

DRC Land Use Dialogue

Mangai Landscape

Concept Note

The Land Use Dialogue (LUD) is a multi-stakeholder engagement learning platform for gathering knowledge and leading processes for enabling responsible business, improved governance, and inclusive development through a landscape approach.

The Challenge

The Mangai landscape extends over a surface of 1,176, 875 hectares and is home to more than one million people located in many villages and five cities (Idiofa, Dibaya-Lubwe, Mangai, Panu, Eolo)¹. The landscape is an IUCN Category VI Protected Area and is one of four sites selected for the Stabilizing Land Use Project (PLUS) currently ongoing in Ghana, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Tanzania. The challenge particular to Mangai is its vast geography and the critical socio-economic and environmental challenges that entails. The uncontrolled use of the land has led to rapid land conversion and poor management practices resulting in: agricultural land degradation, deforestation, wildlife habitat degradation, fisheries degradation and poverty for the local populations.² About 10 percent of the southern part of the landscape is in a state of severe degradation. The large variety of stakeholders in the landscape namely (farmers, fishers, hunters, timber producers, pastoralists etc.) present a unique opportunity to engage each community in the discussion of the landscape restoration.

The Context

In order to achieve conservation and development goals at the national and global level under the Bonn Challenge, the DRC committed to restoring 8 million hectares of land by 2030. During a workshop organized in 2015, a road map was established to begin identifying strategies for implementing the country's pledges. One of the key outcomes of this workshop was the establishment of a national level steering committee. In 2018, IUCN conducted the Restoration Opportunities Assessment for the Mangai Landscape. The Hunting Domain and Hippopotamus Reserve in Mangai, referred to as the « Domaine de Chasse et Réserve à Hippopotames de Mangai » (DCRHM), abounds in rich biodiversity. However, the

¹ "Governance Grows In Mangai". 2018. IUCN. <https://www.iucn.org/news/forests/201810/governance-grows-mangai>.

² "Governance Grows In Mangai". 2018. IUCN. <https://www.iucn.org/news/forests/201810/governance-grows-mangai>.

landscape suffers from intense anthropogenic pressures related to poor land use practices. The ROAM (Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology) process was undertaken for the Mangai Landscape, in part to support the development of the Strategic Management Plan also known as “Plan d’Aménagement et Gestions” (PAG). In addition, it was put in place as a mechanism to develop an investment plan for the restoration of degraded landscapes and the development of local communities. The Mangai Land Use Dialogue (LUD) can serve as a tool to reconcile the competing interests on the land and facilitate dialogue around the implementation of the aforementioned management plans.

The Land Use Dialogue

The Land Use Dialogue (LUD) is a global initiative coordinated by The Forests Dialogue secretariat and steering committee members in collaboration with local and global partners. The LUD initiative maps, applies, and evaluates the practical “landscape approach” to provide tangible improvements on the ground. The landscape approach is a conceptual framework that seeks to develop an integrated and holistic view of the landscape, balancing multiple objectives through engaging private and public stakeholders. Efficient use and development of resources can be established through a dialogue platform where stakeholders collaborate to align their objectives, identify common risks and opportunities, and support shared decision making and collective action. The LUD initiative is modeled on TFD’s experience as a neutral multi-stakeholder platform adapted to meet local contexts and landscape needs.

The LUD in Mangai is supported by the IUCN’s Stabilizing Land Use Project (PLUS), which intends to improve landscape governance of forest ecosystems, in turn influencing decision making at the landscape and national level. The PLUS project includes the establishment of a governance working group (GWG) at the landscape level, made up of landscape stakeholders across interest groups. The LUD will synthesize the findings of the Mangai GWG for integration at the national level.

The overall objective of the Mangai Land Use Dialogue is to promote effective natural resource use among the competing land uses on the landscape; identify strategies to protect the varied biodiversity, wildlife, and fisheries on the landscape while ensuring the livelihoods of communities dependent on the resources; develop representative stakeholder arrangements for better land use; and discuss the implementation of the identified restoration options.

The LUD will build on the important work of the stakeholders who participated in the March 2019 National Scoping Dialogue in Kinshasa and take into account their recommendations on the challenges of implementing restoration options in Mangai. The LUD will also build synergies with other landscape and national policies, continuing ROAM implementation.

National Scoping Dialogue in Kinshasa

The National Scoping Dialogue was held in Kinshasa on March 12th-13th 2019 with a workshop hosting 45 participants from different local and national institutions, as well as diverse stakeholders involved in the management of natural resources and land use in DRC and Mangai Landscape in particular.

