

Central African Republic Biodiversity Conservation Efforts



The Central African Republic (CAR) is located in the center of the African continent. With an area of 623,000 km², the population is estimated at more than 5,000,000 inhabitants (OCHA, 2013). Made up of transition regions between the humid dense forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin and the arid ecosystems of the Sahel, the country has a diversity of ecosystems from south to north.

Thus, it encompasses a range of ecosystems ranging from dense rainforests, semi-humid forests, dry dense forests, tree savannas, shrub savannas, grassy savannas and steppes. The Central African Republic signed the Convention on Bio-Diversity in 1992 and became a Member State following its ratification in 1995. This commitment enabled the country to implement the national environmental action program, PNAE, in 2000 and develop its first strategy.

These commitments have been materialized through the implementation of several concrete actions by the governments, which have indeed made it possible to achieve certain Aichi objectives relating to biodiversity. Given the unfortunate events in the country, the process leading to the formulation of national targets, the development of the National Strategy and Plan of Action and the 5th National Report on Biodiversity were fundamentally disrupted. This poster summarizes the efforts made to achieve Goal 5 of Strategic Goal B and Goal 12 of Strategic Goal C. They address issues on reducing pressures on natural habitats, and the conservation of threatened biodiversity species.



Acronyms	
AES	Environmental and Social Audit
AP	Protected Areas
APDS	Protected Areas of Dzanga Sangha
APV / FLEGT	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
ADB	African Development Bank
CDB	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGPRF	Department for the participative management of forest resources
CIEDD	Center for Information and Sustainable Development
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
FAD	Fund for Agriculture and Food
FNE	National Environment Fund
FNPAC	National Federation of Fishermen and Aquaculturists of Central African Republic
MEDDEFPC	Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing
MPEP	Pygmy Woman and Child Home
OCND	Central African Organization for the Defense of Nature
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Actions
PNAE	National Environmental Action Plan
RCA	Central African Republic
RA	Natural resources
PEA	Operation and Development Plan
PCBAC	Project for Conservation of Biodiversity in Central Africa
ZCV	Village Hunting Area

A



Integrate biodiversity into development plans, strategies, programs and projects.

The application of the APV / FLEGT between the CAR and the EU since 2014 effectively participates in the sustainable tapping of Central African forests and contributes effectively to the improvement of the revenue of the State and to the fight against the illegal use of wood. Under the agreement, the civil society (CIEDD), with the support of FAO and AFD, has established an independent monitoring strategy for the FLEGT scheme in the CAR and monitors the implementation of the law and Forest governance. In addition, local and indigenous communities (Bà AKA) are also involved in its implementation. The NGO CIEDD contributes to the capacity building of the actors charged with the implementation of the APV / FLEGT process.



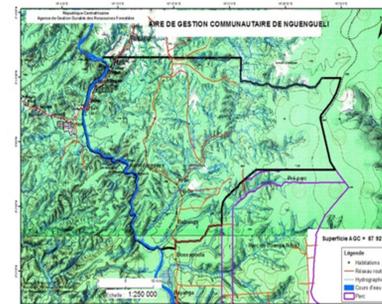
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- 1 Elimination of all practices using bush fires in vulnerable sites and development of sustainable agriculture through awareness-raising, information and education.
- 2 Financing by the FNE of biodiversity conservation and management programs and payment of compensations to the budgets of international institutions in the field of biodiversity
- 3 Implementation of APV / FLEGT, EIA and SEA and implementation of PEAs in forest concessions.
- 4 Extension of techniques likely to reduce the use of firewood on the resources through the Improved Stoves Project launched by the MEDDEFPC.

Not all five Strategic Goals are covered due to the following reasons:

The country does not yet have quantitative indicators. Thus, only qualitative indicators have been used as basis for assessing progress in implementing the 2011-2020 strategic goals and achieving the Aichi goals. Hence, the choice of Objective 5 and Objective 12.

B



Minimize pressures on biodiversity resources.

