



**CONGO BASIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY-SOCIETE CIVILE ENVIRONNEMENTALE
& NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EAST AFRICA FUND**

Conservation Collaborative workshop – Bukavu 4 au 5 Décembre 2018.

Context.

Biodiversity management in Eastern DRC faces several challenges related to human pressure and the uncontrolled and poorly regulated access to natural resources for economic purposes. These multiple problems require a multi-actor framework to experiment their knowledge together for an effective future collaboration aimed on contributing to the good governance of natural resources. This exchange framework will consist in revitalizing the synergistic work on biodiversity by bringing scientific research closer to the environmental civil society practitioners involved in the field of conservation. This exercise will be done using the young students from the targeted universities and higher school who will be accompanied by a mentor preferably a professor of the field of conservation and these same Students will be used as internship in a local NGO.

One of the objectives of the framework is to strengthen engagement between researchers, conservation practitioners in local and international NGOs, and companies that develop and implement biodiversity strategies, so that scientific research is informed and useful in influencing policy decisions that will help to make choices that are needed. For conservation in the DRC in general, and in South Kivu in particular, there is a widely recognized problem of the miss collaborative actions between university research and conservation practices, a problem that we wish to deal with.

The NGOs and conservation companies have many highly qualified people who have considerable experience in implementing conservation programs in the field and have often collected excellent data that could form the advocacy database with a wide range of scientific resources underpinnings for effective political decisions.

However, these NGOs and companies often do not have the time, the technical expertise, or the academic environment to exploit the data collected wisely and produce articles for publication or to develop joint projects that can be funded.

The framework set up in DRC at the end of this workshop, will be able to propose research topics, individual advice to students who wish to know more about how to tackle the concrete problems of the conservation of biodiversity in DRC.

To remedy this problem, the environmental civil society organizes, with the support of these partners (National Geographic Society and WWF), a reflection workshop on the issue of collaboration between scientists / researchers and practitioners working in the field of conservation.

The aims:

This two-day workshop, which will be held in Bukavu, South Kivu from 4 to 5 December 2018 with a group of selected local NGOs and universities / high school, aims to promote

collaboration between scientists and practitioners engaged in the conservation of biodiversity in Eastern DRC, drawing on their complementary skills and knowledge. The goal in this dialogue will be to identify gaps, research priorities, opportunities for collaboration, funding and capacity building in advocacy supported by scientific research arguments and valuing cultural services and other ecosystem services that can help decision makers to make the choices that are needed to conserve biodiversity and contributing to local development.

A total of 45 participants through a consultation process launched since February 2018, including 5 local NGOs and 5 universities / institutions based in Bukavu were identified to participate in the workshop and this process.

Each NGO will be represented by one person (preferably the representative of the NGO) and each university will be represented by a teacher / senior mentor (teacher or supervisor of the field) and 5 students.

Expected results outcomes

- Environmental Civil Society through the collaborative framework is effectively engaged in influencing policy decisions in the management of natural resources;
- The Collaborative Framework engages in advocacy with policy makers to improve conservation by organizing sectoral thematic meetings, with the Provincial Forest Advisory Council (CCFP) and the Provincial Environment Sector Committee in alignment with the PPEFB document. (Provincial Forest Environment, Water and Biodiversity Program).
- Stakeholders commit to create a mutual network of information and capacity-building alliance on biodiversity and natural resource management in South Kivu, research priorities, opportunities for collaboration, funding and capacity-building on the enhancement of cultural services and other ecosystem services that can help policymakers to make the choices that are needed are identified;
- The choice of research topics, by institution and group of 5 young students and interactions through practical advice with students who wish to know more about how to tackle the concrete problems of biodiversity conservation in the DRC is defined.

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