Public Summary of Management Plan
GWI 1
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General Presentation

Gabon Wood Industries

We are a Malaysian Company who has been investing in Gabon since 25 years ago. Gabon Wood Industries (GWI) was established in 2012 in the Gabon Special Economic Zone (GSEZ). We own 12 ha of industrial land and approximately 400,000 ha of forest mainly in the southern part of Gabon with an annual production of approximately 400,000 m$^3$ of round logs. We operate our forest under Sustainable Forest Management practices ensuring the products you buy from us are of quality, reliable and most importantly, sustainable and environmentally friendly.

A CPAET for GWI 1 was signed on June 10, 2015, between the Minister of Forestry and GWI. GWI 1 consists of 5 PFAs (PFA 20/11, PFA 21/11, PFA 22/11, PFA 23/11 and PFA 28/11), for a total area of 138,259 ha.
Environment

Climate

GWI 1 CFAD (Forest Concession under Sustainable Management) is under a transitional tropical rainfall pattern with a short dry season of three months (June, July and August) followed by a long wet season of nine months, characterized by a more or less significant rainfall shortfall (generally three months). It rains from 2,000 to 2,800 mm per year.

Topography

In the Mouila area (PFA 20/11, 21/11 and 28/11), altitudes vary from 120 m to 500 m, with the eastern part being higher. The terrain is composed mainly of sub-flat hills with gentle slopes and convex hills with medium slopes, with 55% of the area on slopes of less than 15%. Operating conditions are easy to moderate.

In PFA 22/11, elevations range from 540 to 980 m. The terrain is formed mainly by convex hills with medium to steep slopes, with 65% of the area on slopes between 16% and 50%. The conditions of exploitation are average to difficult.

In PFA 23/11, elevations range from 540 to 1,020 m. The relief is formed mainly convex hills with medium to steep slopes, with 71% of the area on slopes between 71% of the area is on slopes between 16% and 50%. The operating conditions are medium to very difficult.

Fauna

Most of the fauna species present within GWI 1 are medium and large mammals. Some characteristic reptiles were also searched. In total, 66 species such as gorilla, elephant, buffalo, chimpanzee and many duikers were surveyed.

Vegetation

There are five types of vegetation formations in this CFAD:

1. Old and recent village crops occupy a total area of 3,840 ha, in five zones:
   (a) At GWI camp, crops from Mokabo village;
   (b) East of PFA 21/11, on the Lebamba-Yeno road, crops from Epamboa and Bilengui villages;
   (c) South of PFA 22/11, on the Lebamba-Mbigou road, crops from the villages Ndenga, Mayani, Poto Poto, and Malou Loulou;
   (d) North of Mbigou, in PFA 23/11, on the Mbigou-Popa road, crops from the village of Ndongui and the inhabitants of Mbigou;
   (e) North of PFA 23/11, on the Mimongo-Koulamoutou road, crops of the village Boulembou.

2. Savannahs are present, mainly in PFA 20/11, near the Ngounié River, and at higher elevations in PFAs 22/11 and 23/11. They occupy an area of approximately 1,720 ha;
3. Some swamps are found along the Onoy River, east of PFA 28/11, along the Haut Offoué River, at the eastern boundary of PFA 23/11, and along the Boumi River, north of Mbigou, in PFA 23/11 on about 460 ha;

4. A particular sub-montane formation stands out on the satellite image, in the PFA 23/11, on approximately 230 ha;

5. The remainder of the CFAD is covered by dense terra firma forest of approximately 132,200 ha.

Socio-Economic Analysis

A socio-economic study was conducted during 2017 by CURFOD in villages located in and around the CFAD. We summarize the main points here.

The total riparian population of the GWI 1 concession is 60,500 (RGPL, 2013). This population is predominantly urban, and has seen a slight increase from 2003 to 2013.

The urban population is mainly distributed among the three cities of Mouila, Lebamba and Mbigou.

The rural population is scattered in about thirty villages.

