

AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 EXTENSION REPORT

Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS)

USAID/AFR/SD Award # RLA-A-00-07-00043-00

June 2015



Murchison Falls. Photo courtesy of Martin Malley /Flickr.



AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

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ACRONYMS

ABCG	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group
AFR/SD	Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CI	Conservation International
CIFOR	The Center for International Forestry Research
GKMGE	Greater–Katavi–Mahale–Gombe Ecosystem
HCV	High Conservation Value
JFM	Joint Forest Management
JGI	the Jane Goodall Institute
LAFR	Local Authority Forest Reserve
LSLA	Large-Scale Land Acquisition
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ODK	Open Data Kit
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WIOCC	Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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Introduction

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) is a consortium of seven United States-based international conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which receives funding through the Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) Agreement of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development (AFR/SD). The consortium members are: African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Conservation International (CI), the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

GOAL

The goal of ABCG's BATS component is to support USAID AFR/SD, Africa Missions and African organization partners to increase their effectiveness to tackle major existing and emerging threats to Africa's biodiversity and contribute to sound development and security based on wise use of natural resources and maintenance of ecosystem services. Additionally, the overarching objective is to undertake analysis, provide technical support, and conduct outreach in Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support. ABCG is thus an avenue for fulfilling the BATS program's goal, which is to build capacity within the USAID Bureau for Africa, its field missions, and its partners to more effectively incorporate biodiversity conservation into programming decisions.

EXTENSION REPORT

This report is an extension to the most recent ABCG Annual Technical (Program) Report to USAID, Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development, entitled: [AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP FY2014 ANNUAL REPORT Fulfilling the Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support \(BATS\) USAID/AFR/SD Award # RLA-A-00-07-00043](#) (Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group et al., 2014).

ABCG was granted a six month no-cost extension to USAID's Cooperative Agreement No. RLA-A-00-07-00043-00 for the Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) program. The amendment extended the period of performance through March 31st, 2015.

This extension report, covering the period October 1st, 2014 to March 31st, 2015, includes material deliverables as described in the 2014 ABCG Work Plan to USAID (Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group, 2013), that were not concluded during the regular fiscal year spanning October 1st, 2013 to

September 30th, 2014 because of a delay in the disbursement of activity funds, thus delaying work plan deliverables.

This extension report is to be referred to when using the 2014 Annual Report (Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group et al., 2014).

N.B.: Hyperlinks to deliverables throughout this report open pdf formatted documents. If using *Adobe Reader* and wish to keep this report open, you can access the cross-referenced document in a new window: Go to Edit⇒Preferences⇒Documents⇒Open Settings: uncheck 'Open cross-document links in same window'.)

Outreach and Engagement: Brown Bag Events

Further to the deliverables reported herein during the extension period, ABCG also achieved additional activities under the core objective of promoting networking, awareness, information sharing and experience exchange among U.S.- and Africa-based civil society partners and individual enthusiasts. ABCG hosted 12 brown bag events, from a USAID Forest Carbon Markets Communities presentation of diverse project circumstances revealing key generalizations; to ABCG's own climate change adaptation talk on the project documenting human responses to changes in weather and climate in Africa, at a USAID sponsored Adaptation Community (see [Appendix](#)).

Task B: Managing Extractive Industries to Protect Biodiversity

B.2 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST ASSESSMENTS

Large mammal mapping updates

The Wildlife Conservation Society, together with Conservation International and World Wildlife Fund, completed work related to refinement of regional maps for elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*), chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) based on newly updated models for chimpanzees and gorillas. Regional map models for apes (Western Lowland Gorillas and central Chimpanzees) have since been published in an IUCN Species Survival Commission publication, entitled [Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of Western Lowland Gorillas and Central Chimpanzees 2015–2025](#). A higher resolution distribution model for elephants was also previously developed and published in the report entitled [Testing approaches to define High Conservation Value thresholds in Gabon: Final report \(Sept 2011-March 2015\)](#).

