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CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL OPERATING UNIT (CAROU)

Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)

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Annual Report

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ALCRIF	<i>Application de la Loi et lutte contre la Criminalité Faunique</i> (Enforcement and Combat Against Wildlife Crime)
BNS	Basic Necessities Survey
CAFEC	Central Africa Forest Ecosystem Conservation
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment
CBFF	Congo Basin Forest Fund
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management
CLD	<i>Comité local de développement</i> (Local Development Committee)
CLDC	<i>Comités locaux de développement et de conservation</i> (Local Development and Conservation Committee)
CoCoSi	<i>Committee de Coordination de la Site</i> (Site Coordination Committee)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EMAPS	Environmental Monitoring and Policy Support
FACET	<i>Forêts d'Afrique central évaluées par télédétection</i> (Central African Forests Assessed by Remote Sensing)
FARDC	<i>Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo</i> (Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
FP	Family Planning
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FV	Foundation Virunga
GoDRC	Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo
GoR	Government of Rwanda
ICCN	<i>Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature</i> (Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature)
IGCP	International Gorilla Conservation Program
IP	Indigenous peoples
JURISTRALE	<i>Juristes pour l'application et le renforcement de la loi dans le secteur de l'environnement</i> (Lawyers for Law Application and Enforcement in the

	Environment Sector)
LEM	Law Enforcement Monitoring
LSA	Landscape Application
LUP	Land Use Planning
MHR	<i>Reserve Naturelle de Mt. Hoyo</i> (Mt. Hoyo Nature Reserve)
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OPJ	Officier de Police Judiciaire (Police officer)
OSFAC	<i>Observatoire satellitaire des forêts de d'Afrique central</i> (Central African Forest Satellite Observatory)
PA	Protected Area
PANI	<i>Plans d'action nationaux pour l'ivoire</i> (National Action Plan for Ivory)
ViNP	Virunga National Park
PPP	Partenariat Public Privé (Private public partnership)
RAB	Rwanda Agriculture Board
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus
SCAEMPS	Strengthening Central Africa Environmental Management and Policy Support
REPROFCA	Réseau des Producteurs des Foyers Culinaires Améliorés (Improved Cook Stove Producers Network)
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
USFS	United States Forest Service
ToT	Training of Trainers
VHC	Virunga National Park-Hoyo Corridor
VLC	Virunga Landscape Consortium
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRI	World Resource Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW/SUMMARY

Program Name:	Virunga - FY17 Annual Report for LS12 Program
Activity Start Date and End Date:	October 01, 2013 to September 30, 2018
Name of Prime Implementing Partner:	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
[Contract/Agreement] Number:	Cooperative Agreement #AID-660-A-13-00005
Name of Subcontractors/Sub-awardees:	World Conservation Society (WCS) International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)
Major Counterpart Organizations	<i>Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)</i>
Geographic Coverage (landscape, province(s) and countries)	CAFEC LANDSCAPE 12 – Virunga; Province of North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Reporting Period:	October 01, 2016 to September 30, 2017

I.1 Program Description/Introduction

The Virunga Landscape (1,939,750 ha) is primarily located in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (99% of the landscape), and includes a small area in Rwanda (1% of the landscape). With over 700 species of birds and 210 species of mammals, it is the most biodiverse of all African landscapes. The area also contains globally threatened species such as mountain gorillas and chimpanzees, and populations of hippopotamus and elephants. The landscape includes large areas of lowland and mountain forests, as well as extensive marshes and lakes.

The CAFEC (CARPE III) Consortium in the Virunga Landscape includes three international organizations (WWF, WCS and IGCP), which work to implement activities in collaboration with local partners - including the national park authorities of the DRC, (i.e. *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)*), the national park authorities of Rwanda (Rwanda Development Board/Tourism and Conservation), and other partners within the region, e.g. local non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, local government agencies and local communities. It also includes World Resources Institute (WRI) who is managing the SCAEMPS program. The CAFEC program employs a long-term approach to support the conservation of key protected areas included in the Virunga Landscape, i.e., Virunga National Park (ViNP), (which was registered as a threatened World Heritage Site at the 18th Session of

the World Heritage Committee (1994)) and the Mt. Hoyo Reserve, (both located in the DRC), as well as the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda.

WWF is the lead organization in the Virunga Landscape Consortium (VLC), and as such assumes overall program leadership, coordinates partners and other stakeholders, and ensures compliance of donor regulations. WWF oversees and facilitates the planning process, guiding the development of a landscape conservation vision, supporting community area management in CBNRM zones, and collecting baseline socio economic and biological information across the landscape.

WCS works closely with ICCN on Protected Area Management within the ViNP's borders, and also spearheads fisheries management on Lake Edward and coordinates a REDD⁺ pilot project in the Mt. Hoyo (MH) Corridor.

IGCP is responsible for the implementation of field activities in Rwanda, and specifically works on Land Use Plans (LUP) in the Kinigi CBNRM zone, as well as climate change.

In the Virunga Landscape, the main target beneficiaries are the approximately 5 million inhabitants in the region.

To reduce the primary threats and drivers behind biodiversity loss and climate change, five CAFEC strategies are being implemented by the VLC, namely: 1) Strengthen protected area (PA) management capacity; 2) Strengthen the implementation of land use management plans; 3) Enhance law enforcement and prosecution; 4) Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives as a substitute for unsustainable practices; and 5) Facilitate access to family planning and health services in communities where health sector partners are active.

The section below provides an overview of some of the major program achievements in FY17, (i.e. 1st October 2016 to 30 September 2017).

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 Overall progress

During FY17, the consortium partners, (WWF, WCS and IGCP), in collaboration with WRI under the SCAEMPS, defined 54 activities under the five strategies. The activities were implemented in order to reach 12 key intermediate results.

In the Virunga landscape, the consortium successfully implemented 82% of planned activities, which is an excellent rate given the many security and logistic challenges in the region. CAFEC activities mainly focused on: capacity building for improved management of natural resources (NR) around protected areas (PAs); developing alternatives to deforestation and forest degradation (reforestation, production and dissemination of improved stoves, etc.); supporting poverty alleviation; reducing threats to biodiversity and mitigating climate change (conserving forests in macrozones of the Virunga Landscape); and supporting law enforcement.

Due to prevalent insecurity, particularly in the northern landscape, 9% of the proposed activities were not started in FY17. Despite this deficit, significant accomplishments were achieved within the macrozones in the landscape during this reporting period.

In the DRC:

■ Support to ICCN:

- Improved management effectiveness: In total, 33,889 km were patrolled in ViNP (29.1% park coverage) and 882.8 km in the Mont Hoyo Reserve (MHR) (62% reserve coverage), with an average of 0.02 (611 incidents of poaching detected in field) in ViNP and 0.04 incidents (35 total incidents of poaching detected in field) of poaching detected in field per km patrol for MHR;
- Data collection via SMART: nine ecoguards were trained on the use of SMART software for improved data collection and storage;
- LUP implementation: six km of trees were planted as a 'green belt' along the park boundary in the Rusayo-Kibati sector, and a stone boundary wall was rehabilitated (1m to 1,20 m height) in the Mikenno sector to reduce the human-wildlife conflicts; (with co-funding from WWF/Netherlands.)

