

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DJA-BOUMBA MINING AREA



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
CITES	Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Fauna
REC	Rainbow Environment Consult Sarl

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Figure 1: cover page, presentation of group work by the participants

Figure 2: Participants during the lunch break, having a taste of an alternative protein. In order to lessen the dependence on bushmeat.

1. INTRODUCTION

A capacity building and training workshop on the integration of mining and wildlife for sustainable development was held in Kongo village from 26th to 28th of February 2011. The workshop brought together hunters, poachers, local NGOs, Community Based Organisations, teachers, pupils, students, coordinators of nature clubs, mine workers, frontline staff of the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna (MINFOF), village chiefs, traders and bushmeat vendors. The participants established common understanding of the objectives, principles, methods, and approaches to sustainable management of wildlife in the mining area.

For three days, participants

- Produced a booklet for the formal and informal sectors containing posters of wildlife using the initials ‘DJA-BOUMBA’ and other endangered wildlife species of interest in the study area;
- Used pictures to identify the causes of unsustainable harvesting of wild meat in the mining area and mitigation measures to be taken;
- Hunters and poachers wrote stories about their hunting experiences in the study area and lessons learned from their hunting years;
- Developed an ecological monitoring programme for wildlife species and learn how to collect and analyse data.

Deliberations took off on the first day with the introduction of participants, the definition of the objectives of the workshop, the formal opening ceremony and group work.

The first day was devoted to the review of the objectives, methodology and expectations, election of the monitoring committee members and the first group work.

1.1 Introduction of participants

This was done by the participants themselves. Each participant gave his or her name, address and function (please, see list of participants in appendix 1).

1.2 Formal opening ceremony

Two main events marked the formal opening ceremony: a word of welcome from the local project facilitator, Mr. Langa Serges and the key note address delivered by the workshop consultant, Mr. Agah Emeraut, who attended the workshop as one of the resource persons.

1.2.1 Word of welcome

In a brief word of welcome, Mr. Langa Serges, the local project facilitator thanked the participants for attending the workshop, Rainbow Environmental Consult and for making his rich expertise available to participants. He went on to say that considerable progress has been made in trying to conserve our natural resources for the future generation but that much still has to be done to ensure proper management of wildlife species. He reminded the participants on the rate at which wildlife is running to extinction in the area. He hopes that this capacity building and training workshop was going to empower the communities to

integrate mining and wildlife for sustainable development and provide a basis for future collaboration.

1.2.2 Key note address

In an inspiring key note address, the workshop consultant, **Mr. Agah Emeraut** briefed workshop participants on the nature and the scope of the capacity building and training. He underscored the need to protect and conserve Nkamouna's rich heritage in terms of biodiversity. The project, he reassured, was taking all necessary measures to ensure this protection and conservation. He cited the law of 5th August 1996 which devotes an entire chapter to strategies to involve local people in the management of the environment.

Past efforts in environmental protection laid emphasis on conservation whereas people first have to learn to live and meet their various needs in term of food and shelter. What is important is a not just conserving biodiversity but ensuring the collective survival of the various species beginning from man.

He finally expressed the hope that the capacity building / training workshop was going to come up with appropriate ways of integrating mining and wildlife for sustainable development in the area.

2. Objectives, Methodology and Expectations

Workshop activities proper started with a review of workshop objectives and the participants expectations of the various activities to be conducted. A methodology was also introduced by workshop consultant, discussed and adopted by the participants.

2.1 Objectives of the workshop

Workshop objectives were reviewed by participants and stated as follows:

- Identify wildlife species, their status and importance to the community;
- Production of locally-appropriate awareness raising materials for teachers, pupils, and students in primary, secondary and high schools in the mining zone;
- Develop an ecological monitoring programme for the local community and learn how to collect and analyse data;
- Using pictures to identify the causes of unsustainable harvesting of wildlife in the mining area and mitigation measures to be taken;
- Draw lessons from hunters hunting experiences.

2.3 Workshop methodology

Being a capacity building and training workshop, the approach adopted was participatory, involving collective debate and brainstorming, identification of materials in groups and synthesis of the various materials to come up with common products which will be use in the implementation of sustainable management of wildlife in the area.

2.4 Expectations

Each participant listed his or her expectations of the workshop. The various expectations were summarised as follows: Capacity building, training, sharing experience, acquiring methodology and cooperation.

3. Group work

Participants worked in groups corresponding to the identified themes. Results of group work were presented in plenary sessions for comments, improvements and adaptation.

The major themes were discussed, pictures were reconstituted and interpreted.

3.1 Wildlife species, status and importance to the community

Three groups were formed and each was charged with making inventory of the wildlife species with the initials **DJA-BOUMBA**, their national and international status, why should they be protected and other endangered species of ecotourism interest in the area.

The groups came out with the following alphabets in French (see appendix II).The booklet will be produced and copies sent to you latter.

