

Parque Nacional Monte Alen
Strategy Document

*A Consortium
to Improve Natural Resource Governance and Management
in the Monte Alen-Monts de Cristal CBFP Landscape*



Monte Alen National Park Strategy Document

I. Planning Team

Name	Title & Organization	Role
Francisca Eneme	Directora, INDEFOR	Director of the government agency with the former legal responsibility and the current technical capacity to manage the national system of protected areas.
Santiago Biyane Mba	Jefe, Sección de Medio Ambiente, Delegaron nacional del Ministerio de Pesca y Medio Ambiente	Local representative of the Ministerio de Pesca y Medio Ambiente which has current legal responsibility for managing the national system of protected areas.
Domingo Mbomio	Conservator de Parque Nacional de Monte Alen, INDEFOR	Chief field representative of INDEFOR for Monte Alen National Park with responsibility for developing and implementing its management plan.
Roberto Ncogo	Jefe, Departamento Cartográfico, INDEFOR	Chief of INDEFOR's GIS lab and responsible for developing coverages of the national system of protected areas and managing all spatial data.
Diodado Obiang	IUCN/CARPE, Jefe Departamento Forestal, INDEFOR	IUCN/CARPE focal point for EG
Claude Louis	Asistente Técnico, ECOFAC	Foreign technical advisor to ECOFAC, a semi-autonomous project within INDEFOR.
Christopher Kernan	Country Director, Conservación Internacional	Responsible for developing and implementing CI's program of conservation activities in EG; providing technical advice to INDEFOR, ECOFAC, and the Ministry of Pesca y Medio Ambiente

II. Information

A. Physical

Category	Existing	Needed	Strategy for acquisition
Monte Alen NP boundaries	Exist in GIS, unverified in the field, unmarked in the field	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boundaries must be verified with GPS in the field; 2. Boundaries must be adjusted to minimize conflict with local community land claims and current uses; 3. Final boundaries must be marked in the field; 4. Final boundaries must be legalized by the government decree; 	In 2008, with funding from ECOFAC, INDEFOR Cartography Department maps in GIS, field verifies, and marks the location of park boundaries in key areas: points of park visitor access and points where locally used access trails enter the park. INDEFOR has sufficient signage to complete this task.
Satellite imagery	2004 Landsat image available, heavily clouded	Recent imagery of higher quality	Include purchase of recent imagery in 2009 INDEFOR project funding request to GoEG.
Rivers, streams, lakes, water courses	Mapped in GIS, partially verified in the field	Verify water bodies and watercourses in the field.	
Roads	Mapped in GIS, verified in the field	Update reflecting recent road construction	Field verification with handheld GPS as part of 2008 INDEFOR field missions plan.
Foot trails	Mapped in GIS, verified in the field	Update	Field verification with handheld GPS as part of INDEFOR field missions plan.
Buffer zone	Lacking	Buffer zone formally defined and its location mapped in GIS.	Mapped in 2008 by INDEFOR Cartography Department with funding from ECOFAC
Buffer zone villages	Mapped in GIS, verified in the field		

