

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT

**Democratic Republic of the Congo
(DRC) Land Use Dialogue (LUD)**

Idiofa, Mangai Landscape, DRC

31 MAY – 4 JUNE 2019 – IDIOFA, DRC



Background

The Mangai landscape is an area rich in biodiversity with diverse ecosystems, villages, and cities. It also has a long history: the Hunting Field and Reserve at Hippopotamus Mangai (DCRHM) was established by the Orders n ° 205 / Agri of June 14, 1940 and 414 / Agri of July 3, 1944. The DCRHM was created primarily to protect antelopes, buffalo, and hippopotamus. Management of the site was transferred from the the Nature Conservation and Natural Resources Management Division of the Ministry of Agriculture to the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) via departmental order No. 036 / DECNT / BCE / 78 on July 13, 1978. The site is comprised of a 1, 176, 875 hectare area near Idiofa and Oswe territories in provinces of Kwilu and Mai Ndombe, respectively, along the Kasai River. There are five cities: Idiofa, Dibaya-Lubwe, Mangai, Panu, Eolo, and several villages, with a total of 721, 896 inhabitants in the Mangai landscape area.

The Challenge

Widespread poverty, population growth, and a lack of jobs result in a large part of the population turning to use natural areas in order to make a living. Common practices that affect the sustainability of the landscape are: shifting agriculture – including slash and burn agriculture as well as other methods of unsustainable agricultural practices, urban growth, unsustainable exploitation of timber wood & wood for energy and carbon production, soil erosion (especially in urban areas), bush fires, hunting/poaching of wild animals, and unsustainable artisanal fishing.

The degradation of the rural economy, i.e. abandonment of the area by investors in the industrial agricultural sector, has exacerbated the existing problems in the landscape.

A partnership has been established under the Land Use Dialogue (LUD) initiative between the Congolese Organization of Ecologists and Friends of Nature (OCEAN), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The Forests Dialogue (TFD), ICCN and local Mangai landscape organizations for this to protect and restore the landscape. So far, a governance working group (GWG) has been created to facilitate exchanges between various stakeholders to improve the management governance of the Mangai landscape.

The Objectives

The land-use dialogue is an initiative coordinated by TFD in collaboration with actors from the project for the Stabilizing Land Use Project (PLUS) in the DRC. The LUD uses a landscape approach to holistically consider the multifaceted needs of a landscape and balance the objectives of multiple stakeholders through a coordinated plan. Dialogues are carried out using the TFD model: a neutral multi-stakeholder platform that works within local context and landscape needs.

The DRC LUD is supported by the IUCN's PLUS project, which aims to improve landscape governance of forest ecosystems and influencing decision making at the landscape and national level. The PLUS project puts together the multi-actor governance working group (GWG). The GWG works on a landscape level, and is comprised of key stakeholders across different interest groups. The LUD synthesizes goals of the GWG for integration at the national level.

The DRC LUD in Idiofa is the seonde dialogue held in DRC, and serves as a follow up to the national scoping dialogue, which was held in Kinshasa in May 2019.

The broad objectives of the LUD in Idiofa were to:

- ➔ Involve local communities to integrate local networks with the Governance Working Group (GWG);
- ➔ Identify synergies and challenges between different landscape uses;
- ➔ Identify public-private partnerships for the implementation of restoration options;
- ➔ Develop a strategy to set up of monitoring mechanisms for the conclusions from the LUD to ensure the integration of results in national politics.

The LUD provided input and information for the development of a Landscape Management Strategy. Once created and validated, the management strategy will be able to be integrated with other landscape and national policies.

LUD Components and Phasing

This dialogue was conducted over the course of five days in Idiofa with six sessions. 56 participants were present from a wide variety of stakeholders, including: national and regional government offices, customary and land chiefs, religious leaders, public servants, representatives from NGOs and private companies, and those representing women's and young peoples' organizations. (See Annex A for full participant list). In order to reach the dialogue objectives, participants attended plenary discussions, field visits, and worked in breakout groups. The participants used break-out group work sessions to brainstorm potential obstacles, solutions, and actionable next steps for the restoration options. Participants worked in five groups, rotating through each group so that all participants had the opportunity to comment on and respond to the restoration options.

The field visits were organized by a local NGO, Faja Lobi. Participants visited two different sites in their concession: (1) Vallée du Paradis and (2) Ingung (see Annex C for more information on field visits).