■ Improving law enforcement and prosecution:

- On 14 November 2016, the decree No. 01/062/CAB/GP-NK/2016 was signed by the Provincial Governor. The decree bans the trade, traffic, possession, and transport of ivory (and products), and other protected wild animals (and products) in North Kivu Province;
- Two traffickers of ivory were arrested in Goma on 14 August 2017 with 24 kg of elephant ivory. Traffickers were each sentenced to two years in prison.

■ Capacity building

- On global climate change issues, 114 people were trained (including 82 men and 32 women);
- On improved natural resource management, Land Use Plans, law enforcement and M&E tools, 221 people were trained (including 138 men and 73 women). Participants included staff from ViNP, MHR, CBNRM zones and CSOs.

■ Public awareness:

- Public awareness campaigns were conducted around PAs to promote the importance of law enforcement, and a total of 194 people attended, (114 men and 80 women).
- A provincial meeting on 'Zero Poaching', and the implementation of Provincial Decree No. 01/162, was also organized for various stakeholders.
- Meetings were organized with CBNRM stakeholders to increase their understanding of CAFEC



program strategies: 681 people participated, (include 491 men and 190 women).

Picture: World Environment Day, Goma, June 2017

▪ **LUP implementation:**

a) **Sharing alternative sustainable practices**

- Reforestation and agroforestry (trees and associated with crops): a total of 608.5 ha of tree and agroforestry species were planted with the involvement of local communities, (including 204.5 ha under Eco Makala projects and 404 ha under CAFE/USAID);
- Ecological farming practices: family farms with permanent gardens and small-animal husbandry were supported, (86.4 ha managed by 160 farm families, including 48 households from one IP village);
- Production of improved stoves: a total of 5,662 units were produced, (including 1,345 in Bwisha, 1,203 in Adjuma, 1,011 in Mount Hoyo, 1,103 in Mwenda and 1,000 in Beni by the Jiko Bora network) and 3,863 sold and disseminated in CBNRM areas;
- Based on recommendations from the gender assessment carried out by CAFEC partners (ONDE, OCLD, CLENA, CLDC, WWF), alternative economic activities were supported: > 40 integrated perma-gardens were established, and eight bread ovens were constructed with Hydraform interlock blocks.
- In total, 4,023 people adopted various practices (including 3,863 for cook stoves and 160 for agroforestry in CBMRM areas) that provided livelihood benefits.

b) Local governance structures in place: Governance structures were officially formed to support the implementation of the updated LUPs, and to enhance the involvement of local communities in natural resource management. In total, 30 *Comité local de développement (CLD)* were operationalized at the village level, and four *Comités locaux de développement et de conservation (CLDC)* are now operating in CBNRM zones.

c) Participatory zoning: Participatory zoning was finalized in Bwisha CBNRM zone, (buffer zone in south sector) and an updated map was produced to reduce land use conflicts.

- **Groupe Climat:** two structures (with 31 members) were established in Beni and Butembo towns to sensitize communities in the Beni and Lubero Territories on REDD + and climate change;
- **Advocacy:** during forums at the University of Kinshasa stakeholders highlighted the value of legislation that promotes natural resources management at the local, national (DRC government), regional, and international levels (various conventions, e.g. CITES.) This was a common theme during six forums organized at the University of Kinshasa, which involved 1728 participants in FY17.

In Rwanda:

- A total of 100,000 agroforestry trees were planted in eight sectors of four districts, with the aim of reducing soil degradation and specifically in areas with a lack of trees and other vegetation;

- In collaboration with GVTC, from Rubavu, Rwanda a regional campaign was undertaken to advocate against transboundary wildlife crimes in the Greater Virunga Landscape. This initiative involved 58 students from the DRC (North Kivu), Rwanda (Rubavu) and Uganda (Kisoro), (43 men and 15 women);
- The land use map has been updated to reduce land use conflicts and improve the sustainable management natural resources;
- Different training and sensitisation sessions were conducted on: carbon monitoring and accounting, climate change resilience, and artisanal product diversification with two local artisanal production networks. A total of 96 people were trained, (52 men and 44 women).

2.2 Implementation and Results

a. Biodiversity Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking

Table 1: Summary of key results for Biodiversity Conservation and Combating Wildlife Trafficking

Selected Indicators (Standard/Custom)	Current year			
	Annual Target	Actual Result	Actual as Percentage of Annual Target	On Target Y/N
Number of people receiving USG-supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation (disaggregated by gender)	300	221 (include 138 men and 73 women)	70%	Y
Number of incidents of poaching detected in field (poachers, camps, spent ammunition, snares) per km patrol effort (Custom)	0,038 in MHR	0.04 (35 inc /882.8km)	100%	Y
	0,0114 in ViNP	0.02 (611 inc/33888.km)	100%	Y
Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) - # of illegally killed elephants divided by the total number of carcasses encountered per year for site (Custom)	40%	71% (5/7)	31 %	N
Number of charcoal production sites encountered by patrols per km (Custom)	5	0	100%	Y
	75 sites in ViNP	97 sites in ViNP	0%	N
Amount (ha) of forested area (a) proposed, (b) planning initiated, (c) informally recognized, and (d) officially registered as community forestry area (Custom)	(a) NA	NA	NA	NA
	(b) NA	NA	NA	NA
	(c) 11,800 ha	20815 ha	100%	Y
	(d) 1,000 ha	0	0%	N
Number of incidences of illegal logging in PAs (Custom)	In MHR: 5	In MHR:4	80%	Y
	In ViNP: 40	In ViNP: 51	10%	N
Overall and relevant sub-scores on Protected Area management effectiveness - PAMETT* [developed with key informants] (Custom)	30%	Data not available	NA	NA
Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved management as a result of USG assistance (Custom)	600,000 hectares	680 489 hectares	Over 100%	Y

Prevention: proportion of critical habitat (in terms of hectares) for elephants/apes that is being effectively patrolled (Custom)	In MHR: 50%	In MHR: 62%	100%	Y
	In ViNP: 30%	In ViNP: 29,1%	100%	Y
Number of kilometers patrolled (Custom)	In MHR: 1200Km	In MHR: 882,8 km	73,6%	Y
	In ViNP: 50000Km	In ViNP: 33888,5 km	67,8%	Y
Number of apprehensions made while patrolling (Custom)	In MHR: 5	In MHR: 0	0%	N
	In ViNP: 10	In ViNP: Data not available	NA	NA
Prosecution: Proportion of intercepted wildlife crime cases that are a) prosecuted, b) sentenced and c) publicized (disaggregated by poachers, traffickers or middle-men) (Custom)	30 %	100%: a) 2 prosecuted, b) 2 sentenced	100%	Y
Number of households adopting alternative sustainable practices that were demonstrated. (Custom)	5200	4,023 including 3,863 for cook stove and 160 for agriculture	77,3%	Y
Proportion of households whose basic necessity standards are improved as a result of CARPE activities (Custom)	20%	Data not available	NA	NA
Number of people reached by family planning messaging (Custom)	200	242 including 175 men and 67 women	100%	Y

Strategy 1: Strengthen Protected Area (PA) management capacity.

For this strategy, six key intermediate results were designed to be achieved through the implementation of 13 activities. All of the planned activities were implemented and %75 successfully. Due to insecurity, four activities to be conducted in the northern landscape/Mont Hoyo corridor were only partially achieved in FY17.

A description of the interventions is presented and grouped under the key intermediate results.

