

**Proposal for a parallel stream on**  
**“Conservation and sustainable use of wildlife”**  
**“How to optimize complementarity?”**

Clear vision alongside effectual management methods is required in order to guarantee the long-term survival of wildlife wherever it occurs. This means there is a need to integrate approaches as wide-ranging as those ensuring the integral protection of iconic species throughout their distribution range, those protecting areas for safeguarding a full set of representative taxa, as well as those permitting the sustainable use of more resilient species.

Achieving the balance between the use and protection of wildlife resources remains a complex challenge. Visions and approaches held by different interest groups are as diverse as the goods and services provided by wildlife (biological diversity, habitat, food, employment and economics, medicine, and potential tourism). Reconciling these different views is of paramount importance.

To be effective, interest groups must employ the same language and collaboratively generate strategies that take into account the full range of circumstances in which humans and the environment interact – from contexts of very low to very high human population densities; from totally protected wildlife areas to low intensity forest-cultivation mosaics, and totally human-dominated environments (e.g. cities). At the same time, these strategies should take into account species biology and conservation status - from slowly reproducing and threatened species requiring strict protection, to those species considered important for sustainable use for the wellbeing of human populations.

The conservation community, made up of nature protection NGOs and governmental conservation institutions, together with the development community (grassroots NGOs, governmental development institutions, development agencies), refer to a variety of concepts when referring to the use and/or protection of wildlife. These include: sustainability, viability, natural resource management, outstanding values, extreme conservation, habitat suitability, and food security.

At first sight, this vocabulary seems relatively straightforward. However, practitioners and policy makers sometimes make unclear and confused use of these concepts during discussions on how to translate them into policy, on-the-ground action, and real impact for conservation and human well-being. This often has a detrimental impact on the intended objectives. A situation in which relevant concepts are not adequately defined or understood can generate misunderstanding and mistrust between stakeholders, and ultimately form a barrier to effective collaboration on the establishment of clear guidelines and directions for conservation and the sustainable use of wildlife.

If we do not reconcile the opinions of the conservation and development communities, we are in danger of promoting the promulgation of dogmatic and opposing positions - on the one hand, those endorsing fortress conservation, and on the other, those advocating only mixed-use or local governance systems. Such a schism will not stimulate realistic solutions to current challenges. Protecting wildlife while permitting its partial use is a complex issue, requiring holistic approaches and cross-sectoral collaboration that has been lacking with regards to the Congo Basin Forest (CBF) until now. In practice, there is considerable common ground between wildlife conservation and human wellbeing, which needs to be recognized and embraced.

To advance strong recommendations for the future of the CBF, we need to agree on what the various concepts currently in use are and how they should be defined and understood. In the proposed stream, we will first shed light on concepts related to conservation, sustainable use, and bushmeat, and in so doing, identify causes of confusion around their definition and use by the conservation and development communities. Participants will engage in a dialogue of exploration and cross-learning, and discuss how they can translate a shared understanding and value of concepts into real conservation and sustainable wildlife use. Four consecutive sessions are organized to facilitate this. The first is a plenary introduction, the second focuses on wildlife and biodiversity protection, and the third centers

on wildlife as a commodity to be sustainably managed for human needs. In a final session, we will jointly develop recommendations on the way forward for wildlife protection and bushmeat trade management in the Congo Basin.

### **Structure of the Stream (June 17 and 18)**

The stream will be divided into four main sessions during which there will be plenary presentations, small group deliberations and plenary discussions. The first session will be a plenary introduction of the rationale of the stream, which will set the stage for the two days, referring to the content of the presentations and discussions to be expected. The second and third sessions will concentrate on controversial topics related to “conservation from a wildlife protection perspective” and “conservation from a wildlife for human wellbeing perspective” respectively. For each of these two sessions, there will be a presentation at the start of each session, as an introduction to each of the four main topics for discussion. Participants will then be invited to take part in one of the discussion groups. A session chairperson will facilitate proceedings of each session to maximize participation by all participants, assure that suggested interventions are noted, and that ideas are translated into one or two solid recommendations from each group. During the final plenary session, the list of recommendations will be presented for deliberation and consensus building. The results of the discussion will be integrated into a final document presenting the main conclusions and recommendations resulting from this stream.

