

PROGEPP

25 YEARS OF HISTORY
1999-2024



WHAT IS PROGEPP?

The Ecosystem Management Project for the Periphery of the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (PROGEPP) is an innovative tripartite partnership involving the Ministry of Forestry Economy (MEF), the Congolaise Industrielle de Bois (CIB), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

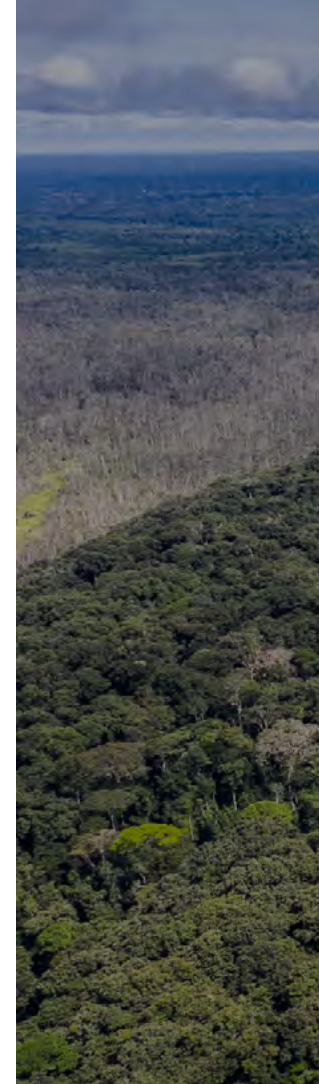
This project focuses on the protection of wildlife within the buffer zone of the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, which has been allocated to the CIB, particularly within the Kabo, Pokola, and Loundoungou-Toukoulaka Forest Management Units (FMUs).

“

PROGEPP-Kabo stands as a remarkable example of a conservation partnership. We reaffirm our commitment to preserving biodiversity and supporting sustainable initiatives in Congo. As PROGEPP-Kabo celebrates its 25th anniversary, it prepares to tackle new challenges, such as adapting to new road infrastructures to reduce poaching pressure. The project remains determined to continue collaborating with local communities and authorities to ensure a sustainable future for the region's wildlife.

ROSALIE MATONDO,
Minister of Forestry Economy

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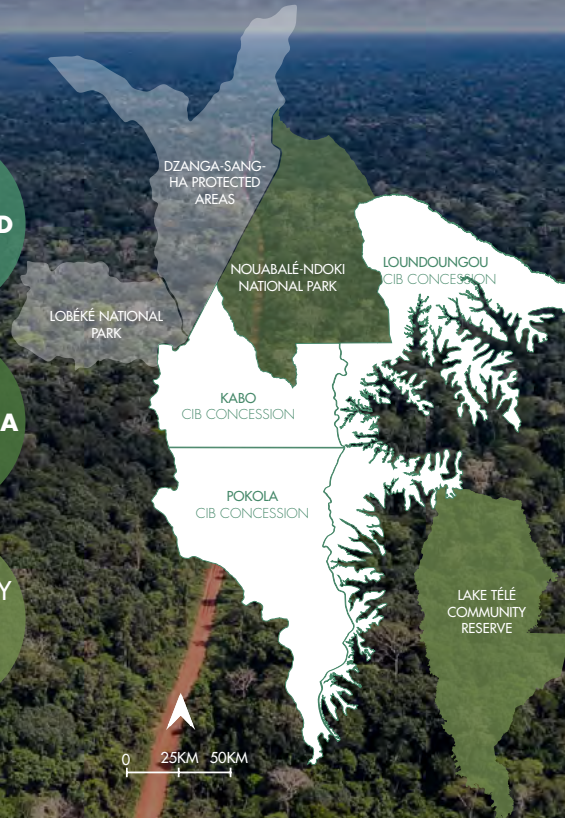
“ The conservation efforts of PROGEPP are remarkable. They have protected thousands of animals and established a sustainable management model that inspires projects across Central Africa. As a pioneer, PROGEPP’s innovative approach has inspired similar regional initiatives. ”

