



Conflict-Sensitive Conservation in the Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi- Biega Landscape: Conflict analysis





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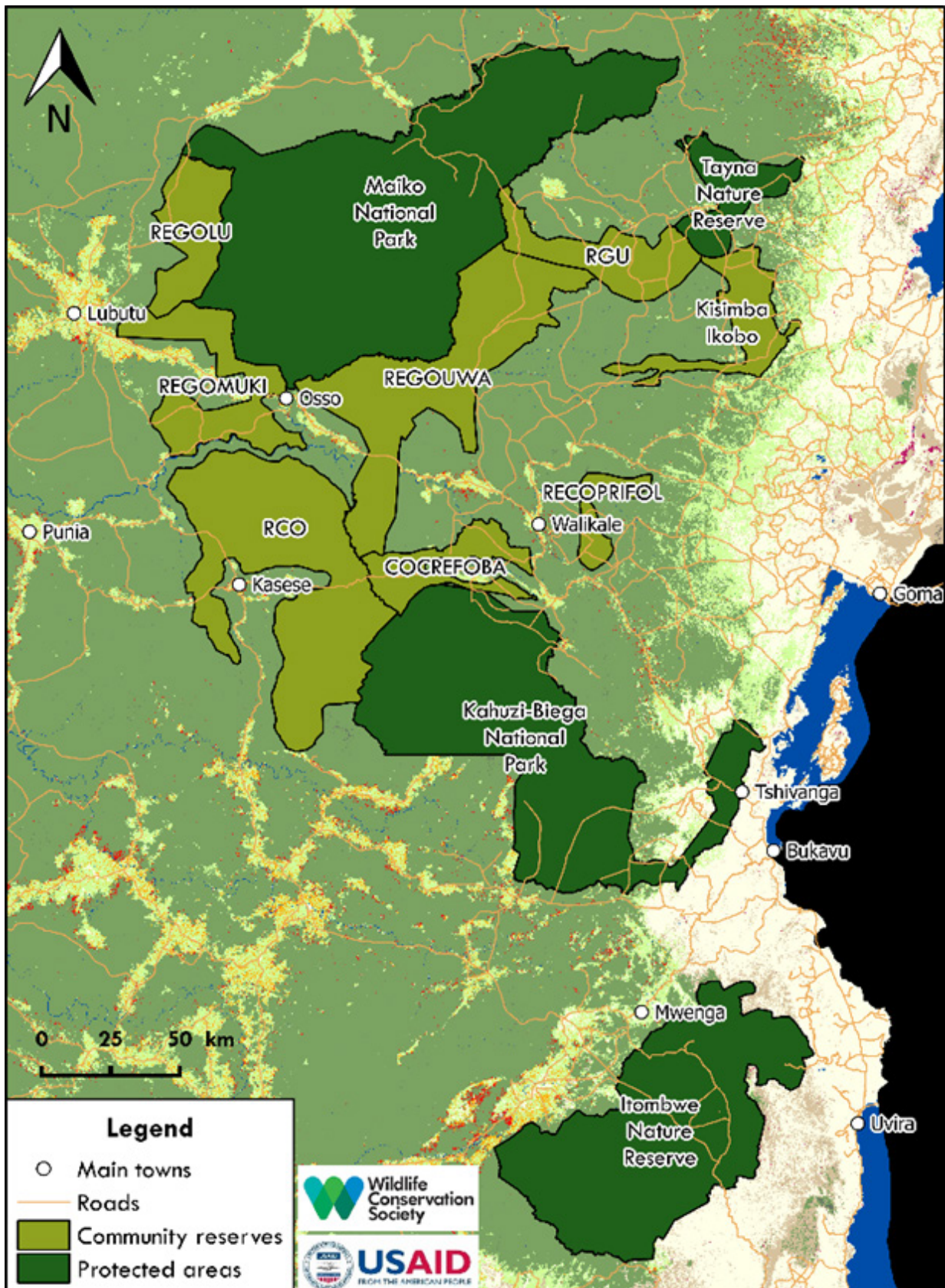


Figure 1. The MTKB landscape protected areas and community reserves



Introduction: Conflict-Sensitive Conservation in the eastern Democratic Republic Of Congo

In September 2017 the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) hosted a training workshop on conflict-sensitive conservation (CSC) in Bukavu, South Kivu province, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The workshop was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The workshop brought together key actors from three critical protected areas in the Maiko–Tayna–Kahuzi–Biega (MTKB) Landscape (Maiko National Park, Kahuzi–Biega National Park and Itombwe Nature Reserve), including staff from the national conservation authority, the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) and representatives from community forests that border these protected areas. The landscape is home to a number of critically threatened and endangered species, including forest elephants, chimpanzees and eastern lowland gorillas.

