

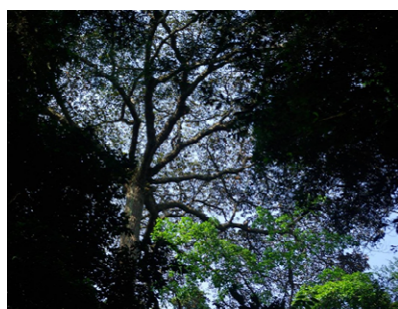
Evaluation of the management of wildlife in the forestry concessions around the national parks of Lopé, Waka and Ivindo, Gabon

By :

Tim RAYDEN & Rawlings ESSAME ESSONO

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Gabon



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Gabon, the national parks of Lopé, Waka and Ivindo were named "Priority Areas" for the conservation of great apes. These parks are all surrounded by forestry concessions. Forestry activity can have negative impacts on the conservation of wildlife if the forestry companies do not meet legal requirements for the control of illegal hunting and poaching.

Legal and sustainable management of forest concessions is critical to minimize impacts on the fauna of forest concessions, and by extension of national parks that they surround. So, the enforcement of wildlife law within forestry concessions in Gabon is a very important issue for wildlife conservation, particularly in the "Priority areas" around Lopé, Waka and Ivindo national parks.

His Excellency Ali BONGO ONDIMBA, President of the Republic, Head of State has said that illegal logging in Gabon must be eradicated by the end of 2011. In the same vein, the Gabonese government has made a public commitment to adhere to a bilateral agreement with the European Union to pursue a program of law enforcement in the forestry sector. As such, the Government has already undertaken a number of initiatives to strengthen forest law and its application, implementation and monitoring in Gabon.

In this context, the Directorate General of Water and Forestry through the Directorate of Wildlife and Hunting, with the support of its partners, has embarked on the development of a strategy to conserve the great apes in priority areas of "Lopé - Waka and Ivindo" which takes into account the quality of forest management in timber concessions within the landscape.

Our study aimed to measure the quality of wildlife management in forest concessions located around the three national parks. To do this, we developed a checklist in two parts. The first part was based on the legal requirements for the protection of wildlife, the control of hunting and for a planned and organised approach to timber harvesting. The second part of the checklist incorporates internationally accepted best practices for wildlife management and reduced impact logging, drawn from international standards and good practice guidelines.

The checklist provides an objective means to assess the quality of management practices within an individual forest concession. It measures the application of the law, but also recognises when companies go above and beyond legal requirements to apply best practice.

Evaluations lasted an average of three days per company. Seven timber companies were evaluated in this study by a team of three evaluators from WCS.

The results of our study show large variations within the sample timber companies evaluated. Compliance with legal indicators ranged from 95% to 42%, while the application of best practices ranged from 86% to 14%. In the sample, the majority of companies applied the indicators relating to timber harvesting to a greater extent than those relating to the control hunting and monitoring of wildlife.

The performance of FSC-certified companies was far better than non certified companies in almost all aspects of the evaluation. Certified companies applied an average of 86% of the elements of best practices, while non-certified companies applied an average of 29%.

We hope that the results of this study will provide a baseline from which improvements in the management of wildlife in forest concessions can be measured. The checklist and assessment procedures could be developed into a regular program of monitoring and evaluation, in conjunction with the administration, for forestry operations in high priority areas for the conservation of wildlife in Gabon. In addition, the results of this project can make a useful contribution in the shaping of new forestry legislation, and the discussions on the content of a legality assurance system in Gabon under the FLEGT program.

ABREVIATIONS

WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
CFAD	Concession Forestière sous Aménagement Durable
CEB	Compagnie Équatoriale des Bois
SEEF	Société Equatoriale d'Exploitation Forestière
CFTTB	Compagnie Forestière d'Exploitation, de Transport et Transformation de Bois
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
MINEF	Ministère des Eaux et Forets
ENEF	Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forets
Ha	Hectares
DME	Diamètre Minimum d'Exploitabilité
ANPN	Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux
CPAET	Convention Provisoire d'Aménagement, d'Exploitation et de Transformation
DFC	Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse – Ministère des Eaux et Forets
DGEF	Directorate Nationale des Eaux et Forets
OIBT	Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ITTO)
PN	Parc National
OAB	Organisation Africaine du Bois
HTG	HONEST TIMBER GABON
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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INTRODUCTION

Context

In Gabon, the sustainable management of forests has become a major preoccupation for both economic and ecological reasons. The productive forest concessions and the national parks both have important roles to play in the economic and ecological equilibrium of the country. The convergence of ecological and economic interests is particularly important in commercial forest concessions in order to maximise the full value of Gabon's forest resources. For this to be achieved, the first important step is that the national laws relating to forest exploitation and use must be fully respected by all parties.

The Gabonese government is deeply committed to the protection of wildlife within its permanent forest estate, and has renewed its profound engagement to the conservation agenda by making “*Gabon Vert*” (Green Gabon) one of the three pillars of new government policy. The great potential for the conservation of biodiversity is already locally appreciated in Gabon.

The forests of Gabon are part of the tropical moist forest of the Congo basin, which supports the largest populations of lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla*) chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and elephants (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) in the world. Protected areas cover 11% of Gabon's national area, but the area under forest logging concessions is more like 60%. In addition, almost all Gabon's protected areas are surrounded by active logging concessions. A coherent approach to the management of forests that links conservation within protected areas to conservation measures applied in forestry concessions will greatly increase the effectiveness of efforts to maintain ecological and productive functions of forest ecosystems across whole landscapes.

Certain parts of Gabon have already been identified by the IUCN¹ as priority areas for the conservation of great apes. This report concerns the Lopé -Waka complex (an exceptional priority area) and the periphery of the Ivindo National Park (an important priority area), which comprise the focal landscape for the study.

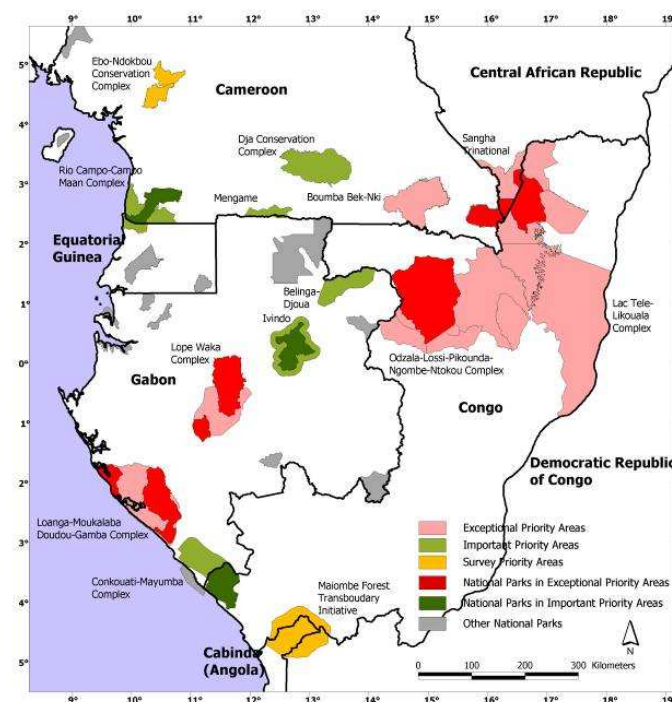


Figure 1 : Map of western central Africa showing the zones identified as priority areas for great ape conservation within the region. (Source: IUCN 2005)

¹ IUCN Great Apes Working Group 2005

Around the national parks of Lopé, Waka and Ivindo, there are ten logging companies with large logging concessions that differ significantly in their forest management practices and their respect for national forest legislation. It is clear that the management of these forest concessions will have a direct impact on the wildlife populations contained within and moving through these national parks. Therefore it is also clear that the legal and sustainable management of these 10 forestry concessions is a significant priority for the long term conservation of wide ranging endangered mammal species such as great apes and elephants.

