



Forest Stewardship Council®



**“Setting the stage
for the FSC HCV Congo Basin Regional Guidelines”
Workshop Report**

**15th – 18th June 2016
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo**

FSC-CBO – HCV-RWG Meeting Report 01 – Version 3-0 - ENG





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A Workshop facilitated by
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<hr/> <p>C</p> <p>COMIFAC Central African Forests Commission · 4, 5</p> <hr/> <p>F</p> <p>FSC Forest Stewardship Council · 5</p> <hr/> <p>H</p> <p>HCV High Conservation Values · 5 HCV-RWG · <i>See</i> Regional Working Group on HCV in Congo Basin · 5, 9</p> <hr/> <p>I</p> <p>IFL Intact Forest Landscapes · 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 17, 1, 4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3, 5</p> <p>IGIs FSC International Generic Indicators · 9</p>	<hr/> <p>K</p> <p>KfW Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau · 5</p> <hr/> <p>N</p> <p>NIs National Interpretations · 7</p> <hr/> <p>O</p> <p>OSFAC Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale · 17</p> <hr/> <p>P</p> <p>PIPC Permanent Indigenous People Committee · 9</p> <p>PPECF Programme for Promotion of Certified Logging · 4, 5</p>
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Forest Stewardship Council gratefully acknowledges the support of the Central African Forests Commission ([COMIFAC](#)) through its Programme for Promotion of Certified Logging ([PPECF](#)) for having funded this meeting and to be one of the main institutional and financial supporters of the HCV Congo Basin Roadmap from the beginning.

Last but not least, the Forest Stewardship Council wants to express its great thanks to [Proforest](#), which brightly facilitated the workshop. The Proforest Initiative is part of the not-for-profit Proforest Group, whose mission is to help people both produce and source natural resources sustainably. Proforest works with partners to transform commodity supply chains and sectors through developing awareness about sustainability, helping to generate commitment to better practice, supporting implementation of these commitments in practice and working across sectors and scales to increase the positive impacts.

Thanks to Mr. David Hoyle, Proforest Associate Director, to Mrs. Sophie Dirou and Dr. Sebastiaan de Smedt for having prepared and facilitated this workshop with FSC, and having initiated the draft of this report and having helped to *set the stage for the FSC HCV Congo Basin Regional Guidelines*.

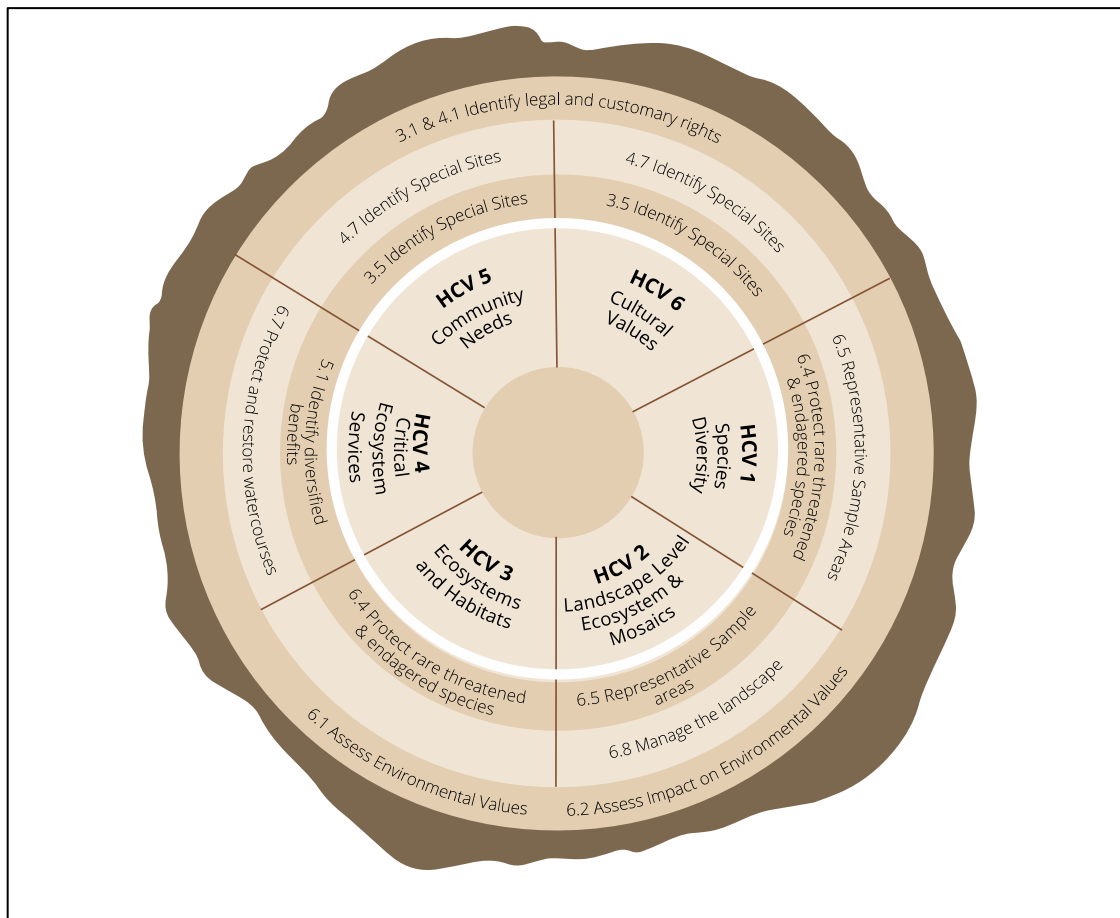


Figure 1. Correlations between HCV identification, management and monitoring and FSC Principles & Criteria

Source: FSC HCV Manager’s Guide [FSC-GD-30-009 V1-0 D1 EN]. 2016



INTRODUCTION

In 2013, FSC developed a programme of activities to develop the **Regional HCV Guidelines for the Congo Basin and National HCV interpretations in the countries in which National Forest Stewardship Standards are being developed**. The project called "[Congo Basin Road Map Project](#)" targets the **harmonization of the identification, management and monitoring of High Conservation Values (HCVs) with FSC certification procedures for the Congo Basin region**. Following the Motion 65, passed at FSC's 07th General Assembly in 2014 in Seville, an emphasis of the project is the development of national and regional indicators that aim to protect the vast majority of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs).

With the institutional and financial support of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) through its Programme for Promotion of Certified Logging (PPECF) funded by the German Development Bank (KfW), the project was launched in December 2015 with the establishment of a High Conservation Values Regional Working Group (HCV-RWG) for FSC in the Congo Basin. In accordance with FSC's governance rules, the HCV-RWG is composed of an environmental, economic and social chamber, each of them consisting of four representatives (chamber-balanced working group).

A initial FSC workshop, bringing together the HCV-RWG and experts in the field of HCV and IFL, was held in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, between 15th - 18th June, 2016, with the goal of setting the stage for the development of FSC's regional guidelines for HCVs in the Congo Basin. The agenda of the workshop can be found in [Annex 1](#) and the list of the attendees in [Annex 2](#).

Specifically, the workshop focused on the development of a clear and shared vision amongst the members of the HCV-RWG regarding:

- i) the HCV and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) concepts;
- ii) the expected final product – The FSC HCV Congo Basin Regional Guidelines; and
- iii) the working process for its development.

The workshop was organized by the FSC Congo Basin Office and facilitated in collaboration with Proforest. The sessions were moderated by the joint workshop team comprising Ms. Sophie Dirou, Mr. David Hoyle and Dr. Sebastiaan De Smedt from Proforest, and Dr. Olivia Rickenbach, FSC HCV Congo Basin Officer. The working language of the workshop was French.

The workshop can be divided into three distinct parts:

1. Pre-workshop HCV training (1/2 day)
2. Main workshop with the working group and key experts (2 days), including an evening working session with the indigenous representatives attending the workshop
3. Closed HCV-RWG working group session (1 day).

On the first day of the workshop (the 'Pre-workshop') an HCV training was delivered by Proforest in order to familiarize the members of the working group with the concept, its use and general application of HCVs.



On the second day of the workshop presentations on existing data sources and issues relevant for the identification of HCVs were given, as well as an overview of the state of the art of HCV guidance and identification in the Congo Basin.

The third day focused on Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) and the implications of the concept for the Congo Basin.

The last day of the workshop was a closed working group session for the 12 members of the HCV-RWG, during which the group discussed the work process and procedures to develop the regional FSC HCV Guideline and the national interpretations.

1. PART 1: PRE-WORKSHOP – HCV TRAINING

The training on Day 1 did not form an integral part of the workshop as attendance from the participants was voluntary. During this 'Pre-workshop', five presentations (with Q&A after each of them) on the concept, the use and the general application of HCVs were given by Proforest in order to familiarize the members of the working group with the HCV concept. The presentations were delivered in French by Mr. David Hoyle (Associate Director, Proforest) and Sophie Dirou (TEREA consultant for Proforest), who are both experts on the HCV concept and methodology.

The presentations covered the following topics:

- Introduction to the HCV approach;
- The 6 HCVs;
- HCV guiding principles and quality control;
- Identifying HCVs at the forest concession level;
- Best practice in HCV Management and Monitoring: practical conservation and threat mitigation.

These training presentations can be downloadable via the link below:

[Click here to download the presentations of the workshop](#)

2. PART 2: DELIBERATIONS WITH HCV EXPERTS (2 DAYS)

2.1. DAY 2, SESSION 1 – WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the first session on Day 2 was to inform the participants about the reasons for the workshop, and to present the agenda for the coming days.

The workshop was officially opened by a welcoming statement from the government of the Republic of the Congo represented by the Forest Advisor of the Minister of Forestry Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment of the Republic of Congo, Mr. Ondele Kanga. After the welcoming statement Mr. Mathieu Auger-Schwartzberg (FSC Congo Basin Programme Manager) reported the background and the rationale to have set such a working group. He highlighted the need for the development of a regionally standardized approach for the identification and management of HCVs for the forests of the Congo Basin, and he elaborated



on FSC's Motion 65, the importance of it globally and regionally, and the necessity to develop national IFL indicators.

Mr. Auger-Schwartzberg also proposed a roadmap for the development of the regional HCV interpretation. The session was ended by Dr. Olivia Rickenbach (FSC HCV Congo Basin Officer), who presented the agenda for the coming days.

2.2. DAY, SESSION 2 – UNDERSTANDING THE HCV CONCEPT

The session was opened by Ms. Sophie Dirou (TEREA, consultant for Proforest), who presented to the plenary a very brief resume of the HCV concept as well as an overview of the process of national and regional HCV interpretations. After referring to some sources of information, Ms. Dirou indicated that there is no formal process for developing National Interpretations (NIs), but that it should always be a participative exercise. She ended her presentation by listing some typical challenges for the development of NIs.

2.3. DAY 2, SESSION 3 – IDENTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE GUIDANCE, DATA SETS AND KEY NEEDED EXPERTISE FOR DECISION-MAKING RELATED TO HCV IDENTIFICATION

The purpose of this session was to give to the working group members some examples of national HCV interpretations for specific HCVs and to discuss data sources to interpret HCVs at the regional/national level. This session also aimed at raising the awareness of the participants and especially the members of the HCV RWG about the difficulties to be faced when undertaking a national interpretation. During this session, the HCVs were discussed one after another.

For every HCV (except for HCV 2, which was addressed on the third day of the workshop), the definition was presented to the audience followed by some examples for the Congo Basin. After this brief introduction, the plenary was asked to write down: i) data sources and experts for the identification of these HCVs; and ii) some hot topics (issues or challenges) which can arise when developing indicators for these HCVs. The outputs from the plenary sessions can be found in [ANNEX 3](#).

In addition, some background information was presented for some of the HCVs: -

Mr. Tim Rayden (Technical Advisor at WCS) gave a presentation on the use of **models developed by WCS that predict the best areas for the conservation of great apes and elephants in the Congo Basin based on distribution and abundance of these species and human disturbance. Such models can be useful when developing guidelines for HCV 1 in the Congo Basin.**

Mr. Raphael Tsanga, Senior Research Officer at CIFOR, presented examples of HCV 5 and 6 for the local communities of the Congo Basin and pointed out weaknesses and challenges linked to their identification.



2.4. DAY 2, SESSION 4 – STATE OF THE ART OF HCV GUIDANCE AND IDENTIFICATION IN THE CONGO BASIN

The purpose of this session was to provide to the working group relevant insights of the already existing HCV guidance documents (existing national interpretations) and to point out weaknesses and challenges that were faced during their development. During this session the participants also reflected on a possible structure for the Congo Basin regional HCV interpretation to be delivered.

