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COMMENTS AND STATEMENTS TO CSD 16

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## INTRODUCTION

The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) works with the people of Africa to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever. AWF's principal way of working is to join with partners and select large, viable conservation landscapes in which both ecological objectives and economic values can be pursued at a transformational scale.

These areas are called the 'African Heartlands'. AWF is presently working in eight Heartlands and plans to expand systematically into other targeted landscapes in Africa in the coming years.

AWF is maturing into a pan-African organization with programs in eastern, southern and central Africa and a new program being established in western Africa. The AWF vision is one of large, well-managed conservation landscapes which deliver sustainable socioeconomic benefits, particularly through tourism, cannot be achieved by AWF alone.

To promote the agenda of large landscape conservation as a tool for development and economic security, AWF is building relationships with the African Union (AU) and its New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), with pan-African organizations such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), with regional economic blocks including SADC, the EAC and ECOWAS, as well as with the international donor community, individual African governments, other conservation organizations, and the private sector.

### **In the Congo Basin Forest Program (CBFP)**

#### **COMIFAC – Central Africa Forestry commission**

- Yaoundé Declaration signed by D.R. Congo, Gabon, Eq. Guinea, Rep Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Chad Central African Regional Program,
- USG, France and Germany contributions to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP).
- CBFP is a Presidential Initiatives with 34 partners seeking to reform forestry practices, promote economic development, and improve governance.
- Other major NGOs like WWF, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, etc

AWF's DR Congo Program – North eastern in Equatorial province. 74,000 sq. km.

- Ecology is globally significant – part of the Congo basin forest ecosystem
- Home to diverse and important species – bonobo ape, fisheries and other rare societies,
- Home to 0.5 people depend on wild resources to met their needs

- Formally impacted by civil war

**Activities:** Develop land-use and conservation management plans for selected sites using the landscape conservation planning process as a key mechanism to achieve the following

- Establish a network of new protected areas including community forest reserves- in specific sites in the landscape as advised by a landscape conservation mapping process;
- Develop community enterprises as a strategy for diversifying forest-based livelihoods;
- Improve management practices in logging concessions and where possible explore the use of conservation easements as a threat abatement mechanism;
- Initiate policy dialogue at local, national and international levels in support of community-based forest management.
- Set up an integrated landscape information system for data collection analysis and synthesis and to inform daily conservation oversight and monitor impact in the landscape.
- Generate information for government policy and legislative purposes

### ***MLW Consortium Project Technical Partners***

The Consortium members were selected because of their demonstrated organizational skills and capacities to carry out and implement the proposed program activities.

- The African Wildlife Foundation (**AWF**) to lead on landscape planning and biodiversity conservation;
- The World Agro forestry Centre (**ICRAF**) is promoted innovations in land use practices to create alternative and additional sources of livelihoods, building on domestication of high value and threatened species and NTFP enterprise development;
- The World Fish Centre (**WFC**) is provided expertise in sustainable fisheries management, and will contribute towards results in both the biodiversity and livelihood strategic program areas;
- The Netherlands development organization **SNV** is taking the lead on multi stakeholder consultation and civil society strengthening,
- The Congolese NGO **REFADD** is focusing on gender issues throughout the landscape planning process.
- Universities – Maryland University, USA; Catholic University in Belgium focusing predictive models of landuse change that support sustainable development include satellite remote sensing.
- USA Government departments – USFWS, USFD, NASA. – Research and data collection.

