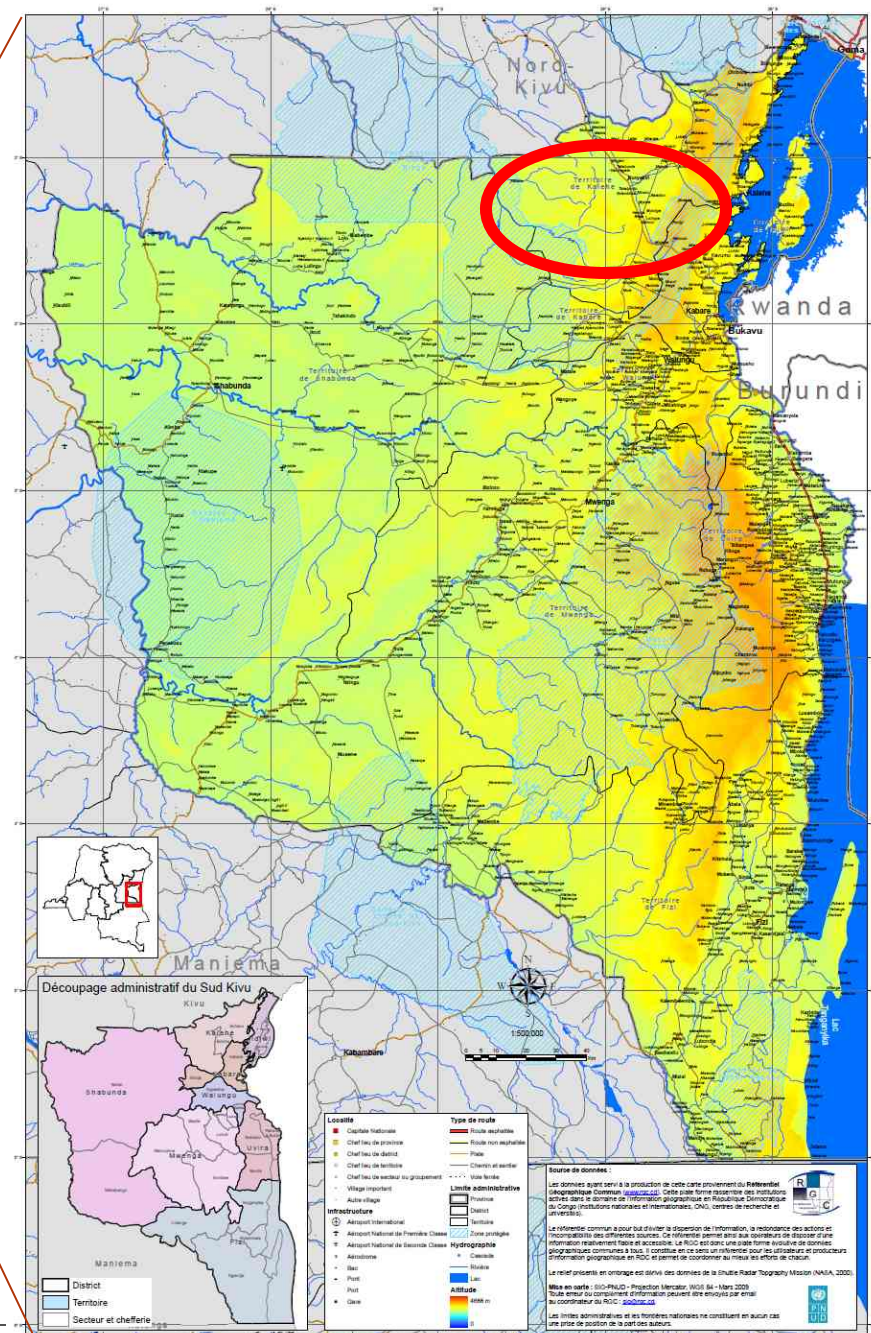
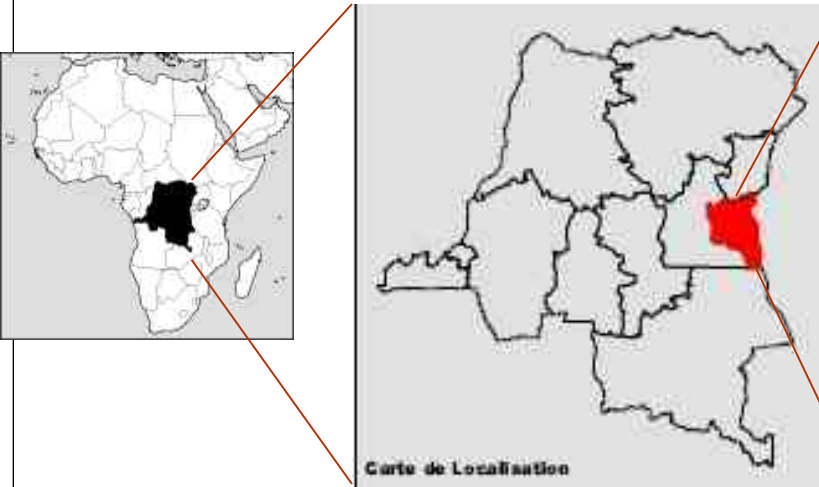


