Brainforest Annual Report 2010-en

Rapport annuel brainforest 2010-fr

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2010

-- 1 of 40 --

BRAINFOREST Quartier Ambowé, B.P: 23 749 Libreville – Tel: 07 97 84 25 E-mail: info@brain-forest.org – www.brain-forest.org Registration No: 00265/MISPD/SG/CT - NIF: 89616C The opinions expressed and the information presented in this report do not in any way represent the views of the donors and are the responsibility of Brainforest © June 2011 ®

-- 2 of 40 --

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2010 Table of Contents Addressing Upcoming Issues ..... 5 CONTEXTE OF BRAINFOREST ACTIVITIES IN 2010 .....9 Technical Assessment .....11 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED .....13 1. Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin ..... 13 2. Project “Enabling Effective Community Participation in the Management of National Parks in Gabon” .....17 3. Project “Analysis of Forest Regulatory Texts, Strengthening the Required Capacities of Gabonese Civil Society and Mobilization for the Implementation of FLEGT Action Plan Elements” ..... 19 4. Project “Building the Foundations for Success; Ensuring Community Participation is at the Heart of REDD”... 21 STUDIES CONDUCTED .....23 1. Land Management in Rural Areas of Gabon ..... 23 2. Impact of Mining on Local Populations and the Environment in Haut-Ogooué ..... 23 3. Chinese Trade and Investments in Africa: Assessment and Management of Trade-offs between National Economies, Local Livelihoods, and Forest Ecosystems. ..... 25 4. Study on the Sustainability Index of NGOs in Sub-Saharan Africa ..... 26 PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES .....27 1. TRIDOM Project .....27 2. COALITION PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY ..... 28 3. Gabon Environmental Platform..... 28 CONSTRAINTS RELATED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF OUR ACTION ON THE GROUND .....29 1. INTERNAL CONSTRAINTS ..... 29 2. EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS ..... 29 Perspectives .....31 PERSPECTIVES FOR 2011 .....33 1. Participatory Mapping Project in the Congo Basin ..... 33 2. Project “Enabling Effective Community Participation in the Management of National Parks in Gabon” (FFEM).....

..... 33 3. Project “Support for Community Involvement in the Sustainable Management of the Minkebe Forest Massif West (North of Gabon)” ..... 33 4. PRO-FORMAL Project ..... 35 5. FAO ACP-FLEGT

Program..... 35 6. Support for Citizen Action Against Corruption ..... 36 7. “Support for the Implementation of the Wildlife Law” (AALF) ..... 36 Financial Assessment .....37 Brainforest Personnel 39

-- 3 of 40 --

Annual Report4 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations CARPE: Central African Regional Program for the Environment IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature CIFOR: Center for International Forestry Research DFID: Department for International Development UK ACP - FLEGT: The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for African, Carib- bean and Pacific countries EU: European Union OCDH: Congolese Observatory of Human Rights CED: Center for Environment and Development DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo MEFP: House of Children and Pygmy Women CAR: Central African Republic CBFF: Congo Basin Forest Fund NGO: Non-Governmental Organization VPA: Voluntary Partnership Agreement FERN: Forest Empowerment Research Network MARP: Accelerated Participatory Research Method RFUK: Rainforest Foundation UK ASF: Adventures Without Borders IRET: Institute for Research in Tropical Ecology GIS: Geographic Information System DSCRP: Strategic Document for Growth and Poverty Reduction PSFE: Sectoral Program for Forest Environment AFLEG: Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance COMIFAC: Central African Forest Commission REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Acronyms and Abbreviations

-- 4 of 40 --

5 The Gabonese Law Association, created in 1998, has as its main mission to inform and support stakeholders for sustainable and equitable management of Gabon's natural resources. Since its inception, our organization has remained true to its initial objective and has developed and adapted, despite the various contingencies that often constitute a considerable obstacle to our deployment. The year that has just ended has been quite positive for us in terms of the development of our activities and their scope. Indeed, in addition to Estuaire and Woleu-Ntem, Brainforest now operates in the provinces of Ogooué-Ivindo, Ngounié, Nyanga, and Haut-Ogooué. 2010 has also been a year of quite challenging professionalization. We had to face new managerial realities for which we were not adequately prepared. Despite these obstacles, we managed to stay the course and initiate a transition without major setbacks. We have drawn lessons for the future. This year, Brainforest worked with actors from various sectors: local and indigenous communities, civil society organizations, development partners, and public administration. In a logic of capacity building and experience sharing, our organization addressed themes as diverse as good governance, sustainable forest management, transparency in extractive industries, the rights of local and indigenous communities in the management of natural resources, participatory mapping for the promotion of addressing upcoming issues