CSC is conservation programming and implementation that takes into account the causes and impacts of conflict and the actors involved in order to minimize conflict risks and maximize peace-building opportunities.¹ Conservationists participating in the workshop were trained on the principles of CSC, how to identify and analyze key conservation conflicts in each ecosystem, and how to develop appropriate response strategies. Three main conflicts² were identified and selected for further analysis and action.

Conflict is a multi-dimensional social phenomenon, indicative of social change and transformation. Depending on how conflict is diagnosed and managed, it can lead to a range of outcomes, from constructive development opportunities to violence and human suffering.

For Maiko National Park (MNP), stakeholders—including the park’s chief warden—identified uncontrolled and illegal natural resource exploitation (including mining, bushmeat hunting and charcoal harvesting) as the most pressing conflict faced by the park. Driven by a number of root causes, including the weak application of the law, a lack of awareness of the park’s borders, a lack of alternate livelihood options in the region and the continued presence of armed groups in MNP, the conflict threatens the integrity of the park and results in significant tensions between ICCN and the local population.

Due to its rich and diverse fauna, including one of the only remaining populations of eastern lowland gorillas, Kahuzi-Biega National Park (KBNP) was named a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in 1980. It is now listed as one of 54 [sites in danger](#), along with four other national parks and wildlife reserves in the DRC. Central to this UNESCO status is widespread encroachment into a narrow corridor of land that connects the high-altitude sector of the park with the much larger low-altitude sector. The farms, pasture lands and mines that now occupy the land have fragmented the landscape, effectively blocking animal migrations between the two zones and threatening the biodiversity of the park.

This encroachment is caused by political instability, poverty, high population pressures and weak enforcement of the law. Among the many impacts are a loss of biodiversity, a decline in tourism, conflicts between humans and wildlife, and tensions between the park and local communities, which have included direct threats to park personnel.

¹ Hammill, A., Crawford, A., Craig, R., Malpas, R. & Matthew, R. (2009). *Conflict-sensitive conservation: Practitioners’ manual*. Winnipeg, MB: International Institute for Sustainable Development.

² Hammill, A. & Brown, O. (2008). *Conserving the Peace: Analyzing the links between conservation and conflict in the Albertine Rift*. Winnipeg, MB: International Institute for Sustainable Development.



Similar issues are experienced in and around the Itombwe Nature Reserve (INR), the third critical conservation landscape represented at the workshop. Extremely rich in biodiversity and a site of significant species endemism, the park was initially gazetted in 2006; however, immediate conflicts over its proposed borders led to a redrawing of the reserve's boundaries in 2016, this time with the involvement of local communities. Years of conflict in the region have meant that access to the reserve has often been limited. The reserve itself has also been a destination for those fleeing violence elsewhere, increasing demographic pressures on the ecosystem.

Stakeholders, including the reserve's chief warden, identified poaching by community members in and around the reserve as a key conflict facing the ecosystem. Itombwe is divided among a number of chiefdoms and villages, and poachers—banned from hunting bushmeat in their home portion of the reserve—easily moved into neighbouring areas to hunt. Corruption, illegal hunting permits, weak governance, impunity, high local demand for bushmeat, the presence of villages inside the reserve and limited government resources to respond were among the root causes identified by stakeholders.

Background and Context

The management of natural resources is often conflictual. Whenever the decision is made to protect land, water and other natural resources, a decision is also being made about who can access those resources and for what purpose. This can often lead to competing interests among stakeholders for the same, sometimes dwindling, natural resources, which in certain cases can lead to conflict. This is particularly evident in developing countries, where dependence on natural resources is high.

