Annual report brainforest 2011-2012-en

Rapport annuel brainforest 2011-2012-fr

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2011-2012

-- 1 of 52 --

Annual report 2011 - 2012 2 BRAINFOREST Quartier Ambowé, B.P: 23 749 Libreville – Tel: 07 97 84 25 E-mail: info@brainforest-gabon.org – www.brainforest-gabon.org Registration No: 00265/ MISPD/SG/CT - NIF: 89616C The opinions expressed, the information presented in this report do not in any way constitute the expression of the opinion of the donors and are the responsibility of Brainforest © May 2013 ®

-- 2 of 52 --

3 ACTIVITIES REPORT 2011-2012

-- 3 of 52 --

Annual report 2011 - 2012 4 AFLEG: Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance APV: Voluntary Partnership Agreement CBFF: Forest Fund for the Congo Basin CARPE: Central African Regional Program for the Environment CBFF: Forest Fund for the Congo Basin COMIFAC: Central African Forest Commission CED: Center for Environment and Development CIFOR: Center for International Forestry Research DFID: Department for International Development UK FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FERN: Forest Empowerment Research Network IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature IRET: Institute for Research in Tropical Ecology MARP: Accelerated Participatory Research Method MEFP: House of Children and Pygmy Women OCDH: Congolese Observatory of Human Rights NGO: Non-Governmental Organization PSFE: Sectoral Program Forest Environment REDD: Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo CAR: Central African Republic RFUK: Rainforest Foundation UK EU: European Union WRM: World Rainforest Movement ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

-- 4 of 52 --

5 TABLE OF CONTENTS MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY .....7 CONTEXT OF BRAINFOREST ACTIVITIES IN 2011-2012 .....9 PART ONE: TECHNICAL REPORT ..... 11 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED .....13 I. The Project “Participation of communities in the Congo Basin at the heart of reducing deforestation and forest degradation” ..... 13 II. The Project “Implementation of FLEGT: Promoting good governance in the forestry sector” ..... 21 III. The Project “Assimilation and dissemination of FLEGT action plan elements by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in negotiation and implementation of the APV” ..... 28 IV. The Project “Capacity building for the respect and promotion of the rights of forest communities” .....

..... 32 V. The Project “Capacity building of Gabonese civil society members and local communities in monitoring activities and collecting information on forest violations, for improved governance” ..... 36 VI. The Project “PROFORMAL: Policy and regulatory options aimed at recognizing and better integrating the national timber sector in tropical countries” ..... 38 STUDIES

CONDUCTED .....41 I. Study on the impact of agro-industrial oil palm and rubber plantations on Gabonese populations ..... 41 II. Study on the sustainability index 2010 and 2011 of NGOs in Sub-Saharan Africa ..... 42 PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES .....43 I. The Gabon Dynamic My Land My Right (www.gabonmaterre.org) ..... 43 II. Coalition publish what you pay ..... 43 III. The Gabon environmental platform ..... 44 CONSTRAINTS RELATED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF OUR ACTION ON THE GROUND .....45 I. INTERNAL CONSTRAINTS ..... 45 II. EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS ..... 45 PART TWO: FINANCIAL REPORT .....47 Financial report .....48 I. Funding received in 2011 ..... 48 II. Funding received in 2012 ..... 49 III. Expenditures by category in 2012 50

-- 5 of 52 --

Annual report 2011 - 2012 6 © Ph OTO : STE fAnO AP uzz O

-- 6 of 52 --

7 THE REPORT 2011-2012 testifies to the deployment on the ground of our organization with the populations. With the traditional support of our main donors and partners, led by the European Union, DFID, AFD, French Cooperation, USAID, FAO, Rainforest Foundation UK and FERN, we have managed not only to be present on the ground but to continuously cover 4 provinces out of the 9 that our country has. These permanent branches and the lawyers who carry out their activities there are proof that in such a short time Brainforest, due to the determination of its team of professionals and the vision of its leaders, is one of the national references in promoting forest, mining, and oil governance in particular, and governance of natural resources and rights of populations in general. With a staff of 24 employees, we aim to increase this number with the arrival of new partners like Alisei, an Italian NGO for the execution of two major projects funded by the European Union. The next three years will be used to explore other horizons in terms of fundraising to materialize our ambition to make our NGO one of the most effective in terms of studies on environmental issues, forest monitoring, environmental impact studies, budget monitoring, taxation, and issues related to extractive industries. Our extensive experience in monitoring extraction projects of our raw materials should be strengthened with the upcoming creation of a department responsible for corporate social responsibility. Marc ONA ESSANGUI Executive Secretary MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

-- 7 of 52 --

Annual report 2011 - 2012 8 © Ph OTO : STE fAnO AP uzz O

-- 8 of 52 --

CONTEXT OF BRAINFOREST ACTIVITIES IN 2011-2012 9 CONTEXT OF BRAINFOREST ACTIVITIES IN 2011-2012 Gabon, facing declining oil revenues, has committed to diversifying its economy. To this end, the Gabonese government has conducted profound reforms to improve the

economic efficiency of the forestry sector. Beyond these purely financial aspects, environmental and social considerations have also been taken into account. Because it was also a matter of rising to the level of existing texts at the international or sub-regional level that overall convey the concepts of good forest governance and participatory management of natural resources. These reforms in the areas of forestry, fishing and aquaculture, protected areas, environment, and training are recorded in documents and legal 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 Program Forest Environment (PSFE), the Policy Letter for the forestry, fishing, and aquaculture sectors, protected areas, environment and their various implementing texts; and finally, the FLEGT/APV and AFLEG mechanism, currently in its preparatory phase in our country as well as the development of agro-industry with the corollary of land tenure issues. In summary, this plethora of texts aimed to achieve various environmental, economic, and social objectives through: – the involvement of rural communities and civil society in the management of natural resources; – an increase in the state's budget revenues and the redistribution of a part of these to local entities. – a more advanced transformation with high added value of forest products at the local level; – a contribution to the development of wildlife resources and protected areas; – a greater involvement of nationals in the activities of the sector; – the direct management of rural domain forests by and for the communities and local residents themselves; – the protection of biodiversity.

-- 9 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 10 Despite this ostentatious political will, we unfortunately still make the sad observation of the significant gap that exists between the ambitions contained in the legal texts and the practice on the ground. And while it is true that some progress has been observed in a few sectors, it remains true that much remains to be done. As a result, Brainforest has implemented a range of activities with the ambition of effectively contributing to the political and legislative processes initiated at both 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 area of forest management, Brainforest, in partnership with other local and international organizations, has pursued the execution of several projects focused on promoting sustainable management and combating the illegal exploitation of our resources. 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. 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 52 --

CONTEXTE DES ACTIVITES DE BRAINFOREST EN 2011-2012 11 FIRST PART: TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT IT IS ALWAYS important to note that the choice of our actions is always guided 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 resulting from the management of natural resources. To this end, in addition to the projects implemented, Brainforest also deployed on the ground during the 2011-2012 period through the realization of several studies and its participation in national and international processes on sustainable management of natural resources and good governance.