-- 5 of 40 --

Brainforest - Annual Report 2010 6 6 natural resource management, participatory mapping for the promotion of forest co-management, and capacity building for partners. This work was only possible thanks to the vital support of the Rainforest Foundation UK, FERN, the British government through DFID, the European Union Commission, CARPE/IUCN, IUCN, BOTH ENDS, Global Greengrants Fund, CIFOR, the Ministry of Water and Forests, the FAO ACP-FLEGT program, the United States Embassy in Gabon, and the NGO Conservation Justice. May all these partners of our successes find here our heartfelt thanks. In order to capitalize on the

achievements of the work done, to continue the missions we have set for ourselves, to structure them, develop them, and ensure their sustainability, it is vital that these partnerships intensify. In presenting this activity report, the entire Brainforest team sends you its best wishes for 2011. Marc ONA ESSANGUI Executive Secretary Annual Report6 transparency in extractive industries, the rights of local and indigenous communities in the management of natural resources, participatory mapping for the promotion of forest co-management, and capacity building for partners. This work was only possible thanks to the vital support of the Rainforest Foundation UK, FERN, the British government through DFID, the European Union Commission, CARPE/IUCN, IUCN, BOTH ENDS, Global Greengrants Fund, CIFOR, the Ministry of Water and Forests, the FAO ACP-FLEGT program, the United States Embassy in Gabon, and the NGO Conservation Justice. May all these partners of our successes find here our heartfelt thanks. In order to capitalize on the achievements of the work done, to continue the missions we have set for ourselves, to structure them, develop them, and ensure their sustainability, it is vital that these partnerships intensify. In presenting this activity report, the entire Brainforest team sends you its best wishes for 2011. Marc ONA ESSANGUI Executive Secretary

-- 6 of 40 --

77

-- 7 of 40 --

Annual Report8

-- 8 of 40 --

BACKGROUND OF BRAINFOREST ACTIVITIES IN 2010 9 BACKGROUND OF BRAINFOREST ACTIVITIES IN 2010 Faced with declining oil revenues, Gabon has committed to diversifying its economy. To this end, the Gabonese government has undertaken profound reforms to improve the economic efficiency of the forestry sector. Beyond these purely economic aspects, environmental and social considerations have also been taken into account. This was also an opportunity to implement the texts in force at the international and sub-regional levels regarding forest governance and participatory management of natural resources, notably the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, the Yaoundé Declaration on the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests, the Convention on Biodiversity, and the Algiers Convention on the conservation of nature and natural resources. These reforms in forestry, fishing and aquaculture, protected areas, environment, and training are documented in laws and texts such as the Forestry Code, the Environmental Code, the Fishing and Aquaculture Code, the National Parks Law, the Strategic Document for Growth and Poverty Reduction (DSCRP), the Sectoral Forest Environment Program (PSFE), the policy letter for the forest, fishing, and aquaculture sectors, protected areas, environment and their various implementing texts, and finally, the APV/FLEGT and AFLEG processes, currently in its preparatory phase in Gabon. In summary, this array of texts aimed to achieve various environmental, economic, and social objectives through: – involvement of rural communities and civil society in the management of natural resources; – increased state budget revenues and redistribution of part of these to local entities; – further transformation, with high added value, of forest products at the local level; – a contribution to the development of wildlife resources and protected areas; – greatly increased involvement of nationals in sector activities; – direct management of rural domain forests by and for the communities and local residents themselves; – the protection of biodiversity. Despite this proclaimed political will, it is unfortunately observed today that there is a significant gap between the ambitions contained in the legal texts and the practice on the ground. While it is true that progress has been observed in some sectors, much remains to be done. As a result, Brainforest has implemented a set of activities with the ambition of effectively contributing to

the political and legislative processes initiated at the national and international levels, particularly in terms of governance, sustainable management of natural resources, and equity in profit and access for all stakeholders to these resources. To this end, in the specific field of forest management, in partnership with other local and international organizations, Brainforest has continued to execute several projects focused on promoting sustainable management and combating illegal logging. In the wake of promoting sustainable forest management, three projects have been carried out in collaboration with various stakeholders in the forestry sector: In terms of governance, the convergence of views with the concerns of the national and international community on this issue has been the catalyst for the projects carried out in this area. In this perspective, Brainforest can be credited with the following projects whose activities were focused on a concern for qualitative improvement of governance in Gabon: – The participatory mapping project in the Congo Basin; – The project "facilitating community participation in the management of national parks in Gabon". The cross-cutting nature of the debate on social equity often brings this issue back to a question of governance. To this end, the promotion of equity, as a concern, has often been addressed in a similarly cross-cutting manner across the various projects implemented.

