

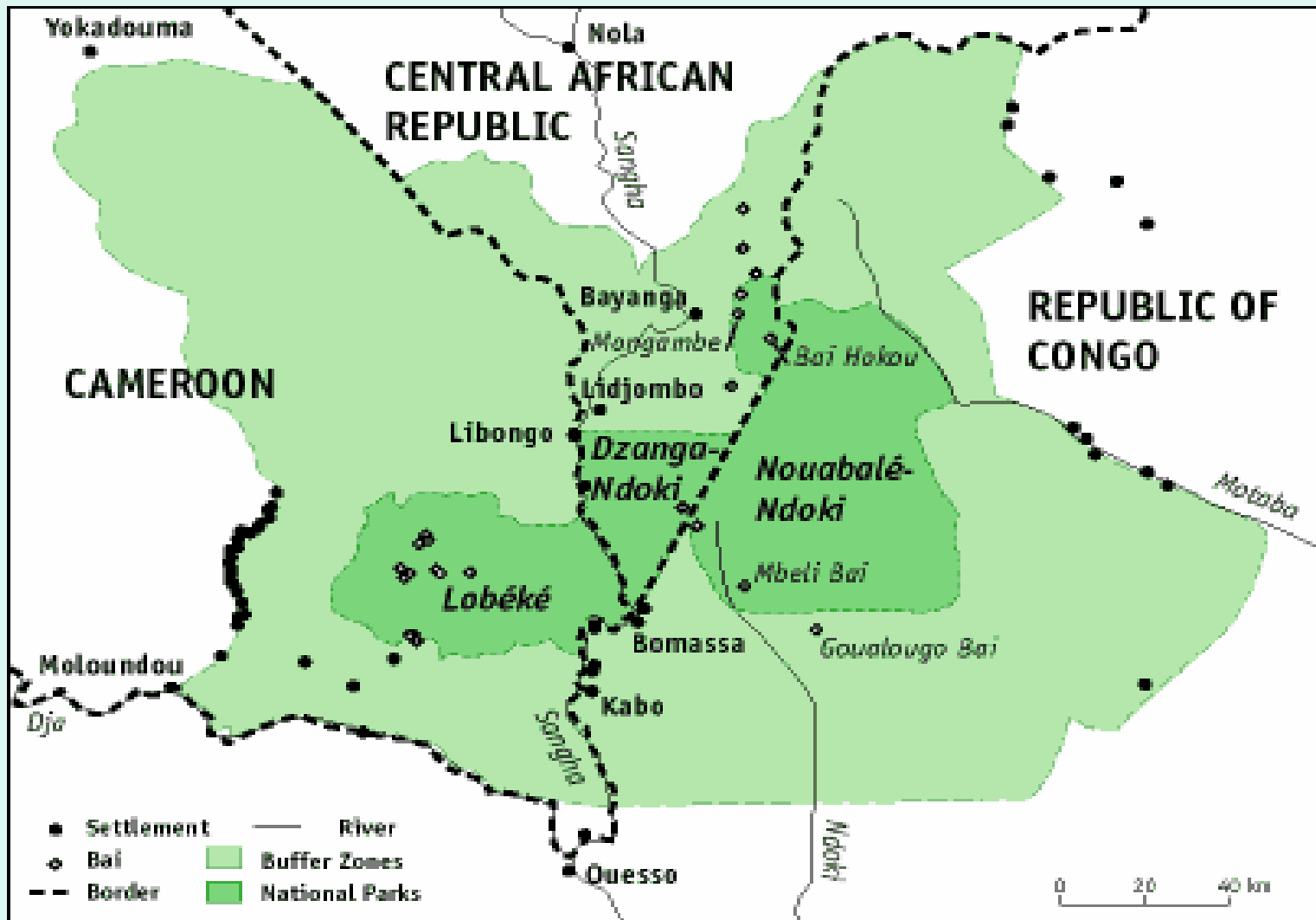
**A Critical Analysis
of the Interrelation between
Indigenous Livelihoods
and
Sustainable Forest Management -
Integrating Gender Aspects**

**Case of the
Sangha Trinational Conservation Area**

Overview

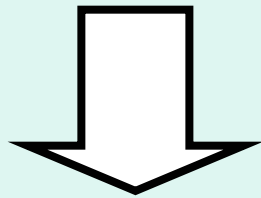
- 1. Introduction to Research Area**
- 2. Research Problem**
- 3. Research Objective**
- 4. Research Question**
- 5. Methodology and Methods**
- 6. Results on Forest Use and Management**
- 7. Implications for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Conservation**