The six sessions of the dialogue consisted of:

- 1** A **review of the previous work** done by LUD in the national scoping dialogue and the Landscape Restoration Opportunity Assessment (ROAM) project. This explained the Mangai landscape concepts and previously identified restoration options to focus on.
- 2** The **field visits to two sites in the Faja Lobi** concession so that participants could get an on-the-ground perspective of current restoration efforts that are happening in the Mangai landscape, and the challenges and opportunities that are being faced by the local communities who are participating. (See Appendix B for field visit descriptions.)
- 3** Work in breakout groups: Session (1) to **identify specific obstacles** within each restoration option.
- 4** Work in breakout groups: Session (2) to **propose solutions** to the identified obstacles.
- 5** A full-participant vote on the priority solutions to focus on in the next year.
- 6** Work in breakout groups: Session (3) to **identify next steps**/an action plan for the voted priority solutions.



Participants at the Mangai Land Use Dialogue in Idiofa, DRC



Dialogue organizers strategizing before the first day of the dialogue



Photograph in the landscape, Idiofa



Participants at a landscape stop at the Vallée du Paradis Faja Lobi site

Key Outcomes

At the end of the five days, stakeholders agreed on nine strategies to work towards conservation and sustainable use of the Mangai landscape area.

1. LAND TENURE

To address issues of land tenure, the participants suggested that management of community lands should be participatory and involve all clan and community members in decision-making. Additionally, community members should be aware of how to comply with legal legislation for land ownership and transfer.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE

To address climate change, participants suggested setting up of the climatic stations to collect data that measures climate changes across seasons and years. They also advised education for local communities about the consequences that deforestation has for the community under the influence of climate change, and promotion of reforestation agroforestry projects as a way local people can fight against climate change.

3. CONSERVATION AREA AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

To address the lack of involvement of local communities in ecosystem management in conservation areas, the participants proposed education and training of the local populations in ecosystem management, particularly for those that work in jobs that will be affected by restrictions in the Mangai landscape, such as farmers, hunters, and fisherman. Particularly they should be made aware of conservation area boundaries and limits on hunting or land use.

4. AGRICULTURAL SOILS

To address the degradation of soils due to an overuse of land for agriculture, the different stakeholders proposed that farmers should let fields rest during a fallow period, or else use that period to plant legumes or other plants that are known to rejuvenate the soil. They also suggested using compost to improve soil quality. Participants recommended creating local working groups to monitor and evaluate different strategies.

5. SLASH-AND-BURN LAND CLEARING

To address the negative impacts of burning to clear lands for agriculture, participants suggested that farmers test other methods of planting and farming, such that new crop fields are not burned. This could be achieved by several different methods, including agroforestry, reforestation, planting mixed-crop fields, and rotating crops. The local community would hope to connect with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, NGOs, and private entrepreneurs to test out these different methods, through the GWG.

6. CREATION OF AGROFORESTRY AND REFORESTATION PROJECTS

To encourage agroforestry and reforestation projects in the Mangai landscape, the participants suggested to several capacity-building tactics to aid the local community. Suggested tactics included: technical training owners and managers of projects, advertising opportunities to start

or work at projects through radio/television/news advertisements, the establishment of community-based incubator projects, the organization of local meetings for project owners and the community, and free membership for new members to reforestation or agroforestry initiatives. The participants also advised that land chiefs should respect their community's land-use decisions when deciding to engage with agroforestry or reforestation projects, that the community should be consulted about choice of plant species that are planted, and that means should be allotted to regulate bushfires that could damage or derail the progress of the project. The participants suggested that the GWG should work to connect local communities with NGOs or government groups that would be able to help develop technical training and perhaps finance some of these initiatives.

7. DURATION OF AGROFORESTRY AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

To ensure the longevity of reforestation and agricultural projects, participants suggested to plant fast-growing species and high-value trees (e.g. fruit-bearing trees, trees used to make charcoal, and trees that contribute non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as the caterpillar trees seen at the Faja Lobi sites). These suggestions were made to ensure that the restoration projects can make a profit on a short-term timescale and gain capital to work with to continue future projects (e.g. growing high-density timber wood species). The community should be consulted when choosing species.

