \$50 US per month, although the project requires donor support to keep running (Dominique Bakaba, pers. comm.). Other projects have also

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<sup>29</sup> "Putting Leakage in its Place: the Significance of Retained Tourism Revenue in the Local Context in Rural Uganda", Sandbrook, C. (2009) *Journal of International Development* **22**(1), 124-136

facilitated market access to the products of local people, such as BCI, which has rehabilitated a barge for river transport in DRC.

A large number of sites have implemented some form of 'alternative livelihoods' project, such as keeping livestock to reduce demand for bushmeat, or income generating projects such as beekeeping, piggeries, woodlots etc. Evidence for the effectiveness of such projects is very limited, and even where technically successful, uptake by local people can be very low for cultural reasons. In some sites substitution programmes have been quite successful, such as the work of CARE International in south west Uganda, where 63% of target households planted trees on their own land after receiving support from extension workers. However, benefits of several ICD components of the CARE project were skewed towards wealthier households, undermining any poverty impact<sup>30</sup>.

As noted elsewhere, there has been a distinct trend in recent years to create legislative space for forms of CBNRM at great ape sites, such as community forestry or community based protected areas. These have the potential to empower community groups, but evidence for impacts on poverty indicators such as income could not be found for the sites reviewed in this report. Better evidence exists for the impacts of Multiple Use Zones (MUZs) within state protected areas, a less strong form of collaborative management. In Uganda these have mostly benefited richer households, but products are subsequently sold repeatedly in the local area, creating a multiplier effect for poverty reduction (ibid).

To be successful, local stakeholders in CBNRM must have sufficient capacity to manage resources, distribute benefits and be representative and transparent. In many cases this requires considerable capacity building. An example of a successful capacity building project is the CARPE small grants scheme which has operated in six Central African countries. This has supported, among others, efforts to translate relevant legislation into local languages and disseminate information on environmental laws to local people, helping a network of 50 local associations composed of about 350 women to organize themselves to plant 300 ha of improved staple food crop varieties in the DRC, and helping illegal loggers in the Ituri Forest of DRC to enter the formal forestry sector, thereby reducing their impact<sup>31</sup>. Collectively, it is argued by CARPE that the impact of these grants means that "(a) civil society is much better organized and mobilized for advocating common interest policy reforms and/or implementation of good governance in the forestry and NRM sector; (b) the promotion of economic growth and social welfare activities within communities is greatly enhanced; and (c) the integration of gender considerations into NRM and forest conservation" (ibid).

Several projects aim to reduce consumption of energy from firewood and charcoal by providing fuel efficient stoves or alternative fuel sources. One example with impact data is the New Nature Foundation working at Kibale NP in Uganda. They have assisted over 500 families in building fuel efficient stoves, and 42% of families in their target area are now using them, up from 3% at project

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<sup>30</sup> Blomley et al (2010)

<sup>31</sup> "The Use of Small Grants to Build Civil Society Capacity to Support Conservation: Lessons Learned from the CARPE Program", Tchamou, N. (2009) CARPE lessons learned document.  
[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons\\_learned\\_chapter7\\_synthesis.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lessons_learned_chapter7_synthesis.pdf)

inception. Families using the stoves are using 26% less firewood than others, saving them money and time spent collecting the wood.

Some initiatives are too new to have measurable impacts so far. These include the efforts of ZSL to work with the logging industry to reduce commercial bushmeat hunting, the work of PRB / PHE on family planning and public health, and the impacts of small scale ICDP projects like the Lebialem Hunters' Beekeeping Initiative. PES and REDD projects also fall into this category, but can be expected to proliferate rapidly<sup>32</sup>. Other initiatives focus on improving communication between stakeholders and lobbying for changes in policy. These are long-term approaches that can have a considerable impact through improving the design of projects and policies, but linking them to specific impacts on the ground is almost impossible. Examples include the FGLGs in Uganda and Cameroon, and the work of FFI to establish a multi-stakeholder forum in Guinea.

