Ensuring The Survival of Great Apes in Eastern DRC

Dario Merlo, Project Coordinator,
Community Centered Conservation Program
JGI DRC initial working area
Landscape Overview

- 222,000 sq km
- Rich in biodiversity/endemic species
- 90% of Eastern Lowland grauer Gorilla range
- Estimated 40,000 wild chimpanzees (90% eastern chimpanzee population)
- 80% of intact forest
- Availability of fresh water sources
Main threats

- Insecurity
- Illegal mining and hunting
Main threats

- Hunting
- Deforestation
Challenges

- Insecurity
- Lack of infrastructure
- Inadequate government support
JGI activities in the landscape

- Education
- Health/Family planning
- Access to clean water
- Facilitating chimpanzee rescue
- Support to the protected areas
- Alternatives to protein - livestock project
- Coordination of the research results (socio-economic and apes)
Environmental Education

- 98 schools reached
- 16,207 primary school children sensitized
- 74 teachers and educators trained
- More than 4,000 education materials produced
- 54 Roots & Shoots clubs established
Sensitization Activities

- Through radio programs, theater plays, community meetings, billboards on the main roads
- Coordinating EE program at landscape level
Rehabilitation of health infrastructure

Before

After

- 6 clinics renovated - 42,000 people
- Rainwater collection system built
- Incinerator for waste
Reproductive Health/Family Planning

- Access to methods (condom, pills, depo provera, cycle beads, IUD)
- Partnership with Ministry of Health (71 health facilities)
- Informing communities (theater, posters, radio programming and +600 CBDAs)
Family Planning

- Training of health care providers and CBDA’s (55 training sessions, 1,300 providers trained)
- Infection prevention supplies
- 163,900 women are expected to be reached this year
Access to clean water

- Improving health of communities
- Reducing the distance for accessing water
- Spring protection committees
- 9 springs protected
Supporting conservation efforts

• Providing food rations for patrols
• Contributing to salaries
• Supporting with equipment
Supporting conservation efforts

- data on wildlife and illegal activities
Chimpanzees rescue

To address the illegal hunting of meat and trafficking of baby chimpanzees we partner with:

- local NGO and wildlife authorities
- Lwiro Rehabilitation Center for primates
Conservation Action Plan

• Process initiated by the Congolese government (MECNT & ICCN)
• 15 great apes experts, conservation NGO’s
• Security services and government at every level
Conservation Action Plan
Conservation Action Plan

• Identifying the threats - hunting, mining, deforestation
Conservation Action Plan

PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA CONSERVATION DES GRANDES SINGES DANS L'EST DE LA RDC
Situation au 16 Février 2011

- Gorilla presence (work in progress Feb 18)
- Chimp presence (work in progress Feb 18)

Chimpanzé (Plumptre et al. 2010)

Infrastructure
- Route nationale
- Route provinciale
- Route locale
- Voie urbaine
- Piste d'exploitation
- Eau superficielle
- Rivière principale

Mining Permits
- Parc National
- Réserve Naturelle
- Domaine de Chasse
- Réserve communautaire
- UGADEC reserve

Ape presence data integrated in GIS during the CAP workshop: J. Hart, S. Nixon; A. Plumptre et al.
WCS; FFI; DFGFI-UGADE; ZSL; et al.
GIS data processing: L. Pinte

0 50 100 150 200 km

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Conservation Action Plan

- **Defining strategies:**
  - Assessment of priority population of Great Apes
  - Sensitization and involvement of communities in conservation
  - Consolidation of territory management
  - Strengthen protected areas, community forests and sanctuaries
  - Application of laws in protected areas and intervention zones
Conservation Action Plan

- Continuous process of searching accurate information and data on apes
- Meeting with stakeholders to review the document
- Endorsment of the government
- JGI play a leading role in coordination of Apes Conservation effort
Conservation Action Plan

Plan d'Action pour la Conservation des Grands Singes dans l'Est de la RDC

Situé au 7 Février 2011

Zone première de planification
- Chef lieu de Province
- Chef lieu de District
- Chef lieu de Territoire
- Autre ville
- Village

Infrastructure
- Route nationale
- Route provinciale
- Route locale
- Voirie urbaine
- Piste d'exploitation
- Eau superficielle
- Rivière principale
- Parc National
- Réserve Naturelle
- Domaine de Chasse
- Réserve communautaire
- UGADEC réserve

RDC provinces
- autres
- Maniema
- Nord-Kivu
- Orientale
- Sud-Kivu

0 60 120 240 Km

MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE
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ACTUS FOUNDATION
CARPE
ICN
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE
Lessons learnt

- Achieving program results in a conflict area is possible
- Partnership with government and the local community is key for longer term impact
- Community ownership & governance of activities enables successful implementation
- Use of new technology is improving the quality of our work
- Combining & coordinating NGO strengths leads to better outcomes
Donors & Partners

- DRC Ministry of Environment
- UGADEC
- Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
- Arcus Foundation
- USAID/CARPE
- Conservation International
- JGI USA, JGI Canada, JGI Australia & JGI Spain
- Dian Fossey Gorilla funds International
- Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project
- Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Fauna & Flora International
- Zoological Society of Frankfurt
- Zoo’s Victoria
THANK YOU