GREEN OLOGBO

An integrated project for sustainable development of oil palm plantation

Collaboration SIAT (Presco) / CIRAD

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Green Ologbo Project

Responsible development of new planting (RSPO Principles & Criteria)

- Promoting biodiversity conservation and environmental services
- Enhancing local development and social well-being

Forecast: Estate of about 11,300 ha
(7,300 acquired + 4,000 ha in process of acquisition)

→ Where to plant, where to protect?
→ Which actions to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive ones?

« Assess, Plan, Act, Check »

- Integrative assessment
- Land use map
- Action plan
- Monitoring
Integrative Assessment

- **Agricultural capacity**

- **Conservation value**
  - Exceptional or critical ecological attributes
    (e.g. endemic, endangered species or ecosystem)
  - Services provided by the ecosystem
    (e.g. erosion control, watershed protection)
  - Social functions: cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance
    (e.g. NTFP, holy sites)

- **Socio-economic dynamics**
  - Demography and population distribution
  - History of settlement and land use / customary rights
  - Level of dependencies of local communities on land and natural resources
Environmental and social impact assessment, high conservation value identification (FSC), multidisciplinary landscape assessment (CIFOR), agrarian diagnosis: soil and topographic surveys, fauna and flora surveys, socio-economic surveys, ethno-ecological surveys, participatory mapping, GIS, etc.
Integrative Assessment

Agricultural capacity

- A dense hydrological network

- A lot of swamp areas with permanent water logging: not suitable for oil palm

- Suitable soils (« Terres de Barres ») in the northern area
Integrative Assessment

Conservation value

- A complex and differentiated human environment
  - A highly populated area, with a high migration rate
    - Very high land pressure
    - Social challenges

- Two ecological zones
  - North-eastern area: cultivated, fallow and grass lands
    - Low conservation value
  - South-western area: wetlands and degraded lowland rainforest, still hosting valuable biodiversity
    - Conservation value, urgent protection
Integrative Assessment

Regional landscape: protected areas and forest cover

Protected Areas in Nigeria

Legend:
- Green: Forest Reserves
- Yellow: Game Reserves
- Pink: Special Reserve

Produced by Nigerian Conservation Foundation

Spot 5, Dec. 2003

- Presco Estates
- Forest Reserves
Protection of the areas of conservation value

*About 40% of total Estate (4,463 ha)*

- Hydrological network and swamps areas + associated buffer zone
- Forest areas
- Fauna corridors - concession level and regional landscape
- Oil palm strip along the western and southern boundary (Presco «foot print» + easy access for patrolling)
Conversion of cultivated and degraded lands (fallow, grasslands) to oil palm plantation

- Forecast: 7,000 ha (12,3800 ton FFB, 26,000 ton CPO)
- Acting as a buffer zone to prevent encroachment of the conservation area from eastern and northern communities
- « Biodiversity plots »
- Standing trees inside plantation fields
Conservation Action Plan

→ Effective protection of the conservation area

• Clear demarcation of the boundary

• Effective protection: ecoguards team patrolling (sensitization and law enforcement)

• Environmental and conservation education programme among surrounding communities

• Recruitment of a protected area manager
Local development

- Generate positive social impacts
- Reduce the pressure on forest resources

- Outgrowers scheme
- Employment
- Infrastructures and social actions (education, water, electricity, etc.)
Monitoring

- Ecological monitoring
  - Bio-indicators & flagship species
    (birds, insects, primates, fishes)
  - Vegetation survey
    (phytosociological indices, exploitation rate, encroachment rate)
  - Hydrology

- Socio-economic monitoring
  - 5 settlements, more than 150 households
Some questions raised and lessons learnt

• Formal EIA
  ➢ Additional surveys to go beyond formal EIA

• Land tenure issue
  ➢ Overlapping between legal and customary rights

• Biodiversity assessment
  ➢ Lack of existing data
  ➢ Time and human resources need for baselines surveys

• Land use / landscaping
  ➢ Lack of knowledge on ecosystem functioning and conservation biology for landscape ecology (e.g.: - width/shape of fauna corridor and buffer zone? - influence of the inclusive conservation areas on pest management?)

• Monitoring
  ➢ Lack of consensual, reliable and robust indicators and thresholds
Conclusion

The Green Ologbo project:

- Some difficulties encountered
- Some achievements made

An opportunity of “experience based co-learning” (Defoer et al., 2007)

Responsible oil palm growers can be actors of conservation

To meet the target of Sustainable oil palm development:

- Coordinate efforts of all stakeholders (HCVI at regional and national scale)
- Promote research (assessment tools, landscape ecology, etc.)

Moving from “Sustainable production” to
“Sustainable management of a complexe agro-socio-ecosystem”