-- 11 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 12 © PHOTO DR © PHOTO: STEFANO APUZZO

-- 12 of 52 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 13 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED As is customary, the projects implemented by our organization during this period mainly focused on themes related to our overall objectives, which are: – the promotion of good governance and equitable sharing with local populations of the benefits derived from the management of natural resources; – the sharing of experiences and strengthening the capacities of state and non-state actors in Gabon working in our sectors of activity; – supporting local and indigenous communities in the knowledge, recognition, and use of their forest and wildlife rights; – promoting participatory mapping as a tool for sustainable management of natural resources and taking into account the rights of communities. I. THE PROJECT "COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE CONGO BASIN AT THE HEART OF REDUCING DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION" The project named "Community Participation in the Congo Basin at the Heart of Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation," also called BOFCOM by project partners, is funded by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (FFBC, CBFF) and registered under number P-ZI-C00-012 with the African Development Bank, which manages the CBFF funds. Context The member countries of COMIFAC have presented a vision for the Congo Basin for the development of an international REDD system that allows for both conservation and sustainable management of the forest. Indeed, in the face of the legal ambiguity that prevails regarding the protection of the rights of forest communities in the member states of COMIFAC and regarding the resolution of land disputes, the implementation of national REDD strategies should assist these COMIFAC countries in the process of reforming forest laws, clarifying land tenure, and strengthening stability.

-- 13 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 14 Global Objective. The overall objective of the project is summarized in two main axes: the reduction of deforestation and degradation on one hand and the reduction of poverty in the Congo Basin on the other. To achieve this overall objective, it is necessary to: – Ensure that the rights of local populations in the Congo Basin are guaranteed within the framework of a climate forest system. – Ensure that REDD decisions affecting the countries of the Congo Basin benefit forest communities and lead to improved forest governance and sustainable use of the forest. Duration and start and end dates of the project: January 21, 2010, to January 21, 2013, for a duration of 36 months. BOFCOM Partners: Brainforest (Gabon) – OCDH (Republic of Congo) – FERN (Belgium/Great Britain) – CED (Cameroon) – OCEAN (DRC) – MEFP (CAR).

-- 14 of 52 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 15 Table of progress of activities of the Gabon Component as of December 31, 2012 Nature and description of results. Indicators of Planned Activities Results up to December 2012 1. Eight (8) NGOs from COMIFAC effectively participate in national and international discussions Number of national NGOs have a good understanding and effectively participate in REDD debates at the national and international level Target: Year 1: 5; Year 2: 8; Year 3: 12 Organization of working sessions between various NGOs of Gabonese civil society through the "Environment Gabon" platform to raise awareness about the REDD process by providing information on various themes. The Environment Gabon platform initially recommended working specifically on REDD, but the evolution of discussions at the national level leads us to consider more broadly the discussions on climate change as a process on which our efforts should be focused. Participation of the Program Coordinator of Brainforest, Project Manager of BOFCOM, as a resource person and trainer at the awareness seminar on the

REDD process on March 19, 2011, organized by the Network of Youth for Central African Forests (REJEfAC) in Gabon with the participation of about twenty people representing CSOs, including 5 from the Environment Gabon Platform. Organization of a training workshop on Advocacy for CSOs of the Environment Gabon Platform with the integration of modules on carbon markets and ecosystem credits (About thirty participants) from November 27 to 29, 2012. 2. National coalitions of NGOs in 3 COMIFAC countries participate in the development/design and implementation of national REDD strategies Number of operational coalitions Indicators: Year 1, 2; Year 2, 3; Year 3: 5 (optional) Effective participation of coalitions at the national and international level in the REDD debate Brainforest is responsible for coordinating the NGO platform “Environment Gabon,” which was to serve as a framework for consultation in the REDD process in case this process was initiated in Gabon. However, it is noted that the government (or the presidency??) is leaning much more towards a mechanism that would include REDD as a component of this national mechanism (see analyses after the table). Brainforest is a member of a sub-regional coalition grouping the 5 countries of the BOFCOM project.

-- 15 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 16 Nature and description of results. Indicators of Planned Activities Results up to December 2012 3. Strong and clear networks in the Congo Basin region of NGOs and CSOs share a common agenda regarding the improvement of forest governance and community rights Annual meetings to discuss joint strategies Indicator 1 per year Participation in regional REDD-ACRN workshops (2010, 2011, 2012 in Douala) and in Brussels (October 2012) Participation in the Durban Summit (COP17) with the Accra Caucus. The position paper published by Brainforest before COP17 did not receive any response from the authorities. However, in Durban, the inconsistencies noted between the various technical administrations involved in this position paper regarding the management of the Climate Plan file were visible in Durban. After Durban, the documentation and documents developed by the Accra Caucus were made available to members of the Environment Gabon Platform. Updated. Member of the Congo Caucus. Establishment in May 2012 of a Network “The Club of Green Journalists; CJV” in partnership with UICN-CARPE in Gabon, a network initially grouping about ten media outlets (print, online, and television). To date, 11 articles have been published by journalist members of the CJV on the activities of the Platform (attached files), and there have also been some mentions in television news. Production of a song (attached in annexes) and a video clip (in the process of editing) on raising awareness against agro-industrial plantations and particularly land grabbing by the Olam group. And, in support of communities potentially impacted by the Olam project in the Woleu-Ntem province, Brainforest coordinated the signing of a petition with volunteers who circulated with lists in Libreville and in Woleu-Ntem, and nearly 1,000 signatures were recorded for the awareness campaign against agro-industrial plantations and respect for community rights and better governance in land tenure management. 4. REDD Schemes (projects) in COMIFAC countries are developed with effective participation of local stakeholders including local communities NGOs have a seat at the COMIFAC table in the different countries where REDD is discussed Indicators: Year 1: 2; Year 2: 4; Year 3: 5 NGOs Monitoring of the climate plan development process and discussions on the involvement of Gabonese CSOs in the process Conducting a study on the impact of palm oil and rubber plantations on local populations (Report available), in partnership with WRM and FERN. Presentation of the study to the platform (workshop November 2012)

-- 16 of 52 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 17 Nature and description of results. Indicators of Planned Activities Results until December 2012 5. An effective mechanism for monitoring financial transfers at the central and local levels to allow stakeholders to observe/

supervise what is happening with REDD funds A transparent benefit-sharing mechanism exists Indicators: proposal submitted for comments year 2 not applicable in Gabon as the start of the REDD process is not yet effective 6. National REDD plans mention the importance of recognizing the rights of forest peoples National REDD plans refer to texts regarding the rights of forest peoples The rights of forest communities are not recognized in Gabon. Participation in the development of advocacy for land rights at the community level and with the Government: Launch of the Campaign Gabon My Land My Right with about twenty NGOs (specify activities, locations, tools, etc...) Observations and Analyses on Results 1. Eight (8) NGOs from COMIFAC actively participate in the national and international discussions Starting from the observation that discussions on climate change in general, and specifically the REDD process, are very technical and complex, there is an evident need for more information/capacity building for a better understanding by civil society organizations of the Platform. However, for any capacity-building program to exist, there must be reliable information on the content of developed policies but especially the actual involvement (information/participation) of the different stakeholders. Faced with this situation of lack of official information on the progress of discussions or the development of policies, we deemed it necessary to start preparing the civil society organizations of the Environmental Platform with information and working sessions for feedback. We organized some informal quarterly working sessions that mainly focused, for the first session on March 10, 2012, on Brainforest's position paper on the Climate Council before COP17 and on the feedback from our participation in this COP17. The other working sessions were also feedback sessions from our ACRN meetings in Douala and Brussels. These sessions gathered an average of fifteen people from about ten NGOs. Consequently, we also used mailing to share information with the rest of the other members of the Environmental Platform Gabon.