If conservation measures are not taken into consideration in forest management plans, forest exploitation can be a major threat to populations of large mammals, because forestry activity can facilitate large scale commercial hunting and trade, and cause the fragmentation and loss of important habitats. To this end, the *Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse* of the Ministry of Water and Forests has embarked on the development of a strategy to improve the level of the application of forest laws relating to wildlife protection. The conservation of great apes within forestry concessions is a specific focus for the development of this strategy.

This project was developed as a pilot project destined to develop the techniques and approaches necessary to evaluate the application of the laws relating to wildlife protection in commercial forest concessions. Using the results of this study, and with the support of the *Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts*, the approach could become the basis of a long term partnership between WCS and the administration with the objective to bring increased vigour to the application of wildlife protection laws in the commercial forest estate in Gabon.

Objectives of the study

This study was designed to investigate level of conformity with legal requirements relating to wildlife protection by logging companies operating in the landscape of Lopé, Waka and Ivindo national parks. It also measured the extent of application of certain protective measures not required by the law, but suggested by the various best practice guides.

The study gives a quantitative measure which shows the relative performance of different companies. This measure can be a basis to drive progressive improvements by the companies if re-evaluation is made after a certain period. It is hoped that repeated evaluations will drive continued improvement in the management of wildlife within forestry concessions in the priority zone.

Principal activities

1. Development of a simple and practical checklist (*grille d'évaluation*) to measure the quality of wildlife management in forestry concessions, based on the active national legislation, and the best practices proposed by various international bodies.
2. On-the-ground evaluation, using the checklist, and on the basis of written documents, interviews and site visits, of the management of wildlife (notably great apes) in the forestry concessions in the priority zone.
3. Identification of the main weak points and constraints to better wildlife management practices, and a better application of the legal requirements in forestry concessions in the priority zone.

Plan of the report

This report is divided into 4 parts:

1. Presentation of the study area
2. Methods used for data collection and evaluation
3. Results obtained
4. Conclusions and recommendations arising from the study

1. PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY AREA

The study zone includes the national parks of Lopé, Waka and Ivindo and the forestry concessions situated in the *zones périphériques* of these parks. The ten companies operating the concessions concerned are : IFL, SUNLY, BORDAMUR, LEROY, CEB Precious Woods, CORAWOOD (and CFTTB), SEEF, ROUGIER, HUA JAI, and HTG. At the time of the study, and as a result of the economic crisis and much change in the forestry sector in Gabon, there was no activity or human presence in the concessions of HTG, HUA JAI and IFL. As a result it was not possible to complete evaluations of these operations. It was possible to evaluate seven companies. These were : SUNLY, BORDAMUR, LEROY, CEB, CORAWOOD (and CFTTB), ROUGIER and SEEF.

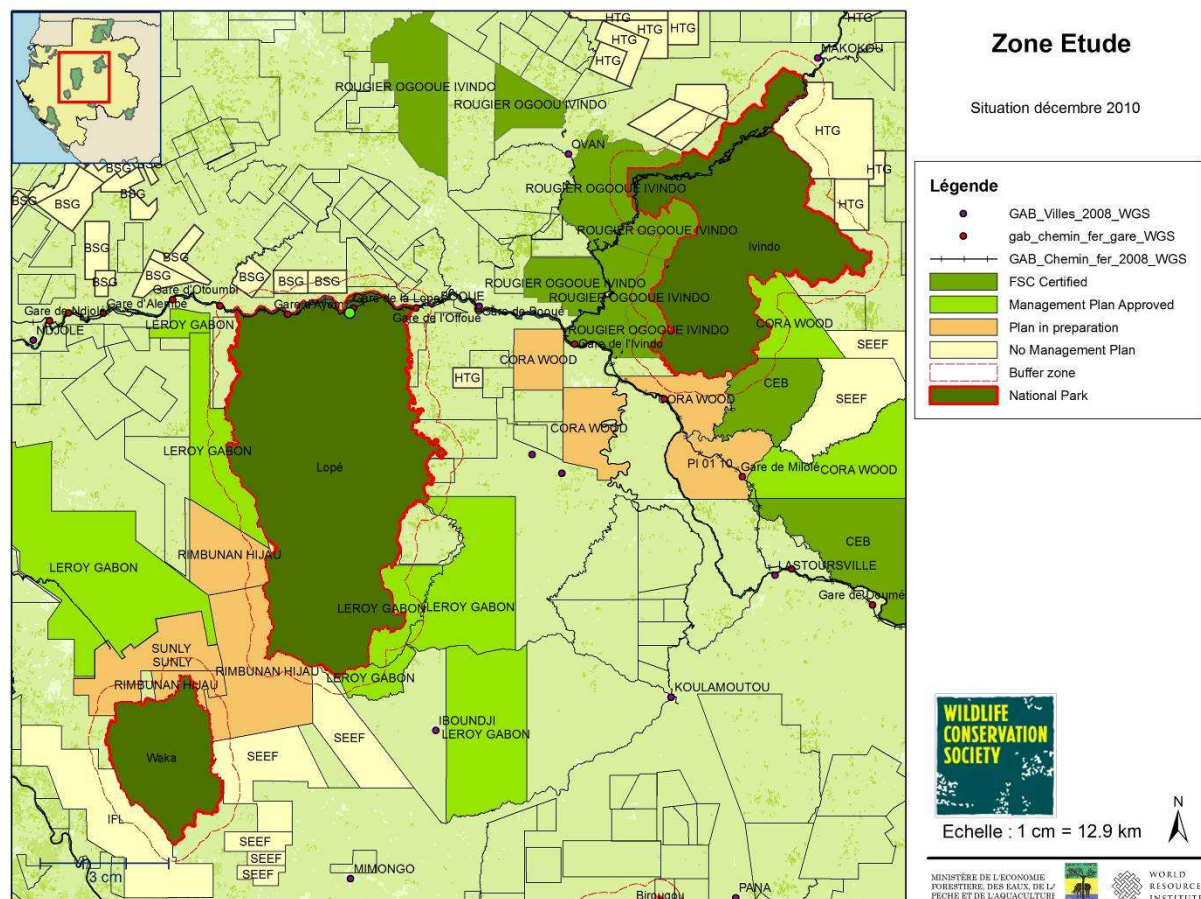


Figure 2 : Map showing the study zone, including the National Parks of Lopé, Waka and Ivindo and the forestry concessions situated in and around their buffer zones.

1.1 The national parks of Lopé, Waka and Ivindo

Thanks to an the initiative of the late **President Omar BONGO ONDIMBA**, on 4 September 2002, the creation of 13 national parks was announced at the Earth Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. From that moment, Gabon set aside 11% of its national territory to participate in the global effort for the preservation of the environment and the fight against climate change. This study concerned the area around the three forest parks situated in the centre of Gabon; Lopé Waka and Ivindo.