B. Biological

Category	Existing	Needed	Strategy for acquisition
Terrestrial animal biodiversity	Some completed studies, few recent, little synthesis applicable to applied conservation	Current status surveys of keystone and IUCN Red List species: estimates of population sizes, structure, and locations; identification of keystone species;	Implement the EG national biodiversity research program called for in NBS; Implement National Biodiversity Institute to coordinate and organize biodiversity data; MIKE establishes a field program in EG; IUCN/CARPE continues to fund status surveys by ANDEGE
Terrestrial plant biodiversity	A fair number of completed studies; some synthesis by MBG to identify climatic and geographic patterns in floristics; no vegetation map	Completion of basic botanical surveys and a synthesis that identifies concentrations of endemics, a first plant community description and mapping, a plant identification field guide with field keys; identification and mapping of phytogeographic patterns in floristic diversity	Implement the EG national biodiversity research program called for in NBS; Implement National Biodiversity Institute to coordinate and organize biodiversity data; MBG continues botanical exploration in Monte Alen;
Freshwater biodiversity	Very little data or synthesis; data from Cameroon suggests Monte Alen may be extremely rich in freshwater biodiversity	Basic taxonomic survey; identification of critical and keystone species, status surveys of IUCN Red List species (e.g. Goliath Frog), ecological characterization of freshwater communities	Implement the EG national biodiversity research program called for in NBS; Implement National Biodiversity Institute to coordinate and organize biodiversity data; Include a status survey of Goliath Frog in IUCN/CARPE grants to ANDEGE
Landscape ecological processes	Migratory movements of many large vertebrates take place (elephants, buffalo, etc.) but their routes are undocumented, Raffia palm forests are known to be critically important for elephants	Map of the landscape movements of elephants and other large vertebrates; Seasonal and spatial hydrological patterns; Identification of key processes of forest dynamics; Identification and mapping of key ecotones	Implement the EG national biodiversity research program called for in NBS; Implement National Biodiversity Institute to coordinate and organize biodiversity data; MIKE establishes a field program in EG;
Threats to biodiversity	Some threats well known and acknowledged (unsustainable hunting, agriculture, timber harvesting), no systematic analysis and/or mapping of threats	Identification of key ecological attributes of conservation targets; Systematic identification and prioritization of the most important disruptions to the ecological factors maintaining biodiversity	Implement CAP analysis in all protected areas to identify conservation targets, identify key ecological attributes, determine indicators

C. Socio-economic

Category	Existing	Needed	Strategy for acquisition
Stakeholder identification and characterization	Considerable anecdotal socio-economic knowledge exists among Guinean technical staff; but little quantitative data and little analysis of stakeholder dynamics or socio-economic linkages to biodiversity status	Identification of the stakeholder groups with key roles in influencing natural resource use activity	CI, INDEFOR, ECOFAC, and ANDEGE collaborate on completing CAP situation-stakeholder analysis for Monte Alen including facilitated community workshops in Monte Alen buffer zone
Economic activity mapping	No systematic mapping of current economic activity; timber concessions boundaries are out-of-date and current timber harvesting activity is undocumented; no village resource mapping	Industrial resource mapping particularly updated timber harvesting maps, agriculture activity maps; village resource use maps	CI, INDEFOR, ECOFAC, and ANDEGE collaborate on completing GIS verified village resource mapping in Monte Alen buffer zone communities; INDEFOR Cartography Department complete an update of timber concession maps; ANDEGE GIS maps the location of agriculture activity and trends in the Monte Alen buffer
Identification of threats to biodiversity	Some threats well known and acknowledged (unsustainable hunting, agriculture, timber harvesting), no systematic analysis and/or mapping of threats	Analysis of human activities leading to disruption to ecological health of biodiversity; identification of stakeholder groups involved in threat activity; analysis of socio-economic context of key stakeholder activities	CI, INDEFOR, ECOFAC, and ANDEGE collaborate on completing CAP analysis for Monte Alen including identifying conservation targets, stresses, and sources of stress
Institutions	Roles of MdePyMA MdeAyB; INDEFOR MdeAyB, INAP, UNGE, exist with unclear roles in the environmental sector	Clear listing and characterization of all institutions and organizations in the government sector, private sector and non-profit sector with activities bearing on biodiversity in Monte Alen	CI, INDEFOR, ECOFAC, and ANDEGE collaborate on completing CAP situation diagramming analysis for Monte Alen including identifying institutional actors with influence on source of stress activity or conservation strategies
Legal	National Biodiversity Strategy, Forestry Law, Environmental Law exist;	Compilation of all existing environmental laws in electronic and printed forms; Analysis and clarification of laws and clauses in force; Identification of conflicts; Recommendations for resolving conflicts	CI contracts with ANDEGE and individual consultants to compile laws, provide an analysis of conflicts, provide recommendations to resolve conflicts; Technical workshop with all ministries and agencies participating to review existing laws, present conflicts, present recommendations for resolution, prepare legal documents for decrees creating key coordinating mechanisms

III. A Public Participation Strategy for Monte Alen National Park

The Monte Alen public participation strategy will engage with stakeholders in two ways: 1) engagement by participation in the analysis of conservation targets, current ecological disruptions stressing those targets, and the identification of the human activities that cause such stresses, and the analysis and identification of the human socio-economic groups that carry out these stress-causing activities; and 2) engagement with the human socio-economic groups carrying out stress-causing activities through a conservation strategy to lessen the ecological stress by modifying their behavior.