## DAY 1, JUNE 17

### Session 1. Plenary Introduction

9:00 – 10:00 am: Keynote Presentation

#### **The value of wildlife is in the eye of the beholder**

This presentation will examine the contrasting and often conflicting values placed on wildlife by different groups and stakeholders. It will draw attention to how, even within stakeholder groups, there are sometimes differences in understanding of seemingly straightforward concepts or the interaction, overlap and differences between those concepts. This presentation will set the stage for the two thematic sessions to follow, and the relevant topics of presentation and objectives of planned debates. It will propose some clear lines of thought on moving the debates forward, and reconciling opinions in a way that benefits both biodiversity and human livelihoods.

Key points to be covered include:

- Overview of the different voices that need to be heard in conservation
- The need for clear definitions of frequently used – and frequently misused – terminology.
- Contrasting views of present and ideal scenarios for wildlife conservation and development, and a reality-check on the gap and challenges that lies between them
- Overview of the sessions and identifying a clear way forward

Presentation: Jef Dupain

Facilitation: Robert Nasi

Coffee break: 10:00-10:30

### Session 2. Wildlife from a Biodiversity Protection Perspective

10:30-12:30: Presentations and plenary brainstorming sessions

14:00-16:00: Small working group discussions

16:00-17:00: Plenary summary discussion on outcome of group discussions

#### **10:30 - 12:30am Biodiversity Protection Issues**

Four presentations will be given, each presentation 20' with 10' of questions/answers, followed by plenary brainstorming on the most important issues to be dealt with during smaller group discussions in the afternoon. The facilitator for the afternoon working group discussions will take notes to be put on a flip chart in preparation for the afternoon.

#### ***Topic 1. Rule of Law: The Role of Protected Areas and Protected Species***

**10:30-11:00**

Presentation: M. Lekealem Joseph, DFAP

Facilitation: Emma Stokes/Jef Dupain

Species protection, and conservation through protected areas are two overlapping but different concepts. Protected species are protected both inside and outside protected areas. Protected areas protect the residing populations of all species, protected and non-protected. These issues often seem to be forgotten in discussions on conservation, wildlife and bushmeat. They sound evident and straightforward but are often not so in practice.

Firstly in this session we will explore the role and effectiveness of protected areas in the region in meeting their objectives to secure populations of protected and unprotected species. Many protected areas in the region are failing on their most basic goal. Where are examples of successful protected areas in the region, and what can we draw from these? Secondly, we will address the issue of fully

protected species living outside protected areas. Wildlife laws exist that protect these animals irrespective of whether they live in national parks or in village development zones, yet attitudes to these populations differ. How fully protected are listed threatened species living in lands that are used for other purposes?

Finally, how do we balance efforts and investments? Available resources and expertise do not seem to be sufficient to allow protected areas to play their role. However, the Congo Basin has a unique asset – most is still covered by suitable habitat for protected (and non-protected) species. Should we set aside more habitats, even if law enforcement and stopping of poaching in these areas is still utopic?

In Cameroun, within the Ministry of Forests and Fauna, there is one direction of both Protected areas and Fauna. The Director, J.Lekealem, will give us insights in his vision on above topics.

## ***Topic 2. National Security and Protected Area Management: Who Does What?***

**11:00-11:30**

Presentation: Zokoe Guian/Aboubakar Kouotou (S-Dir Cons. Faune)

Facilitation: TBC

Poaching in many countries is intricately linked to growing insecurity in the sub-region (e.g. Ganjaweed, CAR-rebellion, LRA, Boko Haram). Traditional conservation NGOs stand aside when political instability makes usual protected area management support impossible. National armies get involved. But what is their role in relation to the protected area and wildlife management agencies? Who reports to whom, who holds the information, and who decides on best strategies that serves both security and protection? Are we thinking about national defenses with conservation units or should protected area managers receive intensive military training? And what about the local communities? Buy-in and support from communities (who at the same time are both impacted by insecurity and sometimes implicated in poaching) is needed, but can they also play an active role in times of political instability?

Recent evolutions throughout the Congo Basin and elsewhere on the continent confirm the need to act quickly, lay out ways forward and document strengths and weaknesses of different approaches. We will invite participants to share their vision and discuss ideas on combining issues of national security and protected area management.