The session was opened by Mr. Tim Rayden (Technical Advisor at WCS), who presented a summary of the national HCV interpretation from Gabon. As the main weaknesses of the national HCV interpretation for Gabon he pointed out **the absence of threshold indications due to data insufficiency and missing consensus**. Furthermore, he emphasized that the Gabon HCV interpretation could be greatly improved today due to new data and thus the importance for a continuous update of HCV interpretations. Mr. Rayden's presentation was followed by a presentation from Ms. Sophie Dirou (TEREA consultant for Proforest) on the national interpretation of Cameroon. She explained that one of the main challenges encountered during the national guidance development was **the large diversity of ecosystems across Cameroon and threw up the question what a national interpretation for a country as diverse as Cameroon should deliver**. The last presentation of the session was given by Jean-Gaël Jourget (Forestry Expert at FRM), who presented results, key challenges and open questions from the identification, management and monitoring of HCVs in the SODEFOR concessions in DRC. He pointed at **the relatively stronger presence of HCVs 5 and 6 in the DRC where human population densities are higher than in other parts of the Congo Basin and at the challenges to protect the remnant HCVs 1 to 3 in such an environment**. He also asked the questions about how to define rare (in relation to what?) and significant.

Before starting the group work, a slide comparing the contents and structure of the national HCV interpretations from Cameroon, DRC and Gabon was shown and an insight into the structure and contents of the Indonesian national HCV interpretation was presented as an example of best practice. With this information in mind, the plenary was split into four working groups that reflected on a possible structure and on the necessary contents of the Congo Basin regional HCV interpretation. At the end of the session the table of contents developed by the individual working groups were presented to the plenary.

2.5. DAY 2, EVENING WORKING SESSION WITH INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVES

The purpose of this session was to engage the indigenous representatives present at the workshop in the reflection on how to assure that indigenous people's knowledge, values and interpretations feed into the HCV Guideline development process. This working session was facilitated by Dr. Olivia Rickenbach (FSC HCV Congo Basin Officer). A short introductory presentation of the general process to deliver these Guidelines, of some ideas on **how to engage indigenous people, and of the Indigenous Cultural Landscape concept served to initiate reflections and discussions**. The outcome of these discussions were presented the next day and integrated into a concept note that can be found in [ANNEX 4](#).



In the short run, **FSC hopes to support indigenous people through the following mechanism:**

- 1) Increase the capacity of participation of the indigenous representatives in the HCV-RWG;
- 2) Increase the thematic and pedagogic capacities of selected indigenous people living in FSC-FM certified concessions to consult with indigenous and local communities regarding HCVs;
- 3) Assure the feedback of information between the indigenous representative to the HCV-RWG and indigenous people living in FSC certified forest management concessions.

In the long run, the indigenous representatives present at the meeting have expressed their wish to see the establishment of a Congo Basin Permanent Indigenous People Committee. This proposal seems hardly realistic, since a Permanent Indigenous People Committee (PIPC) has been formally established within FSC system, and two representatives from Central Africa (Venant Messe and Louise Kavira) have been already elected as PIPC members.

A closer collaboration between Indigenous people representatives from Central African countries and PIPC appears to be the most relevant option instead of duplicate organs within an already complex and global system.

Both, PIPC and representatives from Central Africa could benefit from a strengthened collaboration.

2.6. DAY 3, SESSION 1 – UNDERSTANDING HCV 2 AND THE IFL CONCEPT

Before commencing on the main topic of this session, Ms. Olivia Rickenbach presented to the plenary the rough outline of the process for the guidance development. Mr. Venant Messe (President of REPALEAC and PIPC representative) presented to the participants the view of the indigenous representatives about how to insure the proper engagement of indigenous people in this process of developing the HCV regional interpretation. After this presentation, Ms. Edwige Eyang Effa (Researcher at IRET/CENAREST) remarked that **specifically in the Congo Basin, local communities, because they are as concerned as indigenous people by forest harvesting activities, should also be included in the proposed process (not only indigenous people). This issue was further discussed on day four by the HCV-RWG.**

The main purpose of this session was to familiarize the working group members with the IFL concept and the framework for its application and interpretation provided by the International Generic Indicators (IGIs) developed by the High Conservation Values Technical Working Group (HCV-TWG).

After a brief introduction on HVC 2, Prof. Mathew Hansen (University of Maryland) gave a presentation on the history of the IFL concept, the idea behind it, and how IFLs are defined and mapped.

Prof. Hansen also highlighted that IFLs are rapidly disappearing and that this is, at least in the Congo Basin, mainly due to timber harvesting. After Prof. Hansen, Mr. Mathieu Auger-Schwartzberg (FSC Congo Basin Programme Manager) gave some background on FSC's Motion 65, and the importance and urgency of developing national indicators for IFLs. He also gave a brief introduction on the IFL Solution Forum. Ms. Diana Franco Gil (Policy Officer Forest Management at FSC International Center) closed this session with a presentation on the revised International Generic Indicators (IGIs) of IFLs developed by the HCV-TWG.



2.7. DAY 3, SESSION 2 – HCV 2 AND IFL COVERAGE IN THE CONGO BASIN

During this session the working group members were informed about the extent and placement of IFLs (based on Global Forest Watch data) in the Congo Basin, and how they overlap with FSC-FM certified concessions.

The session was opened by Mr. Pascal Douard (GIS Research Associate at WRI), who gave an overview of the IFL coverage in the Congo Basin and of its degradation since the year 2000.

Ms. Hélène Blanchard (Consultant for FSC Congo Basin & WWF US) presented an overview of the overlap between IFLs and FSC-FM certified concessions, and the loss of IFLs in certified concessions between 2010 and 2015. She also made a projection of the future impact of current forest management practices on IFLs. Ms. Blanchard ended her presentation by raising a few questions on how to protect IFLs more efficiently in the future. In particular she pointed out that **the current location of conservation areas within FSC-FM certified concessions in the Congo Basin do not systematically contribute to IFL conservation.**

The mapping work done by Ms. Blanchard was presented to those assembled.

National situations ([Forestry management status and Intact Forest Landscape](#)) are **presented from pp. 12 to 16** for five Congo Basin countries.

After Ms. Blanchard's presentation several subjects of debate emerged. The two main subject areas were:

- 1) The definition of intactness (Is intactness context dependent? Who defines intactness? What role plays biodiversity as a measure to define intactness? Can intactness be restored/a forest that has been exploited through industrial logging return to its IFL character?)
- 2) What activities and related impacts are tolerated in IFL cores zones, vs IFL-non-core zones, vs non IFL zones?

Mr. Antoine Couturier (Director Environmental and Social company policies and Certification at IFO) pointed out **that IFLs are not necessarily rich in biodiversity.** Mr. Couturier also remarked that the loss of IFLs in forestry concessions is, as Ms. Blanchard indicated, mainly due to road construction (and associated fragmentation), but that this fragmentation is a temporary situation as five to six years after logging operations; the roads are recolonized by trees of 15 cm of diameter and that the canopy cover is closed again judging based on a flying over.

Furthermore, he pointed out **that areas classified as IFL in the UFA Ngombe show early signs of human activity. This brought up the question of the definition of intactness and whether it is possible for forests to regain the IFL status after losing it because of human perturbation.**

Mr. Brian Milakovsky (Intact Forest Landscape Consultant at WWF International) explained that **the 'intactness' of IFLs should be understood as 'preserved from disturbing industrial activities' since the beginning of the industrial era.** Mr. Milakovsky also elaborated on the position of WWF towards IFLs.

Mr. Julien Philippart (Certification Director CBG) proposed that **analysis should be done to evaluate how long it takes for a logged forest to regain his intactness character.**



Mr. Patrick Lola Amani (University of Maryland) replied by pointing out that **it was as important to evaluate accessibility of previously logged forest to humans (the indirect detrimental effects of roads on forest values), as it was to look at the restoration of forest cover.**

Mr. Hughes Ekani (Director Social and Environmental Responsibility) argued that if it was possible to show that FSC forest management was truly sustainable then this would justify exploitation in IFLs. He referenced to **work done by William Hawthorne on the impact of machinery on roads.**

Mr. Tim Rayden (Technical Advisor at WCS) remarked that the **protection of intactness should not be confound with the preservation of ecological functions.**

According to the current definition of IFLs, it is impossible for forests to regain the IFL status after losing it because of human perturbation. This led to the question on how to define 'intactness' of forest, as people have been living in (and affecting) the forest in the Congo Basin for thousands of years.

The results of the overall discussions and on some management strategies that could possibly help to maintain intactness and to reduce fragmentation are summarized in [ANNEX 3](#).

FROM PAGE 12 TO 16:

- **Figure 2. [Forestry management status and IFL in Cameroon](#)**

- **Figure 3. [Forestry management status and IFL in Congo-Brazzaville](#)**
- **Figure 4. [Forestry management status and IFL in Gabon](#)**
- **Figure 5. [Forestry management status and IFL in Central African Republic](#)**
- **Figure 6. [Forestry management status and IFL in Democratic Republic of Congo](#)**

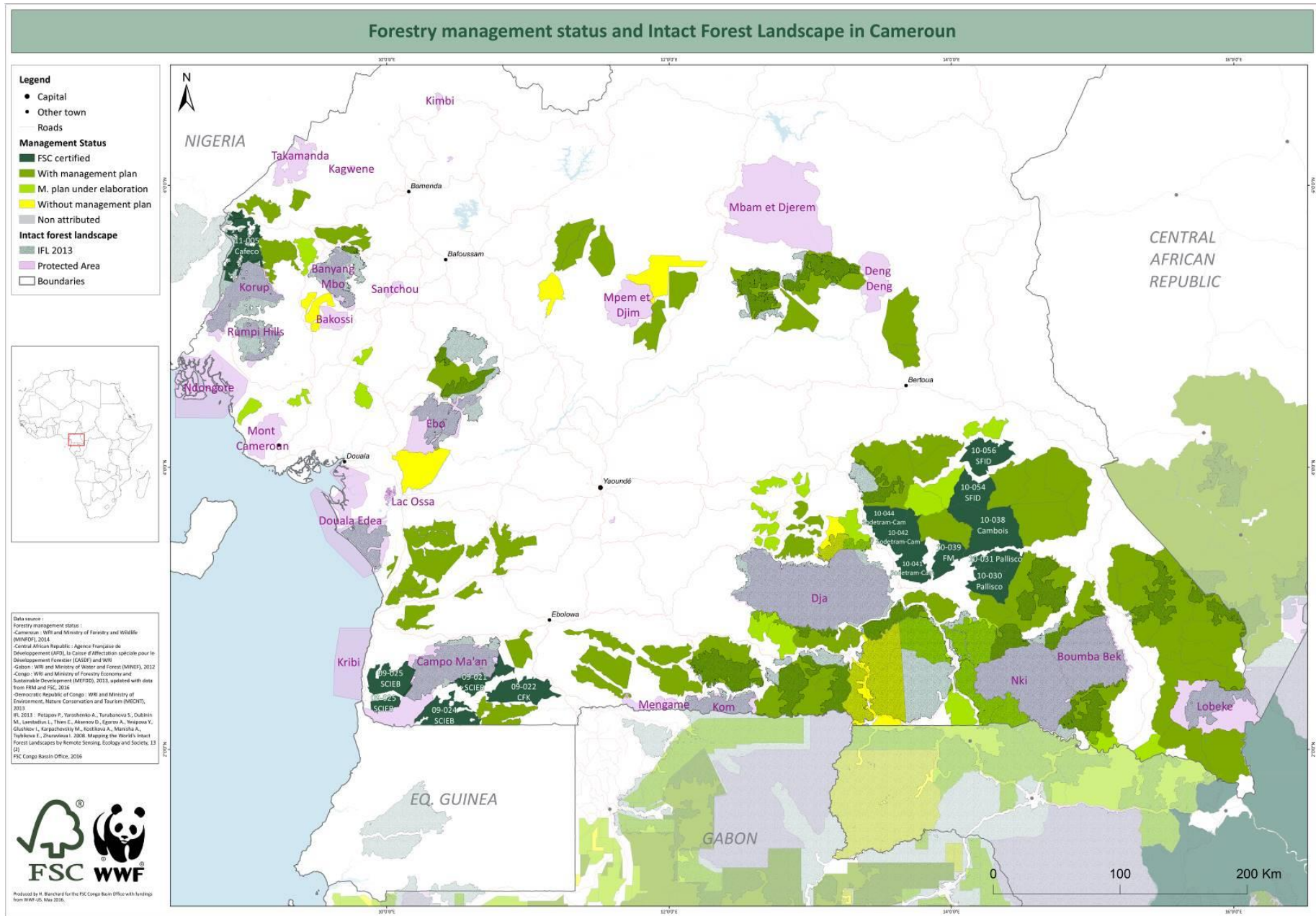


Figure 2. Forestry management status and IFL in Cameroon (Helene Blanchard on behalf of FSC and WWF-US)

