# Brainforest Annual Report 2008-en

Rapport annuel brainforest 2008-fr

Report 2008 and perspectives 2009 of activities

-- 1 of 34 --

 Activity report 2008 and perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 Photo, Brainforest 008 Message from the Executive Secretary 1998-2008, Brainforest totalled 10 years of activity. It is 10 years of growth and maturation. 10 years a vision more than ever focused on a better understanding of the issue of environmental protection, a better integration of indigenous populations in decision-making, a new direction towards issues of governance and the fight against corruption in the mining and forestry sectors. Thanks to our various partners, we manage and will manage to meet the challenges that lie ahead of us to support the government in its development projects by integrating environmental considerations and the rights of indigenous peoples. Marc ONA essANgui

-- 2 of 34 --

 Activity report 2008 and perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 Report 2008 and perspectives 2009 of activities

-- 3 of 34 --

 Activity report 2008 and perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 Table of Contents Photos, Landry LEBAS, Brainforest 008 Message from the Executive Secretary: ..... Table of contents: ..... List of abbreviations: ..... 5 General context of the year 2008: ..... 6 i - The structural and institutional reforms of Brainforest or the why of an action:..... 7 I - 1) The structural reforms: ..... ..... 7 I - 2) The institutional reforms: ..... 8 ii - The activities/projects carried out during the year: what has been done and how? ..... 11 II-1) Funding RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK: ..... 11 II-2) Funding EGP from IUCN NL: ..... 12 II-3) Funding CARPE: ..... ..... 13 II-4) Funding CIFOR: ..... ..... 15 II-5) Funding Global Greengrants Fund: ..... 17 iii - The perspectives for the year 2009: ..... 18 1) Funding RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK: ..... 18 2) Funding EGP from IUCN NL: ..... 20 3) Funding CIFOR: ..... ..... 20 4) Funding EUROPEAN

UNION: ..... 20
iv - The local partnerships of
Brainforest: ..... 22 IV -1) The
coalition "publish what you
pay": ..... 22 IV-2) The Gabon
environmental
platform: ..... 23 v-
Other partnerships: .....
..... 24 V- 1) The Gabonese State:
..... 24
V- 2) RFUK and FERN: .....
..... 24 V- 3) The CED: .....
..... 24 V- 4) Interns: .....
..... 24 Brainforest
team: ..... 0

-- 4 of 34 --

5 Activity report 2008 and perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 List of abbreviations RFUK: Rainforest Foundation UK IUCN NL: Dutch Committee of the World Conservation Union EGP: Ecosystem Grants Program of IUCN NL CIFOR: Center for International Forestry Research FERN: Forest and the European Union Resource Network MARP: Accelerated Participatory Research Method CED: Center for Environment and Development RFF: Rainforest Foundation Fund DFID: Department For International Development (British Ministry of International Development)

-- 5 of 34 --

6 Activity report 2008 and perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 General context of the year 2008 The year 2008 for the NGO Brainforest was marked by the desire to initiate profound structural and institutional reforms. These reforms were useful as they aimed for a better orientation of the action of this structure. The ultimate goal sought through this change of course was to achieve the general and specific missions assigned to it by its statutes on one hand, and on the other hand to resolutely turn the NGO towards proven professionalism. The moral report of Brainforest for the year 2008, which is coming to an end, includes four major axes revealing the new ambition that the institution has set for itself. This ambition is materialized through all the activities that took place throughout the year 2008 and the projections for 2009. Thus, through the precise details provided by this report, we can have a synoptic view both on the why of what has been done? What has been done and how? And finally what remains to be done in terms of complements to the activities initiated in 2008.

