



for a living planet<sup>®</sup>

# CARPO FOCUS

Special Issue - October - December, 2006

## Living Planet Report 2006



**Time to make some vital choices**

**Il faut alléger notre empreinte écologique sur notre planète bleue**

## Le Rapport planète Vivante 2006



*Dr. James P. Leape, Director General, WWF*

- Le D.G. de WWF visite le Cameroun
- WWF en Afrique Centrale
- WWF in Cameroon
- Kudu Zombo/ Campo Ma'an
- Jengi: L'esprit de la forêt
- Northern Sudannian Savanah
- Coastal Forests Programme

### Podium:

WWF CARPO Staff wins UNESCO's young scientist award

# Contents

Empreinte écologique mondiale: L'Afrique fait face à une catastrophe...	3
Human footprint too big for nature ....	4
l'Empreinte Ecologique de l'humanité a plus que triplé .....	5
Conservation in the Heart of Africa ...	6
Central Africa: A Magical, Mystical Place .....	7
A Historic Convergence.....	8
Conservation in the heart of Africa: Global Partnerships.....	8
La conservation en Afrique Centrale: Un développement historique.....	9
WWF in Cameroon - Footprints of conservation.....	11
Improving livelihoods for local people in North Cameroon: Northern Savannah Project.....	14
L'esprit de la forêt: Jengi.....	15
Coastal Forests Programme.....	17
Barombi Mbo Crater Lake becomes Cameroon's second Wetland of International Importance.....	18
Campo Ma'an - <i>Kudo Zombo</i> .....	19
Le D.G. de WWF visite le Cameroun.....	21
WWF CARPO Staff wins UNESCO's young scientist award.....	22
Indigenous people's rights in Campo Ma'an management plan.....	23

## CARPO FOCUS

WWF CARPO, Rue Citronnelle,  
Panda House, BAT Compound,  
Bastos Yaoundé - Cameroun,  
B.P: 6776; Tél +237 221 70 83.  
Fax 237 221 42 40  
E-mail: [pngea@wwfcarpo.org](mailto:pngea@wwfcarpo.org)  
Website: [www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)

# Editorial

## The full weight of ecological footprint

In welcoming the Director of WWF International to the region, we thought of offering our readers a cut of the huge cake that makes up the Central Africa sub region. This could only be possible through painting a general picture of the sub region with particular attention to the all important Congo Basin Forests area.



WWF has been working in these forests alongside a broad range of partners for more than two decades. At the regional level, WWF helped convene Central Africa's leaders in two historic summits, resulting in Africa's first region wide conservation treaty and millions of acres of new protected areas. WWF's work has not only helped raise the necessary resources needed but also contributed to the creation of a global partnership of governments, aid agencies and conservation groups.

Perhaps the tungsten filament of this issue is the Living Planet Report 2006 which shows the natural state of the world and the impact of human activity on it. As Dr. James P. Leape (Director General of WWF International) notes, "it is not good news - that we are using the planet's resources faster than they can be renewed".

The weight of ecological footprint is heavily being felt by poor countries which are getting hotter. Droughts are becoming prolonged. Inundations are becoming biblical. Tropical forest is vanishing at a rate of 5% a decade, wrecking habitats and releasing 3 billion tones of carbon dioxide a year, which is a fifth of global greenhouse emissions. There is need for a big change. WWF is working relentlessly with governments who are striving to reduce biodiversity loss by protecting vital habitats and species.

We take this opportunity to applaud the government of Cameroon for moving on to designate Lake Barombi Mbo as its second Wetland of International importance not long after the designation of Waza Logone flood plains.

Finally, there is need to celebrate again in CARPO. After two of its staff won WWF outstanding conservation awards early this year, here comes another victory. Inogwabini Bila-Isia, (one of our DRC based staff) picked up one of 26 research grants awarded by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. Permit me to underline that, WWF recognises that knowledge, experience, determination, credibility and global out reach either in the field or in policy work are ingredients needed to succeed in the uphill task of conservation. This award is an indicator of our passion and perseverance to find the best solutions to save nature.

Laurent Somé  
Regional Representative  
WWF CARPO

## EMPREINTE ECOLOGIQUE MONDIALE:

**F**ace à l'épuisement programmé des ressources naturelles, les gouvernements et les individus qui souhaitent mettre en oeuvre les concepts du développement durable ont besoin d'outils pertinents pour mesurer le résultat de leurs efforts. L'empreinte écologique est un de ces indicateurs. Elle mesure la pression qu'exerce l'homme sur la nature, sachant que chaque personne a un impact sur l'environnement de par sa façon de vivre. C'est un outil qui évalue la surface productive nécessaire à une population pour répondre à sa consommation de ressources et à ses besoins d'absorption des déchets.

Selon le "Rapport Planète Vivante 2006" du WWF, l'humanité consommera en 2050 l'équivalent des ressources annuelles de deux planètes comme la terre. La destruction de l'environnement atteint un rythme jamais vu auparavant. L'empreinte de l'humanité a commencé à dépasser la capacité de production et de régénération des ressources naturelles à partir des années 1980 et a été multiplié par trois entre 1961 et 2003. En 2003, elle représentait 2,2 hectares par habitant, alors que la Terre ne peut offrir que 1,8 ha par tête, selon le rapport. Nous sommes donc comme une entreprise qui puiserait dans son capital pour faire face à ses dépenses.

Le WWF s'inquiète particulièrement de la croissance rapide de la consommation de combustibles polluants (pétrole, gaz et charbon), qui a été multipliée par neuf entre 1961 et 2003. "Nous sommes gravement à découvert sur le plan écologique: nous consommons les ressources plus vite que la Terre ne les régénère", dit le directeur général du WWF, James Leape, appelant à faire rapidement "des choix vitaux" pour l'avenir de la planète.

L'étude permet aussi de mettre en évidence de profondes disparités écologiques entre les pays. L'empreinte par personne des pays à hauts revenus est en moyenne six fois plus élevée que celle des pays à faibles revenus. Les pays riches (les Emirats Arabes Unis et les Etats-Unis en tête) sont ceux qui ont les plus grands déficits écologiques. Pourtant, l'impact d'une empreinte écologique mondiale démesurée, comme le réchauffement climatique notamment, sera plus catastrophique pour les pays pauvres.

L'Afrique est probablement le continent le plus vulnérable à tous les effets négatifs du changement climatique et celui qui est confronté aux plus grands défis d'adaptation. Cette vulnérabilité extrême s'explique par le fait que 70% de la population africaine vit de l'agriculture, dont les rendements dépendent à plus de 95% de l'eau de pluie.

Souffrant déjà de sécheresses récurrentes, le rendement des cultures céréalières pourrait baisser de 5% d'ici aux

années 2080 en Afrique. Le nombre de personnes menacées par des inondations côtières atteindrait 70 millions d'individus en 2080 alors que, d'ici la fin du siècle, plus de 180 millions de personnes en Afrique sud-saharienne pourraient mourir de maladies directement attribuables au changement du climat, comme le paludisme ou la malnutrition.