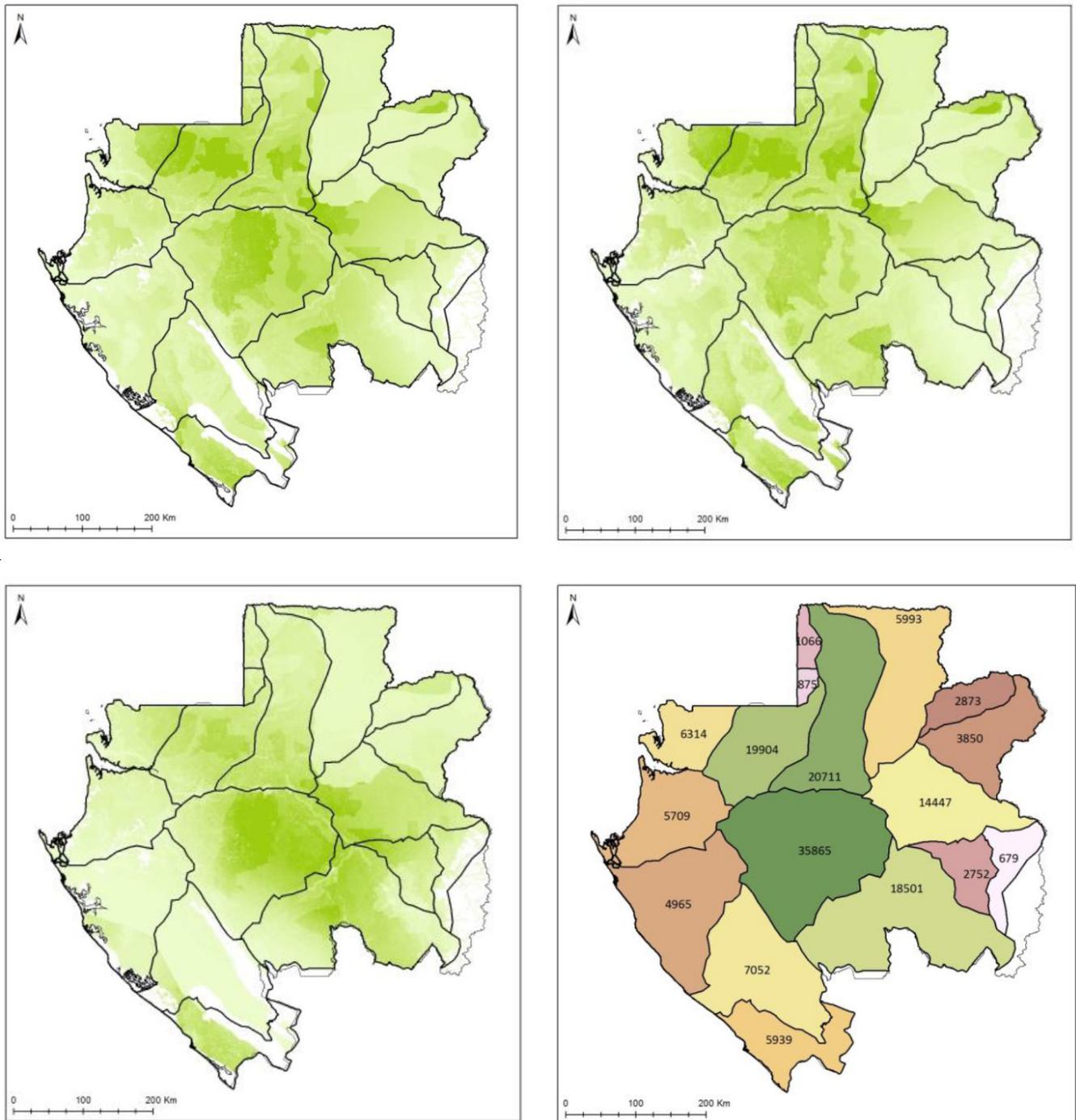


Figure 1. Basic density surface from the modelling of great ape densities, with densities shown as individuals per square kilometre.
Note: Great apes combined (top left), Gorillas (top right) and chimpanzees (bottom left). The lower than expected density predictions for apes in north east of Gabon are the result of previous ebola outbreaks. The total population estimate of both gorillas and chimpanzees in each block (bottom right).

Exploit maps in landscape analysis SW Gabon

The group's landscape analysis was accomplished, where national data and priority areas were combined with local features, including testing approaches to identifying HCV areas and optimal

conservation set-aside areas at the concession level, with stakeholder feed-back in the process. The maps are presented in the aforementioned [Final report](#).

Compilation of results and lessons learned and production of landscape case study report

A review of national interpretations of HCV processes was completed and reported in the 2012 report [A Global Review of National Guidance for High Conservation Value](#); and reports significant milestones in setting National Inventories in 19 countries. In 2014 the group completed the landscape case technical study reported in the paper [Testing approaches to define High Conservation Value thresholds in Gabon: Final report \(Sept 2011-March 2015\)](#), under the guidance of Olivia Scholtz. The crucial forest inventory data, analysed by the forestry company Sylvafrica, and the Missouri Botanic Garden experts was completed, producing a preliminary forest habitat map. This map (Figure 2), along with plenty of other data layers and the products from the earlier work was fed into a planning exercise for zoning using Marxan. A practical guide was included in the *Final Report* and a summary document entitled [Identifying High Conservation Values: A case study from Gabon](#); with attention focused on technical rigor, information complexity and precision; and divided into two major sections 1) compiling and treating data (preliminary study, types of data, links to online resources or individuals for compiling relevant data, examples on generating data layers), and 2) setting thresholds (scenarios, and gaining consensus).

