



Sustainable management of protected areas in Central Africa

Contribution of the COMIFAC pilot initiatives

Programme gestion durable des forêts dans le bassin du Congo

SOMMARY

A) Context –GIZ regional support Project to COMIFAC

B) Contribution of traditional knowledge to biodiversity conservation in Central Africa

C) Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) – the importance of an effective implication of indigenous people and local communities



A) Context –GIZ regional support Project to COMIFAC

The objective of the project is: ***COMIFAC accomplishes its strategic and operational target effectively***

Period: January 2019 to october 2022

The project target group: COMIFAC states members, and particularly those who depends directly or indirectly on the forest and its exploitation for their survival

The project has 5 components, and the third component focuses on the amelioration and the participation of indigenous and local communities, whereby some pilot initiatives for example management of traditionnal knowledge and FPIC are implemented



B) Contribution of traditional knowledge to biodiversity conservation in Central Africa: case of the Sangha Trinational (TNS) and the BSB Yamoussa complexe






B.1- Context

- ✓ Local and indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices are lost with the disappearance of elders and the absence of intergenerational transmission
- ✓ This knowledge is not sufficiently used in conventional conservation methods. Indeed, conservation must be at the service of developmental issues in and around Protected Areas and therefore, Man must be at the heart of development
- ✓ The aim of this initiative is to conserve local and indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices which are valued, contribute to the well-being of indigenous people and local communities and can be used in protected area planning and management processes




B.2 – Implementation of the pilot initiative

- ✓ Data collection for the development of a catalogue on local and indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices identified in the BSB Yamoussa (around the Sena Oura and Bouba Ndjida National Parks) and the TNS;
- ✓ Organization of several workshops with different actors on the conservation and enhancement of traditional knowledge in connection with the sustainable management of forest ecosystems.
- ✓ The implementation of the Concept "Useful holidays for Biodiversity" in August 2021, which aimed to promote the valorization of traditional knowledge among the younger generation, for a better conservation of biodiversity in the BSB Yamoussa
- ✓ This pilot initiative has made it possible to implement the CLIP in the process of data collection and development of the traditional knowledge catalogue.
- ✓ Analysis of the Free Prior Informed Consent approach used in the identification of traditional knowledge

B.3 – Some results obtained in the TNS

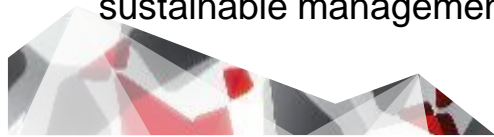
Practice		Description	Period	Ethnic group	Pictures
Fish trap	Djée, Tolo, Dammo'o	Technique that allows to let pass the small fish and catch only the big ones. The material is made locally	Décembre - février	Baka, Bantou	
Treebacks		Superficial removal of treebacks without damaging the tree and only on one part and one side. Then we allow the treebacks to regenerate after a period of time.	Permanent	Baka, BaAka, Bayaka PN Lobeke, APDS, PN Nouabale-Ndoki	
Tracks	Mokoh	This knowledge consists of climbing trees with the rope to pick caterpillars. It is reserved only for men because it is dangerous. It is also used to pick koko leaves or to harvest honey.		BaAka APDS	

B.3 – Some results obtained in the BSB Yamoussa

Practice	Description	Ethnic group	Pictures
Treebark	Removal of Baobab bark to make mats or for therapeutic care (anemia). In order to preserve the baobab, in addition to taking a vertical sample of the bark of the tree, the sampling is not done in the same place each year. Once the bark is removed, the surface is covered with clay, to protect it from drought and help it regenerate.	Mboum - Mbissiri village PN Bouba Ndjida	
Treebark	In order to provide veterinary care to their livestock, especially oxen, the Mbororos take the bark of two trees called Anekedo and Konkei respectively. The technique consists of skinning the tree horizontally while avoiding going around the tree completely. This technique allows the tree to regenerate within two months.	Mbororo PN Bouba Ndjida	
Net	Net hunting is practiced collectively, which forces the hunter to respect collective regulatory standards. It does not allow large catches, but only what is necessary for household feeding needs and rituals. The net is traditionally made from fibers	PN Sena Oura	

B.4 – Some lessons learned

- ✓ Collecting information on traditional knowledge requires the trust of indigenous people and local communities (IPLC) and therefore requires considerable time
- ✓ The FPIC is a transversal approach to any initiative to collect and enhance the traditional knowledge of indigenous people and local communities
- ✓ Efforts are needed to translate TRQs into the corresponding ecological sustainability principles
- ✓ IPLCs need access to their cultural sites in order to preserve their traditional knowledge
- ✓ Recognition of IPLCs' land rights is necessary for the preservation of their traditional knowledge
- ✓ Communication and awareness around this knowledge are important for its transmission
- ✓ Prior political recognition of indigenous communities contributes to their better participation in the various sustainable management processes



C) Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) – the importance of an effective implication of indigenous people and local communities



C.1 – Free Prior Informed Consent - FPIC

Free: consent is given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation or manipulation; the process is self-directed by the community who keeps the right to say 'no'.