Workshop attendees identified the following objectives:

1. Share with stakeholders the main results of the assessment of restoration opportunities in the Mangai landscape using the Landscape Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) and involve them therein;
2. Capture ideas and recommendations on the main challenges and opportunities to improve the common understanding of restoration potential in the landscape;
3. Validate the report and begin to identify strategies and potential solutions to address the common challenges of implementing the identified restoration options;
4. Identify the public-private partnership potential for Mangai to build on the ROAM to lead the LUD;
5. Develop an action plan / roadmap incorporating the government's vision and lessons learned from other on-going initiatives in the country.

This workshop identified the challenges of implementing restoration options which provide an entry point for the LUD process to discuss and address the identified challenges of implementing restoration options in the Mangai Landscape.

Restoration Options

The National scoping dialogue served as a unique opportunity to gather important information from the diverse range of stakeholders. Out of the seven restoration options that were put forward by the ROAM assessment, participants validated the following six restoration options:

1. Development of sustainable agriculture
2. Reforestation and Agroforestry
3. Restoration of road infrastructures
4. Stabilization of banks and ravine beds
5. Delimitation of conservation areas taking into account the agricultural and forestry activities of local populations
6. Natural regeneration of ecosystems.

The LUD will be a platform to initiate dialogue on the major restoration options identified and prioritized above. Considering the context of Mangai region and the LUD process, we propose that the LUD focus on the above six restoration options.

Expected Dialogue Outcomes

The Mangai Landscape Land Use Dialogue (LUD) and related meetings will take place between May 31st June 6th, 2019 in Idiofa to build on the National Scoping Workshop that occurred in Kinshasa on March 12th-13th 2019. The LUD will focus on the priority restoration areas identified by stakeholders during the national scoping dialogue. The LUD will also build on the important information received from the focus groups during the national scoping dialogue and use that as a guide to formulate the key questions to be addressed during the dialogue in Idiofa for the Mangai Landscape.

The expected outcomes of the Mangai LUD are as follows:

- Involve local communities and identify ways to further support the Governance Working Group (GWG) in order to mainstream networks with local actors;
- Identify synergies and challenges between various stakeholders' competing uses of the landscape and natural resource priorities;
- Identify public private partnerships to mobilize finances for the implementation of the identified restoration options and explore ways to further engage them in sustainable land management;
- Strategize on a follow-up mechanism on the findings from the LUD to ensure sustainability of the LUD process in the landscape and the integration of the results in the national policy.

Partners

1. OCEAN

<http://www.ocean-rdc.org/>

The Organisation Congolaise des Ecologistes et Amis de la Nature (OCEAN) was founded in 1994 as a national non-governmental organisation. The organization aims at monitoring and governance for the sustainable management of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). One of its primary objectives is to center the management of ecosystems and natural resources around local communities and indigenous peoples and to empower them to be the driver of sustainable management of natural resources.

2. ICCN

<https://www.iccnrdc.org/>

The Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) believes that conserving and protecting nature are the duties of every citizen.³ ICCN is a public enterprise of technical and scientific nature with its own legal entity and financial management autonomy. It was created in 1975 by the ordinance-law n ° 75-023 of February 1975. It is governed by the law 78-002 of January 06th, 1978 laying down general provisions applicable to the Public Enterprises in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its objective is to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in the network of Protected Areas of the DRC, in cooperation with local communities and other partners to contribute to the well-being of the Congolese people and humanity whole.

3. IUCN

<https://www.iucn.org/>

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. IUCN's current program of work is centered around 3 broad areas: Valuing and conserving nature; Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources; and Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and economic and social development.

4. The Forests Dialogue

<http://theforestsdialogue.org>

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) is a neutral, international, multi-stakeholder platform established in 2000 to help address conflicts and challenges about important forest-related issues. TFD is governed by an international Steering Committee reflecting the breadth of interests in forests, and its secretariat is hosted by Yale University. TFD has developed and facilitated 15 dialogue initiatives, comprising more

³ www.aveldas.com, Noé DIAKUBAMA (Proffac.org). 2017. "ICCN - Site Officiel". [Iccnrdc.Org](https://www.iccnrdc.org). <https://www.iccnrdc.org>.

than 60 country-level and international dialogues involving over 3,000 individuals during its 15 years of work. Half of the dialogue initiatives have focused on what would now be called ‘landscape’ topics.