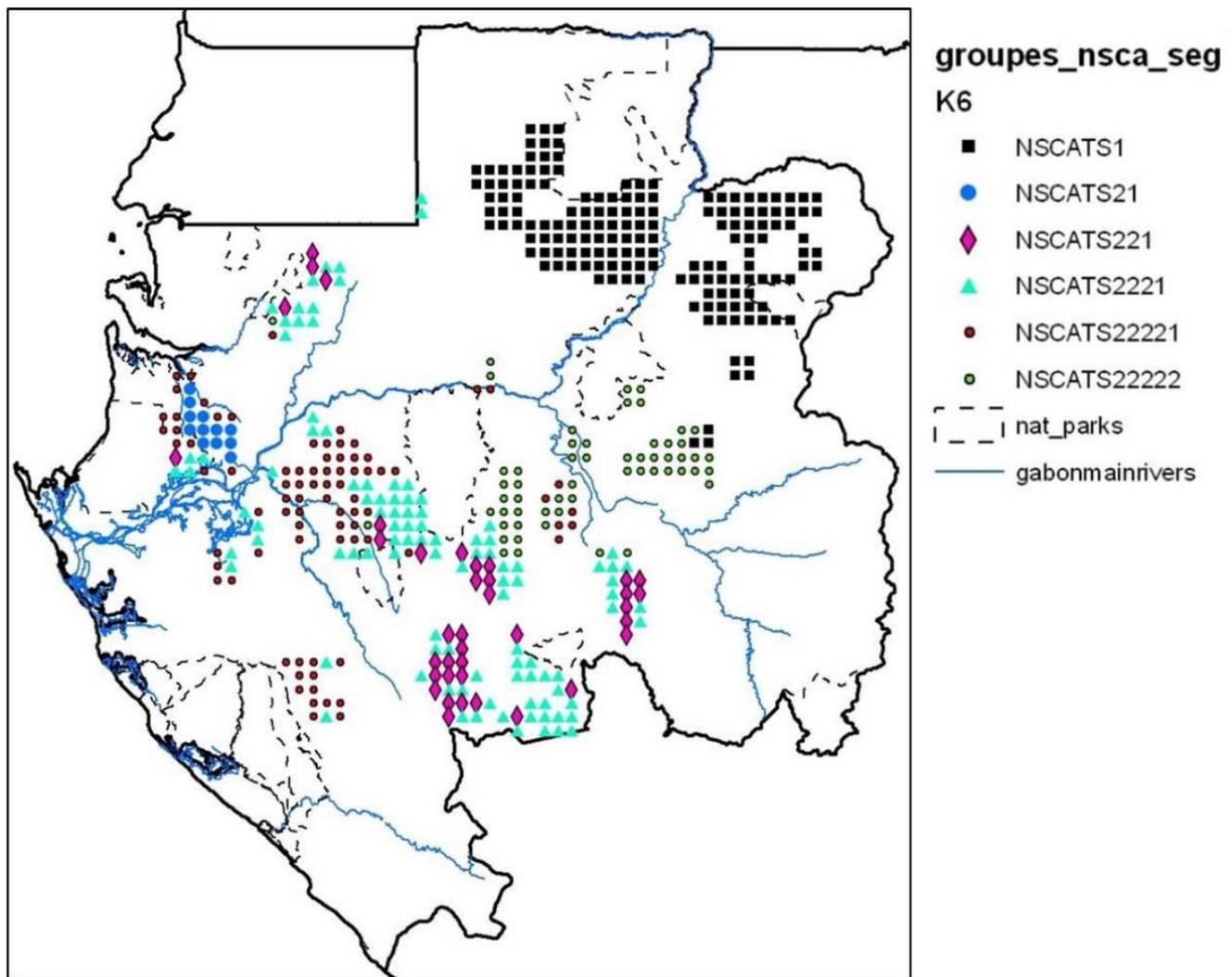


Figure 2. Preliminary results of the statistical analysis of forest inventory data from 14 companies provided by Sylvafrica to classify forest types based on vegetation diversity.

Policy brief on use of the data and the Aquatic biodiversity prioritization approaches

Currently an aquatic ecosystem Atlas for Gabon is being developed by TNC, which makes use of the fish data-base developed by WWF. A policy brief on prioritization was developed with TNC support, entitled [Setting Priority Conservation Areas for Fish Species in Gabon](#).

List of communication materials, briefing notes and reports to be produced, with responsibilities defined following technical work session

After completion of the landscape scale analysis, a summary document was produced as a toolkit for working groups, technicians and institutions involved in HCV national interpretation. The handout, entitled [Identifying High Conservation Values: A case study from Gabon](#), covers modules on:

1. Approaches to identifying national priority areas for forest elephants and great apes;

2. Mapping endemic plant distributions;
3. Forest type classification; and
4. Identifying HCVs at the landscape scale that include national priorities (Rayden, Ratiarison, Scholtz, Segan, & Stevart, 2015).

Stakeholder workshop for final communication and results

A workshop was organized and convened government and other stakeholders to review the case study and the information collected in support of the process. The report is titled [*Defining HCV thresholds in Gabon: Technical workshop report 2015*](#). The workshop gathered different actors on HCV interpretation in Gabon, and organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Natural Resources Protection. The report summarized the workshop, the thoughts of participating stakeholders, and the results of the three years project.

Task C: Land Tenure, Rights & Governance

World Resources Institute

A Farmer in Africa: Securing Property Rights

This video was completed and has been released with the title *A Farmer in Africa: Securing Property Rights*. It speaks to the issue of documenting and formalizing customary tenure arrangements.



Figure 3. This video *A Farmer in Africa: Securing Property Rights* is part of a series produced by WRI from their Land and Resource Rights project.

A Farmer in Africa: Exercising Property Rights

WRI and supporting members fulfilled the requirement to produce at least two short videos on Task C key findings and recommendations. These include:

1. A Farmer in Africa: Restricting Property Rights
[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6nra7SYPNM\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6nra7SYPNM), produced in FY 2013;
2. A Farmer In Africa: Overlapping Property Rights
[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwrO16LKj5U\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwrO16LKj5U), 2014

3. A Farmer In Africa: Balancing Property Rights With National Needs [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysRr2N0u-Xc>], 2014
4. A Farmer in Africa: Securing Property Rights [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98yxUHDy-54>], 2014-15.

The video entitled *A Farmer in Africa: Exercising Property Rights* is still in the works. WRI has prepared a draft script ready for the illustration stage. The video speaks to the benefits of secure land rights. It will be available in mid-2015.

The Jane Goodall Institute

Run Marxan so as to identify and map key areas within the Local Authority Forest Reserves (LAFR) with high biodiversity value and should be protected with no off take of resources permitted

JGI spearheaded the effort to develop a map that identifies core areas within the Local Authority Forest Reserves (LAFR) that are high in biodiversity and need to be conserved. With the support of WCS, a workshop was held in March 2015 which, among other objectives of data refinement, gap analysis and problem formulation for MARXAN deployment, also developed a thematic map portraying areas of high biodiversity value (see Figure 4; or [full resolution map here](#)) overlaid with gazetted land uses such as national parks and forest reserves. This activity was accomplished in conjunction with the [Masito-Ugalla Landscape, Tanzania Workshop](#) Task F.3 activity.