1.1.1 Lopé National Park (4970 km²) :

The Lopé National Park is at the confluence of four Gabonese provinces, the Ogooué-Ivindo, Ogooué-Lolo, Moyen-Ogooué and la Ngounié. Lopé national park has an area of 4970 km². Lopé is a unique site where ancient savannas dating to 400,000 years BP are juxtaposed with forest of the Massif DuChaillu (Pleistocene period) rich in endemic plants. The marantaceae forest nearest to the savannas of the north, constitute a habitat that is ideal for elephants gorillas and chimpanzees. As a consequence, Lopé holds very high densities of

large mammals, and is thought to be one of the most important sites in the humid tropics for these species. Lopé is one of the few sites in the tropics where one can easily observe the mandril. The valley of the Ogooue river is a rich source of pre-historic artefacts and rock engravings. In fact Lopé is one of the oldest known human habitation sites in Africa, with stone tools from before the iron age, and other signs of human habitation dating back 400,000 years. Since 28 June 2007, Lopé has been considered a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

1.1.2 Waka National Park (1 070 km²) :

Waka national park is situated in the province of Ngounié. It covers 1,070 km². The mountains of the park (also of the Massif DuChaillu) are considered unique due to the richness of their cultural associations with the people living traditionally in the surrounding areas. These peoples claim to originate from the Bwiti region. They retain a close association with the forest, including rites, secrets and myths. Cultural tourism has been proposed in the region as a result of this rich tradition. The natural history of the Massif is well known by the local peoples, but not yet well studied by the scientific community. As a result local expertise is an important source of information on the changes that have taken place in the region over generations.

1.1.3 Ivindo National Park (3 000 km²) :

Ivindo is situated on the border of the provinces of l'Ogooué-Ivindo and l'Ogooué-Lolo. It covers an area of around 300,000 ha and contains some 131 species of mammals including 17 primates, 13 carnivores and 16 ungulates. The western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla Gorilla*) and the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) are abundant in this forest area. The avifauna consists of 397 species, including the rare picathartes. A large part of the vegetation consists of dense, old moist forest of the Guineo-Congolese basin. The west and south of the parc show the influence of atlantic ecosystem types, with a strong dominance of Okoume (*Aucoumea klaineana*). The north and eastern parts of the park contain very old dense forest stands dominated by the Caesalpinoideae family. Only the extreme northern part of the park, on the plateau d'Ipassa, shows evidence of more regular natural disturbances. The park presents opportunities for tourists to visit the Kongou and Djidji falls; the most spectacular in the central African region. At certain periods of the year, visits to the Langoue Bai offer the opportunity to view elephant gorilla buffalo and sitatunga from the comfort and security of an observatory.

1.2 The forestry concessions evaluated for the study

The concessions chosen for the study were those in the *zones peripheriques* of the three parks, most of which have limits contiguous with a park boundary. All the concessions evaluated could be considered part of the priority zone for the conservation of great apes. Only concessions with approved management plans, or in the preparation phase of a management plan were evaluated. Thus the study excluded some small forest permits, where no forest management is currently taking place.

1.2.1 BORDAMUR Mboumi (152,850 ha) :

This concession is one of many managed by the Malaysian company RIMBUNAN HIJAU. It is situated north of Waka and west of Lopé in the zone referred to as the Lopé -Waka complex that was identified as an exceptional priority area for the conservation of great apes. The concession has common limits with both parks. At the moment of the evaluation, Bordamur had just submitted their draft management plan for validation by the Ministry of *Eaux et Forêts*. The plan states that hunting in the concession will be controlled and regulated by the company.

1.2.2 LEROY GABON Gongué (270,299 ha) :

LEROY Gabon manages about 450,000 ha of forest in Gabon, in three blocks, east and west of Lopé national park. The block studied for this evaluation was to the east of Lopé, and has common limits with the south-east portion of the park. At the moment of the evaluation, the level of activity in the concession was very low. This was due to a change of ownership, taking place via a government tribunal, that was brought about by the dual impacts of the economic crisis and the log export ban in Gabon. The company was under the ownership of Honest Timber Gabon (HTG), who had bought it in 2009, but who were in the process of closing their activities to await the results of the tribunal. However, a validated management plan exists for the concession, (since 2002) which explains that the practice of hunting in the concession will be controlled and regulated by the company.

1.2.3 CEB Precious Woods, Bambidie (581,490 ha) :

A part of this concession abuts the south of Ivindo national park, which makes it part of the important priority area defined by IUCN. At the time of the evaluation, the CEB had a validated management plan, ISO and FSC certification for the entire forest management unit. The practice of hunting is formally regulated organised and controlled by the company.

1.2.4 SUNLY Ikobey (65,200 ha) :

SUNRY/SUNLY Gabon manages several hundred thousand hectares of forest in Gabon, with CFADs in the north-east, east and centre-south of the country. Our study concerned a small part of SUNLY's estate, that of the centre-south CFAD, which is situated along the boundary of Waka national park, and part of the exceptional priority area for great apes. At this time the management plan for the zone is under preparation by a consultancy, but the company policy explains that hunting in the zone should be controlled and regulated by the company.

1.2.5 SEEF Milolé (100,000 ha):

The concession of SEEF is situated to the south of Ivindo national park in the *zone peripherique*, but without a direct boundary with the national park. At the time of the evaluation, SEEF was in the process of asking the Ministry of *Eaux et Forêts* for an extension to their provisional forest harvesting license to allow further time for the preparation of a management plan. The forest inventories have been completed for the area, but the process of synthesis of the plan has not yet started. SEEF has had a provisional exploitation licence (theoretically 3 years) since 2002. If an extension is formally granted by the Ministry, SEEF will be under an obligation to complete the management plan by the end of 2011. Hunting by company staff is managed according to an informal policy of prohibition.

1.2.6 ROUGIER Ogooue Ivindo and Massouna (279,183 ha):

Rougier Gabon manages three CFADs in Gabon with a total area of around 650,000 ha. The CFAD of 'Ogooué Ivindo is situated to the west of the park with an extensive common boundary. Indeed, a large part of the park was re-claimed from Rougier's original concession allocation. At the moment of the evaluation, Rougier had an approved management plan, FSC and ISO14001 certification for the Ogooue Ivindo concession.

1.2.7 CORA WOOD Mouyabi (157,000 ha) :

Cora Wood Gabon has three areas of forest in Gabon, two of which fall within the *zone peripherique* of Ivindo national park. Only one of these concessions is active at the present time, so the evaluation concerned the block around Mouyabi station, to the south west of the park. This block has a common limit with the park boundary, and is an area where the control of hunting and the traffic of bushmeat is extremely important. At the time of the evaluation, the area was being managed by CFTTB, a logging contractor, under a partnership agreement with Cora Wood. The management plan for this area was under preparation by Sylvafrica, a consultancy, and due for completion in Dec 2010. Cora Wood policy states that the practice of hunting is formally regulated in the concession.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Elaboration of the checklist for the evaluation

The goal of this part of the project was to develop a simple tool for the evaluation of the application of legal requirements and best practice techniques relating to wildlife protection in forestry concessions.

This was done in three stages :

- The first step was to develop a summary of the fundamental legal obligations for wildlife protection and management in forest concessions. These were drawn directly from the Gabonese law (the *Code Forestier* and its associated documents). The same exercise was completed for suggested best practices for wildlife management, by drawing on the standards proposed by ITTO, FSC and the best practice guides of FAO and IUCN. In both cases, ideas were drawn from practices relating to the exploitation of forests (direct consequences of logging activity on wildlife), and the management of hunting and poaching (indirect consequences of logging activity).
- Following the preparation of a summary, the elements of this summary were organised into themes (hunting by village residents, hunting by company employees etc). Each requirement or suggestion was then translated into the form of a measurable indicator that could be quickly evaluated in the field through observation.
- Finally the indicators were re-organised into a checklist using the established structure of principles, criteria and indicators, using two main principles : the management of hunting and the management of forest exploitation (logging).