VINCENT, ISTACE
*Director of Corporate Social
Responsibility and Sustainability*

BORDERING
**4 PROTECTED
AREAS**

OVER
**1,300,000 HA
OF FOREST**

INHABITED BY
**24,000
GORILLAS**



“ The PROGEPP represents a successful partnership model between the public sector, a private company, and a conservation organization. Together, we are preserving the exceptional biodiversity of the Ndoki-Likouala landscape for future generations. We are strengthening conservation efforts while guiding local communities towards new livelihoods through participatory and inclusive management. ”

RICHARD MALONGA, *Country
Director Pays, WCS CONGO*



WCS

WE STAND FOR WILDLIFESM

For over 30 years, the Wildlife Conservation Society has played a major role in wildlife and wilderness conservation in Congo. WCS works closely with the government, national stakeholders, and local communities to protect Congo's rich ecosystems.

WCS Congo is committed to preserving biodiversity, promoting scientific research, and ensuring that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are the primary actors and beneficiaries of conservation efforts.

WCS Congo aspires to a future where the integrity of protected areas is combined with sustainable natural resource exploitation, ensuring the well-being of both ecosystems and populations in a healthy and prosperous environment





Based in northern Congo since 1969, Congolaise Industrielle de Bois (CIB) is a company specializing in forestry, industrial processing, and timber commercialization.

CIB, a subsidiary of Olam Agri, operates four managed forest concessions, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®). In its forest concessions, timber harvesting is selective, following reduced impact logging standards.

CIB is committed to maximizing added value at the source and supporting the local economy through job creation and ecological and social programs, thereby enhancing the socio-economic landscape and the well-being of communities.



OUR OBJECTIVES



Strengthen biodiversity protection by creating a buffer zone around the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park.



Ensure sustainable ecosystem management in forest concessions located within a globally significant landscape.



Promote sustainable natural resource management in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.



Enhance scientific understanding of regional ecosystems to guide our conservation strategies.



Raise awareness and educate all stakeholders on the importance of conservation and best practices in forest management.

OUR VISION

PROGEPP offers a holistic conservation vision, involving all regional stakeholders in sustainable and impactful actions, placing communities at the heart of an approach supported by scientific research.

We aim for wildlife protection based on optimized efforts through information, communication, and awareness systems that not only combat poaching but also anticipate and deter it.

Ambitious wildlife monitoring programs help assess the impact of our actions and guide them towards greater effectiveness. PROGEPP strengthens regional ecological connectivity, ensuring coordinated natural resource management.

OUR ACTIONS

PROGEPP is an innovative partnership model between the private sector, a government, and a non-governmental organization for wildlife protection in forest concessions.

Our vision is based on integrated and sustainable ecosystem management, aiming to protect biodiversity in a concerted and inclusive manner with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

We believe that forest ecosystem conservation and wildlife protection cannot be separated from the well-being of the communities that depend on them.

ECOLOGICAL MONITORING

Building on scientific research, a better understanding of ecosystems allows for the implementation of more effective protection strategies. Ecological monitoring is essential for providing analytical insights into human pressure and the relative abundance of biological resources, particularly wildlife.

In addition to specific research projects, a wildlife inventory is conducted every five years across the entire Ndoki-Likouala landscape, which includes the PROGEPP area, allowing for estimates of wildlife populations and a better understanding of their spatial distribution. The results of the 2016-17

wildlife inventory revealed that the populations of elephants and great apes showed little variability over the preceding 10 years.

The Pokola Forest Management Unit (UFA) notably has a significant wildlife density, with nearly 9,300 gorillas and 2,500 forest elephants, as well as a stable ungulate population.

LONG-TERM
MONITORING OF
LARGE MAMMAL
POPULATIONS

IMPACT



24,000
[5800 - 36900]
95% CI



5,000
[3000 - 8400]
95% CI



6,300
[4000 - 10300]
95% CI

The latest inventories from 2022-2023 have not yet been published but reveal the same stability observed in 2017.



When I took on the role of Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) for PROGEPP, poaching was extremely widespread. Parrot trafficking was beginning to develop, and elephants were particularly targeted.

During my tenure, we established a dedicated ecological monitoring site at Lake Djaka, deep in the forest, and also rehabilitated the Mombongo site. After a year, we observed the presence of elephant dung, indicating the return of these animals. Later, we were able to observe them directly.



JEAN ROBERT ONONONGA, Principal Technical Advisor for PROGEPP 2010-2016

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities living in the PROGEPP area are the primary actors and beneficiaries of conservation efforts.