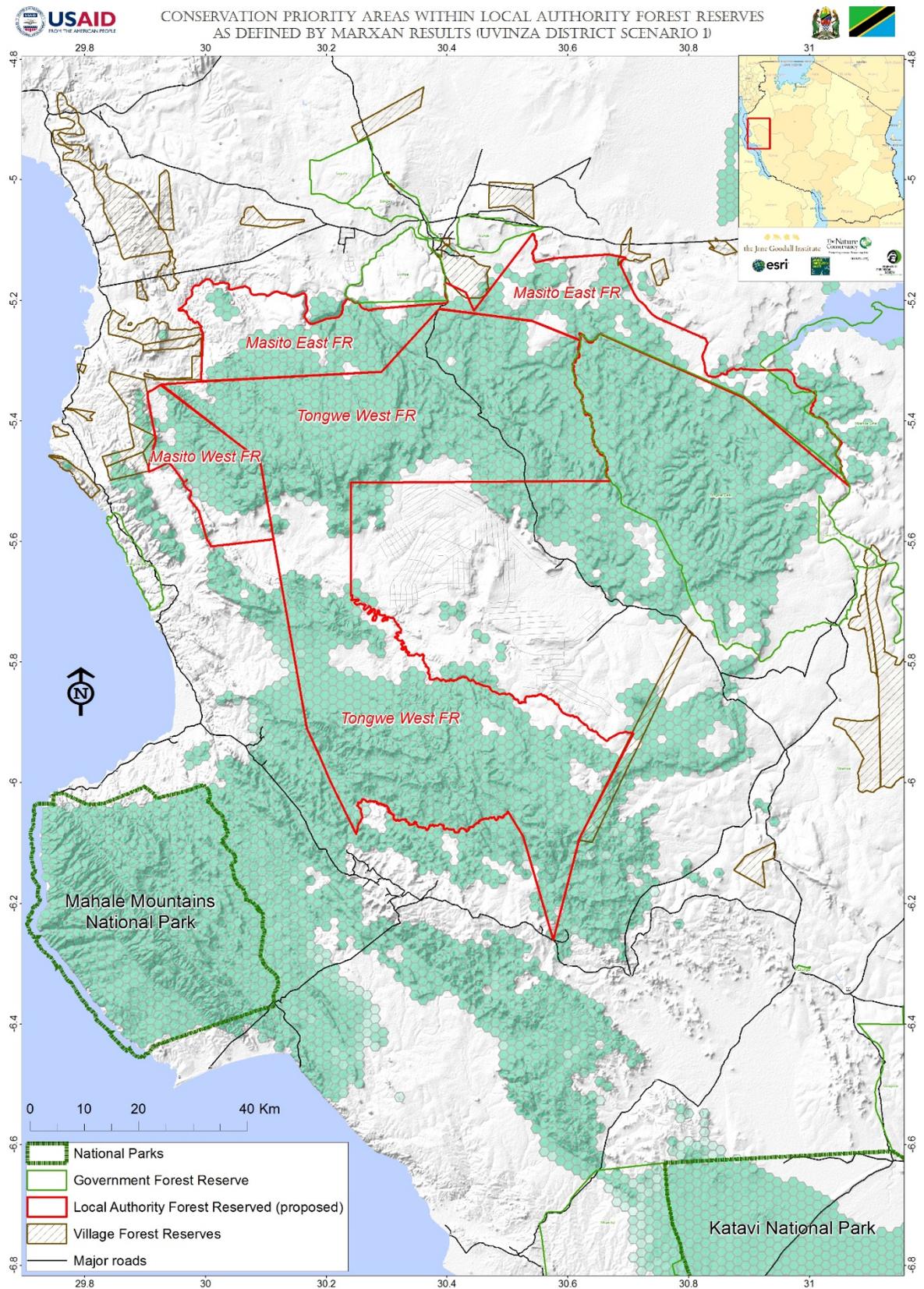


Figure 4. Uvinza District showing high biodiversity areas overlaid with village, local and national protected areas.
NOTE: The green hexagonal layer includes Marxan multi-criteria threshold results for high biodiversity areas.

Discussions and meetings to bring the Uvinza District Council and Nsimbo District Council up to speed on ongoing efforts to establish LAFR

Meetings held with representatives from two new districts—Nsimbo and Uvinza representatives to bring them up to speed on the work that has been implemented in establishing the LAFR's and their importance.

The proposed Masito LAFR and villages surrounding it fall within Uvinza District. Masito LAFR is supposed to take over the process from the Kigoma District Council, own it and continue the finalization of the reserves, establishment of the General Management Plan, and implement follow-on JFM process with communities. Though most staff members were transferred from Kigoma District and are familiar with the process, a number of other team members are not. While the Uvinza District Council continues to support efforts by JGI and other stakeholders in the LAFR process, it has not yet shown leadership in these efforts, but JGI are hopeful this will happen in the coming months. In Nsimbo District, while its administrative boundaries do not include the proposed Tongwe West LAFR, it does include Tongwe East Forest reserve, a key forest reserve that was part of Mpanda District previously. The forest resources and challenges to these resources from movement of people and cattle, make Nsimbo a key stakeholder in this process.

The Nature Conservancy

Incorporation of two new districts: Nsimbo and Uvinza into the GKMGE Steering Committee

A key activity, held to bring two new districts into ongoing Steering Committee efforts and support them in taking on leadership, was the formulation of the inter-district GKMGE Steering Committee. A coordination meeting to discuss progress and challenges from the districts took place between July 20 and 22nd 2014; this meeting was facilitated by TNC, JGI and Frankfurt Zoological Society.

The July 20–22nd meeting made amendments to the Steering Committee terms of reference and agreed to include District Medical Officers (DMOs) from all four participating districts of Kigoma Rural, Uvinza, Mpanda and Nsimbo as additional members of the committee so as to advance integration of Population, Health and Environment (PHE). [This TNC-led activity is reported here.](#)

Broad Audience Outreach Material

The Task team, including TNC, JGI, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and Pathfinder International, developed a fact sheet on the GKMGE Steering Committee with local/regional/national government and partners) to inform the general public and government about the GKMGE; entitled [Managing Natural Resources at the Scale that Matters.](#)

Task F: Addressing Global Climate Change through Adaptation and Actions in Woodlands, Grasslands and other Ecosystems

F.1 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Activity A:

Submission of the manuscript article entitled [*Considering the Human Response to Climate Change Significantly Changes the Outcome of Site-Based and Species Vulnerability Assessments to Diversity and Distributions*](#) in mid-2015 has been accomplished, with an anticipated publication date in the Fall of 2015.

