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Impacts and Effectiveness of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin: Preliminary findings

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Purpose of study

Ecological

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Social

+

Strategic

Effectiveness

In meeting
conservation
objectives

Impacts

On local
communities

Examples

Positive
cases

CONTEXT

Rainforest environment where traditional (but largely discriminated and marginalized) societies continue to base their livelihoods on the forest and the resources these provide.

AIM

To inform and provide planning & policy recommendations to NGOs, Park Managers, Donors & Governments



Desk study

- History
 - PA database (**n=34**)
 - National policies & legal frameworks
 - International safeguards
 - Impacts & Threats
- Sources:* NGO reports, scientific publications, websites, documentaries

E-questionnaire

- PA managers

Methods

Methods Manual

Ground-truthing

- Village meetings
- Village censuses
- Individual interviews
- Focus groups
- Participatory mapping

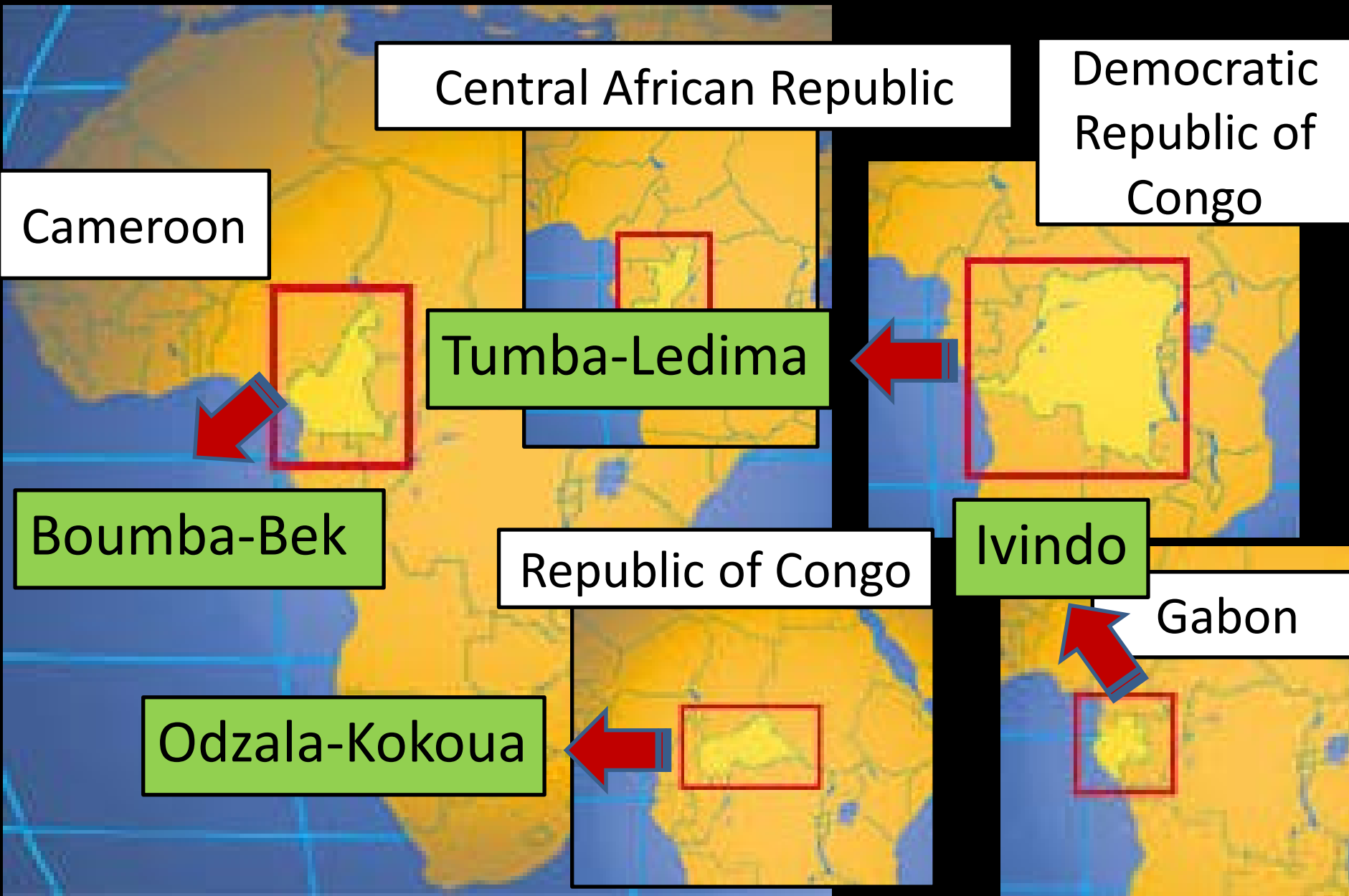
Data Analysis

Quantitative
&
Qualitative

FINAL REPORT

Early 2015

Countries and Case Studies





Meeting conservation objectives?

FUNDING

- 100s of millions of \$s

DATA & INFO

- Tangible data extremely scarce, esp. on drivers
- Inaccessible
- No baseline data
- Very poor response rate
- Some recent efforts
(e.g. IUCN, CARPE...)