Research Area



Research Problem

- **Concepts and Practices of SFM are too globally defined.**
- **They do not acknowledge the socio-cultural context of forest dwellers.**



- **Forest dwellers are pushed to the position of onlookers with almost no say in the way the forest should be managed.**



Research Objective

**To examine the implications
of gender diverse forest practices for SFM**

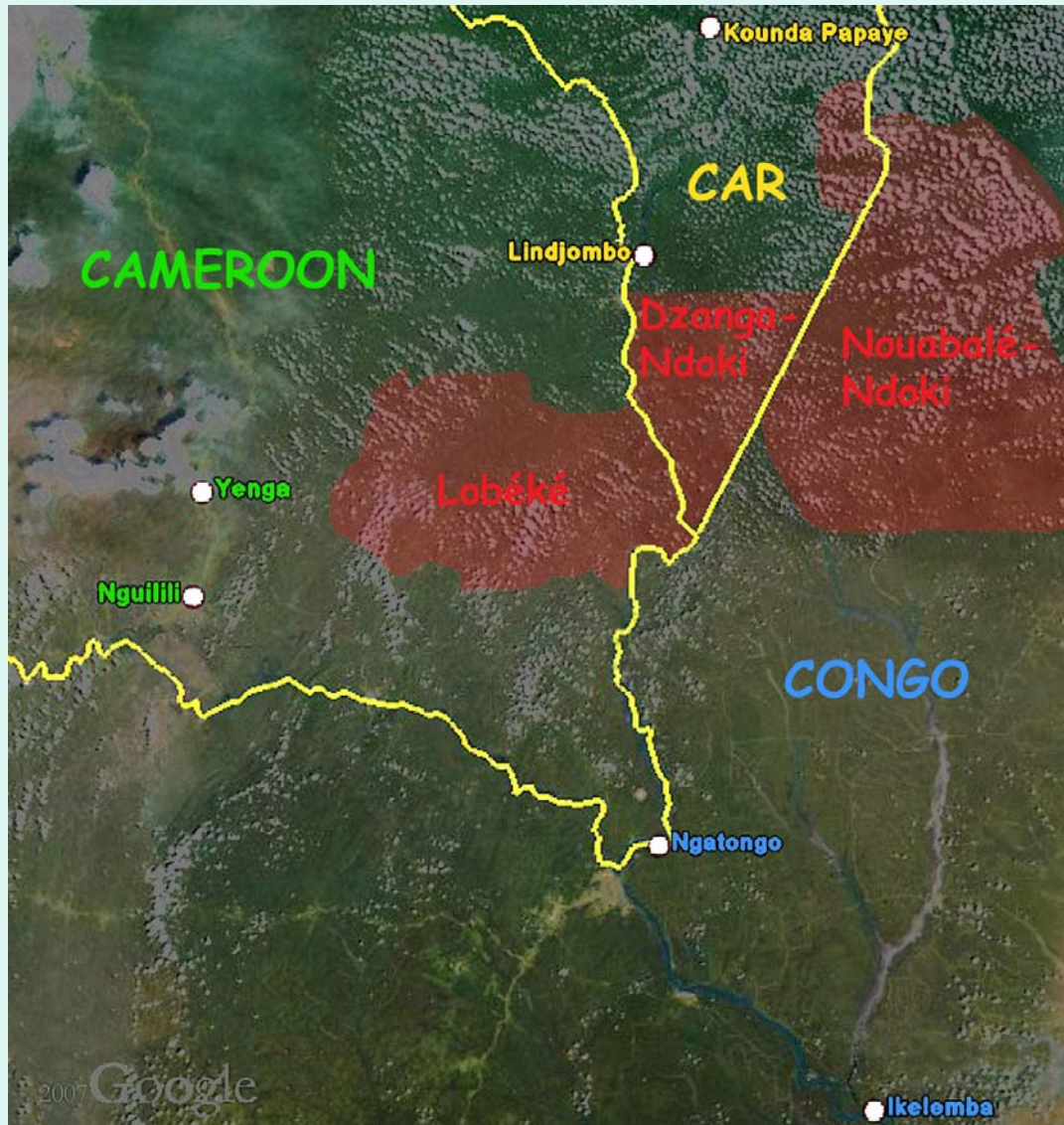


Research Question

How do the differences in the way men and women use, control and manage the forest affect Sustainable Forest Management?