The ABCG Climate Change Adaptation Task Team (including staff from Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund) presented its findings from qualitative research undertaken through interviews and focus groups in selected African communities in which ABCG Group members work. On June 18th, 2015 the group presented the summary of findings to the USAID [Climate Change] Adaptation Community in Washington, D.C. This is part of their intention to disseminate the output to a wider audience, including various channels such as organization website blogs. The presentation, entitled *ABCG Project Documenting Human Responses to Changes in Weather and Climate in Africa* includes a [webinar recording and accompanying slides here](#).

Presentation Abstract

Far removed from decision-making bodies and financial resources, rural communities in Africa and elsewhere are often left to their own devices to cope with and adapt to change. What can we learn from these communities? Can successful responses serve as models for others? Are unplanned responses leading to maladaptation? How are responses, successful or otherwise, affecting wildlife and ecosystems? Because coping and autonomous responses go largely undocumented, we miss important opportunities to learn from the experiences of these communities and integrate learning into conservation planning efforts. This pilot ABCG project has begun to investigate this gap in our understanding.

~ Nikhil Advani

Activity B:

A report of the analysis of peer-reviewed and grey literature, as well as analysis of key informant/focus group interviews, on the subject of already documented unplanned human responses to climate in Africa and their effects on wildlife and ecosystems, has been completed and reported in [ABCG Project Documenting Human Responses to Changes in Weather and Climate in Africa](#).

The development and piloting of a research methodology, presented as a case study summarizing the methodology was developed and used in combination with the data for outreach. The data collection template is published in the report entitled [ABCG Project Documenting Human Responses to Changes in Weather and Climate in Africa: Qualitative Research Protocol](#). It was designed primarily for key informant interviews, but was also used in focus group interviews. WWF piloted the prototype in western Uganda through both a key informant and focus group interview.



Figure 5. WCS conducting field surveys near Loango National Park. Photo courtesy of WCS.

Communications and outreach was intended to follow soon after the data analyzed and a case study developed:

- A workshop proposed originally with stakeholders in Africa will be planned as an event Washington DC. The plan is to use the workshop to discuss findings, how to effectively use them in conservation planning efforts, and how best to move forward with this project in the next 2–3 years. Whereas the intention was to hold the workshop during the extension period in 2015, this did not materialize due to delays in establishing research teams and concluding analyses.

F.3 WOODLANDS, TRADE-OFFS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Masito-Ugalla Landscape, Tanzania Workshop

The Jane Goodall Institute with Wildlife Conservation Society held a second workshop in Kigoma, Tanzania in March 2015, with the goal of reviewing, refining and gap analysis of data previously collected for the Masito–Ugalla landscape in response to feedback solicited at the first workshop. Revisions include a new deforestation analysis covering the period from 2002–2013, community mapping of wildlife and illegal activities, updated mining licenses, modification of district boundaries and development of a chimpanzee habitat health index.

The team produced a workshop report, entitled [*Tools to Make Scientifically Sound Decisions about Trade-Offs between Different Conservation Actions: A Case Study from the Greater Mahale Ecosystem*](#). The report provides a summary of the two day event that was attended by local and regional governments from Kigoma, Uvinza, and Mpanda regions, Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), and other NGOs. In addition to refining data, the workshop objectives included an introduction to the use of optimization tools to explore trade-offs in landscape prioritization; and the use of MARXAN to structure problem formulation.

A draft scientific paper on the findings in the Murchison–Semliki Landscape

The draft scientific paper on the findings in the Murchison–Semliki Landscape exploring the distribution of opportunity costs of conservation between stakeholders was drafted and is being submitted to a professional journal for publication. The manuscript, entitled *Using socio-economic and conservation trade-offs in biodiversity rich, working landscapes to help create resilient conservation plans: a case study from the Albertine Rift* is available in the package of extension deliverables as a pre-publication manuscript not intended for external dissemination and distribution at the time of writing this report, as the final publishable version is still under editorial review.

F.4 CLEAN ENERGY AND ECO-CHARCOAL

African Wildlife Foundation

A joint technical report with [*ICSEE—Maasai stoves and Solar Project*](#) on the piloting experience with local households was completed. The report, entitled [*Enabling Maasai women to access improved cook stoves in Mbirikani Group Ranch, Kenya: Technical facilitation by Maasai Stoves and Solar Project*](#), documented piloting experience including lessons and experience of the beneficiaries of the installed clean cookstoves. The report will also be used in reaching out to a number of individuals, including decision makers.

The Jane Goodall Institute

JGI ongoing activities included the promotion of briquettes production and use as an alternative source of fuel, while identifying on-farm residues that can be used by farmers for making briquettes:

Ten awareness meetings held within Kazuramimba, Kalinzi, Illagal and other target villages

With the aim of increasing awareness in twelve target villages including Kazuramimba, Kalinzi, Illagala, Uvinza Bitale, Mkongoro, Nyarubanda, Mkigo, Mwamila, Matyazo, Majalila and Katambile, JGI employed the expertise of ARTI-Energy to raise awareness among more than 100 villagers of the multiple benefits of using improved cook stoves and other clean energy technologies. Their full account is released in the report [Western Tanzania Clean Energy Project](#).

