Participatory Land Use Planning and Food Security in the Ituri Forest Conservation Landscape, DRC

ABCG Brown Bag
Food Security and Conservation
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• 40,862 km$^2$ in northeastern DRC
• 300,000 people
• High biodiversity area for Central Africa
  • Largest remaining population of okapi
  • Forest elephants
  • 17 species of primates
  • 10 species of forest antelope
  • Forest buffalo
• 300 bird species
Agricultural expansion
Poaching and unsustainable hunting
Land management challenges

• Population growth
  – Immigrants attracted by road repair
  – Perceived land abundances

• Indiscriminate land grants and sales by chiefs

• Social and institutional conflicts
Zoning Goals

• Meet the present and future needs of population (farmers and hunter-gatherers)
• Secure prior and legitimate land and resource access and use claims of OFR residents
• Reconcile land use interests of different stakeholders
• Construct shared vision and institutional mechanisms for landscape management
Zoning in OWR

- Began in 2000
- 65% of the OWF is available for human subsistence activities
- 10% for agriculture
- 55% for forest multi-use zones (hunting, gathering)
- 35% core conservation zone
Issues to be Resolved in OWR

• Snares
• Perennial crops
• Rights to felled trees
Two CBNRMss – Bakwanza and Andikau

- Agriculture
- Hunting
- Forestry
- Community Reserve
  - Adjoin one another and will be managed jointly
  - Forest elephant migration corridor
Issues to be Addressed

- Buy-in from chiefs
- Institutional capacity to manage
  - Within individual CBNRM
  - Across jurisdictions
- Landscape management
- Economic incentives/livelihood options
  - Marketing
  - Financial services
Next Steps for ABCG and Members

• Best practices improving farm production sustainably
• Indicators of resilience and sustainability
• Horizontal exchanges among farmers/farmer-led innovation
Thank you.