Forestry management status and Intact Forest Landscape in Congo

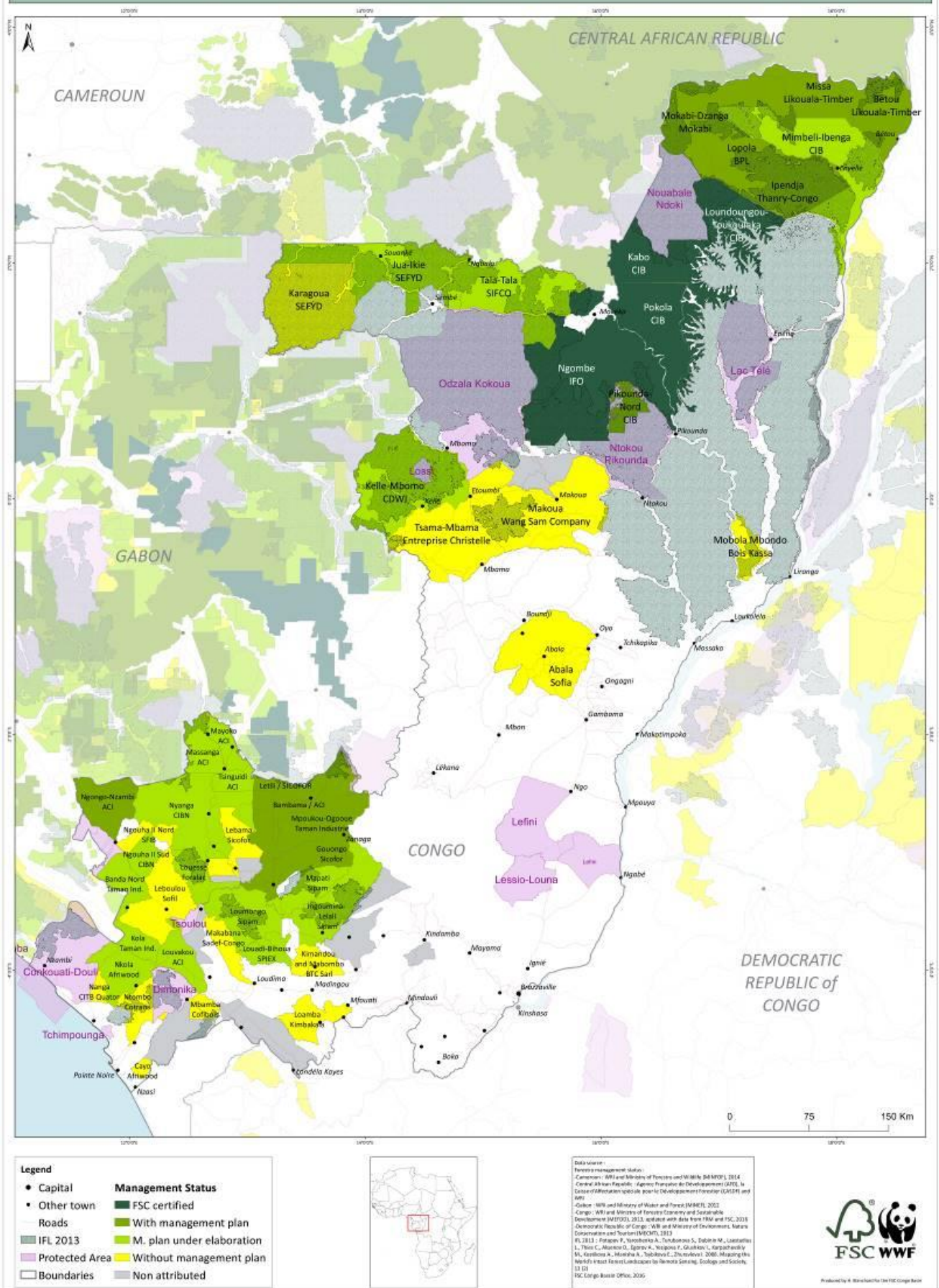


Figure 3. Forestry management status and IFL in Congo-Brazzaville (Helene Blanchard on behalf of FSC and WWF-US; 2016)

Forestry management status and Intact Forest Landscape in Gabon

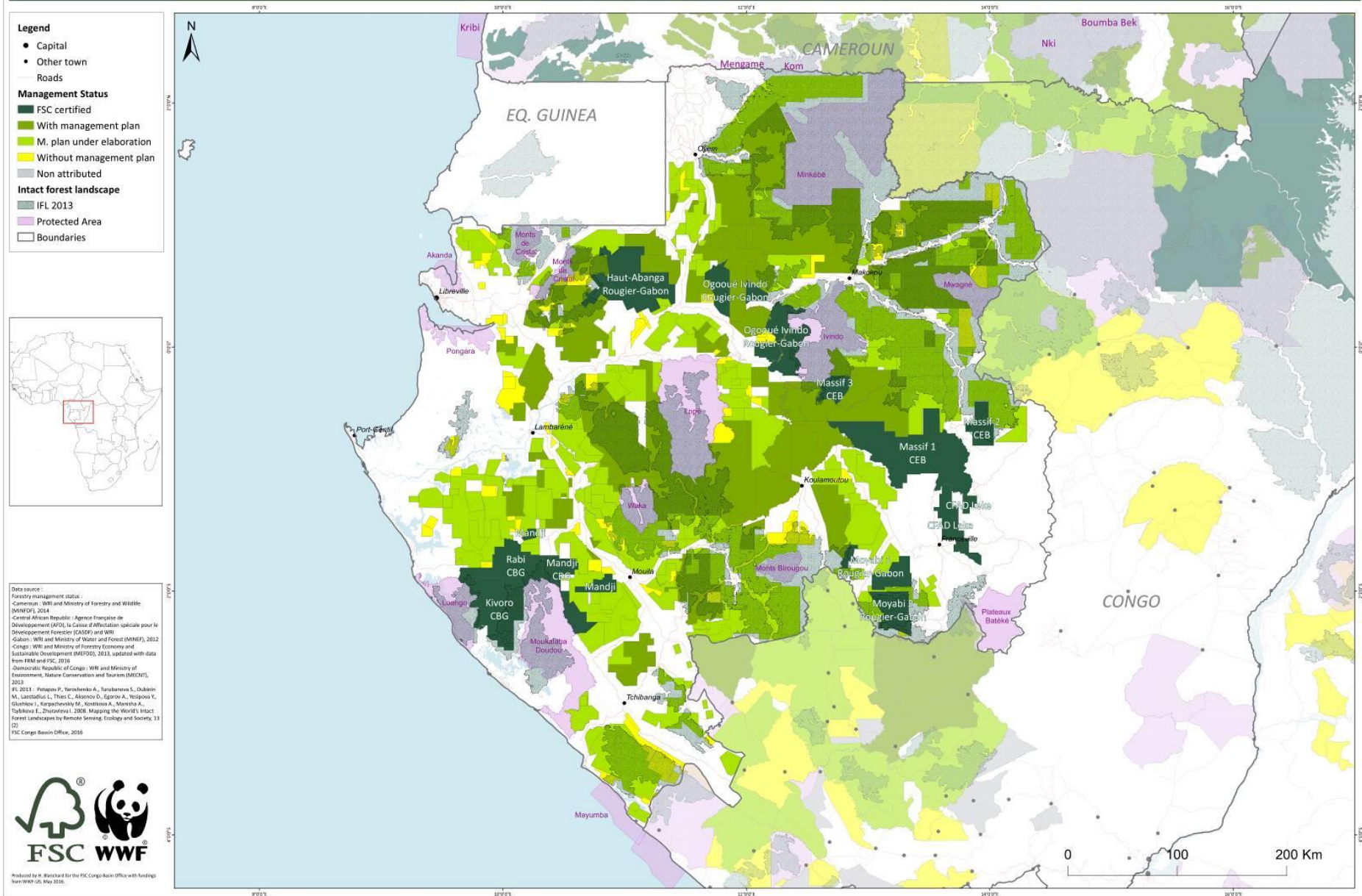


Figure 4. Forestry management status and IFL in Gabon (Helene Blanchard on behalf of FSC and WWF-US; 2016)

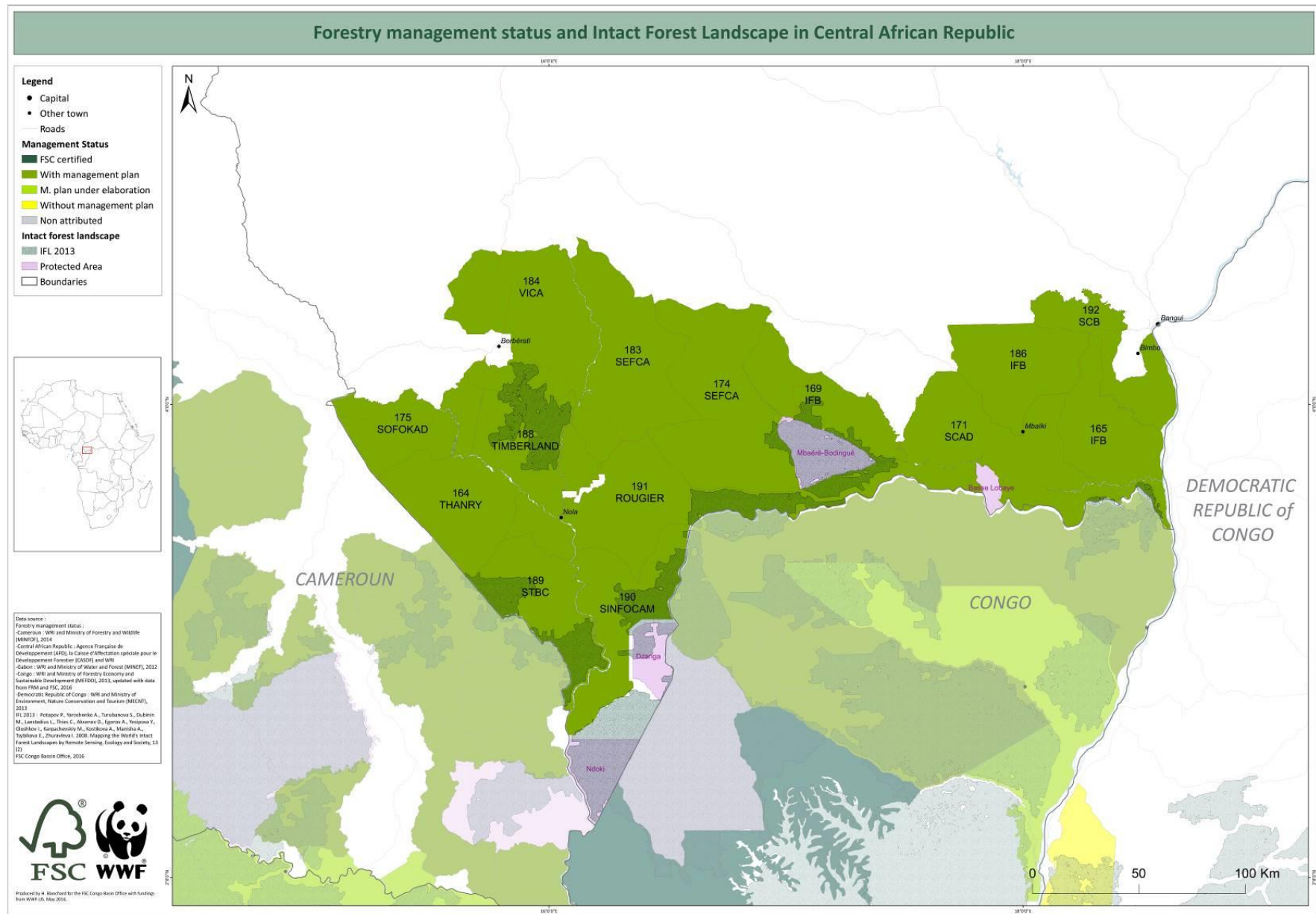


Figure 5. Forestry management status and IFL in Central African Republic (Helene Blanchard on behalf of FSC and WWF-US; 2016)