Cameroun is facing these challenges at a number of priority conservation areas. Le Sous-Directeur de la Conservation de la Faune, A.Kouotou will present us the case and vision of Cameroun.

## ***Topic 3: Reconciling Wildlife Protection with Land-use Policies***

**11:30-12:00**

Presentation: Maxime Nzita/Njiang Antoine

Facilitation: Romain Calaque

The majority of forests and wildlife lie outside of protected areas, with large tracts of forest remaining across large areas of Central Africa and the Congo Basin. However, infrastructure development and diversification of extractive industries (including oil palm) are increasingly affecting much forest habitat in this region. Inter-ministerial coordination and improved land-use planning policy are needed to stem this problem. Most, if not all, landscape conservation projects do not seek support/prior approval of the relevant national government entities, which are ultimately the ones who should decide on what use should be given to the land. An immediate consequence of this is that conservation hotspots are being lost to economically more attractive land uses.

How do we ensure there is adequate and positive communication between all the various government stakeholders? How do we ensure there are committed to safeguarding the nation's wildlife and the interests of its inhabitants? What are the relative roles of the private sector, government, NGOs and local communities in land-use planning? Is the Plan de Convergence of COMIFAC an appropriate policy

instrument to enable the buy-in by national governments? Shouldn't there be a general agreement that any landscape project that proposes land use planning should have prior consensus for support by all governmental institutions responsible for land use planning?

Mr.A.Njiang will present how Cameroun takes these issues in consideration.

#### **Topic 4: New Tools/Technologies**

**12:00-12:30**

Presentation: Zachary Nzoo

Facilitation: Omari Ilambu

Central Africa presents many challenges for introducing and implementing use of new technology for biodiversity protection (terrain, access, forests, communications, and capacity). How do we balance emerging technologies (UAVs, SMART etc.) with real needs on the ground? What evidence exists on how the use of technologies is helping conservation? As an example, there is currently a huge effort to support the use of SMART combined with Cybertracker as a tool for improved management. When looking into specific applications on the ground, these tools are often used for monitoring and not for improved protected area management decision making. Further, the tool is often considered useful for human resources management (verification of track logs and man days of patrolling) as opposed to an "ad hoc threat mitigation tool."

Proposal writing on the introduction of new technologies, which often focuses on innovation and multiple theoretical uses, should rather be driven by eagerness to achieve on-the-ground conservation impact. We will present an overview of new tools in development, their potential and actual uses. We will invite participants to discuss how donors, policy makers and actors on the ground can combine efforts to make sure that conservation impact is a priority.

**LUNCH 12:30-14:00pm**

**14:00-17:00 Continuation of Session 2**

**Small working group discussions**

**14:00-16:00**

There will be four small groups. At the end of the discussions, each group is to come out with 1-2 recommendations.

**Plenary summary discussion on outcome of group discussions**

**16:00-17:00**

## DAY 2 JUNE 18

### Session 3. Wildlife for Human Wellbeing

**8:00-10:00: Presentations and plenary brainstorming sessions**

**10:00-12:00: Small working group discussions**

**14:00-15:00: Plenary summary discussion on outcome of group discussions**

#### **8:00-10:00 Human Wellbeing Issues**

Four presentations will be given, each presentation 20' with 10' of question/answers, followed by plenary brainstorming on the most important issues to be dealt with during smaller group discussions in afternoon. Facilitators for the working group discussions will take notes to be put on a flip charts in preparation for the working group discussions.

#### ***Topic 1: Regulating Bushmeat Harvests: When does hunting become poaching?***

**8:00-8:30**

*Presentation: Louis Defo (WWF)*

*Facilitation: Michelle Wieland (WCS)*

Outside protected areas, governments have developed hunting laws to manage offtake of partially protected or unprotected species. These regulations are often flouted and rarely enforced, or are largely impossible to enforce. Corruption and lack of enforcement capacity allows for bushmeat to be trafficked by both rural poor and those with power. Often times agents, when they enforce laws, go for easy targets– the poor– and leave powerful actors to continue their illegal, and often times more destructive practices. As a result, laws are often seen as unfair in the eyes of the villagers. Customary rules on wildlife hunting vary regionally, but generally require permission from a local chief, and a tribute, or tax, paid to him/her in the form of a portion of the catch. These rules are not based in any true management of sustainable offtake, but rather a control over resources to exclude others and maintain traditional power structures.