Conservation, as an attempt to sustainably manage natural resources and improve human well-being, inherently attempts to minimize some important causes of conflict. As such, it can often be seen as a peacebuilding tool. Despite these intentions, however, managing competing claims to scarce natural resources can also create or exacerbate grievances that can lead to conflicts with, between and within local communities.

The eastern DRC has experienced chronic, varying levels of conflict for decades. In response, WCS was one of the first organizations in the region to use CSC approaches, conservation interventions that are designed to minimize conflict risks and, where possible, promote peacebuilding and cooperation between communities and wildlife conservation bodies.





The MTKB landscape (Figure 1), located in eastern DRC, lies within the Albertine Rift region, which is one of the most biodiverse parts of Africa. It is noted for its globally significant biodiversity, containing more than 35 threatened species of fauna and flora from the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, and high numbers of endemic and restricted-range species. These species include some of the last remaining populations of iconic species, such as the Grauer’s (eastern lowland) gorilla, which is endemic to the landscape, as well as eastern chimpanzee and okapi. The landscape is also globally significant for containing some of the largest remaining blocks of intact forest in the Congo Basin.

The 106,000-km² MTKB landscape consists of three major protected areas and a mosaic of community-managed nature reserves. Overall, the region is one of the most populous in Africa, with densities up to 300 persons per square kilometre. This dense population places great pressure on the land and its natural resources, leading to rapid deforestation, soil erosion and overexploitation of the soils due to poorly adapted farming techniques. Minimal consultation with local communities over the gazettement of protected areas has frequently led to their boundaries not being recognized or known by local communities, resulting in conflicts with protected area management authorities, mainly ICCN, and conservation organizations.

Since 2005, IISD and WCS have collaborated on a number of research and conservation projects aimed at integrating conflict sensitivity into conservation programming in the region. This has included the development of an approach to CSC, published as a [practitioners’ manual](#) and available in English and French. WCS uses this CSC approach as a basis in its work around KBNP, and ICCN–KBNP has a conflict resolution team working in the region. There is now a need to expand training on CSC to include other stakeholders, to share experiences and to apply the CSC approach across the MTKB landscape.

Due to the complexities within the MTKB landscape, the conflict context analysis focused on three macro-zones where partners’ activities are concentrated: Itombwe/Mwenga, Kahuzi-Biega/Tshivanga and Lubutu/Osso/Maiko/Walikale zone (Figure 2).