-- 6 of 34 --

 Activity report 2008 and perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 The structural and institutional reforms of Brainforest or the why of an action Photos, Brainforest 008 i - The structural and institutional reforms of Brainforest or the why of an action: There is hardly any great action that does not go through a consuming passion and thus the attempts at outsourcing as so many blows struck at the impassive course of history, translate in pain through the material acts we take to mark our action, mark our time, and translate into stone and iron the consuming vision that was ours, and whose materiality constitutes our contribution to history and to our society. To better understand the reforms of Brainforest, it is necessary to

place them in this context that has just been highlighted. I - 1) The structural reforms: The pursuit of ambitious objectives and the need for expansion that is attached to it have irreversibly led the NGO Brainforest to review its facilities and acquire a more suitable location for the new context. Thus, thanks to the EGP (IUCN NL), we can first note the rental and arrangement of Brainforest in its current new premises located opposite the Louis hotel, during the month of February 2008. Equipped with several rooms that can serve as offices and a multipurpose room, the new working environment also offers a secured environment but remains a temporary solution while waiting to find a framework totally adapted to the working horizons in terms of projects, in progress of the NGO.



 The structural and institutional reforms of Brainforest or the why of an action I - 2) The institutional reforms Essentially focused on the revision of the founding instruments of Brainforest, the objective of the overhaul of the conceptual frameworks of the NGO, namely the statutes and internal regulations, was to allow their adequacy to the new objectives and challenges set by the structure. In this regard, and at the level of the statutes, we will note the adoption of a vision, a mission, and the objectives below: Vision: To achieve a Gabonese society in which the environment will be protected, with the active participation of the populations who will benefit from the economic returns of the sustainable management of natural resources; Mission: To inform and support stakeholders for a sustainable and equitable management of Gabon's natural resources. This mission will concern three sectors: forest management; exploitation of extractive resources (oil and mines); governance. Objectives: In relation to the mission, the institutional objectives of Brainforest are as follows: To make Brainforest an NGO capable of responding to the concerns that challenge it; To make Brainforest a reference NGO, and to make it the standard bearer of NGOs in Gabon; To bring Brainforest to become an essential, independent, and autonomous interlocutor for all issues of forest management, and extractive resources in Gabon. Specific objectives: Depending on the three sectors of intervention, the following specific objectives have been defined by sector: Forest sector: To ensure rational management of the forest; To ensure compliance with the law; To inform/sensitize local populations and ensure the promotion of their rights; To fight against corruption throughout the wood sector. - - - - - - 1. 2. 3. 4.  Photo FIGET



 The structural and institutional reforms of Brainforest or the reason for action Mining sector: Encourage the State and the populations to better benefit from the revenues generated by this sector; Mitigate the impact on the environment and on the health of the populations (and mitigate other social impacts); Formalize artisanal mining; Raise awareness among populations about other minerals and the entire mining sector and the use of minerals; Improve transparency in the procedures for granting concessions; Ensure the repair of damages/rehabilitation of sites (example COMUF) and ensure control of rehabilitation. Governance Governance issues being transversal, the actions to be taken must be so as well. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. The definition of the general operational framework above subsequently allowed for the reorganization of the administration and the organizational chart of the NGO. Thus, the different departments and missions are codified. An amended procedure code established during the general assembly sets the rules for the execution of the missions of each position of responsibility. Ensured by the resource persons that Brainforest should recruit, the missions all fall within a logic of efficiency and competitiveness

10 Activity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 The activities/ projects carried out during the year: what was done and how? The populations of the village Malondo (Province of Ogooué - Ivindo) commenting on a ranking matrix as part of the MARP

-- 10 of 34 --

11 Activity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 The activities/ projects carried out during the year: what was done and how? ii - The activities/projects carried out during the year: what was done and how? With varying levels of progress and results that are relatively satisfactory overall, it should be noted that all the projects carried out during this year by Brainforest were

16 Activity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 Activities / projects carried out during the year: what has been done and how? use of GPS; experience in the forestry sector; Feasibility of the project on the ground; Productions; Production of field reports; Establishment of a Database on illegal logging in the Estuary province; results: Better understanding of the extent of illegal logging in the exploitation; Better understanding of the specifics (beneficiary, corruption...) of illegal logging in the Estuary province; Useful knowledge for future projects. - - - - - - 1. 2. 3.