-- 10 of 40 --

BACKGROUND OF BRAINFOREST ACTIVITIES IN 2010 11 TECHNICAL REPORT It is important to clarify that the choice of our actions has been justified by the concern to promote our vision of achieving a Gabonese society in which the environment will be protected, with the effective participation of local and indigenous communities who will benefit from the returns of natural resource exploitation. To this end, in addition to the projects implemented, Brainforest has also deployed itself on the ground during the year 2010, through the realization of several studies and its participation in national and international processes on the sustainable management of natural resources and good governance.

-- 11 of 40 --

Annual Report12

-- 12 of 40 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 13 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED Brainforest has deployed itself on the ground to implement a number of projects. While it is true that much remains to be done, it is equally true that significant progress has been made. 1. PARTICIPATORY MAPPING PROJECT IN THE CONGO BASIN Initiated in 2009 with the technical and financial support of the Rainforest Foundation United Kingdom and DFID, the participatory mapping project aims to promote the inclusion of the rights of forest communities to access legislative, political, and strategic processes in three countries of the Congo Basin (the Central African Republic, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo), to better control and utilize forest resources. This project was particularly marked this year by its mid-term evaluation, the retraining of participatory mapping facilitators and GIS technicians, the training of new technicians, the introduction of 3D mapping exercises, and support provided to communities for the production and use of maps, with a view to better taking their rights into account in the management of Gabon's natural resources. Context In Gabon, the major social challenges for the government and civil society actors remain marked by the search for solutions on: – Reducing poverty and improving the living standards of the Gabonese population; – involving communities and civil society in the management of natural resources through the practice of customary usage rights, the creation of community forests, consultation and involvement in the processes of creating and managing forests and protected areas, their participation in local park management advisory committees, signing land management

contracts with communities, in the context of managing the periphery of national parks, and the contribution of logging companies to the realization of social works in villages;

-- 13 of 40 --

Annual Report 8 X o o 8 8 8 8 88 8 X 88 8 8 "¢÷ 8 8 8 X 8 8 8 8D "¢÷ X X X o X X X X 8 % o o o o o o Ã K Ã K Ã K Ã K Ã K ± ± ± ± f f ± ± ± ± ± ± G 88 o o õôó õôó õôó õôó õôó õôó õôó õôó õôó õôóõôó õôó õôó õôó õôó õôó o o Ã Ã K K K K K K d d d d d d 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã Ã õôó Ñ Ñ Ñ Ñ Tropical Timber Industry Board MINKÉBÉ MINKÉBÉ Ngounbou Nfè Sonva Dzatem Ebè Koro Mbezel Mikol Mbè Bighe Mvio Milo'o Fè Mvoul Ma'a Wabe Miyone Metsine Bekola Nwona Yo Nlu'u Ndamebeme Meka Meka Ndamebem Abankala Ndoua Mefoum Bezoo Bampwala Evele minang Bekikili Fê fang Ndamenzala Mone kom Essoupdoua Mfoumo Otong Bengôl Ama'a Nfè fang Andzime Gonayanga Mbass Bibebè Zokbisa Legoua Ngounga Legoua Mboko Legoua Mbanda So biko Nfè Ndoua Bighe Mbè Sonva Bighe Milo'o Sonva Koro Bekola Ndamebem N'tem Kyè Ndo Thi Mvoul Benga'a Mimiaré Biboré Bevoule Ngwa Mbidé N'tem Mimiaré Mvoul Nfe Mfê Nfè Nfè Ebe Mvio Doua Doua Doua Doua Nfê 1 Nfê 2 Eto'o Bevoul Mikolo Miyone Avêgne Kwassam Fe Fang Ebolzok Gnadema Edziengui Nda Mibok California Oveng Alen Nkogne ebè Abolo Bighe Mbout melen Ovenven nkon Aban Otouang Nkogo Ebeigne Abane otouang Use of space and natural resources by the communities of the Etho'o village Source: Etho'o Village Community/ Brainforest Local cartographers: OKE MISSO Alex, ETIMBI, MBOMBI OBAME, EDANE. Facilitators: ZUE Obame Richelieu (BRAINFOREST), YEMBI Paulin(CADDE) Design: NZIENGUI KASSA Sam (Brainforest) - June 2010 This map was created by the communities of Doumassi as part of the participatory mapping project in the Congo Basin NGOUNIE NYANGA ESTUAIRE WOLEU NTEM OGOOUE IVINDO HAUT OGOOUE OGOOUE LOLO MOYEN OGOOUE ± 0 1 2 0.5 Km Legend: "¢÷ Village 8D Old village 8 Camp ± Fields õôó Gathering Ã Hunting with a gun K Trapping f Cemetery o Fishing with a net G Vestige X Gathering Fruits X Gathering Péké o Gathering Raphia % Sacred site Etho'o Trail Hydrography Secondary rivers Swamp Forest Forest permit National park 14 – the definition of a rural forest domain; – taking social aspects into account in the development and implementation of management plans for parks and forest concessions; Unfortunately, despite this legal arsenal in their favor, recent studies have shown that, in practice, many communities are increasingly struggling to access their lands and engage in their subsistence activities. They complain of the lack of consultation and collaboration with the administration. It has also been observed that these communities do not always possess the necessary tools and capacities to better defend their rights over the lands and natural resources they manage daily for subsistence purposes. These are the motivations that led to the implementation of this project, which involved not only Gabon's civil society but also various administrations and technical services such as Water and Forests, the National Parks Agency, Mines, and the Institute for Tropical Ecology Research (IRET). Objectives Specifically, this project aims to: – strengthen capacities in participatory mapping within local communities, particularly indigenous ones, civil society members, and state agents; – produce participatory maps; – help communities in using the produced participatory maps in negotiations and decision-making in favor of forest preservation and the interests of forest communities. Results obtained During the year 2010, we achieved the following results: – 38 local cartographers were trained; – 8 definitive maps, 4 provisional maps, and a three-dimensional model (3D mapping) in Minvoul, Ivindo, Pongaga, and Waka, and resource use by communities were produced; – a framework for exchange was established in Minvoul among the various actors involved in the management of natural resources; – 6 technicians from civil society and the administration were trained in Geographic Information Systems; – the participatory mapping methodology was disseminated. It is now used by other actors in the forestry sector (ASF, IRET); – 6