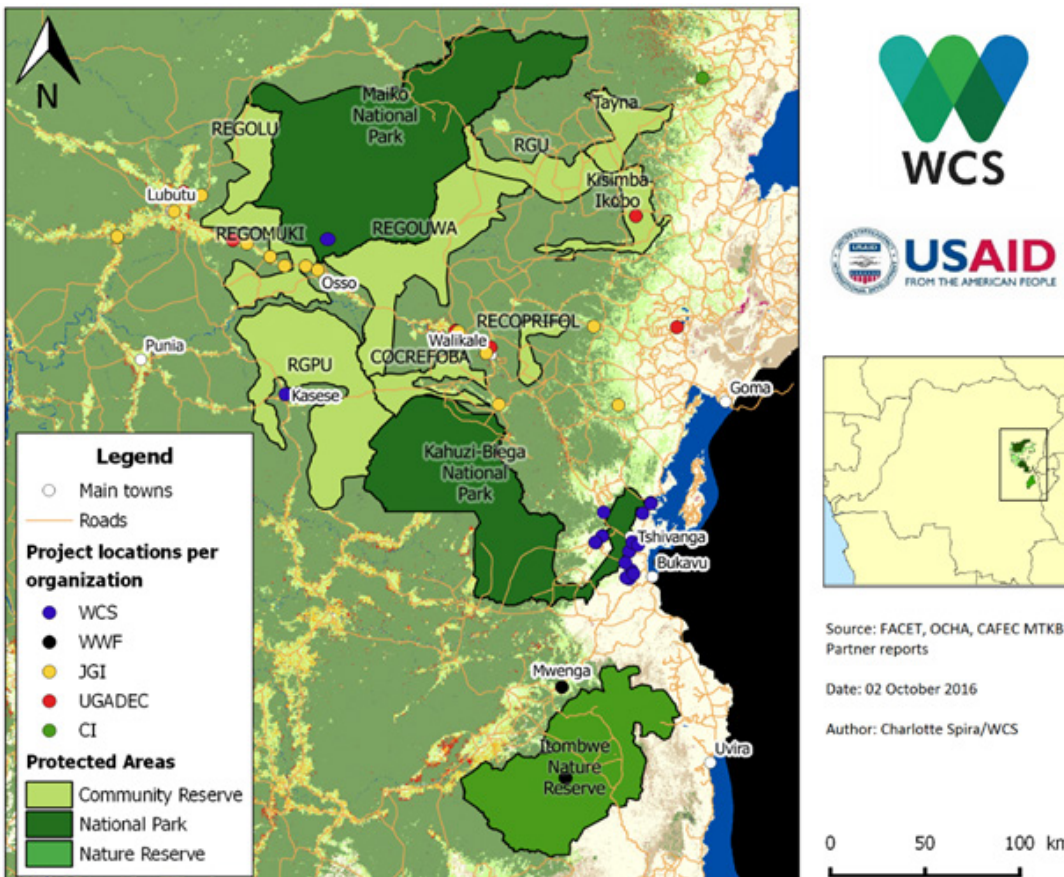


Figure 2. Map of the MTKB landscape with protected areas, main towns, location of partner activities and the three conflict macro zones to review



Conflict Identification and Prioritization

Workshop participants identified a number of current (and potential) conflicts affecting each of the three conservation landscapes. While there were significant similarities across the three protected areas in terms of identified conflicts (including conflicts involving natural resources access and control—particularly relating to mining and poaching—as well as tensions over park boundaries), important regional variations did emerge during the prioritization exercises, which shows that different strategies will need to be employed by ICCN and its conservation partners to effectively address the conflicts threatening these critical conservation landscapes.

Once working groups identified the conflicts affecting their conservation landscapes, these conflicts were then prioritized for further analysis and action, depending on the severity of their human impacts (the damage inflicted by the conflict on community livelihoods) and their conservation impacts (the direct and indirect effects of the conflict on the park and the activities of ICCN). In group discussions, conflicts were ranked on a scale of high impacts to no impacts. The conflicts with the highest human and conservation impacts (i.e., the conflicts of highest priority) are identified for each protected area in the figures below; those conflicts with the highest combined conservation and human impacts are found in the top left square of each figure (see Figures 3, 4 and 5 below).

		Human Impacts			
		High	Medium	Low	None
Conservation Impacts	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presence of armed groups - Conflicts linked to water pollution - Conflicts among armed groups and the armed forces (FARDC), ICCN - Natural resource conflicts (mining, poaching) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts linked to industrial mining 		
	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts over the sharing of park benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts linked to park boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts between the local administration and ICCN 	
	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts linked to population resettlement at the creation of the park 		
	None				

Figure 3. Conflict prioritization for MNP



		Human Impacts			
		High	Medium	Low	None
Conservation Impacts	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts between farmers and ICCN over park encroachment - Presence of armed groups - Poaching - Conflicts between the park and communities over park boundaries 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inter-institutional conflict between ICCN and other state services 	
	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illegal charcoal production - Illegal bamboo cutting - Villages inside the park - Illegal artisanal mining - Agricultural encroachment - Access and benefit sharing conflicts 		
	Low			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts around customary power 	
	None				

Figure 4. Conflict prioritization for KBNP

		Human Impacts			
		High	Medium	Low	None
Conservation Impacts	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mining conflicts between armed groups - Conflicts between mining managers and FARDC - Mining conflicts between FARDC and armed groups - Mining conflicts between communities and armed groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts among mine managers - Conflicts around research permits in INR - Conflicts between customary chiefs 		
	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mining conflicts between armed groups and local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts among communities, linked to poaching - Conflicts relating to park boundaries/limits - Conflicts between governance structures/institutions and hunters 		
	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts linked to community poverty 		
	None				

Figure 5. Conflict prioritization for INR



Conflict Selection

It is outside of the mandate and resources of the participating conservation organizations to address some of the conflicts identified as having significant human and conservation impacts in the preceding figures. A conservation organization should not, for example, attempt to intervene in a conflict over mining and minerals resources between armed groups. As such, prior to selecting conflicts for further analysis and action, groups had to collectively gauge the feasibility of addressing each conflict, according to: security risks; organizational mandate; institutional support; potential partnerships; and the human, financial and technical resources available.