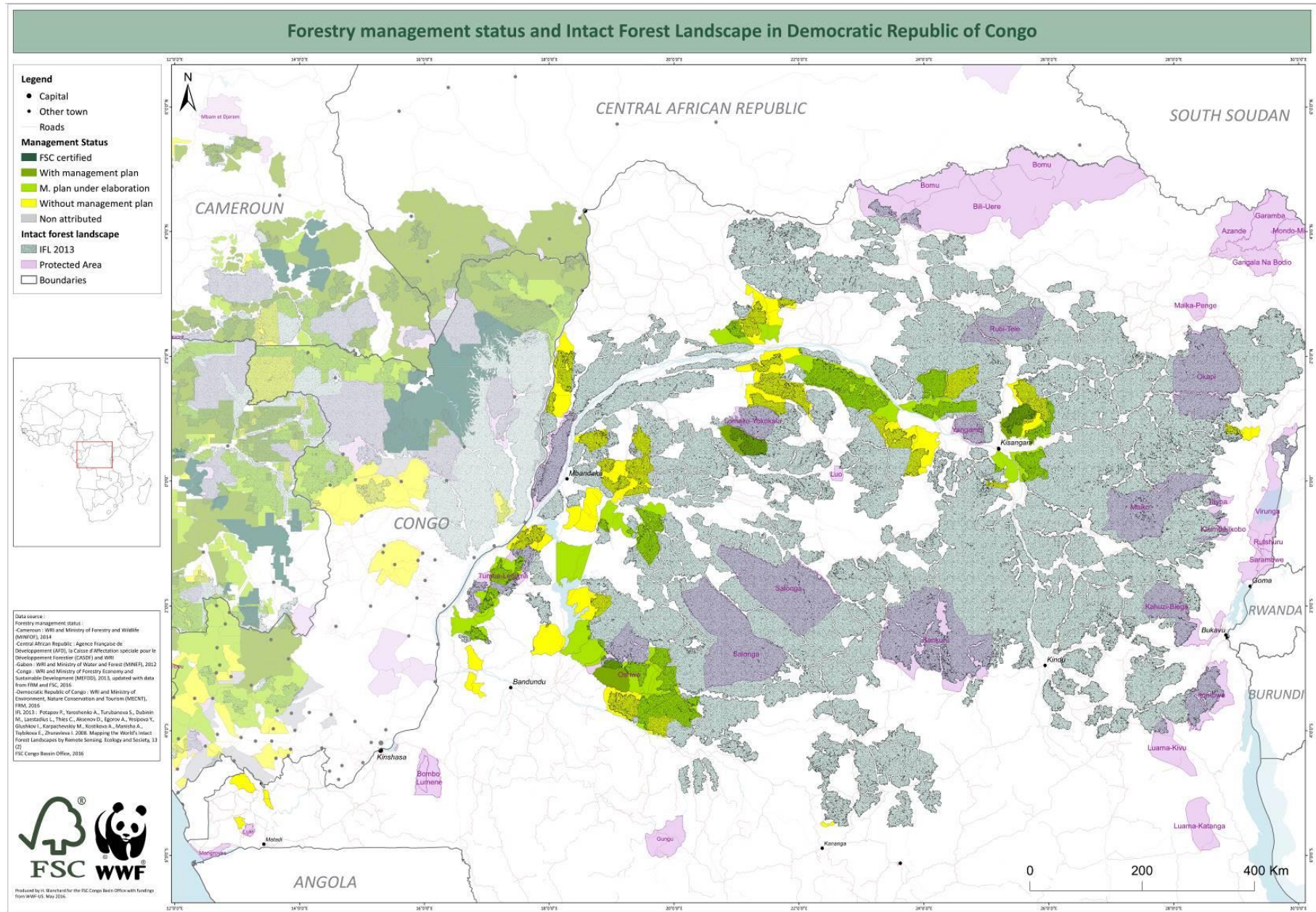


Figure 6. Forestry management status and IFL in Democratic Republic of Congo (Helene Blanchard on behalf of FSC and WWF-US; 2016)



2.8. DAY 3, SESSION 3 – PROPOSED APPROACHES TO DEVELOP IFL INDICATORS

The purpose of this session was to give the workshop participants an overview of the existing approaches and propositions for the development of IFL indicators. After each presentation, the proposed indicators for each approach were summarized on flipcharts, and can be found in [ANNEX 3](#).

The session was opened by Mr. Brian Milakovsky (Intact Forest Landscape Consultant at WWF), who gave an overview of the approaches taken by Russia and Canada to define IFL indicators.

Dr. Barbara Haurez (Research Assistant at the University of Gembloux) presented an initiative of ATIBT that proposes an approach to identify core areas (priority zones) within IFLs in the Congo Basin, while Mr. Antoine Couturier (Director Environmental and Social company policies and Certification at IFO) presented a case study on possible IFL indicators and IFL management in IFO's Ngombé forest management unit.

Some propositions for IFL indicators have been made by Dr. Barbara Haurez and Mr. Antoine Couturier, which raised some discussions. It has been discussed that in some of the areas categorized as IFL according to Global Forest Watch, some pieces of forest within the IFL zone showed signs of burning in years 1970s, likely human-induced.

The question came up whether the HCV-RWG had the possibility to redefine intactness?

Afterwards Mr. Mathieu Auger-Schwartzberg (FSC Congo Basin Programme Manager) explained again the purpose of the working group, Motion 65 and the HCV-RWG's mandate in relation to Motion 65.

He was followed by Mr. William Lawyer (Policy and Standards Officer at FSC) who presented the internal FSC guidelines and rules for the development of national IFL indicators based on the IGIs.

2.9. DAY 3, SESSION 4 – PRESENTATION OF EXISTING DATA SETS THAT COULD HELP TO DEFINE HCVs AND IFL INDICATORS

The purpose of this session was to give the working group members insight in existing data sets relevant for monitoring IFLs. The session was opened by Mr. Cedric Singa (Remote Sensing / GIS Specialist at OSFAC), who gave the participants an overview of the relevant data and products developed by OSFAC (*Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale*). After the presentation from Mr. Singa, Prof. Matthew Hansen (University of Maryland) then spoke briefly to the plenary about the availability of global datasets on IFLs.

Mr. Auger-Schwartzberg closed the workshop. Thanking the participants for their time and effort and reminding them of the task in-hand and its importance to achieve on due time the work plan set within the HCV Congo Basin Roadmap.



3. PART 3: CLOSED WORKING GROUP SESSION

Saturday, June 18, after the extended workshop, the HCV-RWG met for the first time as a working group behind closed doors.

The item agenda was as followed:

- 1) A summary of the issues discussed during the two first days of workshop
- 2) Work process
- 3) Implementation bodies structure and decision-making rules
- 4) Work procedures.

While presenting a summary of the issues discussed during the previous days, the HCV-officer pointed out that **the main difficulties that the workshop participants had identified as being linked to the development of HCV guidelines were:**

- 1) the availability of data
- 2) the accessibility of data
- 3) the interpretation of data and threshold setting.

Accordingly, the HCV-Officer proposed that the HCV-RWG identifies and calls on a small group of experts for each HCV in order to make propositions for HCV indicators and thresholds which will then be submitted to the HCV-RWG for discussion and validation.

The HCV-RWG thought it to be too early to identify experts. They decide, that as a first step, they would first like to have a draft guideline document that builds up on a synthesis of existing national HCV interpretations and HCV assessments from the Congo Basin. And that on the basis of this draft document, they will consequently identify the expert inputs required. The HCV-RWG mandated the HCV-Officer to develop the draft guidelines and established the TORs for this task. The TORs for this mandate are annexed to the report ([ANNEX 5](#)).

The indigenous representatives had, after a working session on Thursday evening, proposed that a group of indigenous people should be trained on the HCV concept and issues and be mandated to report to and consult with indigenous people regarding the discussions and decisions taking place in the RWG in order to feedback indigenous peoples voices directly concerned by certified forest management to the RWG. This proposition was accepted by the HCV-RWG with the condition that it was only the two members of the HCV-RWG that would reconstitute the indigenous voices to the RWG. An important remark was made by Edwige Eyang Effa and elaborated on her earlier remark on the importance to include the local communities in the guidance development. She made the point that in order to combat the discrimination indigenous people face in the Congo Basin, it would be important to also include representatives of the local Bantu forest communities in meetings and groups, such as the HCV-RWG, as this would create awareness amongst local communities about the discrimination of indigenous people.

Finally the proposed manual of procedures was examined and validated paragraph by paragraph by the HCV-RWG. It can be found in [ANNEX 6](#).

The date for the next meeting will depend on the finalization of the first draft of the HCV regional guidelines and thus on the time plan for this task to be developed by the HCV Officer over the course of the two weeks following the workshop.



4. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. WORKSHOP AGENDA

ANNEX 2. PARTICIPANTS LISTS

ANNEX 3. OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

ANNEX 4. INVOLVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HCV REGIONAL

**ANNEX 5. TORs FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FSC HCV REGIONAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT
DRAFT 0**

ANNEX 6. MANUAL OF PROCEDURES FOR THE HCV-RWG



Annex 1. Workshop Agenda

HCV Regional Working Group – Workshop n°1 “Setting the stage for the FSC-HCV regional guideline development”






June 15th to 18th, 2016
Hotel Mikhael's, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.

Purpose of this first meeting:

The purpose of this first meeting is to create a clear and shared vision amongst the members of the High Conservation Values Regional Working Group (HCV-RWG) with regards to:

- (i) the HCV and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) concepts;
- (ii) the expected final product – the FSC HCV Congo Basin Regional Guideline;
- (iii) the working process for its development.

Specific objectives:

-  Training on the HCV concept and sharing of experiences made with the concept and its application in the Congo Basin;
-  Introduction to IFLs (Update: political discussions, proposed definitions and approaches);
-  Discussion and validation of a work plan, procedures and expected results;
-  Definition of the scientific expert inputs necessary;
-  Affirmation of the strategy for the next steps.

Facilitation:

The workshop will be facilitated by Ms.Sophie DIROU, forestry expert and consultant for Proforest, and David HOYLE, Proforest Associate Director and Dr. Olivia Rickenbach, FSC HCV Congo Basin Officer.

Please note:

- All presentations are followed by 5 minutes question-time. Thus if the time slot indicated in the programme is 25 min (for example from 11:00-11:25). You have 20 min to hold your presentation and 5 minutes to respond to questions.
- No decisions are expected to be taken during the first three days, rather we expect to compile information based on the different expert presentations and to discuss and layout a range of options. Decisions related to the work plan and approach will be taken on day 4 by the members of the Regional Working Group.



Day 1 – 15.06.2016 – (Wednesday, 15h00 – 18h00)

HCV training

Goal: *The members of the HCV-RWG are familiar with the HCV concept, its use and application.*

- 1. Introduction to the HCV approach:** history, uses and HCV in the Forest Stewardship Council
David Hoyle, Proforest
- 2. The 6 HCVs:** global HCV definitions and examples
Sophie Dirou, Proforest
- 3. HCV guiding principles and quality control:** the precautionary approach, landscape scale, “Scale, Intensity and Risk”, the HCV Resource Network
David Hoyle, Proforest
- 4. Identifying HCVs at the forest concession level:** HCV assessment process and stakeholder consultation
David Hoyle, Proforest
- 5. Best practice in HCV Management and Monitoring: practical conservation and threat mitigation:** Focus on maintenance of HCVs (including IFLs), including options ranging from specific SOPs, and reduced impact practices or set-asides.
Sophie Dirou, Proforest

18:00 – 18: 30 Working session 1 with indigenous representatives

Day 2 – 16.06.2016 (Thursday)

Workshop introduction

-
- 9:00 Welcome note**
Forest Advisor of the Minister of Forestry Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment of the Republic of Congo
- 9:20 Why an HCV Congo Basin Regional Working Group?**
Mathieu Auger-Schwartzberg, FSC Congo Basin Programme Manager
Topics:
- 9:35 Presentation of the workshop agenda and its main expected deliverables**
Dr. Olivia Rickenbach, FSC HCV Congo Basin Officer
- 9:50 Coffee break**

Understanding the HCV concept

Goal: *The members of the HCV-RWG are familiar with the HCV concept.*

- 10:20 An overview of the HCV concept and its implementation** (summary of pre-workshop session)
David Hoyle, Proforest



10.40 An introduction to the Common Guidance documentation for the identification of High Conservation Values and Guidance on National / Regional Interpretation
(developed by the HCV-Resource Network)

David Hoyle, Proforest

11:10 Question round: The members of the HCV-RWG can ask any questions related to the concept.