Many other projects have run their course, but have not included any monitoring and evaluation component, and as a result no impact data are available in the public domain. This is a considerable problem for evaluating the effectiveness of many of the initiatives reviewed in this report.

## **Opportunities and constraints**

Despite the general lack of good quality data, empirical or otherwise, mentioned above, several general factors facilitating or undermining success in efforts to link great ape conservation and poverty reduction can be identified:

### **The scale of poverty in FF areas**

- Where great ape tourism is possible, it can generate very large amounts of money for conservation and development activities. However, there are many competing interests with a claim on the revenues, and the proportion shared for local communities is often too low to have any meaningful impact on poverty
- This problem is exacerbated by very dense human populations around most ape tourism sites in FF areas, and the resulting scale of poverty. The sheer number of very poor people living around parks like Cross River NP in Nigeria, Bwindi in Uganda and PNVolcans in Rwanda makes it impossible for conservation linked interventions to have a meaningful impact on poverty.
- Under such conditions, working to encourage interventions by traditional development agencies might make more sense than seeking to link poverty alleviation to natural resource use. It is often argued that the rural poor living close to high biodiversity areas are relatively

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<sup>32</sup> For the Congo basin countries, see several relevant chapters in the "State of the Forest 2008: The Forests of the Congo Basin" report. <http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/edf2008.php?l=en>

‘invisible’ to development agencies due to their remoteness, so conservation organisations could usefully lobby development agencies for more support. The PHE Initiative is a novel partnership that intends to use the reach of conservation organisations into such areas to support activities done by development professionals

- The population density and growth in Rwanda are seen as directly contributing to poverty and conservation threats. Family planning type interventions in response to this are popular with the conservation lobby, but their effectiveness is unclear

#### **Lack of economic alternatives in IF areas. Is REDD the answer?**

- Ape tourism is simply not possible in large areas of their ranges, due to political instability, inaccessibility, difficulties with habituation, lack of tourism infrastructure, and concerns about exposing apes to increased risks of hunting. This is particularly true in IF areas. Where it is possible, such as in CAR, it is likely to be so marginal that it cannot make any significant contribution to local conservation or development needs. There is an irony in this, because if a site with the touristic potential of Bwindi existed in a typical IF region, it could have a massive impact on poverty given the low population levels
- Where great ape tourism is not possible, it is very often difficult to identify any alternative activity that could generate sufficient sources of revenue to influence local poverty. Many IF ape habitats are very remote, with minimal economic opportunities and bad conditions for tourism. In such circumstances, several people interviewed for this project have asked the question “what’s in it for the local community?”. REDD funding may provide some opportunities, but nobody is seeing it as a silver bullet<sup>33</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> Details of REDD and other PES projects in central Africa are given in “A New Tool for Sustainable Forest Management in Central Africa: Payments for Ecosystem Services”, 2008, Lescuyer, G., Karsenty, A. & Eba’a Atyi, R. In State of the Forest 2008: The Forests of the Congo Basin, CARPE. [http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF\\_08\\_Payments%20for%20Environmental%20Services.pdf](http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/docs/edf2008/EN/SOF_08_Payments%20for%20Environmental%20Services.pdf)

- For REDD to deliver livelihood benefits for local people, it seems likely that they will need strong and demonstrable legal tenure over their land. This is rarely the case in any of the ape range states, and even in countries where private tenure is reasonably clear, such as Uganda, those living on the land are often tenants or squatters rather than owners. Clarifying land tenure is likely to be a precondition for achieving so called REDD+
- If REDD is done well, it has the potential to improve the relationship between conservation and poverty alleviation at a much broader scale than the current work that focuses on state protected areas. This is encouraging but will only work if lessons from previous ICDP experiences are learned. These are reviewed by Blom et al. (2010)<sup>34</sup>, summarised in Box 2. At the same time, REDD may have the potential to transform economies in a way that individual ICDP projects never could: “REDD can leverage investments into other services (NTFP, tourism, water, ..), and can have a much larger impact than isolated ICDPs based on NTFP and tourism” (J. Refissch, pers. comm.).