Based on the prioritization exercise above and plenary discussions with workshop participants around feasibility, the following conflicts were selected for further analysis for each landscape:

Maiko National Park: Conflicts stemming from the uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources within the park.

Kahuzi-Biega National Park: Conflicts resulting from the illegal occupation of lands within the park, specifically the ecological corridor linking the high-altitude and low-altitude sectors.

Itombwe Nature Reserve: Conflicts among communities linked to poaching by community members in and around the reserve.

Conflict Analysis

Over the course of three days, the three prioritized conflicts were analyzed using three tools: the **conflict tree**, the **stakeholder map** and **stakeholder profiles**. These tools were introduced to participants to help them better understand the relevant conflicts and to allow them to reflect on how the ongoing and planned conservation work in their respective conservation landscapes can contribute to the resolution or exacerbation of the identified conflicts.

The first tool is the **conflict tree**. A conflict tree is used to identify conflict issues and organize these issues into the core problem and its causes and effects. The tool helped to stimulate group discussion about conflict, define and agree on the core problem, relate causes and effects to each other, and identify the conflict issues that could and should be addressed (Hammill et al., 2009).

The second tool is the **stakeholder map**. Building on the conflict tree, this tool allows users to identify key stakeholders affected by and affecting the prioritized conservation-related conflict, to see what relationships exist among these stakeholders, to see where ICCN and its partners are situated among stakeholder groups, to identify (potential) allies, and to find openings for intervention or action (Hammill et al., 2009).

The third tool is **stakeholder profiles**. Participants were asked to select two key stakeholders to each conflict, and—in a role playing exercise—to identify for each stakeholder their position, interests, needs, capacities and capacity gaps. This allowed them to identify, across these categories, common ground among the main parties to the conflict that could be used as a basis for cooperation and collaboration (Hammill et al., 2009).

The following section presents the results of each analysis and the strategies suggested by participants for addressing each conflict.



Conflict: Illegal Resource Exploitation

Landscape: Maiko National Park

Description of the conflict: Conflicts among a number of stakeholders (ICCN, miners, poachers, armed groups) relating to the anarchic, uncontrolled and illegal exploitation of natural resources within the park boundaries.

Key stakeholders: ICCN, local communities, local administration, artisanal and industrial miners, bushmeat vendors, miners, community conservation reserves, religious leaders, armed groups, FARDC, poachers, Agence Nationale de Renseignements (ANR), woodcutters and conservation organizations.

Causes: Workshop participants identified a number of causes for the conflict in MNP over resource exploitation. The continued **presence of armed groups** restricts the ability of ICCN to impose order throughout the park, and these groups are actively involved or implicated in illegal mining and poaching. **Weak application of the law** is a serious concern, and when laws are broken, there remains a good deal of impunity for those breaking the law, who often do not face punishments commensurate with their crimes. **A lack of widespread public knowledge of the park's boundaries** contributes to tensions over resource access and control, a problem compounded by the **lack of resources for park rangers**. **Weak collaboration among government services** in the region hampers coordinated responses to the crisis.

Effects: Participants recognized that there have been significant **biodiversity and habitat losses** as a result of illegal resource exploitation, with a decrease in wildlife numbers in the park. **Conflicts among local communities** have increased, linked to resource control and access, and populations are increasingly experiencing **food insecurity** in the region. **Tensions between the park and the population** are also increasing as a result of illegal poaching and mining.

Strategies: Drawing on the conflict analysis tools, stakeholders from MNP identified a number of possible response strategies to help them address the prioritized conflict.



