

# **Action plan *Gorilla gorilla gorilla***

**Version of July 2007**

**This document is essentially based on the Gorilla report outlined by the IRSNB for the CSM in 2005; The World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation (published in 2005), the regional action plans for the preservation of Chimpanzees and Great Apes in Occidental Equatorial Africa, existing National Action Plans, and many other publications.**

**Seven countries are concerned by the action plan for the *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*:**

- **Angola**
- **Republic of Cameroon**
- **Central African Republic**
- **Congo**
- **Gabon**
- **Equatorial Guinea**
- **Congo Democratic Republic**

## **A. Angola**

The Western lowland gorilla occurs in Cabinda, which is the southern margin of tropical moist forest and the southwestern edge of gorillas distribution in western Africa. No definitive population figures exist. Gorillas are thought to be rare since the 1970's (Caldecott and Miles, 2005), probably declining.

### **1. Legislation**

National

Existing (Article 24 of National Constitution; Decree n°40040 of 1955; Law 5/98 “basic law of environment”); responsibility of the Ministry of Urban affairs and Environment, but in practice the Forestry Development Institute (IFD) remains in overall charge of forest sector, with the National Directorate of Agriculture and Forest (DNAF) with which it shares responsibilities in relation to policy formulation and guidance.

But it is reported that wildlife protection laws are scarcely enforced either inside or outside PA, and poaching, harvesting and settlements inside PA occur regularly.

Wildlife products are sold openly in markets in Luanda and throughout the country (Caldecott and Miles, 2005).

International:

- CMS, 2006
- CBD, 1998, but no national report on implementation, no national biodiversity strategy and action plan
- World Heritage Convention (1991), but no World Heritage Site as yet
- ACCNNR, 1976

## **2. Conservation action**

Although the country has had a long established system of PA (since 1937), the almost continuous civil war in the country since 1974 has had significant impacts on Angolan PA and conservation efforts, particularly relating to populations of large mammals, even in large PA (Huntley and Matos, 1994). Many PA lack wardens; poaching, settlement incursion, the cultivation of inside PA occur regularly.

### **- Protected Areas of importance to Gorillas conservation:**

The Maiombe forest in Cabinda is critical for Gorillas conservation in Angola, yet, is virtually unprotected in law or practice.

### **- Current projects/activities with direct or potentials implications for Gorillas conservation:**

1. Development of a national biodiversity strategy and action plan: UNDP, with GEF funding; started end of 2004. Outcomes expected: identification of the status of biodiversity and priority actions to ensure biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.
2. Improved Environmental Planning and Conservation of Biological Diversity in Angola (ANG/02/005): UNDP funded by NORAD. Aims to strengthen national capacity to protect and manage natural biological resources, especially in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the state of the nation's environment and its implementation of international conventions. Implemented 2002-2004.
3. Following this UNDP/NORAD project, the Cabinda provincial government is developing plans for the study and conservation of the Maiombe forest and its ape populations. The proposal includes the designation of a new PA and a separate sanctuary for the rehabilitation of orphaned wildlife, including gorillas and chimpanzees. A regional task force for the joint protection of the Maiombe forest by the 3 countries (Angola, RDC and Congo) is being established with the help of UNDP.

4. A consultation and awareness process is underway with resident communities
5. Development, within the armed forces, of voluntary “friends of nature” clubs.

### **3. Priority actions**

From: Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Great Apes in Western Equatorial Africa (Brazzaville, 2005)

Overwhelming and immediate priorities for gorillas conservation are:

#### **Nationally:**

- Building capacity for environmental law enforcement;
- Education and awareness development at governmental, nongovernmental organisation and community level throughout Cabinda, especially in and around the Maiombe forest;
- Census of Cabinda to identify viable populations of gorillas;
- Effective law enforcement to halt commercial hunting (there is no strong ape bushmeat tradition, but poaching can be lucrative through sale of bushmeat to the military).
- Awareness campaign aiming at soldiers, police, resident communities, accompanied by measures to encourage and enable local people to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

#### **Internationally /collaboration across borders**

- Favor a transboundary gestion of the gorillas populations.
- Further development of a transborder conservation initiative between Angola, DRC and Congo, for the protection of the Maiombe forest, as a response to the cross-border smuggling of wildlife and timber. A proposal has been developed by UNDP, and should be taken further.
- Put a concerted preservation system between Angola, Congo Republic and CDR in order to insure the survival of the Western lowland gorillas whose populations are probably not viable in CDR.
- Develop collaboration and transboundary information exchange between the three countries on the Western lowland gorilla’s situation.

- Develop a new transboundary preservation initiative in response to the fauna and wood smuggling. A proposition have been developped by the PNUD, and should be going on. This proposition suggest in particular :
- Lead inventories on the gorillas populations in the forest of Maiombe in Cabinda, in CDR, and in the Republic of Congo, in order to gather gorilla counting data, habitat status as well as collecting genetic material.
- Train the participants belonging to local communities as well as the research staff, to census methodology and to the establishment of laws by the communities.
- Lead socio economical investigations on the “bush’s meat” trade and market, the pressure of hunting and local behaving toward the Maiombe forest preservation.

