



Parallel Discussion set by FSC Congo Basin Office // Monday 09th October 2017 – Oak 1

Rationale / Purpose of the meeting:

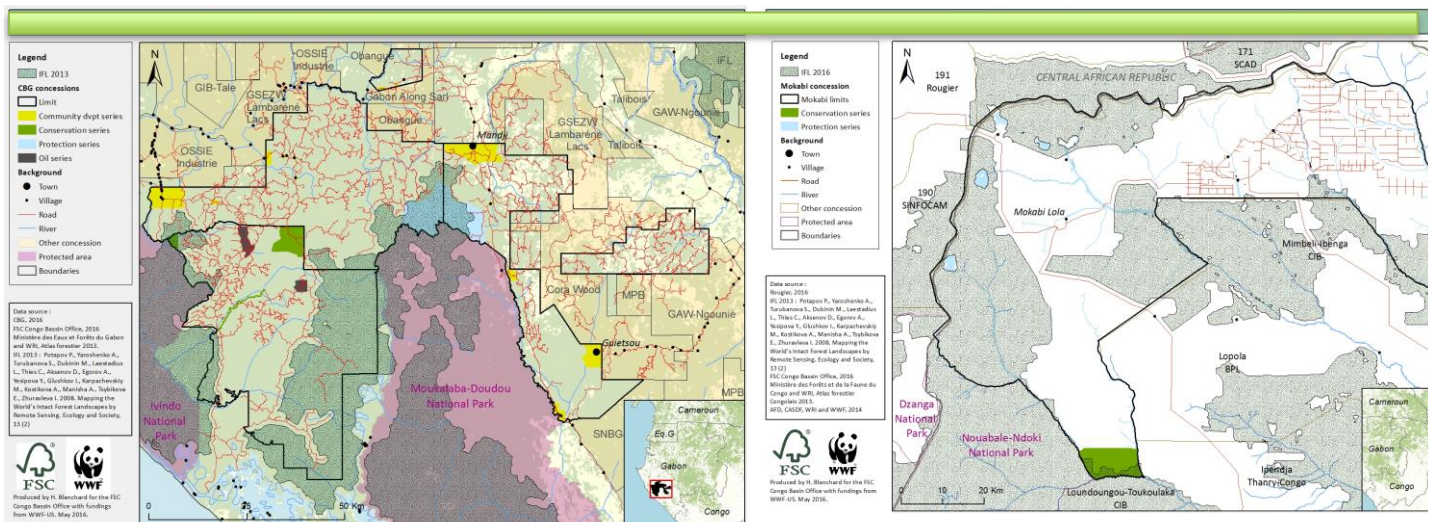
Three years after the vote of the #M65, some agreements have been reached at the sub-regional level on how to address the requirements of the Motion for the Congo Basin forests. A Regional Working Group on High Conservation Values (HCV-RWG), coordinated by FSC Congo Basin Office, has been established in 2016. The HCV-RWG is composed of an equal number of representatives from the environmental, the economic and the social chamber. Its objectives comprise **the development of indicators related to the identification and management of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) in the Congo Basin.**

By default, the Advice Note [ADVICE-20-007-018 V1-0] applies, requiring FSC Certified companies to not impact more than 20% of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit. Given that the advice note cannot remain in place for ever, the meeting is about **discussing next steps to be conducted at the sub-regional level to finalize a set of IFLs indicators acceptable for all involved parties.**

Situation by the 09th October 2017

The fourth meeting of the HCV-RWG held in Brazzaville (22-25 August 2017) worked on the formulation of main principles of management IFLs within FSC certified concessions in Congo Basin.

Several points of agreements have been reached by the HVC-Regional Working Group, proposing a set of key criteria for the definition of regional indicators on Intact Forest Landscapes. Nonetheless, a point of discussion didn't reach any agreement as showed in the table page 2, and it has been decided to postpone any further sub-regional discussions after the GA.





Main points of agreements:

GENERAL POINTS

1. Agreement on **management rules within the FMU, but outside the IFL:** to adopt a classic FSC management.
2. **Management rules within the IFL but outside the core area(s)** to adopt a "RIL+" management (to be defined).
3. **Management of core areas:** will be considered as conservation zone as defined in the Management Plan.
Where indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) are permitted to use the zone for subsistence activities, including cultural, ritual, gathering, subsistence hunting and recreation; law is enforced by eco-guards, and road construction is prohibited, except in cases of absolute necessity.

PARTICULAR POINTS

- a. The existing conservation zone is entirely integrated in the IFL. In this case, the conservation zone is defined as core area.
- b. The conservation zone partially overlaps with the IFL within the FMU. The core area is the intersection of conservation zone and the IFL. If the intersection area accounts for less than 20% of the IFL within the FMU, it needs to be justified why conservation efforts are made outside of the IFL, rather than within.

In case there is no Management Plan or the Plan needs to be revised, the definition of the conservation zone should include:

- the concept of HVC 1 and 2;
- the concept of connectivity and mature forests.

At equal ecological value, the zones situated within the IFLs shall be preferred. This condition is valid for an area of 10% of the surface of the FMU or 20% of the IFL, whatever value is the lower

Blocking Point:

The conservation zone is outside the IFL within the FMU. The concessionaire needs to define a core area within the IFL inside the FMU.

When The existing conservation zone covers only a small portion of the IFL, how much more of the IFL should be protected?

For any need of further information, please contact: m.schwartzenberg@fsc.org – FSC Congo Basin Director