Conflict analysis tool	Where to intervene	How to address	Description, suggested activity
Conflict tree	Tension between the park and the local population	Design new activity	Put in place a multistakeholder commission for the participatory demarcation of the park boundaries.
	Ignorance of the park boundaries	Design new activities	Put in place a multistakeholder commission for the participatory demarcation of the park boundaries. Identify and document mining sites within MNP and adjacent community reserves.
	Weak application of the law	Strengthen existing activities	Broader awareness-raising campaigns on the national laws surrounding the establishment of the park, hunting, fishing and conservation. Recruitment of new rangers, supported with necessary training and equipment.
	Lack of alternative livelihoods	Strengthen existing activities	Continue and expand microcredit programs. Support revenue-generating activities at the household level, based on the needs of the communities.
	Inter-community conflicts	Strengthen existing activities	Strengthen dialogue between MNP, local authorities and local communities. Deliver training programs focused on addressing real community needs.
Stakeholder map	Relations between ICCN and various stakeholders: hunters, fishers, artisanal miners, bushmeat vendors	Strengthen existing activities	Awareness-raising among hunters, fishers, and miners, and working with community leaders to develop microcredit programs. Lobbying activities focusing on: local authorities, religious leaders.
		Design new activity	Lobbying military stakeholders to discourage links with hunters, miners.
Stakeholder profiles	Demographics: younger population	Strengthen existing activity	Implicate local youth in the management of the park.
	UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription	Design new activity	Implicate local communities and community conservancies in the process of inscribing MNP on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
	Lack of infrastructure	Strengthen existing activity	Lobbying the provincial and national governments for increased infrastructure spending (ICCN and communities working together).



Conflict: Encroachment and Settlement Inside the Park

Landscape: Kahuzi Biega National Park

Description of the conflict: Individuals—many of them farmers from outside of the region—are illegally occupying lands inside the park limits, specifically the ecological corridor between the park’s high- and low-altitude sectors. This consequent fragmentation of the park into two separate areas, instead of one connected landscape, was central to the decision by UNESCO to place KBNP on the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger.

Key stakeholders: ICCN, farmers, local authorities, local communities, conservation partners, FARDC, the police, UNESCO, the land cadastre, the mining cadastre, poachers, civil society, miners, armed groups and pygmy communities.

Causes: Stakeholders identified a number of causes driving the conflict. **Political instability, poverty** and a **demographic explosion** in the region are all seen as key foundational drivers of instability for KBNP. In addition, there was a **lack of consultation during the creation of the park** in 1970, which created conflicts between local communities and ICCN. There is a **lack of land for both pasture and agriculture** in the area, and there are **villages inside of the park’s boundaries**, all of which places significant pressure on the park. The same is true of continued **conflicts over customary land**, as well as **inter-institutional conflicts**. Stakeholders noted the **lack of effective application of the law**, with many people accessing park resources with relative impunity.

Effects: Occupation of the ecological corridor between the high and low altitude sectors of the park has had a number of impacts on the health of the ecosystem and its management. The **presence of villages, farms, mining and pasture inside the park**, and subsequent fragmentation of the ecosystem into two unconnected areas, resulted in KBNP’s placement on the list of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Danger** in 1997. This designation, along with the **presence of armed groups and militias** inside the park, have contributed to a **decrease in tourism** and associated revenues. Splitting the park into two zones has also served to **decrease genetic diversity** among park species and has contributed to a **loss of biodiversity**. The presence of a population inside KBNP has served to increase **conflicts between these communities and the park authorities**, while also increasing **human-wildlife conflicts** in the region.

Strategies: Drawing on the conflict analysis tools, stakeholders from KBNP identified a number of possible response strategies to help them address the prioritized conflict.



Conflict analysis tool	Where to intervene	How to address	Description, suggested activity
Conflict tree	Lack of land for farming and pasture	Promote and create incentives for farming and livestock outside of the park	Stakeholder consultations. Revitalize the Bushi dairy. Capacity building for farmers and herders in modern techniques. Identify and map farming zones.
	Tensions between ICCN and pastoralists	Implicate key actors in the management of land and natural resources	Promote permanent dialogue between herders and park management.
Stakeholder map	Tensions between ICCN and farmers	Increase dialogue with farmers' groups and plan concrete actions	Meetings, workshops and fundraising for the implementation of actions.
	Close relationships among ICCN, local communities, and financial and technical partners	Support dialogue among close parties and try to replicate dynamics among other stakeholders	Implicating broader stakeholder groups in meetings and seminars in the field.
Stakeholder profiles	Strict application of the law, re-establish physical integrity of the park	Increase lobbying efforts at the local, regional and national levels	Host meetings, workshops, conferences targeting all relevant levels of decision making. Develop radio and TV advertising for awareness raising, information and communications.