#### **4. Current/ Potential donors**

The association of oil operators in Cabinda, headed by ChevronTexaco, established a protocol with the Angolan government in 2002, through which they provide modest support to the Maiombe forest area.

## ***B. Republic of Cameroon***

Compare with the other countries in the region, Cameroon has experienced relative stability in the last decades (apart from a border dispute with Nigeria over the Bakassi Peninsula, ongoing since 1992), allowing the steady development of infrastructure, agriculture and the oil and timber industries.

Cameroon is host to both the Western lowland Gorilla and the Cross-River Gorilla. The Western lowland Gorilla is represented with a total population recently estimated at 15.000 individuals (ref. 54 of Caldecot and Miles). Two third of this global population lives in a triangle of PA on the common border of Cameroon (Lac Lobéké NP), the CAR 5Dzangha-Ndoki NP) and Congo (Nouabalé-Ndoki NP), collectively called the “Trinationale de la Sangha” (core area 7300km<sup>2</sup> and buffer zones of 21.000km<sup>2</sup>). The remaining third of the total western lowland gorillas is distributed between 7-8 PA of different status.

### **1. Legislation**

National

Law n° 94/01 (1994) sets out the country's forestry, wildlife, and fishery regulations, and lists gorillas as Category A species, which are fully protected against hunting, capture, or sale, in whole or in part.

National Parks and wildlife reserves may be established under the auspices of the Direction de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (DFAP), of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MINEF), which is also responsible for the country's biodiversity in general.

International

- CMS, 1983
- CBD, 1994
- WHC, 1982 (A world heritage convention site, also an UNESCO's MAB site, the Dja reserve, with the presence of *Gorilla.g.gorilla*)
- ACCNR, 1968
- CITES, 1981

## **2. Conservation action**

### **- Protected areas of importance to the Western lowland Gorilla:**

- Lac lobéké NP
- Campo-Ma'an NP
- Dja Wildlife Reserve/Biosphere Reserve
- Nki NP
- Mengamé Gorilla Sanctuary
- Boumba-Bek NP and Wildlife Reserve

Of all these PA, Dja Wildlife Reserve is the largest at 6236 km<sup>2</sup>.

Several of these PA are situated on or close to international boundaries: this can mean danger for conservation of gorillas if boundary conflict happens, but can on the other represent opportunities for cooperation with neighbouring countries.

### **- Current projects/activities with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

1. ECOFAC, EU funded conservation program, has been active in Dja WR since the early 1990s.
2. WCS involved in Cameroon since 1998. Involved in program to control the illegal transportation of bushmeat.
3. Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) established a community based and wildlife research program in Mengamé Gorilla Sanctuary.
4. Global Witness on the issue of illegal logging
5. A number of international organisations involved with research and education activities, Living Earth, Bristol Zoo, FFI, WWF...
6. Bushmeat Project, involving hunters in fauna protection in eastern Cameroon.

7. A number of awareness programs are run by national and international NGOs, and public education is a component of most current conservation and development projects.

8. The Limbé wildlife center is a rehabilitation centre for great apes and other species.

**- Existing international initiatives with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

1. 1999 Yaoundé Declaration signed by Cameroon, CAR, Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, outlining plans to create new cross-border protected forest areas in the Congo Basin. Later, the Conference of Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC), coordinated by IUCN Yaoundé, was nominated to lead an intergovernmental process based on the Yaoundé Declaration. The initiative includes:

- the endorsement of the 7300km<sup>2</sup> network of PAs ‘Trinationale de la Sangha’
- the creation of 2 new NPs in Cameroon, one of them an important site for the Western lowland Gorilla: Campo Ma’an NP.
- The new Central African World Heritage Forest initiative
- The Congo Basin Project
- The Congo Basin Forest Partnership

**3. Priority actions:**

From: Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Great Apes in Western Equatorial Africa (Brazzaville, 2005)

Immediate priorities for gorillas conservation are:

**Nationally:**

- Three areas have been identified by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as priorities for protection in the Congolian lowland evergreen forest of the extreme southeast Cameroon: Boumba-Bek NP and wildlife Reserve, Lac Lobéké NP and Nki NP. Better demarcation of existing PA boundaries would help in the fight against illegal logging.
- Better coordinated research and monitoring on gorillas distributions and populations throughout Cameroon
- Large scale information and education campaigns needed to inform Cameroonians of the endangered status of gorillas and attract their attention to the wildlife protection laws.