21) The sub-regional project for the sustainable management of wildlife and bush meat sector in Central Africa, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The objective of the project is to demonstrate that participatory wildlife management can be a viable option for:

- the conservation of biodiversity;
- enabling forest ecosystems to continue to play their ecological role; -contributing to improving the livelihoods of local communities. This project is being implemented by FAO in collaboration with COMIFAC, the Central African Protected Areas Network (RAPAC), MEDDEFPC, technical partners and co-financing (by CIFOR, CIRAD, IUCN, Rougier Gabon), local communities and non-governmental organizations. Several activities are carried out at national level:
- the delimitation of two pilot sites (Mouloukou and Nguéguéli), whose areas are respectively 27704 and 87921 hectares;
- sensitization of recognized hunters (Nguéguéli);
- sensitizing more than 1,000 people (local and indigenous population);
- 4 Radio broadcasts Ndjoku (Bayanga), RIDH, Radios Ndéké Luka
- the production of a documentary on the activities of the project in CAR;
- producing a multi-resource inventory;
- conducting in-depth diagnostics;
- negotiating meetings with members of stakeholder platforms;
- the mapping of the area;

The organization of communities for the management of resources (3) including: (i) GBAKO TI KEREKEKE, abbreviated GBK, meaning "FORET DE DEMAÏN." In Moloukou; (ii) "PENDIE YA BA-DAH", abbreviated PBD, meaning "FORET DE NOS ANCETRES" in Nguéguéli; And (iii) the Steering Committee. Participatory mapping and assessment of the dependence of Bâ Aka and Bilo households on the natural resources of the pilot sites of Nguéguéli and Moloukou.



Participatory mapping and assessment of the dependence of Bâ Aka and Bilo households on natural resources

Extension of techniques to reduce the use of firewood through improved stoves. Effective management of protected areas in APDS, Northern VCAs and the Chinko Project. Realization of management plans in the APDS and the M'Baéré-Bodingué National Park. Application of the REED + mechanism and implementation of projects for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (Chinko, Ecofaune -ZCV, PCBAC).

Review, ratification, promulgation and implementation of the draft Law on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Code. Promotion of projects and programs to support the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors with the participation of local communities and gender (FNPAC).

Development of sustainable agriculture and resilient to the adverse effects of climate change (GEF / FAO).

Development of the National Strategy and Plan of Action for Combating Land Degradation and for Restoring Forest Landscapes.

C



Preserve the diversity of species and ecosystems with the participation of local communities

The Home for the Child and the Pygmy Woman (MPEP) intervenes mainly in the forest of the south-west which is the favorite zone of the Bâ Aka pygmies. This area covers an area of 3,800,000 ha, with 12 logging permits representing 3,000,000 ha, or about 78% of the total area. Notwithstanding its objective of defending and promoting the rights and culture of pygmies, it promotes the sustainable management of their environment. From 2011 to date, MPEP has been involved in several activities that are involved in the implementation of objectives 5.11 and 12 of Aichi's strategic plan, particularly in the area of forest and land governance in the Central African Republic. This involves the:

- participatory mapping of forest resources to defend the access rights of forest communities to resources;
- training and / or capacity building of CSOs and forest communities on the various issues related to the participatory and sustainable management of natural resources;
- promotion of community forestry;
- accompanying communities in the process of granting Community forests;
- monitoring of the land reform process in the CAR.

-alleviating poverty in the pygmy environment through the implementation of the project to domesticate the Gnetum Africanum and conserve wildlife resources.

Approximately 17% of the national territory, forests, savannas and inland waters, is the national PA network composed of: 07 national parks, 02 biosphere reserves; Ramsar site; 02 special reserves; 01 full reserve; 06 wildlife reserves; 11 ZCV and 02 leased hunting areas.

Knowledge of species at risk of extinction through the listing of a few endangered species by the Wildlife and Protected Areas Directorate. Development of a Program and strategy for the conservation of endangered species. Drawing up of Texts for the Protection of Endangered Species: Wildlife Code in the process of being validated.

Creation of special zones for the protection and regeneration of threatened species through the Chinko Project and the Protected Areas. Development of the Non-Wood Forest Products Conservation Strategy. Domestication of Gnetums and caterpillar trees. Preservation and conservation of fragile habitats of species threatened in the PEA through the Reforestation of OCND Degraded Sites, CGPRF, MPEP, Small Graunt, PAs.



Gnetum Domestication and Wildlife Conservation



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AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS

A Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- 1 Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- 2 Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- 3 Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
- 4 Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- 5 Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- 6 Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- 7 Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- 8 Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- 9 Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- 10 Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- 11 Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- 12 Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- 13 Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- 14 Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- 15 Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- 16 Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

E Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- 17 Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- 18 Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- 19 Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- 20 Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.