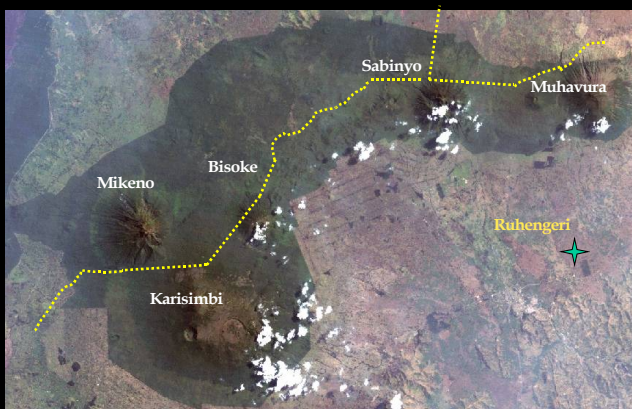


Linking Conservation & Development: emerging lessons from ICDPs in the Virungas

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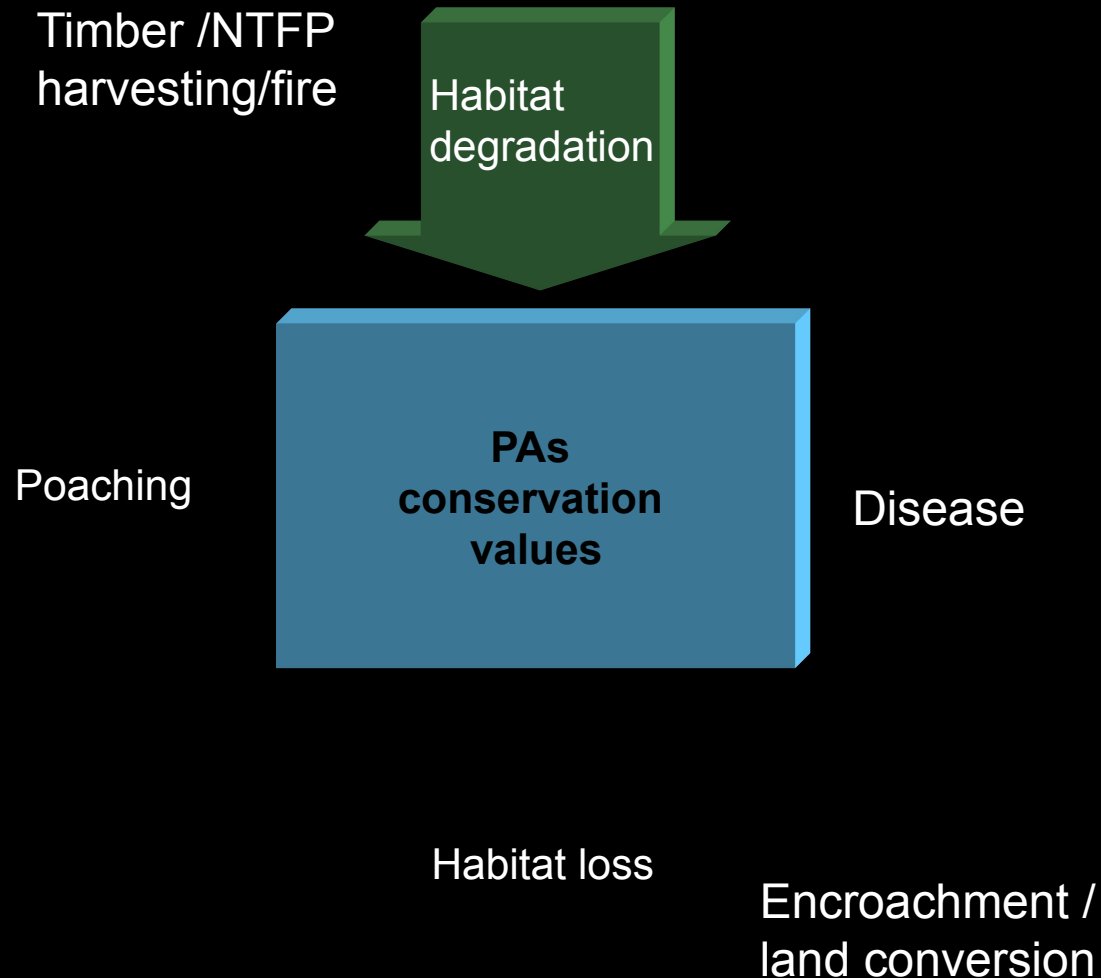
Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (IIED / Arcus), Flora
and Fauna International and CIFOR
Linking conservation of great apes and poverty alleviation
Masindi, Uganda, November 2010