The information collected shows three dominant ethnic groups in the GWI 1 management zone: the Sango, the Nzébi and the Tsogo. These ethnic groups cohabit with others, notably the Babongo Pygmies, the Punu and the Vungu.

An examination of the geographical and spatial distribution shows that:

1. The Sango predominate throughout the GWI 1 concession, first between Mbigou and Mimongo but also in Mouila and Lebamba;
2. The Nzébi are found mainly in the Mbigou area, but also in a few villages in Lebamba, in the Louetsi Wano department, and in Mouila in the Douya Onoye department;
3. The Tsogo are located in the areas of Mouila, Mimongo and Lebamba;
4. The Babongo Pygmies, in particular, are present in the Mimongo area but also in a village in Mbigou: Kongui;
5. The Punu are found in the areas of Mouila and Lebamba;
6. This is also the case of the Vungu, who are found in Mouila. This is an ethnolinguistic group very close to the Punu.

Information of the Concession

Management Inventory

The results of the management inventories are detailed in the management inventory reports.

The management inventory is the major tool for the rational and planned management of the forest concession. It allows an evaluation of the timber resource, in quality and quantity, a
better knowledge of the dynamics of the populations, of the wildlife resource and of the use of the products of the forest by the local populations.

We wanted to have inventory results with a minimum accuracy of 10% for the main species at the CFAD level. In accordance with the inventory protocol, 259 plots were therefore installed in GWI 1.

With this arrangement, the sampling rate obtained is approximately 1.1% for the main species that can be harvested, with an average spacing between plots of 3,000 m.

**Objective Species**

Thirty-nine objective species are defined for CFAD GWI 1:

Group P1: 1. Okoumé; 2. Ozigo;


**Forest Management Measures**

**Forest Management Objectives**

**Sustainable Timber Production and Processing**

GWI is in the business of logging and processing timber into finished products. The main objective of the operation is therefore to harvest okoumé logs and other species for local processing, particularly in the sawmill based in Mokabo.

**Socio-Economic Objective**

The CFAD is mainly inhabited along the main roads. The population lives mainly from agriculture and harvesting. In view of the discontinuous nature of the village boundaries and given the human density in certain areas, it is proposed to set up areas for the use of the populations.

**Environmental Objective**

The forest that covers CFAD GWI 1 is a forest of Myristicaceae, Burseraceae, Euphorbiaceae, and Olacaceae, mostly of medium altitude. Remarkable forest formations, notably the forest at altitudes above 700 m, are present in the Mbila area. This justifies the creation of a conservation series. The same is true for the savannahs included in PFA 20/11. Certain rare or very rare main species or those that are absent from the CFAD will be prohibited from exploitation. Protection of environment will be carried out throughout the CFAD, and especially in the production areas through low-impact logging, particularly in the hilly, steeply sloping areas of Pana, located in the Ramsar zone. The impact of the operation on wildlife will be reduced primarily by the control of hunting by company personnel and its contractors.
Rules of Operation

Sustainable Forest Management

The inventory of exploitation is carried out by systematic grid of east-west and northsouth.

The list of species to be inventoried corresponds to the objective species. The minimum diameters of inventory will be the diameter in the Management Plan.

All qualities are inventoried, and labeled with a plastic tag with a number, nailed to the tree.

Future trees and seedlings will be identified at the time of tracking. Species prohibited from harvesting will be visibly marked.

Reduced Impact Logging

All recommendations and guidelines contained in the FAO Regional Code for Low Impact Logging in the Dense Tropical Rainforests of West and Central Africa shall be applied, including recommendations for road construction, felling, trimming in the forest, skidding, trimming in log yards, etc.
Social Measures

Internal Social

Continuous effort by the Company will be made to improve on these areas which concern the staff: security, health, hygiene, training (first aid, directional felling and so on) etc.

External Social

Contribution to local development will be managed in accordance with article 251 of the Forestry Code

Environmental Measures

Measures will be taken by the Company to protect the environment and biodiversity including proper planning of road, maintenance of watercourse etc.