Several sites of exceptional priority for *Gorilla g. gorilla* have been identified at the 2006 Brazzaville workshop; for each sites, actions needed to be taken, potential partners, timeframe and funding needed were identified. The sites identified are the

following (A summary of the actions needed, partners and funding needed identified at the Brazza workshop can be found in annex):

- Dja Biosphere Reserve and surrounding forests

DJA Biosphere Reserve priority actions:

- Establish and maintain basic management infrastructure in the Dja Conservation Complex.
- Recruitment, training and functioning of 50 extra ecoguards for law enforcement activities.
- Reactivate and maintain permanent great ape research areas throughout the area.
- Establish great ape monitoring and survey program across complex.
- Establish a disease surveillance program and rapid response structure specifically for great apes (with focus on Ebola and Anthrax).
- Establish community-based biodiversity enterprises to support ape habituation and community-based ecotourism.

- Boumba Bek- Nki Conservation Complex

Boumba Bek and Nki proposed NPs priority actions:

- Finalize legal status of both National Parks.
- Establish and implement effective law enforcement program, including recruitment and training of 100 ecoguards and annual transboundary patrols with Odzala National Park Initial recruiting and training for 100 ecoguards.
- Maintain annual ape bio-monitoring program.
- Establish a disease-monitoring program specifically for great apes given geographical proximity of recent Ebola outbreaks.
- Establish collaborative framework with all stakeholders in support of great ape conservation, while developing management plan.

- The Trinationale de la Sangha complex, which includes the Lac Lobéké NP in Cameroon. (See International Priority actions)

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following (A summary of the actions needed, partners and funding needed identified at the Brazza 2006 workshop can be found in annex):

- Proposed Mengawé Gorilla Sanctuary:

Mengawé GS priority actions:

- Formalize legal status of gorilla sanctuary.
- Establish and implement effective law enforcement and community sensitization program, including recruitment and training of 30 ecoguards and initiation of cross-border protection activities.
- Develop and sustain great ape–human conflict mitigation strategy.
- Implement disease-monitoring program (given geographical proximity to past Ebola outbreaks).
- Maintain ape bio-monitoring program and reinforce survey database.
- Develop community mobilization strategy in support of great ape conservation.

- Campo-Ma'an – Rio Campo conservation complex, between Cameroon - Equatorial Guinea (see International priority actions)

### **Internationally/transborder cooperation:**

Further reinforce existing transborder agreements and initiatives, in particular:

- La Trinationale de la Sangha , with CAR and Congo

The Sangha Trinational is not only a regionally and globally important area for wildlife, it holds great potential for assessing and enhancing the effectiveness of transboundary and collaborative approaches to conservation in western equatorial Africa.

- Develop an epidemiological surveillance system and rapid response structure for the emergence of diseases, specifically Ebola.
- Improve judicial and law enforcement structures in protected areas and timber concessions, including capacity building, monitoring systems, and promotion of wildlife protection laws in logging concessions.
- Standardize protocols for training and implementation of bio-monitoring programs for great ape populations.

- Develop and promote national and transboundary structures for gorilla ecotourism in the Nouabalé-Ndoki, Dzanga and Lobéké National Parks.

- Campo Maan- Rio Campo Conservation Complex, with Equatorial Guinea

- Implement law enforcement and disease surveillance program; including recruitment and training of 50 ecoguards.
- Establish and maintain basic management infrastructure in Rio Campo.
- Establish and maintain a bio-monitoring program for gorillas.
- Explore ecotourism potential — conduct a feasibility study with gorillas viewing options.
- Develop and sustain platform for collaboration between stakeholders about logging issues.

## ***C. Central African Republic***

The economic situation of CAR has deteriorated in recent years due to severe political disturbances. The country is at the north-eastern edge of the range of the western lowland gorilla. Gorillas are restricted to the forests of the southwest of the country: they occur in both the Dzanga and Ndoki sectors of the Dzanga-Ndoki NP (2.333km<sup>2</sup>), in the Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Special reserve (3.359km<sup>2</sup>), and in the Ngotto forest, a proposed NP.

### **1. Legislation**

National

The Ministry of the Environment, Waters, Forests, Hunting and Fishing is responsible for wildlife conservation and the use of natural resources in CAR. These are governed by Ordinance n°84.045 (1984) and Law n°90.003 (1990).

Great apes are listed in Category A as “completely protected”.

There are three principal categories of PA in CAR:

- Strict nature reserve (1)
- National Parks (5)
- Faunal Reserves (8)
- There is also one Special Reserve, and one Private Reserve

International:

- CBD, 1995
- CITES, 1980
- ACCNNR, 1969
- WHC, 1980

## **2. Conservation action**

### **- Protected areas of importance to the Western lowland Gorilla:**

Gorillas occur in:

- The Dzanga-Ndoki NP, in both Dzanga and Ndoki sectors, and in adjoining Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Special reserve,
- The Ngotto forest, the proposed Mbaéré-Bodingué NP.