 In general, it is observed that civil society organizations are willing to engage in this process on discussions about climate change, but the lack of "official" information and especially the clarification of Gabon's position on these issues does not allow these organizations to better position themselves, apart from collecting/sharing general information regarding these themes. Indeed, Gabon's official position on the process is not very clear regarding specifically the REDD process, and the discussions on climate change in general. "Unofficial" information gleaned from some resource persons within certain concerned technical administrations, like other mechanisms (CDM...), suggests that the REDD process would only be a component to integrate into the National Climate Plan (PCN) although at present, no interested stakeholder has official information on the finalization or availability of this PCN (see Brainforest's position paper: observations still relevant!). It seems that Gabon is leaning much more towards a process favorable to carbon markets and ecosystem credits. And, these orientations would be detailed in the PCN (what about its availability?) and in the Sustainable Development Law that is being promulgated. However, these texts suffer from the opacity in which they were (or are) developed. Indeed, apart from international consulting firms (ONFi and CITEPA for the PCN) and some national administrations/institutions (Climate Council for the PCN, Directorate of Environment for the Sustainable Development Law), there has really been no effective national consultation process with interested stakeholders. There are therefore several concerns regarding the contents of these texts and the impact they could ultimately have on the governance of natural resources in Gabon. 2. National coalitions of NGOs in 3 COMIFAC countries participate in the development/design and implementation of national REDD strategies The Environmental Platform Gabon is already very active in the APV/FLEGT process. However, this dynamism is not yet observed in the context of discussions around climate change, and specifically on REDD as no national strategy has yet been developed.

-- 18 of 52 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 19 3. Strong and clear networks in the Congo Basin region of NGOs and CSOs share a common agenda regarding the improvement of forest governance and community rights The CjV aims for better media coverage of the activities of CSOs and dissemination of environmental information. Even if the dynamism of CjV members still needs to be strengthened, it is noted that they express a clear need for capacity building on various themes related to the positioning and activities of CSOs. We are therefore reflecting with IUCN-CARPE on strategies to be implemented for the sustainability of this CjV. With the issue of land and land grabbing projects, especially with agro-industrial plantations that are gaining ground in Gabon, there is a certain dynamism among Gabonese CSOs regarding these issues. Thus, the launch of the GabonMyLandMyRight Campaign (GMTMD, www.gabonmaterre.org) for better social justice in the context of improving governance and community rights has taken place. 4. REDD Schemes (projects) in COMIFAC countries are being developed with effective participation of local stakeholders including local communities The National Climate Plan, of which REDD "should" be one of the components, is not yet finalized as to date, it has not yet been published or nationally validated, and therefore not available for the different stakeholders. In its elaboration, apart from a few members of the Climate Council, ONFi, and CITEPA, there has been no participation/consultation of other stakeholders and even less of local communities. As a result, there are still no officially recognized national REDD projects apart from the sub-regional REDD project of COMIFAC. 5. An effective mechanism for monitoring financial transfers from the central and local levels to allow stakeholders to observe/ supervise what is happening with REDD funds There is a need to better understand the different mechanisms that are (or will be) part of the Climate Plan (Document not yet available!) but the problem

-- 19 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 20 lies in the total opacity in which this Plan is developed. From the start, at the launch of its development, the Climate Council positioned itself as the only body authorized to speak about REDD and climate change in Gabon, which led to frustration among the concerned technical ministries. Subsequently, dissensions arose within this Climate Council itself (see Brainforest's position paper attached), the Climate Plan file was confiscated by some advisors to the Gabonese presidency with the technical support of ONFi and CITEPA. Thus to date, no other stakeholder can claim to have an idea of the mechanisms that will be developed for monitoring financial transfers. 6. National REDD plans mention the importance of recognizing the rights of forest peoples No existence of a national REDD plan, which should be one of the components of the National Climate Plan, is not yet effective. © Ph OTO : STE fAnO AP uzz O

-- 20 of 52 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 21 II. THE PROJECT "IMPLEMENTATION OF FLEGT: PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE FOREST SECTOR" The project is funded by the British Department for International Development (DFID, UK) and is implemented in partnership with the international NGO FERN Project Summary This three-year program we propose focuses on three key areas of work: – o ensure the proper implementation of existing APVs in Central and West Africa and support the negotiation of new APVs in Central Africa and Southeast Asia; – o apply the lessons learned from FLEGT to other processes (notably to REDD) and to other raw materials, such as palm oil and rubber; – o ensure the proper implementation of the "demand-driven measures" of the FLEGT Action Plan at the EU level and member states (MS), and notably EU and MS procurement policies, the European Timber Regulation, the European project on forest footprint transparency, and the European financial regulation

currently being developed. Context and Logic The logic of this proposal is based on four key points: 1. the fact that measures aimed at limiting the damage caused to forests and communities by illegal logging have generally failed, while the FLEGT process can succeed; 2. the fact that resolving the problem of illegal logging would generate large sums of money (greater than what a forest carbon market could yield) and that this is a key element of an effective REDD program; 3. the fact that it is important to look beyond the forest sector to halt deforestation and to consider land use planning at the national level; 4. the fact that measures aimed at preserving forests will be in vain if the notion of demand is not taken into account in the equation.

