10 Years of PA Management in Gabon
Regional Priority Places: Alps, Baltic, Gulf of California, Indus Delta, Mesoamerican Reef, Yellow Sea.
The Congo Basin – Green Heart of Africa
GABON

- Land surface: 267,667 km² (state of Colorado), Water surface: 10,000 km²
- Total Population: 1,672,597 (1/4 of Colorado)
- 6.3 habitants/km² = 10th least densely populated country in the world
- Urban population: 86.2%
- Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, diamond, niobium, manganese, uranium, gold, timber, iron ore, hydropower, fisheries
Conservation in Gabon

Assets

- One of the three political pillars of economic development is "Green Gabon »
- Exceptional biodiversity: 85% forest cover
- 11% of the national territory in National Parks (13)
- 23% of EEZ announced to be Marine Protected Area

Major challenges:

- Economic Development: expansion of oil palm, mining, oil and infrastructure development
- Ivory poaching
- Weak wildlife law
- Lack of enforcement and management capacity
- Corruption
More than 50% of all forest elephants on the planet are in Gabon.
One of the last strongholds for gorillas and chimpanzees
Holds the world's largest nesting leatherback population (15,000-40,000 females)
Protected Areas in Gabon
WWF in Gabon

- 30 projects
- 70 staff
- 7 Field Offices & 1 HQ
- 3 Field Programmes
  - Northern (TRIDOM)
  - Southern & Marine (Gamba)
  - Central (Freshwater/Bas Ogooué)
- Thematic Programmes (Cross-cutting)
  - Extractives Industries
  - Forest
  - GIS/LUP
WWF Gabon donors (2012)

- Banque Mondiale: 51,052,628
- FFEM: 47,077,688
- PAPPFG: 22,801,028
- WCS: 20,807,146
- UNOPS: 80,789,706
- WWF International: 105,851,255
- Autres bureaux WWF: 126,961,814
- UE: 187,512,749
- ANPN (BM): 189,478,545
- WWF Pays Bas: 728,499,664
- WWF USA: 341,598,889
WWF’s Support to Protected Area management
Infrastructure
Anti-poaching
Logistics (Film: The logistical challenge of WWF Gamba)
Technical expertise
Promoting Sustainable Tourism
Communications & Awareness Raising

- Films
- TV spots
- Wall paintings
- Brochures, posters
- Environmental Education
- Conservation Roadshows
And outside of Protected Areas?
Wildlife Management outside PA's (Private concessions & Communities)

1. Improve forest management (wildlife)
2. Improve EIA Monitoring
3. RSPO Certification
4. Structure Artisanal Gold mining
5. Test community forestry
Challenges

- 2003-2009: WWF in control of parks budget for surveillance missions including eco-guard salaries, logistics, mission costs, surveillance strategy, reporting
- 2009, New Elected President → Lee White takes over National Park Agency
- 2011, Mike Fay lobbies for USAID (CARPE) money for Gabon to be given to USFWS
- 2011, USAID-NGO money drastically reduced. Funding for surveillance no longer through NGO’s
- 2014, NP Agency receives only a small part of state budget promised. Surveillance activities on stand by → NGO’s no longer a mandate and budget to jump in → most parks not adequately protected
Solutions

- Sustainable funding mechanisms
- Formal implication of NGO’s in park management (different models)
- Long term engagement of government
The Forgotten Blue Lung next to the Green Heart
Marine Conservation in Gabon till 2013

- 2009, WCS Congo Basin Coastal Program
- 2011, Partnership IUCN, WCS, WWF (3-CoMAC)
- 2011, WWF Recruits Marine Coordinator
- October 2012, Waitt institute/National Geographic/WCS marine exploration in Gabon
(film)
Gabon Blue Initiative

• 27 December 2012, Mike Fay appointed “Gabon Blue advisor” for the President of Gabon

• 8 February 2014, Agreement between Gabon and IBL Mauritian conglomerate Ireland Blyth Limited to restructure industries and develop local fishing sector

• April 24 2014, New treaty EU and Gabon on Tuna fishing (€ 1,350,000 fee, € 65 per ton Tuna, Access Rights € 13,750 p/y, max 20,000 tons/ year

• September 19 2014, creation of National Marine Council (Conseil National de la Mer (CNM))

• 10 October 2014, Creation of the National Fisheries (and Aquaculture) Agency
• November 12th 2014, Announcement World Parks Congress of 23% of EEZ under protected areas

23% of Gabon's territorial waters and EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) = 46,000 km²
WWF’s Marine & Coastal Programme

Gamba area turtle nesting 2002/3-2013/14

Legend
- Community: Fishermen's villages
- Locusts: Village
- Common dolphin: Fisherman with nets on beach
- Ship: Fishermen
- Whale: Whale
- Whale

Loango National Park

Legend
- Fisheries Observation
- Fishermen with nets on beach
- Ship
- Whale
- Whale

Loango National Park
WWF’s role in setting up of MPA network

- Increase capacity to control the Gabonese maritime space
- Set up MPA Management
- Ensure sustainable fishing practices (SFI)
- Seek sustainable funding model
- Involve private (oil) sector management of marine environment
Merci