-- 16 of 34 --

1 Activity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 Activities / projects carried out during the year: what has been done and how? II-5) Global Funding Greengrants Fund: NATURE OF PROJECTS Assess the potential environmental and social impacts of future mining operations. Study the importance of the Ivindo for local populations to assess the potential impacts of the Bélinga iron mining project on the natural and human environment and to propose recommendations for project management and monitoring to stakeholders. This project lasted from March to August. § "Ivindo, Our source of life"

-- 17 of 34 --

18 Activity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 Perspectives for the year 2009 or what remains to be done III - Perspectives for the year 2009 It is necessary to clarify here and above all, that the perspectives in question relate to future activities that have a direct link with the projects that have just been outlined and other projects that have been initiated in the meantime. 1) Funding RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK. 1 - Supporting community involvement in the development of protected area legislation in Gabon: "facilitating community participation in the development of protected area legislation in Gabon" (Funding RFF). Under RFF funding, this project pursues the following objectives: Help communities better present their needs related to the management of national parks and surrounding areas (buffer and peripheral zones); Facilitate dialogue between forest communities, the government, and NGOs; Share experiences with civil society regarding facilitation of dialogue between the government and forest communities; Assist in the implementation of texts on National Parks related to populations, notably the creation of local management advisory committees (Title IV, Article 45); Help produce legislation on protected areas that better integrates the rights and interests of local and Indigenous communities. DURATION OF THE PROJECT The project lasts one year. PARTNERS • The Rainforest UK; • The National Agency for National Parks (ANPN); • Some NGOs and national and international organizations; • Local and Indigenous communities. ACTIVITIES Collection and analysis of the laws governing the operation of national parks and the ANPN; Collection and analysis of approaches tested in foreign countries and the COMIFAC space; Meeting with NGOs and IOs working on the same theme; Presentation of the project to stakeholders and defining the bases for collaboration; Decisions on methodology; Selection of sites and formation of a field team; Holding exchange and dialogue meetings with different

actors; Collection and reporting on local consultations of selected sites § - - - - - - - - - - - -

-- 18 of 34 --

1 Activity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 Perspectives for the year 2009 or what remains to be done Production of an awareness brochure in easy French on the rights of communities during the phases of creation and management of national parks; support the production of texts (decrees, management plans) that better integrate the rights of local and Indigenous communities in the management of national parks in collaboration with the ANPN; Collection, evaluation, and sharing of experiences with all stakeholders for learning and reproduction. 2 - Participatory mapping in the Congo Basin - Gabon (Funding DFID). The overall objective of this project is to promote the rights of forest communities to access, control, and use forests in the legislative, policy, and strategic processes of three countries in the Congo Basin (CAR, Gabon, and Congo Brazzaville). KEY ACTORS AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT: Civil society actors In each country, an NGO will play the role of focal point and ensure the overall coordination of the project. State actors The ministries and/or state agencies working in the planning and management of natural resources in each country will benefit from capacity building in participatory mapping. Forest communities In each country, the project will work with forest communities, particularly with Indigenous communities whose survival is closely linked to the forest. EXPECTED CONCRETE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT: Civil society organizations and public authorities in each target country are able to facilitate the production of fully geo-referenced maps by communities; Members of communities in each target country are able to record geo-referenced information in a format they can explain; establishment of a database of fully geo-referenced community maps, compatible with other reference maps for forest management and accessible to community members, civil society, and decision-makers in the region; Resource persons from civil society organizations and public authorities in each target country master community mapping technologies that can be integrated with data obtained through remote sensing; Recommendations regarding community mapping processes in each country are published and made available to decision-makers and communities in appropriate formats. Decision-makers use community maps to inform decision-making processes related to forests and land rights. 2) Funding EGP from IUCN NL PLANNED ACTIVITIES Internal training, from March to May 2009, in the following areas: Project management; Fundraising; Human resources management; Monitoring and evaluation of projects; Advocacy workshop on forest governance. 3) Funding CIFOR: The project with CIFOR will end in July 2009. It is planned for the year 2009 that 7 field missions will take place, each lasting a maximum of 10 days, in addition to surveys conducted in Libreville. 4) Funding EUROPEAN UNION: Ensuring a seat at the table: supporting NGO coalitions to improve forest governance using the FLEGT process. GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT Reduce illegal logging by strengthening the rights of communities and promoting forest governance through the FLEGT process to strengthen the institutional framework in the signatory countries of the APV. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: Establish a strong and dynamic civil society in the six signatory states of the APV, capable of effectively participating in APV negotiations and the FLEGT process to strengthen the institutional framework. DURATION: The project lasts 36 months. PARTNERS: Center for Environment and Development (CED), P.O. Box 3430 Yaoundé CAMEROON; Phone: ++237 22 22 38 57 Fax: ++237 22 22 38 59. Congolese Observatory of Human Rights (OCDH), B.P.4021 Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, Phone: ++242 551 34 50 / + +242 553 15 73 / ++242 553 11 85. Civic Response, 37 New Town Loop, D-T-D Accra North, GHANA. Phone: ++233 21-248-745 Fax: ++233 21 228887. - - 1. 2. 3. 4. - § - - - - - -