L'écart entre la prise de conscience du réchauffement climatique qu'affichent les pays riches et les mesures réellement mises en place est immense. Les pays industrialisés n'ont pas tenu les promesses faites à l'Afrique et leurs émissions de gaz à effet de serre ne cessent d'augmenter. Alors qu'elle est le continent habité qui produit le moins de gaz à effet de serre, l'Afrique va devoir faire face à une catastrophe annoncée si la communauté internationale ne fait rien pour réduire l'empreinte écologique mondiale et limiter rapidement les effets du réchauffement climatique.

La communauté internationale doit urgemment prendre des mesures pour réduire l'empreinte écologique et les appliquer. Des mesures telles que la maîtrise de la démographie, la diminution de la consommation, l'augmentation des modes de production écologiques, une meilleure gestion des ressources naturelles et la préservation de la biodiversité sont absolument nécessaires. Les pays riches sont appelés à tenir les engagements du Protocole de Kyoto.

Pour ce qui est des pays africains, une urgente réflexion stratégique doit être menée afin de modifier les rapports de force internationaux et de contraindre les pays riches et sur-consommateurs à adopter les positions africaines sur la préservation de l'environnement. La réorientation des échanges internationaux, des transferts substantiels de technologie, des soutiens financiers conséquents et des partenariats à long terme devront être mis en place.

**Par Dr. TCHAMBA Martin**

*Directeur Technique*

*WWF Bureau du Programme du Cameroun*

# Human footprint too big for nature

The world's natural ecosystems are being degraded at a rate unprecedented in human history, according to a report released recently by WWF, the global conservation organization.

WWF's 2006 Living Planet Report, the biennial statement on the state of the natural world, says that on current projections humanity will be using two planets' worth of natural resources by 2050 - if those resources have not run out by then. It also confirms the trend of biodiversity loss seen in previous Living Planet reports.

Already resources are depleting, with the report showing that vertebrate species populations have declined by about one-third in the 33 years from 1970 to 2003. At the same time, humanity's Ecological Footprint - the demand people place upon the natural world - has increased to the point where the Earth is unable to keep up in the struggle to regenerate.

"We are in serious ecological overshoot, consuming resources faster than the Earth can replace them," WWF International's Director General James Leape said. "The conse-

quences of this are predictable and dire."

"It is time to make some vital choices," he added. "Change that improves living standards while reducing our impact on the natural world will not be easy. The cities, power plants and homes we build today will either lock society into damaging over-consumption beyond our lifetimes, or begin to propel this and future generations towards sustainable living."

The Living Planet Report, launched in Beijing, China, pulls together various data to compile two indicators of the Earth's well-being.

The first, the Living Planet Index, measures biodiversity, based on trends in more than 3,600 populations of 1,300 vertebrate species around the world. In all, data for 695 terrestrial, 344 freshwater and 274 marine species were analyzed. Terrestrial species declined by 31 per cent, freshwater species by 28 per cent, and marine species by 27 per cent.

The second index, the Ecological Footprint, measures humanity's demand on the biosphere. Humanity's footprint has more than tripled between 1961 and 2003. This report shows that our footprint exceeded biocapacity by 25 per cent in 2003. In the previous report (based on data to 2001), this figure was 21 per cent. The carbon dioxide footprint, from the use of fossil fuels, was the fastest growing component of our global footprint, increasing more than ninefold from 1961 to 2003.

Countries of over a million people with the largest footprint, in global hectares per person, are the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Finland, Canada, Kuwait, Australia, Estonia, Sweden, New Zealand and Norway. China comes mid-way in world rankings, at number 69, but its growing economy and rapid development mean it has a key role in keeping the world on the path to sustainability.

***The 2006 living planet report was launched in Beijing, China in October 2006.***



© WWF-Canon / Chris Martin Bahr

**"We are in serious ecological overshoot, consuming resources faster than the Earth can replace them,"**

# L'Empreinte Ecologique de l'humanité a plus que triplé



**L**e WWF a initié les Rapports Planète Vivante en 1998 pour mieux faire connaître la situation du monde naturel et l'impact des activités humaines sur celle-ci. Depuis, nous avons constamment raffiné et développé nos mesures de l'état de santé de la Terre.

Les nouvelles ne sont pas bonnes. Le Rapport Planète Vivante 2006 confirme que nous utilisons les ressources de la planète plus vite qu'elles ne peuvent se renouveler - les dernières données disponibles (pour 2003) indiquent que l'Empreinte Ecologique de l'humanité, notre impact sur la planète, a plus que triplé depuis 1961. A présent, notre empreinte excède d'environ 25% la capacité du monde à se régénérer.

Les conséquences de notre pression croissante sur les systèmes naturels de la Terre sont à la fois prévisibles et funestes. L'autre indice de ce rapport, l'Indice Planète Vivante, montre une perte rapide et continue de biodiversité - les populations de vertébrés ont décliné de presque un tiers depuis 1970. Ceci confirme les tendances précédentes.

Le message de ces deux indices est clair et urgent : nous avons excédé la capacité de la Terre à soutenir nos styles de vie pendant les 20 dernières années et nous devons arrêter. Nous devons équilibrer notre consommation et la capacité de la nature à se régénérer et à absorber nos déchets sous peine de dommages irréversibles.

Nous savons où commencer. Le facteur le plus déterminant de notre empreinte est la manière dont nous générons et utilisons l'énergie. Le Rapport Planète Vivante indique que notre dépendance vis-à-vis des combustibles fossiles pour répondre à nos besoins énergétiques continue de croître et que les émissions à effet de serre représentent à présent

48% - presque la moitié - de notre empreinte globale.

Nous savons aussi, grâce à ce rapport, que le défi de réduction de notre empreinte s'inscrit au cœur de nos modèles de développement économique actuels. En comparant l'Empreinte Ecologique à l'Indice de Développement des Nations Unies le rapport montre clairement que ce que nous acceptons en ce moment comme développement " élevé " est bien loin de l'objectif déclaré du développement durable. Des pays améliorent le bien-être de leur population tout en contournant l'objectif de durabilité et entrent dans ce que nous appelons la " surexploitation " - utilisant plus de ressources que ce que la planète ne peut soutenir. Il est inévitable que ce chemin limite les capacités des pays pauvres à se développer et des pays riches à maintenir leur prospérité.

Il est temps de faire certains choix vitaux. Mettre en œuvre des changements qui améliorent le niveau de vie tout en réduisant notre impact sur la nature ne sera pas facile. Mais nous devons reconnaître que ce sont les choix d'aujourd'hui qui conditionneront nos opportunités futures pendant longtemps. Ce sont les villes, les centrales nucléaires et les maisons que nous construisons aujourd'hui qui piégeront notre société dans une consommation préjudiciable ou qui propulseront cette génération et les suivantes vers un mode de vie durable.