The checklist used for the evaluation (draft 4 August 2010, Annex 1) is a document of 12 pages which contains 2 principles, 7 criteria and 4 sub-criteria. There are 36 indicators drawn directly from the Gabonese law. These form the basis of the evaluation of legal compliance. A further 21 indicators were created from best practice documents, arranged under the same principles and criteria, but clearly separated from those required by the law. The checklist contains a space for the evaluators to complete each indicator with objective evidence from the field.

2.2 Composition of the evaluation team

The evaluation team was composed of three people;

- Tim Rayden (Technical Advisor, Forestry WCS Gabon)
- Rawlings Yann Essame Essono (Assistant Technique du Projet et Consultant WCS Gabon)
- Kéichia Essomeyo Engonga (Stagière ENEF au WCS Gabon)

2.3 Method of Evaluation and Collection of Data

The objective of the study was to evaluate the quality of management applied to different aspects of the protection of wildlife in the forestry concession. This was achieved by investigating :

- The company policy on wildlife management and the control of hunting by company employees.
- The policy for engagement with local populations and the extent to which the company applies itself to the regulation of hunting by local residents within the forest concession.
- The process of forest exploitation (logging) and the extent to which measures are taken to reduce the direct impacts of logging activity on wildlife

The evaluation of each company was made in the form of a systems audit. Information corresponding to each indicator was sought through:

- Individual and collective interviews with company staff, managers and village residents (e.g. forest managers, tree fellers, drivers, village elders, committee representatives)
- Site visits to different areas of the forest concession, notably areas of current and past logging activity, buffer zones of the national parks and local villages.

- Consultation of specific documents relating to forest management, including management plans annual operating plans, policy documents, procedures, internal company rules and employment contracts, documents of association and partnership (e.g. with village communities or research partners).

For each indicator of the checklist, it was necessary to make a decision on compliance/non compliance. This was done in the following way:

- Indicate a YES/NO observation
- Complete the checklist with the details of the objective evidence proving the compliance/non compliance.

Objective Evidence
The checklist provides a column where objective evidence must be recorded. Objective evidence is the tangible proof that the company complies with an indicator. This tangible proof can be documentary evidence (for example the existence of an approved management plan document). In some cases, however, evidence from interviews with stakeholders can also be considered tangible proof. If, for example, the checklist requires that employees are aware of the rules on hunting, the objective evidence of this may be that the employees interviewed were able to demonstrate this awareness. In this case it would be appropriate to cite the names and functions of the employees interviewed. In general, the appropriate objective evidence depends on the means of evaluation.

Below are some examples of requirements of the completed checklist, with the objective evidence section completed :

N°	Sujets	Observations. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Principe n°2	L'EXPLOTATION FORESTIERE TRES BIEN PROGRAMMEE		
Critère n°4	Mise en Œuvre de l'Exploitation Forestière		
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 2.4.2	le plan d'aménagement définit les caractéristiques et la localisation des routes	oui	Vu document, plan d'aménagement de la société : page 200, titres : 8.4.1 Réseau Routier et Parcs

N°	Sujets	Observations Oui/Non	Preuves tangibles
Principe n°2	L'EXPLOTATION FORESTIERE TRES BIEN PROGRAMMEE		
Critère n°2	Les différentes Séries d'Aménagement sont Reportées sur une Carte		
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 2.2.1	le plan d'aménagement définit les limites et les superficies des différentes séries d'aménagement sur une carte	non	Pas encore de plan d'aménagement prêt, et pas de cartes de séries d'aménagement

Figure 3 : Extract from the *grille d'évaluation* showing observations and the objective evidence recorded

2.4 Analysis of the data

One point was given for each indicator that was answered “yes” to enable a quantitative assessment of the level of performance of each company. Legal elements and best practice suggestions were totalled separately and kept apart in the analysis. This enabled a separate calculation of the percentage compliance with obligatory elements of the law, and the non-obligatory best practice elements.

To test the level of compliance with the principles and criteria, we established certain constraints in the analysis, as follows:

- The validation of a principle requires the validation of all its associated criteria (no corrective actions recommended)
- The validation of a criterion requires the validation of 75% of the indicators of that criterion (corrective actions recommended for those criteria not validated)

This allowed us to class the companies evaluation into two distinct categories :

- Those who respect and apply the law, which validated both principles of the checklist and whose non compliances were only at the level of best practices in category 1 (Good)
- Those who failed to fully apply the law and had corrective action recommendations in one or other of the 2 principles (Bad)

Data analysis and production of graphic representations was carried out in Microsoft Excel.

3. RESULTS

The results presented here are drawn from the evaluations made between August and December 2010, and so represent the performance of these companies during this period only.

3.1 General summary of results

The results show wide differences between the levels of achievement by the different companies. In general the companies without existing management plans lost many points compared to those already implementing an approved plan. This is important because many measures required by the law for the protection of wildlife are made obligatory through the production of a management plan, and the plan is a central element of the law on forest management. Figure 3 presents the results of the seven companies evaluated during the study. It is important to note that the order in which the companies are presented here does not correspond to the order in which they have been described in this report, or the chronological order in which they were evaluated.

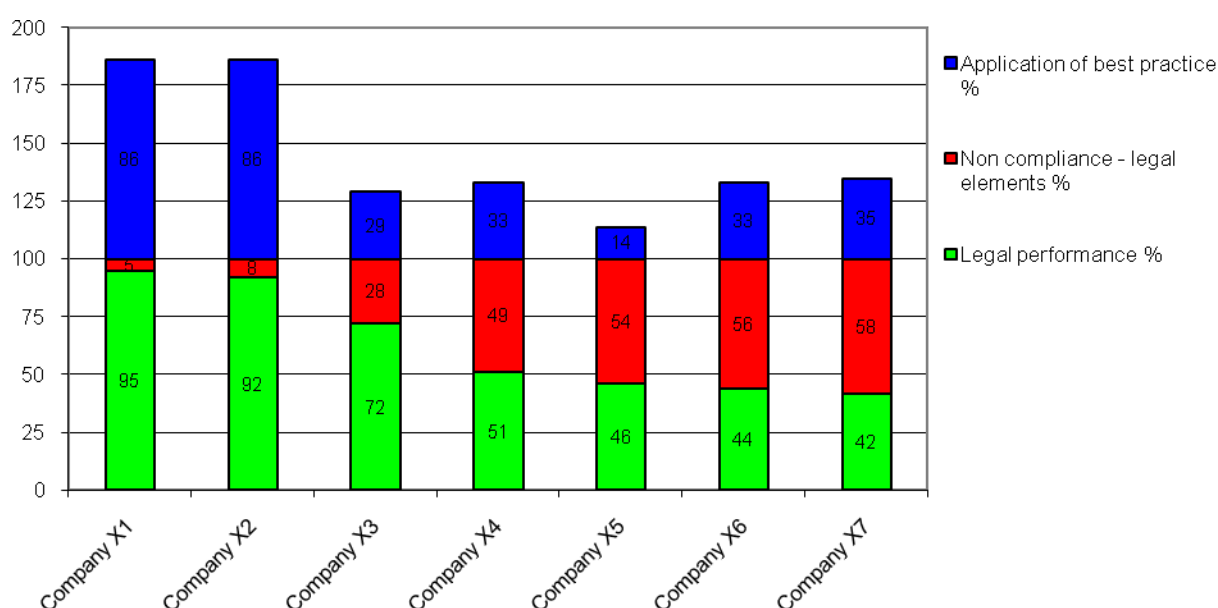


Figure 4: Final results from the 7 companies evaluated for the study. The results show the percentage level of compliance with the legal elements of the checklist (green) the level of non compliance with legal elements (red) and the level of implementation of best practice suggestions (blue).