### **- Current projects/activities with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

1. Several international NGOs have been supporting conservation projects in Dzanga-Ndoki and Dzangha-Sangha SR, including WWF, WCS, as well as international organisations such as the World Bank and GTZ.
2. ECOFAC, EU funded conservation program, has supported the administration of the Ngotto forest until 2003.

### **- Existing international initiatives with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

CAR collaborates with Cameroon and Congo in managing a three-way transfrontier reserve “la Trinationale de la Sangha”(TNS), in which the Dzangha-Ndoki NP of CAR is contiguous with the Lac Lobéké NP of Cameroon and with the Nouabalé-Ndoki NP of Congo. The agreement signed in 2000 resulted in joint ranger patrols and successful exchange of information.

## **3. Priority actions:**

From: Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Great Apes in Western Equatorial Africa (Brazzaville, 2005)

The most important threats facing Gorillas in CAR are hunting for the bushmeat trade, and the threat from Ebola virus epidemics.

Immediate priorities for gorillas conservation are:

## **Nationally:**

- Increase law enforcement: Control hunting and bushmeat trade
- International research on Ebola virus nationally and internationally

Further needs include:

- Real need for political commitment and long term sustainable funding mechanisms
- Capacity building
- Improved information on gorillas populations size and distribution
- Large scale information and education campaigns.
- Mbaéré-Bodingué area, in Ngotto forest, to receive National Park status
- A corridor connecting Mbaéré-Bodingué and Dzanga-Ndoki must be negotiated with logging companies

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- La Trinationale de la Sangha, in which in which the Dzanga-Ndoki NP and the Dzanga-Sangha SR of CAR are part (see International transborder actions)

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## **Internationally/transborder cooperation:**

Real need for regional collaboration on important transborder Gorillas sites;  
Further reinforce existing transborder agreements and initiatives, in particular:

- La Trinationale de la Sangha

The Sangha Trinationale is not only a regionally and globally important area for wildlife, it holds great potential for assessing and enhancing the effectiveness of transboundary and collaborative approaches to conservation in western equatorial Africa.

- Develop an epidemiological surveillance system and rapid response structure for the emergence of diseases, specifically Ebola.
- Improve judicial and law enforcement structures in protected areas and timber concessions, including capacity building, monitoring systems, and promotion of wildlife protection laws in logging concessions.
- Standardize protocols for training and implementation of bio-monitoring programs for great ape populations.
- Develop and promote national and transboundary structures for gorilla ecotourism in the Nouabalé-Ndoki, Dzanga and Lobéké National Parks.

## **D. Congo**

Congo is one of Africa's main petroleum producers, with significant potentials for further offshore development. Petroleum and timber represent 80% of GDP. It is one of the most densely forested countries on the African continent.

The Congo river and the Oubangui river form the eastern edge of the range of the western lowland gorilla. The Oubangui river is thought to be the most easterly limit to the range of the species, unless the populations in southwest RDC are not extinct, as believed.

A large proportion of the western lowland gorillas are thought to live in Congo, mostly in the densely forested northern region, but also, to a lesser extent, in the central and south-western parts of the country.

But this large population of gorillas is at risk from logging and associated poaching, and, since the late 1990s, from the major threat represented by the Ebola virus. Bushmeat consumption is traditional among certain ethnic groups, in the north, but there has been an increased demand for bushmeat in towns and cities in Congo and neighbouring countries with the increase of urban incomes.

### **1. Legislation**

National:

The main laws dealing with wildlife preservation and use are Law 48/83, Law 49/83 and Decree 85/879.

The Ministry of Forest Economy and the Environment (MFEE) is responsible for wildlife conservation and regulated use, including the management of protected areas.

There are three main categories of protected areas:

- national parks (4)
- faunal reserves (6)
- hunting reserves (4)

There are also 4 faunal sanctuaries and a number of other reserves.

International:

- CMS, 2000
- CBD, 1993
- WHO, 1987
- CITES, 1983
- ACCNNR, 1981

Two Biosphere Reserves: Ozala-Koukoua NP and Dimonoka (Mayombe mountains) and part of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership

## **2. Conservation action**

### **- Protected areas of importance to the Western lowland Gorilla:**

- Ozala-Koukoua NP (13.456 km<sup>2</sup>):

Ozala has the highest recorded densities of western lowland gorillas in Central Africa (mean 5.4/km<sup>2</sup>, and up to 11.3/km<sup>2</sup> in the Marantaceae forests), administered between 1992-2005 by ECOFAC. It is one of the most important strongholds for elephant and gorilla conservation in Central Africa and arguably one of the most spectacular wilderness areas in the world. The area incorporates mixed and Marantaceae forest types and an abundance of forest clearings supporting exceptional densities of a number of charismatic large mammals, including western gorillas.