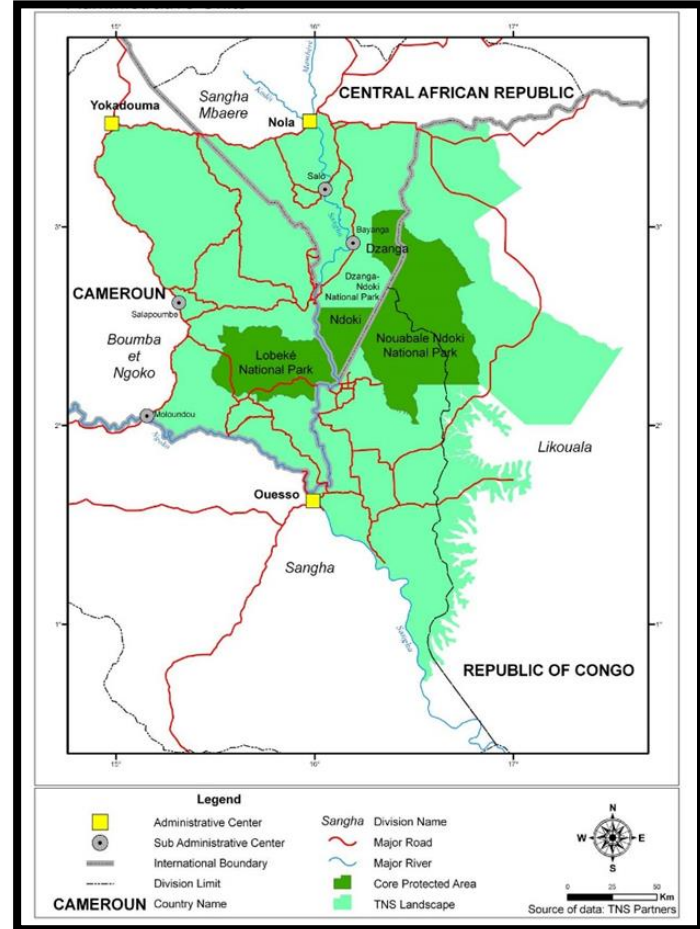
Prior: consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities; enough time is admitted to the concerned communities in order to examine and reflect on the project.

Informed: complete information on the project is provided to the communities concerned in the local language and a culturally appropriate manner => make sure communities have a good understanding of the project and its possible impacts and risks.

Consent: ensure that the whole community has given their point of view; representatives of the community must have been chosen freely by the community.

C.2 - Activities in the Sangha Trinational (TNS)

- ✓ Capacity building at the sub regional level :
 - Organisation of regional workshops on human rights and FPIC in Mambele, Lobeke National Park (Cameroun), with different stakeholders from the TNS
 - Organisation of regional workshops on capacity building of FPIC facilitators in the TNS in Mambele and Ouesso, Nouabale-Ndoki National Park (Republic of Congo)



C.2 - Activities in the Sangha Trinational (TNS)

- ✓ Supporting the process of revising the management plan of Lobeke National Park
 - Providing information on FPIC as well as the needs and preoccupations of the indigenous people and local communities living around Lobeke National Park to the park management



Rapport de Compilation des Informations sur le Consentement Libre, Informé et Préalable (CLIP) et l'intégration des Eléments dans la Révision du Plan d'Aménagement du Parc National de Lobéké



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C.2 - Activities in the Sangha Trinational (TNS)

- Capacity building of indigenous people and local communities on their rights and duties, FPIC as well as the process revising the management plan
- Visiting the different villages and camps in order to inform local communities prior to the field mission of the consultant revising the management plan



C.3 – Some lessons learned

- ✓ Take FPIC into account from the beginning of the process, including all stakeholders
- ✓ Capacity building of the different stakeholders on FPIC is crucial for its implementation
- ✓ Invest time and resources in sensitizing on legal texts etc. in order to make sure local communities are well informed
- ✓ Taking into account the needs and interests of local communities might facilitate their consent
- ✓ Make sure to treat with the right parties in order to have a valuable consent
- ✓ Creating and fostering a climate of confidence will facilitate good collaboration in the long term



Thank you very much for your kind attention!

