USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION | CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL | the Jane Goodall Institute | The Nature Conservancy Protecting nature. Preserving life. | WCS | WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE | WWF
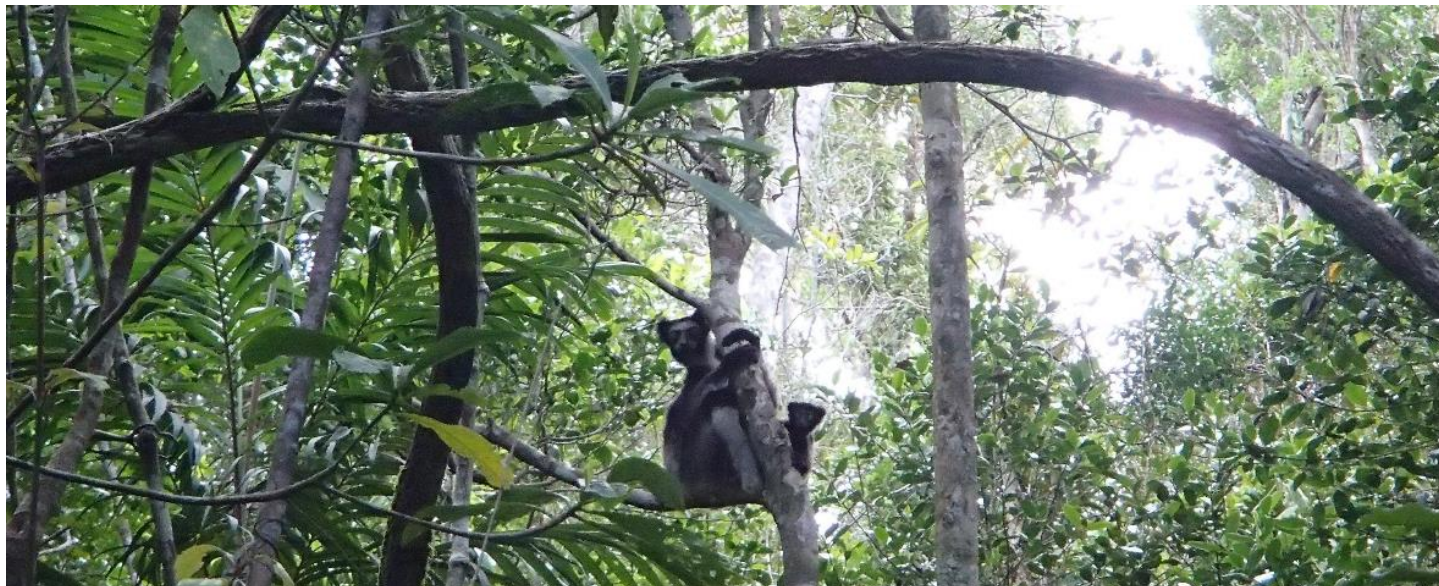
ABOUT ABCG
AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

Indri indri is chosen to be the target species to be modeled for the land use. Photo Credit: Harison Randrianasolo, CI/Madagascar

LAND USE MANAGEMENT

Leveraging all available opportunities to incorporate conservation into various types of economic land-uses.

CONTEXT

Landscapes are being reshaped, not by a single driver, but by a suite of drivers including population growth, changing resource utilization patterns, expanding infrastructure, and climate change. These factors are not consistently incorporated into land use planning and management decisions across Africa. Given the right tools, decision-makers can integrate the current and forecasted future cumulative impact of these drivers of change to identify possible scenarios for intervention. Scenarios are storylines developed by stakeholders, describing different potential futures. When linked to land use, socio-economic, and environmental data, these scenarios can help us identify trade-offs or synergies between environmental health and human well-being.

OVERVIEW

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG), through its Land Use Management (LUM) task area, aims to develop a methodological approach to conservation planning based on scenario analysis, and guidelines for its application, to incorporate equitable and climate-smart alternatives into land use decisions for conservation. The methodology is being applied in four countries: 1) northern Republic of Congo - WCS, WRI, JGI; 2) eastern DRC - JGI, WRI, WCS; 3) western Tanzania - AWF, WRI, JGI, CI, WCS, and; 4) Madagascar - CI, WCS by replicating a landscape-level planning process with multi-sectoral stakeholders in order to better understand drivers of landscape change.

ACTIVITIES & STRATEGIES

The task group is first identifying the context for scenario development through: 1) visioning, planning exercises, and identifying landscape objectives (i.e. desired outcomes), 2) identifying drivers and actors of landscape change, and 3) landscape characterization trends in landscape objectives and values. Secondly, they are developing and accessing scenarios for: 1) potential land use planning strategies and their objectives, 2) spatial prioritization of land uses, and 3) assessment of scenarios with landscape performance metrics. Lastly, the group is working towards making recommendations for land use plans.

In working towards this approach to inform conservation planning, the working group is applying the following key strategies: 1) working with local stakeholders, inclusive of all peoples, to identify objectives and key drivers of change, 2) developing alternative future scenarios that highlight cumulative impacts and tradeoffs, 3) using scenarios to inform decision-making, and 4) promoting this approach in other regions of Africa.

Members of the Community based Association Vonona, Corridor Ankeniheny Zahamena MD, performing a periodic patrolling. Credit: Harison Randrianasolo, CI
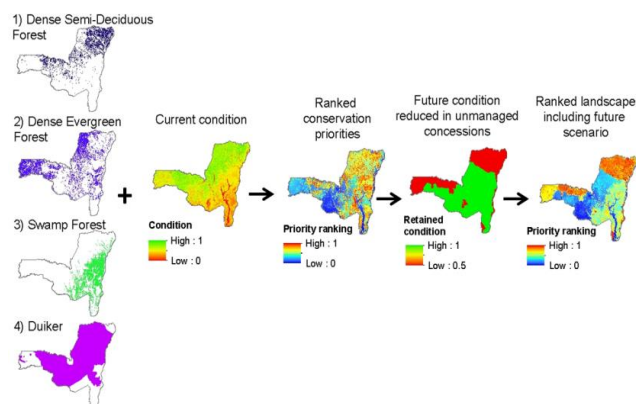
Results Map

Figure 1. Process of integrating 4 biodiversity values (forest types and duiker abundance) with current condition mapping to derive current conservation priorities, then applying a future scenario of forest management to re-rank the landscape priorities according to possible changes in future forest

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The LUM working group expects to: Gather land use objectives that represent all stakeholders; Carry out scenario planning and spatial prioritization and analysis that incorporates alternatives into land use planning for conservation, and; Present best practices for integrated future smart planning based on lessons learned in trialing the approach to replicate in additional countries.

The **Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group** is hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society, in coalition with the African Wildlife Foundation, Conservation International, the Jane Goodall Institute, The Nature Conservancy, World Resources Institute and World Wildlife Fund.

For more information about the LUM Task Group, please contact Hedley Grantham at hgrantham@wcs.org

For more information about ABCG, please visit www.abcg.org

Rebecca Goodman | Coordinator
Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group |750 9th St NW #525 Washington, DC 20001 | +1 (202) 347-0672 |rgoodman@abcg.org