3.2 The importance of conserving wildlife

Wildlife are nonetheless more than food. They play important spiritual, symbolic and ritual roles, and are also important for traditional healing.

Elephant, gorilla , chimpanzee and many other mammals play a primary role in seeds dispersal. Seeds of plant species in the Congo Basin rain forest are dispersed by animals. For example the fruits of bush mango (*Irvingia gabonensis*) are dispersed by small, medium and large sized mammals.

Animals and birds are extremely important pollinators of many forest trees. Without pollination these trees cannot produce fruits which we use daily as condiments.

3.3 Using pictures to identify the causes of unsustainable harvesting of wildlife in the mining area

Fragment of pictures were given to each group. They had to reconstitute, brainstorm on these pictures and bring out the causes of unsustainable hunting of wild animals by the local population and mitigation measures to be taken.

The three groups reconstituted and interpreted the pictures and brought out the following causes (for pictures, please see appendix III):

- Road construction in the forest by logging companies ;
- Logging;
- Lack of environmental education;
- Use of ammunitions in hunting wildlife;
- Increase commercialisation of bushmeat by women;
- Children reflecting on the loss of biodiversity;
- Grandparents explaining to pupils how the good old days had all the wildlife species in the nearby forest.
- Hunting for commerce and not for subsistent;
- Poor of communication link between local communities and the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna frontline staff.

The three groups made recommendations to the mining companies in order to facilitate the integration of mining and wildlife management in the area as follows:

3.3.1 Mitigation measures to stakeholders

3.3.2 Refuge zone

Restriction of negative impact of mining on chimpanzees and gorillas by the creation of refuge zone in the north-eastern part of the mining zone where there were important patches of primary forest necessary for the conservation of chimpanzees and gorillas.

3.1.3 Tourism development

Promotion of ecotourism is one way to create alternative income for the local inhabitants, who depend on hunting. Construction of an information centre for tourists, part of which should have exhibition-like character (posters showing birds, animals inhabiting the region, information on biology and biodiversity hotspots of these animals, exhibition of food plants use by apes and elephants, explanation of animal-plant interactions, demonstration of traditional use of forest products and hunting methods etc.). The centre would provide employment possibilities for locals and would attract tourists directly to the zone.

The first day ended with the rounding up work in groups and presentation in the plenary.

The second day started with the development of a monitoring system in groups. Three monitoring systems were introduced by the project coordinator, discussed and the most appropriate accepted by the participants (see appendix IV).

In the monitoring system, the committee were to monitor the hunting efforts (representing the level of threats for targets species) and also register the number of wildlife species encountered on the forest trails. The monitoring took three aspects into consideration; management, threats and achievement of wildlife protection.

3.4 Hunting profile and experiences

Each group was charged to present their hunting profiles and the lessons learned from the long years of hunting. At the end of its deliberation, each workshop group presented at least a story, bringing out the intellectual and moral aspect of it (see appendix V).

The last day started with the presentation of activities of each group, followed by evaluation of the workshop and closing ceremony.

4. Presentation of activities by each group

The next major in the conduct of the workshop activities comprised the presentation of the group work by various group leaders. This phase of the workshop was satisfactorily completed as all the group leaders followed the guidelines provided in the workshop programme. The content of this report represent the various presentation of the group work during the three days

workshop. The presentation of the group work was used as indicators to evaluate the workshop.

4.1 Evaluation of the workshop

Participants at the workshop were satisfied with the training. Having been adequately empowered on the techniques of sustainable development they were satisfied with the deliberations. They were happy with the realisation of the objectives of the workshop, and their expectations had been met.

Participants appreciated the facilitation techniques and the atmosphere that characterised the workshop.

Besides, they wished that similar workshops be organised regularly so as to strengthen mastery of Environmental Education.

They pledged to put into practice what they had learnt from the workshop

4.2 Closing ceremony

The project coordinator thanked the participants for the sacrifices made to actively participate in the workshop which will enabled them to integrate mining and wildlife management in their respective villages and bade them a happy god speed.

The workshop was closed by the MINFOF chief of post for Lomie at 5h.30 p.m. after attestations had been distributed to participants with a family picture.

Mr. Manza Jackson, one of the local project facilitator in his closing remarks, he wished participants a safe journey back home and exhorted them to apply the notions learnt during the three days of intense training in the Kongo workshop.