Identification of available guidance, data sets and expertise important for decision-making related to HCV identification

Goal: *The HCV-RWG members have an insight in some of the existing data and issues relevant for identifying HCVs.*

One session for each HCV:

- ✓ reminder of definition
- ✓ examples from the Congo Basin (existing national interpretations)
- ✓ ideas on data sources

11:20 HCV1

David Hoyle and Sophie Dirou, Proforest

11:35 Data on Great Apes and Elephants in Congo Basin countries

Tim Rayden, WCS

12:15 Lunch break

13.30 HCV 3

David Hoyle and Sophie Dirou, Proforest

14.00 HCV 4

David Hoyle and Sophie Dirou, Proforest

14:30 HCV 5 & 6

David Hoyle and Sophie Dirou, Proforest

15:00 Coffee Break

State of the art of HCV guidance and identification in the Congo Basin

Goal: *Members of the HCV-RWG should have an insight into the design of the already existing HCV guidance documents, understand the challenges that were faced during the document development and identify the gaps and weaknesses.*

15.15 Existing HCV interpretation in Gabon



Tim Rayden, WCS

15:45 Existing HCV interpretation in Cameroon

Sophie Dirou, Terea

16:15 Existing HCV interpretation in DRC

Jean Gael Jourget, FRM

16:45 Discussions/ group work: Comparison of existing national HCV interpretations from the CB

17:45 End of the second day

**18:00 – 18: 30 Working session 2 with indigenous representatives
Day 3 – 17.06.2016 (Friday)**

Understanding HCV2 and the IFL concept

8.30 Introduction to HCV2

David Hoyle and Sophie Dirou, Proforest

8:35 IFLs – The history and idea behind the concept

Prof. Mathew Hansen, University of Maryland

8.55 IFLs - Current discussions and the “IFL Solution Forum”/ “HCV TWG”

Mathieu Auger-Schwartzenberg, FSC Congo Basin Programme Manager

09:15 The IFL concept in the revised IGIs: Requests to SDGs

Diana Franco Gil; FSC-IC

09:35 Presentation of Indigenous representatives on indigenous peoples take on IFLs/ indigenous involvement

9:55 Working session: IFL- the definition, the motion and its implementation

10:15 Coffee break

HCV2 and IFL coverage in the Congo Basin

Goal: *Members of the HCV-RWG get an understanding of the extent and placement of HCV2 and IFLs (according to Global Forest Watch) in the CONGO BASIN and how they are taken into account in current FSC-FM certified concession.*

10.30 The IFL coverage in the Congo Basin (according to Global Forest Watch)

Pascal Douard, WRI

11:00 Current operations and IFLs in FSC certified concessions in the Congo Basin



Helen Blanchard, FSC Congo Basin/WWF US

11:30 Discussion/group work: possible forest management strategies to maintain intactness/ reduce fragmentation and thus IFL loss

12:00 Lunch break

Proposed approaches to develop IFL indicators

Goal: *The HCV-RWG members have an overview over the different approaches and propositions related to the development of IFL indicators*

13:30 Approaches taken by other countries/regions to define IFL indicators

Brian Milakovsky, WWF International

14:15 Approach proposed by ATIBT to define IFL indicators for the Congo Basin

Dr. Barbara Haurez, University of Gembloux (Nature + ASBL)

14:45 Approach proposed by FRM/IFO to define IFL indicators for the Republic of Congo

Antoine Couturier, IFO

15:15 IFLs and indigenous people in the IGIs

William Lawyer, FSC Policy and Standards Unit Officer for Congo Basin

15:30 Coffee Break

15:45 Group work/discussions: Comparison of the IFL indicators proposed by the different approaches

Presentation of existing data sets that could help to define HCVs and IFL indicators

Goal: *The HCV-RWG members have an insight in some of the existing data relevant for identifying HCVs and IFL indicators.*

16:45 Existing data managed by OSFAC

Cedric Singa, OSFAC

17:15 Data developed by UMD; forest structure and forest disturbance, alert systems

Prof. Matthew Hansen, University of Maryland (UMD)

17:45 Discussion: Questions not previously addressed will be discussed

18:00 Closing words



Mathieu Auger-Schwartzenberg, FSC Congo Basin Programme Manager

Day 4 – 18.06.16 (Saturday) – for HCV-RWG members only

Developing the HCV Regional Guidance for Congo Basin forests

8:30 to 11:30: Group discussions/ work with the HCV-RWG facilitated by the FSC HCV Officer and the FSC Policy and Standards Officer for the Congo Basin:

Expected outcomes:

- Proposition for the design of the HCV guidance document;
- Agreement on Process and work plans for the development of the HCV Guidance;
- Groups of 04 to 06 experts by HCV categories are identified;
- A list of data sources for HCV identification is drafted.;

13:00 to 16:00: Group discussions/ work with the HCV-RWG facilitated by the FSC HCV Officer and the FSC Policy and Standards Officer for the Congo Basin:

Expected outcomes:

- **A Work plan to develop Regional Indicators to define six categories of HCV and the full set of Regional IFL indicators is reached by chamber-balanced consensus (including dates for the next workshop and preliminary time table);**
- List of possible indicators to define IFLs;
- Points of conflict are identified;
- Open questions are identified;
- Experts or expert knowledge required for next meeting are identified.

Planning of further work

16.15 Developing the Congo Basin Regional HCV guidelines – Action Plan for Year 01
with timetable

Dr. Olivia Rickenbach, HCV Congo Basin Officer

16:45 The manual of procedures

Dr. Olivia Rickenbach



ANNEX 2. PARTICIPANTS LISTS

Participants Workshop 1 HCV Congo Basin Regional Working Group du 15 au 18 Juin, 2016			
Name - Surname (Title)	Organization and Role	Country / Scope	Role in RWG
PHILIPPART Julien (DUVAL Rémi)	Compagnie des Bois du Gabon (CBG) / Certification Director (replacing Rémi DUVAL)	Gabon	Economic Chamber
NGOMA Jean-Albert	MEFDDE / Forestry Management Service Head Officer	Republic of Congo	Economic Chamber
TONGA KETCHAKANG Peguy	Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) / Governance expert	Cameroon / Regional scope	Economic Chamber
COUTURIER Antoine (Van LOON Tom)	Certification Director / IFO [Interholco (Danzer Group)]	Congo / Regional scope	Economic Chamber
DOUARD Pascal	World Resources Institute (WRI) / Regional Technical Coordinator	Democratic Republic of Congo / Regional scope	Environmental Chamber
RAYDEN Tim	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) / Technical Advisor Forestry and Climate Change	Republic of Congo	Environmental Chamber
TCHOUMBA W. Belmond	WWF Cameron Office / Central Africa Forest Program Coordinator	Cameroon / Regional scope	Environmental Chamber
EYANG EFFA Edwige	Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale (IRET/CENAREST)	Gabon	Environmental Chamber
EULOGE NZOBO Roch	Cercle des droits de l'Homme et de développement (CDHD)	Republic of Congo	Social Chamber
KAVIRA Louise	PIPC Delegate / Representative of Indigenous People from DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	Social Chamber
MESSE Venant	Elected President of REPALEAC and PIPC representative	Cameroon / Regional scope	Social Chamber
LOUNDOU Paul Simon	Socio-anthropologist	Gabon	Social Chamber
MILAKOVSKY Brian	WWF International / Technical Advisor (HCV & IFL specialist)	Member of HCV-TWG	Expert
TSANGA Raphaël	CIFOR / Senior Researcher	Regional scope	Expert
Dr. Barbara HAUREZ	University of Gembloux / Reseracher in Tropical Forestry	Regional scope	Expert
HANSEN Matthew (Pr)	UMD	Worlwide scope	Expert
LOLA AMANI Patrick	UMD - former Remote Sensing lab manager for OSFAC	Worlwide scope	Expert
JOURGET Jean-Gael	FRM / Forestry Expert	Regional scope	Expert
DIWA Kapupu	REPALEAC / National Focal Point in DRC / Indigenous Representative	Democratic Republic of Congo	Expert



SINGA Cédric	Satellite Observatory of Central Africa Forests (OSFAC) /GIS Officer	Regional scope	Expert
NGOA Elie Olivier Y.	PPECF/ COMIFAC / Responsable technique PPECF	Regional scope	Observer
SEPULCRE Cédric	WWF/ Programmes Ethiques et Forets	Republic of Congo	Observer
BROUSSOLLE Lucile	AFD / Chargé de Projet	Republic of Congo	Observer
EKANI Hugues	CIB / Directeur Responsabilité Environnement et Sociale	Republic of Congo	Observer
DIHOUKAMBA Parfait	RENAPAC/ GEN-Congo	Republic of Congo	Observer
AVERTI Ifo Suspense	Université de Marien-Ngouabi/ Chercheur en Ecologie	Republic of Congo	Observer
PARREN Marc	WRI/ Directeur Régional	Regional Scope	Observer
MITATA Audrey Sita	RENAPAC/ GEN-Congo	Republic of Congo	Observer
Loumeto Joel	Université de Marien-Ngouabi/ Professeur en Ecologie	Republic of Congo	Observer
MVOUKANI Gady Ines	Comptoir Juridique Junior/ Juriste	Republic of Congo	Observer
DIROU Sophie	Proforest / Forestry Expert	Regional scope	Expert & Facilitator
HOYLE David	Proforest / Associate Director	Worldwide scope	Expert & Facilitator
DE SMEDT Sebastiaan (Dr.)	Proforest / Forestry Expert	Worldwide scope	Expert
SCHWARTZENBERG Mathieu	FSC Congo Basin Programme Manager	Regional scope	FSC Staff
WAINFOIN LAWYER William	PSU Officer for Congo Basin	Regional scope	FSC Staff
FRANCO GIL Diana	Policy Officer – Forest Management at FSC-International Center	Worldwide scope	FSC Staff
RICKENBACH Olivia (Dr.)	FSC HCV Congo Basin Officer	Regional scope	FSC Staff
BLANCHARD Hélène	Cartographer Consultant at FSC Congo Basin Office	Regional scope	FSC Staff

NOTE:

Please, note that the HCV-RWG is composed by twelve (12) members, who could require the technical assistance of external experts to achieve the next milestones of their work.



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The Observers have decided to attend the meeting on their own and are not associated to the HCV-RWG.

ANNEX 3. OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

ELEMENTS CLES DES STRATEGIES DE GESTIONS PROPOSEES POUR LES ZONES IFL

Eléments de gestion		Objectifs
Routes	Décompactations des routes et pistes après utilisation	Re-végétalisation accélérée
	Réduction de largeur des routes	Diminution du prélèvement de la biomasse
	Réutilisation des anciennes routes	
Récolte	Rétention des éléments associés avec les anciennes forêts à une étape de succession tardive comme des arbres émergents du canopée	Préserver la structure des anciennes forêts
	Rétention des arbres dans les classes d'âge	
	Promotion/ protection des espèces ligneux qui sont résistantes à la sécheresse et au changement climatique	Résilience de la forêt
Conservation	Lutte anti-braconnage renforcée dans les zones IFL exploités avec un suivi-évaluation régulier de l'efficacité	Réduire les effets négatifs sur la grande faune liés à l'exploitation forestière
	Mise en réserve (séries de conservation, séries de protection)	
	Gestion pour l'exploitation commerciale des PFNL	
	Paiement pour les systèmes écosystémique (Carbone, biodiversité,....)	

CRITERES POUR LA DEFINITION DES ZONES ESSENTIELLES DES IFL

Canada	Russie	ATIBT proposal	FRM/IFO proposal
Espèce indicatrice (Caribou ; indique des forêts vierges non-perturbés)			
	Ecosystèmes rares et menacés	Typologie des forêts (CoForSet)	
	Forêts « vierges »		
	Biodiversité	Communautés animales intactes (projet en cours ATIBT/Gembloux)	Espèces fauniques vulnérables
	Connectivité		
	Représentativité		
	Sensibilité de l'écosystème à l'exploitation		
		Présence/ absence des espèces héliophiles, tolérant à l'ombre	
		Densité de la population humaine	
		Résilience	
			Occupation des sols
			Biomasse aérienne
			Densité de la population humaine



HOT Topics discussed during the workshop:

HVC 1 :

1. Disparition entre 2002 et 2011 de 62% de la population d'éléphants en Afrique Centrale. Aujourd'hui demeure une population estimée à 100.000 éléphants avec plus de 50% de la population résidante au Gabon
2. Habitats privilégiés pour Gorilles et Chimpanzés : l'indice d'abondance de ces deux espèces est positivement corrélée à l'éloignement de la route et à l'intégrité de la canopée. Les opérations d'exploitation diminuant la strate la plus haute du couvert forestier, elles pourraient avoir une incidence négative sur la densité de populations des grands singes.
3. Atout du FSC : en l'absence de patrouilles d'écogardes (concessions non certifiées), on note une forte diminution de la population de grands singes mais cette relation disparaît en présence d'éco-gardes, même à proximité des routes.
4. Validité des données et difficulté d'analyse comparative (comment standardise les données?)
5. Accessibilité et récolte de données
6. Absence des données (seulement des données sur les animaux de grande ou moyenne taille)
7. Difficulté dans la modélisation de l'abondance des grands mammifères
8. Choix des espèces pour définir les HCV de type 1
9. Seuils d'importance à déterminer – Quels seuils de décisions choisir ?