facilitators were retrained and 10 new ones were trained.

-- 15 of 40 --

Annual Report 16 Quantity Source TRAINED AND RECYCLED FACILITATORS 10 new facilitators 16 facilitators were recycled during this training 9 agents from public administrations concerned with natural resource management and 17 NGO members, "in Libreville and Pointe Denis" TOTAL 16 STUDIED COMMUNITIES 4 Minvoul 8 Left Bank Estuary (Pongara) 4 Ogooué-Ivindo 14 Ikobey (Waka) TOTAL 30 LOCAL CARTOGRAPHERS TRAINED 17 Minvoul 12 Left Bank Estuary (Pongara) 14 Ogooué-Ivindo 12 Ikobey (Waka) TOTAL 55 Participatory mapping - studies and training in 2010 Territory Quantity Final maps Minvoul 4 Pongara 8 Total definitive 12 Map to be validated Ivindo 4 Model in Waka 1 Total map to be validated 5 Participatory mapping – maps produced 2010

-- 16 of 40 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 17 2. PROJECT “ENABLING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS IN GABON” Context The creation, in August 2002, of a network of 13 national parks covering 30,138 km² (including 1,293 km² of marine territory), representing more than 11% of the national territory, was intended to place Gabon at the center of the global concern of reconciling the rights of communities with the need to preserve natural resources. Recent participatory studies (MARP) conducted in 2008 by Brainforest, RFUK, and some members of the Environment-Gabon Platform, in the periphery of some national parks, allowed us to observe that the creation of these protected areas was done without consulting the communities. Similarly, although Law 003/2007 of August 27, 2007 recognizes the involvement of riparian communities, particularly through the creation of peripheral zones, the consultation of these communities throughout the process of creation and management of parks, land management contracts, and local management advisory committees, there are several shortcomings in their implementation. It is based on this observation that Brainforest, in collaboration with other Gabonese NGOs and with the support of RFUK, implemented a project aimed at supporting communities to take their rights into account in local and national park management policies. Objectives With the overall objective of facilitating effective participation of forest communities in the sustainable management of national parks in Gabon through the development and implementation of texts and models of participatory management, this project was broken down into various specific objectives: – collect information to better understand communities and their natural resource management practices; – strengthen the capacities of at least 20 communities in negotiation to take their rights into account in the management plans of national parks; – contribute to the preparation and adoption of implementing texts related to the rights of communities living inside and on the periphery of national parks;

