



# The Role of Gender and Social Inclusion in Integrated Health and Conservation Initiatives

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## Presentation Overview



- WWF Social Policies and Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework

- Application of Social Policies & Safeguards

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- On-the-ground example of integrated PHE initiative using a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach

# WWF Social Policies & Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF)

**WWF Social Policies apply to all that we do, including governing our policy and advocacy work.** (human rights policy statement; gender policy; Indigenous Peoples policy)

ESSF – Applies to all our work on the ground in landscapes/seascapes

## 1) Do No Harm

Identify and avoid, mitigate and minimize adverse environmental and social impacts that may arise in the implementation of projects.

## 2) Do Good

Safeguards also proactively increase chances that projects deliver better outcomes for people and the environment.

# WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework

## Environmental & Social Safeguard Standards

### Procedural

- Environmental and Social Risk Management
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Consultation and Disclosure
- Grievance Mechanisms

*Always apply*

### Substantive

- Involuntary Resettlement
- Indigenous Peoples
- Community Health and Security
- Protection of Natural Habitats
- Pest Management
- Physical and Cultural Resources

*Apply when triggered*

# What is Stakeholder Engagement?

The **participatory components** of stakeholder management throughout the lifecycle of a WWF strategy, project or activity. Stakeholder management involves processes of:

- **Stakeholder analysis:** A critical input into the conservation and stakeholder engagement planning:
  - Identifying interested parties and assessing their interests, positions, rights, and influence or vulnerability;
  - Mapping of stakeholder dynamics, such as alliances or conflicts.
- **Stakeholder consultation:** A critical input to WWF decision-making.
  - Two-way dialogue over time between WWF and interested or affected parties throughout the program cycle.
  - Transparent and inclusive – disclosure of information and ongoing reporting to stakeholders;
  - Including feedback about how stakeholder inputs have been considered and/or addressed, including addressing any stakeholder grievances.

# How Are Social Policies and Safeguards Applied in Our Work?

Through a human-rights based approach, SP and ESSF are applied to ensure interventions respect human rights, are inclusive, equitable, gender-responsive, empowering and respect needs and aspirations of all stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable groups:

- This requires:
  - Screening of all activities to surface any risks to prepare mitigation plans to reduce/avoid risks; monitoring system
  - Stakeholder analysis; stakeholder consultation and stakeholder engagement plan;
  - Context analysis (gender analysis) taking into consideration gender dimensions; develop a gender mainstreaming strategy/gender action plan.



# Population, Health and Environment



PHE can help meet socio economic challenges and needs of communities through livelihood activities, while helping to safeguard biodiversity

Provision of basic health support can be an integral part of conservation projects - improves health and welfare of people in remote places, fosters better conservation results.

Creates synergistic links between human and ecosystem health; integrated projects improve human well-being, encourage sustainable use of natural resources, promote sustained delivery of ecosystem services in the medium to long term

Integrated health and environment approaches implemented by WWF often include:

- improved water supplies, sanitation and hygiene (WASH);
- community-based first aid; maternal and child health care;
- improved nutrition and food security;
- prevention and treatment of infectious diseases;
- provision of reproductive health services including voluntary family planning in places where there are unmet needs;
- health system support including infrastructure, capacity building, education and access to information.