### Governance reform and lack of local capacity

Box 2: Lessons learned from ICDPs for REDD Implementation, from Blom *et al* 2010:

ICDP best practices likely to be achieved by REDD

- Have measureable and clearly defined goals
- Project duration should reflect the time needed to achieve goals
- Markets must be available for participants products and services
- Mechanism should be in place for monitoring and evaluation

ICDP best practices that require attention during REDD implementation

- National policies should support project activities
- Locally-based conservation should be applied where threats and solutions are local
- Recognise and acknowledge trade-offs between conservation and development
- Develop an understanding of community heterogeneity and complexity
- Develop an understanding of community livelihood needs
- Design projects to be adaptive and flexible
- Involve the community in all phases of the project
- Collaborate with other projects
- Engage in activities that you know, collaborate with others for activities that you do not
- Enforcement is always needed
- Provide clear and sustainable community benefits

<sup>34</sup> “Getting REDD to work locally: lessons learned from integrated conservation and development projects”, Blom, B., Sunderland, T. & Murdiyarsa, D., 2010. Environmental Science and Policy, In Press



- Community based protected areas are now legally feasible in many of the ape range states, but there are major barriers to implementation and enforcement
- Community based institutions involved in community based protected areas, public private partnerships etc. often lack capacity to negotiate with powerful outside actors, avoid elite capture of benefits, and manage natural resources sustainably. Examples of such a lack of capacity causing problems include the SACOLA tourism initiative in Rwanda and the work of Uganda Wildlife Authority with community partners
- Local people living with the impacts of conservation often lack knowledge of their rights, or lack any power to enforce them against state agencies like protected area authorities. Overcoming this general lack of knowledge also requires capacity building
- Some encouraging initiatives have worked to build the capacity of local partners to help them manage natural resources and secure a fair deal for the local community. Examples include the CARPE small grants scheme, and the work of FFI in Guinea. It seems that such capacity building really pays off
- Projects that work to support local management of natural resources are far more likely to succeed where there is relative ethnic and linguistic homogeneity. This was identified as a strength of the LTCR in Congo, and a weakness of the Mbe Mountains community protected area in Nigeria, which is surrounded by diverse communities
- Few conservation organisations have given sufficient attention to the role of forest governance in determining outcomes for both wildlife and people, particularly in IF areas outside the state protected areas. Emerging evidence (reviewed by Sandbrook et al., 2010) shows that locally managed forests often do better than state forests for both wildlife and people, but this approach is given little attention by organisations like WCS or ECOFAC. This contrasts with organisations like FFI, which take a much more modern view of the role of governance and policy in achieving both conservation and development goals
- In some countries, such as DRC, governance conditions are so bad that they become almost irrelevant to projects on the ground. With the support of local actors, and sufficient resources, projects can still succeed even in the almost complete absence of an enabling policy or institutional environment
- In other countries governance conditions are recovering after a civil war. In that case, it seems to be effective to work actively with the government on improving the policy environment, because this is a strong entry point to have a big impact. Examples include the work of FFI in Liberia

### **Scale and the excessive focus on protected areas**

- Scale is a problem. Conservation organisations tend to work at the project / protected area scale, and seem to struggle to identify and tackle larger-scale, non-local drivers. This partly

explains their difficulties in working on broader forest governance and policy (such as lobbying for greater attention to biodiversity is environmental mainstreaming). Multi-stakeholder platforms / learning groups can help to connect such organisations with actors working at broader scales

- There are surprisingly few conservation organisations working with forestry companies, which often control the great majority of forests in IF countries. Encouraging counter-examples include ZSL's Wildlife Wood Project and the WCS PROGEPP project in Congo
- There is potential to work with indigenous people living at low density in IF habitat as partners, as recommended by FPP. Despite promises of more pro-poor conservation from the conservation organisations, on the ground the interactions have still been very heavy handed, and this is undermining conservation success. These people are often concerned about conservation and willing to participate as equal partners

