



INTERNATIONAL
PEACE PARK
EXPEDITIONS



Glacier National Park
CONSERVANCY



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada



Sangha Tri-National Protected Areas Complex

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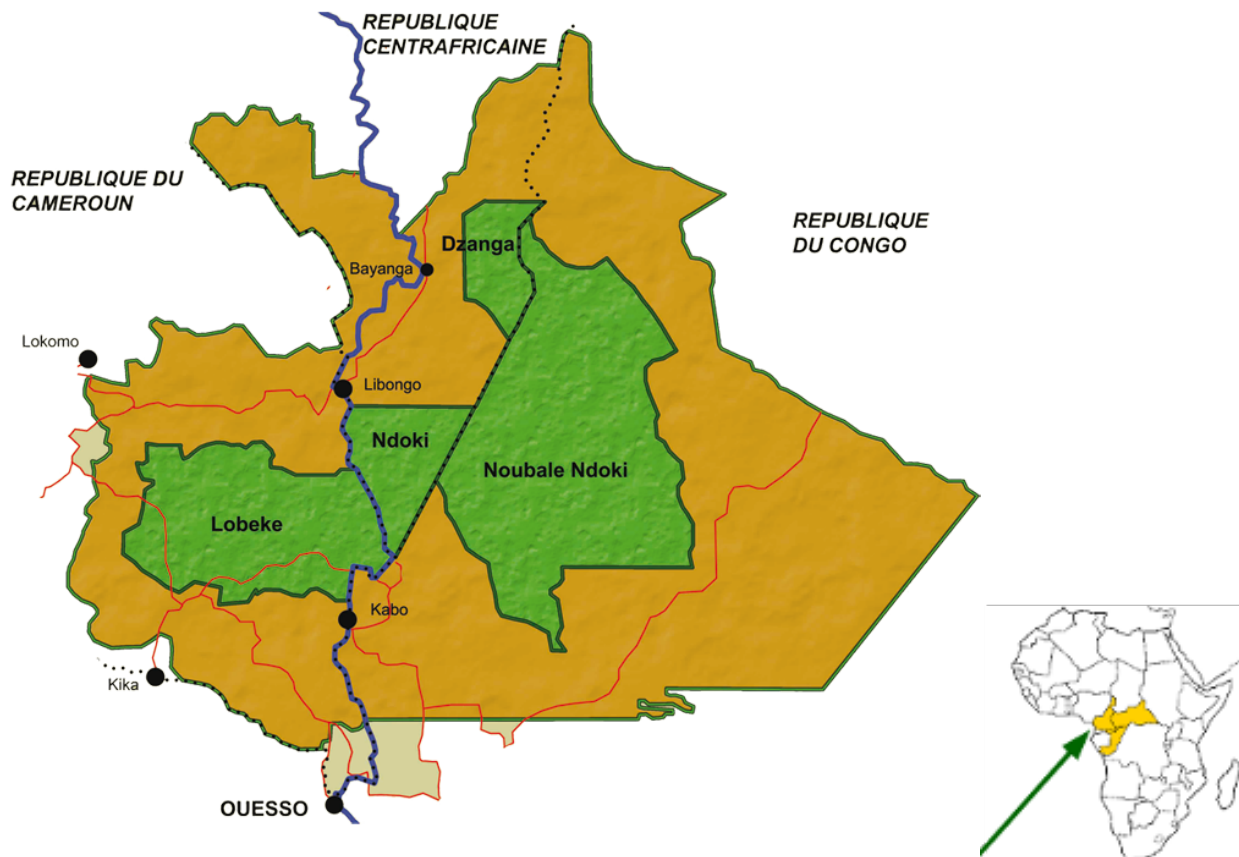
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Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo

Size: 25 000 km² + (7,542 km² TNS site, 17,880 km² buffer zone logged forest concessions)



Participants in coordinating the ongoing transboundary cooperation:

National Government:

- Ministries in charge of forests and protected areas in the three countries (Cameroon, CAR and Congo)

Local Government:

- Prefects of localities falling into TNS landscape

Protected area administration:

- National conservation services of the three parks
- Lobeke in Cameroon
- Dzanga Sangha in CAR
- Nouabale Ndoki in Congo

International NGOs:

- WWF (Cameroon, CAR)
- WCS (Congo)

Objectives: Develop transboundary cooperation in order to jointly preserve and valorize TNS rich biodiversity.

Values and importance: The TNS is the first three-country transboundary area to be nominated as a world heritage Site by UNESCO since July 2012. This was a consequence of its natural values and features which include ongoing ecological and evolutionary processes in a mostly intact and pristine forest landscape at a very large scale. TNS is also a harbor for viable populations of complete faunal and floral communities, including top predators and rare and endangered species.

Aspects of transboundary cooperation: Cooperation includes Anti-poaching activities, ecotourism, scientific research and forest conservation.

Stage in the process: Heads-of-state agreement signed and land use management plan under implementation.

Date Established: December 7, 2000.

Official Protected Area Designation: UNESCO World Heritage Site since July 2012.

The Catalyst: After the Central Africa Summit held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) in 1999, Heads-of-States decided to join their effort to preserve their forest as a contribution to worldwide initiative to conserve biodiversity and tropical forest. Joined management of Transboundary protected areas was among the main strategies adopted at the end of the summit.

History: The main factor was the politic will of Heads-of -States after the Yaoundé Summit in Cameroon.

Barriers, challenges, obstacles, or constraints:

- Increase of poaching especially driven by the development of ivory market in Asia
- Mining and industrial projects
- Low financial resources

To face these challenges the Tri-national trust fund (FTNS) was created to support protected areas and cooperation activities. Also sensitization and dialog among different stakeholders are regularly encouraged.

The Governance and Management Structures

The TNS cooperation agreement created three governance structures:

- A Tri-national committee for supervision and arbitration (CTPE) which includes the three ministers in charge of protected areas from each TNS country. The committee is in charge of decision.
- A Tri-national committee for monitoring (CTS) which includes the three Divisional Officers from each TNS country with the role of monitoring.
- A Tri-national committee for planning and implementation (CTPE) which is constituted by parks managers and their partners. CTPE has the role of planning and implement joint actions such as: anti-poaching patrols, ecotourism and wildlife monitoring.

Results

- Creation of a Tri-national Brigade
- Nomination of TNS in the world heritage list
- Creation of a Trust Fund for sustainable financing of TNS activities

Lessons Learned

- The TNS cooperation is the first transboundary cooperation in the Congo Basin region. Its experience is inspiring and fostering many other conservation initiatives.
- Besides of the legal governance structure, the presence of a permanent body (i.e executive secretary) will help to better coordinate activities, improve communication between the different governance structures and impulse new ideas.

For More Information

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