- Nouabalé-Ndoki NP (4.193 km<sup>2</sup>), now managed by MFEE/WCS.
- Conkouati-Douli NP (5.045 km<sup>2</sup>), on the Atlantic coast in south-western Congo.
- Lossi Gorilla sanctuary, a small reserve created by the local communities
- Lac Télé/Likouala-aux –Herbes Community reserve

**- Current projects/activities with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

1. ECOFAC (EU) funded conservation program, has been very active in the management of Ozala-Koukoua NP since 1992.
2. WCS involved Nouabalé-Ndoki NP. Involved, with a logging company, in a program developing guidelines for hunting, including a ban on ape and other endangered species hunting and the export of meat from the concession. As a result, commercial bushmeat hunting was reduced.
3. The Congo Government now requires all logging companies operating northern Congo to pay for “écoguards” and wildlife management on their concessions.
4. Ecotourism and gorilla watching is developed at several sites, including Odzal-Koukoua NP and Nouabalé-Ndoki NP.
5. Sanctuaries:
  - the John Aspinnall gorilla orphanage was started in Brazzaville zoo in 1994.
  - Lefini-Louna sanctuary

**- Existing international initiatives with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

1. Congo is a partner in the Trinationale de la Sangha (TNS), a 7.300km<sup>2</sup> transborder conservation zone, which comprises the Nouabalé-Ndoki NP of Congo, as well as Lac Lobéké NP of Cameroon and Dzanga-Ndoki NP of CAR. All three sectors of TNS support important populations of gorillas.
2. A proposal for a Mayombe transboundary are exists, between Congo, Angola and DRC, but not yet approved by governments.

**3. Priority actions:**

From: Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Great Apes in Western Equatorial Africa (Brazzaville, 2005)

Immediate priorities for gorillas conservation are:  
(as stated in NGASP Congo)

**Nationally:**

- Increase law enforcement, antipoaching brigades in forest concessions
- Increase effective surveillance of PA
- Develop a monitoring system for illegal activities concerning gorillas

- Undertake more research into the status, distribution and biology of gorillas
- Better coordinated research and monitoring on gorillas distributions and populations, and diseases (particularly Ebola virus) epidemiology throughout Congo.
- Increase research on vaccines and ways to vaccinate people and wild apes against the Ebola virus.
- Develop a national policy on tourism, and promote local ecotourism
- Develop alternative sources of income for rural communities
- Create an autonomous wildlife and PA management agency.
- Undertake large scale information and education campaigns needed to inform Cameroonians of the endangered status of gorillas and attract their attention to the wildlife protection laws.

Several sites of exceptional priority for *Gorilla g. gorilla* have been identified at the 2006 Brazzaville workshop; for each sites, actions needed to be taken, potential partners, timeframe and funding needed were identified. The sites identified are the following (A summary of the actions needed, partners and funding needed identified at the Brazza workshop can be found in annex):

- Odzala-Lossi-Pikounda-Ngombe-Ntokou Complex:

- Establish a quick response structure and systematic epidemiological surveillance system for Ebola, both before, after and during epidemics.
- Implement biomonitoring of ape populations in zones both affected and unaffected by Ebola, in order to evaluate impact.
- Increase capacity in biological sampling techniques and bio-monitoring through targeted training programs.
- Establish early-warning system and community awareness campaign for Ebola in local community.
- Implement effective protection for remaining ape populations through anti-poaching patrols.

- Lac Tele-Likouala Complex:

- Support government agents and local communities in promoting and implementing great ape protection efforts in and around the Lac Tele Community Reserve.

- Conduct baseline ape surveys in the Likouala and Baille swamps to the southeast and west of Lac Tele Community Reserve to assess great ape populations.
- Standardize protocols for training and implementation of bio-monitoring program for great ape populations.
- Establish systematic surveillance systems for the emergence of zoonotic diseases in great ape populations.

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- Conkouati-Mayumba Complex, Republic of Congo and Gabon (see sites of international importance)

**- Internationally/transborder cooperation:**

Promote transborder management of gorillas.

Further reinforce existing transborder agreements and initiatives, in particular:

- La Trinationale de la Sangha

The Sangha Trinationale, which comprises the Nouabalé-Ndoki NP of Congo, as well as Lac Lobéké NP of Cameroon and Dzanga-Ndoki NP of CAR, is not only a regionally and globally important area for wildlife, it holds great potential for assessing and enhancing the effectiveness of transboundary and collaborative approaches to conservation in western equatorial Africa.

- Develop an epidemiological surveillance system and rapid response structure for the emergence of diseases, specifically Ebola.
- Improve judicial and law enforcement structures in protected areas and timber concessions, including capacity building, monitoring systems, and promotion of wildlife protection laws in logging concessions.
- Standardize protocols for training and implementation of bio-monitoring programs for great ape populations.
- Develop and promote national and transboundary structures for gorilla ecotourism in the Nouabalé-Ndoki, Dzanga and Lobéké National Parks.