1) Protected area demarcation

- The process of participatory boundary demarcation in the Mt. Hoyo Reserve (MHR) was started by preparing a PA map with the aim of reducing conflicts between the local population and ICCN. The map was to be shared more widely and validated via a participatory process, but the insecurity has delayed the completion of this activity.
- Advocacy to maintain the integrity of ViNP and improve law enforcement around protected areas given land use pressures and poaching was undertaken by local civil society organizations. One achievement, supported with co-funding provided by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), was the joint declaration from Civil Society Organizations in the DRC and Uganda to halt oil exploration in the Virunga Landscape. The Declaration also urges the DRC and Ugandan presidents to respect all international regulations ratified and signed by the two countries in order to

prioritize biodiversity conservation in general, and the preservation of the unique ViNP in particular. (*See Appendix C.*)

2) *Quality of data available on biodiversity and/or socio-economics improved:*

- Data was collected to update maps of micro zones, which helped to reduce conflicts over land and resources in the Adjuma, ViNP-Mt. Hoyo Corridor and Bwisha CBNRM zones. (The consortium is working in five macrozones.) The maps were updated with the participation of local communities, and all have been shared with local stakeholders, (except for Mt. Hoyo due to intermittent insecurity.)
- Local fishing committees were supported to collect data to inform fish catch statistics. These committees were established to facilitate conflict resolution between ICCN and communities living around Lake Edward, but their roles have now been expanded. As a result, fish catch data were collected in four fishing villages. Data collected included fish species, size, weight and the quantity of fish caught per fishing trip. The data analysis will be conducted later, and results will help evaluate the effectiveness of fisheries protection and regulation efforts, and also help inform the formulation of regulations and ultimately lead to improved collaboration between fishermen and ICCN, and simultaneously reduce biodiversity loss.
- Additionally, rangers collected data during patrols in ViNP and MHR. The research and monitoring teams in each PA entered the data in computers and finalized the data analysis at the end of each month. WCS provided the ViNP teams with ongoing technical support. WCS also held an evaluation meeting with ViNP and MHR teams to ensure the analysis and reporting was conducted correctly.
- The Law Enforcement Monitoring (LEM) assessment operation in ViNP was successful. Data collected via SMART enabled the deployment of ecoguards to sensitive areas to monitor for, and pursue and/or arrest, poachers. This activity also formed part of data collection during Rangers Based Monitoring (RBM) operations in MHR.

3) *Reinforced governance of the PA*

Through continued advocacy, CAFEC partners and JURISTRALE for ViNP supported the enforcement of wildlife law, including the prosecution of wildlife and timber crimes, as planned. Two wildlife traffickers were arrested in Goma with 24 kg of elephant ivory and hippo teeth, and another two poachers were also arrested with two leopard skins. The arrests were made as a result of close collaboration between the National Police, local authorities and JURISTRALE.

4) *Conservation constituency strengthened: improved support for PA activities and objectives*

To improve the visibility of ViNP boundaries, and following three sensitization meetings, communities agreed to prepare and more clearly demarcate boundary zones. With technical support and seedlings provided by CAFEC, community members planted six kilometers of agroforestry species as a ‘green belt’ (with a width of 5 m to 10 m) in the locality of Rusayo-Kibati. Potatoes were also planted among the tree seedlings to provide food and income over the next 2-3 years, (until trees are too large.) Community members also envision harvesting poles for climbing beans and building materials in the early years, and timber in the later years.

(This will also reduce the need to collect materials and fuelwood from the park.) The main species planted were: *Grevillea robusta*, *Casia siamea*, *Cedrela odorata* and *Marcamia spp.*)

With matching funds from WWF/Netherlands, community members rehabilitated a two kilometer stone boundary wall (1m to 1.20 m of height) in the Mikeno sector. The wall was important for the demarcation of the ViNP boundary, but also to reduce human-wildlife conflicts given the tendency of forest buffaloes to leave the park to graze, and often damaging farmer fields.

5) Understanding of the values and importance of PA ameliorated among key stakeholders

Two activities were implemented to achieve the planned result:

- The production and dissemination of environmental education outreach materials. Over 2,000 magazines were produced and distributed, and the majority of school libraries in Goma received copies. Other education materials, including films and documentaries about ViNP, were also distributed to stakeholders, (e.g. local communities, CSOs, NGOs). These materials were produced from existing WWF education materials.)
- Complementing the above activity, the promotion outreach and application of environment-related policies, laws, and codes, (e.g. Law on the Conservation of Nature) was conducted. In total, 1000 samples were distributed as part of this raising awareness.

6) Improved management capacity attained by assuring PA management has adequate equipment and supplies

Due to insecurity, the plan to support the construction of an ICCN Office at Mt. Hoyo Nature Reserve was not achieved.

7) Protected area staff and management authority have improved know-how and skills related to their mandate/authority, national legislation; improved management planning

Two main activities were planned to attain this result:

- The process was launched to draft a General Management Plan (GMP) for Mt. Hoyo Reserve, although it did not progress as planned as local communities are not yet fully committed to the establishment of MHR.
- WCS completed stakeholder consultations in 88 villages following the 'Free Prior and Informed Consent' (FPIC) approach. Consultations are also underway at the provincial governorate level and a preliminary map has already been prepared.
- Due to delays advancing this activity, the provision of tools to improve community involvement in PA management (i.e. biomonitoring, M&E, PA management effectiveness, etc.), was not fully achieved.

Strategy 2: Strengthen the implementation of Land-use Management Plans

For this strategy, three key intermediate results were designed to be achieved through the implementation of 24 activities. 19 activities were implemented and 5 were not implemented due to the inability of some partners to follow through with their plans, (JURISTRALÉ, FLUP)

delayed distribution of matching funds (CBFF) and insecurity in the northern sectors of ViNP. As a result, 79% of planned activities were successfully implemented, and a detailed description of activities and achievements is provided here:

1) Local governance structure in place to implement LUP

Among the seven planned activities designed, five were successfully achieved; (two were not achieved due to lack of co-funding and technical support.) The achievements include:

- Landscape information updates provided twice a year to support the Landscape Application (LSA) component of the national Forest and Land Use Platform (FLUP) for the DRC. (The concept is not fully mainstreamed among CAFEC partners and FLUP point of contact has yet to be identified.)
- VLC partners liaised with other landscape implementers through participation in the Forest Landscape Investment Forum organized in Kigali, Rwanda (May 2017).
- Collaboration was started with JURISTRALE to develop a case study on policy issues related to improved law enforcement application. This activity will continue in FY18.

2) Stakeholders understand LUP and are aware of its importance/value; Stakeholders, including marginalized groups (e.g. women) participate in LUP design and implementation as a result of improved capacity

Among the 11 planned activities, 10 were achieved while one was only partially achieved.