La bonne nouvelle est que c'est possible. Nous disposons déjà de technologies pour alléger notre empreinte, y compris de technologies pour réduire significativement les émissions de dioxyde de carbone qui contribuent au réchauffement climatique. Et certains ont commencé. Le WWF travaille avec des compagnies de premier plan qui agissent pour réduire l'empreinte - diminuant les émissions de carbone et promouvant la durabilité dans d'autres secteurs, des pêches aux forêts. Nous travaillons aussi avec des gouvernements qui luttent pour enrayer la perte de biodiversité en protégeant des habitats vitaux sur une échelle sans précédent.

Mais nous devons faire plus. Le message du Rapport Planète Vivante 2006 est que nous vivons au-dessus de nos moyens et que ce sont les choix que chacun de nous fera aujourd'hui qui détermineront les possibilités des générations qui nous suivront.

**James P. Leape**  
**Directeur général du WWF International**

## The issue at stake!

# Conservation in the Heart of Africa

The forest is mother, father and guardian, feeding, housing and protecting thousands of people in Central Africa

**D**eep inside Central Africa's forests traditional hunter-gatherers known as BaAka pygmies sing, drum and dance in honor of the *Jengi*, or the Spirit of the Forest. The *Jengi* is mother, father and guardian, feeding, housing and protecting the BaAka while nurturing their souls. They attribute their almost mystical knowledge of the forest and its wildlife to the *Jengi*, and pledge to protect it at all costs.

WWF has been working in these forests alongside the BaAka and other indigenous people for more than two decades. Hundreds of dedicated conservationists run health and education programs, equip and train park staff, run antipoaching patrols and develop ecotourism. At the regional level, WWF helped convene Central Africa's leaders in two historic summits, resulting in Africa's first region wide conservation treaty and millions of acres of new protected areas.. And globally, WWF's work has helped raise millions of dollars in support from the United States and European Union and create a global partnership of governments, aid agencies and conservation groups.



BaAka pygmies in Central Africa gearing up for a net hunting expedition

# Central Africa: A Magical, Mystical Place

**T**he BaAka occupy a small part of the 470 million acre Congo Basin, the Earth's second largest rainforest and home to some of its most spectacular and endangered wildlife. About 400 mammal species live here, including the world's largest populations of lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and forest elephants. More than 655 bird species fly under the dense canopy and over 10,000 plant species take root in the forest floor - many with medicinal properties and existing only here.

The BaAka share this land with 60 million other people from a variety of ethnic groups, about 70 percent of who rely on natural resources for their livelihoods.

Central Africa also harbors vast economic wealth. By 2015, 25 percent of the US oil supply will come from the region. Vast reserves of minerals still remain to be untapped and there is a huge potential for the sustainable production of hydropower. The forests also play a critical role in regulating the world's climate.

## Forest Fears

With all of these resources it is no surprise that the Congo Basin is under intense pressure. Around 3.7 million acres of forest are lost each year to agriculture, unsustainable logging, road and infrastructure development, oil exploitation and mining. Studies show that if current trends continue, two thirds of the Congo's forests could be lost within 50 years.



© WWF-Canon / Martin Harvey

**The Congo Basin is the Earth's second largest rainforest and home to some of its most spectacular and endangered wildlife.**

The region is blanketed by a patchwork quilt of logging concessions. While the logging itself is usually selective and does little damage, the associated roads, infrastructure and migration degrade the surrounding landscape and result in massive wildlife depletion for the bush meat trade.

Wildlife species such as parrots, crocodiles and lizards are also hunted for trophies, fetishes and the pet trade. Elephants are still poached extensively for their meat and ivory.

Clearing for agriculture and mining for diamonds and coltan (a compound found in many electronic instruments such as mobile phones) also destroys large parts of the Congo Basin each year.

## A Historic Convergence

The recent signing of Africa's first region-wide conservation treaty by 10 heads of state in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, was a historic watershed in the Congo Basin. The treaty means that conservation activities throughout the Congo Basin will now be centrally coordinated, resulting in unprecedented cooperation across borders on numerous crucial issues.

But the treaty wasn't the only major development at the Brazzaville Summit. WWF worked closely with environment ministers from Cameroon, Gabon and Congo-Brazzaville to secure passage of the TRIDOM Accord - a transborder agreement that will help conserve 7.5 percent of the entire Congo Basin. A third WWF-championed agreement was also signed at the summit -- The Sangha River Trinational Accord allows the free movement of park staff between three contiguous parks in Cameroon, CAR and Congo Brazzaville.

These accords mean that park rangers no longer have to watch helplessly as poachers escape across international borders - they can now work with their colleagues from other countries to apprehend them.

Such cooperation was just a dream six years ago when many of the same heads of state met in Yaoundé Cameroon for the first historic summit, co-chaired by WWF. The Yaoundé process has resulted in millions of acres of new protected areas, new initiatives to tackle the bush meat problem and an increase in the involvement of indigenous people in conservation.

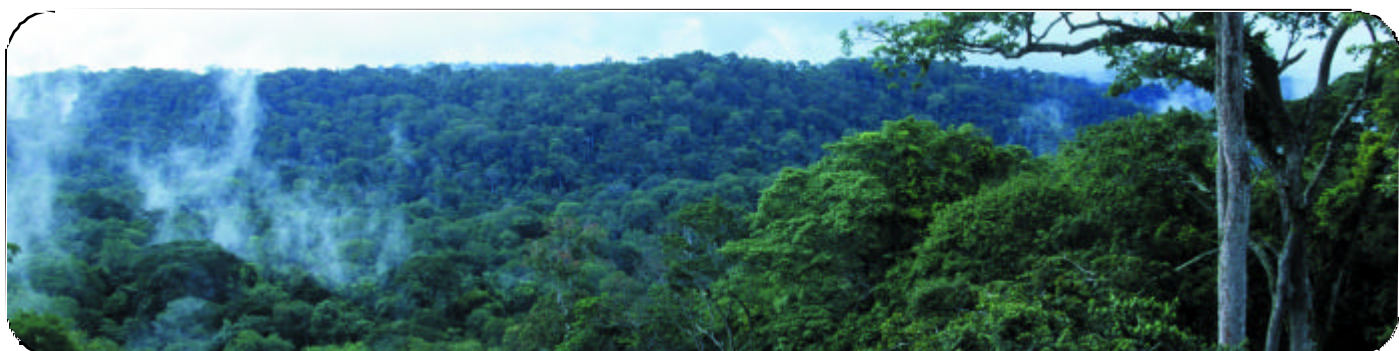
The "Yaoundé Process" also sowed the seeds for two major developments -- the \$53 million Congo Basin Forest Partnership - a US government initiative of which WWF is a partner -- and the creation of 13 national parks in Gabon covering almost 11 percent of the country.