Outline

1. ICDP: model and current evolution
2. Some ongoing activities (EEEEGL)
3. Evidence from economic impact study, Rwanda
4. Possible future avenues

Biodiversity threats in Mountain Gorilla Protected Areas



ICD Model for protected areas (PAs)

- Pathways for delivering conservation impact:
 - A. “**Decoupling**” - reduce demand for PA resources by developing alternatives (e.g. an enterprise specifically targeted at a group dependent on PA resources)
 - B. “**Coupling**” - increase incentives for sustainable NR management/conservation through increased access to PA resources and NR-based enterprise (e.g ecotourism)
 - C. Generate goodwill/trust/political will through PA/conservation-related programmes that address communities’ priority needs/interests (e.g a successful enterprise known to be facilitated by conservation funding)
 - D. Enhance appreciation of the value of future benefits from conservation through measures to reduce vulnerability of poor households (e.g. savings promotion)

ICD portfolio

	RW	UG	DRC
Tourism enterprise income and multiplier effects	+	+	
Tourism revenue sharing	++	++	
Access rights over certain PA resources		++	
Conservation awareness raising	++	+++	+
Rural income diversification / small projects	++	+++	+
Social infrastructure	++	++	+
Grassroots development planning		++	
Alternative sources of water, firewood, Non timber forest products	++	++	++
Problem animal control	++	++	+
Public health	+	++	+
Local conflict mitigation / collaborative management	+	++	+
Law enforcement and awareness	+++	++	+

ICD evolution: (CARE UG/REPA; CARE/IGCP EEEGL)

- ⇒ **Right-based approach**: resource and revenue access rights; policy advocacy and reform
- ⇒ Growing focus on **governance**: public accountability / civil society empowerment
- ⇒ **Mainstreaming rural livelihood development**:
 - ⇒ access to financial services/saving groups;
 - ⇒ agriculture value chains
 - ⇒ agriculture change/land tenure
- ⇒ Building **local capacities** (CBOs/CSOs/networks)
- ⇒ More explicit **social targeting** (Twas, vulnerable and marginalized groups)



EEEGL (www.virunga.net)