-- 20 of 34 --

1 Activity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009 Perspectives for the year 2009 or what remains to be done Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), P.O. Box

5678, Monrovia, LIBERIA. Phone: ++231 (0)77 727596 / ++231 (0)6 641355. Ideal Time Sdn Bhd, P.O. Box 8, Sarawak, Malaysia Phone/Fax: ++6-084-323043. MAIN LINES OF ACTION: Analysis of the regulatory framework; Strengthening the technical capacities of NGOs; Monitoring the process. - - - - -

""\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\nLocal Partnerships of Brainforest\niv - \tLocal Partnerships of Brainforest\nThese are the activities that Brainforest has undertaken as part of its membership in\ndifferent platforms of Gabonese civil society. Here, particular emphasis is placed on\nBrainforest's participation, action, and role in the coalition "Publish What You Pay" and\non its role in the "Environment Gabon" Platform. \nIV-1) \tThe coalition "Publish What You Pay".\nGiven the importance of the issue of good governance, which is the third pillar of\nBrainforest's statutory concerns, and given the decision made during the Cocobeach retreat\nto make the fight against the mismanagement of mineral and forest resources a priority,\nthe need to make the institution's action effective in this area has resolutely led the\nNGO's leaders to affiliate with strategic groupings of civil society organizations.\nIn this regard, the implementation alongside peers of the coalition "Publish What You Pay" was decided. This very active consultation framework now appears as the secular arm of civil society organizations in their fight for responsible governance of public resources. \nAs part of this coalition, the following activities were carried out:\nThe initiation and execution against the public prosecutor near the court of\nLibreville of a legal procedure for concealment and abuse of social goods;\nThe organization of several press conferences to denounce various subversive\nand deviant practices.\nHaving become the standard bearer of this coalition due to its commitment, the NGO Brainforest now hosts the headquarters of this grouping and ensures its coordination.\nIn terms of results achieved, the Coalition "Publish What You Pay" has allowed Brainforest and its partners to achieve the following results:\nthe awareness on the part of public authorities that there exists a civil society, albeit in its infancy, but increasingly engaged to play its role as a counter-power and arbiter in the long process of establishing a culture of responsible governance of Gabon's resources;\nthe gradual transformation of the perspective and perception of the populations on the role that civil society organizations can play, despite the weak echo of the results of their actions, due on the one hand to media censorship at the domestic level, and on the other hand to the lack of means to carry out large-scale projects capable of bringing about notable and radical changes in governance.\nRegarding the backlash against the commitment and action of the coalition, it is essential to note the various pressures and intimidations faced by the members of this coalition, culminating in the travel ban imposed on the coordinator of the coalition "Publish What You Pay".\n-\n-\n-\n-\n\n-- 22 of 34 -- \n\n""\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\nLocal Partnerships of Brainforest\n!\n!\n!\n!\n!\n!\n!\n!\n!?\n!?\n!?\n!?\n!?\n!?!?\nCongo Brazzaville\nCameroon\nEquatorial Guinea\n \nMinkébé\nIvindo\nMwagné\nOVAN\nBITAM\nMI