#### **Lack of development skills in conservation organisations, and unexpected outcomes**

- Conservation organisations often make naive assumptions about the likely impacts of their development work. A common example is assuming that providing alternative activities will result in the abandonment of previous activities due to a lack of time. This ignores the complexity of household livelihoods, where roles can be shared across genders and generations. This reflects a general lack of sharing of information on successes and (more importantly) failures, resulting in a constant trial and error approach that is doomed to fail
- Partnership with specialist development organisations seems more likely to have positive results than when interventions are done by conservation organisations. Examples include the Village Enterprise Fund partnership with JGI in Uganda, the CARE International partnership with IGCP, also in Uganda, and the work of WCS with IISD in DRC on the conflict sensitive conservation toolkit
- When done by conservation organisations, traditional development interventions, such as school and hospital building, are not always perceived by local people as linked to conservation. This can mean that even if they have a positive impact on poverty, there may not be any resulting improvement in conservation outcomes
- On a similar note, the use of revenue sharing funds for things like schools and hospitals can divert local government resources to other areas, on the logic that benefiting areas are having their needs taken care of by conservation. This results in no net change for the benefiting areas, and is likely to cause social conflict
- Many projects that try to set up market-based interventions bemoan a lack of 'entrepreneurial skills' among local people. This is hardly surprising where no such market based activity has ever happened before. This emphasises the need to be cautious in assuming that western market models will fit well in the rural African context

- Similarly, a large number of projects have attempted to provide alternatives to Bushmeat protein, but these have rarely worked, often due to a lack of understanding of attitudes to livestock keeping and how Bushmeat hunting fits into household livelihood portfolios. In many cases hunters hunt for money, not for food, which makes protein alternative projects in rural areas unlikely to alter hunting levels.

### **The complex nature of conservation and poverty linkages, and the need for baseline research**

- The linkages between conservation and poverty can be highly complex, and can change with seemingly unconnected variables. For example, the sudden oil boom in Equatorial Guinea has led to an increase in the affordability and availability of guns, with negative consequences for primates. At Gashaka Gumti NP in Nigeria, poor local people damage the environment, but they are there because of the wishes of a wealthy Emir. These examples demonstrate the importance of understanding whether or not poverty is itself a driver of conservation threat, a consequence of conservation action, or both. This analysis should have a major influence on the nature of chosen interventions
- As a result of such complexities, good quality background research seems to hugely increase the likelihood of project success, because it is so much easier to predict the impact of interventions. Good examples include the LAMIL project in Guinea, and the new ZSL Bushmeat project in Equatorial Guinea. It might make sense for donors to insist on several years of preparatory study, which could be funded relatively cheaply, before committing large sums of money to full scale projects
- Changes in wealth can have unexpected impacts on conservation. When the staff of an ICDP project in CAR got more money, they ate more Bushmeat. In other cases, such as Equatorial Guinea, it is the poorest people who both hunt and eat the most Bushmeat, suggesting that interventions to control hunting would be likely to negatively affect the poorest and most vulnerable people

### **Trade-offs, communication breakdowns and the lack of win-wins**

- Where conservation can't do much to alleviate poverty, trade-offs are inevitable. These are rarely talked about but must be acknowledged. Some situations, like enclaved communities within PAs, are massively complex and win-win solutions are highly unlikely
- In some areas there are large numbers of stakeholders working on similar issues. This can lead to competition for donor funding and a lack of communication / collaboration. This is very unhelpful and undermines success. Multi-stakeholder platforms like the FGLGs or those established by FFI and CED (Cameroon) appear to improve communication between stakeholders and can contribute to policy reforms and project success. Such initiatives should be encouraged, but more data are needed on best practice

- Law enforcement often remains the most effective conservation measure, with or without efforts to benefit local people. However, such enforcement can be more likely to be tolerated where it is linked to benefit sharing interventions, as in the Bwindi example
- Human Wildlife Conflict, sometimes involving great apes, is a big issue in FF areas where farmland is often directly adjacent to small forests. It can also have very strong negative impacts on attitudes to conservation, even where the measurable impacts are quite small. A variety of possible solutions are reviewed by Hockings & Humle (2009), but none is perfect. There are plans to compensate victims of HWC in Rwanda, but considerable confusion about how this would work in practice