-- 17 of 40 --

Annual Report 18 – have at least 2 national park management plans that integrate the presence, rights, and territories of local communities; – facilitate the implementation of frameworks for concerted management of natural resources in the project areas (Minvoul, Makokou, and Pongara); – identify 4 NGOs and civil society organizations that have improved their capacities and their approach to working with local communities. Results obtained The following results were achieved: – 2 reports: Pointe-Denis (Estuaire province) and Makokou (Ogooué-Ivindo province) allowing for a better understanding of the realities of the different localities where the project developed, including data on local natural resource management processes, community livelihoods, and the rights recognized to them; – training of 19 members of the Minvoul communities (Villages of Doumassie, Bitouga, Eto’o, and Elarmintang) in negotiation techniques. They are now able to defend their rights regarding access to natural resources. This skill was demonstrated during the multi-stakeholder workshop held in Minvoul in September 2010; –

contribution to the establishment of a framework for dialogue and consultation at the local level, through the organization of a multi-stakeholder workshop (local administrative authorities, communities, NGOs, National Parks Agency, Forest Economy). This meeting adopted numerous resolutions regarding the local improvement of forest rights for communities; – 2 civil society organizations (Edzengui and Ariga) and a resource person, Edgar Biteghe, have seen their capacities strengthened in terms of their approach to working with local communities; – the capitalization of our approach through the dissemination of tools produced within the framework of the project: reports of participatory research, reports from the multi-stakeholder workshop.

-- 18 of 40 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 19 3. PROJECT “ANALYSIS OF FOREST REGULATORY TEXTS, STRENGTHENING THE REQUIRED CAPACITIES OF GABONESE CIVIL SOCIETY AND MOBILIZATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELEMENTS OF THE FLEGT ACTION PLAN” Context The European Union has established the FLEGT initiative (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade). This initiative constitutes the European Commission's response to the issue of illegal logging and associated trade. FLEGT translates into technical and financial support, as well as advice to timber-producing countries to implement reforms aimed at "improving policies and laws focused on the sustainable management of forest resources". To achieve these objectives, the EU supports programs aimed at ensuring support for initiatives working towards the implementation of elements of the FLEGT action plan. Mobilized to accompany the negotiation process of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Gabon and the EU, Brainforest and the platform of Gabonese civil society organizations Environment Gabon, benefited, during the year 2010, from the technical support of the ACP-FLEGT program of FAO and the technical and financial support of FERN, an organization based in Brussels that works to support European Union policies.

-- 19 of 40 --

Annual Report "The capacities of different actors have been strengthened through the organization of 5 training workshops on the elements of the FLEGT action plan" 20

-- 20 of 40 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 21 Objectives pursued The objectives pursued by the ACP-FLEGT programs and FERN are complementary. They aim to establish the setup and preparation of the Gabonese civil society network to participate in the FLEGT process and the negotiations aimed at signing the VPA. Results obtained The results obtained at the end of the year 2010 are as follows: – the civil society platform has been extended to organizations from within the country; – the capacities of different actors have been strengthened through the organization of 5 training workshops on the elements of the FLEGT action plan (the notion of forest infringement, governance, forest traceability, definition of the legality grid, analysis and restitution on the forest regulatory framework); – rural communities living in the periphery of forested areas under exploitation within the country have been made aware of FLEGT. 4. PROJECT “BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS; ENSURING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IS AT THE HEART OF REDD” Context Since May 1, 2010, Brainforest, a member of the Environment Gabon Platform, has been implementing the Gabon component of the project P-Z1-C00-12 on the contribution of civil society to the REDD process; in partnership with FERN and four other sub-regional NGOs (OCDH in Congo-Brazzaville, CED in Cameroon, OCEAN in DRC, and MEFP in CAR) funded by the CBFF (Congo Basin Forest Fund) for a duration of 3 years, from May 1, 2010, to January 21, 2013. Objectives The project aims for two main objectives: – to bring civil society contributions to the REDD process for the consideration of the rights of local and

indigenous communities;

-- 21 of 40 --

Annual Report 22 – to strengthen the capacities of civil society members for better involvement in the process. To achieve these objectives, five major groups of activities have been planned: – working meetings; – national and sub-regional training workshops; – thematic training sessions on REDD; – preparation of civil society for its participation in formal REDD meetings at national, regional, and international levels; – exchanges of experiences. Activities carried out For the Gabon component, the following activities have been carried out: – several meetings, exchanges, and formal and informal discussions have been organized with various actors concerned by the REDD process in Gabon; – the Brainforest REDD project team participated in sub-regional and international meetings and workshops as part of experience exchanges and capacity building; – an information and documentation exchange process has been established to inform Gabonese civil society members about the REDD process.