Implementation Plan for integrating improved technologies into institutions

Implementation plans for integrating improved technologies into households and institutions were developed and implemented through a partnership between the Jane Goodall Institute and ARTI-energy. 480 fuel efficient stoves (both charcoal and firewood) were purchased, the number of which surpasses the individuals who had been sensitized in the 12 target villages. The Envirofit Institutional stoves were also trialed in four Secondary Schools. This stove can reduce school use of fuel wood and can expenses by up to 80%. A full report can be found in the [Western Tanzania Clean Energy Project](#) report.

Further, two training sessions were held on the production of charcoal briquettes—one in Kigoma and the other in Mpanda. Training involved discussing the type of equipment, tools required and the process of training the team to create the equipment—a charring kiln, identification of biomass such as maize, rice husks, residual charcoal powder. The sources of fuel to be made into briquettes need to be of high calorific value and available in high quantities. As a result of this training five production units were set up in Kigoma, Mpanda and Uvinza. Five distribution points were also set up as selling points for the briquettes.



Figure 6. Solar oven demonstration. Photo courtesy of JGI.

Guides by Arti and TaTEDO on the processes of identification and piloting of clean energy techniques

The steps implemented by ARTI Energy to initiate the technologies and guidelines developed on the processes they have used to pilot these technologies, as well as final recommendations on identification of appropriate clean energy technologies and piloting them, are included in the Appendix of the [Western Tanzania Clean Energy Project](#) report.

An initiative to improve coordination and create partnerships among organizations and institutions has been reported in a summary Task report by the Jane Goodall Institute 2014 activities, which can be found [here](#).

Task H: Forecasting and Analyzing Conservation Needs and Building Capacity on Critical Issues

H.1 LARGE-SCALE LAND ACQUISITION

World Resources Institute

Large-Scale Land Acquisition (LSLA) Procedures in Two African Countries

WRI has completed the research on land acquisition procedures in Tanzania and Mozambique. A report was released which captured the principal research findings and recommendations, entitled [An Assessment of Community Participation in Land Acquisitions in Mozambique and Tanzania](#). The report includes a number of tables and charts of the land acquisitions procedures (including Table 1).

In this report, WRI presents box summaries for land acquisition procedures and the opportunities or citizen engagements. These illustrations can be used in written documents, slide presentations and posters.

Table 1. Top 10 Target Countries for Land Acquisitions

Concluded and Intended Deals		Intended Deals	
Country	Amount of land	Country	Amount of land
Indonesia	5,909,510 ha	Indonesia	2,273,073 ha
South Sudan	4,862,573 ha	Philippines	2,098,500 ha
Papua New Guinea	3,799,169 ha	Sudan	1,617,253 ha
Mozambique	3,064,086 ha	South Sudan	1,371,120 ha
DRC	2,898,158 ha	Sierra Leone	877,017 ha
Sudan	2,886,266 ha	Mozambique	860,319 ha
Philippines	2,230,650 ha	Uganda	850,127 ha
Congo	2,202,000 ha	Angola	757,000 ha
Sierra Leone	2,116,040 ha	Madagascar	607,000 ha
Russian Federation	1,739,948 ha	Tanzania	586,117 ha

Source: Land Matrix data (LandMatrix.org, 2015).

WRI released a report on the research findings and recommendations of the negative and disproportionate impacts of large-scale land investments in developing countries on women. The paper, entitled [Regulatory Reform as a Path to Promote Gender-Equitable and Participatory Community Decision-making Processes on Land Investments - report](#), reveals opportunities and mechanisms for

increased participation of women in decision-making particularly in Mozambique, Tanzania and the Philippines.



Figure 7. Gender dynamics and women empowerment, Benin. Photo courtesy of CIFOR

WRI also developed a slide deck on the research findings and recommendations on the aforementioned research entitled [Regulatory Reform as a Path to Gender-Equitable and Participatory Community Decision-making on Land Investments - slides](#). The slides, along with research results, were presented both at the [World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2015](#), and at a conference in the Philippines on land acquisition in Asia and Africa in November 2014.

African Wildlife Foundation

A field assessment and survey on LSLA processes in Ethiopia was completed, with recommendations on how best to safeguard biodiversity conservation and ensure community interests stand to benefit through improved processes and land transactions. The report, entitled [Large-Scale Land Acquisitions in Ethiopia: Implications for Biodiversity and Communities](#) can be found here, which features a land and resource legal framework (Table 2).

Table 2. A Brief Description of the Laws and Responsible Institutions under Ethiopia’s Legal Framework for Land

Law	Description	Institution
Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation (456/2005)	Aims to conserve and develop natural resources in rural areas by promoting sustainable land use practices.	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Regional governments Regional Environmental Protection Agencies Agricultural Investment Agency/ Agricultural Investment and Land Administration Agency
Investment Proclamation (769/2012)	Aims to encourage and regulate all foreign, domestic and joint foreign-domestic investments so as to accelerate the flow of capital and technology transfer and enhance Ethiopian living standards	Ethiopian Investment Committee Investment Board Regional investment organs
Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation (299/2002)	Created to ensure prediction and management of environmental effects pertaining to proposed development activities.	Environmental Protection Agency Regional Environmental Entities/Agencies Sectoral Environmental Units
Expropriation Proclamation (455/2005)	Aims to determine principles for determining compensation	Ministry of Federal Affairs Regional state administrations Woreda or urban administration

Source: (African Wildlife Foundation & SM & Associates, 2015).

A White Paper to be presented at an appropriate international land conference as a power point

AWF completed a detailed analysis on LSLA in Ethiopia. The final product was delivered in January 2015, entitled [Large-Scale Land Acquisitions in Ethiopia: Implications for Biodiversity and Communities](#). The work was delayed because AWF planned a field visit to Gambella; however, due to security reasons, we were unable to visit the site. AWF will present the findings at an international conference in the coming year. We will target international land conferences in Africa or the 2016 World Bank Conference on Land & Poverty.