- Conkouati-Mayumba Complex, Republic of Congo and Gabon

- Develop capacity and structures for effective law enforcement and judiciary process in the Conkouati-Douli National Park and surrounding buffer zones, including training of park guards and transboundary protection efforts and policies.
- Build a great ape research and training station within the CDNP, to conduct effective and timely bio-monitoring and provide effective deterrent to poaching.
- Conduct baseline surveys of ape populations and other large mammals in CDNP and Mayumba NP buffer zone.
- Establish systematic surveillance systems for the emergence of zoonotic diseases.
- Implement conservation education awareness and outreach programs in local communities, with specific emphasis on great apes.

- Maiombe Forest, Republic of Congo, Angola (Cabinda Province), Democratic Republic of Congo

- Strengthen the initiatives and transboundary agreements, for the Maiombe Forest situated between the Republic of Congo, Angola (Cabinda Province), and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Establish a concerted preservation system between Angola, The Republic of Congo and DRC in order to ensure the survival of Western low altitude gorillas that reached non viable figures in DRC.
- Develop the transboundary collaboration and data exchange between the three states on the Western Lowlands Gorilla status.
- Develop a new transboundary preservation initiative, in response to the fauna and wood smuggling. A proposal have been developped by the PNUD, and should carry on. This proposal suggests in particular to:
  - Conduct ape population surveys in the Maoimbe Forest in Cabinda, DRC, and Congo Republic, to include ape counts, habitat status and collection of genetic material.
  - Provide training for local community participants and research personnel in ape census, methodology and community-based law enforcement.
  - Conduct socio-economic surveys on bushmeat market trade, hunting pressure and local attitudes to conservation in the Maoimbe Forest.

## ***E. Gabon***

Located between the Congo Basin and the Gulf of Guinea, Gabon is surrounded by Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Congo. Decades of political stability, a relatively small human population (although growing rapidly now) and abundant natural resources including oil and forestry, explain the country prosperity.

The western lowland gorilla occurs throughout the country; in the 1980s-1990s, the global gorillas population of Gabon was estimated to be around 35.000 animals. However, they are signs now that many populations may have been reduced to such a low density in areas affected by hunting and Ebola that their viability is threatened.

## **1. Legislation**

International:

- CBD, 1997
- WHC, 1986 (A World Heritage site: La Lopé NP, an MAB UNESCO site, the Ipassa Makokou reserve)
- ACCNNR, 1988
- CITIES, 1989

## **2. Conservation action**

### **- Protected areas of importance to the Western lowland Gorilla:**

- La Lopé NP
- Minkébé NP
- Waka NP
- Birougou NP
- Makokou Biosphere Reserve
- Monts de Cristal
- Mwagne
- Mayumba
- Gamba complex (Loango NP and Moukalaba Doudou NP)
- Wonga Wongué

### **- Current projects/activities with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

- ECOFAC, EU funded conservation program, has been active in Gabon since 1992, and has supported the management and development in particular for the Lopé NP.
- WWF
- Global Forest Watch

- WCS involved in Gabon since 1985, currently runs a major country program that includes activities in all national parks, institutional support to CNPN, nationwide monitoring of the bushmeat trade, new PA planning, and reduced impact logging..

### **3. Priority actions:**

From: Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Great Apes in Western Equatorial Africa (Brazzaville, 2005)

Immediate priorities for gorillas conservation are:

#### **Nationally:**

- Develop professional management capacity in all new 13 National Parks created in 2002;
- Legislative enforcement
- Development of a national strategy for the use of wildlife resources
- Large scale information and education campaigns needed to inform citizens of the decline and endangered status of gorillas and attract their attention to the wildlife protection laws.
- Further populations surveys.

Several sites of exceptional priority for *Gorilla g.gorilla* have been identified at the 2006 Brazzaville workshop; for each sites, actions needed to be taken, potential partners, timeframe and funding needed were identified. The sites identified are the following (A summary of the actions needed, partners and funding needed identified at the Brazza workshop can be found in annex):

#### **- Loango-Moukalaba-Doudou Gamba Complex**

- Reinforce anti-poaching measures throughout the site especially on logging concessions in the buffer zones.
- Introduce measures to minimize risks of disease transmission and establish health-monitoring system for apes, rules for all people using the site, education for villagers and tourists and analysis of ape faecal samples.
- Develop and promote responsible great ape tourism within the broader ecotourism strategy for this site.
- Strengthen research capacity to respond to threats to apes, integrate research into site management, provide support in training, data collection and analysis and applied protocols.

- Maintain ape bio-monitoring program, including training in monitoring methods for research personnel.

#### - Lopé-Waka Complex

- Extend existing programs of health education and ape health monitoring to minimize risks of disease transmission between humans and apes.
- Support research & training programs and improve capacity for adaptive management, through focused research protocols and systems to evaluate the effectiveness of management for the protection of apes.
- Standardize protocols for training and implementation of monitoring programs for great ape populations.
- Improve judicial and law enforcement capacity in protected areas and logging concessions, including mobile anti-poaching brigade, specialized training for local authorities, gendarmes & magistrates.
- Develop and promote responsible great ape tourism, of already habituated gorilla groups and within the broader ecotourism strategy for this site.