## Conservation in the heart of Africa: Global Partnerships

WWF works with businesses across Central Africa and the world to encourage them to operate in a more ecologically friendly way. In Gabon's Minkebe Forest, park rangers and logging company staff patrol logging roads looking for illegal bush meat. Next door in Cameroon four timber companies joined the Central Africa Forest & Trade Network, part of a global initiative organized by WWF to promote responsible forestry.

An alliance between WWF and the World Bank is yielding results in the Congo Basin. The organizations use their combined expertise and global influence to establish effective forest management in transboundary protected areas, build trust funds to finance conservation, and influence logging companies to operate in a more sustainable way.

On the scientific front, WWF led the development of a Congo Basin Biological Vision that is recognized as the blueprint for much of the region's conservation. Bringing together the best minds in science, policy, business and field work, this vision is about conservation at a large, ecoregional scale within boundaries set by nature, not politics.



## La conservation en Afrique Centrale: **Un développement historique**



La Deuxième Sommet sur les Forêts,(Brazzaville Février 2005)

**Extrêmement riche en ressources naturelles, le Bassin du Congo revêt une importance considérable pour les économies nationales**

**L**e Bassin du Congo renferme le quart des forêts tropicales du monde et constitue, après l'Amazonie, la deuxième plus grande étendue de forêt tropicale humide.- Cette région recèle d'innombrables espèces végétales et animales, parmi lesquelles les gorilles, les éléphants et les léopards. D'une superficie de plus de 190 millions d'hectares, les forêts recouvrent presque la totalité de l'Afrique Centrale, et s'étend sur six pays - le Cameroun, la Guinée Equatoriale, le Gabon, la République Centrafricaine, la République du Congo (Brazzaville) et la République Démocratique du Congo.

Abritant plus de 50 % de la flore et de la faune de l'Afrique, les forêts du Bassin du Congo revêtent une importance sur les plans local, national et mondial. Au niveau local, les forêts constituent une source essentielle pour l'alimentation, les matériaux et l'abri pour plus de 20 millions de personnes, et jouent un rôle important dans les systèmes de croyance de nombreux peuples de la forêt. Extrêmement riche en ressources naturelles, le Bassin du Congo revêt une importance considérable pour les économies nationales. La production de pétrole brut de la région a dépassé les 4 millions de barils par jour en 2000 - plus que l'Iran, le Venezuela ou le Mexique. Il existe également d'abondantes réserves de minéraux, et d'énormes potentiels pour l'exploitation durable de l'énergie hydroélectrique. S'agissant de son importance sur le plan mondial, les forêts du Bassin du Congo ne sauraient être sous-estimées. Outre leur riche et singulière biodiversité, les forêts jouent également un rôle essentiel dans la régulation du cycle climatique de la planète.

(...Suite)

## les forêts du Bassin du Congo en péril

En dépit de leur prodigieuse valeur, les forêts du Bassin du Congo sont en péril. La région perd 1,5 millions d'hectares de forêt chaque année en raison de l'exploitation forestière non rationnelle, la construction des routes et la mise en place de certaines infrastructures, l'exploitation pétrolière et l'extraction minière. Ces activités représentent environ le tiers des 4 millions d'hectares de forêts détruites chaque année en Afrique - une surface deux fois plus grande que la Belgique. Si l'on n'y met pas un frein, environ 70 % des forêts de la région pourrait disparaître d'ici à 2040. Les espèces vitales tant pour le fonctionnement de l'écosystème que pour la subsistance de la communauté locale sont victimes de braconnage pour le commerce de la viande de brousse et trafic international (tel que le trafic de l'ivoire).

### Espoir

Néanmoins, de récents événements offrent l'opportunité d'inverser radicalement ces tendances négatives. Lancée en 1996, une première initiative prometteuse a été dans le domaine de la collaboration régionale lorsque les Ministres en charge des Forêts, les ONG et les organisations internationales signèrent une déclaration en faveur de la conservation des forêts - Le Processus de Brazzaville. Cela fut suivi par le Sommet de Yaoundé sur les Forêts en 1999, qui porta la conservation des forêts au sein de la région à un niveau politique plus élevé. A l'issue du sommet, les Chefs d'Etat de six pays d'Afrique Centrale signèrent la Déclaration de Yaoundé en présence des représentants de la communauté internationale, y compris la Banque Mondiale, les Nations Unies et la Commission Européenne. Cette Déclaration contenant les engagements spécifiques en matière de conservation et de gestion durable des forêts a débouché sur des réalisations concrètes en termes de conservation, y compris la création de millions d'hectares de nouvelles aires de forêts protégées, la sécurisation des financements, la coopération transfrontalière, et la mise sur pied du Conférence des Ministres en charge des Forêts en Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC). Un septième pays d'Afrique Centrale, en l'occurrence, la RDC, a depuis lors signé la Déclaration de



© WWF-Canon / Martin Harvey

Yaoundé.

### élargissement des engagements

Pendant la Deuxième Sommet sur les Forêts, (Brazzaville Février 2005) les gouvernements de l'Afrique Centrale ont célébrer ces réalisations et en même temps renforcer leur engagement commun d'assurer la conservation des forêts du Bassin du Congo. Ce nouvel élan comprend la signature du tout premier traité régional sur la conservation et la gestion durable des écosystème forestier en Afrique, notamment le Traité COMIFAC; la signature et la ratification de l'Accord TRIDOM, une initiative tripartite et transfrontalière de conservation; et l'élargissement du Processus de Yaoundé en vue d'inclure l'Angola et Sao Tome et Principe. Les pays participants ont également renouveler leurs engagements à prendre des mesures en vue d'accélérer la création d'un nombre accru d'aires protégées, renforcer le contrôle du braconnage, du commerce de la viande de brousse et l'exploitation illégale, et promouvoir la gestion durable des forêts

# WWF in Cameroon - Footprints of conservation

*"We shan't save all we should like to but we shall save a great deal more than if we had never tried."*

*Sir Peter Scott, one of the founding fathers of WWF*

**W**WF has been present in Cameroon since the 1980's. Its full engagement started in 1989 with the implementation of the Korup project, which led to the creation of the first forest national park in Cameroon.



The signature of a bilateral agreement between the Cameroon Programme of WWF and WWF Netherlands in April 1995 permitted tremendous growth of the programme and expansion into other areas. The conservation organisation signed its country agreement in 1992 and the WWF Central Africa sub regional programme office agreement in 2004 with the government of Cameroon. To crown these functional instruments, WWF and MINFOF signed a partnership agreement in 2005.

The Cameroon Country Programme Office has witness a tremendous growth, from 4 staff in 1990 to more than 120 presently.

## Goal

WWF Cameroon Country Programme seeks to conserve biodiversity (genetic, species and ecosystem diversity) and biological process in the country in harmony with the needs and aspirations of Cameroonian people.