-- 22 of 40 --

STUDIES CONDUCTED 23 STUDIES CONDUCTED Beyond the projects implemented, some specific studies have been conducted. 1. LAND MANAGEMENT IN RURAL AREAS IN GABON This study is part of the regional project "Promoting land rights of communities in the Congo Basin," implemented by RFUK, based in London, UK, and supported by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF). The study was conducted among communities in Minvoul (Woleu-Ntem), Makokou (Ogooué Ivindo), and Kango (Estuaire). The objective of this study was to: – document the communities' conception of land and their relationships with the land; – identify the difficulties related to the valorization of their land rights by the communities; – identify potential solutions for better enjoyment of land rights by the communities. A final study report was produced for each of the concerned cities. 2. IMPACT OF MINING ON LOCAL POPULATIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN HAUT-OGOOUÉ Conducted with the financial support of Global Greengrants Fund, this study focused on the thorny issue of reconciling industrial exploitation of natural resources with the need to preserve the environment. More specifically, it was a matter for our organization to identify current issues arising from mining activities in the localities of Mounana, Moanda, and Poubara, not only to inform public opinion but also to engage stakeholders in a process aimed at improving the management of natural resources in Haut-Ogooué, as well as throughout the territory. A report was produced on this issue.

-- 23 of 40 --

Annual Report 24 in Haut-Ogooué Landry LEBAS August 2010 Impacts of mining exploitation on local populations and the environment

-- 24 of 40 --

STUDIES CONDUCTED 25 study report on Chinese trade and investments in Africa assessment and management of trade-offs between national economies, local livelihoods and forest ecosystems Case of Gabon 3. CHINESE TRADE AND INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN NATIONAL ECONOMIES, LOCAL LIVELIHOODS AND FOREST ECOSYSTEMS. Funded by CIFOR (Center for International Forestry Research), this study was conducted as part of a project focusing on the direct and indirect impacts of Chinese investments in forest-related sectors.

-- 25 of 40 --

Annual report26 The aim was to analyze the influences of Chinese investments on the sustainable management of forests and the livelihoods of local communities, contributing to promoting economically socially beneficial development. Implemented in six African countries

(Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe), the preliminary phase of the project, which involved establishing a baseline of the operational methods of these companies and the resulting impacts on forest resources, was entrusted to Brainforest for the Gabon component. A report documents the results of this study. 4. STUDY ON THE SUSTAINABILITY INDEX OF NGOs IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA Commissioned by Management System International, based in the United States, this study aimed at identifying NGOs is intended to structure them so that they can organize according to the USAID sustainability index. The calculation of the NGO sustainability index is a first in Africa. The index for 2009-2010 will serve as a baseline for the coming years. The study involved gathering a panel of experts working in various fields: anthropology, civil society, politics, journalism, and administration. The identified experts initially responded to a questionnaire developed by the responsible NGO, allowing them to individually calculate the index related to each indicator: the legal context, organizational capacities, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, infrastructure, and public image. Once this initial work was completed, a workshop gathering the entire panel was convened to better discuss and collectively establish the general index for each indicator and, consequently, the sustainability index for all NGOs in the country. A general report on the various participating countries is available.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES 27 PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES Concerned with maximizing synergies to better respond to the participatory imperative of global issues, Brainforest has intensified its collaboration with stakeholders working on common themes. 1. TRIDOM PROJECT Conducted simultaneously in Cameroon, Congo, and Gabon, the TRIDOM conservation project, which is based on a seven-year grant from the FFEM via the UNDP, aims to maintain ecological functions and connectivity in the TRIDOM area and ensure the long-term conservation of a system of protected areas. Because it works on themes that are dear to us, namely, the management of protected areas, land allocation, and the rights of minorities, our organization has integrated into this project. To this end, in addition to the usual data exchanges and participation in workshops, a significant aspect of this collaboration is the participation of one of our members in the National Multidisciplinary Committee. This participation is strategic, given the quite delicate missions assigned to this committee. Indeed, it is responsible, among other things, for: – contributing to the development of the master plan for land use in the TRIDOM area; – evaluating the progress of project activities and reporting to decision-makers; – recommending to the relevant technical ministries the directions to take for the implementation of the project; – submitting to the scientific and technical committee recommendations related to the implementation of the project at the national level; – validating the annual work plan; – supporting the national project team on any other technical issues related to the success of the project.

Annual report28 2. COALITION PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY As a very active framework for consultation and exchange, the Publish What You Pay coalition now appears as the secular arm of civil society organizations in their fight for good governance. During the year 2010, the coalition primarily carried out the following activities: – training in advocacy and lobbying techniques; – training in project management, planning, financial management, and fundraising; – training in budget analysis and monitoring; – organization of a national information day on extractive industries and the EITI; – writing and producing semi-annual bulletins and other information materials. While promoting the capacity building of civil society members on the issues at hand, these various activities have allowed for a better understanding

of the coalition and the extractive industries sector in Gabon. 3. ENVIRONMENT GABON PLATFORM As a framework for consultation among Gabonese environmental NGOs, this platform primarily aims to coordinate the actions of environmental civil society organizations, as well as to share experiences among our different organizations. This year, Environment Gabon remained true to its logic and its resolute choice to involve other members of the platform in activities carried out by one of its members. To this end, it was our organization's task to communicate with Gabonese civil society organizations on themes such as FLEGT, REDD, participatory mapping, geographic information systems, methodologies for working and collecting data from local and indigenous communities, and facilitating a multi-stakeholder meeting on natural resource management.