TZIC\nMINVOUL\nMEKAMBO\nMAKOKOU\nWOLEU NTEM\nOGOOUE IVINDO\nOYEM\nOYEM\nIvindo\nMARP Missions in Woleu Ntem and Ogooué Ivindo\n0 \t50 \t100\t25 \tKm\n¯\nRealization: Brainforest - May 2008\n!?\n!\nRoad network\nNational parks\nForest permits (May 2007)\nMain road\nSecondary road of\npermanent passability\nSecondary road of\nintermittent passability\nIntermittent passability\nPassable track\nAdministrative boundaries\nMining permits (2007)\nProject villages\nMain cities\nPFA\nPI\nPTE\nZAC\nMining permits\nDepartment\nProvince\nBordering country\nMalondo\nImbong\tAssok Begue\nLoa Loa\nLa Scierie\nLoa Loa\nIV-2) \tThe Environment Gabon Platform.\nA consultation framework for Gabonese environmental NGOs, this platform mainly aims at coordinating the actions of environmental civil society organizations. \nIndeed, the awareness of the strategic nature of the environment in Gabon invites

civil society to take a look at the management of the resources it abounds in, the results of this management mode, and the possible improvement proposals to ensure both equity in benefits and sustainability in resource management.\nThat is why, in order to make its action effective, the Platform has defined a working method, as well as actions to be undertaken.\nThe methodological approach is largely dominated by collaborative work and the sharing of experiences. Here, the cardinal principle is to involve other members of the Platform in the activities conducted by one of the structures belonging to it when this activity can add value to their skill set.\nIt is therefore this logic that allowed for the joint execution of projects that Brainforest undertook during the year 2008. This is the case of the implementation of a project aimed at training the members of the Platform in the Accelerated Participatory Research Method (MArP), in the provinces of Woleu-Ntem, Ogooué Ivindo, and Ngounié.\n\n-- 23 of 34 --\n\n""\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\nOther Partners\nv- Other Partnerships\nIn addition to the local partnerships that Brainforest maintains with other Gabonese civil society organizations, other multifaceted partnerships have been initiated.\nv- 1) The Gabonese State\nSince November 2007, Brainforest, representing civil society, has been sitting on the steering committee of the project for the management of small Gabonese forest permits (PAPPFG).\nv- 2) RFUK and FERN\nIn addition to financial support, it should be noted that these two organizations also provide Brainforest with their technical support.\nSince the beginning of 2008, RFUK has also made available to Brainforest an anthropologist, Mr. Joe Eisen, who has supported us throughout the MArP process. And at the beginning of 2009, an environmental lawyer, Mr. Martial Djinang, was made available to Brainforest by RFUK.\nThe NGO FERN provides Brainforest with its expertise in the context of the involvement of Gabonese civil society in the EU's APV/FLEGT process in Gabon.\nv- 3) The CED\nIn the logic of sub-regional partnerships and networking of NGOs in the Congo Basin, the CED (Cameroon) supported Brainforest in 2008 in its restructuring process. We thus received two missions from the CED in 2008:\nMr. Samuel Nguiffo, Executive Secretary, moderated the strategic planning workshop of Brainforest in Cocobeach (northwest of Libreville) in May 2008. \nMr. Samuel Nnah, Project Coordinator, was responsible for the theoretical training (in Libreville) of about twenty NGOs on MArP in May and June 2008 (practical training in Minvoul, northern Gabon).\nv- 4) Interns\nDuring the year 2008, Brainforest hosted three (03) interns, two in training internships and one in a professional internship.\nMr. Landry Lebas (March – August 2008) for obtaining a Professional Master’s degree in GIS from the University of Caen Basse-Normandie (France)\nTheme: "Establishing a GIS database and Study of complementarity. Participatory research - GIS".\nDefense in October 2008, with honors.\n-\n-\n-\n\n-- 24 of 34 --\n\n5\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\nOther Partners\nMr. Landry Lebas also conducted the study “Ivindo Our Source of Life“\nMr. Olivier Meye Obiang (September - November 2008) for obtaining the BTs option legal assistant from the University Institute of Organizational Sciences (IUSO) Sophie Ntoutoume Emane (Gabon). \nTheme: "The legal framework for forest exploitation and the socio-economic realities of Gabon".\nDefense in February 2009, with honors.\nMs. Angèle Assongzog Nguema (October 2008 to January 2009), in a professional internship. She conducted an analysis of forest and environmental legislation and laws related to the rights of forest communities.\n-\n-\n\n-- 25 of 34 --\n\nPartial view\nof the Wonders of the\nIvindo\nPhotos, Landry Lebas, Brainforest 2008\n\n-- 26 of 34 --\n\n""\nActivity

Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\nFUNDING \t2008\n\n-- 27 of 34 --\n\n8\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\n\n-- 28 of 34 --\n\n""\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\n\n-- 29 of 34 --\n\n0\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\nBrainforest Team\nExecutive Secretary\nMarc Ona Essangui\n\nDeputy Executive

Secretary\nMartial Agondogo\n\nTreasurer \nHughes MFA\nTechnical Cell\nProgram Coordinator\nEssono Ondo Protet Judicaël \nAdministrative and Financial Officer\n(Recruitment ongoing)\nAdministrative/Accounting Assistant\nMapiti Karen Axelle\nThematic Managers\n(Project Leaders)\nProject “Illegal logging in Cameroon and\nGabon: international FLEGT process, na-\ntional trends and local impacts” (CIFOR)\nProject Team:\nBilogo Bi Ndong Laurentine\n(Responsible)\nNziengui Kassa Sam\nBanioguila Reine Patrick\nProject “Ensuring a seat at the table: sup-\nporting NGO coalitions to improve forest\ngovernance using the FLEGT process”\n(FERN)\nProject Team:\nZue Obame Richelieu\n(Responsible)\nAzizet Dallia Arielle\n(Assistant)\nProject “Facilitating the involvement of\nriverine communities in the development of\nnational park legislation in Gabon.” (Rainforest\nFoundation UK)\nProject Team:\nDjinang Martial (Responsible)\nMeye Obiang (Assistant)\nProject “Strengthening Brainforest's Capacity\nin Environmental Governance” (IUCN NL)\nProject Team:\nEssono Ondo Protet Judicaël\nOna Essangui Marc\nProject “Participatory Mapping”\n(Rainforest Foundation UK):\n(Under construction)\nSupport Staff\nCommunication and External Relations Officer\nMezui Ndong Gualbert Phal\nLogistics Officer\nNziengui Kassa Sam\nIT/Maintenance Technician/Graphic Designer\nDjeuking Germain\nSecretary/Receptionist\nMvoula Kalami Marielle\nGuard\nSare Arouna\nSurface Technician\nYoya Charmelle\n\n-- 30 of 34 --\n\n1\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\n\n-- 31 of 34 --\n\n""\nActivity Report 2008 and Perspectives 2009 / © Brainforest, February 2009\nPartners\n\n-- 32 of 34 --\n\n-- 33 of 34 --\n\n870, Rue Barro, Quartier Louis,\nacross from Hotel Restaurant Louis\nB.P. 23749 Libreville (Gabon)\ntel: +241 07 29 41 40 / 44 56 62\nhttp://www.brainforest.org\nemail: info@brainforest.org\n\n-- 34 of 34 --