A simplified summary of FAO Voluntary Guidelines provisions that is user friendly and easy for government and local communities to follow and understand

As part of the LSLA work in Ethiopia, AWF consulted various parties around their familiarity with and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines. AWF was interested in simplifying the guidelines for ease of use. After consultation it was clear that people are not aware of the VGAs and they are not implementing them, and that focus should be placed on outreach around the VGAs as opposed to simplifying and writing up. Therefore, AWF did not complete the write up and rather spent time and attention on discussing with key stakeholders the VGAs.

H.2 SMART LAW ENFORCEMENT

Best practices for SMART implementation

The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART Connect) program has been growing with an increasing number of new sites in Africa. The SMART Task team, in partnership with CITES-MIKE and the SMART Partnership, produced a best start-up and best management practices guide in the form of bilingual brochure. Through a questionnaire and a lessons-learned workshop, the team conducted an assessment of how SMART is being utilized and used the findings to improve enforcement effectiveness and protected area management in 2014/2015 that resulted in the manual for SMART and adaptive management entitled [SMART: A Guide to Getting Started \(French version here\)](#).

Feasibility study of the Open Data Kit (ODK) plug-in for SMART initiated for Android tablets and smart phones

The SMART software developer, *Refractions Research*, worked with WCS, JGI and the other ABCG partners in producing a report on the feasibility, or proof of concept, of developing an ODK plug-in for SMART Connect. The full evaluation detailing how to ensure ODK is supported through SMART Connect is entitled [ODK Integration to SMART Connect Design Document](#).

This effort is applicable to the other ABCG partners and the conservation community broadly. In order to achieve this, a feasibility study was conducted and design document prepared to outline how ODK could be supported through SMART Connect, guidance on how data could be mapped, an outline of future work for ODK integration, and an outline of one method of near-real time data coming from ODK into SMART via SMART Connect. This would enable ODK to be an additional data collection option for SMART, along with the current options of mobile data collection with the [CyberTracker](#) plug-in and manual data entry. This effort positions JGI, WCS and the rest of the ABCG consortium to ensure, funding dependent, ODK is supported through SMART Connect in the future, which will synergize efforts around anti-poaching and broader conservation area management tools. This will help us deliver a well-supported, robust suite of technologies in the future that certifies the full breadth of user needs is met.

H.3 WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

Country Level Economic Valuation of Climate Change Impacts in Relation to Food Security and Economic Development

This activity was minimally modified to broaden the scope and set the foundations for economic valuation of climate change in general for the WIOCC. This is following consultations with Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge (WIOCC) and key partners (ISLANDS, WIO-C members, etc.), who deemed it more appropriate to develop the strategic orientations for WIOCC with regard to economic valuation of CC impacts in relation to food security and economic development. Given the need to carry out a regional-level economic valuation—with a focus on a few key areas for the first years—it was deemed logical to provide the right pathway and strategy to WIOCC from the outset.

The economic valuation ought to relate to broader human development areas including social development as these concepts are closely intertwined (education, access to health, services, insecurity, conflict mitigation, etc.).

A consultancy firm based in South Africa FutureWorks™, was selected to:

- Generate a report summarizing the current status of knowledge with regard to the economic impacts of climate change in the coastal and marine environment of the Western Indian Ocean.

The report entitled [*Towards a Credible Economic Valuation Strategy to Determine the Consequences of Climate Change in the Western Indian Ocean*](#), includes recommendations and a strategic vision for the further direction of the WIO-CC with regard to addressing climate change impacts and the impacts thereof on ecosystem integrity, livelihoods and socio-economic development in the region.