In regard to these results the first thing that is clear is that the two FSC certified companies, X1 and X2, have performed much better than the remaining 5 companies evaluated. These two companies have clearly made considerable efforts on the management of wildlife and have also a high level of compliance with legal requirements and the best practice suggestions in the checklist. Companies X1 and X2 are the only companies evaluated to validate all the criteria in the checklist (see section 3.3) As a result we have classified these two companies as “good”.

By contrast, we have classified the level of wildlife management in the other 5 companies as “bad”. None of these companies managed to validate either principle of the checklist, although some individual criteria were validated (see section 3.3). Most were well below a level of legal compliance that could be considered acceptable, and none of these 5 companies managed to implement more than a third of the suggested best practices.

In general, therefore, it is evident that the protection and management of wildlife is not an issue that is seriously considered by most companies. This is important because many elements of the checklist are drawn directly from the Gabonese forest law. Failure to respect these requirements implies a level of forest management that is below ‘legal compliance’.

3.2 Results in terms of forest area

In terms of area, we evaluated the management of concession areas totalling 1,606,024 ha. This can be divided into the areas in category 1 ("good" wildlife management: 860,675 ha), and category 2 : bad wildlife management : 745,349 ha).

Table 1 : The quality of wildlife management by forest area managed		
Category	Area	Companies
Category 1 (Good)	860675	X1 and X2
Category 2 (Bad)	745349	X3, X4, X5, X6, X7

This result shows that the two companies achieving the highest level of wildlife management are in fact managing larger areas of forest relative to the companies classed as bad wildlife management.

3.3 Individual results: legal compliance

Considering only the indicators drawn from the *Code Forestier* in Gabon, the table below (Table 2) presents the level of legal compliance of the different companies evaluated.

Table 2 : The level of compliance with legal requirements within the principles and criteria. Red indicates that a criterion was not validated.							
Check List	Companies evaluated						
Principles & Criteria	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7
Principle N°1:							
Criterion n°1:							
Criterion n°2 :							
Criterion n°3 :							
Principle N°2 :							
Criterion n°1:							
Criterion n°2 :							
Criterion n°3 :							
Criterion n°4 :							

In the table, green colour indicates a criteria that was validated (compliance with 75% of the indicators). Red indicates criteria which were not validated. Again this shows clearly that companies X1 and X2 delivered much better results than the other 5 companies in the study. These 2 companies managed to successfully validate all criteria in the checklist.

We also note that company X5 managed to validate principle 2 (regarding the planning and management of forest operations) but not principle 1 (regarding the control of hunting). The remaining four companies did not succeed in validating either principle 1 or 2.

3.4 Average results on hunting control and timber harvesting law

Further summarising the results above, one can see that the level of application of the law regarding hunting controls was much more weakly applied than the legal aspects of forest exploitation. That is to say that even those companies who performed badly overall applied more of the requirements on forest management than they did on controlling the practices of hunting. Averaged across the 7 companies evaluated, application of

legal requirements on hunting was 46% whereas application of legal requirements on harvesting of timber was at 78%. See Fig 5.

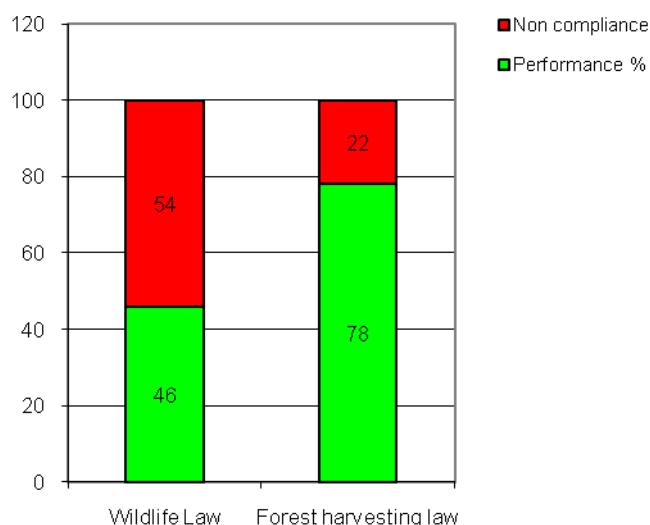


Figure 5: The application of the legal requirements on hunting controls (Wildlife Law) and timber harvesting (Forest harvesting law) averaged across the 7 companies evaluated.

These results clearly show that the level of performance by companies on elements of the law specific to hunting practices is much lower than those elements specific to forest exploitation. However, it is important to consider that this is partly a result of the lower level of priority attached to these issues by the agents of the Ministry of the *Eaux et Forêts* who are responsible for verifying company compliance with the law.

3.5 Major observations on the checklist results

By comparing the results from the different evaluations it is possible to draw out some general observations on the particular elements of the checklist that were validated/not validated by several different companies. This shows the following: (Note these observations concern both legal and best practice elements of the checklist)

3.5.1 Hunting by employees of the company :

- In general, the majority of company workers had received a minimum of information/education on the existence of the hunting season, the dates for the closure of legally permitted hunting (15 Sept to 15 March), and the prohibition of the transport of bushmeat outside the forestry concession. Six out of seven companies validated legal indicators 1.1.8, 1.1.9 et 1.1.11 of criteria 1 (control of hunting by company employees)
- In contrast, very few companies were found to observe or control the *practice* and the *products* of hunting obtained by company staff. We observed that of all the companies evaluated, only company X1 managed to validate legal indicators 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 associated with the control of the hunting activities by company employees. These indicators require the surveillance of the products of hunting (e.g. to ensure that legal hunters are not hunting protected species).
- Only the certified companies (X1 and X2) had an up to date census of hunters and firearms in their concession, and a policy of assuring the regulation of the firearms of employees. Only companies X1 and X2 validated best practice indicator 1.1.10 which requires that the company identifies and regulates all hunters on their staff (e.g. to ensure that hunting licenses and permits are in place).

3.5.2 Hunting by local people :

- The results showed very bad performance overall by most companies on the issue of the oversight of hunting activities by local people (i.e. local residents who are not staff of the company). We notice that no evaluated company managed to validate best practice indicators 1.2.7, 1.2.8 and 1.2.10 (control of hunting by village residents).

- Only the certified companies (X1 and X2) have engaged in participatory mapping of a village use zone, where there are village territories that overlap with concession boundaries. Only these two companies validated legal indicator 1.2.2 on the participatory delineation of a *zone d'usage coutumiere*.
- Only the certified companies (X1 and X2) had an individual member of staff responsible for relations with neighbouring communities, ('*un responsable social*'). Only these companies validated the best practice indicator 1.2.8, which suggests that there should be a named individual responsible for communication, education and negotiation with villages in or around the concession.
- Only one company (X2) had carried out direct outreach activities with local villagers on the subject of the legal rules that apply to hunting in their village zone, and outside the zone in the rest of the concession. Only this one company validated legal indicator 1.2.4.