Engaging poor
communities in
conservation : what
works, what doesn't and
why

Dominique Bikaba
Strong Roots, DRC

Province du Sud Kivu



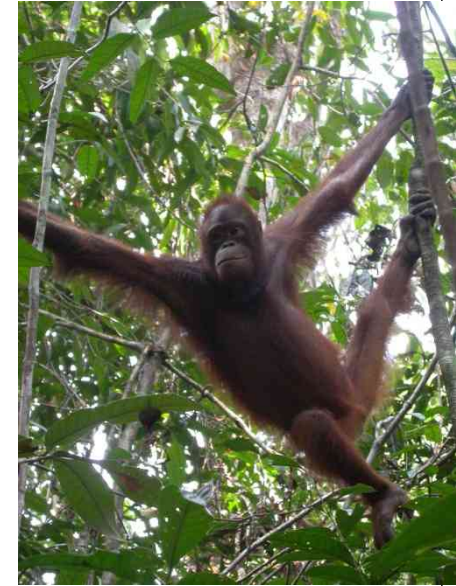
➤ ~1M Km² of forest, covering 50% of the national territory

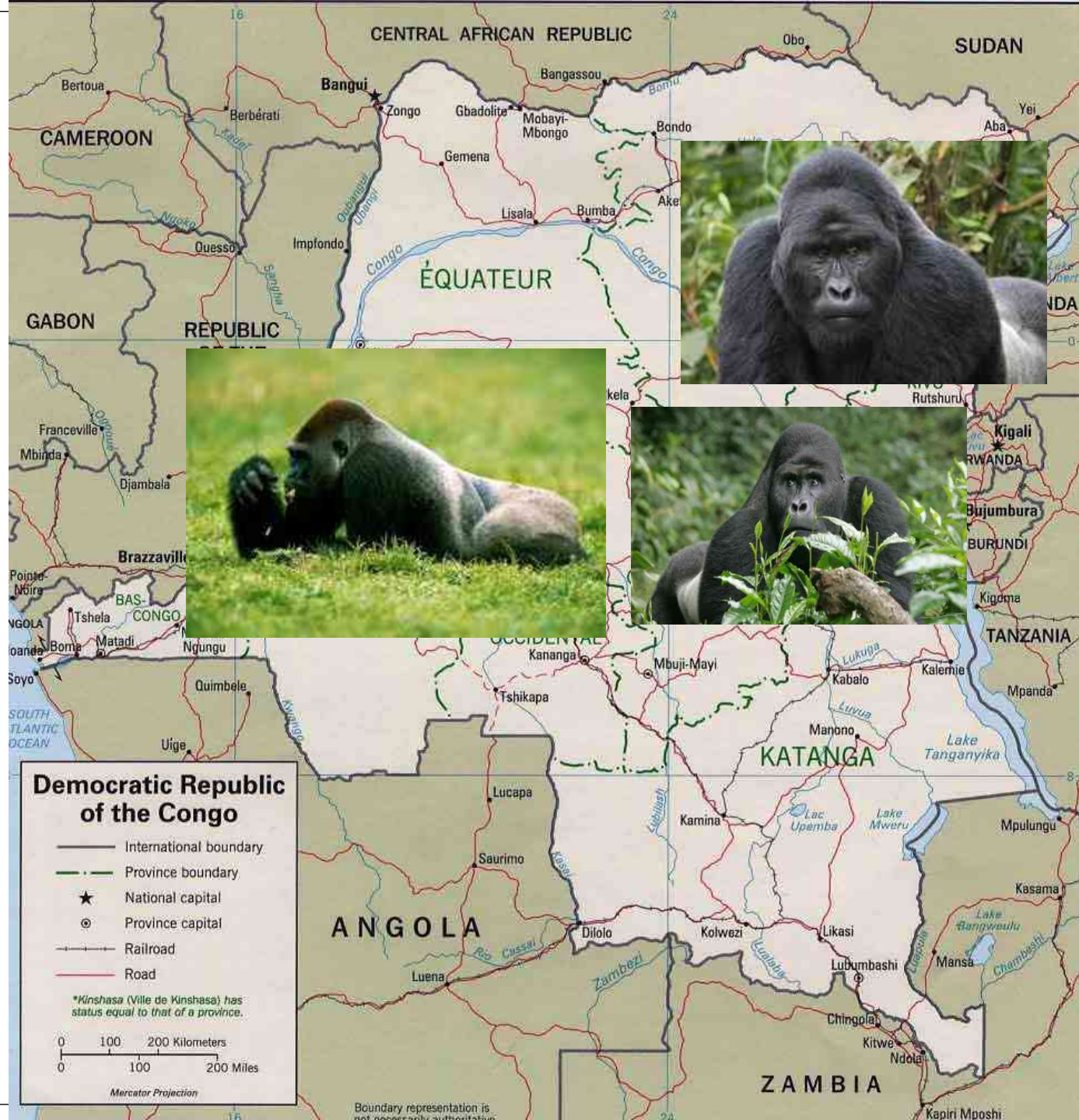
➤ ~ 50% of the African forestland

➤ ~ 86% of the Congo Basin Forest

➤ ~ 10% of national territory covered by forests under protected areas status



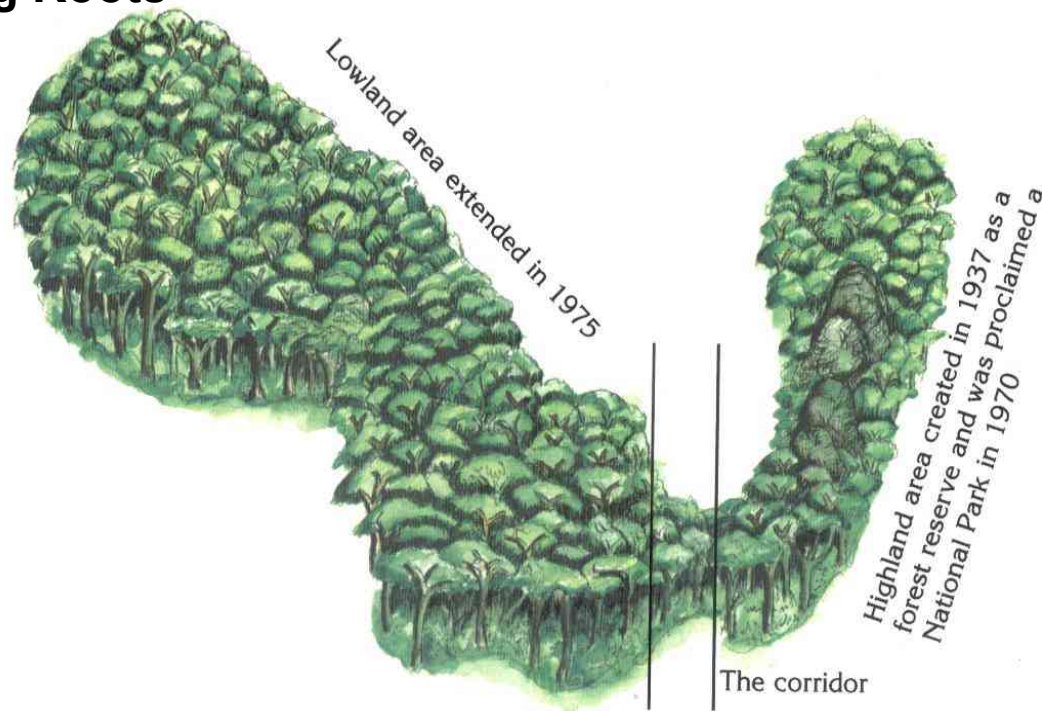






Eastern lowland gorilla in the KBNP

Case study of Strong Roots at the KBNP



- 1937
- 1970
- 1972
- 1973
- 1975
- 1980
- 1997

Great Apes Conservation and Poverty alleviation

Wildlife conservation

- Law enforcement (National parks and Natural reserves)
- Communities engaged in conservation initiatives through sustainable development projects
- Community based conservation initiatives (Traditional knowledge in Community reserves)