To this end WWF works to conserve key forest, savannah ecosystems and viable population of selected species of global concern while ensuring best practice and promoting innovative natural resource management approaches. The programme also works to promote changes in attitude and behavior towards the environment, building the capacity of Cameroonian conserva-

tion professionals, developing and disseminating policies that enable conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in Cameroon.

## WWF Main Field Projects in Cameroon

### Jengi South East Programme:

WWF Cameroon Country Programme Office has been active in the southeast of Cameroon since the early 1990's. Its first involvement focused mainly on elephant inventories. As a major partner of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) National Biodiversity Programme launched in 1995, WWF then focused on the establishment of three new forests parks (Lobéké, Boumba-Bek and Nki). But it was soon realized that whilst the support of WWF to the management of those protected areas, the speed and nature of current commercial logging will result in three islands in a sea of devastation, with among other disastrous impacts, increasing conflicts between protected areas and local communities. Consequently, WWF's vision of what it should be doing broadened and from 1998, WWF included sustainable forest management and collaborative management and benefit sharing issues among its core



Coastal Forests programme Manager, Dr. Atanga Ekobo warms up to a planned concertation with some local chiefs about the proposed status of Kupe forest.

### Coastal Forest Programme:

The Coastal Forests Programme includes three provinces of Cameroon - the South West, Littoral and South Provinces. The region is ecologically rich and contains important "hot spots" of peculiar biodiversity. It includes the coastal forests of Cameroon highlands, cross river gorillas, Ebo etc. The programme seeks to promote the conservation of important biodiversity resources in the Coastal Forests of Cameroon through the identification and management of key sites, ecosystems and species, with the participation of the Government of Cameroon, NGOs and local communities.

### Kudu/Zombo Campo Ma'an Programme:

Located in the South of the country, WWF is working in the Campo Ma'an area to strengthen the capacity of government agents to manage and protect the National Park and its peripheries for the interest of the people of the area, as well as increase awareness of target stakeholders on environmental issues and bring them in as partners. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation of the Atlantic Equatorial Coastal Forests through the safeguarding of the biodiversity of the Campo-Ma'an National Park



Kudu Zombo programme manager, Bertin TCHIKANGWA concerting with a Bagyeli pygmy community near Campo Ma'an Park

The first interventions of WWF Cameroon Program Office on the conservation of the biodiversity in the northern part of Cameroon were concentrated in the Far North Province of Cameroon and particularly in the Waza Logone area, with the focus on elephant programme. In the North, the first involvement as a project with a WWF team based in the region started in 1997. This establishment was facilitated by the fact that in 1995, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) National Biodiversity Programme started its field programme in which the WWF-CCPO was one of the major partners.



Tree for Life - Children in North Cameroon present plants from a WWF nursery.

The conservation of biodiversity of the network of the protected areas in the northern Sudanian savannah (Faro, Bénoué and Bouba Ndjida Savannah Belt) of Cameroon was one of the main interests. During this period, the project has achieved many goals in research, capacity building and management plans. Recently, in mid 2005, the project extended its activities to include tree regeneration to contribute to the fight against desertification with an objective to plant some 90 Thousand trees in close collaboration with local stakeholders. This latest initiative is an off spring of a partnership signed between WWF and MTN, a telephone network in Cameroon. WWF is also giving significant technical and material support to the management of the Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary.

Over the years WWF has worked relentlessly with the competent government departments in Cameroon to execute activities in domains such as:

- Protected Areas management**
- Species management**
- National wildlife policies**
- Policy Issues**
- Sustainable Forest Management & Certification**
- Community Forests**



Working together for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of the people of Cameroon. Picture shows WWF Regional Representative Laurent Somé (l) & Cameroon's Minister of Forest & Wildlife, Elvis Ngolle Ngolle (in suit) during the launching of the Campo Ma'an National Park management plan.

# Improving livelihoods for local people in North Cameroon: Northern Savannah Project

**There are over a million people living in the rugged savannah - sahelian area of North Cameroon, with a rightful expectation of a prosperous life. This includes a right to hunt, to fish, to cut trees - to live off the land.**

**T**he Sudanese savannah area comprises of large expanses of acacia woodland with most trees deciduous - characterised by turf grasses, shrubs and herbs. The area also hosts a series of disjoint seasonally flooded grasslands and perennial swamps. It also supports large populations of mammals and birds that migrate seasonally given long periods of dry season. Significant loss of original wooded savannah habitats has occurred but patches of intact habitat remain relatively untouched. Threats include seasonal shifting cultivation, over-grazing by livestock and uncontrolled immigration, over-cutting of wood for domestic energy use, devastating wild fires, trophy hunting and poaching. Preserving the land's capacity to provide a prosperous life to the people is at the foundation of WWF's work in the area through its Northern Savannah Project: the maintenance of a functional natural habitat and healthy populations of animals; the prevention of outside poaching; the recovery of threatened species; giving locals support to earn income from a sustainable type of agriculture and livestock breeding;

encouraging the planting of trees for the dual purpose of checking the advancing desert and generating income.

WWF has been instrumental in helping design a coherent management plan for the conservation of the near-by Benoue National Park which has become the blueprint adopted by the Cameroon services in charge of environment protection. Since 2002, the project is in the process of implementing the management plan in collaboration with various stakeholders and with the support of WWF-Netherlands.

This WWF project uses a coherent strategy that interconnects all stakeholders in the area without creating an imbalance. Satisfying the interest and aspiration of all can be complicated. Wildlife existence requires a continuity of undisturbed habitat. At the same time people need to pursue a livelihood that depends almost entirely on the same habitat. The project is not only seeking to protect isolated protected areas, but also connecting them through corridors of relatively undisturbed habitat. This, in turn, requires finding ways for people to live with the movements of these animals - maybe even to pursue a livelihood that might benefit from the presence of this wildlife, but does not decimate their existence in the process.



WWF/CARPO/ISSP

Young girl of the bororo ethnic group in North Cameroon colourfully dressed on a bright market day. WWF works with locals in many parts of the North to improve livelihoods through direct participation in conservation initiatives.

### Localisation

Ce programme est situé dans la région écologique forestière du Bassin du Congo, à l'extrême sud-est de la République du Cameroun. Cette zone est abondamment riche en espèces fauniques et d'autres ressources naturelles.

### Contexte

Le Bureau National du Programme WWF pour le Cameroun est présent dans le sud-est depuis le début des années 1990. Il s'était penché principalement sur l'inventaire des éléphants et ensuite sur la création de trois nouveaux parcs (Lobéké, Boumba-bek et Nki). En 1988, le projet comptait parmi ces activités clés, la gestion durable des forêts, la co-gestion et l'accès aux ressources et les questions de partage des bénéfices.