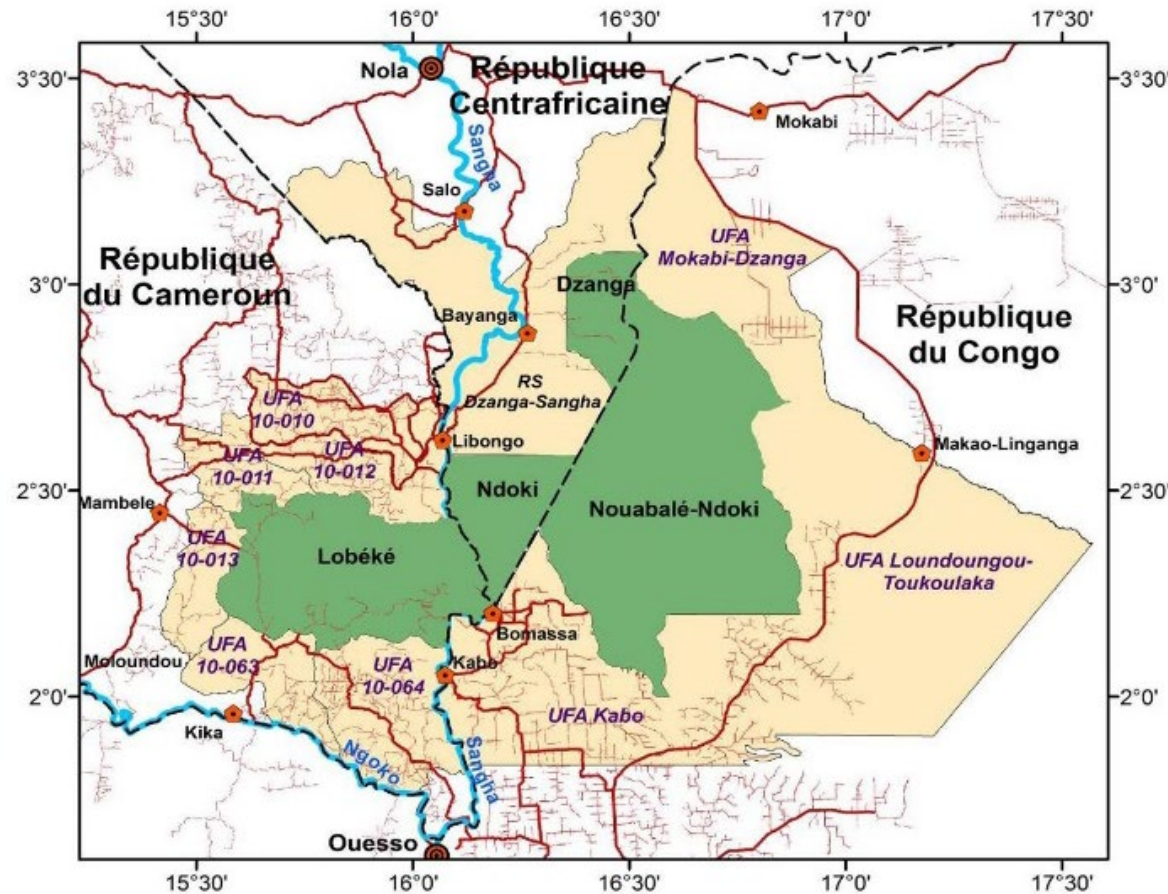


# WWF PHE Experience in Southeast Cameroon



# Lobeke National Park, Southeast Cameroon

## Lobeke National Park



 **Date of creation of Lobeke National Park:**  
19 March 2001

Lobeke National Park (LNP), Jengi Forest, Southeast Cameroon (217 854 ha)

- Part of the Sangha Tri-National Protected Area Network;
- Remote area very rich in biodiversity;
- Under high poaching and logging pressure;
- Buffer zones of LNP include 21 communities (population approx. 3,000 - 26% Baka, 52% Bantu & 22% immigrants).
- High poverty; lack access to basic health services, safe drinking water & economic opportunities;
- Forest concessions in the area provide some benefits for infrastructure development;
- Along side the conservation program, funding for PHE and WASH initiatives has been present for over a decade for 7 years.

# PHE interventions in Lobeke

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➤ Use integrated approaches to inform organizations seeking to improve ecosystem health and conservation outcomes along with improved human well-being, living in and around areas of key biodiversity.

➤ Recognize and respect local knowledge of both women and men and most marginalized groups, including the Baka Indigenous People, who depend the most on natural resources for their subsistence.



## Approaches to ensure GESI mainstreaming

Conducted assessments on the knowledge, attitude, beliefs of communities relating to PHE sectors, to best target interventions, taking **gender dimensions** into account

More in-depth research was conducted into the **cultural beliefs and taboos of the Baka people on family planning and reproductive health practices** - necessary to target awareness raising and behavior change to address high rates of teenage pregnancies

**Engagement with stakeholders from design phase and throughout project life** led to commitment and participation from communities, including local authorities, village chiefs and government partners

The fight against malnutrition and food insecurity **engaged communities in conservation discourses** – efficient tool for positive actions against poaching



# Main activities

- Train Health and Environment Scouts (HES) and School Clubs, local NGOs, government partners on PHE messages and best practices
- Train women focal points to facilitate mothers' groups on nutrition, food prep. demonstrations, FP/RH, supported by health staff;
- Train Baka traditional birth attendants, male & female youths on FP/RH issues to educate peers
- Collaborate with local partners (CSOs, CBOs, government - Health, Agriculture, Education and Forest/Fauna Ministries)
- Conduct mass campaigns, group demonstrations on integrated PHE messages & best practices; technical assistance for household latrines; promotion of WASH
- Provide technical support to communities (including women's groups) in the various PHE cross-sectors



# PHE Outcomes

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Activities on nutrition, food security & sustainable agriculture; family planning & reproductive health have enabled the identification of cross-cutting solutions for **biodiversity conservation & sustainable development** in communities living around LNP, while empowering women, the Baka People and other vulnerable groups





Thank you!