- Support ICCN in the dissemination of M&E tools and reinforce M&E capabilities of CSOs. For the ICCN team, the M&E tools focus on the use of SMART, (see also Strategy 3 - law enforcement). In total, 12 people were trained.
- Three workshops on LUP capacity building were organized for CBNRM members in five CLDCs. To date, four action plans (2017-2021) have been developed to ensure that management plans are updated.
- Thirty CLDs were supported to implement LUPs in various CBNRM zones (i.e. Adjuma, Mt. Hoyo Corridor-ViNP, Mwenda, Bwisha, Nyiragongo and one in Masisi/Sake). The CLD structures include civil society, local organizations and traditional leaders working together to finalize and implement updated LUPs.
- Four CLDCs were restructured, (two in the north and two in the south of the landscape).
- Support for LUP implementation in the macro zones was achieved through the participatory zoning in the CBNRM zones. A total area of 6,858 ha were subdivided into four sectors: afforestation, agroforestry, community forestry and natural areas. The updated Land Use Plan was also shared with all stakeholders, including local communities and authorities.
- The Community Forest Decree was broadly disseminated, which helped to inform the selection of the community forestry concessions and update management plans for three CBNRM zones, (Adjuma, Bwisha and Mwenda).
- Four CLDC/CBNRM committees optimized efforts to mitigate biodiversity threats, reduce deforestation, and support sustainable NRM management practices was fully achieved.

- The VLC continued to disseminate the updated Virunga Landscape LUP (200 samples) in six territories in North Kivu with the aim of fostering an improved understanding of the LUP and its expected outcomes.
 - In Rwanda, the update of LUPs was completed at Sector and Cell levels, and LUP implementation also started in FY17.
 - The training of local stakeholders in carbon monitoring and accounting, and land use planning was completed. Focused on REDD+, the training included: a) REDD+ concept and framework, b) Carbon stock monitoring and accounting: Approaches and tools in a dynamic land use environment, c) Community participation in Forest Ecosystem management, and, d) Stakeholder Engagement in Participatory LUPs and monitoring.
 - Participatory mapping was started for the VHC. The map was produced using satellite imagery, but has not yet been fully shared and discussed with stakeholders.
- 3) *Local communities and authorities have the capacity to implement LUP; people understand the benefits of alternatives; communities, governments, and companies willing to engage in REDD+.*

Among the six activities planned for this result, three were completed. The activities achieved:

- Women and men living around the forests of the VHC were sensitized on REDD +, and how they could benefit from such a program. 80 villages were sensitized on the subject.
- Four sensitization campaigns on REDD+ were conducted and workshops organized in CBNRM zones on climate change resilience methods, techniques and practices. In total, 194 participants registered. For REDD+ and climate change workshops, 114 also people participated.
- Conduct a comprehensive case study throughout the Landscape that analyze the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of reforestation, charcoal making and improved cook stoves. The study was finalized in QV of FY17, and the final report will be produced in QI FY18.

The activities not yet completed are: a) *Collect tree DBH measurements to estimate carbon density for Mt. Hoyo-Virunga corridor.* This activity was planned with matching funds from the CBFF, and those funds have not yet been distributed, b) *Train 15 community members in monitoring of carbon.* This activity was not achieved as it is dependent upon the previous one, and c) *Coordinate with SCAEMPS partners and national coordination to develop standard methods for measuring and reporting deforestation, forest degradation and estimates of associated forest carbon flows across all CARPE landscapes, and consistent with national and UNFCCC standards.* This activity awaits the agreement with WRI to be clarified before next steps can be taken.

Strategy 3: Enhance law enforcement and prosecution

For this strategy, one key intermediate result was designed to be achieved through the implementation of six activities. As reflected in the 2017 work plan, significant support has been provided to ViNP and MHR to improve patrol capacity and increase the technical capacity of patrolling officers. The support provided in FY17 included the provision of patrol rations, fuel for vehicles used during patrol deployments, support for LEM data collection via SMART,

provision of equipment, and training of rangers in data collection, and the use of SMART for data management and analysis. These activities were fully achieved.

Key intermediate result: Improved patrol capacity and increased technical capacity of patrolling officers.

- Continued to support LEM data collection via SMART (also linked to Strategy 1): The consortium member, WCS, received all data from ICCN patrols.
- Support to improve management effectiveness of law enforcement operations was provided periodically through grants for: patrol rations, reconnaissance flights, equipment, etc.
A total of 882,8 kilometers were patrolled by rangers in Mt. Hoyo (114 patrols) and 33,888.5 kilometers were patrolled in ViNP (4,583 patrols).
- Training was provided to 9 rangers on the SMART system to improve data management, analysis and reporting.
- Support the strengthening of law enforcement at regional/provincial/national meetings. WWF and IGCP worked with the Great Virunga Transboundary Collaboration (GVTC) to organize a broad awareness raising campaign on the importance of cross-border collaboration to combat illegal trade and immigration in February 2017. WWF also shared its 'zero poaching' strategy during the meeting. Students from three countries (DRC, Rwanda and Uganda) supported this campaign.
- At national level, a raising awareness campaign for waterside communities regarding the importance protecting natural resources in the ViNP and Natural Reserves across the Virunga Landscape was completed, and more than 1500 participants were sensitized on the importance of biodiversity conservation and protection of resources. A complementary regional awareness raising campaign was conducted with the aim of reducing transboundary poaching and illegal animal, timber and charcoal trade. (See also the 'Joint Declaration from CSOs in DRC and Uganda' – Annex C.)
- On 14 November 2016, the decree No. 01/062/CAB/GP-NK/2016 was signed by the North Kivu Provincial Governor. The decree bans the trade, traffic, possession, and transport of ivory (and products), and other protected wild animals (and products) in North Kivu Province. This decree was signed thanks to collaboration between many stakeholders, including CAFEC partners and JURISTRALE.

Strategy 4: Promote sustainable livelihood alternatives

For this strategy, one key intermediate result was designed to be achieved through the implementation of nine activities, of which all but one was completed. The activities fall under four categories: a) improved capacities to implement alternative activities; b) people have necessary technical skills; c) people are able to meet their natural resource needs with alternatives; d) people stop/greatly reduce unsustainable practices for which alternatives exist.

The two categories were achieved through training, marketing and direct supports.

- In total, 681 people (including IPs) from 30 CLDs participated in information sharing sessions on sustainable landscape management.

The two last categories were achieved through grants and/or technical support.

- With the direct involvement of local communities, 608.5ha were reforested in the DRC with the aim of mitigating threats to ViNP and MHR, as well as building incentives for the adoption of more sustainable natural resource management practices.
- More than +100,000 agroforestry trees were distributed to farmers and planted across eight sectors of 4 districts in the CBNRM Kinigi zone, Rwanda.
- 5,662 improved cook stoves were produced, and 3,863 have already been sold.
- Provided support to market improved stoves and interlock Hydraform blocks as an income generating opportunities for local communities. For example, support was provided to entrepreneurial networks of men and women such as *Jiko Bora*, which produces energy-saving cook stoves from volcanic rocks in Kinigi.
- Provided support to indigenous peoples (IP) to develop family farms with perma-gardens (i.e. permaculture) and so diversify economic opportunities. 160 farmers were supported and 86.4 ha of fields developed. Additionally, cocoa seedlings were distributed to 48 households in the IP village of Bahatsa, where a fish farm was also installed.
- With the aim of developing sustainable agriculture opportunities for the longer term, the private enterprise ESCO Kivu was engaged to provide technical support and incentives for men and women along the HCV corridor, including the development of cocoa production co-funding from CBFF. In total, 18 farmers were trained and 22 cocoa nurseries installed.

Strategy 6: Facilitate access to family planning and health services in communities where health sector partners are active

For this strategy, one key intermediate result was designed to be achieved through the implementation of two activities. All activities were fully realized.