### Les populations

Nombre d'ethnies autochtones ont pour refuge cette forêt sur lequel elles en dépendent pour leur subsistance:

Les Baka : chasseurs - cueilleurs

6 groupes ethniques qui pratiquent l'agriculture sur brûlis

#### Principales activités

- la culture des produits d'alimentation et de rente
- la chasse pour la subsistance
- la pêche
- la cueillette

### Les menaces

- L'exploitation forestière à but commercial en utilisant des pratiques non durables
- La sur-exploitation des ressources fauniques
- L'expansion des activités agricoles industrielles et l'agriculture sur brûlis
- L'exploitation minière non durable

### Conséquences directes

- Destruction massive des espaces forestières
- Construction non-autorisée de plusieurs kilomètres de route d'exploitation forestière
- Disparition de l'habitat naturel des espèces fauniques

### Objectifs

- La gestion durable de la faune dans des zones à usage multiples est assurée.
- La gestion efficace des aires protégées dans le cadre d'une collaboration est assurée.
- La gestion durable des activités d'exploitation forestière est renforcée à travers un solide partenariat avec le gouvernement et le secteur privé.
- Un programme de suivi écologique systématique en vue d'examiner l'état des lieux de l'environnement à travers les activités d'exploitation est opérationnel
- Les initiatives de conservation transfrontalières sont améliorées dans le cadre de la collaboration avec des partenaires clés et les différentes institutions gouvernementales.

### Réalisations

- Classement de trois parcs nationaux, Lobéké, Boumba-Bek et Nki
- Elaboration participative d'un plan de zonage aboutissant à l'établissement de 3 parcs nationaux, 14 zones d'intérêt cynégétique à gestion communautaire, 22 unités d'exploitation forestière et 9 zones de chasse professionnelle
- La mise en place d'un système de suivi écologique fondé sur la performance dans les parcs nationaux en vue de surveiller la dynamique des populations fauniques
- Création de 14 zones d'intérêt cynégétique à gestion communautaire (ZICGC) gérées par les populations locales pour subvenir à leurs besoins et générer des revenus à partir de la chasse sportive
- L'élaboration des plans d'aménagement pour 5 ZICGC pilotes
- Un programme de suivi écologique opérationnel dans les 3 parcs nationaux
- Audit préalable réussi de deux sociétés d'exploitation forestières, SEFAC et Decolvenaere sur un étendu de 523.000 ha par le FSC
- Ratification de l'accord du TNS par le Cameroun
- L'accord du TRIDOM signé par les gouvernements du Gabon, du Cameroun et de Congo-Brazzaville
- Engagement par la USAID d'un montant de 13 millions USD pour le financement du TRIDOM et les paysages de la TNS pendant une période de 5 ans.

- Approbation officielle par le Gouvernement camerounais de 1.500.000 ha de massive forestière de Ngoyla-Mintom comme concession de conservation
- Engagement du FEM d'un montant de 10 millions USD pour le financement du programme de planification inter-zonage du TRIDOM pendant 7 ans
- Elaboration d'un plan de zonage pour le TRIDOM

## Perspectives

- Elaboration des plans d'aménagement pour les parcs nationaux de Boumba Bek et Nki
- Renforcement de capacités des institutions locales de gestion afin de promouvoir la gestion participative et transparente des recettes issues des forêts communautaires
- Négociation des droits d'accès des peuples autochtones forestiers aux ressources naturelles
- Mise en place d'un système de suivi pour le monitoring des changements des moyens d'existence et des bienfaits de la conservation à l'égard des populations locales
- Mise en place d'un réseau pour les projets de foresterie communautaire
- Consolidation des données biologiques et socio-économiques de WWF et de la GTZ en une seule base de données SIG centralisée
- Renforcement des communications des projets aux niveaux local, national et international
- Appui technique aux initiatives de SMF-C particulièrement la certification de FSC
- Mise en œuvre des activités transfrontalières du TRIDOM
- Promotion de la mise en place d'un fonds fiduciaire pour la TNS
- Développement à long terme des mécanismes de financements pour les aires protégées et les activités de terrain en cours.



Les Baka : chasseurs - cueilleurs



Base WWF de Ndongo - Moloundou



Formation: Les agents de santé



Appui technique aux initiatives de SMF-C

**La principale zone de protection de la TNS est constituée des aires protégées de Lobéké (République du Cameroun), de Dzanga-Ndoki (République centrafricaine) et de Nouabalé-Ndoki (République du Congo), couvrant une surface totale de 7,750 km<sup>2</sup>.**

This WWF programme is situated on the South west coast of Cameroon and covers a total surface area of 4,481,070 ha.

The protected areas of Mt Bakossi, Kupe, Muanenguba, Nlonako, Mt Cameroon, the Ebo and Makombe lowland forest and the Ndongore mangroves covers a total surface of 419,445 ha, more than 9% of the programme area.

### Significant biodiversity features

The Programme site is part of four different important regions:

- The Cameroonian highland forests
- The cross- sanaga-bioko coastal forests
- The Mount Cameroon and Bioko montane forests
- The Central African mangroves

### Threats

The major threats are:

- Unsustainable bush meat hunting
- Overexploitation of timber resources
- Overexpansion of palms, rubber and banana plantations

### Programme goal

To promote the conservation of important biodiversity resources in the coastal forests of Cameroon, through the identification and management of key sites, ecosystems and species with the participation of the Government of Cameroon, NGOs, and CBOs.

### Objectives

The goal is translated on the field through the following objectives

- Sustainable wildlife use such as bush meat trade and conservation of threatened species
- Sustainable forest management and certification
- Expansion and management of protected area network in the highlands and coastal forests of Cameroon
- Support to conservation oriented community based initiatives.

### Some Achievements

- Land use plan highlighting potential conservation sites developed and approved by government of Cameroon;
- The gazettelement of the Bakossi forest National Park signed by the Cameroon Government;
- Integral Ecological Reserve statues by adjacent communities for the Kupe forest Proposed;
- 424 bee farmers trained through the TOBA Common Initiative Group in Mt. Kupe and Yabassi areas;
- 340 snail farmers organized into 16 snail farming groups
- Creation of Mt. Kupe Hunters and Tappers Association in Nyassoso facilitated;
- Creation of Onge community forest by the adjacent community during a consultative meeting endorsed;
- Environmental education clubs in four government secondary schools developed and supported.



Mt. Muanenguba towers above Nkongsamba town in the Littoral

WWF/CARPOP - Ngea



Snail farming has become a major income generating activity.

PH. CFP



Tree planting by students of the Nyassoso Environment club.

PH. CFP



One of the twin lakes of Muanenguba.

PH. CFP

## Barombi Mbo Crater Lake becomes Cameroon's second Wetland of International Importance

Cameroon is  
RAMSAR's  
151st  
contracting  
party

Shortly after Cameroon signed the instrument enabling the country's accession to the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands (on January 13, 2006) and designated the Waza Logone Flood Plain as a Wetland of International Importance, the government has designated as its second: the Barombi Mbo Crater Lake (415 hectares, 04°40'N 009°23'E).