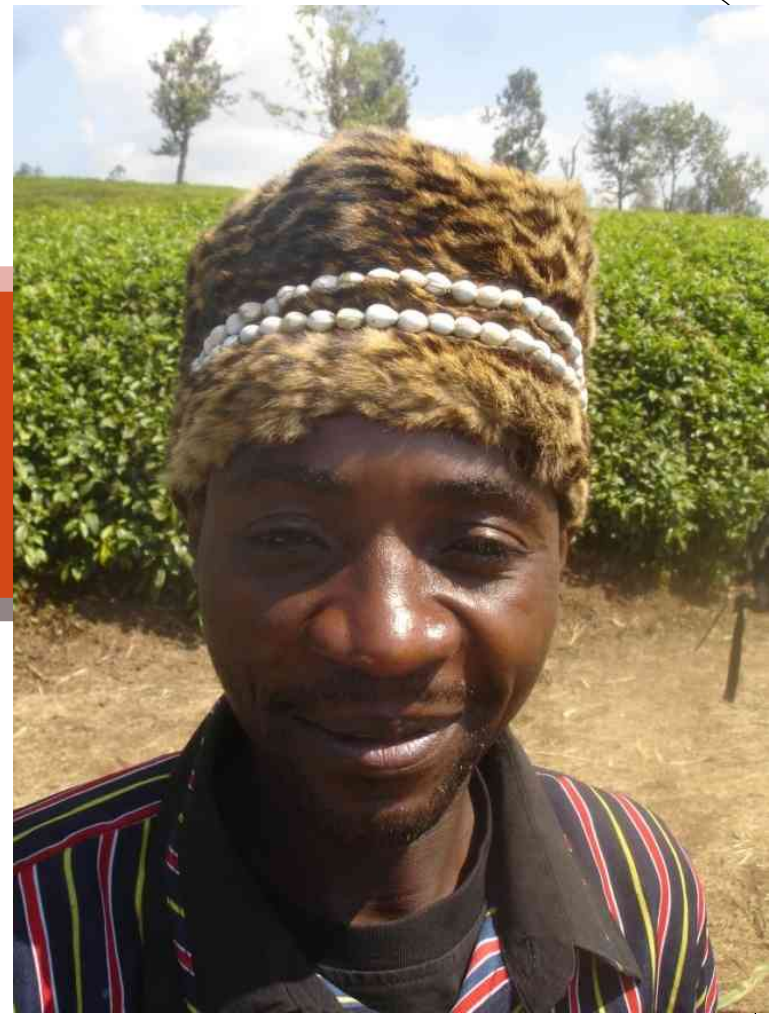
Poverty in communities

- Poverty indicators
- Communities needs, attitude to apes and habitat, relations with forests... that conservation can address
- Role of the national, international and donors policies towards local and indigenous communities in apes conservation

A man with dark skin and short hair stands in a field of dry, brownish soil with sparse green vegetation. He is wearing a yellow shirt with a wavy pattern and red dots, and a striped skirt. He holds a long wooden staff in his left hand and has his right hand raised in a fist. The background is a hilly landscape with similar vegetation.


**What works, what doesn't
work and why?**

**Not all conservation
approaches intend to
reduce poverty and not all
approaches to reduce
poverty contribute to
sustainable conservation**



Some considerations
need to be taken in
account

Communities

- 
1. A set of them are convinced of the importance of apes conservation and would be ready to engage: They know how important the apes conservation is, but they don't have choice
 2. A group of communities still are lacking enough conservation skills and knowledge what lead them not being engaged in apes conservation: Ignorance
 3. This group of communities is not interested in collaborating with the apes conservation initiatives. They claim their seized lands and want to do revenge

Communities

1. A set of them are convinced of the importance of apes conservation and would be ready to engage: They know how important the apes conservation is, but they don't have choice
Plan with them for alternatives and law enforcement
2. A group of communities still are lacking enough conservation skills and knowledge what lead them not being engaged in apes conservation: Ignorance
Plan with them for alternatives with an educational component
3. This group of communities is not interested in collaborating with the apes conservation initiatives. They claim their seized lands and need revenge
Law enforcement

Apes conservation success or failure with poverty reduction are all predictable in the planning process



- ❖ Which category of communities?
- ❖ What are the real needs? Based on their attitudes and relations with the forest
- ❖ Will the planning activities fit in the donors' policies if an endogenous asset for funding is not possible?

Law enforcement is not enough and alternatives are not enough alone





While “Education” is a key for communities, “Structure” is a key for NGOs and CBOs involved in apes conservation

Internal conflicts in organization are limits for CBOs and other local organizations to achieve their goals in ape conservation linked to poverty reduction.

Institutional and technical capacity building is required for local organizations that are interested in this topic.

Our sincere gratitude to
these organizations for their
support



Partners In Conservation



the
gorilla
organization



Equator
Initiative

zerofootprint™





Thank you