-- 28 of 40 --

CONSTRAINTS RELATED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF OUR ACTION ON THE GROUND 29 CONSTRAINTS RELATED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF OUR ACTION ON THE GROUND Various internal and external constraints have marred the continuation of our action, sometimes compromising our chances of achieving our objectives. 1. INTERNAL CONSTRAINTS Despite all the dynamism prevailing within the structure, which is mainly composed of young professionals, much remains to be done in terms of capacity building for the Brainforest team. This is why a progressive training program has been implemented. Notwithstanding this program, we resort to external expertise when circumstances require it. Brainforest is also confronted with the thorny issue of the funding necessary for the implementation of its strategic plan. A fundraising program is currently being finalized, and the structure relies solely on funds received for implemented projects. This significantly limits our maneuverability and the scope of our actions. 2. EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS The major constraint here stems from a profound misunderstanding or poor perception of our objectives and some of our actions. Indeed, as a defender of the environment, but also and above all of the rights of local and indigenous communities, Brainforest is sometimes perceived as an adversary of conservation. This disparagement has led to ostracism from certain technical services of the Gabonese administration. But we remain convinced that no conservation and sustainable management process of natural resources should take place without the participation of all stakeholders, especially the main concerned parties, which are the communities. Indeed, in addition to holding ancestral rights over contested lands, these communities remain dependent on the forest to ensure their livelihoods. Although we do not claim that our approach is a panacea, we are convinced that it constitutes an effective tool for community participation and, consequently, for preventing and resolving conflicts in natural resource management.

-- 29 of 40 --

Annual report30

-- 30 of 40 --

31 PERSPECTIVES

-- 31 of 40 --

Annual report32

-- 32 of 40 --

PERSPECTIVES FOR 2011 33 PERSPECTIVES FOR 2011 1. PARTICIPATORY MAPPING PROJECT IN THE CONGO BASIN In this final phase, the focus will be on supporting communities in the use of the produced maps. This work has already begun in Minkébé and will be extended to other project areas. Thus, particular emphasis will be placed on contributing to the establishment of frameworks for collaborative management of natural resources and support for the

implementation of resolutions arising from these frameworks in other project sites. Progress has been made in this regard in Minkébé. 2. PROJECT “ENABLING EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS IN GABON” (FFEM) Now funded by the FFEM, this project follows the phase funded by RFUK and pursues the same objectives as the previous phase, extending to the Waka and Loango sites. 3. PROJECT “SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE MINKÉBÉ WEST FOREST MASSIF (NORTH OF GABON)” Funded for a duration of 6 months under the small grants program of CARPE, this project aims to promote the full participation of communities in the sustainable management of the Minkébé West forest massif. Its specific objectives are as follows: – strengthen the capacities of communities regarding their knowledge of their forest and wildlife rights based on the updated brochure previously produced with CARPE funding; – help communities better organize themselves to promote the rights of managers of the Minkébé West forest massif; – facilitate the establishment of a framework for exchanges among forest management actors, with a view to achieving a concerted exploitation system

-- 33 of 40 --

Annual report34

-- 34 of 40 --

PERSPECTIVES FOR 2011 35 of natural resources that take into account resource use maps and community rights. 4. PRO-FORMAL PROJECT Funded by the European Union through CIFOR, for a duration of 12 months, this project aims to analyze policy measures that could allow FLEGT to better integrate national timber markets within the national legal framework. Five countries have been selected to host this project: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ecuador, and Indonesia. In Gabon, the project is executed by IRET and Brainforest. Our organization will carry out the following activities: – conduct the country profile, according to the common framework provided by the Pro-Formal team; – quarterly, conduct a press review on artisanal or informal/illegal logging, as well as on the evolution of national forestry policy; – once a month (6 times in the Estuaire province, 6 times in other provinces of Gabon) conduct a rural survey consisting, on one hand, of establishing the diagnosis of artisanal logging at the district or equivalent level and, on the other hand, conducting a detailed socio-economic survey among local artisanal loggers. 5. FAO ACP-FLEGT PROGRAM The year 2011 will see the implementation of a training program for civil society actors on methods and techniques for external and independent forest observation. This process aims to provide rural actors and civil society with the necessary tools to effectively support and complement the action of the independent and institutional forest observer. Beyond these various funded projects, it goes without saying that Brainforest will engage in ad hoc actions when circumstances require. Likewise, our organization will maintain its participation in various national and international dynamics regarding sustainable management of natural resources and the rights of local communities.

