



Since 2006, SVBC has focused on establishing multistakeholder platforms at different levels for civil society, business and government stakeholders to jointly address forest governance needs and issues.

At the community level, the project is supporting the formation and work of Committees for Dialogue and Vigilance (CDV). These village-based organisations have a remit to monitor forest exploitation, build rela-

The CDVs act as a “bridge” between villages and Bikoro’s Consultative Committee on Forest Governance. Created with SVBC’s support, this structure was formally approved by the governor of Equator province in 2007. All CDVs are members of the Consultative Committee. Under its charter, the Committee’s objectives include:

- A engaging civil society, logging companies and government in a dialogue to analyse and resolve forest governance issues;
- A raising awareness of DRC’s regulatory and fiscal framework for forests;
- A mediating conflicts; and
- A ensuring effective monitoring of forest concession management.

In May 2008, Equator province formally recognised REBOGOF, the third structure established under SVBC. The membership and objectives of this network are still being finalised but, like the Consultative Committee, it will provide a multistakeholder framework for addressing forest governance needs and linking actions at different administrative levels.

By working with and through these multistakeholder platforms, SVBC has made substantial progress in building capacity and raising awareness of forest governance needs, principles and strategies in DRC.

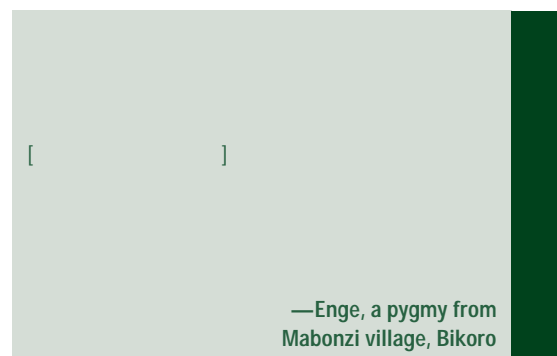
In Bikoro, the project has organised two workshops on forest governance values for 50 people from 15 villages in the concession area of ITB. It has also held a workshop on participatory forest monitoring to strengthen community oversight of logging operations. In five villages, SVBC is now working with ITB to regenerate logged-over forest. At the same time, in partnership with the World Agroforestry Centre, SVBC is implementing a capacity-building programme for improved

farming and agroforestry to create alternative livelihoods for people involved in illegal logging.

The project’s awareness-raising activities have included the use of interactive drama and publication of statistics on timber production and trade. In partnership with the newspaper, SVBC has been publishing cartoons on forest governance. The newspaper’s national reach gives the cartoons a potential audience of up to 1 million people. Lastly a mobile campaign on (social responsibility clauses in concession contracts) with radio, video and other infomercials is targeting 2,500 people in Bikoro currently negotiating with concessionaires.

Locally and nationally, SVBC has been playing a pivotal role in supporting and informing regional forest governance initiatives (such as the Central African Forests Commission’s convergence

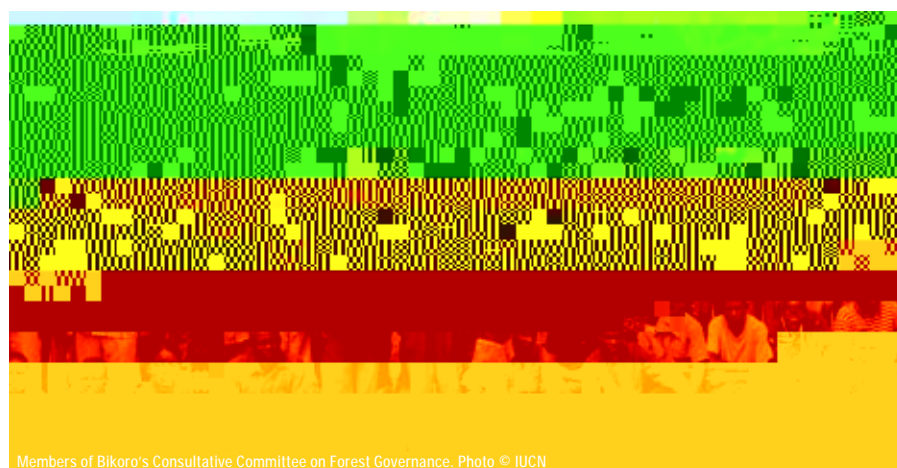
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—Enge, a pygmy from Mabonzi village, Bikoro



Equator province forest governance network meeting. Photo © IUCN



Members of Bikoro’s Consultative Committee on Forest Governance. Photo © IUCN

