



TRIDOM – Biodiversity and sustainable development in the tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé landscape

Strengthening the active participation of public, private and civil society entities in ensuring the sustainable, biodiversity-preserving development of the tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé (TRIDOM) landscape.

Context

The Dja-Odzala-Minkébé (TRIDOM) transboundary protected area complex is one of the twelve landscapes designated a priority among the Congo Basin's landscapes by the Central African Forests Commission's (COMIFAC) convergence plan. The convergence plan sets the framework for national forest policies in the whole central African subregion. With 191.541 km² TRIDOM spans over three countries: Gabon, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. It is made up of protected areas (24 %), about 120 forest concessions (65 %) and other areas used for forestry, agriculture, housing and infrastructure (11 %).

TRIDOM is one of the most pristine forest areas of the world (about 97 % forest cover) and, with its high proportion of primary forest, has a particularly rich biodiversity. As an area with high forest cover and low deforestation it plays an important role in regulating the global climate and the regional water balance. At the same time, its wealth of resources (timber, iron ore, gold) provides an important basis for economic development. As each of the three countries wants to develop these in the national interest, mining licences and infrastructure projects (dams, railway line, roads) are being planned. The pressure to convert land for food production to supply growing urban centres is also increasing. The growing, partially overlapping interests give rise to conflicts of utilisation between stakeholders from nature conservation, forestry, mining, infrastructure and local, including indigenous, population groups.

Despite the wealth of resources, the region is characterised by poverty. Data from the TRIDOM region reach only 84 % in the Congo, 88 % in Gabon and 93 % in Cameroon of the respective national Human Development Index (HDI). This is also due to the fact that the region was previously hardly accessible and the establishment and diversification of productive industries was difficult due to poor energy supply, infrastructure and market connections.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Project title | Biodiversity and sustainable development in the TRIDOM landscape |
| Commissioning entity / client | Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) |
| Implemented by | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH |
| Project area | Gabon, Cameroon, Republic of Congo |
| Lead executing organisation | Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) |
| Overall term | 09/2023 - 08/2027 (4 years) |
| Budget | 10 Mio. € |

Challenges

In 2005, the three governments signed an agreement on cooperation in TRIDOM. It strives for cooperation and a coordinated management of TRIDOM to promote nature conservation and sustainable resource use and development in favour of the local population and indigenous communities. In 2014, an agreement on combating poaching in the TRIDOM was also concluded and one on bio-corridors for large mammals was drawn up, the decision on which is still pending. They provide a good basis for biodiversity conservation but, like the TRIDOM agreement itself, have hardly been implemented to date. In 2015, a tri-national monitoring and decision-making committee (*Comité Tri-National de Supervision et d'Arbitrage*, CTSA) was set up. International support for the implementation of the convergence plan in the TRIDOM region has so far focused on measures by a large number of actors in individual protected areas. Only one TRIDOM project financed by GEF between 2013 and 2015 has so far focused on the region as a whole.

Target groups

The direct target group is the rural population of the TRIDOM landscape. It consists of around 200,000 inhabitants (Baka and Bantu) who live largely from subsistence farming, which is carried out in the vicinity of the protected areas. The target groups also include the members of the TRIDOM bodies as well as experts and managers from the private sector and civil society (NGOs) as intermediaries. These include private forestry companies (around 120 forest concessions) and some safari hunters, as well as companies from the agro-industry, mining, tourism, energy and transport sectors.

Approach

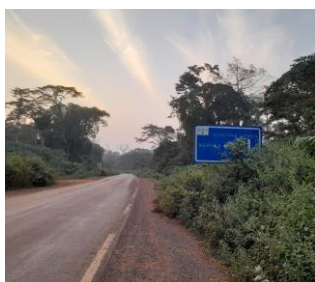
The political counterpart of the TRIDOM project is the COMIFAC. This cross-border project aims to develop and strengthen the capacities of the three stakeholder groups of public administration, the private sector and civil society to work together coherently and effectively for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development in the TRIDOM forest landscape. These are in particular the:

Support to the organs provided by the TRIDOM agreement between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon in the execution of their mandates. The aim is to initiate a common dynamic at the level of the three countries. This will be achieved in particular through the cross-border cooperation agreements and common institutional bases for planning and implementation that favour sustainable development and the protection of biodiversity in the TRIDOM landscape.

Involvement of all stakeholder groups in an exchange on the potential for reconciling biodiversity protection and socio-economic development in the TRIDOM landscape along a common target range. This will allow better coordination of the various development projects and a solution-oriented discussion of spatial overlaps of utilisation interests.

Support to private sector companies in their voluntary commitment for biodiversity protection and the promotion of sustainable socio-economic development in forest areas of the TRIDOM landscape. Their economic sustainability will be strengthened through diversified business models and the development of the certification process for the sustainable development of their concessions.

Support for municipalities, local administrative districts, the private sector and civil society for the implementation of proven and scalable approaches for the sustainable use of natural resources. In particular indigenous groups and women are supported through the development of projects that are adapted to their culture and needs. The aim is to implement and disseminate demonstration projects that promote sustainable development at a local level.



Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices: Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
TRIDOM support project
GIZ-Regional office - Yaoundé
BP 7814, Yaoundé, Cameroon
Ph +237 650 276 930/650 276 931
www.giz.de/kamerun

In cooperation with the Central African Forests Commission
Commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
BMZ-Offices: Dahlmannstraße 4 Stresemannstraße
94 53113 Bonn, 10963 Berlin, Deutschland
Ph +49 (0)228 99 535-0 T +49 (0)30 18 535-0
Ph +49 (0)228 99 535-3500 F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501
poststelle@bmz.bund.de / www.bmz.de

Responsible: Martial NKOLO
Text: Ingrid BIWOLE / Julia METSIO SIENNE
Edition: Ingrid BIWOLE
Photo credits : Julia METSIO SIENNE
GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication
April 2024