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 22 Objective The objective of the project is to strengthen community land rights and improve forest management by enhancing forest governance – through legal, institutional, and policy reforms. The achievement of this objective is underpinned by three (3) indicators: – Indicator 1: Area under community ownership or access and use rights. – Indicator 2: Quality of forest management. – Indicator 3: governance indicators. Results R1: effective implementation of the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) that improve forest governance and recognize the rights of forest peoples. Indicator 1.1: Effective consultation and implementation process for VPAs, involving active CSO actors and indigenous peoples/local community organizations. Activities: 1) Holding a consultation meeting of the platform on April 21, 2012, on the priorities of civil society regarding the legality grid and the VPA in general. This meeting saw the participation of 21 CSOs out of the 32 that make up the Gabonese civil society FLEGT network. The aim of this work was to take stock of the progress of negotiations regarding the signing of the VPA between Gabon and the European Union. At the end of the discussions, the following points were adopted: ON THE ROADMAP The platform of Civil Society Organizations wished for a re-discussion of the roadmap noting that it is subject to significant delays in the scheduling of activities. The interest being to allow participants to better prepare and follow the various debates. ON THE LEGALITY GRID

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 23 The Platform of Civil Society Organizations proposed to provide concrete elements in the following principles: Principle 3 related to environmental legislation. Noting the absence of a secure waste treatment system, the Platform requested that the issue of heavy waste treatment be discussed and subject to concrete decisions. Principle 4 related to the promotion of employment for national workers The Platform of Civil Society Organizations will request the promulgation, implementation, and inclusion in the VPA of the regulatory text related to occupational safety and health, as well as provisions related to working conditions as provided in the Labor Code. Civil society will also wish for the regulatory provisions related to the preference for local labor, with equal competence, in the recruitment field, to be effectively applied. Finally, it will wish for compliance with the recruitment regulations as provided by the Gabonese Labor Code. Principle 9 related to the rights of communities The Platform of Civil Society Organizations recognized the importance of delineating rural forest land and its implementation. However, in order to advance negotiations, it will recommend that a support mechanism for communities be integrated into the VPA, to assist communities in producing participatory maps of their territories, allowing for the limitation of logging concession areas outside the communities' rights zones. Some local populations live in the forest. They derive their food, their medicine, their beliefs, and their culture from it. Their history is inscribed there. It is vital to respect their rights and to secure their daily lives as nomads in the area they have occupied for centuries. Civil society reiterated its desire to support the reflection on the implementation of a sustainable legal and institutional framework for community forests. In order to enrich the reflection, the Platform of Civil Society

Organizations will propose to develop in June a procedural manual and a model of contractual clauses addressed to other stakeholders, in order to complement provision 251 of the Forest Code. Following its broad consultation, the Platform of Civil Society Organizations recalls the importance of integrating into the body of the VPA, an annex on information to be made public and one on legislative texts to be adopted. Finally, the Platform of Civil Society Organizations wishes for an independent forest observatory to be integrated into the negotiation process. The independent forest observatory constitutes a tool for improving the governance of forest resources. This tool will be a partner and a complementary entity to the State, in fulfilling its missions. Following the dissemination of this position paper, the government's reaction was not long in coming. It considered that CSOs have every legitimacy to demand a revision of the roadmap, as well as the right to propose improvements, but it is not their responsibility to decide on the next steps. The proposals remain to be studied and amended. It should be noted, however, that since the publication of the civil society position paper, negotiations have been blocked and no new information has since clarified the reasons for the blockage, nor the potential date for resuming discussions. 2) Regarding the procedural manual for developing terms of reference, exchanges were initiated as early as May 2012 between Brainforest representing the FLEGT platform of Gabonese CSOs, and the NGO ClientEarth in order to establish a partnership for legal assistance in the formulation by civil society of this contractual document that will frame the relations between logging operators and rural communities in the logging areas. It should be noted that the procedural manual is currently addressed to the stakeholders of the VPA negotiations, and once adopted, it will be directed to all actors in the forestry sector (Rural populations, private

operators, Local Administrations, Forest Administration, judicial authorities, development partners, FLEGT licensing authorities, etc).

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 25 At the moment, no reaction has been recorded from the government on this subject. Likewise, it is difficult to speak of a blockage at the moment as the partners (Brainforest and ClientEarth) continue to work to finalize the document, after the last presentation session of the Draft to the CSOs during the workshop organized in Libreville on November 27, 28, and 29, 2012. Indicator 1.2: Discussions on land ownership at the national level Discussions on land at the national level have undergone several articulations. Each aimed at feeding the reflection during the meetings organized in Libreville from July 11 to 13, 2012. The different stages that framed these reflections were: – the study on land conducted by an international consultant (Liz Alden Willy) from November to December 2011, at the request of FERN and ClientEarth; – the workshop on land that was to present the results of the study: state of play of the land issue in Gabon – the study on the impact of agro-industries on rural land rights. Here, the objective was to see from a concrete case how the issue of land security through large-scale land grabbing processes can weaken poor and disadvantaged rural communities in the country. For all these activities, the target audience was certainly the CSOs of the FLEGT network, but also all the Administrations concerned with land issues. The participation of the concerned parties in each of the activities was satisfactory. Indeed, if for the national workshop on land the attendance lists showed 60 guests, the studies themselves required the consultants to survey a wide sample of informants. In this regard, the study of November and December 2011 allowed visits to rural communities in three provinces of Gabon. A total of 150 people, men, women, and youth combined. The study on the impact of agro-industries took place in the same localities and had the same sociological basis. The outcome of all these activities has led to the establishment of a new dynamic driven by Gabonese CSOs, alongside FLEGT discussions. This is the initiative "Gabon my land my right".

-- 25 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 26 Activities: – Discussions on land ownership at the national level. – Case study produced on the current status of land rights – National workshop on land – Preparation of Terms of Reference for the feasibility study of community forests in Gabon. Among the activities initially identified above, the feasibility study of community forests did not take place. The reason was simply related to the fact that there are already other earlier initiatives working on this issue. This includes the Ministry of Water and Forests in the context of the ITTO support project for the promotion of community forests in Gabon, and the "DACEFI" project of WWF-Gabon. These two initiatives have respectively 6 years of experience on the issue (DACEFI) and 2 years (ITTO Project of the Ministry of Water and Forests). R2: A well-informed network of CSOs working on FLEGT and community rights at the global level Indicator 2.1: Number of quality documents and position statements produced by members of the FLEGT platform Activity: – Produce documents and make statements to clearly convey our position in FLEGT discussions. The rationale for the position paper is mentioned in result 1. R3: Contribute to understanding the potential of VPA processes in improving forest governance and natural resource management Indicator 3.1: governance indicators. Activities: – Number of quality exchanges and communications between members and use of the loggingoff website (nr individual consultations). Measure to which information (on the impact of long-term leases for agricultural production or speculation on community rights to land) is produced with and by local partners (related to funding from CBFF and WRM, study Franck Ndjimbi (to be finalized January 2013). The website has been redesigned to ensure better visibility of the project and its activities. The new version of the site emphasizes the visibility of the various publications (reports and articles) related to it. It also focuses on archiving; and in this regard, a search engine based on keywords and on the donor(s) will be set up. Deadline end of January for delivery. © PH OTO : BRAI nf OREST

-- 27 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 28 III. THE PROJECT "ASSIMILATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE FLEGT ACTION PLAN BY GABONESE CIVIL SOCIETY, FOR QUALITATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VPA" Initiated in 2011 for a duration of 2 years, funded by the Delegation of the European Union, the project aims to promote the assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by actors of Gabonese civil society. The goal of this approach is to prepare and strengthen the participation of CSOs in the activities of negotiation and then, implementation of the VPA. The initial partners in the project are Brainforest (Project Holder), AGNU, Nyanga Tour, Alsem, FERN, and WellGrounded. Context The action aims to support the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) FLEGT between Gabon and the EU. To this end, it seeks to work towards strengthening the capacities of civil society so that it can effectively engage in the negotiations of the VPA on the one hand, and on the other hand to prepare for the implementation of the VPA through the strengthening of the legality verification system (SVL), via the monitoring of forests. Objectives The overall objective of the project is to establish a sustained understanding of the elements of the FLEGT action plan among civil society, and a better analytical capacity for improved participation in the negotiations of the VPA. Specifically, it aims for Gabonese civil society organizations to: – Demonstrate a better understanding of the FLEGT mechanism – Play an active role in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA throughout the country. Activities Carried Out The activities were planned around three axes, namely: – Strengthening the capacities of CSOs; – Participation in negotiations; – Communication.