-- 35 of 40 --

Annual Report 36 6. SUPPORT FOR CITIZEN ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION With the support of the U.S. Embassy, for one year, this project aims at three objectives: (i) Collect all necessary information on corruption in Gabon: practices, actors, impact, methods of fighting and their limits, available tools; (ii) Formulate recommendations to improve methods of combating corruption and ensure the involvement of all stakeholders; (iii) Train individuals (union members) from public administrations on budget monitoring for the production of specific budget monitoring reports for their respective administrations for the year 2011. To this end, with a view to raising awareness and informing stakeholders about this "scourge," three main groups of

activities have been planned: (a) A seminar-workshop on budget monitoring; (b) The production of an annual report (end of 2011) on the budget monitoring of their administration by each actor from the unions participating in this workshop; (c) Production of a brochure on national and international legal provisions related to corruption. 7. "SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WILDLIFE LAW" (AALF) Initiated and implemented by the NGO Conservation Justice, with the institutional support of Brainforest, this project aims to experiment with a new approach for the conservation and protection of wildlife in Gabon. Specifically, this project aims to minimize illegal trafficking of protected wildlife species throughout the territory of the Republic of Gabon, and for this purpose, Brainforest and Conservation Justice have committed to: (i) support the efforts of the Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF) by assisting in the training and equipping of a functional body of inspectors specifically assigned to combat wildlife crime; (ii) support MINEF services by implementing a necessary intelligence network to apprehend poachers and traffickers of illicitly acquired wildlife products; (iii) inform MINEF through all its competent services of cases of poaching, possession, marketing, and circulation of illegally acquired wildlife products; (iv) support monitoring by MINEF services, particularly its Legal Affairs unit regarding cases transmitted to justice; (v) establish a rapid dissemination system in the media of any information related to seizures, criminal acts, and the outcome of cases transmitted to justice, which will be approved by the parties, in order to inform the public and show the positive results obtained by the AALF project and more generally by MINEF.

-- 36 of 40 --

37 FINANCIAL STATEMENT Funding 2010

-- 37 of 40 --

Annual Report 38 During the year 2010, Brainforest recorded growth in the volume of its activities. The expansion of partnerships and the strengthening of collaborations with historical and usual partners have increased the average monthly payroll from 3,891,250 in 2009 to 5,088,750 FCFA in 2010. This growth will continue in the coming years with the numerous requests that Brainforest receives due to its growing credibility. Balance as of December 31, 2009 (ongoing activities): 40,154,335 FCFA Funding received in 2010 (FCFA) In Partnership Direct Support Total Public institutions ("In partnership" including state subsidy and support from the Municipality of Rozzano, Italy) 1,631,038 31,116,660 32,747,698 Private institutions (including NGOs) 142,376,779 11,559,437 153,936,216 Total 144,007,817 42,676,097 186,683,914 Total funding available for 2010: 221,840,160 FCFA Expenses by category in 2010 (FCFA) Amounts Percentage (%) Staff 61,065,000 27.82 Activities (including travel...) 140,465,890 64.00 Administration and other costs 17,952,925 8.18 Total 219,483,815 100 % Balance as of December 31, 2010: 2,356,345 FCFA

-- 38 of 40 --

1 - Marc Ona Essangui, Executive Secretary 2 - Protet Essono Oondo, Program Coordinator 3 - Franck Allogo Mendou, Accountant 4 - Richelieu Zue Obame, APV/FLEGT Program Manager 5 - Martial Djinang, Project Manager, Environmental Lawyer 6 - Sam Nziengui Kassa, Deputy Technical Manager for participatory mapping project 7 - Laurentine Bilogo Bi Ndong, Technical Manager for Proformal/CIFOR project 8 - Dallia Arielle Azizet, Assistant for APV/FLEGT Program 9 - Olivier Meye Obiang, Project Assistant, Legal Assistant 10 - Freddy Nguema Allogo, Technical Manager for participatory mapping project 11 - Reine Patrick Banioguila, Project Assistant 12 - Phal Galbert Mezui Ndong, Human Resources Manager in charge of communication 13 - Germain Djeuking, IT Consultant in charge of maintenance and infographics 14 - Bérenger Ndoutoumou Obiang, Driver-Logistician 15 - Ornella Ntsele, Executive Assistant 16 - Grazyella Nzalbe Essogho, Executive Assistant 17 - Annie Charmelle Yoya, Support Staff 18 - Arouna,

Support Staff 18 14 10 6 3 15 11 7 17 13 9 5 2 16 12 8 4 1 39 BRAINFOREST PERSONNEL

www.brain-forest.org Bp 23749, Libreville Gabon tel: (00241) 07 97 84 25 info@brain-forest.org