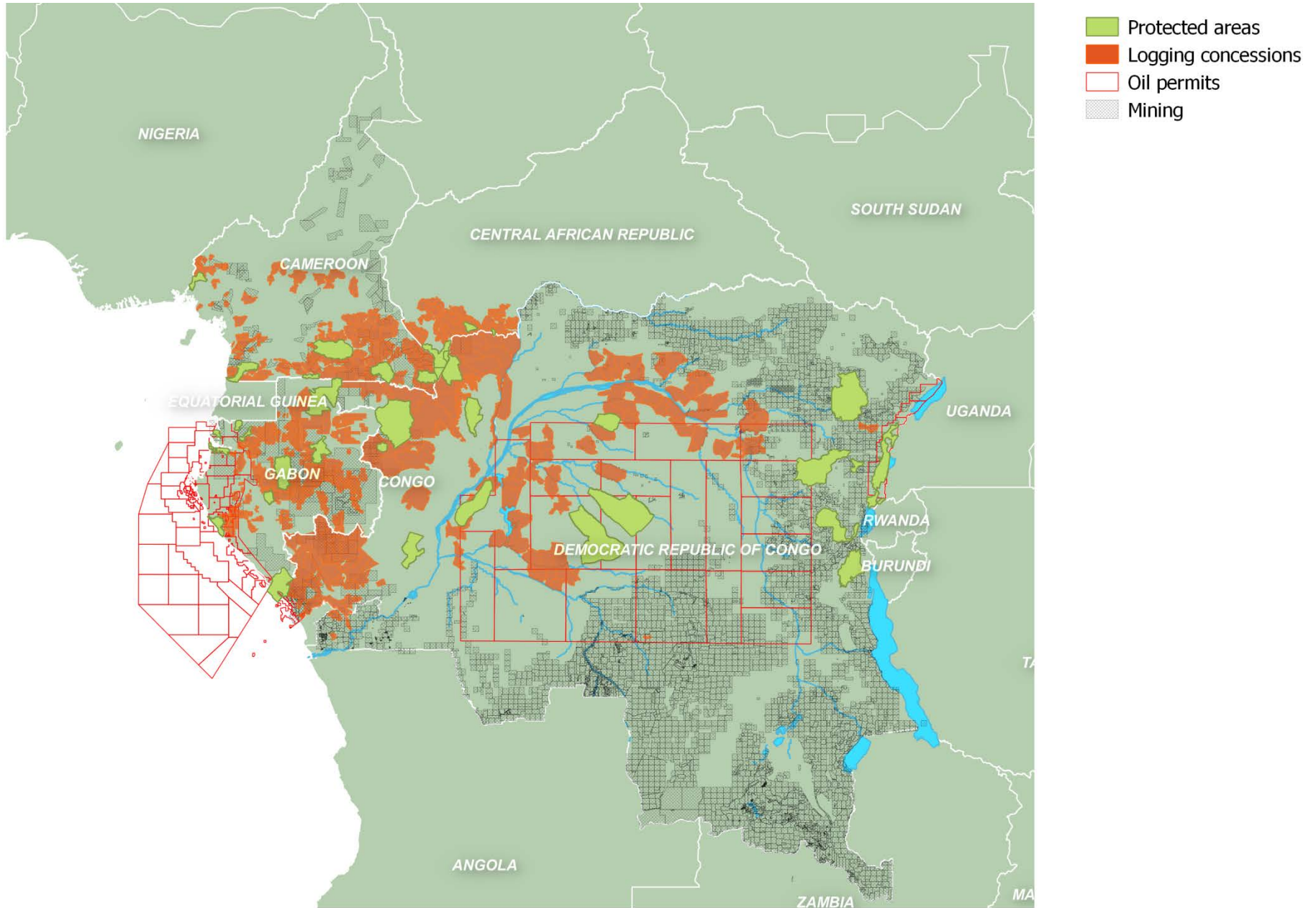
CONSERVATION APPROACHES

- Patrols and eco-guards, yet poaching persists
- Large mammal populations still declining (60+% /decade!)

MAJOR THREATS TO PAs

- 62% : mining inside
(12% on border)
- 39% : oil concessions inside
- 6% : logging inside
(68% on border)

PA and concessions for extractive industries





Impacts on local communities?

CONSULTATION

- Only **one** PA: consultation *before* park
- 40% : some after

DISPLACEMENT

- 100%

COMPENSATION

- None reported

INVOLVEMENT OR IMPOSITION

- 2 PAs: local involvement in decision-making
- 40% some revenue
- 28% no user rights
- 72% restricted use
- Zero land rights

CONFLICTS

- 83% reported conflict
- 41% with aggression



Any win-win “success stories”?

Not really... but some + moves in right direction...

DIALOGUE PROCESSES

RFUK & FPP:

- Mbaéré Bodingue (CAR)
- Tumba-Lediima & Kahuzi-Biega (DRC)

GOVERNMENTS

Cameroon:

National FPIC guidelines

LOCAL RESISTANCE

DRC: Lomako-Yokokala

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS TO LAND

No FULL restitution (as per Durban Accord), but part restitution in Cameroon:

- Campo Ma'an (Bagyeli)
- Lobeke (Baka)

CO-MANAGEMENT

- Tayna Gorilla Reserve
- Itombwe (both in DRC)



Discussion

- Where is all the **funding** going???
- What are the most serious **threats** to Protected Areas: local communities or extractive industries?
- Why is the needed **information** so scarce and inaccessible?
- Given the evidence, are current **IUCN categories appropriate** and **sufficient** to meet growing pressure?



Concluding remarks & recommendations

Absolute no-go zones for extractive industries in intact forests

Greater transparency in funding & public expenditure + **data** on economic revenues from conservation projects

Local knowledge, citizen science, participatory monitoring, co-inquiry

Shift of focus to local livelihoods, rights & wellbeing. Without this, we cannot expect any end to poaching.

Indigenous ownership of ancestral lands, for managing & protecting them, as they have for generations. **Our role is to support** them.

Other effective conservation measures, also outside protected areas.

Thank you!



Acknowledgments

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