



Field Report  
to Luki Biosphere Reserve  
Kifulu and Kiobo,  
Democratic Republic of the  
Congo

May 22, 2012

# Lessons from Kifulu

- Is on edge of reserve
- Economy is based on farming, charcoaling and brick making
- Has 366 people and is expanding with settler arrival
- It lacks infrastructure, has no school and no clinic and has air of poverty
- People felt that they lack land but no maps are available



# Kifulu 2

- Neither INERA nor local Govt provide services to the community
- Women are not participating in decisions
- People feel powerless and want a better relationship to Reserve
  - “like a marriage contract”



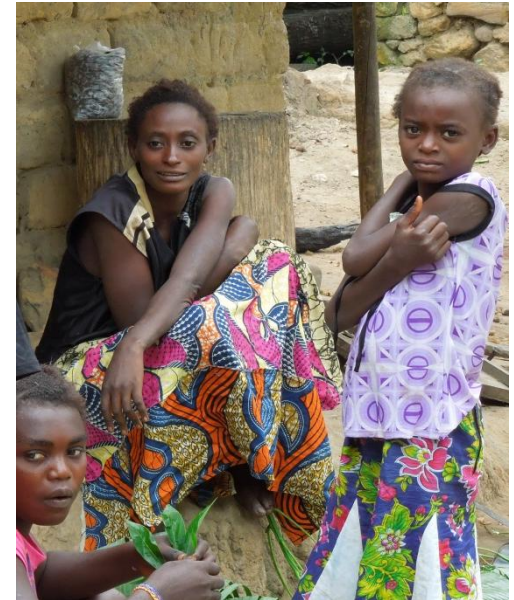
# Kifulu 3

- There are 3 FPIC problems:
  - Land was taken by force in the colonial era
  - Then logging companies came in but they did not even consult
  - WWF Reforestation project did have consultations but project was plagued by misunderstandings on both sides
    - Reflexion: dialogue alone does not assure understanding



# Lessons from Kiobo

- The Reserve was established in 1937 by the Belgians
  - They lived well from the forests
  - Their lands were taken by the Belgians by force, without their consent
  - The Research Station was established on the previous Kiobo village site and the people moved off into the forest to their present site
  - But the Belgians knew the people were the original owners of the whole area
  - People expressed frustration – it appears that the government no longer recognizes their original ownership





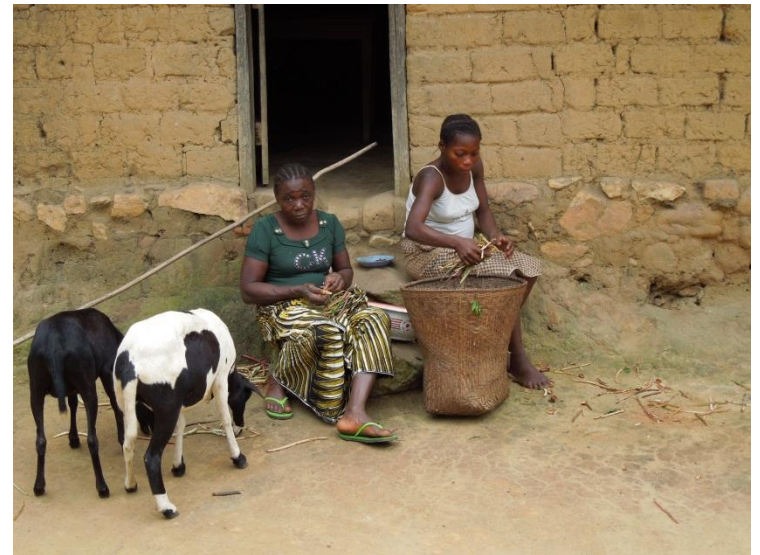
# Kiobo 2

- The Belgians provided medical assistance, helped with funerals and agricultural advice
- This situation continued to the 1980s.
  - Question: this was also around the time the area was converted to a Biosphere Reserve. Is there any connection?
- Today this situation has broken down and people feel marginalised and no longer respected as the original owners



# Kiobo 3

- An enclaved village – isolate - is deprived of services inc. clean water, market access, medical care, schools
- As a result people are gradually leaving and the population declining
- Illegal logging by outsiders is not controlled and even people who have been arrested are coming back
- There is illegal hunting right near village
- The people are expected to keep the road open but are not paid
- Bridge is in disrepair



# Kiobo 4



- WWF has had a project which has brought agricultural development within enclave
- A successful pilot with seeds, seedling and veterinary help is now being extended to the wider village
  - Although only 2 people in each village could be included in pilot
  - Question: the pilot was successful and the seeds were available to everyone?
- People have not been told about REDD at all by INERA or WWF
  - only heard of it through ADEV
- The people don't feel directly involved in management decisions.
  - Reflection: Having local representatives on the Steering Committee is not sufficient to make sure information flow to village



# Kiobo 5

- Although they are on the local development committees they are not in the Steering Committee
- Overall the situation has not really been improved by the project
- The villagers directly requested
  - Their needs addressed
  - Better access to schools and clinics
  - Atmosphere of calm and security (no illegal entry)
  - Proper regulation of the Reserve
  - better engagement in projects
  - to build solution from bottom up



# Discussion

- Key additional points not in village summaries or TFD handout
  - WWF been there since 2004 supported by Belgian Cooperation and EC. 2<sup>nd</sup> phase EC now about to start.
  - REDD Readiness project with CBFF been negotiated with AFDB since 2009
  - WWF project established the local community development committees based on Forest Code definition of a community

# Discussion cont.

- Project admits to being very overstretched and cannot reach all 100 villages
- But protection by eco-guards is meant to involve the communities
- Locals access to NTFPs is encouraged
- 90% of violations such as illegal cutting is done by outsiders. Forest is vulnerable as only large forest near Boma and Matadi
- REDD project not yet started so people not yet informed of it

# Discussion cont.

- Outsiders seem to be dominating illegal trades and holding back the communities
- If REDD project is already planned is this FPIC? No free or prior or right to say 'no'
- Can people feel represented without being part of Steering Committee decisions?
- Why are they not involved in dealing with CBFF and developing REDD project concept?
- Other enclaves are even more cut off.

# Discussion cont.

- Long history of dispossession and forces outside project area are hard to address
- Need for wider, more holistic changes in institutions, laws and policies to make FPIC work
  - A reconceptualization of normal operating procedures
- Min Env adviser:
  - Can't deliver all REDD readiness in pilot projects, FPIC is not obligatory, need to consider national context, FPIC is not indispensable



# Final remarks

- WWF: CBFF project will intensify existing initiatives and see if REDD possible: wider governance is a national challenge
- Need to improve involvement in decision-making. Community committees are just a start
  - Ensure information is transferred up and down
- INERA: Agree that wider engagement is needed, 6 on steering committee are now engaging with CLD representative