Several sites of priority importance for *Gorilla g. gorilla* have been identified at the 2006 Brazzaville workshop; for each sites, actions needed to be taken, potential partners, timeframe and funding needed were identified. The sites identified are the following (A summary of the actions needed, partners and funding needed identified at the Brazza 2006 workshop can be found in annex):

#### - Ivindo Complex

- Extend existing programs of health education and ape health monitoring to minimize risks of disease transmission between humans and apes.
- Develop and promote responsible great ape ecotourism at Langoué Bai from viewing platforms, and other appropriate areas within the broad ecotourism strategy for Gabon's National Park network.
- Develop on-site research capacity on great ape ecology, behavior and health, through support to the IRET research station.
- Sustain partnerships with logging companies in the buffer zone to reinforce the protection of apes and increase capacity to monitor population trends.
- Maintain ape biomonitoring program, including training in monitoring methods for research personnel.

- Belinga-Djoua Complex

- Conduct surveys of ape distribution and density throughout the site, including training in monitoring methods for research personnel.
- Implement measures to prevent fragmentation of ape habitat block, through prevention of new human settlements and deforestation along the Zadié-Belingá road.
- Raise awareness of the need for ape conservation among local actors and organization with anti-poaching missions.
- Create a great ape sanctuary within the TRIDOM landscape, based on survey results.
- Conduct applied epidemiological research on Ebola, collect fecal samples and perform autopsies of cadavers to assess impact of past Ebola epidemics and current health status of ape populations.

**Internationally/transborder cooperation:**

- Favour a transboundary gorillas population gestion.
- Further reinforce existing transborder agreements and initiatives, in particular:
  - The Conkouati-Mayumba, Republic of Congo and Gabon.
- Develop the abilities and necessary structures to an efficient establishment of the laws and judicial process in the Conkouati-Douli national park and nearby buffer zones, including teaching park caretakers and efforts concerning transboundary preservation and policies.
- Build a research and training station on the great apes in the Conkouati Douli NP, in order to be able to lead an effective bio-watch and provide an effective deterrent power against poaching.
- Conduct basic inventories on the great apes populations and other great mammals in the Conkouati Douli NP and the buffer zone of the Mayumba NP.
- Establish constant watching systems helping to detect the appearance of zoonotic diseases.
- Establish programmes of local communities consciousness-raising, stressing particularly on the gorillas.

## ***F. Equatorial Guinea***

One of the smallest countries in Africa, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea is made of two parts: the island of Bioko, and the continental Rio Muni, bordering the Bight of Biafra between Cameroon and Gabon.

Now the third greatest oil producer in Africa, Equatorial Guinea is currently the world's fastest growing economy.

The western lowland gorilla is present in continental Rio Muni.

### **1. Legislation**

National

The Law on Protected Areas of EG was passed in 2000, and the number of PA increased to 13 in total, out of which 10 are located in Rio Muni:

- 2 NP (Monte Allen and Los Altos de Nsork), 5 Natural Reserves, one scientific reserve and 2 natural monuments.

Preservation issues are administered by the Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Forestal y Gestion del Sistema de Areas Protegidas (INDEFOR), within the Ministry of Infrastructure and Forests.

International:

- CBD, 1994
- CITES, 2002

### **2. Conservation action**

#### **- Protected areas of importance to the Western lowland Gorilla:**

- Monte Allen NP, a 2000 km<sup>2</sup> Park consisting largely of dense tropical secondary forest (selectively logged in the past), is the most effectively protected PA in the country.

#### **- Current projects/activities with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

ECOFAC, EU funded conservation program, has been active in Equatorial Guinea since 1992. ECOFAC has supported the management of Monte Allen NP. ZSL and Imperial College London started in 2002 a project on the sustainability of bushmeat hunting in Rio Muni, in conjunction with ECOFAC, INDEFOR, and CI. The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey and the Wildlife Research Unit of Oxford also carried out a bushmeat study in 2003-2004.

**- Existing international initiatives with direct or potential implications for Gorillas conservation:**

**3. Priority actions:**

From: Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Great Apes in Western Equatorial Africa (Brazzaville, 2005)

Immediate priorities for gorillas conservation are:

**Nationally:**

- Increase law enforcement within and around PA.
- Timber extraction must be made compatible with biodiversity conservation.
- Habitat restoration may be needed in buffer zones around the PA.
- Capacity building of PA staff is essential.
- Long term research and monitoring on gorillas distributions and populations throughout Rio Muni is necessary to reassess the situation;
- Large scale information and education campaigns needed to inform the people of the endangered status of gorillas and attract their attention to the wildlife protection law.