Conflict: Community Conflicts around Poaching

Landscape: Itombwe Nature Reserve

Description of the conflict: INR falls within a number of different chiefdoms. Within these chiefdoms, rules exist that govern hunting for all members of the community. Should a chiefdom impose restrictions on hunting within its boundaries, poachers frequently move into a neighbouring area to hunt. This dynamic has created tensions and conflicts among INR's chiefdoms, as well as between poachers and ICCN.

Key stakeholders: ICCN, poachers, armed groups, Banro Corporation, miners, woodcutters, customary chiefs, WWF, socio-political authorities, Réseau des Associations pour la Conservation Communautaire du Massif d'Itombwe (RACCOMI) and community conservation committees.

Causes: Stakeholders from INR identified a number of causes driving the conflict in the reserve. There are still **villages inside the reserve**. **Corruption**—including the granting of **illegal hunting permits**—**weak governance**, **poor understanding of the law** and near-total **impunity** for those who poach within the reserve's limits are all contributing to lawlessness and tensions among communities. The lack of coordination among these communities, including **differences on natural resource management**, as well as ongoing **identity conflicts**, further complicate relationships across chiefdoms. ICCN's ability to address these causes is severely hampered by **limited financial and human resources**, which includes a **very small and aging park ranger force**. And while the original gazettement of the reserve was a significant source of conflict, and was at least partially addressed by the redrawing of new boundaries in 2016, there is still a significant **lack of demarcation of the park boundaries**, creating confusion among the population as to where resources can be accessed. There remains a **high demand for bushmeat** among this population, which incentivizes many to take up hunting. The **population is growing**, and while INR does not experience the same level of demographic pressure as Kahuzi-Biega, a **lack of alternative livelihoods** for this population is leading many to lean on natural resources for their incomes—including the reserve's animals. Finally, stakeholders noted that there continues to be a level of **complicity between armed groups inside INR and local communities**.

Effects: The most significant impact of the poaching conflicts among chiefdoms that make up INR has been a **loss of biodiversity, habitat and flagship species**. However, in addition, stakeholders have seen **parallel centres of power** emerge across the chiefdoms, and in some cases **relationships among communities have broken down**. As a result of tensions, structures of governance in the area have become **targets for attacks**, threatening the safety of park staff and the integrity of park infrastructure, and certain **parts of INR are no longer under the control** of ICCN. Park staff is now responding to the **constant movement of poachers** through the park, while the prevalence and ease of poaching in the reserve has only served to **increase the number of hunters** operating in the forest.

Strategies: Drawing on the conflict analysis tools, stakeholders from INR identified a number of possible response strategies to help them address the prioritized conflict.



Conflict analysis tool	Where to intervene	How to address	Description, suggested activity
Conflict tree	Strengthen the structures of governance, particularly so that they are not targeted in attacks	Design a new activity	Undertake biomonitoring programs, and improve intelligence gathering. Launch anti-poaching patrols. Recruit and train rangers, follow up with monitoring and evaluation of new hires.
	Address and decrease the high demand for bushmeat	Design a new activity	Awareness-raising campaigns on relevant conservation laws. Establish an early warning network on bushmeat trade.
Stakeholder map	Strengthen links between hunters and Community Conservation Committees	Design a new activity	Organize a platform for dialogue for stakeholders, facilitated by civil society. End goal is to develop an agreement among stakeholders for engaging in the reserve, and to connect communities to facilitate cooperation. Design peacebuilding activities to promote cooperation across communities (football matches; well digging).
Stakeholder profiles	Develop alternative livelihoods for hunters	Adjust and add to existing activities	Explore opportunities for fish farming, targeting hunters. Introduction of microcredit. Awareness-raising campaigns on protected species and on hunting laws. Work with community conservancies



Designing, Implementing and Monitoring CSC Solutions

ICCN, WCS and other conservation partners can now use the analysis above as a basis for starting to address some of the conflicts currently affecting conservation landscapes in the eastern DRC. Further consultations with stakeholders in each of the three protected areas will only serve to strengthen the CSC strategies identified above. Response strategies can be broadly categorized in ways that align quite closely with conservation work that ICCN and partners are already doing: awareness raising, benefit sharing and project support, enforcement, lobbying, coordination and collaboration, capacity building and research.