3.5.3 Control of access roads and other measures of control

- In view of the fact that control of the access roads into a forest concession is one of the most important measures to control illegal hunting in the concession, and is clearly required by the *Code Forestier*, it is important to note that only 3 of the 7 companies evaluated control their road networks to any acceptable extent. The data shows that only companies X5, X2 and X4 validated legal indicator 1.3 which demands that there is control of the road access points into the concession.
- The majority of companies evaluated had a system of internal rules and regulations that forbids the transport of bushmeat, firearms and hunters in company vehicles. In fact the majority of companies validated best practice indicators 1.3.3, 1.3.5, and 1.3.6 associated with the non-facilitation of hunting by company vehicles. These indicators ask for formal measures to combat the traffic of arms, bushmeat into and out of the concession.
- Only the certified companies (X1 and X2) had something that could be described as a formal system for managing hunting and wildlife, including measures to monitor hunting activities in the concession. However no company was monitoring all aspects of hunting necessary to ensure full control (e.g. the absence of hunting outside designated zones, the density of animals in areas zoned for legal hunting)
- Only three of the companies evaluated made efforts to provide domestic meat to company employees at a price that is reduced, and competitive with the price of bushmeat in the logging camps. Both certified companies and company X5 validated best practice indicator 1.3.11. This indicator asks that the meat sold in the company *economat* presents a real alternative to employees and can therefore actively dissuade them from hunting for meat.

3.5.4 Timber extraction operations

- Only company X1 has made a formal environmental impact study for the forest concession. This is a legal requirement for all forestry activity in the *zone peripherique* of a park. It is required by indicator 2.4.1 of the checklist. Company X2 had a procedure for impact assessments for each individual operation but had not completed a formal, universal assessment. No other companies complied with this indicator.
- The majority of companies had provided training for their fellers in the techniques of controlled felling. Most companies validated the indicators we defined for tree felling, including the legal requirements to respect diameter limits (2.4.8 and 2.4.9) and the best practice requirements to practice controlled felling (2.4.10 and 2.4.11).
- Only the certified companies had trained their skidder and bulldozer driver in the techniques of reduced impact timber extraction. Only companies X1 and X2 validated criteria 2.4.7 on the training of machine operators.

3.6 Comparison of results between certified and non certified companies

- The certified companies were the only companies evaluated to validate the parts of the checklist that concerned the control of hunting in the forest concession (Principle 1). None of the non-certified companies achieved this. The control of hunting in the forest operation is the most pressing conservation priority for forestry in the Congo basin, so this is an important and worrying result.

- The average level of achievement of the legal indicators by the two certified companies evaluated was 94%. This compared to 52% for the non certified companies. The certified companies also applied an average 86% of the elements we consider to be best practice for wildlife management in forestry concessions (e.g. the provision of domestic meat to employees at prices lower than bushmeat). The non certified companies applied an average of only 29% of these elements.

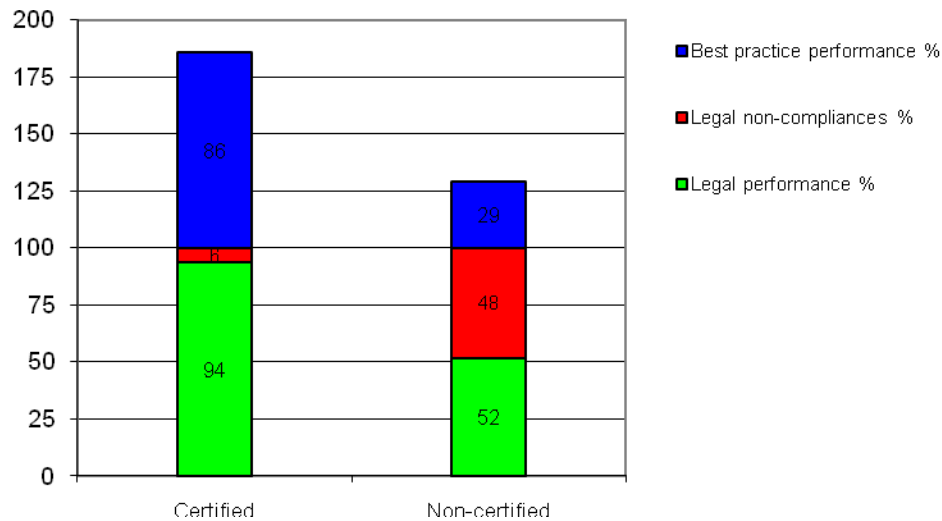


Figure 6: Comparison of the results of legal compliance and the application of best practice suggestions between certified (n=2 and non certified n=5) companies. Legal compliance (green) non-compliances (red) and application of best practices (blue)

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The objective of our study was to evaluate the management of wildlife by forestry companies in logging concessions within the zone of the three national parks, (Lopé, Waka and Ivindo). The results of this study will serve to support the development of a strategy for the conservation of great apes in this priority zone. The exercise consisted principally of four activities:

- The development of a simple evaluation tool on the basis of the national laws for the protection of wildlife in the *Code Forestier* of Gabon, and the suggested best practices recommended by international bodies.
- The evaluation of the level of application of the law and these best practice suggestions by the concessionaires operating within the zone.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of each company with respect to the legal requirements and the best practice suggestions.
- Report on these findings to the *Direction de la Faune et Chasse* and the *Directorate General des Eaux et Forêts*.

During the study, each company evaluated received a confidential report on their own performance relative to the average of the other companies evaluated. This report also presented recommendations to the company on how to improve wildlife protection and management within the concession.

Vague legal requirements:

From the conception of the checklist/evaluation tool, and through the phase of evaluation of the companies and the collection of data in the field, the study has enabled us to scrutinise the legal requirements on wildlife protection, and their current level of application.

The process highlighted several grey areas, and missing elements in the national legislation, which give rise to a multitude of possible interpretations and, as a result, make the legislation difficult to apply on the ground. Notable examples are :

- The lack of clarity on what constitutes 'legal' and 'illegal' hunting by forest workers in a forestry concession
- The lack of clarity on the extent of the zone in which local residents have the right to hunt for their own subsistence
- The lack of clarity over the rules on the transport and commercialisation of bushmeat

It is therefore of vital importance that the government of Gabon develops the necessary *decrets d'application* and technical guides to resolve potential confusion.

Legal compliance

It is clear from the study that a large number of companies are not legally compliant. This has significant implications for the *Eaux et Forêts*, in terms of the need for increased efforts to control forest operators. It also has significant implications for Gabon's entry into Forest Law Governance and Trade (FLEGT) negotiations with the EU. Increased awareness of the law by forestry officials, increased field presence and increased emphasis on wildlife protection aspects will all be necessary to ensure legal compliance and entry into a FLEGT licensing system.

Performance of certified companies relative to non-certified

The results show clearly the difference between the performances of FSC certified companies and that of non certified companies. In general, the 2 FSC certified companies evaluated managed to apply the law and a large number of the recommended best practices. This was not the case for the 5 non-certified companies evaluated. This shows the strength of the FSC system in terms of reinforcing legal compliance and encouraging improvements on 'business as usual' forestry in Gabon.

Improvements needed in FSC standard

Nevertheless, by drawing best practice ideas from different international guidelines, we found that the FSC requirements are not as far reaching as they should be on the question of wildlife management in forestry. This

is notably the case on the question of monitoring the pressure of hunting and monitoring the impacts of hunting on wildlife in the forest. Neither of the certified companies evaluated were being required by their auditors to have a system of monitoring that contributed to effective management of wildlife. It is therefore strongly recommended that FSC continues to strengthen the standard with regard to the control of hunting in the forest concession and the monitoring of these efforts in a way that proves their effectiveness.

Recommendations

With regard to these observations on the results of this study, we raise several recommendations for the relevant actors in the forestry sector in Gabon.