Over 25 years, PROGEPP has created more than 165 jobs, including 93 eco-guard recruitments, providing a source of income, improved living conditions, diverse training opportunities, and enriching professional experiences for the region's communities.

Community participation in sustainable resource management has strengthened the local economy and

livelihoods. Communities have been involved in the development of the mini-fishing charter in Ouesso, hunter associations in Kabo, and multiple consultations.

Environmental education is also a crucial tool to engage communities in the sustainable preservation of the natural resources on which they depend.

CREATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO HUNTING

CREATION OF SUSTAINABLE AND PROFITABLE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES

IMPACT



>4,000

DUAL-PURPOSE CHICKENS (MEAT AND LAYING HENS) RAISED IN THE REGION



>400

MICRO-ENTERPRISES CREATED, TRAINED, AND SUPPORTED



>40

SAVINGS GROUPS ESTABLISHED



We have always been close to nature. We had our own rules, our taboos, our sacred forests. But lifestyles have changed a lot, and today we must preserve nature differently and even more than before.

Efforts to involve local communities in the sustainable management of resources are necessary so that they feel connected to these rules. These should not be imposed rules, but their own rules, and they should be able to incorporate our ancestral culture. We commend the efforts for inclusive management and community involvement in the creation of decision-making tools.

OTSANGUET, Neighborhood Chief



ANTI-POACHING EFFORTS

FIELD SURVEILLANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Together with the government, we are implementing territory surveillance tools to enhance law enforcement against wildlife crimes, contributing to the protection of the region's natural resources. Under the supervision of a Brigade Chief, trained and equipped teams of eco-guards, composed of agents from the Ministry of Forest Economy, work to protect ecosystems.

TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED TEAMS

Our patrol teams are specially trained and regularly undergo refresher courses on various topics, from first aid to legal compliance, including communication techniques, awareness, and self-defense. In the field, we deploy two types of patrol teams: mobile patrols and fixed-post patrols. The latter plays an important role in deterring poaching.

DATA COLLECTION, INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, AND ANALYSIS

During our missions, our eco-guards collect crucial data on human activities and wildlife signs, using tools optimized for their activities. The analysis of this data, combined with the development of an intelligence network in the region, allows us to understand, anticipate, and counter wildlife product trafficking networks, making our mobile patrols even more effective.

IMPACT



“When we start the project, the challenges were numerous. We worked tirelessly to strengthen our capabilities, train our eco-guards, and refine our surveillance strategies. Today, I am proud to say that we have made significant progress. The return of many animals to their natural habitat and the marked reduction in poaching are the result of a collective effort, driven by our commitment to protecting this precious biodiversity.”

Thiburce Mangonga, Coordinator PROGEPP

OUR STORY

INNOVATIVE MODEL AND PROVEN EFFICIENCY

Since its creation in 1999, PROGEPP has pioneered its field, leading to the emergence of Anti-Poaching Surveillance Units (USLAB) in other forest concessions in northern Congo.

This innovative model has inspired the development of similar initiatives in Central Africa, Gabon, and the Central African Republic. PROGEPP has paved the way for a collaborative and innovative approach to sustainable management and biodiversity conservation in forest concessions.

PROVEN EFFECTIVENESS

A study conducted in the logging concessions of northern Republic of Congo demonstrated that the management of logging concessions can play a crucial role in the conservation of forest ecosystems. "Logging Concessions Can Extend the Conservation Estate for Central African Tropical Forests" Clark, C J et al., 2009.

The results of PROGEPP have also been documented in the study "Building Private-sector Partnerships for Conservation" Poulsen, 2009.

The conservation efforts led by PROGEPP contributed to the development of the "Best Practice Guidelines for Reducing the Impact of Commercial Logging on Great Apes in Western Equatorial Africa," Morgan and Sanz, 2007.

PROVEN TRUST

The trust between the three PROGEPP stakeholders has been renewed on several occasions through protocol revisions in 2008, 2015, and 2021, demonstrating the satisfaction of WCS, Olam Agri, and the government of the Republic of Congo with the results achieved and those yet to come.



STOP



Ministère de l'économie forestière
et du développement durable



Wildlife
Conservation
Society



Olam Agri