According to Ramsar's Lucia Scodanibbio, based on the Ramsar Information Sheet provided with the site designation, the site forms with three other crater lakes in the Southwest Province of Cameroon the so-called "Afrotropical Cameroon Crater Lakes Ecoregion". It is famous among biologists for the occurrence of 12 endemic fish species, rendering it one of the places with the highest densities of endemic species per

area in the world.

For evolutionary biologists, the lake represents one of the few examples where new species have evolved within the confines of a small area by "sympatric speciation". Lake Barombi Mbo is also important due to the presence of freshwater sponges, one of which (*Corvospongilla thysi*) is also endemic. It is an important sacred site to the Barombi tribe: the social and cultural life of the Barombi Mbo People is intimately linked to the use of the resources of the lake through fishing, mythology and transport, and to the surrounding land through farming. It is also a source of clean water for the metropolis of Kumba and its environs. Over-fishing, introduction of foreign fish to the ecosystem, pesticide spraying of cocoa-trees within the catchment area and deforestation on the crater rim are the main (potential and actual) threats to the site. The elaboration and implementation of a management plan needs to occur.

Support from WWF Cameroon, the WWF Global Freshwater Programme, and Ramsar's Swiss Grant for Africa was helpful to the authorities in making this important designation.

There are presently 1,630 Ramsar sites in 153 countries, covering a surface area of 145,620,862 hectares.



WWFCARPOP. Ngbea

The elaboration of management plans for wetlands is now the next step!

# Campo Ma'an - Kudo Zombo

### Background

Situated within the Atlantic Equatorial Coastal Forest Eco-region in the South province of Cameroon the WWF Kudo Zombo Programme (*in local Yassa and Bulu dialects translates to "Marine turtle and the great mandrill"*) is made up of the Campo-Ma'an National Park (CMNP) (264,064 ha) and its multiple-use zones which together constitutes one of the most diversified forests in Africa. The proximity of the programme area to neighbouring Equatorial Guinea makes it an ideal ground for trans boundary conservation initiative.

### Biodiversity

The area plays host to more than 1500 vegetal species (of which 45 are endemic), 80 medium and big size mammal species (amongst which are endangered species such as forest elephants [*Ixodonta africana cyclotis*], gorilla [*Gorilla gorilla*], mandril and chimpanzee [*Pan Troglodytes*]), 302 birds, and 122 reptiles. The rare grey-necked rockfowl (*Pithacartes oreas*) is also found in the park, while the presence of untouched beaches provide the setting for marine turtles nesting

The area is also very rich in natural scenic landscapes made up of incredible falls and kilometres of untouched beaches with high tourist value.

The richness of the biological diversity of the landscape makes it attractive for the enhancement of conservation activities. It also presents huge potentials for the development of ecotourism and scientific research.

### Threats

Wildlife and forest resources of the region are subject to serious pressures deriving from overexploitation of wildlife, unsustainable logging practices and discordant land/ resources use and management.

### The People

The total population of the project area is estimated at 60,853 inhabitants distributed into 163 towns, villages and labourers' encampments. An important part of this population (25,000) is made up of immigrant workers employed by two logging companies and two big agro-industrials (rubber and palm oil). It is home to seven ethnic groups: the Bulu and Ntumu (composed mainly of hunters and farmers), the Batanga and Iyasa (fishermen), the Bakola/Bagyeli (pygmies), and the Mabea and Mvae (farmers, hunters and fishermen). The Bakola/Bagyeli people constitute an indigenous minority marginalized by neighbouring tribes within the landscape and estranged from mainstream society due to weak institutional integration policies. However, all the people depend strongly on the natural resources (marine and forest) for their livelihood.



Gateway to Campo Ma'an Park

Ph. WWF/CARPO / Ngea



Scenes like this are common at the Campo Ma'an area which is an important habitat for marine turtles

© WWF-Canon / Martin Harvey



Raw materials from the forest are used to produce different needs such as this fishing basket.

© WWF-CARPO / PNB



Untouched beaches provide the setting for marine turtles nesting.



Woman of the Bagyeli tribe gets set for a gathering mission in the forest near the campo Ma'an park.



End of this scenic beauty? One of the spectacular falls that may soon become the Memve'ele dam

## WWF in the Campo Ma'an Area

WWF intervention in the Campo Ma'an area began in 2003 although activities geared towards biodiversity management effectively commenced in 1996 with the creation of the Campo-Ma'an Biodiversity Conservation and Management Project (GEF-World Bank). When it ended in 2002, the creation of the Campo-Ma'an National Park in 2000 seems to have been the only major achievement of the project which was executed by SNV and TROPENBOS.

In 2003, WWF was selected by the Foundation for the Environment and Development in Cameroon (FEDEC) to build on experiences, achievements, and lessons learned from the defunct GEF sponsored project.

After strategic ground work and reflection, it was soon realized that in order to guarantee the effective protection and enhancement of the resources of the Park, a landscape approach towards the management of the Park must be applied. This approach has as a remarkable feature the inclusion of the areas and people around the Park into the management process.

Cognisant of the depth of this vision for Campo-Ma'an and challenges in its realisation, WWF embarked on an intensive project development initiative to not only fund planned activity areas not covered by FEDEC funding, but also to complement, strengthen, and consolidate strides made through FEDEC funding. This 'Feeder Road' strategy has paid off significantly, and has so far yielded fruits notably with the inclusion of Campo-Ma'an in the Central Africa Forest and Poverty Alleviation Programme (CAF-PAP), a WWF/NC-IUCN/FOE initiative that is presently financing eco-development and indigenous people enhancement activities in support zones around the Park.



At home: A Bagyeli pygmy family relax in front of their house at the periphery of the campo Ma'an Park.

# Le Directeur général de WWF visite le Cameroun



Dr. James P. Leape, Directeur général de WWF international

**L**e Directeur général de WWF international, Dr. James P. Leape visitera le Cameroun du 9 au 14 décembre 2006 pour s'entretenir avec les hautes autorités de l'Etat, les diplomates et les partenaires de WWF de Yaoundé sur les questions de la conservation. Il visitera également quelques activités de WWF sur le terrain.

Dr. Leape, qui sera à son premier voyage officiel dans la sous région d'Afrique centrale depuis sa prise de fonction en décembre 2005, réitérera l'appui de WWF au gouvernement camerounais et ses populations dans la gestion de la riche diversité biologique du pays. Il rendra également hommage au rôle central joué par le Cameroun qui a abouti à la Déclaration de Yaoundé en 1999 et félicitera les Chefs d'Etat de la sous région, à travers le gouvernement du Cameroun, pour la signature du premier traité d'envergure régional portant sur la conservation - le traité sur la Commission sur les Forêts

d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) - à Brazzaville en février 2005. Dr. Leape tiendra également les discussions sur la mise en œuvre du plan de convergence, (un modèle de conservation pour la sous-région) et étudiera avec les autorités camerounaises et d'autres partenaires de WWF des possibilités d'un renforcement du rôle de la COMIFAC dans la coordination des interventions liées aux forêts dans toute la sous région.