For the DGEF we suggest :

- The version of the *grille d'évaluation* used for this pilot study be considered as the first draft that can be improved and developed in the coming months in consultation with partners including the provincial inspection units and cantonments of the *Eaux et Forêts*.
- The methods of evaluation developed during this study can be adopted by the administration in such a way that the system of surveillance of forestry activity is reinforced and the application of wildlife protection laws is strengthened.
- The study should be enlarged to a national scale to give a larger overview of the current levels of wildlife management within forestry concessions in Gabon, and a better monitoring of the application of wildlife law
- The study should be realised once a year to provide ongoing surveillance of the management of wildlife in forestry concessions already evaluated, and a measure of improvements (or otherwise) in the systems employed by the companies. Individual reports for each company based on the evaluation can provide clarity on specific action points for attention.
- The best practice suggestions contained within the *grille d'évaluation* could be adopted into reinforced legislation for the protection of wildlife in forestry concessions. In the short term WCS recommends that the results of this study are taken into consideration during the revision of the *Guide Technique National de l'Aménagement des Forêts (GTNAF)*.

For the ANPN we suggest :

- The legal requirements for the exploitation of forests within the buffer zones of national parks are clearly spelt out for all the actors in the forestry sector (including precision for terms like: *zone peripherique, étude impact, exploitation de faible impact, cahier de charges...*)
- The agents of ANPN are trained in the surveillance and monitoring of forestry practice, and participate in surveillance missions with WCS and the *Eaux et Forêts* using the checklist developed.

For the companies evaluated we suggest :

- Those that do not already have a named representative for wildlife management and protection should formally create a position for this person, who can then be charged with the respect for the application of relevant wildlife protection laws, and participation in the annual cycle of monitoring.
- Note is taken of the specific recommendations delivered in the individual company evaluation reports, and an action plan is completed to deliver completed legal compliance by the time of the next evaluation starting in August 2011.

For the FSC we suggest :

- The FSC continues to reinforce its standard and the specific elements relating to control of hunting in forestry concessions, and the monitoring and evaluation that proves these measures are effective.
- FSC auditors place more emphasis on aspects relating to the effective protection of wildlife in forestry concessions and demand procedures that include the measurement of the effectiveness of actions and incremental improvements in the results.
- FSC auditors take note of the results of this project and the individual evaluations of companies against the *grille d'évaluation*.

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Décret N°190/PR/MEFCR du 4 mars 1987 *fixant les modalités de détention, de circulation et de commercialisation des produits de la chasse*

Décret n°189/PR/MEFCR du 4 mars 1987 *relatif à la protection de la faune*

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Décret n°187/PR/MEFCR du 4 Mars 1987 *relatif aux battues administratives*

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ANNEXES

Annex 1 : Check List (version draft 4 August 2010)

	Grille d'Evaluation		D4 (Aout 2010)
	MEILLEURE GESTION DE LA FAUNE DANS LES CONCESSIONS FORESTIERES <i>par rapport aux législations nationales du Gabon et aux techniques de meilleures pratiques</i>		
	Société :	Camp :	Période d'évaluation :