Increased awareness and access to Family Planning in targeted areas

- In collaboration with public and private health centers, reproductive health awareness was raised via a campaign through local radio stations and newspapers. (The messaging was adjusted to reflect local contexts and cultural norms.) The awareness raising campaigns were coordinated through health centers in Mutwanga (Beni territory) and Goma town, and complemented with the distribution of family planning materials. In Mutwanga, 199 people were sensitized, including 163 students (122 men and 41 women) and 36 civil society actors, (26 men and 10 women).
- Two workshops were organized in Beni with 40 local partners working on Family planning. In total, 278 people (175 men and 67 women) participated in the events, and contraceptive materials and family planning fact sheets were also distributed.



Pictures: Transfer of Family Planning products to Mutwanga Health Zone Center, March 2017

b. Climate Change Mitigation

Table 2: Summary of key results for Climate Change Mitigation

Selected Indicators (Standard/Custom)	Current year			
	Annual Target	Actual Result	Actual as Percentage of Annual Target	On Target Y/N
Number of people receiving USG-supported training in global climate change as a result of USG assistance (disaggregated by gender)	300	114 (including 82 men and 32 women)	38%	N
Amount (ha) of forested area (a) proposed, (b) planning initiated, (c) informally recognized, and (d) officially registered as community forestry area (Custom)	(c) 11,800 ha	(c) 20,815.8 ha	100%	Y
	(d) 1000 ha	0	0%	N
Rate of forest cover change (loss and gain) at landscape and/or macrozone scale (Custom)	<0.289	0.497 (2014-2015)	NA	N
Quantity of GHG emissions, measured in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, and/or avoided (Custom)	>387,861 tCO2e	447,370 tCO2e	100%	Y

For FY17, the main achievements for Climate Change Mitigation included:

1. Stakeholders understand LUP -REDD+ and are aware of its importance/value:

Through village assembly meetings and village committees, local communities have begun to appreciate the importance of protecting the forest corridor linking Virunga National Park to Mt. Hoyo Reserve. Emphasis was placed on how the forests can contribute to the mitigation of climate change and, how they can also benefit from the forests via the sale of carbon credits, as well as cocoa planting under agroforestry systems.

One training event was organized to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders, (local authorities, CSOs and NGOs), to understand the strategies and skills required to implement a provincial LUP, as well as develop the REDD⁺ national strategy. 61 participants were trained.

Additionally, local governance structures named *Groupe Climat* were formed in Beni and Butembo towns, with a total of 31 members across the two groups. These groups have begun to sensitize communities in the Beni and Lubero Territories on REDD⁺ and climate change issues.

2. People understand the benefits of alternatives to engage in REDD+

In total, 114 people (including 82 men and 32 women) were trained in climate change mitigation, and through awareness raising campaigns more than 3,000 people were encouraged to adopt improved stoves in order to reduce household energy consumption – and subsequently reduce pressures on local forest resources. As result of these efforts, 3,863 improved cook stoves were sold in CBMRM areas, as well as in the city of Beni.

3. Implementation of community forestry areas

A total of 94,920ha of forest have been identified as potential community forestry areas around Pas, and also proposed as areas for carbon stock conservation. The process for allocating community forest concessions was also started for 20,815.8ha, (i.e. 1,330ha in Kyakaba-Bolema, 167.4ha in Bahatsa (an IP community), 2,657.9ha in Buloloma and 16,661.4ha in Tenambo.)

4. CO₂ equivalent quantities reduced sequestered and / or avoided t

In six territories around ViNP and MHR, an additional 608.5ha of trees were planted in order to mitigate deforestation and degradation of natural forests.

Regarding reforestation, Eucalyptus has been used for about 60% of tree planting, while the remaining 40% of were a mix of other (primarily) agroforestry species (*Cassia*, *Cedrella*, *Grevillea* spp.). Noting that the AFOLU system does not allow these species to be selected, the entire surface has been calculated relying only on *Eucalyptus*. In short, the total annual benefit for 2017 is estimated at 447,370 tons CO₂ equivalent tCO₂ for the Virunga Landscape.

The forest cover losses for 2014-2015 in the different macrozones of the Landscape are estimated as follows: ViNP (0.395); MHR (0.046); Bishwa CBNRM zone (0.090); Mwenda CBNRM zone (1.211); Adjuma CBNRM zone (0.019); ViPN-Mt. Hoyo Corridor

CBNRM zone (1.032), and Kinigi CBNRM zone, Rwanda (0.172). For the Virunga Landscape as a whole, the forest cover losses for 2014-2015 are estimated at 0.497%.

2.3 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

During this reporting period, VLC partner IGCP participated in several meetings, workshops, and training events, including a “Zero poaching” workshop organized by Great Virunga Transboundary Collaboration. In the meantime, on the DRC side, the VLC team conducted the first assessment of “Zero poaching” for Virunga and Mont Hoyo in February 2017. The score that resulted from the evaluation will provide a ‘baseline’ against which to assess success of efforts to eventually achieve zero poaching.

Another workshop, conducted by the Rwanda Development Board on “Landscape management”, focusing on managing buffer zones around protected areas. The workshop included discussions regarding the feasibility of buffer zones around the Volcanoes National Park, and the feasibility of implementing land use plans in the densely populated areas around ViNP.

A ranger-based monitoring (RBM) planning meeting was organized by the Rwanda Development Board to discuss issues arising from the RBM within the Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, and how to ensure this system continues to provide high quality data.

In the DRC, awareness raising activities continued in all the CBNRM zones to ensure community participation in the natural resource management of these areas. The process of restructuring the CLDs was started in Adjuma, Bwisha, Mwenda, and Mont Hoyo CBNRM zones, as well as in the Masisi and Nyiragongo Territories. Additionally, collaboration agreements were signed between WWF and the CLDs to ensure more community engagement with the VLC at the grassroots level.

In collaboration with ICCN, a meeting was held with the North Kivu Provincial Governor’s advisors and lawyers to review a controversial provincial decree that changed the management of fisheries in Lake Edward. With the aim of reducing the rising wave of fisheries related conflicts, the decree was suspended.

In collaboration with the North Kivu Provincial Government, WWF continued to assist three ministries, (Environment, Energy and Agriculture), to create a long-term and inclusive vision for a ‘Green Economy’ program that will evolve into development of sustainable management plans for North Kivu’s economic, energy and natural resources.

2.4 Implementation Challenges, Risks and Opportunities

Insecurity at the border between the North Kivu and Ituri Provinces and inside the Virunga National Park

Insecurity along the border between North Kivu and Ituri Provinces has delayed the implementation of some activities as the access to the field has become limited in a number of areas, particularly in those areas experiencing sporadic fighting. The growing presence of the

NALU militia has brought about further insecurity in the region. Activities effected include planned consultations with stakeholders to protect the forest corridor between Virunga National Park and Mt. Hoyo Reserve. In ViNP, the resurgence of armed groups in number of villages along the east and southeast coasts of Lake Edward has reduced mobility of ranger patrols – and some areas can only be patrolled periodically.

Local communities' fears

Local communities often express fear that if their forests are conserved and not exploited, then they could be given away to strangers at some point. This fear pushes many stakeholders to want to exploit the forests 'now' rather than risk possibly losing them to outsiders in the future. These fears have meant that many community members have been reluctant to discuss improved natural resource management options and so have at times slowed the development of community forest options. It has also meant that at times discussion with communities is slow, and their commits also often wax and wane.