-- 28 of 52 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED 29 Summary of the Action The

activities described in this report were planned for the period from November 2011 (date of signing) to December 2012. This report thus provides an overview of the level of implementation. Activities and Results Axis 1: Strengthening the capacities of CSOs in the FLEGT platform to enable them to understand and analyze certain key themes of the FLEGT process and the contents of forest legislation related to these themes. Training component for civil society. Activity 1: Strengthening the capacities of CSOs and rural communities on the concepts of "Wood Traceability System", "Supply Chain", and "Procedures for Compliance Control of Wood". Title of activities carried out in connection with activity 1: Information and awareness workshops on the tools of the FLEGT VPA. Conferences organized: – In the Estuary: In the departments of NZOMOE and NOYA with about thirty (30) participants each. Planned over 2 days of work, the organization and execution of activities took place from March 21 to 30, 2012 in NZOMOE and from April 1 to 7 in Cocobeach, department of NOYA. – In Nyanga: The departments of MOUGOUTSI and Basse BANIO hosted the work of the two workshops organized in Nyanga. Also planned over 2 days of work for 30 participants, the organization and execution took 7 days for each workshop. Thus, from May 8 to 15, the work took place in MAYUMBA in Basse BANIO, and from 16 to 22 in TCHIBANGA in the department of MOUGOUTSI.

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 30 The topics covered were the technical concepts of FLEGT, namely: – wood traceability system, – supply chain, – and procedures for compliance control of wood. By developing activities around these concepts, the aim was both to facilitate the understanding of CSOs and rural communities in the interior of the country regarding these notions, but also due to this understanding, to stimulate positions or viewpoints from civil society on these issues in the context of FLEGT negotiations. Results of this activity – First, note the strong mobilization of associative organizations and rural communities in the interior of the country, in the regions where the missions took place. Then indicate that the project has sparked an initial awareness for a synergy of efforts between organized civil society within the FLEGT network and local authorities. Communication component. Activity 2: Design, production, and dissemination of information tools on the FLEGT. Publication of articles in the Gabonese written and online press. Appearance in television media to address issues related to FLEGT. Regular updates of information related to project activities on the Brainforest website. Topics covered by the brochures. – FLEGT and its themes; – The importance of this process: stakes and perspectives; – The issue of governance in the forestry sector. Results of this activity A wide audience of civil society actors and administration has been informed of the existence of the FLEGT process, its objectives, and especially the ongoing negotiations between Gabon and the EU with a view to signing a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED 31 4 brochures covering: – What FLEGT is; – The development of laws through FLEGT; – The EU's trade policy through FLEGT; – Why it is necessary to develop a partnership with producing countries... – ...have been produced. In total, 250 copies of each thematic brochure have been printed and distributed in the regions that hosted seminars in the interior of the country. Copies of these brochures will be annexed to this partial report. Axis 2: Enable CSO members of the FLEGT plattform to participate effectively in the negotiation process of the FLEGT VPA and more generally in the implementation of the future agreement between Gabon and the EU. Activities. 1- Workshop on developing a general advocacy strategy related to the key themes on which civil society wishes to focus its attention. 2- Encourage the elaboration of positions peculiar o civil society specifically on the themes: traceability, supply chain, and procedures for the legality control of wood. Results of this activity – Publication of a position paper from civil society in March 2012, calling for the urgency for the

government to renegotiate the roadmap of the VPA/FLEGT with the EU and integration of a number of important points for CSOs, which were discussed within the Technical Coordination Committee (CTC). – Organization of a workshop on the general advocacy strategy of CSOs in November, related to their key themes.

-- 31 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 32 IV. THE PROJECT "CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE RESPECT AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF FOREST COMMUNITIES" Project Summary In partnership with the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) funded by DFID, the objective of the project is to strengthen non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local Gabonese organizations on the one hand in their capacities to master legal issues concerning forest and environmental management and the rights of forest communities, and on the other hand, to support local populations in their capacities to dialogue with public and private actors operating in their environment, to promote development and fight against poverty. The project will facilitate the establishment of intra and inter-community exchange and reflection processes and dialogue between the involved communities, the local and central authorities, and economic operators (logging companies, safari companies, conservation projects, mining companies, etc.) operating in their environment to address specific issues raised by the populations related to the use and management of forest resources on which they depend closely for their development. In this sense, the project will strengthen community participation in policies, strategies, and projects that concern their living environment. Summary of Results 1. Initial training of 9 trainee lawyers (following a call for applications) and 3 free auditors belonging to the partner organization Conservation Justice; 2. The search for locals to host the lawyers in the field and their installation in their various areas of activity; 3. Coordination of field teams through support in understanding the logical framework of the project and the development of their quarterly activity plans; 4. The start of mapping of actors and updating initial studies by field teams; 5. Preparation of training modules for Paralegals by lawyers. In addition to preparing the workshop that led to the finalization of various presentations and contracts for consultants, the project team facilitated the holding of

-- 32 of 52 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 33 The initial training workshop for trainee lawyers. Due to the inability to mobilize all participants during the first phase of this workshop, a wise choice was made to organize a second phase to cover all themes. Contrary to the content of the logical framework and considering local realities, we were able to recruit nine (9) lawyers instead of ten (10) at the end of the recruitment process. However, it is important to mention that 3 other free auditor lawyers belonging to a partner organization called Conservation Justice benefited from this training. This workshop aimed to equip the trainee lawyers with multidisciplinary skills that would enable them to better address all the issues they would face in the normal exercise of their competencies alongside local actors. Thus, the aforementioned workshop was purely in this logic and had the particularity that the trainers addressed not only themes related to international and national law regarding land and natural resource management, sociology, and anthropology but also themes related to the methodology of work in rural areas and certain ongoing processes in natural resource management. At the end of the workshop, four (4) lawyers were selected as recommended by the logical framework. Unfortunately, following the withdrawal of one of the trainee lawyers for personal reasons, the implementation of the project continued with the placement of the remaining lawyers in their assigned areas during July 2012. This placement mission also allowed for visits to various partners and local communities to introduce the lawyers and to revisit the major challenges to be addressed within the framework of this project. This mission to place the lawyers was