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Situation Actuelle de la Concession			
1 ^{er} cas	Il n'y a pas encore de plan d'aménagement de la concession		
2 ^{ème} cas	Il y'a un plan d'aménagement en préparation pour la zone CFAD/CPAET		
3 ^{ème} cas	Il existe déjà un plan d'aménagement approuvé par le MINEF		
Nature de la Gestion de la Chasse dans la Concession			
1 ^{er} cas	<i>la pratique de la chasse est strictement et formellement interdite dans la concession</i>		
2 ^{ème} cas	la pratique de la chasse est contrôlée et réglementée dans la concession		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Principe n°1 :	LA GESTION DE LA CHASSE		
Critère n°1	Gestion de la Chasse par les Employés de la Société		
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 1.1.1	dans le plan d'aménagement, Il existe une politique de gestion de la chasse, qui est communiquée à tous les employés de la société présents dans la concession		
Indicateur 1.1.2	le plan d'aménagement prévoit une zone de chasse pour les employés chasseurs de la société, « ou le plan d'aménagement interdit formellement et strictement la pratique de la chasse dans toutes ses formes par les employés de la société dans la concession »		
Indicateur 1.1.3	la société veille à ce que les activités de chasse des employés chasseurs ne se déroulent que dans leur zone de chasse indiquée, « ou la société veille a ce que les employés ne pratiquent jamais la chasse dans la concession »		
Indicateur 1.1.4	les employés chasseurs ont tous un petit permis de chasse associé à un permis de port d'arme, « ou la société veille a ce que les employés n'aient jamais d'armes de chasse dans la concession »		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Indicateur 1.1.5	Il existe des activités de contrôle afin de s'assurer que les employés chasseurs ne chassent que les espèces non - protégées ou les espèces partiellement protégées à l'exception des buffles et des éléphants, « <i>ou que les employés ne pratiquent jamais la chasse dans la concession</i> »		
Indicateur 1.1.6	Il existe des activités de contrôle afin de s'assurer que les employés chasseurs respectent toujours les latitudes de chasse « <i>ou que les employés ne pratiquent jamais la chasse dans la concession</i> »		
Indicateur 1.1.7	la société s'assure que les employés chasseurs ne chassent qu'avec des armes de troisième catégorie et des armes lisses ou rayées autorisées d'un calibre inférieur ou égal à 9mm, « <i>ou la société veille à ce que les employés n'aient jamais d'armes ou de pièges posés dans la concession</i> »		
Indicateur 1.1.8	la société veille à ce que les employés chasseurs ne chassent qu'en période d'ouverture de la chasse, « <i>ou la société veille à ce qu'en aucun moment les employés ne pratiquent la chasse sous aucune forme possible dans la concession</i> »		
Indicateur 1.1.9	Il existe différentes dispositions prises par la société afin de s'assurer que les employés ne pratiquent pas le trafic et le commerce de la viande de chasse		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Meilleures Pratiques			
Indicateur 1.1.10	tous les employés chasseurs et leurs armes à feu sont identifiés et répertoriés par la société		
Indicateur 1.1.11	tous les employés sont informés et éduqués sur les lois nationales en vigueur en matière de faune et de chasse, et sur les sanctions encourues en cas de non respect de la loi		
Critère n°2	Gestion de la Chasse par les Populations Autochtones		
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 1.2.1	le plan d'aménagement prévoit une zone suffisante où les populations autochtones peuvent exercer leurs droits d'usages coutumiers		
Indicateur 1.2.2	Il est prouvé que les limites de la zone des droits d'usages coutumiers ont été établies d'une manière participative avec les villages concernés		
Indicateur 1.2.3	Il est prouvé que les villageois comprennent les restrictions sur la chasse qui leur sont applicables (notamment les limites de leur zone de chasse habituelle, et la prohibition sur la commercialisation de la viande de brousse en dehors du village...)		
Indicateur 1.2.4	les populations autochtones sont sensibilisées sur l'importance de ne chasser que dans leur zone d'exercice des droits d'usages coutumiers définie		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Indicateur 1.2.5	les populations autochtones savent qu'elles ne sont autorisées à chasser rien qu'avec des armes artisanales, tels que les sagaies, les lances, les arcs, les arbalètes, les collets, les lacets, les assommoirs... et qu'il est strictement Interdit de chasser au moyen de filets, de fosses, de pièges à câble d'acier et des armes à feu.		
Indicateur 1.2.6	les populations autochtones connaissent qu'il leur est exigé de ne faire qu'une consommation et un commerce local de leur viande de chasse		
Meilleures Pratiques			
Indicateur 1.2.7	il existe un comité de gestion local en charge de la gestion de la faune et du contrôle de la chasse, travaillant en partenariat avec la Société Forestière, les ONGs et les agents des Eaux et Forêts		
Indicateur 1.2.8	Il existe un responsable administratif au niveau de la société qui est chargé d'informer et éduquer les populations autochtones sur la gestion de la faune et le contrôle de la chasse par rapport aux lois		
Indicateur 1.2.9	il existe une convention tripartite entre les populations autochtones, la société et les Eaux et Forêts, et cette convention contient des mesures qui concernent la protection de la faune et le contrôle de la chasse dans la concession		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Indicateur 1.2.10	la société surveille les activités non autorisées en matières de faune et de chasse des populations autochtones dans la concession et rapporte les faits à l'attention du Comité de Gestion Local et, si nécessaire au MINEF		
Critère n°3	la Société Contrôle la Pratique de la Chasse dans la Concession		
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 1.3.1	les voies d'accès à la concession sont contrôlées et réglementées (interdiction d'accès à la concession à tous véhicules étrangers non Autorisés)		
Indicateur 1.3.2	quand une AAC est fermée, sa route d'accès est aussi fermée par une barrière permanente		
Indicateur 1.3.3	le règlement intérieur de la société interdit la pratique de la chasse commerciale et la chasse non sélective dans la concession, <i>ou le reglement interieur de la societe interdit formellement et strictement toutes pratiques de la chasse dans la concession</i>		
Meilleures Pratiques			
Indicateur 1.3.4	Il existe un responsable dans la société en charge de la gestion de la faune et du contrôle de la chasse, et qui veille au suivi et à l'application des règlements de chasse dans la concession.		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Indicateur 1.3.5	les véhicules de la société ne transportent pas la viande de chasse, les chasseurs et les armes		
Indicateur 1.3.6	le règlement intérieur de la société prévoit des sanctions en matière de chasse		
Indicateur 1.3.7	le règlement intérieur de la société est appliqué aux sous - traitants et fournisseurs en ce qui concerne la gestion de la faune et du contrôle de la chasse dans la concession		
Indicateur 1.3.8	il existe un plan de surveillance et de suivi de la chasse, et de la pression humaine (exemple : via des partenariats entre la société, les ONGs, le Ministère des Eaux et Forêts et les populations autochtones)		
Indicateur 1.3.9	il existe dans la société un plan de gestion de la faune et de contrôle de l'ensemble des activités de chasse dans la concession		
Indicateur 1.3.10	il existe des documents écrits ou des rapports d'activités de terrain prouvant des actions de contrôles de la chasse dans la concession par l'administration de la société		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Indicateur 1.3.11	la Société facilite les besoins des ouvriers et de leur famille en protéines, par la vente de viande de poulets, de dindes, de porcs et de poissons congelés ou fumés dans l'économat du campement. Ces produits sont vendus à des prix réduits ou compétitifs par rapport au prix du gibier		
Indicateur 1.3.12	l'économat du camp ne vend pas la viande de chasse, les armes, les cartouches, les pièges ou les câbles métalliques.		
Principe n°2 :	L'EXPLOTATION FORESTIERE TRES BIEN PROGRAMMEE		
Critère n°1	un Inventaire d'Aménagement permet de Recueillir des Données Environnementales et des Informations relatives à la Faune		
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 2.1.1	un inventaire d'aménagement (concernant les espèces fauniques et floristiques) a été réalisé		
Indicateur 2.1.2	les zones à grande richesse en biodiversité (présence des espèces rares, protégées et/ ou endémiques de la faune ou de la flore, présence d'un habitat préféré pour des espèces phares...) ont été localisées		
Indicateur 2.1.3	les zones sensibles (des berges, des rivières, des régions à forte pente, sols sensibles et spéciales, Les forêts sacrées...) ont été localisées		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Critère n°2	les différentes Séries d'Aménagement sont Reportées sur une Carte d'Aménagement		
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 2.2.1	le plan d'aménagement définit les limites et les superficies des différentes séries d'aménagement sur une carte		
Meilleures Pratiques			
Indicateur 2.2.2	les séries de conservation et de protection ont été déterminées sur la base de la localisation des zones à grande richesse en biodiversité et la localisation des zones sensibles		
Critère n°3	l'Exploitation Forestière est Planifiée avant sa Mise en Œuvre		
Découpage des AACs			
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 2.3.1	l'ordre de passage dans les AACs est déterminé sur une carte		
Indicateur 2.3.2	les AACs sont délimitées sur le terrain		
Indicateur 2.3.3	pour chaque AAC, il existe un PAO qui est approuvé par l'inspection provinciale des Eaux et Forêts		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Indicateur 2.3.4	pendant l’exploitation la séquence des AACs respecte les 3 ans maximum d’exploitation consécutive permis pour une rotation		
Indicateur 2.3.5	pendant l’exploitation il n’y a pas plus de 3 AACs en exploitation simultanément		
Inventaire d’Exploitation			
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 2.3.6	l’inventaire d’exploitation est réalisé sur toute la superficie de l’AAC et ses résultats sont mentionnés dans le PAO		
Indicateur 2.3.7	les tiges exploitables et les tiges d’avenir dans l’AAC sont précisément quantifiées et localisées		
Meilleures Pratiques			
Indicateur 2.3.8	les arbres exploitables sont vérifiés avant le passage final des abatteurs afin d’exclure les arbres situés dans des zones trop sensibles		
Critère n°4	Mise en Œuvre de l’Exploitation Forestière		
Ouverture des Pistes et des Routes			
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 2.4.1	il existe une étude d’impact préalable à l’exploitation dans la concession		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Indicateur 2.4.2	le plan d'aménagement définit les caractéristiques et la localisation des routes		
Indicateur 2.4.3	le réseau routier principal et secondaire de la concession est reporté sur une carte (routes passées, routes présentes et routes futures)		
Indicateur 2.4.4	il existe une carte d'exploitation qui montre : le relief, le réseau hydrographique et les plans d'eau permanents, les routes principales et secondaires, les limites de l'AAC, le tracé des pistes et des routes proposées...		
Indicateur 2.4.5	la société s'assure que le tracé des routes et pistes de débardage et l'implantation des parcs à grumes sont optimisés par rapport à la ressource du bois, le réseau hydrographique et le relief		
Meilleures Pratiques			
Indicateur 2.4.6	des mesures sont prises pour réduire la taille ou l'impact des routes dans les zones qui sont connues pour être importantes pour la faune (exemple : les zones tampons des parcs...)		
Indicateur 2.4.7	les conducteurs des engins de débardage et débusquage ont tous reçu une formation en technique à faible impact et ils les appliquent sur le terrain		

N°	Sujets	Obs. Oui/Non	Preuves Tangibles
Abattage des Arbres			
Exigences Nationales			
Indicateur 2.4.8	les abatteurs connaissent que l'abattage des arbres concerne les arbres dont le diamètre est supérieur ou égal au Diamètre Minimum d'Exploitabilité fixé par le MINEF		
Indicateur 2.4.9	les abatteurs connaissent que le droit d'abattage concerne toutes les essences de bois d'œuvre commercialisables, à l'exception des essences mises en réserve pour raison d'intérêt général et dans les limites fixées par les documents d'aménagement de WFA.		
Meilleures Pratiques			
Indicateur 2.4.10	les abatteurs connaissent que l'abattage des arbres ne concerne pas les arbres d'avenir, les arbres patrimoniaux et les semenciers...		
Indicateur 2.4.11	les abatteurs ont tous reçu une formation en abattage contrôlé et en technique d'abattage à faible impact, et ils les appliquent sur le terrain		