8. PROMOTION OF RESEARCH

To address the lack of knowledge needed for the conservation of native plant species, participants recommended that research on the natural regeneration of high-interest species should be prioritized and encouraged. Research that focuses on-the-ground application of the results is most needed. To facilitate this research, formal partnership with research institutions and universities should be made and scientific researchers should meet with local people to understand the research needed for reforestation/agroforestry projects (with a list of species that are prioritized by locals), and for the conservation needs of the landscape.

9. ROAD AND RIVER MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

To improve road and river management and restoration efforts, participants proposed a multi-pronged solution. First, the lack of political interest in management should be addressed through lobbying at multiple political levels. Secondly, donors to finance road and riverbank restoration should be identified from government, private sector, or NGOs. Individuals from those organizations should search for financing. Third, riverbank areas should be legally zoned (delimited) by the government in collaboration with the local population. Finally, local communities should be made aware of the riverbank zones that are at high risk, and they should prioritize these areas for reforestation projects which prevent erosion. Participants suggested that meetings between local officials and community members would facilitate these goals.



Caterpillars found on many trees in the regeneration site are a source of protein for the locals



Land use dialogue participants exploring the landscape at the Faja Lobi site



A participant studying the plants at the nursery of the Ingung site



Participants learning about honey bee activities keeping on site

Annex A: Participant List

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Laswe Jean-Marie	Administrator of the Territory of Idiofa
Nzundu Urbain	Deputy Administrator of the Territory of Idiofa
Yindula Jean Pierre	Mayor of Mangai
Itaraniam Armand	Mayor of Dibaya/Lubwe
Lubini Jean	Area Manager of Matebo
Mpiyongo Mukuba	Area Manager of Kapia/Min-Inter
Maswana Alex	Area Manager of Bulwen
Bulimbu Jean	Area Manager of Banga
Mushita Natadi Dieudonné	Area Manager of Belo
Muthay Emmanuel	Sector Chief of Madimbi
N’Kwetan Polese Willy	Area Manager of Kalanganda
Mazama Léon	Head of Sector of Musanga
Kangila Kajois	Area Manager of Lukeni
Kano Nkieko	Area Manager of Sedzo
Oyando Louis	Chief of Land Mangai
Balikani Kilasu	Head of Land Kalo
Mzongo Joachim	Head of land
Menki Michel	Customary Chief / Bangoli Land
Mugula Florentin	Sustainable Development Branch - Ministry of the Environment
Pépé Dungu	Gen. Dir. of Forests - Ministry of the Environment & Sustainable Development
Khonde wa Masinga Jean-Pierre	Ministry of National Development of the Territory
Madikani Mungala	Provincial Coordination I »Environment Kwilu
Kiseke Kipulu	Agricultural Inspector-MINAGRI
Longolongo Manga	Chargé de Bélo-Relation Public
Pasteur Kariko Eustache	UPDC-ONGD Executive Secretary
Kayiba Marc	President of the Hunters
Musala Pelagie	President of the Women’s Association
Pay-pay Jerry	President of the Youth Association
Olenge Armand	President of the Students’ Association- APEM
Kapia Paulin	Mangai Forest Harvester’s Association
Nsikita Ognuku	Mangai Fish Farmer’s Association
Idji Maseise	ISEA Assistant
Mukiniti Apo	EDD/F Inspector
Malala Jean-Pierre	GTG President
Lankianga Itumba	GTG Secretary
Tulu Chantal	GTG Secretary
Nziele Angélique	GTG Relationship Manager
Ekubi Adalbert	Adviser to the GTG
Innocent Mundieme	Technical Assistant, Faja Lobi
Sawanga Kovo	Works Manager, Faja Lobi

Dzekoto Godwin	A Rocha-Ghana
Akoto Damien	Codesult, Ghana
Luvanga Elizabeth	AWF, Tanzania
Twinomuhangi Leo	Ministry of Business, Uganda
N'Lemvo Budiongo Paul	Director Cabinet, ICCN
Ngongo Rene	OCEAN
Muteba Kass	OCEAN
Shombo Alain	OCEAN
Baluba Victorine	OCEAN
Reinhard Florian	IUCN, Switzerland
Baruka Grace	IUCN, DRC
Dunning Gary	Director of TFD
Sullivan Megan	TFD
Uwizeyimana Lysa	TFD
Keba Jean	Reporter
Zonveni Aimée	English-French Interpreter



Focus groups working on select workshop topics during the LUD



Votes being counted on key topics of interests for participants

Annex B: Restoration Options from ROAM LUD

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

NOTE:

Restoration options (3) Restoration of road infrastructures and (4) Stabilization of river banks and river beds were combined into one group for break-out work due to the similarity of the issues and overlap in discussion.