Lors de cette visite l'un des événements les plus importants sera la présentation au public du Rapport Planète Vivante 2006, lancé en octobre dernier à Beijing en Chine par le Directeur général. Le Rapport Planète Vivante 2006 de WWF est le bilan biennal sur l'état du monde naturel.

Pendant son séjour au Cameroun, Dr. Leape visitera l'un des projets de terrain de WWF à Campo Ma'an, dans la Province du Sud. Il aura l'occasion de faire une évaluation personnelle de l'impact de la conservation sur les communautés locales. L'amélioration des conditions de vie des communautés locales vivant autour du Parc National de Campo Ma'an à travers une meilleure gestion des ressources naturelles constitue l'un des aspects clé de ce projet. Dr. Leape rencontrera les chefs et membres des groupes communautaires et il recevra un feedback direct sur comment les activités alternatives, telles que l'exploitation forestière artisanale, l'aquaculture et l'écotourisme, peuvent les aider à générer des revenus supplémentaires, et en fin de compte profiter à la conservation et la restauration des forêts.

*Dr. James P. Leape est un américain de 50 ans qui est un ami et un admirateur de longue date de la sous région d'Afrique centrale, et un ardent défenseur de la conservation de la richesse du*

*Bassin du Congo. Il travaille dans le domaine de la conservation de la nature depuis plus de 25 ans. Il a commencé sa carrière comme un avocat des affaires environnementales aux Etats-Unis. Il a également occupé le poste de Conseiller au Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement à Nairobi au Kenya, et a co-rédigé un important texte américain sur le droit de l'environnement. Dr. Leape a rejoint le WWF-EU en 1989 et dirigé ses programmes de conservation mondiale pendant 10 ans, en tant que Vice-président exécutif. A ce post, il a aidé à la formulation d'une stratégie mondiale du Réseau WWF et a représenté le WWF dans de nombreux forums internationaux. De 2001 à septembre 2005, Monsieur Leape a dirigé les initiatives de conservation et des sciences de la David and Lucile Packard Foundation, l'une des plus importantes associations philanthropiques aux Etats-Unis.*

## Podium **WWF CARPO Staff wins UNESCO's young scientist award**

“This Award is an indicator of our passion and perseverance to find the best solutions to save nature”

**W**WF Central African Regional Programme Office, CARPO, welcomes the award of a UNESCO grant to one of its staff, Inogwabini Bila-Isia. Based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Programme Office of WWF, Bila-Isia is among 15 young scientists working on great apes in Africa rewarded for outstanding research on bonobos (*pan paniscus*) (a great ape species endemic to DRC).

The International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO, meeting from 23 to 27 October in Paris, also gave MAB Young Scientists Awards to ten young scientists and the Michel Batisse Award for Biosphere Reserve Management. The 2007 MAB Young Scientists Awards, up to US\$5,000 each, encourage young scientists to carry out interdisciplinary projects on ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity in keeping with the MAB Programme, which focuses on sustainable interaction between people and their environment. "This award is reassuring to WWF and confirms the recognition and respect we have for Inogwabini's work in DRC", said Laurent Somé, Regional Representative of WWF in Central Africa Region. "Permit me underline that WWF recognises knowledge, experience, determination, credibility and global out reach either in the field or in policy work as ingredients needed to succeed in the uphill task of conservation. This award is an indicator of our passion and perseverance to find the best solutions to save nature." Bila-Isia described the award as a spin-wheel for further challenges. "It is like a catapult - you just feel like shooting straight on. The researcher however notes that his work would not be successful in isolation. "I have been working with dedicated colleagues and also local people. Although it bears my name, I think the award is just a spark that illuminates the great work of WWF in the region".

Bila-Isia Inogwabini is presently working for WWF CARPO as Landscape Leader and Project Manager, WWF-DRC LAC TUMBA. As the Lac Tumba Project Manager his responsibilities include daily management of a USAID-funded 500,000 USD program in the Landscape, coordination of research activities and implementation of other project related activities such as small grant program to help local NGOs strengthen their role in natural resources management. Currently a doctorate student on Biodiversity Management, University of Kent at Canterbury Bila-Isia has 14 years of field experience and is still bubbling with vitality. He has a good record of project administrative, financial and scientific management in addition to analytical capabilities. He is an attendee of several regional and international training sessions on the Biological Diversity Inventories and Monitoring, with emphasis on mammalian surveys and Habitat Assessment.



Laureate: Inogwabini Bila-Isia

# Indigenous people's rights gets attention in Campo Ma'an management plan

**W**WF Central Africa Regional Programme Office, CARPO recently supported the endorsement of the Campo Ma'an National Park management plan by the government of Cameroon. The management plan which was launched on October 19th under the auspices of the Minister of Forests and Wildlife, MINFOF, adequately takes care of indigenous people's rights to participate effectively in the management of the Campo Ma'an Park and its peripheries.

"WWF promotes and supports the management plan which has effectively received the prior, free and informed consent of concerned indigenous communities around Campo Ma'an" says Laurent Somé, Regional Representative of WWF in Central Africa. "WWF will not endorse any plan or actions whose implementation would adversely impact - directly or indirectly - on the environment of indigenous peoples' territories, and/or would affect their rights".

The Regional Representative express satisfaction with the final document which he describes as an end product of consultations and wide-spread participation of all stakeholders. "The making of the plan which began since 1999, involved the principal actors on the ground. I can say that the management plan of Campo Ma'an and its peripheries was developed in accordance with the spirit of the Cameroon legal reforms of 1994 and 1996 which insists on the participation of local communities in the management of natural resources", he says.

The main objective of the management plan is to assure the protection of biodiversity in the Campo Ma'an National Park and its environs within the context of planned land usage and sustainable management of wildlife and forestry resources.

According to principles and guidelines on Protected Areas and Indigenous / Traditional Peoples which WWF adheres to, indigenous and other traditional peoples have long associations with nature and a deep understanding of it. Often they have made significant contributions to the maintenance of many of the earth's most fragile ecosystems, through their traditional sustainable resource use practices and culture-based respect for nature. WWF notes that with the endorsed plan for Campo Ma'an, there is no visible conflict between the objectives of the protected areas and the existence, within and around their borders, of indigenous and other traditional peoples. Elaborated with the support of WWF the said management plan recognises the local people as rightful, equal partners in the development and implementation of conservation strategies that affect their land, waters, coastal seas, and other resources.

The management plan has effectively received the prior, free and informed consent of concerned indigenous communities around Campo Ma'an!

un arbre



pour la vie.



WWF for a living planet®



everywhere you go