When assessing the feasibility of implementing the CSC interventions identified above, conservation actors (ICCN, WCS, WWF, Flora & Fauna International or other) should consider: the risks these activities might pose to their staff; whether the level of institutional support from Kinshasa (or headquarters) is sufficient; whether the action fits within the organization's mandate; whether they can ensure positive stakeholder participation; whether adequate financial, technical and human resources are available; and what actors might participate as implementing partners (Hammill et al., 2009).

Indicators and Evaluation

As CSC interventions are designed for each of the three conservation landscapes, usually according to the lead organization's own internal project development guidelines, these conservation partners should also try to develop peace and conflict indicators that can be used to measure the impact of their CSC interventions on the conflict context. Are the new or modified conservation activities having a positive or negative impact on the conflict context, and by what measure? Indicators can be qualitative and quantitative, and can be linked to the specific conflict causes, effects and relationships identified in the workshop analysis above. As they develop indicators, the conservation organization should ask the following questions:

- Is the data available, or will it be generated? If so, who is responsible for generating it?
- Is the data source reliable?
- Can the data be prepared in a consistent way, so that values can be compared over time?
- How often will data have to be collected? Who will be responsible for this?
- For quantitative data, does a baseline exist from which to measure results?

Based on the analysis above, indicators for the three protected areas could include (but are not limited to):

Quantitative:

- Number of snares confiscated
- Number of poachers arrested
- Average punishment for poachers (fines, jail terms to measure impunity)
- Area of the KBNP ecological corridor covered by farms and pastures
- Number of arrests inside the park for illegal timber or bamboo cutting
- Number of rangers on duty and number of patrols
- Number of illegal mine sites
- Amount of bushmeat sold at market
- Number of people reached through awareness-raising campaigns (i.e., number of radio emissions, average listenership)
- Number of beneficiaries of microcredit schemes
- Total lending under microcredit schemes
- Number of multistakeholder dialogues held
- Positive actions from UNESCO (i.e. inscription for MNP; changed status for KBNP)
- Kilometres of visibly demarcated park boundary



Qualitative (these questions can be asked of stakeholders throughout the project's life cycle):

- Is bushmeat a significant part of your diet?
- Do you know where the park boundaries lie?
- Is your community seeing some benefit from the conservation activities carried out in the protected area?
- Do you understand the conservation laws governing the management of protected areas in DRC?

Conservation actors working in the region should consider exploring options for integrating peace and conflict indicators into their existing monitoring and evaluation structures. They can then monitor the status of the three identified and analyzed conflicts over time, to understand how they are changing in terms of their human and conservation impacts. This can be done by periodically returning to the figures presented above (3, 4 and 5) to measure how the human and conservation impacts ascribed to each of the conflicts have changed since the implementation of CSC response strategies. Have the conservation impacts of human settlement in KBNP's ecological corridor, for example, increased or decreased since ICCN and its partners implemented CSC response strategies? Have the impacts of uncontrolled natural resource exploitation on communities in and around MNP increased or decreased?

ICCN and its partners can then work to understand whether those changes can be attributed, in part or in full, to the implementation of their CSC strategies. Some key questions include (Hammill et al., 2009):

- Are the prioritized conflicts moving in the right direction (i.e., towards low human and conservation impacts)?
- Can this movement be attributed to the implementation of CSC interventions?
- If movement is positive, can we further enhance it? If negative, what can we do to correct course?
- Are other conflicts moving in unintended ways? Have new conflicts emerged that we should be concerned with?

Monitoring and evaluating CSC interventions will allow those working in the region to gauge their success and make adjustments to their activities as and when necessary.

For more information on conflict-sensitive conservation, please visit:
<http://www.iisd.org/project/conflict-sensitive-conservation>.

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