The first category of engagement seeks participation from the public as a source of information, knowledge, analysis, and consensus. For example, facilitated workshops with technical participants – biological researchers, ministry technical staff, park guards - are often the best source of detailed information about conservation targets and their current ecological status and the most critical group in reaching a technical consensus on the optimal conservation management focus. Community workshops are useful for collecting and analyzing information about the human socio-economic activities that are causing ecological stresses on biodiversity and as part of developing a consensus among stakeholders about the need and the nature of an intervention. Both can be usefully involved in analyzing potential conservation strategies to modify stress-causing human activities.

Planificación para Áreas de Conservación (CAP) methodology, developed by The Nature Conservancy and widely accepted in Latin America as a standard for site-level conservation planning, will be the methodological framework for public engagement. Through CAP, the Planning team will systematically gather information from various sources including documents, expert interviews, and public meetings. The planning team will follow the CAP stepwise analysis: 1) information will be gathered, organized, and synthesized to identify a limited number of conservation targets that represent a conservation area's biodiversity; 2) the ecological health of these conservation targets will be assessed in terms of the current status of their key ecological attributes and field measurable quantitative indicators of the status of these attributes will be defined; 3) the current ecological health of all targets at a site will be combined for an estimate of the overall ecological health of Monte Alen National Park; 4) human activities that contribute to the degradation to one or another key ecological attribute will be defined as "sources of stress" and will be assessed for their contribution to ecological stress faced by the conservation targets and the irreversibility of their impact; 5) the rankings of all sources of stress will be combined across all conservation targets to give a ranking of sources of stress for Monte Alen National Park; 6) the socio-economic context of the sources of stress human activities will be analyzed using situation diagrams and discussed in public participatory workshops to identify key socio-economic groups and key activities influencing the source of stress; and 7) potential conservation strategies will be identified and analyzed for the location of the intervention and their potential to influence the pathways, socio-economic groups, and activities represented in the situation diagram.

The Planning Team's use of CAP will be an iterative process. The Planning Team accepts that method will yield conservation hypotheses that must be tested by application and field monitoring of the key ecological attribute indicators, and refined by iteration and adjustment. The Planning Team will emphasize the role of socio-economic analysis as an integral part of the methodology and will use situation-stakeholder diagrams elaborated with the participation of the stakeholders themselves. The Planning Team will develop the situation diagrams through facilitated discussions in public meetings and through individual interviews where more appropriate. The Planning Team accepts that participatory development of a graphical representation of the socio-economic context creating impacts on biodiversity creates a common understanding useful for reaching a consensus and agreement on conservation interventions. High priority conservation interventions, the human and non-human resources necessary to implement them, and a schedule of implementation are the foundation of a management plan.

The Monte Alen public participation strategy includes the involvement of local communities, stakeholder groups, the private sector, the NGO community and the government in management plan implementation. The nature of each group's involvement will be developed in part using CAP situation diagramming carried out in community meetings and with stakeholders. These diagramming sessions will be important in explaining the interventions to affected groups, establishing an understanding about the reasons for the interventions, and recruiting participation in their implementation.

IV. Institutional framework for conflict/dispute resolution between interests/stakeholders.

Monte Alen NP will create a implementation advisory group with local stakeholder representatives to manage and resolve issues and conflicts during management plan implementation. Conflicts that grow beyond the scope of this body will be handled by the hierarchy of coordinating bodies established by the NBS. NBS calls for the creation of a "Comision de Medio Ambiente" (CONAMA) to function as the national coordinating body for the environmental sector with representatives from relevant government ministries and with the power and responsibility to mediate disputes when they arise. Below CONAMA the National Strategy establishes an advisory body with representatives from the private sector including international organizations and including NGOs. These national structures are supported by regional coordinating groups "Comisiones Regionales de Medion Ambiente" (COREMA) with representatives from local communities, local businesses, NGOs, political representatives, and local government functionaries.