HVC 3 :

1. Principes de définition et catégorisation d'un écosystème forestier (Qu'est-ce que c'est un écosystème ? Comment on délimite un écosystème ?)
2. Echelle de l'évaluation pour définir rare et menacé (Qu'est ce qui est rare? En rapport avec quoi ?). Comment détermine-t-on qu'un écosystème est rare ?
3. Se reporter au « Green Book » où sont listés les écosystèmes rares pour aider à l'identification des HCV de type 3
4. Problème d'échelle pour qualifier la rareté. Quelle échelle est la plus cohérente : locale vs nationale vs paysage vs régionale.
5. Identification des facteurs qui façonne les caractéristiques de l'écosystème
6. Modélisation des changements anticipés

HVC 4:

1. Protection contre l'érosion : Comment décider à partir de quel pourcentage de la pente il faut protéger la forêt (seuil) ?
2. Suivi de la qualité de l'eau : Comment mesurer ?
3. Identification des sols fragiles ? (indicateurs, seuils)
4. Détermination du seuil de pentes en fonction des différentes catégories de sols pour caractériser les seuils de protection à mettre en place par rapport à l'érosion
5. Savoir locale est très important à récolter et utiliser
6. Disponibilité limité de données de qualité sur le type de sol



HCV 5 and 6:

1. Les définitions des concepts culturelles et sociales doivent être mieux élaborées
2. Qu'est ce qui est un besoin essentiel et pour qui ? Qui détermine ce qui est considéré comme essentiel ?
3. Des valeurs non statiques : A quelle fréquence doivent ces valeurs être réévalués ? (actualisation de l'identification)
4. Semi-nomades : est-ce que une communauté peut déplacer un site si elle n'est pas sédentaire ?
5. Est-ce que les sites agricoles sont des HVC 5 ou pas ?
6. Limite du concept de la chasse traditionnelle. Elle ne répond pas à la situation réelle
7. Sites sacrées
 - a. Définition, identification et catégorisation des sites sacrées en termes d'importance
 - b. Une difficulté : les sites indiqués peuvent varier en fonction des bénéficiaires (motifs)
8. Problèmes CLIP :
 - a. Risque d'une pseudo-participation, inégalité du poids des négociateurs, transparence du secteur forestier, nature préalable du consentement
 - b. Problème à lever : classement est antérieur à l'existence du concept CLIP et à la nécessité de le mettre en œuvre
 - c. Sites sacrés : définition du sacré, cartographie participative, problème du gain, du rapport financier et du relationnel vis-à-vis du bénéficiaire
 - d. Inégalité des forces → renforcement des capacités des populations
 - e. Comment rendre le CLIP objectif dans un contexte où les populations n'ont légalement pas des droits fonciers ?
 - f. Qui détermine l'importance d'un besoin (HVC 5)
 - g. Comment gérer s'il y a un conflit entre les droits étatiques et les droits coutumiers ?
 - h. Notion d'échelle temporelle : l'identification des HVC se fait à un temps t, et la population évolue et lorsque les opérations débutent, il faut procéder à une nouvelle identification de ces HVC 5 et 6, absence de notions de temporalité

Gestion des Paysages Forestiers Intacts et Motion 65 :

- **La motion 65 ne doit pas être une incitation perverse à quitter le FSC ;**
- Une approche mixte de gestion des IFL, entre protections des sites prioritaires pour la conservation et aménagement durable, doit être privilégiée pour garantir la viabilité du FSC dans le Bassin du Congo ;
- L'engagement des populations locales et autochtones (participation active à la définition des indicateurs) est une condition *sine qua non* de la réussite du processus ;
- Distinction entre Intact et Vierge : si la forêt est intacte c'est indépendant de l'histoire du paysage. Est qualifiée d'intacte une forêt non perturbée par les opérations industrielles d'extraction opérée depuis une soixantaine d'années ;
- Les forêts n'ont jamais été impactées par l'homme : NON FAUSSE IDEE, nous savons que les forêts ont toutes été impactées au fil des siècles et que ces activités ont façonné la forêt que l'on trouve aujourd'hui. Ce phénomène est commun et répandu à travers le monde (Canada et Russie). L'IFL : ce qui reste de la forêt avant le début de l'ère industrielle de l'extraction industrielle du bois. C'est cela un IFL, et comme nous voyons un déclin de la biodiversité globale corrélée directement à l'extraction industrielle des ressources, nous considérons que l'IFL est ce qui est intact avant le démarrage des activités industrielles ;
- **Toutes les IFL n'ont pas la même valeur en terme de conservation : il est ainsi nécessaire de corréliser les IFL aux sites prioritaires de conservation pour définir les zones essentielles des IFL (et de fixer des seuils) ;**



- Proposition éventuelle pour développer des indicateurs : Mise en réserve d'une portion d'IFL, mais ne pas confondre valeurs écologiques et « intactness » / intégrité : on peut négocier sur la portion à mettre en défends mais l'on ne peut pas utiliser la valeur écologiques pour justifier l'exploitation dans une IFL. Ailleurs que dans la zone mise en défends, alors l'on peut envisager une exploitation à faible impact, avec par exemple, réhabilitation des routes (végétalisation), accroissement de la surveillance par écogardes ;
- La situation est plus complexe dans le Bassin du Canada qu'au Canada, où l'espèce emblématique, le Caribou, fortement impacté par les activités d'exploitation, détermine les zones essentielles des IFL. Dans la sous-région, il n'y a pas assez de recul pour préjuger de cela, et les premières données disponibles montrent une coexistence envisageable entre grands mammifères et opérations certifiées FSC ;
- Les articles montrent (Clark, Stokes, Clark et al.) que les espèces prioritaires pour la conservation semblent se maintenir avec certaines adaptations des pratiques de l'exploitation forestière, et peu de recul – seulement à la 1ère rotation des PFI ;
- Argument proposé également : perturbations du couvert forestier sont nécessaires pour la régénération des essences héliophiles ;
- Plusieurs parties prenantes souhaitent une redéfinition des IFL : Redéfinition des IFL : paléo-anthracologie, Télédétection, Inventaires aménagement, Données concessions forestières, exclusions de forêts dégradées à communauté animale conservée, vieilles forêts dégradées où communauté animale perturbée.
Une méthodologie de délimitation est à l'essai en République du Congo ;
- De nombreuses incertitudes demeurent sur la flexibilité relative à modifier la définition existante des IFL ;
- Un effort majeur doit être tourné pour la délimitation des zones essentielles des IFL et leurs modalités de gestion.



ANNEX 4. INVOLVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HCV REGIONAL

GENERAL CONTEXT

With Principle No. 9 the FSC forest management standard lays down many requirements, including the requirement to manage or protect forests in a way as to maintain or enhance the High Conservation Values (HCVs) that have been identified therein.

At the present time, the concept of High Conservation Value (HCV) is applied only to a very limited extent in the Congo Basin. Over the last five years there have been a growing number of national initiatives to define HCV criteria (Gabon in 2008, Cameroon - for small and low-intensity managed forests (SLIMFs) - in 2008, the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2012 and Cameroon in 2015). These attempts highlight the importance attributed to the HCV tool by various stakeholders. However, these disparate attempts have failed to produce a rigorous frame of reference for interpreting, identifying, managing and maintaining HCVs and results have not been validated by FSC International. Reasons are **the lack of systematic analysis of the available data on HCVs**, as well as the **limited involvement of the stakeholders concerned**, such as indigenous communities.

The slow progress in this area explains why the integration of HCV guidance has been set as a condition for approving the new FSC Congo Basin regional standard. HCV guidance, approved by FSC, currently exists in the form of a handbook for the identification of HCVs only. However, this handbook is by no means specific to the forest eco-systems of the Congo Basin. Nor does it give advice on how to engage key stakeholders in the identification of HCVs, nor maintain or improve the High Conservation Values that have been identified. Therefore a regional HCV guidance for the Congo Basin is required.

The policy **Motion 65 that was adopted at the 7th FSC General Assembly in Seville (7-14 September 2014) adds another important aspect to the development of a regional HCV guidance document.** The motion is directly related to HCV 2 and raises the requirement for definition, identification, management and monitoring of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) within FSC forests management units. The remarkable overlap between the Indigenous Peoples traditional lands and territories and the IFLs has been increasingly recognized, particularly in Canada where the concept of Indigenous Cultural Landscapes (ICL) is being developed to provide an FPIC framework when planning the responsible management of these lands. Integrating this concept will make FSC standards more robust but more complex as it demands the direct engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the standards development processes. If such standards have not been developed by the end of 2016 a generic indicator will be applied, which demands that 80 % of the intact forest landscape falling within an forest management unit will have to be fully protected. Given that a large percentage of the FSC certified forest area in the Congo Basin is considered as IFL, the need to define more specific standards adapted to the specific situation of the region is urgent.

In 2013, a program of activities ("Road Map") was drawn up to develop clear and precise guidance on how to identify, manage and monitor High Conservation Values in Congo Basin. The project is part of a more general effort to harmonize forestry certification procedures in the sub-region, and in particular



ways of identifying and managing HCVs. It targets the countries in which the Program for the Promotion of Certified Forest Management (PPECF) is active, *i.e.* Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Republic of Congo and Central African Republic (CAR)¹. In practice, the aim of the Road Map project is to provide those involved in forest management in Congo Basin, and particularly FSC certificate holders or timber companies engaged in an FSC certification, Controlled Wood or Legality verification process, with **a Regional HCV Guideline for Congo Basin and National HCV Interpretations for Definition, Identification, Monitoring and Management of High Conservation Values (including IFL) in Congo Basin.**

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

FSC is a multi-stakeholder organization and stakeholder engagement is an important part of the FSC system. It helps FSC identify ways to strengthen standards, processes, assessments and other activities and ensures that the Certificate Holders are managing in socially and culturally appropriate ways.

Thereby, in line with its statutory purpose to promote and respects civil rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, traditional peoples and local communities, FSC attributes particular attention to the engagement of indigenous communities in working processes such as standards setting.

Accordingly in 2013 FSC international has established a permanent institution for the engagement of Indigenous Peoples in strategic decision making around issues of forest management and FSC certification. This institution, the Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee (PIPC), is a standing committee of the FSC International Board of Directors, and provides ongoing guidance in the FSC system on decisions affecting Indigenous Peoples.

It is thus not surprising given the limited involvement of stakeholders, in particular of indigenous people, that the disparate attempts to produce frames of reference for interpreting, identifying, managing and maintaining HCVs in the Congo Basin have not been validated by FSC International.

The engagement of indigenous people must be considered a highly important component of the stakeholder engagement for the development of any valid HCV guidance and particularly so in the Congo Basin.

The indigenous people of the Congo Basin are commonly referred to as Pygmies. In reality there are various small groups, each with a different name. Pygmies, are traditionally forest dwelling hunter-gatherers. Thus their traditional lifestyle is strongly linked to forest ecosystems. Even today the majority of Pygmies remain largely dependent on forest products. A recent study which provides the first measured estimate of the population and distribution of these indigenous groups, found that the forests of the Congo Basin could be home to up to 920,000 Pygmies ¹. Based on this study, Pygmies are probably the largest group of active hunter-gatherers in Africa, and possibly the world. Therefore

¹ At present [January 2016], implementation of the Road Map in the CAR is difficult to envisage. We shall have to wait till hostilities have ceased and stability has returned before we can plan and carry out the survey there.



Pygmies are significant to humanity's cultural diversity. The same study found a negative relationship between the presence of roads and the habitat optimality for Pygmies.

There are thus several specific reasons why indigenous communities of the Congo Basin should have an important role to play in the definition of HCVs and IFLs:

- **Customary land rights:** The Pygmy people are the traditional owners of the forest.
- **Indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge:** Pygmy people have an in-depth knowledge about the forest ecosystem.
- **Forest dependence:** Pygmy people's livelihoods are strongly dependent on the forest and forest products for food, shelter and medicine.
- **Cultural knowledge and importance:** The forest landscapes provide landscape features and resources that are important for the specific lifestyles of Pygmies.
- **Cultural diversity:** Pygmies are probably the largest group of active hunter-gatherers in Africa, and possibly the world.
- **Vulnerability:** Pygmy people belong to the poorest of the poor and are often heavily marginalized. Forests provide in many ways a safety network for them.