What can Central African Governments do to resolve this dilemma? There is a need for a robust determination of the legal protection status for some species along the protection gradient (fully protected, partially protected and not protected), and a need for fine-tuned rules on human interaction with some species with regards to hunting techniques, appropriate areas, and scales. Is a landscape approach promising to build new tools to rule bushmeat practices? In a general context of scarce resources, how might we define priorities regarding the implementation of law enforcement activities? Can hunting regulations outside of protected areas be simplified and locally-feasible wildlife management systems be developed so that protected species be protected and wildlife effectively managed in areas where the government cannot viably operate? What does this approach look like, and how do we get there?

#### ***Topic 2: Bushmeat on the Nutrition and Health Agenda***

**8:30-9:00**

*Presentation: Judith Ngondi*

*Facilitation: John E. Fa (Manchester Metropolitan University/CIFOR)*

In 2000, there was a first meeting in Yaoundé amongst conservationists and FAO to talk about bushmeat from a nutrition perspective. Fifteen years later, in a context where the majority of the population of Central Africa lives in cities, the importance of bushmeat in isolated urban diets remains little understood. What we do know is that there is a serious protein crisis in isolated urban centers. What are the various demands for bushmeat and how can we anticipate and manage increasing urban

demands? There is varied importance of bushmeat across different urban centers; in some, bushmeat is more of a luxury, and in others, it is a necessity. How can we classify types of cities so that we can differentiate between real need and luxury? What do we as conservationists, development practitioners, researchers, donors and government officials do? We cannot manage increasing demands with more bushmeat; we cannot manage existing demands with current bushmeat levels. How do we prevent rural protein insecurity resulting from the bushmeat trade, given that significant amounts of bushmeat are now meeting the urban market?

### **Topic 3: Looking at the Economics: Any Way to Formalize Bushmeat Trade?**

**9:00-9:30**

Presentation: Jonas Ngouhouo Poufoun (Université de Lorraine)

Facilitation: Guillaume Lescuyer (CIRAD-CIFOR)

Bushmeat has significant financial and economic values for both consumers (in rural and isolated urban centers) and commercial hunters in Central Africa. These values often compete against wildlife laws, leading to the non-application of the law and the creation of black markets.

Can economists, conservationists, and development stakeholders develop common ground that can simultaneously improve human well-being and conserve wildlife populations – perhaps formalizing certain aspects of wildlife hunting and trade whilst ensuring it remains both ecologically sustainable and manageable? Research demonstrates that wildlife offtake is unsustainable for all but remote human populations, and governance is so weak that even robust legalization frameworks would likely not work. So what could the road to this common ground look like? There are at least four options: current legislation and practice, improving governance of current legislation, an FAO proposal to recognize trade at the local level (but without a clear link with maintaining informal hunting practices), or an overall formalization of bushmeat trade at the national scale.

### **Topic 4: International Illegal Wildlife Trade and Local Livelihoods: Which Links, Which interference?**

**9:30-10:00**

Presentation: Cléo Mashini (Juristrale)

Facilitation: Cyril Pélissier (WWF)

Illegal, export-oriented poaching has sky-rocketed over the last decade in the Congo Basin countries, with serious threats resulting for some highly-valued species, mainly large mammals. Many national and international initiatives have been launched to combat these activities, but they tend to neglect how the dynamics of local contexts may contribute to the facilitation of international poaching in remote rural areas. Further, little has been documented on the direct and indirect impacts of export-oriented poaching on local livelihoods and governance. How do we involve local people in combating international poaching? How do we combine anti-poaching measures and tolerance of customary hunting?

**Coffee break: 10:00-10:30 (Café servi à l'intérieur de salle)**

### **10:30-11:15 ~~12:30~~: Small working group discussions**

There will be four small groups. At the end of the discussions, each group is to come out with 1-2 recommendations.

**11:30-14:15 Ouverture Officielle, Déclaration, Pause déjeuner**

**14:15-16:00 Continuation of Session 3**

**14:15-15:00: Continuation small working group discussions**

**15:00-16:00: Plenary summary discussion on outcome of group discussions**

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| <b>Session 4: 16:00 – 18:00 Plenary with final recommendation</b> |
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