Focus groups working on select workshop topics during the LUD



Road to the Faja Lobi site in Idiofa

Annex C: Field Site Descriptions and Reflections

Two field site visits were organized with Faja Lobi, a local NGO, to give participants an understanding of local restoration efforts happening on the ground. Sites were: (1) Vallée du Paradis, a reforestation project using native tree species and (2) Ingung, a reforestation project using a mix of Acacia trees and local tree species.

1. Vallée du Paradis

A. DESCRIPTION

The site is a 348 hectare area of land that is being reforestation since 2013 with native trees. Located on the edge of Idiofa (1 km from downtown), the land was degraded because of human activities. Actions aimed at the restoration of the forest were initiated by Faja lobi using of native species (e.g. *Millittia* sp, *Pentaclethra* sp, *Piptodeniastrium africanum*, *Meosopsis* sp, *Uapaca* sp, and others). Some Acacia species was introduced three years later. Soils in the area are sandy and much degraded. Faja Lobi started this project with the goal of creating supplies for the city and contributing to the restoration of the landscape. The project has also expanded to experiment with agroforestry in some spaces with different species including caterpillar trees, cocoa, coffee and cashew nuts. There has been regeneration of 20 ha of tertiary forest in this valley. There is also a small beekeeping project, where 20 medium-sized hives are kept to produce and sell honey.

2. Ingung

A. DESCRIPTION

This site is a 237 hectare area of land that is being reforested since 2014 with both *Acacia aureoformis* and native tree species. The site is 4 km from the center of the city, Idiofa. Soils in the area are sandy and much degraded. A nursery of 700,000 seedlings of Acacia and several different native tree species is developed there. The same species found in the valley are on this site as well. Faja lobi's goals for this area are to reforest the land, use acacia as a raw material for the manufacture of charcoal (starting in year 2020), and produce sustainable wood in the long term.

Reflections

The reactions to the field visits were largely positive. Participants commented that the Faja Lobi sites seem to contribute education to local community members about the importance of restoration projects. In terms of restoration, the project was seen as a commendable initiative and a successful start to sustainable land management in the landscape of Mangai. While Faja Lobi is a private initiative, some participants were inspired by what they saw at the sites, and expressed a desire to develop similar community-based initiatives in their own cities or villages.

There were also some suggestions for improvement from participants after viewing Faja Lobi's sites during the field visit. Some participants commented that the project does not seem to benefit those

that are not directly working for Faja Lobi as stakeholders, and suggested that Faja Lobi should expand their reach to benefit the community that isn't directly involved in the project. Faja Lobi did respond, saying that they had hoped to include the hospital that they built between the two sites in the field visit, but that there wasn't enough time to go see it. Other participants called for the development of activities within the projects that women and youth can participate in. Several participants brought up the issue that land tenure conflicts are often challenging for this type of project, and that these must be resolved to ensure the longevity of the project. Additionally, to ensure the longevity of the project, participants suggested the planting of fruit trees to spur income generation in the short term, while waiting for wood species to grow in the long-term. Additionally, participants cautioned that the protection of existing natural ecosystems should be respected when planting and/or reforestation, lest the planted forests overtake the natural ecosystems in the landscape.

Annex D: Glossary of Terms

DCRHM	The Hunting Field and Reserve at Hippopotamus Mangai
ICCN	Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature
LUD	Land Use Dialogue
OCEAN	Congolese Organization of Ecologists and Friends of Nature
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
TFD	The Forests Dialogue
GWG	Governance Working Group
PLUS	Stabilizing Land Use Project (PLUS)
Faja Lobi	A local reforestation/agroforestry NGO working in the Mangai landscape
ROAM	Landscape Restoration Opportunity Assessment (ROAM)



Land use dialogue participants exploring the landscape at the Faja Lobi site



Faja Lobi Field Technician detailing restoration activities on the landscape sites



Participants walking from one Faja Lobi site to next



Vehicles transporting participants and locals marching on the side