**Internationally/transborder cooperation:**

- Favour a transboundary management of gorillas populations.
- Further reinforce existing transborder agreements and initiatives, in particular:

-Campo Maan- Rio Campo preservation complex, shared with Cameroon

- Undertake a programme of application of the law and watching diseases including hiring and teaching 50 ecoguards.
- Establish and maintain the basic infrastructure for the management of Rio Campo.
- Establish and maintain a programme of gorillas bio watching.
- Explore the ecotourism capacity, conduct a feasibility study taking into account the capacity of gorillas observation.

- Develop and support a collaboration platform between the various users in what concerns the logging.

## ***G. Democratic Republic of Congo***

The western lowland Gorilla is probably extinct in its former range in the extreme west of DRC, north of the Congo River. It is thought to have become extinct prior to 1980.

The Maiombe forest, shared between the Congo, Angola and RDC, forms the south-west margin of the margin of the Congo Basin's tropical rainforest and the geographical limits of several forest-dwelling species, including western gorillas. A transfrontier initiative for the conservation of the Maiombe Forest focuses on its southern sector, between DRC, Angola, and Republic of Congo. This zone incorporates the Dimoneka and Luki Biosphere Reserves in Republic of Congo and DRC, respectively. In spite of little or no protection efforts in these reserves, coupled with high human populations, illegal exploitation activities and decades of, as yet unresolved, political and economic instability, local reports suggest that significant ape populations, particularly chimpanzees, may remain. Community-based conservation measures have been seeking to build support for a 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> zone of the Maiombe Forest in Cabinda, Angola. Information on ape status in the Maiombe Forest is scarce, and much-needed survey efforts have been hampered by civil unrest.

Ape surveys in this transfrontier region would also confirm the presence and status of western gorillas in DRC and build political support for transboundary conservation efforts in the three countries.

### **1 Legislation:**

#### National

The Ministry of Environment and nature preservation and tourism is in charge of the preservation of the nature at the governmental level. The 69.041 order-law on the nature preservation of 1969 determines the national parks. The 82.002 law, 1982, determines faunas reserves, hunting reserves and lists the species that are forbidden to catch and hunt.

There are 4 main classes of protected areas in DRC:

- National Parks (9)
- Hunting reserves (1)

- Forestal reserves (7)
- Faunas reserves (2)

The Congolese Institute for Nature Preservation (ICCN), controls the whole of these areas.

A forestry act have been established in 2003, according to whom the state possesses all the forests and determines the lawful uses for each. The legal mechanisms and the zoning system should come up next. That causes a problem for the rights recognition for the persons in the forest, and there have been few consultation of the civilian community for the formulation of that code (Caldecott and Miles, 2005). The taxes for the forest exploitation are very low- 0.06 US\$/ha- the World Bank estimates that 600.000km<sup>2</sup> will be taken back as production forests. The wood extraction will be made easier by the promised by the donors, more than 270 million dollar – corresponding to more than 5000km of non-covered roads, or more than 1000km of covered roads.

Internationally:

- CMS, 1990
- CBD, 1994
- WHC, 1974

(5 sites of the World Heritage, all corrected as threatened, due to the human pressures/ conflicts and civil wars: the Garamba NP, the Kahuzi-Biega NP, the Salonga NP, the Okapi fauna Reserve and the Virunga NP. The DRC takes part in the MAB programme of the UNESCO.)

- ACCNNR, 1976
- CITIES, 1976

### **3 Needs and recommended priority actions:**

From: Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Chimpanzees and Great Apes in Western Equatorial Africa (Brazzaville, 2005), NGASP

The important and immediate priorities for the preservation of gorillas are:

#### **Nationally:**

All measures are applied for all Gorilla taxons in DRC .

#### **International/Transboundary cooperation :**

Favour a transboundary management of gorillas populations.

- Strengthen the initiatives and existing transboundary agreements, for the Maiombe forest, between the Republic of Congo, Angola (Cabinda province), and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Establish a concerted system of preservation between Angola, Congo Republic and the DRC in order to ensure the survival of the western low altitudes gorillas, that have reached non viable figures in DRC.
- Develop the collaboration and transboundary information exchange between the three countries on the western lowlands gorilla.
- Common planification for the transboundary preservation actions between Dimonika, Concouati, and the Reserves and corridors still to create on the Bas Fleuve.
- Common integrated management for the transboundary preservation between Dimonika, Concouati and the reserves and corridors still to create on the Bas Fleuve.
- Develop a new initiative of transboundary preservation in response to the fauna and wood smuggling. A proposition has been developed by the PNUD, and should be carried on. This proposition suggests especially:
  - Conduct inventories on the gorillas populations in the Maiombe forest in Cabinda, in the DRC, and in the Republic of Congo, so as to gather counting data of gorillas, habitat status as well as collecting the genetic material.
  - Train the local communities participant and the research staff for the census methodologies and for the establishment of laws by the communities.
  - Conduct socio-economical surveys on the bush meat market and trade, the hunting pressure and local behavior toward Maiombe forest preservation