The new decree about forest community concessions

Despite the fact that the decree was published in August 2014, many communities are not aware of its contents, the possible benefits or their rights. Thanks to CAFEC support, WWF has been raising awareness about the new decree and also widely disseminated copies of the decree in a format that is easy to read and secure. This has proven to be a great opportunity to engage with stakeholders concerning the community forestry decree, and slowly move forward and educate communities about their options to sustainably manage their forests and other natural resources.

2.5 PMP Update

Given the updated list of indicators validated in FY16 by consortium partners, concerted efforts have been made in the collection of data in order to update information in the PMP. The SMART tool has been applied as a key instrument to collect data to assess improvements in biodiversity threat reductions and law enforcement improvements, which cover around half of the indicators in the monitoring plan. This is applied to both Mt. Hoyo Reserve and Virunga National Park.

Among the main challenges, a number of indicators were not recorded in previous years (e.g. FY14 and FY15), as they had not yet been included. To manage this shortcoming, we plan to update the entire PMP in order to ensure that enough data will be available to provide an overview of progress on various indicators, in particular where data was either limited or not available. For this Annual Report, data for some indicators were also not available but we should have sufficient data to assess progress towards the major benchmarks. During the past year, training has been provided to partners on M&E requirements and this provided an opportunity to discuss in-depth about data collection and data quality issues, new indicators, and other related matters. Data collected have been analyzed and will be reported in the new format as requested.

3. INTEGRATION OF CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

With a view towards ensuring the effective integration of a gender lens into its action plan, the VLC has developed a gender strategic plan based on recommendations from the gender analysis carried out in Virunga Landscape, and also considering the recommendations from the CAFEC mid-term evaluation. Referencing the gender strategic plan, the VLC has undertaken specific interventions to promote gender in biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation actions in the CBNRM areas of Mwenda, Adjuma, Mt. Hoyo Corridor, and Bwisha.

Several activities were carried out in the CBNRM zones around ViNP and MHR, namely:

- ✓ Gender sensitization related to biodiversity conservation and climate change issues;
- ✓ Strengthening the representation of women in local governance, i.e. CLDs;
- ✓ Support for new income-generating activities and women's economic empowerment.

Despite the fact that customary and cultural influences remain dominant in most rural areas in the Virunga Landscape, and so hinder the advancement of women, (along with their access to resources, and the sharing of the benefits of these resources), the VLC has worked to bridge the gender gaps by:

- ✓ Sensitization and training of women on family planning, biodiversity and climate change mitigation in four CBNRM zones (include Mwenda, Adjuma, Mt. Hoyo Corridor and Bwisha). More than 50% of participants trained were women, (93 women out of 177), and represented more than ten local women's associations. Additionally, women have also been also actively involved in family planning training events in Beni.
- ✓ Integrating women into the natural resources governance: in nine CLD structures established in the CBNRM zones, women were elected to 30% of the positions.
- ✓ Developing income generating alternatives: women were engaged in a variety of micro-projects with the aim of diversifying and generating new income opportunities. New ventures primarily targeting women included the production and sale of improved stoves, establishment of perma-gardens, (permaculture, agroforestry), production of Hydraform interlocking blocks, construction of houses with Hydraform blocks, reforestation and the establishment of tree nurseries.

Cook stoves:

Since the beginning of FY17, WWF has continued its efforts to support women and men in the production and marketing of improved cook stoves, (with over 5,500 units produced and more than 3,600 units sold), in the communities in the CBNRM zones and neighbouring the PAs. The adoption of improved cook stoves generally results on average in less charcoal being consumed, which yields other advantages such as cost-savings, cleaner air in the home-kitchen, less labour expended carrying charcoal (or fuelwood), and ultimately, fewer trees being turned into charcoal.

The positive impacts resulting from the adoption of improved cook stoves more often than not accrue to women, and include:

- ✓ Reduction of fuelwood consumption in households, (at least 50% reduction in fuel consumption);
- ✓ Increase of incomes in households selling the improved cook stove (\$2 to \$5 profit per unit sold);
- ✓ Improved health resulting from improved air quality within the home-kitchen, and reduction of women's labor purchasing and carrying fuel sources. The new home model (i.e. Goma stove) currently produced by REPROFCA can reduce women's work, improved safety, and provides an environment with less smoke, ultimately leading to better health conditions during cooking.
- ✓ Moving from individual production to enterprise production, i.e. working at greater scale. Due to the technical support provided to members of the REPROFCA network, (management, and entrepreneurship) and the sensitization of women's associations on economic empowerment, REPROFCA is progressively moving towards establishing itself as an autonomous company. (It is now a major supplier of improved stoves in the province of North Kivu.)

Reforestation:

Following the example of women in the Mutsora Ecologists' Association (MEA), Mutwanga CLD, and thanks to the solid training provided by CAFEC, women throughout the landscape have developed an expertise in the preparation and maintenance of tree nurseries.

The 10 women of the MEA now work throughout the year, not only in the whole process of preparing the nurseries but also with the placement of seedlings in the reforestation plantations.

The funds saved from this work, (i.e. from small grants, sale of seedlings, labour), have enabled the women to better manage for diverse household needs such as school fees, healthcare costs, household goods, quality food and the caring for their children, (as testified by this MEA nurserywoman, to the right.)



Picture: MEA Nurserywoman, August 2017, (MN).

Masonry and brick makers:

Sixty young masons and bricklayers, including 45 men and 15 women, were trained by experts from CLENA, (WWF partner) in the techniques to produce Hydraform interlocking blocks. They have been supported by local organizations like CARITAS and ICCN to ensure greater community participation and the retention of skills locally. It has been demonstrated that interlocking blocks can reduce house construction costs by up to 40%. And for those restaurants and bakeries using ovens made with these interlocking blocks, they have also consumed less charcoal and wood, and so also saved money.



Pictures: Female participants learning masonry skills.

Microenterprise

FY17 saw the earlier successes with micro-enterprises continue:

- Professionalization: last year saw the acquisition of craft machinery to produce improved cook stoves, (through EcoMakala) and interlocking blocks, (through CAFEC) and these initial investments have led to the establishment of small, private enterprises. For example, Goma Stove is now fully operational and the WWF partnership with the company will continue at least for the short-term. They are also working with REPFROCA to bring the production and distribution of the improved cook stove to scale.
- The cooperative work started with Mararo (Kinigi, Rwanda) is also ongoing. The encouragement to use their own means was successful. For the continuation of

reforestation activities, the cooperative is now selling fruit trees and agroforestry trees from their nurseries to local government offices, local NGOs and IGCP.

3.2 Science, Technology, and Innovation Impacts

N/A

4. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The former Chief of Party, Juan Seve worked as interim until April 2017. The new Chief of Party, Cary Farley, after a month-long handover with Juan Seve, assumed his responsibilities in April 17. Due to a reduction activities, the CBNRM officer is now working part-time for the energy program. New arrangements were finalized for the CAFEC finance manager, Paulin Ntawangundi. To ensure improved support for the CAFEC Virunga and Itombwe projects, the finance manager transferred to Goma permanently, (as of August 17).

5. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

CAFEC partners working in the Virunga landscape all ensure that a respect for the environment is thoroughly woven through all program activities. All staff have also been informed of USAID's environmental regulations and endeavor to ensure all CAFEC activities are compliant. If a negative environmental impact is envisioned, then the appropriate environmental impact examinations and or other applications will be applied. The CAFEC partners in the Virunga landscape will continue to ensure all activities are also environmentally compliant in FY18.