¹ Olivero, Jesús, et al. "Distribution and Numbers of Pygmies in Central African Forests." *PloS one* 11.1 (2016): e0144499

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the engagement of forest dependent people in the development of a Congo Basin HCV guidance is to increase their capacity to promote their participation in forest management decision-making in order to safeguard their rights and livelihood resources.

The specific objectives are to:

- Inform indigenous peoples about Principle 9, including the IFL and ICL
- Call on indigenous ecological knowledge to define HCVs 1 to 4
- Have indigenous people identify criteria to define which sites and resources are fundamental in securing their livelihoods (HCV 5)
- Call on indigenous cultural knowledge to define a methodology for the identification of sites of special significance (HCV 6)
- Have indigenous people identify the criteria that define their indigenous cultural landscapes (ICLs) within the intact forest landscape (IFL): *What are the characteristics of a forest that supports indigenous people's well-being?*

THE CHALLENGES IN ENGAGING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The majority of pygmy communities do not benefit from any form of political representation and also lack institutions able to directly defend their rights.

This a consequence from several factors:

Pygmies often live in very remote areas. They live in small geographically dispersed communities and consequently have little trans-national consciousness as an ethnic group.



Pygmies suffer from discrimination by their co-nationals and consequent direct or indirect exclusion from formal school education and ready access to other public services.

The ordinary structure and functioning of representative institutions is entirely alien to traditional pygmy society, where hierarchy is not innate feature. Pygmy societies have a flat organizational structure. Decision-making is based on consensus. This often collides with the dominant project-management frameworks. These often demand a representative spokesman for centralised decision-making. In other words, management frameworks often ask for a delegate who is conferred with the legal power, authority, and jurisdiction to make their own decisions as representatives of a group, which contrasts with Pygmies organizational structure.

While national indigenous people's associations exist, their legitimacy may be questioned. Did all members of the Pygmy society have the possibility to vote for their leader? Is there any bottom up control? Power and benefits are often heavily centred on a few better educated elite representatives, **as consultation and feedback mechanisms**, apart from being alien to traditional pygmy societies, are **often insufficient**. Even where consultation and feedback mechanisms are formally established the lack of means and care may impede their proper implementation. Frequent barriers to proper consultation are time, money and logistical constraints and Pygmies' **restricted understanding of the issue under discussion due to weak formal education and insufficient capacity building**. Spokesmen can and do thus often not guarantee the actual representation of the Pygmy society, but rather portray pro forma representation.

PROCESS TO ENSURE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

So how does FSC Congo Basin envision to engage Pygmies in the process of the development of a regional HCV guidance for the Congo Basin?

The framework of the HCV roadmap project calls for a regional working group with the mandate to discuss and validate the decisions related to the development of regional HCV guidance. According to FSC's operational principles this group needs to be composed of members of the three chambers; the social, the environmental and the economic chamber. This group is thus a representative institution in which the indigenous people are represented in the social chamber.

Also, for the selection of the two indigenous representatives to the HCV-RWG, the FSC-CBO will have to rely on already established associations and institutions, such as national and transnational Pygmy associations and the PIPC. FSC will thus not respond to the question of the legitimacy of the existing associations and the adequacy of representative institutions for Pygmies.

But FSC can try to help tackle problems related to illiteracy and low levels of formal school education, consultation, feedback of information and Pygmies' comprehension of their rights, responsibilities and the issue under discussion (the HCV concept) through the development of mechanism that 1) increase the capacity of participation of the indigenous representatives in the HCV-RWG, 2) increase the thematic and pedagogic capacities of selected indigenous people living in FSC-FM certified concessions to consult with indigenous and local communities regarding HCVs and 3) assure the feedback of information between the indigenous representative to the HCV-RWG and indigenous people living in FSC certified forest management concessions.



Side meetings at the main workshop of the HCV-RWG will be held with the indigenous representatives to the HCV-RWG to provide them with additional explanatory support that should allow the indigenous representatives to clarify any open questions with regards to the technical discussions in order to take a their own position with regards to HCV and IFL/ICL.

A group of eight (08) indigenous people, two (02) for each of the four focal countries, will be trained as “regional indigenous FSC experts”. This group will be trained to inform and consult local indigenous people living in FSC forest management certified concessions with the objective that the indigenous representatives can truly represent the view point of those indigenous communities and feed their expert knowledge into the technical discussions. Those “regional indigenous FSC experts” will receive thematic training on Principles 2 and 9, general pedagogic training on how to inform and consult in an empowering way and they will elaborate an adapted methodology to work with local indigenous people to gather information on specific questions relevant for the HCV guidance.

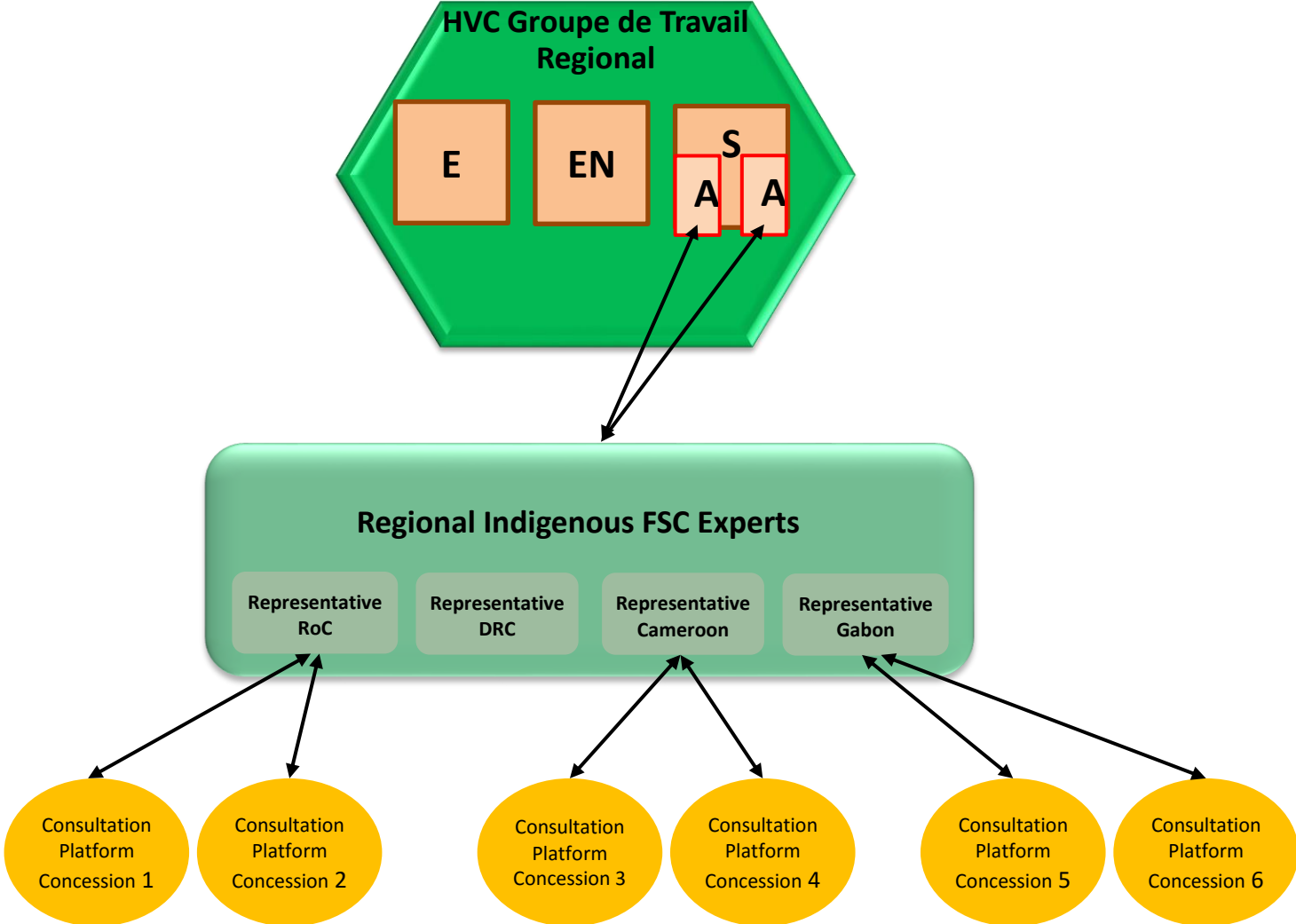
The “regional indigenous FSC experts” will then go to the field to transfer their acquired skills and to apply the developed methodology to elaborate criteria and strategies for HCV identification, management and monitoring with IP living in FSC certified management concessions. FSC certified logging concessions often have established consultation platforms for local communities. If possible those consultation platforms will be used for knowledge transmission between the “regional indigenous FSC experts” and the IP living in the concessions. If such platforms are not established and/or not organized by the forestry company within the for the project appropriate time frame, meetings will directly be held in villages within the concession.



Representation: The indigenous representatives: The IP representatives in the HCV-RWG represent the viewpoints of and feed in knowledge from indigenous people directly affected by FSC forest management in(to) the RWG .

Capacity building: “Regional indigenous FSC experts”, a group of eight selected IP people living in FSC certified concessions will receive thematic training on Principles 2 and 9, general pedagogic training on how to inform and consult in an empowering way and they will elaborate an adapted methodology to work with local

Consultation and feedback: The “regional indigenous FSC experts” inform and consult the indigenous people living FSC certified concessions with a specifically for the purpose developed methodology.





Calendrier prévisionnel d'activités

	Q2-2016	Q3-2016			Q4-2016		
	Juin	Juillet	Aout	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Workshop 1: Think about mechanism to ensure representation of indigenous viewpoints and knowledge	x						
Selection and training of Indigenous Experts		x					
Field consultation 1 a. Inform Indigenous Communities in FSC Concessions b. Identify Indigenous People's interpretation of HCVs				x			
Workshop 2: Feedback to HCV-RWG					x		
Field Consultation 2 a. Explain outcomes of the 2nd workshop of the HCV-RWG b. Gather indigenous people's opinions of decisions and questions under discussion						x	
Workshop 3: Feedback IPs viewpoints to HCV-RWG							x
Field consultation 3 Explain outcomes of the 3rd workshop of the HCV-RWG							

DEFINITIONS

Indigenous Cultural Landscapes: living landscapes to which Indigenous Peoples attribute social, cultural and economic value because of their enduring relationship with the land, water, fauna, flora and spirits and their present and future importance to their cultural identity. An ICL is characterized by features that have been maintained through long-term interactions based on land-care knowledge, and adaptive livelihood practices. They are landscapes over which Indigenous peoples exercise responsibility for stewardship (Proposed by FSC Canada Nov 2015. Modified from UNESCO World Heritage Convention from 1992)

Intact Forest Landscape: a territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km² (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Source: Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch)

Maps are available at:

[LINK TO DOWNLOAD MORE DEFINITIONS - CLICK HERE!](#)



RESOURCES

The amount of financial resources required by FSC-CBO to realize this initiative is strongly dependent on the amount on the logistic support in the field. FSC is hoping for the collaboration of the FSC certified concessions. The idea is that the selected concessions will provide us with transportation support on site to visit villages or that we can make use of the regular platforms organized by the company with no extra costs.

No	Designation	Unit	Quantity	PU (CFA)	PT (CFA)	PT (Euros)
Field consultation						
Per field consultation per site x 2 persons						
2	National Transportation to site (2 persons x 1 ticket)	Flight/Bus ticket	2	50000	100000	
3	On site transportation (Vehicule rent for 4 days)	Day	4	200000	800000	
4	Accommodation (2 persons x 6 nights)	Night	12	20000	240000	
5	Food (2 persons x 6 days)	Day	12	8000	96000	
9	Organisation of meeting	Meeting/day	4	30000	120000	
10	Honorary (2 personnes x 4 days)	Honoraire	8	15000	120000	
11	Report fee	Rapport	1	25000	25000	
12	Communication fee (2 persons)	Forfait	2	5000	10000	
13	Unforseen	Forfait	1	100000	100000	
Subtotal Per field consultations per site					1611000	2460
Subtotal Per field consultations per site excl. on site transportation					811000	1238
Subtotal for 3 field consultations in 4 sites			12		19332000	29515
Subtotal for 3 field consultations in 4 sites excl. on site transportation			12		9732000	14858
Subtotal for 3 field consultations in 8 sites			24		38664000	59029
Subtotal for 3 field consultations in 8 sites excl. on site transportation			24		19464000	29716
Expert training (Douala)						
	International transport	Flight ticket	6	300000	1800000	
	National Transportation	Flight/Bus ticket	2	50000	100000	
	Visas	Visa	6	60000	360000	
	Accommodation	Night	56	50000	2800000	
	Food	Day	56	30000	1680000	
	Honorary	Day	48	15000	720000	
	Location salle de réunion	Day	6	150000	900000	
	Unforseen	Forfait	1	400000	400000	
Subtotal expert training					8760000	13374
TOTAL (minimum)						28232
TOTAL (optimum)						43090



ANNEX 5. TORs FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FSC HCV REGIONAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT DRAFT 0

TERMES DE REFERENCE

REDACTION DU DRAFT 0 DES LIGNES DIRECTRICES REGIONALES POUR L'IDENTIFICATION,
LE SUIVI ET LA GESTION DES HVC POUR LES FORETS DU BASSIN DU CONGO

CHAMP D'APPLICATION

Le Groupe de Travail Régional HVC Bassin du Congo a mandaté le HCV Officer, Olivia Rickenbach, pour rédiger la première ébauche (Draft 0) des Lignes Directrices Régionales pour l'identification, le suivi et la gestion des Hautes Valeurs de Conservation (HVC) pour les forêts du Bassin du Congo.