APPENDIX I

List of Participants

1. Medjue Ndjankoun Edouard
2. Ogbwre Jean–Bertin
3. Manza Ludovick Jackson
4. Mankangla Philippe
5. Meluh Symphorienne
6. Mekana Anne Marie
7. Etoetbine Genevieve
8. Akpeh Marcelline
9. Eboh Jean Marie
10. Mpele Ernest Emile
11. Oloa Mbomenkoun Stephane
12. Mbomenkoun Emmanuel
13. Abion Marie Epse Belfe
14. Piekel Dieudonne
15. Zeh Philomene
16. Songnikm Victor
17. Ntonga Gaston
18. Nbouhim Martin
19. Ibrahim Mohamed
20. Alama Beye Apo
21. Langa Serges
22. Emeraut Nine Agbah

23. Kpaman Liboire
24. Makazi Linus
25. Ernest Nforbah Mbeh
26. Ndjla Agnes
27. Megot Jean Calin
28. Atoual Marie Rose
29. Mathea Catherine
30. Tsala Yvang
31. Andouma Marie Louise
32. Biloulanga Marie
33. Pepe Eboh Anicet
34. Andouh Collette
35. Mbango Basile
36. Wekop Nboko
37. Angoh Yvonne
38. Mpina jean
39. Akpeh Mira
40. Ndinty Jacques
41. Tienzo Moliere
42. Amin Nadege

APPENDIX II

Wildlife species with the initials **DJA-BOUMBA** and **Other endangered species** of ecotourism interest in the area.

D = DAMAN D'ARBRE: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

J = JACO: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

A = ANTILOPE ROYALE: LRnt, CITES II

B = BONGO: CLASS B, LRnt / LRcd, CITES II

O = ORYETEROPE: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

U = UNDULATA ANAS: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

M = MOUSTAC: LRnt CITES II

B = BUFFLE NAIN: CLASS B, LRcd, CITES II

A = ANOMALUOPS BEECROFTI: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

Other endangered species of ecotourism interest in the area.

ELEPHANT D'AFRIQUE: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

GORILLA: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

CHIMPANZE: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

PANTHERE: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

PANGOLIN GEANT: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

CERCOCEBE AGILE: CLASS A, EN, CITES I

APPENDIX III

Some of the reconstituted pictures



APPENDIX IV

Table 1: Ecological Monitoring Programme

Species name	Status	Village	Number Registered	Month	Subsistent	Sold	Live species seen on forest trails

Note

Total number of animals killed per month / village

Total number of animals sold per month / village

Total number of animals for subsistence per month / village

Total number of forest trips per month and number of live animals seen

The number of the wildlife harvested in each village monthly will be calculated using the method of adopted during the workshop and action to be taken. The number of wildlife seen by the villagers per month will also be calculated.

APPENDIX V

Hunting Profiles and Experiences

The guinea fowl hunting experience

In one of my hunting expeditions last year, I trapped a live guinea fowl with an egg on my snare lines in the Nkamouna forest. I brought the guinea fowl at home and prepared a cage for it. It was in the cage for many days but did not lay any egg again. It sings and plays in its cage without any problem. One evening my six years old daughter wanted to feed the bird and innocently opened the cage, instead of sending the food through the cage window. The bird flew away unto the roof of the house. Looked at us if it wanted to say goodbye or thank you my savour, we are for your generation. The bird flew back into the Nkamouna forest, it natural habitat.

Lessons learned

- Wildlife should live in their natural habitat;
- Wildlife are meant for the future generation and that is why the six years child safed the life of the guinea fowl;
- Wildlife are agents of zoonotic diseases (diseases transmitted from wild animals to man and domestic animals) and should not be allowed to live with human being.

Author: Mr.MBOUNTOM MARTIN, Kongo village

Camping in Nkamouna forest hunting experience

My father and I went for hunting for a week and camped at the bank of river Edje. We set traps and caught enough quantity of wild meat for the week. The night we were planning to return the following morning, there was a heavy rainfall that caused river Edje to overflow its banks. We could not cross the river because the wooden bridge has been carried away by the flood. We had to stay back for two days to wait for the river to dry off. At this juncture, there was no food and no fire to warm our body and the meat. Within these days the meat became decomposed and we return home without meat.

Lessons learned:

- There is alot of constraints in hunting, an alternative source of protein is preferable.
- Children should not be involved in hunting but educate their parents how to conserve wildlife for the furure generation ;
- Subsistent hunting should be done during the dry season inorder to avoird being drawn in a river and wastage.

Author: Mr. EBOH JEAN-MARIE, Kongo village

Fishing experience in river Makai

During one of my fishing expeditions in river Makai in Kongo village, I saw a hole at the bank of the river and curiously sent my hand into the hole. Fortunately, I caught a big fish. I was not satisfied and sent my hand the second time and came out with a very big black snake. I thought it was a fish because it rolled itself like a mud fish. I shouted and throw it away. By the grace of God, the snake did not harm me. Immediately, I came out of the water and ran home with my heart beating seriously.

Lessons learned:

- Donot disturb wildlife in their natural habitat;
- Fishing should be done with nets and not with hands because water contain dangerous and endangered species of animals.

Author: AKPEH MARCELINE, Kongo village

Appendix VI



Fig 2: Participants during the lunch break, having a taste of an alternative protein.

In order to lessen the dependence on bushmeat.