preceded by a housing search mission that allowed for finding housing in the three project areas that would also serve as offices for the lawyers. Following the placement mission, it was expected that the local teams would send us their quarterly activity plans. However, despite the numerous orientations given by phone by the project coordination, the documents submitted by the lawyers remained sufficiently vague. This is why we deemed it necessary to conduct a visit to their various work areas to support them on this aspect but also for a better understanding of the project context and the logical framework that was developed for this first year. It should be noted that the lawyers were unanimously satisfied with the holding of these working sessions; for them, the challenges to be met as well as the activities to be carried out to achieve this are now clear. It is on this basis that the lawyers executed their first field activities. The first activities carried out by the local teams in their respective areas focused on mapping the actors involved in the management of natural resources in their various areas. The goal was to list each actor, identify their role in the management of natural resources in the area, and subsequently define collaboration pathways with them. Subsequently, it was a matter of updating the list of villages with which we work in these different localities. It is clear that the project has integrated 24 new villages into the previously existing ones. These villages are distributed as follows: – In the Ogooué Ivindo area: Mbolo 3, Epassendje 1 and 2, Iyoko, and Ngota; – In the Minvoul area, many villages have been added to the previous list of villages studied, namely: Château, Mebem 1, Mebem 2, Ngone, Evela, Saint Benoît, Elarmintang 1, NfefengLam, Mintebe, Nkok-Kom, Awa'a, Mimbang, Akon-ntang, Bissono, Messang-menang. As a result of these additions, the project is currently working with a total of 54 villages. As part of the field visits, a data collection questionnaire was developed with the lawyers. This questionnaire currently serves as a working basis in the villages for refining the initial study. Regarding this last activity, the teams are at the stage of

administering the questionnaire in the villages. The trainee lawyers have also started preparing training modules for their respective para-legals. Only the lawyer from Makokou has begun training her para-legal due to the imminent establishment of the Local Management Consultative Committees (CCGL) of the Ivindo Park, of which her community is a neighbor. The modules covered are those related to wildlife regulation, customary rights, and national parks. It should be noted that we attended the first preparatory meeting for the establishment of this CCGL of the Ivindo Park.

 Beneficiaries Number of communities studied Estimated population affected by the project Indigenous population affected Makokou 19 3272 0 Minvoul 19 808 289 Fougamou 16 1000 302 Total 54 5080 591 To date, there are 54 communities or villages, approximately a total population of 5080 people who are directly affected by the project. The indigenous population represents about 12% of the total population benefiting from the project. The distribution of communities by area is mentioned in the table above. Furthermore, 4 para-legals work alongside the lawyers and already benefit from their knowledge and experience on land and environmental law issues. It is important to note that the team of 4 para-legals includes 2 indigenous people (one Babongo and one Mintsogo). Gender aspects have also been taken into account since one of the members of the para-legal team is a woman.

 V. THE PROJECT "STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF MEMBERS OF GABONESE CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN MONITORING AND COLLECTING INFORMATION ON FOREST OFFENSES, FOR IMPROVING GOVERNANCE" Context Since September 2010, the Gabonese government has begun negotiations with the European Union with a view to signing a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). The VPA aims, on the one hand, to adopt a

regulatory mechanism capable of ensuring forest exploitation that respects regulatory texts in Gabon, and on the other hand, to improve trade relations with the European Union by opening markets to timber products from legal sources. The desired regulatory mechanism includes several elements, among which are the institutionalization and operationalization of an independent Forest Observatory. Independent observation contributes to strengthening forest governance and improving practices. By monitoring activities, it allows for verifying the adequacy of practices with regulatory provisions in forest operations. In this way, it brings to light deficiencies such as exceeding permit limits, violations of exploitable diameter, illegal and unlicensed logging, lack of governance... and even the exclusion of communities from benefiting from the resource. To ensure the effectiveness of such an instrument, the mobilization of stakeholders with real technical capacities is necessary. However, the observation of the lack of knowledge of this tool by the various stakeholders raises concerns about their ability to align and meet its practical expectations for close collaboration in seeking effective application of forestry laws. Thus, the issue of strengthening the capacities of stakeholders, particularly civil society, arises. It is in this perspective that the FLEGT platform of Gabonese Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) called "Environment Gabon" has benefited, for the second consecutive time, from a grant from the FAO ACP-FLEGT Program. This grant was facilitated by the NGO Brainforest.

-- 36 of 52 --

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AND MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED 37 Objectives The initial objective was to inform and raise awareness among platform members and rural communities about the concept of Independent Forest Observation (IFO). The subsequent objective was to support capacity-building activities for civil society and local communities to carry out monitoring missions and collect information on forest offenses. Results The results obtained at the end of this project are as follows: – CSOs and rural communities are made aware of the concept of IFO through 1 workshop and 4 information missions covering the history, role, and forms of this tool; – The capacities of the various actors (CSOs and rural communities) have been strengthened through the organization of a workshop and 4 technical training sessions covering: Types of physical offenses; Methodology for data collection; Planning, preparation, and execution of an IFO mission; Report writing; Introduction to the use of GPS; Introduction to the use of the mapping software Mapsource. It should also be noted that thanks to the project, particularly following the training sessions, partnerships are being established between CSOs and local authorities in certain regions to work in synergy to combat illegal logging. © PHOTO: BRAINFOREST

-- 37 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 38 VI. THE PROJECT "PROFORMAL: POLICY AND REGULATORY OPTIONS TO RECOGNIZE AND BETTER INTEGRATE THE NATIONAL TIMBER SECTOR IN TROPICAL COUNTRIES" The PRO-FORMAL project on artisanal timber exploitation in Gabon began in November 2010 and ended in June 2012. The need to study this domestic timber sector stemmed primarily from the lack of research conducted so far in this sector, resulting in a glaring lack of data at the national level. Previous studies conducted by the administration in charge of Water and Forests (Mabiala 2004/Diwassa 2007) downstream of this sector estimated the number of timber deposits at 305, which would provide employment for more than 700 people in the Estuaire province alone. In addition to these studies, CIFOR, in collaboration with IRET and Brainforest, initiated a project titled "ILLEGAL LOGGING" in this same Estuaire province between 2008 and 2009. The analysis of data from field surveys upstream and downstream of the sector during this project revealed the existence of a significant informal artisanal sector that supplies local and national markets. The second reason for this project is Gabon's commitment to the