Methodology



Google Map, modified by author

Methods

Qualitative Methods

- Participatory mapping
- Group discussions
- Open-ended interviews
- Participant/field observation



Quantitative methods

- Household survey
- Matrix ranking



Results

Ethnic groups in the villages:

Bantu



Master-Slave relationship

Baaka have an acephalous society

Bantu have a defined administrative system

A range of political, religious and economic ties exist between both groups

Baaka



Results

Livelihood Portfolio for Bantu/Baaka:

Hunting

- Dominated by men
- Baaka women are also active

Gathering

- Dominated by women and children

Fishing

- Women and men are equally active

Agriculture

- Men and Women are equally involved



Results

Importance of Hunting, Gathering and Fishing:

- The products are important in virtue of their subsistence, economic and social value



- The activities themselves have important cultural and spiritual value

Results

Indigenous Management Systems:

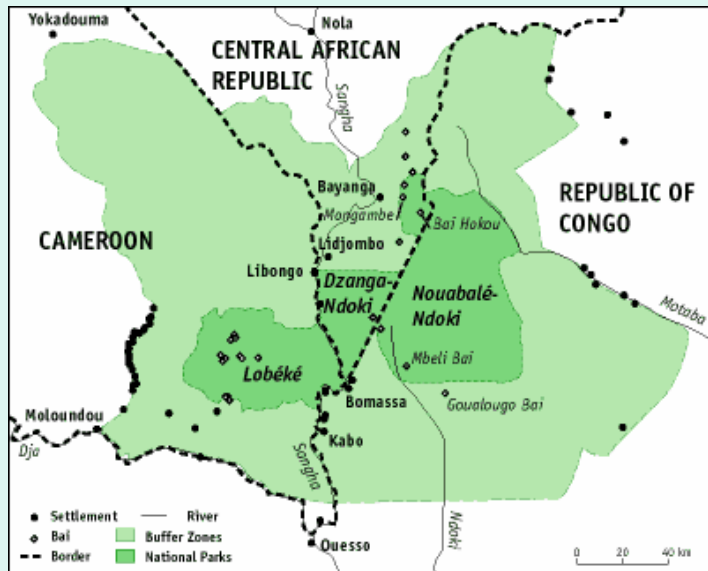
- **Forest partitioning**
- **Protection of ritual sites, certain animals (totems) and certain plants**
- **Planting of important forest products on farms**
- **Avoiding overexploitation of forest products**

Results

Conflicts Involved in Forest Use:

1. Conservation Projects

- Local people are forbidden to enter resource rich areas
- Community-zones given to local people do not cover their needs
- Ecoguards confiscate bush meat, send people out of the forest and rummage through people's houses



Results

Conflicts Involved in Forest Use:

2. Logging Companies

3. Safari Hunters

4. Poachers



Results

Participation in Forest Management:

1. Opportunity for the Local People

Involvement in decision making

Incentives for the state/conservation projects:

- **Good identification skills**
- **Good tracking skills**
- **Traditional management systems**

Results

Participation in Forest Management:

2. Constraints for the Local People

- Objectives of the conservation projects are not understood by the local people
- Efforts are not made to ensure participation of women in consultation meetings
- The Baaka are marginalised

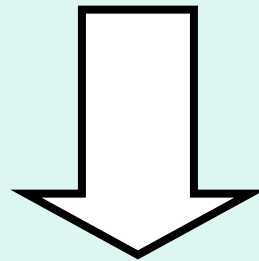
Results

Major contribution of research and analysis:

- Differences in gender identities of men and women are directly linked to their different roles related to the forest.
- Men and women have different basic social patterns of organisation, resource use and interactions.
- The ***differences*** in the roles and responsibilities of men and women in forest use and management
- The ***differences*** in the bodies of knowledge about the forest and its resources
- The ***differences*** in social power between men and women as well as between the local communities and other forest actors

Implications for SFM and Conservation

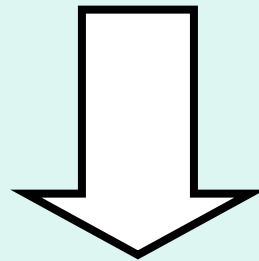
“A law which makes the most common form of conduct illegal is itself an instrument of indiscipline and serves neither the interests of the state nor....the communities” (Egbe 2001).



Identifying the subsistence, economic and cultural values of forest parts, plants and animals as well as indigenous management strategies, to strengthen and complement sustainable resource use in the area.

Implications for SFM and Conservation

The knowledge of the local people should be seen as an opportunity to involve them as active partners in the management and monitoring of the area.



Since the activities and knowledge systems of men and women complement each other, they should be considered equal partners in this process.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

