Mining in the Ituri Landscape

Challenges for biodiversity conservation

Wildlife Conservation Society
(ABCG-Ituri LS Team)
Democratic Republic of Congo

ABCG – Task B: Managing Extractive Industries to Protect Biodiversity

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Outline

• Overview of Ituri LS
• Mining activities
• Threats
• Opportunities
• The way forward....
Ituri’s location in the DRC
History of WCS in Ituri

- 1985 – WCS starts research in Ituri
- 1992 – creation of Okapi Wildlife Reserve (OWR)
- 2000 – WCS begins land use planning in OWR
- 2003 – Activities expand to Ituri LS through USAID-CARPE program support
  - Landscape landuse planning
- 2008 – Support for Livelihood activities (USAID & WB)
- 2011 – REDD Pilot Project for Mambasa (Ituri)
Ituri Landscape

- Stronghold for okapis
  - 2000-3000
- DRC’s largest population of forest elephants
  - 3000-4000
- Largest population of eastern chimps
  - 6000-7000
- 13 sp of diurnal primates in OWR
  - most of any African protected area

- 1500 plant species
- Inselberg micro-environments
- High biomass monodominant forest
  - Gilbertodendron dewevrei
- Edos – clearings maintained by large mammals
Human livelihoods in Ituri

- ~40,000 km²
- 300,000 people
- Mbuti & Efe pygmies
  - Hunter-gatherers
- Bantu tribes
- >80% subsistence farmers
- Artisanal logging
- Artisanal mining
- Hunting & fishing
Carrés miniers & Protected Areas

A Geological scandal in the heart of Africa
Geology of Ituri

- Greenstone belts with Banded Iron Formations which host quartz veins
  - Gold, Iron, Diamonds
- Companies claim highly productive mines
  - millions of oz of gold expected production
Industrial Mining Concessions
Industrial Mining Concessions & CBNRM Zones
ASM indistinctively affect Protected Areas as well as CBNRM Zones in Ituri LS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Products</th>
<th>Observation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anglo Gold Ashanti - AGA - North Eastern of the LS. Djugu-Irumu and Watsa Territories</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Anglo-American – South Africa Exploitation phase to begin in Concessions 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kilo Gold Mambasa - Irumu-Djugu-Beni-Wamba Territories</td>
<td>Gold, diamond</td>
<td>Canadian Toronto; overlap ENRA concession Exploration (11 permits) and development</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Canadian Loncor Resources* Mambasa- Wamba Gold, platinum, niobium, tantalum, copper, iron, diamond.</td>
<td>agreement with Rio Tinto exploration</td>
<td>Exploration (55 permits) Ngayu Project (4,550 sq.km) – NK (17M sq.km)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Rio Tinto Haut-Uele (Wamba-Banalia-Poko) Iron, diamond Multi-national (UK, AU, US, CA)</td>
<td>Mapping and sampling; Exploration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Auris AG Mambasa, Bafwasende and North Kivu Gold</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>Exploration</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Golden Valley Unknown Gold</td>
<td></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Golden Dragon (FAMETAL) Bafwasende and Mambasa (Ituri river) Gold and diamond</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Kilo Moto Djugu-Watsa-Irumu Gold and derives</td>
<td>DRC Gov</td>
<td>Selling shares and sites to foreign companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>COMMET Ituri river Gold, diamond</td>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>Exploration (16 permits)</td>
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Future Mineral Exploitation
Threats to biodiversity

• Destruction of habitat & wildlife
  – Land removal
  – Development of infrastructure
  – Deforestation & forest degradation
    • Agricultural expansion
    • Unsustainable illegal/artisanal logging
    • Charcoal production
  – Water ways
    • Siltation of rivers
    • Chemicals (mercury & cyanide) entering water
  – Bushmeat exploitation & poaching
Social Threats

- Militarization of mining / poaching
- Unbalanced economy
- Proliferation of illnesses & STDs
- School drop out --- Children are involved in mining & not in school
- New human agglomerations/Immigrations
- Resettlement of populations
- Traditional ownership rights
- Conflicts with artisanal miners
Legal aspects - Opportunities

Industrial Mining Companies are required:

• **Exploration Phase**
  – Attenuation & Rehabilitation Plan

• **Exploitation Phase**
  – Environmental Impact Assessment
  – Project Environmental Management Plan
Progress in Collaboration

• WCS has established preliminary contacts mining companies:
  – Kilo-Gold, Loncor, Rio Tinto, Anglo-Gold Ashanti
• WCS participate as stakeholder to AGK -EIA
• Site visits to Kilo-Gold & Loncor operations
• Identifying large mining installations
• Preliminary report on status of Mining activities across Ituri LS
• Partnering with local NGOs for visits to artisanal mines
Site Visits

Adumbi Mine – Kilo-Gold

Yindi Mine - Loncor
The way forward...

• Integration of the ERZ in the Land use plan
  • Mining concessions
  • Artisanal zones (cooperatives)

• Assess & mitigate impacts from mining
  • Environment Impact Assessment
  • Environmental and Social impact mitigation
    – Fauna and flora inventories ... sites
    – Socioeconomic studies
    – Negotiation of the Cahiers des Charges with Local communities

• Monitoring and Evaluation of mitigation plans
• Economic alternative activities
• Collaboration with the DRC government
  • Governance
Partnerships for Conservation?

– Development of EIA; Envt. Management Plan
  • Socio-economic surveys
  • Biodiversity (flora & fauna) surveys
  • Negotiation of the Cahiers des Charges with Local communities

– Support for livelihoods activities
  • Development of alternative economic activities

– Monitoring of biodiversity

– Negotiation for Biodiversity Offsets/Trust funds

WCS could provide technical oversight & expertise
Thank you for your attention...

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group