European Union in the FLEGT-APV process, which requires, in the short or medium term, ensuring the traceability and legality of all products derived from forestry exploitation aimed at export or domestic consumption. Finally, the presidential decision of November 2009 requires forestry companies established in Gabon to process 100% of their production on-site. The overall objective of the ProFormal project is to better characterize the national domestic timber sector in order to determine its advantages and disadvantages, to produce relevant policy options that allow for better regulation and integration of the domestic sector into the formal economy, ensure the livelihoods of the populations that depend on it, and finally, promote the adoption of better forest management practices. The analysis of collected data will promote legality, livelihood security, and improved management of the domestic timber sector in tropical countries, particularly in countries negotiating or in the process of implementing forest regulations, governance, and voluntary partnership agreements (FLEGT APV). For the implementation of this project in Gabon, CIFOR (technical partner and funder) collaborated with the Ministry in charge of Water and Forests, the Institute of Tropical Ecology Research (IRET), and the NGO Brainforest. Each partner was responsible for collecting empirical data in the field. For Brainforest, the work requested by CIFOR mainly consisted of determining the impact of artisanal timber exploitation in rural areas through semi-structured surveys with sawyers and local authorities in the visited areas. A field mission lasting fifteen (15) days was organized monthly during the project duration to diagnose artisanal sawing at the scale of the cantons and departments of the surveyed provinces. As indicated in the terms of reference of the project, twelve (12) missions were carried out, six (6) in Estuaire and six (6) in various other provinces of the country (Woleu-Ntem, Ngounié, Moyen-Ogooué, Nyanga, Ogooué-Lolo, and Ogooué-Ivindo). The results presented in this summary do not take into account the analyses of the data submitted to CIFOR but are based on direct observations made in the field. The main result to be achieved for the activities assigned to Brainforest was to characterize artisanal sawing at the scale of the cantons of the surveyed provinces. This included cataloging the various sawyers operating at the scale of the surveyed cantons; identifying areas of intense "informal" artisanal timber exploitation; informing local authorities about the project and gathering their views on this activity. Discussions with agents from the Water and Forests Administration interviewed in the different surveyed provinces indicate that artisanal sawing production has been

increasing in recent years. Multiple hypotheses can explain this growth: the ban on exporting logs has led to job compression in the timber sector, or the increase in demand for artisanal sawing caused by multiple construction sites... Regarding the main areas of intense artisanal exploitation activity, the study showed that sawyers exploit timber located about 3 km from the road, in plantations (old or new) that they purchase from the owners of said plantations. Most of the trees are located outside the permanent domain of the State. However, it can happen that some sawyers exploit abandoned timber in an old timber yard. At the rural level, artisanal production and transformation of timber allow local populations to exercise property rights over forest resources and manage them for their benefit.

STUDIES CONDUCTED 41 STUDIES CONDUCTED Beyond the implemented projects, some specific studies have been carried out. I. STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PALM OIL AND RUBBER PLANTATIONS ON THE POPULATIONS OF GABON This study was part of the regional project: "Participation of the communities of the Congo Basin in reducing deforestation and forest degradation," and was conducted by Brainforest, with technical support from FERN and the World Rainforest Movement (WRM). Financial support was provided by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). At the end of a mission related to the analysis of the impact of agro-industrial palm oil and rubber plantations

on the populations of Gabon, this study raises the alarm about the threats to rural populations subjected to industrial palm oil and rubber plantations. The objective of this study is divided into five parts focused on the baseline state of the socioeconomic environment; the implications of the legal framework; the ongoing process; the issue of changing dynamics in the lifestyle of the populations. Recommendations that can be translated into an operational plan aimed at contributing to the safeguarding of the lifestyle of rural populations in a context where the development of agro-industries seems inevitable have been proposed. In most cases of this study, interviews with the affected populations focused on customary activities, sources of income, land and resource use, social structures and modes of organization, relationships with public authorities and operators, and already identified effects. The field observation shows that the processes are so recent that the impacts are difficult to detect. The fact that the population is low in Gabon means that the detected impacts are quite weak. The main immediate effects that can be detected at present are related to the fact that the populations who previously occupied these lands suddenly discover, in terms of positive law, that they are not the owners. They also discover food insecurity because it is in the forest that they feed themselves. They become aware of the need to defend their rights, and there is a kind of "legal consciousness" emerging. The protection of the lifestyle of populations in a context of developing agro-industrial rubber and palm oil plantations, which is the battle horse of national and international NGOs, involves the implementation of a set of activities that, in Gabon, faces three major facts according to the study: the absence of previously identified agricultural lands, the absence of national exploitation standards, and the high politicization of the issue. This study, which adds to the report related to the environmental impact study (EIE) conducted in accordance with the regulations in force in Gabon, should shed light on the social impacts of the agro-industrial palm oil and rubber projects of the Belgian SIAT and the Singaporean OLAM, for the benefit of Gabonese people. II. STUDY ON THE SUSTAINABILITY INDEX 2010 AND 2011 OF NGOs IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA Commissioned by Management System International based in the United States, the aim was to better understand NGOs and especially to participate in strengthening their capacities using an evaluation tool proposed by USAID, namely the calculation of the sustainability index of NGOs. It should be noted that the calculation of this sustainability index for NGOs has become an annual activity. The work consisted of gathering a panel of experts working in different fields: anthropology, civil society, politics, journalism, and administration. The identified experts previously answered a questionnaire developed by the responsible NGO, allowing them to individually calculate the index related to each indicator such as: the legal context, organizational capacities, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, infrastructure, and public image. Once this initial work was completed, a workshop bringing

together the entire panel was convened to better discuss and collectively set the general index for each indicator and thus the sustainability index of NGOs in the country. A general report by year on the different participating countries was produced, and these reports are available on the Brainforest website.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES 43 PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES Brainforest, in the context of implementing its activities, has understood that it is only through partnerships and collaborations that it can achieve its goals for better governance of natural resources and the promotion of the rights of local and indigenous populations. I. THE GABON MY LAND MY RIGHT DYNAMIC (www.gabonmaterre.org) "Gabon My Land, My Right," an initiative o support local populations Benefiting from financial and technical support from international non-governmental organizations involved in forest management or the defense of the rights of local populations.

This grouping of about twenty NGOs working in the environment aims to establish synergies and facilitate the conduct of joint actions. Very involved in defending the rights of populations, its operational mode consists of pooling human resources to allow for a more efficient conduct of activities, a more substantial fundraising, and a distribution proportional to the needs and capacities of the applicants. The transfer of skills between NGOs and for the benefit of the populations is also among its concerns. GMTMD should deploy its activities throughout the country. In the immediate term, it focuses on land issues and the dissemination of the legal and regulatory framework in the areas of Kango, Mouila, Minvoul, and Libreville. II. COALITION PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY As a very active framework for consultation and exchange, the coalition "Publish What You Pay" now appears as the secular arm of civil society organizations in their fight for good governance of public resources. While promoting the capacity building of civil society members on the above-mentioned themes, these various activities have allowed for a better understanding of the coalition and the extractive industries sector in Gabon. .