### ***DRC Government both Regional and Central Partners***

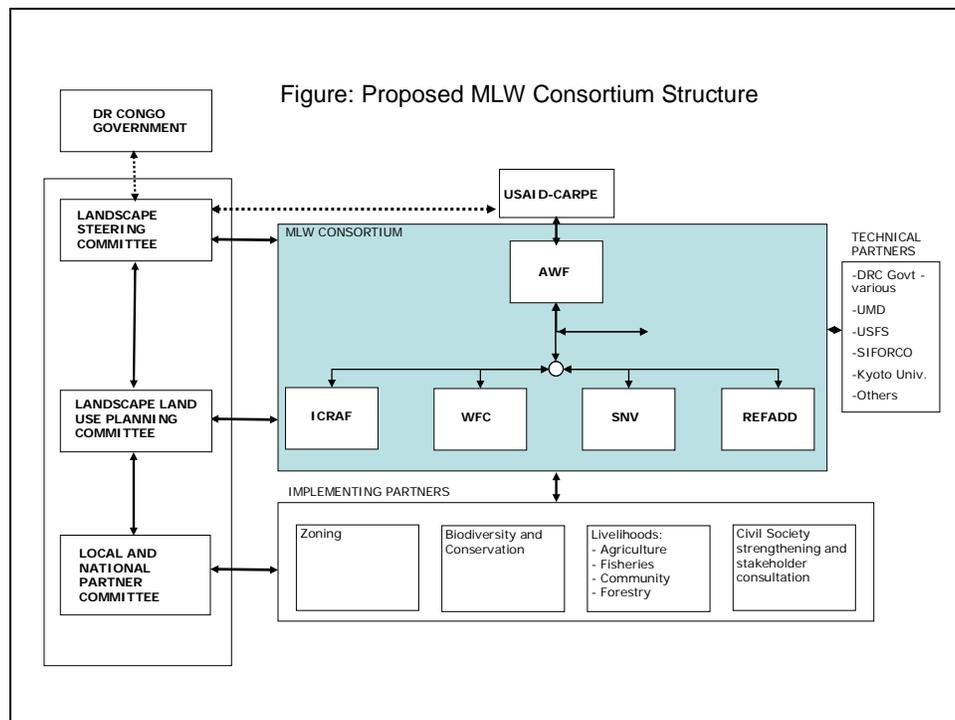
At the provincial level in Mbandaka, the Consortium works closely with the Governor of Equateur Province and various government agencies that have jurisdiction and share complementary objectives with the MLW landscape program.

At the national level AWF has official partnerships with key ministries, the Ministry of Environment, Institute Congolais pour Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), and the Ministry of Rural Development whose mandates address issues of natural resources management and support community development programs in MLW.

Furthermore AWF and its partners will continue to participate in regional policy and learning processes hosted by COMIFAC, the French government facilitated Congo Basin Forest Partnership, and by USAID-CARPE.

## *Consortium Structure*

The figure below illustrates the proposed Consortium structure. It shows the linkages between the Consortium members and with other partners, and to the local partners and stakeholders participation in the four program components (at the bottom). The figure identifies the proposed governance mechanisms for making the various linkages work smoothly (the three committees).



***Landscape Steering Committee (LSC):*** This committee’s main role is to guarantee that activities undertaken by the MLW Consortium and its partners are in conformity with the legal and institutional framework of the DRC and the aspirations of the people of MLW landscape, as well as providing oversight and decision-making support to the program. The LSC will hold two ordinary meetings per year. It is composed of three Government representatives representing (MECNEF, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Rural Development), 5 Consortium representatives and 4 representatives from the Local and National Partners Committee.

*The Landscape Land Use Planning Committee (LLUPC)* is the core Consortium management mechanism. LMPC will review and approve workplans and program reports, monitor and evaluate performance against the workplan, seek synergies with other programs operating in the landscape and arbitrate any conflicts among implementing partners. The LLUPC is composed of Consortium member representatives and a pool of “On Demand Technical Advisers” (ODTAs). The ODTAs come in for a determined period depending on the technical issues to be discussed and supported, and support technical discussions on specific aspects of landscape management and zoning.

*Local and National Partner Committee (LNPC)* is primarily composed of local stakeholder institutions having the most direct interest in the landscape. Local people in MLW are organized in a wide network of local NGOs. These NGOs have already been involved in MLW activities and discussion of strategies in the past three years. They are representatives of the local stakeholders, local populations, and specific private sectors including external market outlets for bushmeat, agriculture producers, boat transport business, and the logging industry.

## Summary:

- a- Key partnership issues/challenges
  - matching interests, institutional capacity complementarities, budget, host country, stakeholders, and donor requirements and alignment
- b- Unique about the partnership
  - different development mission driven agencies in partnership for a wildlife and forestry conservation program.
- c- Function effective partnership characteristics
  - stakeholder ownership of the process, and influence (not only participation)
- d- Key challenges/Obstacles
  - addressing immediate short term needs of stakeholders
  - existing data sets