

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**MINISTRY OF FOREST ECONOMY, WATER,
FISHERY AND NATIONAL PARKS**

AND

**WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE
(GLOBAL FOREST WATCH INITIATIVE)**

**IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
MONITORING IN GABON**

1. OBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT

This cooperation agreement is signed by the Government of the Republic of Gabon, represented by the Ministry of Forest Economy, Water, Fishery and National Parks, hereafter MEFEPNN, and the World Resources Institute, through its Global Forest Watch initiative, hereafter WRI.

This convention of collaboration aims at the development and the production of spatial and statistical databases of the users and managers of the forest resources of Gabon, in order to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the sustainable management policy of the Gabonese forests.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE AGREEMENT AND EXPECTED PRODUCTS

Contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources in Republic of Gabon by improving the monitoring of the forest sector activities, and by disseminating the collected information to all stakeholders, including the Ministry in charge of water and forests, for a better planning of interventions in the sector.

Specifically, this agreement will focus on

- i. the collection and updating of existing spatial, statistical and qualitative data on forest resources use and management in Gabon and ;
- ii. strengthening national capacities for information collection and processing, in order to enforce forestry laws and increase the control and monitoring efficiency of logging activities.

3. ACRONYMS.

MEFEPNN	Ministry of Forest Economy, Water, Fishery and National Parks (<i>Ministère de l'Economie Forestière, des Eaux, de la Pêche, et des Parcs Nationaux</i>)
DED	<i>Direction des Etudes et de la Documentation</i>
DPF	<i>Direction de la Production Forestière</i>
DFC	<i>Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse</i>
DDICB	<i>Direction du Développement des Industries et du Commerce du Bois</i>
GFW	Global Forest Watch
WRI	World Resources Institute
SIGEF	<i>Système d'Informatique de Gestion Forestière</i>
DIARF	<i>Direction des Inventaires, des Aménagements et de la Régénération des Forêts</i>
UFA	<i>Unité Forestière d'Aménagement</i>

4. PARTIES

MEFEPPN

The Ministry of Forest Economy, Water, Fishery and National Parks (MEFEPPN) is responsible for the elaboration and execution of the Republic of Gabon government policy in terms of forest and wildlife resources management.

The responsible structure for this convention is the *Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts* (DGEF) represented by the Director General.

The entity in charge of the execution of the agreement is the *Cellule de Géomatique Forestière of the Direction des Inventaires, des Aménagements et de la Régénération des Forêts* and the *Service de Cartographie of the Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts* (DIARF), under the coordination of the *Direction de la Production Forestière* responsible for the follow-up of the present convention.

WRI

The World Resources Institute (WRI) is a non-governmental organization based in Washington, DC, USA. Among the numerous WRI initiatives, Global Forest Watch, an international network of partners, aims to promote sustainable forest management by providing the local, national and international stakeholders with means (data and tools) to facilitate the access to relevant information on the state of forest exploitation.

GFW is strictly limited to the collection, analysis and diffusion of information, and do not carry out pressure campaign. Moreover, all products published by WRI under this convention are under condition of the approval of MEFEPNN.

The WRI responsible person for the execution and follow up of this agreement is P. Methot, the director of the Forest Landscapes Initiative in WRI based in Washington DC, USA. The technical execution of the convention is by Dr. B. Mertens, director of the WRI-GFW project in Yaoundé.

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5. CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENT

Collaboration will comprise the following:

1. Organization and assignment of the forest area: cartography of the forest concessions (CFAD, FMU, UFG, AAC), community forests, forest plantations and other not attributed zones, building sites of forestry development, hunting zones and protected areas in Gabon at the 1/200 000 scale;
2. Follow-up of the forest logging titles (PFA/PTE, CFAD, PI, LOTS ZACF, PGG, sales of standing volume, authorizations of exploitation), of the production and the transformation: collection and integration of the companies data, forest management and exploited volumes;
3. Follow-up of the forest infrastructures through the data-gathering and the cartography of the logging roads and tracks and transformation units, based on the existing data sources;
4. Reinforcement of the capacities (data processing and office supplies) and transfer of competences (various training courses) for the services and the staff identified by the MEFEPNN.

6. EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE AGREEMENT

1. An actualization of the various forest logging titles and protected areas, taking into account the new methods of license attribution and creation of new protected areas;
2. A situation report on the forest logging titles in Gabon;
3. An interactive forest Atlas of Gabon (preliminary version - pilot) on the various forest logging titles (CFAD, community forests and exploitation authorizations of the forest products), the protected areas and the forest infrastructures;
4. Technical support and training courses on the use of the Atlas (workshops, seminars) ensured by GFW along with the personnel identified by the MEFEPNN as well as the other actors of the sustainable management of the Gabonese forests (private companies, NGOs, populations);
5. Actualization of the geographical information of forest nature and improvement of the quality of the cartographic database of the forest concessions through the design of a complete and coherent information system.

All the information produced within the framework of this collaboration will be consultable publicly through the Internet site of the GFW and that of the MEFEPNN.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

7.1 MEFEPNN responsibilities

Domain 1 :

- To provide to WRI the existing data concerning the forest logging titles as well as the associated official documents: decrees of attribution, type of title, name of the assignee, date of attribution, period of validity of the titles and spatial boundaries;
- To provide to WRI the data concerning the update of the data on the forest logging titles as well as the associated official documents: change of assignee (such as resulting from a

transfer), spatial boundaries after classification, spatial boundaries of the quinquennial blocks and the annual allowable cuts (*assiettes de coupe annuelle*) according to approved management plans;

- To correct the possible shifts of the spatial boundaries of the titles, quinquennial blocks, annual allowable cuts, identified during joint missions of ground with the MEFEPN;
- To facilitate acquisition along with the qualified services of the existing data concerning the hunting zones and the protected areas in Gabon, as well as the associated official documents: decree of creation, creation date, name of the protected area, statute of protection and spatial boundaries;
- The whole of the primary data requested by WRI will be thus provided by the MEFEPN as soon as attributions are considered final and approved by the proper authority.