6. LESSON LEARNED

In the DRC:

- Establishment of the Goma Stove Company to produce improved cook stoves at scale by bringing together several existing small-scale production units under one management structure.
- Local communities who have established perma-gardens (permaculture and agroforestry) can now support the continuous production of fruits and vegetables in a sustainable manner. These activities generate on average more than 70 dollars a month for each member of the community who participates.
- Both of these activities provide social and economic benefits, can be taken to even greater scale, and are shown to conserve biodiversity by reducing deforestation.

In Rwanda/ Kinigi CBNRM zone:

- With adequate capacity building and coaching, (especially within cooperatives) beneficiaries are capable of independently developing and sustaining local conservation and income-generating development projects;

- Women have demonstrated a great capacity to perform well in the forestry sector by establishing tree nurseries and often leading reforestation efforts;
- Collaboration between partners enhances mutual trust and builds credibility with local communities. This has been seen in the teamwork demonstrated by local stakeholders, including community members, local authorities and CAFEC partners, e.g. IGCP.

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT SEMESTER INCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS

A summary of the principal activities planned for FY18 are presented below by Intermediate Results and Strategies at landscape (LS) and macro zone levels:

Intermediate Result 1: Targeted forest landscapes sustainably managed

This IR focuses on three CAFEC strategies:

Strategy 2: Strengthen the implementation of land use management plans

- For **LUP activities implementation**: The consortium will provide capacity building to 30 CLDs in collaboration with plans to implement agroforestry, reforestation and perma-garden activities.
- For **community forestry**: WWF will establish at least 20,520 ha of community forests in Beni territory, (e.g. Kyakaba-Boloma, Tenambo, Basongora, Buloloma for Local Communities and Bahatsa for Indigenous Peoples) and support local authorities to develop a Green Economy program by increasing the number of community forest concessions in North Kivu.
- Support CLDs to employ **participatory mapping** approaches to document existing land uses for the **VHC**.
- For IGCP, specific actions in Rwanda will be to expand planting of agroforestry trees to improve land agriculture productivity at both the Sector and Cell levels.
- For an improved understanding of relevant policies and law, CAFEC will continue to **disseminate the new community forestry decree** by translating the document into Swahili.

Strategy 4: Promote sustainable agriculture, energy and livelihood alternatives as substitutes for unsustainable practices.

- For the consortium in general, and for WWF in particular, the alternative livelihood activities will focus on: a) establishing agroforestry and permaculture areas, b) promoting improved cook stoves; c) plant 200 ha agroforestry trees with local communities and CBOs, and, d) support for strengthening and diversifying livelihoods. All activities will include a special focus on the importance of including gender aspects and indigenous peoples.

- IGCP will train at least two Cooperatives of women artisans in product diversification, (five new baskets will be created per artisan trained).
- WCS will work with ESCO Kivu to develop cacao plantations along the potential forest corridor. The cocoa variety being promoted is a hybrid from *Forastero* and *Criollo*. This activity will be supported with matching funds from CBFF.

Strategy 6: Facilitate access to family planning

- The partnership between WWF and the North Kivu provincial health division will be renewed through an annual collaboration agreement. Subsequently, support will be provided to the Mutwanga health zone and include the training of health personnel and the promotion of awareness raising campaigns on family planning in the Mwenda CBNRM zone. The campaign will use radio broadcasts at four radio stations, (i.e. 1) Radio Rwenzori, based in Mutwanga, 2&3) Radio Moto, based in Beni and Oicha, and 4) Radio la Verité, based in Kiwanja). Also, 5,000 pamphlets will be distributed in villages.

Intermediate Result 2: Biodiversity threats in targeted forest landscapes mitigated.

Strategy 1: Strengthen protected area (PA) management capacity

- WWF will ensure the collaboration between ICCN and JURISTRALÉ continues to reinforce governance and law enforcements in the PAs.
- Data on law enforcement will continue to be collected by Eco guards in ViNP and MHR and the database will be kept up-to-date, (including wildlife presence, illegal activity incidences, patrol coverage, etc.)
- Support for awareness raising campaigns in communities neighboring the PAs to improve the conservation of PA's resources, as well as continued support to ICCN on participatory boundary demarcation and biodiversity monitoring in the ViNP.
- WCS will continue to support committees to collect data on fish catches. In collaboration with ICCN, WCS will monitor data collection, enter the data and analyze them in Goma, and ultimately share the results with stakeholders.
- To foster understanding of the values and importance of the PAs among targeted key stakeholders, including: a) produce outreach materials on NRM (100 posters, 2,000 magazines, 5,000 fact sheets, 1 film and 1 document; and, b) support outreach and application of environment-related policies, laws, and codes, e.g. Law on the Conservation of Nature.

Strategy 3: Enhance law enforcement and prosecution

- To improve field support, WCS will contribute to the strengthening of law enforcement by working with the ICCN logistics officers to identify suppliers for patrol rations as well as fuel for vehicles and air patrol missions for the specific case of the Virunga NP. In most cases, this support will be provided monthly.

The cross-cutting role of gender for CARPE FY18.

- To continue to provide training and technical support to women's associations for activities on reforestation and improved stoves. Capacity building will continue to be key to improve natural resource management and strengthen economic opportunities for women and vulnerable groups.
- Continue to raise awareness of gender issues and the links with forest governance and human rights in the CBNRM zones of Adjuma, Mwenda and Bwisha.

Collaboration between CAFEC and Environmental Monitoring and Policy Support (EMAPS)

WWF will be capturing lessons learned from the establishment of forestry community concessions and law enforcement across the Virunga Landscape. These lessons and other policy-related experiences will be shared with SCAEMPS. The VLC will also contribute to the development and testing of the Landscape Application, and also share field data with SCAEMPS.

8. HOW IMPLEMENTING PARTNER HAS ADDRESSED FINDINGS OF THE MIDTERM EVALUATION AND USAID COMMENTS FROM THE LAST REPORT

Approaches recommended by USAID	Actions carried out in FY17 to meet the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation
Engagement with communities	30 CLD structures (at least 30% of women) have been set up in the Landscape to involve communities in the implementation of the CBNRM Land Use Plans and General Management Plans. Sensitization campaigns in 5 territories and 27 villages around PAs (1317 people, including 739 men and 578 women) to engage communities in the protection of PA resources; Participatory demarcation of the boundaries of the ViNP: 13.5 km demarcated in the central sector with the local communities and the ICCN
Eco-guards	Support to patrol operations with WCS: 882.8 km patrolled by eco guards in MHR and 33,888.5 km in ViNP; Improved patrol capacity and increased technical capacity of patrol officers to enhance