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 44 III. THE ENVIRONMENT GABON PLATFORM As a framework for consultation among Gabonese environmental NGOs, this platform primarily aims at coordinating the actions of environmental civil society organizations as well as sharing experiences among our different organizations. This year as well, Environment Gabon has remained true to its logic and its sacred principle of involving other members of the platform in activities led by one of its members. To this end, our organization has contributed to strengthening the capacities of Gabonese civil society organizations on themes such as: FLEGT, REDD, land issues and land grabbing, Geographic Information Systems, methodologies for working and collecting data from local and indigenous communities, and facilitating a multi-stakeholder meeting on natural resource management. © Ph OTO : BRAI nf OREST

CONSTRAINTS RELATED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF OUR ACTION ON THE GROUND 45 CONSTRAINTS RELATED TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF OUR ACTION ON THE GROUND Constraints with origins and causes as diverse as varied have marred the pursuit of our action, sometimes compromising our chances of achieving the objectives we set for ourselves this year. These are mainly endogenous and exogenous constraints. I. INTERNAL CONSTRAINTS Despite all the dynamism prevailing within the structure, it is undeniable that much remains to be done in terms of strengthening the capacities of the team, which is mainly composed of young professionals. This is indeed the reason why a gradual capacity-building program has been set up. Apart from this program, the structure resorts to external skills when circumstances require it. Brainforest is also faced with the thorny issue of 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 the projects implemented. This situation is thus likely to weaken us and limit the scope of our action. II. EXTERNAL CONSTRAINTS The major constraint here arises from a deep misunderstanding or misinterpretation regarding the objectives of some of our actions. Indeed, as a defender of the environment but also and above all of the rights of local and indigenous communities, it often turns out that our structure is classified as an adversary of conservation. This consideration has unfortunately led to our being sidelined when it came to establishing formal partnerships with certain Gabonese technical administrations. Despite this situation, we continue to maintain the firm belief that any conservation process, sustainable management of natural resources cannot take place without the participation of all stakeholders, but especially the main concerned parties who here are the communities. Indeed, they hold not only ancestral rights over the disputed lands but also remain greatly dependent on the forest from which they derive the majority of their food.

-- 45 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 46 Although we do not claim that our approach is a panacea, we remain convinced that it constitutes an effective tool for community participation and consequently for conflict resolution in natural resource management. © Ph OTO : DR

-- 46 of 52 --

47 SECOND PART: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

-- 47 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 48 FINANCIAL STATEMENT I. FUNDING RECEIVED IN 2011 Partner / Donor Project Title Amount of the grant (FCFA) availability for 2011 (FCFA) French Development Agency (AfD) Promotion of active and effective participation of civil society in processes related to the sustainable management of forest resources, notably FLEGT 17,020,772 17,020,772 Rainforest Foundation UK (RfUK)/DfID (March 2009- June 2011) Participatory mapping in the Congo Basin 168,918,266 47,740,229 RfUK/CBFF Case study: Promotion of land rights of forest communities in the Congo Basin 1,485,087 1,485,087 FERN Mango training on strategic financial management for NGOs in the Congo Basin (Cameroon, Gabon, CAR, DRC, Congo) 10,151,000 10,151,000 FERN/CBFF Participation of Congo Basin communities in reducing deforestation and forest degradation 28,206,151 19,678,710 FERN/EU (2009-2011) Ensuring a seat at the table: Supporting NGO coali- tions to improve forest governance using the FLEGT process... 63,245,406 25,971,306 Management System International/USAID 2011 Sustainability Index of NGOs in Sub-Saharan Africa 4,880,000 4,880,000 FAO ACP FLEGT Program (April 2011- April 2012) Strengthening the capacities of Gabonese civil society members and local communities in monitoring and collecting information on forest violations, for improved governance. 67,500,000 29,183,314 Gabon Environment Directorate Grant to Gabonese environmental NGOs 1,000,000 1,000,000 U.S. Embassy in Gabon Citizen Anti-Corruption Project 25,000,000 16,122,100 CIFOR PRO FORMAL: Policy and Regulatory Options to recognize and better integrate the domestic timber- sector in tropical countries 25,163,250 18,872,437 Total 412,569,932 192,104,954

-- 48 of 52 --

Financial Statement 49 II. FUNDING RECEIVED IN 2012 Project/Activity Projected budget Budget received Amount spent Balance Euro FCFA Euro FCFA Euro FCFA Euro FCFA SUBVENTION Delegation European Union Assimilation and dissemination of elements of the action plan FLEGT by Gabonese civil society, for its ing qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV 80,302.53 52,675,007 80,284.54 52,663,207 92,776.64 60,857,486 12,492.10 8,194,279 CBFF via FERN Participation of Congo Basin communities in reducing deforestation and forest degradation (BOFCOM) 30,000.19 9,678,834 30,000.19 19,678,834 30,000.19 19,678,834 DfID via FERN Implementation of FLEGT: Promoting good governance in the forest sector 69,891.86 45,846,055 64,643.00 42,403,028 53,513.35 35,102,458 11,129.65 7,300,570 FAO Strengthening the capacities of Gabonese civil society members and local communities in monitoring and collecting information on forest violations, for improved governance 102,903.09 67,500,000 80,021.53 52,490,686 75,645.30 49,620,064 4,376.24 2,870,622 DfID and Rainforest Fund via RfUK Capacity building for the respect and promotion of the rights of forest communities (Community lawyers) 185,976.96 121,992,886 177,698.28 116,562,428 137,132.11 89,952,770 40,566.16 26,609,658 Other grants (WRM, MSI, Conservation Justice) PRO FORMAL, Studies (MSI, WRM) and other partnerships 26,065.90 17,098,109 26,065.90 17,098,109 26,039.08 17,080,515 26.82 17,594 TOTAL 495,140.52 324,790,891 458,713.44 300,896,292 415,106.67 272,292,127 43,579.95 28,604,165

-- 49 of 52 --

Annual Report 2011 - 2012 50 III. EXPENSES BY CATEGORY IN 2012 EXPENSES FCFA % Euros Office materials and supplies, consumables 8,746,876 3.21% 13,334.53 Other purchases 4,064,926 1.49% 6,196.94 EXTERNAL SERVICES Rent and lease charges 20,030,137 7.36% 30,535.75 Travel 12,749,632 4.68% 19,436.69 Transport costs 14,560,469 5.35% 22,197.29 Other external charges (field missions...) 69,405,120 25.49% 105,807.42 Maintenance, repairs, and upkeep 7,063,017 2.59% 10,767.50 Advertising, Publication, public relations 17,923,402 6.58% 27,324.05 Telecommunication costs 5,345,308 1.96% 8,148.87 Fees 2,449,371 0.90% 3,734.04 PERSONNEL CHARGES Direct remuneration paid to staff and charges 109,953,869 40.38% 167,623.59 TOTAL 272,292,127 415,106.67

-- 50 of 52 --

Financial Statement 51

-- 51 of 52 --

www.brainforest-gabon.org BP 23749, Libreville Gabon Tel: (00241) 07 97 84 25 info@brainforest-gabon.org

-- 52 of 52 --