Domain 2 :

To provide to WRI the official data and documents concerning the forest logging titles available at the centralized and decentralized levels, in particular:

- Management plan (management inventories data, date of approval of the management plan, dates from the signature of final convention);
- Mission of control: date and data collected in the UFA within the framework from the missions of control carried out by the national control Brigade;
- Statistics of exploitation (volume exploited essentially by annual allowable cuts, by year and title, volume exported essentially per annum and by title) based on the existing sources of information (building sites workbooks, SEPBG, SNBG, Customs);

The MEFEPN will provide these data to WRI as soon as they are available and will facilitate the contact as well as the exchange of the data between the WRI and the field units of the MEFEPN;

Domain 3 :

- To use the data on the forest roads for better planning the missions of control;
- To provide comments to WRI on the real status of the mapped roads after the execution of the missions of control;
- To provide comments to WRI on the differences between the forestry activities as planned by the MEFEPN and the actual forestry activities observed;
- To provide to WRI the data concerning the units of wood transformation as well as the associated official documents, such as: owner (individual or company), localization, year of construction, type of transformation, capacity installed and capacity of effective transformation, output, volume in entry and exit, employment by category and nationality.

Domain 4 :

- To identify the competent and beneficiary individuals and services of the training activities. To ensure the equipment necessary of the services identified in order to allow the good course of the trainings and follow-up activities.

7.2 WRI responsibilities

Domain 1 :

- To supervise the stages of collection of the data specified with Domains 1 and 2 and their integration in a geographical information system (GIS);

- To support the update of the GIS when new information is available. After submission to the revision process, the database thus produced will be accessible to the public through Internet sites from WRI and the MEFEPNN;
- To identify the shifts between the spatial boundaries of the logging titles and compartments in the titles provided by the MEFEPNN and other sources, in particular national and international field projects;
- To inform the MEFEPNN of the possible shifts.

Domain 2 :

- To supervise the development and to support the update of the databases collecting the data provided by the MEFEPNN included in Domain 2.

WRI will carry out its responsibilities without international sub-contracting but, according to needs, by partners in Gabon, in particular field projects having capacities in GIS and remote sensing, and other stakeholders in the forest sector, after consultation of the MEFEPNN.

Domain 3 :

- To supervise the stages of data collection specified in Domain 3 and their integration in GIS;
- To place at the disposal of the MEFEPNN the high resolution satellite images available to the WRI and its partners (Landsat and Aster);
- To support the update of the GIS when new information is available;
- To identify on databases provided from Domain 3 forest roads which seem to be placed outside of authorized zones and to provide this information directly to the MEFEPNN;

WRI is committed to carrying out its described responsibilities above, in close cooperation with the field projects with GIS and remote sensing capacities and other specialized agencies, after consultation with the MEFEPNN.

Domain 4 :

To ensure the training courses on the services identified by the MEFEPNN. These training courses will be done on two levels, according to the availabilities and financial and logistic capacities of the project:

- Technical trainings in creation of databases, GIS and remote sensing intended for the personnel of the *Cellule de Géomatique Forestière*, the service of cartography and other implied services of the *Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts* of the MEFEPNN;
- Training with the use of the preliminary interactive forestry Atlas, intended for the central and provincial services of the MEFEPNN.

8. RESULTS REVIEW AND DISSEMINATION

All the products (original data, databases, annual reports and updates) issued from this agreement will be exclusively transmitted to MEFEPNN and WRI for a 30 open day period. During this period, the products will be submitted to an internal review process (within MEFEPNN and WRI) for advice and recommendations before publication. After this 30 day period, the results will be published by WRI and MEFEPNN in paper and digital formats.

In case of divergence between WRI and MEFEPNN, on facts or interpretations after the 30 day period, the point of view of both institutions will be included in the final document. All the products issued from this agreement will be the property of MEFEPNN and WRI, and will incorporate the respective logo of both institutions and accompanying funders. All documents will be published both in French and English.

9. APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Both parties are charged in what relates to them, with the application of this convention. To accelerate the implementation of convention, it can initially start in the areas where the data necessary are already available.

10. RESPECT OF THE COMMITMENTS

This agreement does not constitute an exclusive contract. However, MEFEPNN is committed to WRI for providing full support to facilitate the achievement of the activities described in this agreement. In return, WRI commits itself to provide MEFEPNN with reports, maps and information, both on paper and digital format.

11. DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTIES

All disagreements which would occur in the application of the present agreement between parties in charge of its execution will be resolved by mutual consent. If the disagreement persists, it will be submitted both to the Minister of MEFEPNN and Director of WRI.

12. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Present convention will begin upon signature until September 30, 2006. It will be subsequently renewable by agreement of the parties.

13. WRITING OF THE AGREEMENT

This document has been written by mutual agreement between both parties.

14. BEGINNING OF THE AGREEMENT

This agreement will come into force upon signature by the Minister of MEFEPNN and the Director of WRI, or its representative.

Libreville, le 05 JUL, 2006

Chief Financial Officer and
Vice President of Administration
World Resources Institute

Mr. Steven Barker

The Minister
L'Economie Forestière, des Eaux, de la Pêche,
de l'Environnement chargé de la Protection de
la Nature