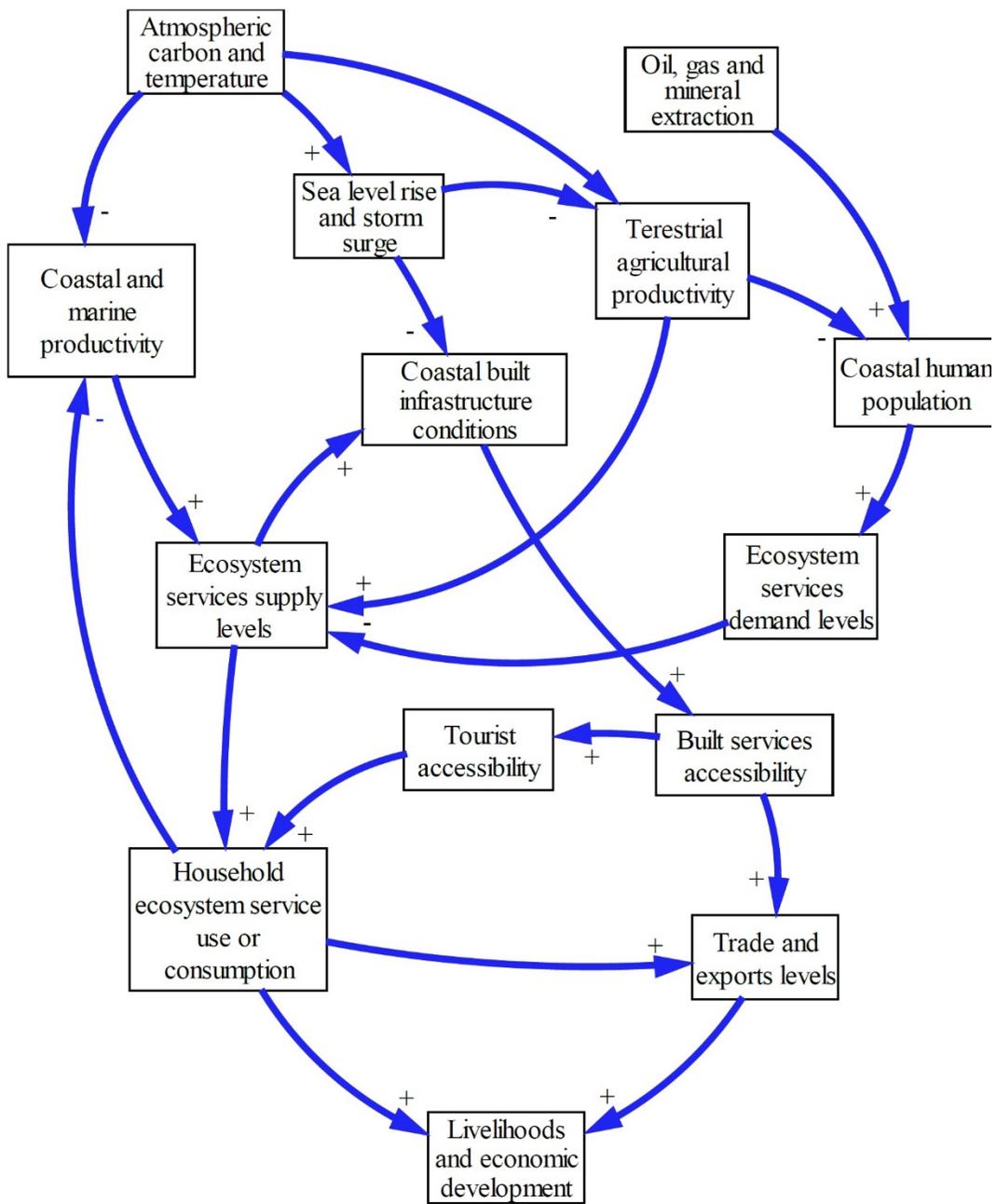


Figure 8. Conceptual model of the climate change / economy social-ecological system
 Source: (Mander, Blignaut, & Niekerk, 2014).

H.4 FAITH & CONSERVATION

Environmental Education

Recently the Jane Goodall Institute—Uganda received the report on the review by a curriculum expert at the Dussent Education Consultancy, Uganda. The material is now being adapted for Uganda through consultation with a team of teachers, and a draft Ugandan toolkit is available for piloting in selected faith schools in Uganda. The activities are published in the report entitled [ARC Report to the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group: Task H.4. Faith and Conservation Progress report on activities November 2014 to March 2015.](#)

JGI, ARC and A Rocha Uganda targeted several Christian and Muslim schools, with the aim of:

1. Giving a training workshop for teachers and faith representatives using the draft Ugandan toolkit: Eight faith-based schools were identified and participated in the March 2015 workshops, represented by 14 teachers and five faith leaders.
2. Piloting eco projects in several schools using the methodology outlined in the toolkit around the themes of water, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), energy and waste. The teacher representatives returned to their schools with the task of reporting to their authorities and choosing an eco-project. At this stage, activities funded by the USAID/BATS–ABCG agreement had to halt on account of the [RLA-A-00-07-00043-00] Agreement deadline. However, planned activities were enabled with alternative non-USAID funding as reported in the aforementioned document.

Faith-based wildlife protection in East Africa

This WWF-led research project with consultant and principal investigator Dekila Chungyalpa of Yale University, was designed to assess and determine the effectiveness of faith-based conservation based upon activities led by faith organizations, in particular those funded by ABCG that promoted wildlife protection and call for the end of wildlife trafficking. The draft report entitled [Faith-based conservation in Africa](#), examined the project impacts that resulted from that intervention and analysed the findings from literature review and primary research through surveys and phone interviews.

The project team came together between November and December of 2015, consisting of faculty and students at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Due to the extensive time requirement for carrying out long distance phone-based research, a final product was not completed in the agreed upon time period. However, a peer-reviewed questionnaire was drafted in November at the American Academy of Religion Conference and finalized in December. A systematic literature review of over 35 scientific articles describing faith-based conservation activities in Africa was accomplished in January. Introductions with faith leaders were initiated in December but did not materialize in long term contact with the student researchers as planned.

Conservation organizations have successfully worked with religious leaders at the site level in all parts of the world and yet lack strong evidence of faith-based conservation's value to environmental protection efforts. The goal of this analytical paper was to identify whether there is sufficient evidence to make the case that integrating faith-based partnerships into conservation can achieve better results.

While the initial findings show that this is possible, the sample size is too small to make a conclusive argument. In order to strengthen the conclusion of such an objective at a broader scale, the authors intend to combine this data with the research results from similar work ongoing in the Eastern Himalayas (at the time of this reporting). The findings of the research will be presented at the 27th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) and the 4th European Congress for Conservation Biology (ECCB) in August 2–6th, 2015, in Montpellier, France. The authors will work on two papers to be submitted to Conservation Biology journal and to Yale Environment 360.

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Appendix

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: BROWN BAG EVENTS

1. [Documenting human responses to changes in weather and climate in Africa](#)
2. [Making Good Things Big: Global Scaling Up of Fish Forever, a Pathway to Sustained Incomes for Artisanal Fishers](#)
3. [Challenges and perspectives for saving the last forest elephants of DRC](#)
4. [AWFs Emergency Response to the Poaching Crisis](#)
5. [Using satellites to understand trans-boundary landscapes and integrate species management in the Painted dog *Lycaon pictus*](#)
6. [Tree-Planting, Farmers, and Carbon: Grassroots Solutions for Forest and Landscape Restoration](#)
7. [Cross River Gorillas: Back from the edge of extinction](#)
8. [New steps in Protected Area Management in the Congo Basin](#)
9. [Population, Health and Environment: Engaging Policymakers to Invest in Integrated Development](#)
10. [Post-crisis conservation in Madagascar: where to from here?](#)
11. [Improving the conservation of Cross River gorillas with mobile based law enforcement monitoring](#)
12. [Technocrats, financiers and carbon; a thorny alliance with communities and conservation?](#)