CONTENU DU LIVRABLE

Le HCV Officer proposera un document avant l'atelier 2 du Groupe Régional de Travail sur les HVC bassin du Congo.

Ce document constituera la première ébauche des Lignes Directrices Régionales. Un accent particulier sera mis pour le traitement en priorité des Hautes Valeurs de Conservation de type 2 et les Paysages Forestiers Intacts.

Il contiendra :

- Proposition du canevas des Lignes Directrices Régionales ;
- Revue bibliographique des documents existants (publics et confidentiels), notamment les documents normatifs et orientations FSC, interprétations nationales existantes pour la sous-région Bassin du Congo, les documents d'évaluation des FHVC réalisés par les sociétés d'exploitation forestière ;
- Analyse comparative des différentes solutions proposées dans la revue bibliographique : points communs et points de divergence ;
- Proposition de critères d'identification, sur base des documents existants, pour les six (06) catégories de Hautes Valeurs de Conservation ;
- Proposition des différentes options existantes pour déterminer les seuils d'importance pour chaque HVC.

PLAN DE TRAVAIL

Un Plan de travail sera rédigé par le HCV Officer en Juin 2016, et proposé au Groupe de Travail Régional.



ANNEX 6. MANUAL OF PROCEDURES FOR THE HCV-RWG

MANUEL DE PROCEDURES GTR-HVC POUR LE TRAVAIL DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL REGIONAL HVC BASSIN DU CONGO

I. SCOPE

Ce manuel de procédure a pour objectif de définir les modalités de fonctionnement et de collaboration du Groupe de Travail Régional HVC.

La durée d'application de ce manuel s'étend sur la période entre la prise de fonction des membres du GTR-HVC et la fin du processus d'élaboration des lignes directrices régionales HVC FSC pour le Bassin du Congo.

II. MISSION DU GTR-HVC

La mission du Groupe de Travail Régional HVC (GTR-HVC) est de développer des lignes directrices pour l'application du principe 9 des Indicateurs Génériques Internationaux du FSC (FSC-STD-60-004) dans le Bassin du Congo. Ces lignes directrices doivent être développées d'une manière participative (participation des membres de la chambre économique, environnementale et sociale, avec un accent particulier sur la participation de la population autochtone) et doivent se baser sur une analyse systématique des données scientifiques. Elles doivent prendre en compte les particularités du Bassin du Congo (particularités des écosystèmes et de la biodiversité, disponibilité des données, gestion de concessions forestières, normes et lois nationales, les documents existants accessibles). Le GTR-HVC est l'organe technique principal du projet HVC pour le Bassin du Congo et comme tel, il doit veiller à ce que les lignes directrices soient claires et compréhensibles. Les lignes directrices régionales serviront de base pour orienter les GEN (Groupe d'élaboration des normes) nationales dans le processus d'élaboration des normes.

III. PLAN DE TRAVAIL POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DES LIGNES DIRECTRICES

III.1 DEROULEMENT

Le plan de travail (en annexe) présente la base de travail. Il indique des périodes indicatives pour les réunions qui présentent le cadre constitutif pour l'organisation du travail. Le plan de travail est indicatif et peut être adaptées selon l'évolution du projet.

Pour l'établissement des dates de réunions exactes, le HCV-Officer sera chargé de soumettre aux membres du GTR-HVC un minimum de cinq (05) propositions pour la tenue de l'atelier de travail, au minimum un (01) mois avant de ladite réunion. Une durée de trois jours est accordée aux membres pour répondre aux propositions et confirmer leur disponibilité. Le HCV-Officer choisira la date qui conviendra à la disponibilité de la majorité des membres pour la tenue de l'atelier.



Trois (03) à quatre (04) ateliers de travail régionaux de trois (03) à cinq (05) jours auront lieu dans une des villes principales de la sous-région du Bassin du Congo (le lieu exact est déterminé par le bureau FSC du bassin du Congo) et une réunion du comité de pilotage au bureau général de FSC International à Bonn.

Les ateliers de travail servent en même temps de plateforme pour 1) proposer, discuter et développer les idées en groupe et 2) pour la validation des décisions.

Les résultats de chaque atelier seront consignés par écrit et le document sera transmis aux membres du GTR-HVC à travers d'un portail internet et par email. Il y suit une période d'annotation où les idées élaborées sont concrétisées et affinées à travers les échanges dans un forum de discussions et les amendements basés sur le document écrit.

Cela revient à dire, qu'en dehors des réunions les membres du GTR-HVC travailleront indépendamment à base du forum de discussions et des documents et resteront en contact à travers des emails et le téléphone. Ce travail sera coordonné par le HVC-Officer.

III.2 RESPONSABILITES DES MEMBRES DANS LE PLAN D

Participation aux ateliers de travail - Après avoir confirmé la participation à l'atelier de travail, la participation aux ateliers est impérative et ne peut seulement être excusée en cas de force majeure.

Consigner les résultats des ateliers de travail par écrit- Le HCV-Officer est responsable pour consigner les résultats des réunions par écrit et de placer le document de travail sur un serveur dans un délai de deux semaines suivant l'atelier. Dès que les documents est disponible il envoie un email de rappel (comprenant les documents de travail principaux) à tous les membres du GTR-HVC.

Concrétiser et affiner le document de travail- Les membres du GTR-HVC sont responsables de concrétiser et affiner le document de travail et d'y apporter des commentaires dans un délai fixé par le HVC Officer. C'est aussi le HVC-Officer qui intégrera les modifications de tous les membres du GTR-HVC.

Transmission des résultats aux Groupe d'Elaboration des Normes nationaux-

Par pays, une réunion de deux jours du Groupe d'Elaboration des Normes nationaux serait organisée pour la transmission des résultats du niveau régional au niveau national. Cette responsabilité reviendra à un membre du GTR-HVC par pays. Celui-ci sera appuyé par le HCV-Officer et par le Responsable des Politiques et des Normes du bureau FSC pour le Bassin du Congo et éventuellement un autre membre du GTR-HVC du même Pays.



IV. ATELIERS DE TRAVAIL ET REUNIONS DU COMITE DE PILOTAGE

IV.1. OBJECTIFS 2016

1. **Atelier de travail 1** (4 jours) : 1) Formation initial sur les HVC (formation des membres relative au concept HVC, aux outils génériques disponibles pour l'identification, la gestion et le suivi des HVC et aux essais de développer des guides nationaux dans des pays du Bassin du Congo), 2) Validation du manuel de procédure; s'accorder sur la manière dans laquelle les activités seront coordonnées entre les différents membres, y inclus les mécanismes de responsabilité, 3) Echange des idées initiales concernant les définitions HVC, 4) Identification des sources d'informations disponibles
2. **Atelier de travail 2** (x jours) : 1) Définition des indicateurs d'identification, de gestion et de suivi-évaluation des PFI 2) Identification de l'appui scientifique nécessaire pour finaliser les définitions HVC.
3. **Atelier de travail 3** (x jours) : 1) Finaliser l'évaluation des attributs de l'ensemble des types d'HVC., 2) Validation des définitions des indicateurs d'identification, de gestion et de suivi-évaluation des PFI.
4. **Réunion du Comité de Pilotage 1** (x jours) : Présentation des résultats au comité de pilotage.

IV.2. LIEU DES REUNIONS

Les ateliers de travail auront lieu dans une des villes principales de la sous-région du Bassin du Congo (le lieu exact est déterminé par le bureau FSC du Bassin du Congo).

Les réunions du comité de pilotage auront lieu au quartier général du FSC à Bonn.

Le quartier général est situé à Charles-de-Gaulle-Strasse 5, 53113 Bonn, Germany.

IV.3 ORGANISATION ADMINISTRATIVE

Les dates des réunions seront communiquées un mois avant la réunion. Les heures et les programmes de réunions seront communiqués aux membres du GTR-HVC une semaine avant la réunion.

L'achat des billets de voyage oblige à la participation de l'atelier. Les frais pour les billets de voyages sous régionaux seront restitués sur présentation des billets (les membres veilleront à conserver leurs cartes d'embarquement pour remise au bureau FSC Bassin du Congo) et des reçus d'achat.

Les frais de logement pendant la durée de l'Atelier sont à la charge du Bureau FSC Bassin du Congo.

Modalité d'indemnisation et/ou de participation :

Une indemnité forfaitaire journalière de restauration de vingt mille (20.000) Francs CFA (ou trente 30 EURO) sera remise à chaque participant. L'indemnisation couvrira également les jours de voyage.

Outre l'indemnisation de restauration, un montant forfaitaire de cinquante mille (50.000) Francs CFA par jour d'Atelier réellement travaillé sera proposé aux membres du groupe de travail régional HVC Bassin du Congo.



NB : FSC dispose d'un accord de siège et personne n'aura besoin de visa de voyage pour entrer au Congo. Pour les autres pays, les frais de visas seront remboursés aux membres du Groupe de Travail par le Bureau FSC Bassin du Congo à leur arrivée au lieu du séminaire.

V. LISTE DES MEMBRES

Chambre Environnementale	Chambre Economique	Chambre Sociale
DOUARD Pascal WRI DRC	DUVAL Rémi ou PHILIPPART Julien CEB-Precious Woods ou CBG-CPBG Gabon	EULOGE NZOBO Roch CDHD République du Congo
RAYDEN Tim WCS République du Congo	TONGA KETCHAKANG Peguy COMIFAC Cameroun	KAVIRA Louise PIPC déléguée RDC
TCHOUMBA W. Belmond WWF Cameroun	COUTURIER Antoine ou Van LOON Tom Industrie Forestière de Ouesso (IFO) République du Congo	MESSE Venant REPALEAC /PIPC membre Cameroun
EYANG EFFA Edwige IRET - CENAREST Gabon	NGOMA Jean-Albert MEFDDE République du Congo	LOUNDOU Paul Simon Ethnologue Gabon

Tout membre souhaitant quitter le GTR-HVC devra en avertir le bureau FSC du Bassin du Congo par écrit au moins un mois avant le prochain atelier.

Par ailleurs, il sera possible pour les membres, en cas d'indisponibilité, de se faire représenter par d'autres représentants de préférence de leurs institutions de provenance (ou de leur chambre). Toute demande de remplacement devra être adressée à l'ensemble des autres membres du groupe pour information utile, ainsi qu'au Bureau FSC Bassin du Congo.

Observateurs : il est préférable d'éviter au maximum la présence d'observateurs lors des réunions de travail, afin de créer une ambiance de travail propice au travail.

Toutefois, lors d'Ateliers « ouverts » au public (séances d'information, restitutions), la présence d'observateurs sera facilitée encouragée.

VI. LANGUE DE TRAVAIL

La langue de travail orale et écrite est le français.

Les documents finaux seront traduits en anglais par le bureau du FSC du Bassin du Congo.

VII. COLLABORATION ENTRE LES EXPERTS DU GTR-HVC

VII.1 REGLES DE PRISE DE DECISION

Règles de prise de décision :

Les décisions relatives aux questions techniques doivent être prises autant que possible par consensus. A défaut de consensus parmi les membres des trois chambres un comité de conciliation sera consulté. Celui-ci soumettra la solution pour validation au GTR-HVC. Le comité de conciliation sera constitué par un représentant de chaque chambre. A défaut du consensus au sein du comité de conciliation, un vote sera organisé. En cas de vote, le document ou la proposition sera validée par une majorité au deux tiers et à condition qu'au moins un membre de chaque chambre ait voté.

VII.2 RESOLUTION DES CONFLITS AU SEIN DU HCV-RWG