Village Saving & Loans



Seed potato system



Beekeeping market linkages



Mushroom enterprise



Ecotourism enterprises



Community based monitoring & planning



Tourism revenue sharing



Public accountability through CSOs



Land tenure regularization near PNV

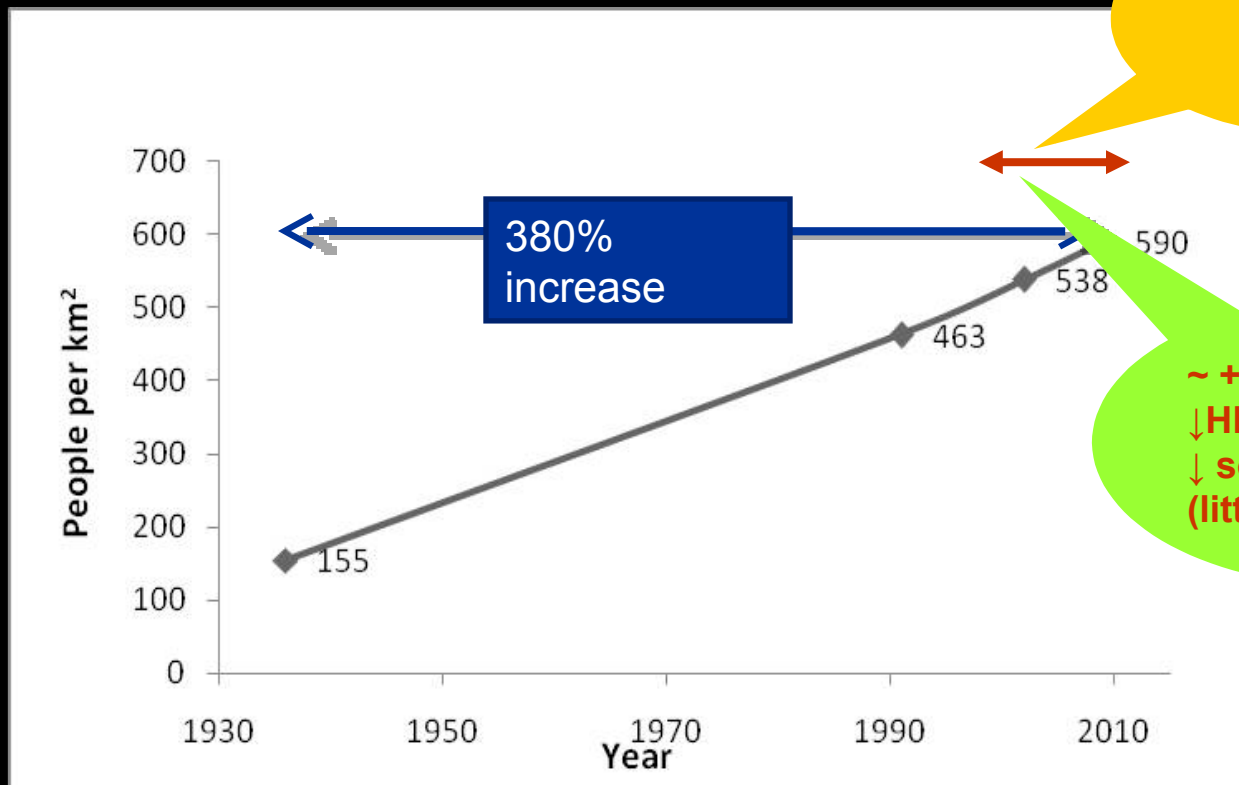


BMCA multiple use zones

ICD benefits

- **Governance impacts:**
 - Collaborative management and conflict mitigation experiences / complements to law enforcement
 - Controlled access rights (Uganda)
 - Experimentation in devolution and accountability
 - Transboundary collaboration
 - (problem animal mgt remains a challenge)
- **Islands of economic impacts**
 - Tourism direct benefits (income, jobs) and multiplier effects
 - Sharing small % of tourism revenues in RW and UG
 - Scattered income generation projects – sustainability ?
- **Advocacy effects:**
 - on flow of grant aid into the region – social infrastructure / small dev. projects
 - Policymakers' positive attention on conservation
- **Knowledge and attitudes:**
 - Improved knowledge base, but patchy on socio-economic context
 - Improved local awareness of conservation values (biodiversity, water, climate)
 - Some evidence of Improved local perceptions/attitudes (in opinion surveys – not necessarily through behavioral change)

Human Population Density Changes in sectors bordering PNV, Rwanda 1936 – 2009



Data source: Weber (1987) Ruhengeri and its Resources; National Census Service (2002) National Census

PNV livelihood and community conservation impact study : some key findings (Bush et al 2010)

- Tourism revenue sharing (USD 2.17 per person cumulative 2005-9): overall marginal impact on population
- Pathways of ICDP strategies (esp. decoupling) at present intensity : not supported by evidence (snares per patrol effort have slightly risen 2005-2009)
- Higher (prob. growing) levels of poverty (low income) leads to more illegal park use (higher threats)
- Poverty alleviation seems well beyond the scope of “community conservation” strategies:
 - needs mainstream economic development
 - social targeting is key to ICDP strategies, albeit in niche role: not adequately addressed

ICD Limitations

- Superficial problem assessment:
 - Simplistic analysis of poverty/environment relationships
 - Scant attention on landscape/agro-ecological change and regional economic development
- Inadequate grasp of cross-scale effects
 - Effects of regional/national/global drivers
 - Narrow scope of local interventions (pilot project syndrome)
- Techno-centric solutions
 - Limited empowerment of local actors
- Does it work?
 - Unclear impact on resource status and poverty
 - Often reactive strategies
 - Reductionist approach to socio-ecological change and landscape conservation models

“You assume that when you work out something with people, that is it; but people keep changing and doing other things.”

Possible future avenues x ICDPs in the densely populated Virunga landscape

- Refocus “D”:
 - Continue strengthening governance work, experimentation with devolution and support to decentralization
 - The D answer is in mainstream development: grasp it and advocate, not necessarily do it – build bridges with mainstream actors
 - Improve social targeting of community conservation strategies
- Turn “C” into “E”:
 - Maintain focus of conservation organisations on their core expertise
 - Zoom out of PA boundaries and look at landscapes: Improve grasp of how societies and environment change together
 - Embed projects in multi-stakeholder processes
 - Invest in good project M&E evidence