	PA surveillance (over 50% surveillance coverage), and on the use of SMART tools
SMART	Capacity building of eco guards: Nine eco guards trained on SMART to improve the quality of data collected on the ground and supporting the deployment of ecoguards for surveillance; Improving the use of SMART in ViNP and Mt. Hoyo Reserve.
CWT (Wildlife trade/ traffic)	Collaboration with JURISTRALE for the prosecution of wildlife crimes in PA: imprisonment of two traffickers arrested with 24 kg of ivory, leopard skins; Facilitated signing of Provincial Decree No. 01/062 / CAB / GP-NK / 2016 of 14 November 2016 that prohibits the trade, trafficking, possession and transport of ivory and its products, and other protected wildlife in the province of North Kivu.
Community forest concessions	Identified / proposed / documented / informally recognized forest concessions now officially registered as a community forest areas: 20,520 ha of the communities in the territory of Beni
Land tenure	Support to CBOs and CLDs for the implementation of LUPs, including capacity building of local stakeholders to support, update and validate LUP; Capacity building of local partners for the participatory mapping of village lands and produced maps of 5 forests for local communities and indigenous peoples; Participatory demarcation of PA boundaries covered 13.5 km in the central ViNP area
Sustainable livelihood	Establishment of sustainable and integrated farming practices: more than 100 farmers supported technically and financially (with small grants) in sustainable NRM and integrated agriculture (perma-gardens, agroforestry); Support for the production and extension of improved cook stoves: more than 5,000 improved stoves produced and, more than 3,000 sold by women's associations.
Climate change	Participated in SCAEMPS meetings with WRI; Sharing of tools to support and disseminate the decree assigning forest concessions to local communities; More than 600 ha reforested (including 400 ha with CAFEC and more than 200 ha with Ecomakala); Enhance awareness on REDD + and climate change: 4 awareness campaigns on climate change mitigation mechanisms organized and 2 structures created in Beni and Butembo for awareness on REDD +; Development of the green economy program: organization of the workshop with the provincial government of North Kivu and involving participation of more than 50 people; Reduction of the climate variability effect. The AFOLU 2015, report indicates that the activities generated 937,480 cumulative benefit tCO2 from 2014 to 2017
Bush meat and protein	A breeding pond set up in Bahatsa for indigenous peoples to reduce fishing in the ViNP, and to increase protein sources from the harvest of fish.
Impacts of WWF's activities	Case studies on the ecological and socio-economic impacts of WWF's activities: a) impacts of reforestation, carbonization and improved stoves in the Virunga landscape; b) effectiveness of the CLDs, and c) impacts of sensitization activities on behavior change in ViNP.

9. LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

1. For the governance of natural resources within the Landscape:

- ✓ The actors of the civil society (more than 30 local associations) working in the protection of the environment of North Kivu are equipped by WWF (with educational tools and equipment) to continue the campaigns of sensitization and the advocacy for the protection of Virunga National Park;
- ✓ A structure called «CLIMAT GROUP» (with more than 30 members) was set up in 2014 in the Province of North Kivu with WWF and the provincial Ministry of the Environment to implement a communication plan on REDD +;
- ✓ 30 CLD (local development committees) have signed collaboration agreements to implement the CAFEC and WWF programs for biodiversity conservation within the Virunga landscape.

2. For the protection of PAs (ViNP and MHR):

- ✓ Bio-monitoring is operational in the PAs through the strengthening of technical capacities of eco-guards on the use of SMART and other monitoring tools, (GPS, Smartphone.) This enables trained rangers to continue the collection of quality data and monitoring of PA biodiversity.
- ✓ A network of informants was developed to denounce cases of poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking in the ViNP, and has been supported by JURISTRALÉ with the collaboration of Civil Society actors in North Kivu;
- ✓ Public awareness campaigns on the importance of protecting PA resources has enabled local communities to continue their efforts to protect the park's boundaries, e.g. participatory mapping of ViNP boundaries;
- ✓ The involvement of local authorities and partners in the preparation of biodiversity conservation laws, (e.g. *Decree No. 14-018*, on the allocation of forest concessions to local communities in the DRC, and *Decree No. 01/062 / CAB / GP-NK / 2016*, signed on Nov 14, 2016, on banning the trade, traffic, possession, and transport of ivory and its products, and of other protected wild animals, in North Kivu Province.

3. For the livelihoods:

- ✓ This year, 3,758 people (including 3138 for improved cook stoves, and 620 for agriculture and tree plantations) have received training in alternative livelihoods and new income generating activities.
- ✓ Tree plantations contributed to the reduction of deforestation in PAs (more than 600 ha of trees planted.) More than 100 farmers trained and supported with investment plans to continue their activities. Other farmers are organized in 4 cooperatives to facilitate the production and sale of wood and charcoal. They are motivated to continue the planting tree stands and producing charcoal;

- ✓ The associations of women and artisans (more than 20 CBOs) producing improved cook stoves are now financially and technically supported by a commercial private company: Goma Stove (WWF initiative). The production of improved cook stoves will continue through the support of Network of Women's Associations in Goma.
- ✓ WWF has initiated two programs to sustain livelihood actions through:
 - CO2logic, in partnership with WWF Belgium, to provide carbon credit soon from tree plantations and improved stoves (backed by WWF);
 - The establishment of a 'Green Economy' program, in collaboration with the provincial government of North Kivu to develop sustainably managed economic, energy and environmental sectors.

10. DETAILED REPORTING OF RESULTS

II. ANNEXES

A) Annex A will be submitted separately

B) Success Stories

Women Building New Livelihoods

In Africa, and particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, women are often overlooked when it comes to their participation in conservation and natural resource management activities. They are often presumed to be busy with household and agricultural responsibilities' and so infrequently invited to participate in new opportunities.

Recognizing some of these challenges, in recent years the United Nations and other international organizations have developed and promoted policies to improve the understanding of the relationship between gender and the environment, e.g.:

- Earth Summit II (1997). Chapter 3B
- Beijing Conference (1995). Section K
- Habitat II (1996). Chapter IV
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (1995). Chapter VI.D.

Several gender conferences have also shown that women are generally not involved in policy formulation or decision-making regarding the management, preservation, protection and regeneration of natural resources, or the environment in general. Decision-making bodies, educational institutions and environmental protection bodies at many levels also continue to disregard women's' experiences and their expertise when it comes to the management and monitoring of natural resources.

The CAFEC program in the Virunga Landscape, taking note of these challenges, has supported women to play a major role in the management of natural resources through several alternatives including the promotion of improved stoves, reforestation, agroforestry, intensive farming, (e.g. perma-gardens), etc. In addition to these activities, under CAFEC women have been encouraged to engage in trade industries. For example, in the Bwisha Community Bases Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Zone in the Rutshuru territory, a training was held for local women and men in the construction techniques using Hydraform interlocking blocks.

After this training session, a masonry workforce was established and it began work to construct sustainable dwellings and improved ovens/furnaces using Hydraform interlocking blocks. Subsequently, a number of different organizations and local actors have also asked for this training - and especially women.

Among the trained and newly equipped individuals, a number of them have actually changed their professions and transitioned from livelihoods as farmers or housewife to that of masons.



© Innocent Nfizi, 2016: local women being trained in masonry



© Gédéon Bakerethi, 2017: Mlle Mapendo plastering a wall

“At the beginning of this year, we changed our way of life after being trained by WWF in masonry. We were dependent on our parents and husbands to meet our needs. Currently, we are engaged as a workforce for the construction of buildings with Hydraform interlocking blocks and we have also become demonstrators of the technique”, so testify three beneficiaries of the training in the Bwisha CBNRM area, (i.e. Ms. Kabuo Anouarite, Ms. Imelda Mapendo and Mr. Jackson Mumbere).



© Gédéon B. 2017: Mr Mumbere plastering a new wall



© Innocent Nfizi 2017: House built with Hydraform interlocking blocks

C) Déclaration Conjointe CSO DRC-Uganda – See Attached