

Proposal to CEPF: DRC-64756: Protecting the Ngamikka-Luama Landscape by Establishing Infrastructure and Capacity

Process Framework

Project Background

Since 2006, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been working with the local people in the Misotshi-Kabogo highlands to improve the conservation of this biologically important region.

Misotshi-Kabogo Massif

Surveys conducted by WCS in the Misotshi-Kabogo massif in 2006/2007 identified this area as being of conservation importance with the discovery of six new vertebrate species for the World. Subsequent socioeconomic surveys to all the major villages around the massif identified the extent to which the people living here rely on the forest for their annual incomes. The socioeconomic survey also asked households their interest in protecting the forest and if so how they would prefer it to be protected. About 90% stated that they thought a protected area was a good idea and 60% wanted a national park to be created. In 2009, WCS and ICCN held meetings with the traditional chiefs (Mwamis) of the villages in both Katanga and South Kivu (the provinces which overlap the massif) to present the findings of the biological and socioeconomic research and to discuss options for the conservation of the region's biodiversity. At both meetings the Mwamis voted to create a National park in the region to be called Ngamikka Park (after Nganja, Misotshi, Kabogo cultural sites in the massif). Since that time, WCS has been working with each of the village councils in 91 of the villages (most of them) surrounding the proposed Ngamikka Park (along the lake shore and also along the road between Kalemie and Fizi) to map where the boundaries of the park should be as well as buffer zones and village expansion areas for agriculture. In addition, along the road between Kalemie and Fizi, 253 pygmies have been consulted within 91 Bantu villages.

The boundaries of the park for both Katanga and South Kivu Provinces have been agreed and accepted by the local communities and we are working with the Provincial Ministry for the Environment to gazette the park at the provincial level (a current pre-requisite to establishing a park at the national level in DRC).

Throughout the process we have not applied pressure but have presented the information and asked the people what they would like to see. We had expected they would want a community reserve but they wanted a national park because they felt it would a) bring greater attention to their area and hence potential funding in future, and b) it would be a stronger mechanism for protecting their land against immigrants coming from the north in search of land.

Project preparation

The project we are presenting was prepared incorporating our knowledge of:

1. The local socioeconomic situation from a socioeconomic survey conducted in Ngamikka by WCS
2. The recommendations from the various meetings conducted during joint planning and implementation of the participatory process to gazette the areas
3. The responses of village committees at participatory meetings regarding the overall boundaries of both sites
4. The responses of traditional chiefs during numerous consultations where they have been assembled together, as well as in their individual "Chefferies"
5. WCSs and partners knowledge of the terrain and feasibility of implementation given the insecurity in both sites
6. Meetings held with ICCN staff about the creation of the proposed park.

Six project objectives are identified based on these consultations and can be grouped as follows:

- A. Supporting direct requests from the community: Objective 5 (demarcating the park boundary) and Objective 4 (capacity building of local community members) are both requested we have received from the local community leaders.
- B. Planning for the landscape: Objective 1: Establishing a landscape conservation plan will plan for both the needs of the protected areas as well as the needs of the local communities around these areas. Objective 6: Engage CAMI to change mining concessions in protected areas will aim to move the boundaries of these concessions outside the protected areas but still maintain their exploration outside them to provide job opportunities should minerals be discovered.
- C. Establishing management of the protected area: Objectives 2 and 3: will establish the park infrastructure needed to manage the park and reserve.

Participatory Implementation

Ngamikka Park

In the case of Ngamikka Park WCS staff have consulted with every village/traditional chief whose jurisdiction borders the proposed park; both those along the lake shore (Lake Tanganyika) and those along the road linking Fizi to Kalemie. No additional villages occur within the proposed park. This consultation has resulted in the development of a zoning plan which delineates the location of each village settlement, a zone of agricultural expansion and sustainable harvesting of forest products for communities, and the zone of core protection (park boundary). Some discussion has been had about what activities are allowed in each zone but there is a need to formally agree these as part of the legal gazettment of the park. Two activities are likely to come up as potentially desirable in the core protected area (which will become the park): bushmeat hunting, and travel routes across the mountain range for goods and artisanal mining. At present, much of the artisanal mining conducted in the proposed park is by people from outside the region (from Bukavu) as the amounts of gold being found are minimal. There is some local revenue made by supplying miners with food but not much more than this. Bushmeat hunting is widespread and there will be a need to work with communities to agree where hunting can occur sustainably, which species can be hunted and where it will be banned. Access is needed for people transporting crops from the road to the lake shore villages and fish back to the

road villages and it will be necessary to agree which paths are maintained for this. Consultations will be made as part of the legal gazettment on these issues.

