



**Parcs  
Gabon**

**Side event - Is conflict with forest elephants increasing in the Congo Basin and how can we enhance human / forest elephant coexistence?  
CBFP 20 meeting of the parties– Kinshasa June 2024**

**Date and time:** 4 June 2024, from 17h30 to 18h30 - Salle Salon Lubumbashi

**Background:** In recent years, the conflict between forest elephants and humans in Central Africa appears to be on the rise. This trend persists despite the dramatic decline in forest elephant populations throughout the Congo Basin. The lack of systematically collected data to measure the extent of this conflict exacerbates the situation. Additionally, there is a clear gap in understanding the different factors and the various dimensions of the conflict. These dimensions can vary significantly across different sites. Occasionally, conflicts between humans over elephants take precedence, especially when the conflict over elephants and other wildlife is deeply ingrained in stakeholders' minds, significantly impacting their tolerance levels. Crop raiding by forest elephants poses a serious concern in certain landscapes, even at a national scale. While various mitigation and prevention methods, such as fences or other barriers are in place, they are often implemented in isolation, resulting in limited success.

**Objective:** The objective of this side event is move away from rapid conflict mitigation and prevention towards to holistic and integrated coexistence programs between human and forest elephants in rainforest of the Congo Basin Thematic focus, format of the event- What type of activities will be conducted: Workshop, Round table, vernissage, launch of initiatives and/or projects, bi-tri-lateral/multi-partite meetings, exhibitions - Film - Video...: Human Wildlife Interactions, Protected Area; Management Land Use Planning Expected Results: Better understanding of the complexity of human -forest elephant interactions and holistic co-existence programs; better capacity in addressing HEC mitigation for managers and local communities, decision makers and donors.

Moderator: Paul N'Goran, WWF INT

**1) Presentations (20 minutes)**

- *Thomas Breuer, WWF – Germany:* Status and Management of Human Forest Elephant Conflict
- *Léa-Larissa Moukagni, ANPN :* Possible coexistence – lessons learned from Human Elephant Conflict management in Gabon
- *Stéphanie Bourgeois, ANPN :* Human-Elephant Coexistence : perspectives and actions - importance of scientific research

**2) Panel discussion (20 minutes):** Panel composition: Representative from the Gabonese National Park Agency, Representative from the Gabonese Ministry in charge of management of human wildlife conflict. Representative from an international NGO (WCS), One representative from a local NGO. One representative from a donor (AFDB).

Some take home messages:

- Gabon is home to around 65% of the world's forest elephants, and conflict has become an urgent national issue. This is of global importance for the conservation of forest elephants.

- Given this situation, there is an urgent need for exchange and sensibilisation around the theme.
- There is a need to transform the current approaches of simple mitigation and rapid conflict prevention into holistic and integrated coexistence programmes, promoting sustainable coexistence between humans and forest elephants in the Congo Basin (such as WWFs C2C: Conflict to Coexistence), particularly in Gabon.
- To achieve coexistence, a holistic and integrated programme for managing conflicts between humans and wildlife must be put in place, integrating the social and biological sciences. Measures in isolation (e.g., fencing) will likely not lead to results. The aspect of fencing in Gabon needs particular attention as it included the whole national territory.
- There is a clear lack of understanding of the various factors and dimensions of the conflict, which can vary considerably from one site to another. Human activities are a major factor.
- The lack of systematically collected data to measure the extent of this conflict exacerbates the situation.
- There is a substantial amount of research results done by ANPN and partners that needs to be synthesized and must be considered when deciding about conflict management.
- Inter-ministerial exchange platforms are needed to come up with a national HEC management plan.
- There is both a need to include the benefits and costs of living alongside elephants.
- The inclusion of local communities and indigenous people via bottom-up approach is needed.
- There is a strong need for capacity building of local and national actors.
- The costs of management of human elephant conflict are rarely included in development project but should be an integral part. If it is not addressed, then they might put development and conservation projects at stage.

#### Photos of the session



## Additional Information CBFP 2024

### 1. Human Elephant Coexistence Toolbox ([lien](#))



Lignes directrices de la CSE de l'UICN sur les conflits entre l'homme et la faune sauvage et sur la coexistence. ([lien](#))



3. CIRAD : Boîte à outil d'atténuation des conflits homme-faune (BO-CHF) ([lien](#))



2. Bibliothèque sur les conflits entre l'homme et la faune sauvage et sur la coexistence IUCN ([lien](#))

Policy & Briefing Documents

IUCN/FAO Case Studies

Articles, Editorials & Blogs

Videos



Key Topics

Engaging with stakeholders	Conflict analysis & theory
Social research methods	Political ecology of conflicts
Historical perspectives	Cultural dimensions

Key Species

African Elephant
Asian Elephant
Bears
Cheetah
Crocodilians
Jaguar

Latest Additions

October 2023
September 2023
August 2023
July 2023
June 2023
May 2023

# CONFLITS HOMME - ÉLÉPHANTS DE FORÊT DANS LE BASSIN DU CONGO - COMMENT AMÉLIORER LA COEXISTENCE?



Parcs **PFBC**  
Gabon

20ème Réunion des Parties du PFBC

Mardi 4 Juin - 17h30-18h30

Salon Lubumbashi

## Bref résumé des présentations

- Les conflits entre les éléphants de forêt et les humains en Afrique centrale semblent être en augmentation. Cette tendance persiste malgré le déclin dramatique des populations d'éléphants de forêt dans tout le Bassin du Congo sauf le Gabon.
- Le manque de données systématiquement collectées pour mesurer l'étendue de ce conflit exacerbe la situation.
- Il y a un manque évident de compréhension des différents facteurs et des diverses dimensions du conflit car ils peuvent varier considérablement d'un site à l'autre. Les activités anthropiques constituent un facteur majeur.
- Le Gabon abrite environ 65% des éléphants de forêt et le conflit est devenu une problématique nationale.
- L'objectif de cet événement parallèle est de transformer les approches actuelles de simple atténuation et de prévention rapide des conflits en programmes holistiques et intégrés de coexistence, favorisant la coexistence durable entre les hommes et les éléphants de forêt dans le bassin du Congo, en particulier au Gabon.

Pour parvenir à la coexistence, il faut mettre en place un programme holistique de gestion des conflits entre l'homme et la faune sauvage, qui intègre les sciences sociales et biologiques.

## Composition de la table ronde

- Représentant de l'ANPN
- Représentant ministériel en charge de la gestion du conflit homme-faune
- Représentant d'une ONG locale de conservation
- Représentant d'une ONG internationale
- Représentant d'un donateur

*Nous discuterons des mesures immédiates pour la protection de la vie humaine et des biens, des actions de prévention, des stratégies à long terme, de l'importance de la recherche scientifique et de la participation des communautés locales et peuples autochtones.*



Pour plus d'informations  
sur la thématique



## Contact et informations

thomas.breuer@wwf.de  
stephbourgeois\_@hotmail.com  
moukagnilarissa@yahoo.fr

