Congo Basin Case Study (DRC):

Involvement and Participation of local stakeholders in ESA of Congo Basin

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Outlines

1. Why local stakeholders needed in ESA of Congo Basin?
2. Who have been contacted to participate to ESA?
3. Findings
4. Recommendations
1) Why local stakeholders needed in ESA of Congo Basin?

• Goals:
  - To share the views on “What is going now in the Ngiri – Tumba – Mai Ndombe wetland”, the new world’s largest Ramsar wetland site of international importance, since July 2008;
  - To identify and define main threats to environmental security; and
  - To define alternatives and formulate recommendations to policy and decision-makers, and also to donors for preventing conflicts and alleviating poverty.
2) Who have been contacted to participate to ESA?

2.1 Provincial authorities:
2) Who have been contacted to participate to ESA? (Cont.)

2.2 Local authorities: Administrator of Bikoro Territory & Customary Chief
2) Who have been contacted to participate to ESA? (Cont.)

2.3 Head of Public Health (Bikoro / Equateur province)
2) Who have been contacted to participate to ESA? (Cont.)

2.4 Owners (or representatives) of forest concessions
2) Who have been contacted to participate to ESA? (Cont.)

2.5 Civil society and local NGOs (Mbandaka & Bikoro / Equateur – DRC)
2) Who have been contacted to participate to ESA? (Cont.)

2.6 Fishermen associations (Bikoro / Equateur – DRC)
2) Who have been contacted to participate to ESA? (Cont.)

2.7 Pygmy communities (Nkwete Mabonzi pygmy community / Bikoro / Equateur)
3) Findings

- This ESA highlighted the following key security issues:
  - Land tenure, exploitation rights, control and access to wetland resources are not guaranteed;
  - Pervasive poverty;
  - Weak state capacity, including impunity and lack of government authority;
  - Absence or inefficiency of controls in economic sector;
  - Political disorder and disputes at provincial level;
  - Presence of local and uncontrolled armed groups.
3) Findings (Cont.)

Furthermore, the main threats the Congo Basin is facing today include:

- Temporal and spatial expansion of forest concessions;
- Poaching;
- Overfishing; and
- Illegal trafficking of natural resources.
4) Recommendations

Recommendations formulated have been validated by all stakeholders in May 2009 and submitted to National, provincial and local authorities, and also to UNDP, Civil society and local communities.
Thank you