Criteria for eligibility for affected persons

In the case of Ngamikka Park the eligibility for affected persons would be those people found in all villages that border the park and use it in some way. As human population density in this area is very low because of a long history of insecurity in the area there are no other villages that have an impact on the park other than those along the road to the west and along the lake shore to the east. The main people likely to be affected are the hunters and artisanal miners although as stated above there are few local miners and most of the commerce is made by supplying food to these people. We have already employed 16 of the hunters as monitoring rangers for the area to provide them with an alternative way of earning an income and we would aim to target future positions where possible to these two groups. Funding from REDD+ financing would partly aim to target those people who suffer have had the greatest negative impact from the creation of the park whilst at the same time, aiming to raise the standard of living for all people living along the lake and along the road.

As pygmies tend to supply bushmeat to other ethnic groups we will be particularly careful to consult them separately and get their inputs into the zoning plans at both sites. Women will also be consulted separately as their needs and their use of the forests will differ from the men.

Measures to assist the affected persons

People are immigrating into the area and settling in the Luama Reserve now the road from Kalemie and Fizi has been rehabilitated. However this is creating conflict with people living in the region who do not want outsiders moving in and taking their lands. This project will therefore help the local people maintain ownership and control about who can access and ensure that they have a say in the management of the land as part of the strategic planning process.

The measures required to assist those families that will be most affected by the creation of the park will be discussed as part of the legal gazettment in Ngamikka. We have given some ideas of how this might occur above.

Conflict Resolution and Complaint Mechanisms

In Ngamikka Park and Luama Reserve the main parties will be ICCN, the traditional chiefs and their villages and WCS, the only NGO operating in the region at present. We would suggest a bi-annual meeting with the traditional chiefs to examine issues arising from the management of the park.

In cases where issues cannot be resolved among the parties present at these bi-annual meetings we would then aim to involve the Local Government Administration to act as an arbitrator.

Implementation Arrangements

The implementation arrangements are summarized in the following table which indicates how different stakeholders from both sites will participate in the six key components of the project:

Component	Stakeholders involved	Roles and responsibilities
1. Establish a landscape conservation plan for the Ngamikka-Luama Landscape	WCS	Lead process of planning
	ICCN	Engage with process and ensure their needs are met
	Local Communities	Engage in planning process and with landscape planning outside protected areas
	District Ministry of Environment	Engage in planning process
	Ministry of Mines	Engage in planning process
	Provincial Ministries of Environment	Engage in Planning process
2. Establish two monitoring stations that will become patrol stations	ICCN	Engage with ICCN about plans and locations of monitoring stations
	Local Communities	Work with local communities to identify acceptable sites for the locations of outposts
3. Equip the park headquarters and monitoring stations:	ICCN	Discuss equipment types and needs with ICCN
4. Build capacity to manage the protected areas with local community staff	WCS	Support SMART establishment at both sites and provide technical support for its use and maintenance. Train monitoring officers and senior staff
	Monitoring Rangers	Local community provides monitoring rangers in Ngamikka until they can be employed by ICCN
	Local Community	Provide feedback about results of management
	ICCN	Support process engage with districts over management of both sites
5. Demarcate the boundaries of the proposed Ngamikka Park and Luama Katanga HR	Local community	Agree on sites for signboards and design of boards
	District local authorities	Agree on sites for signboards and design
6. Engage the Ministry of Mines to ensure both protected areas are not within mining concessions	WCS	Lobby CAMI in Kinshasa and provide shapefiles and information
	Mining companies	Work with WCS, ICCN and district authorities to revise concessions
	ICCN	Lead process with CAMI

Monitoring and evaluation

Much of the monitoring of community consultation and involvement as well as agreements to any restrictions will come from the legal gazettement and zoning processes that will be undertaken under this project. The results of these will include “process verbale” (PV) accounts of every meeting with the

community which will be signed by members present and with summaries of the main decisions made. Identification of potential community members likely to be affected most by the zoning process will be a target of community meetings and where possible we will aim to minimize negative impacts to people. Where this is not possible we will explore options for mitigation and these will be documented in the PVs.