

November 30, 2014

Final Report to the United Nations Environment Program by the Wildlife Conservation Society: Valuation study on the role of forest ecosystems in national economies and the role of REDD+ in a green economy transformation in Zambia and feasibility studies on data availability and quality in the Republic of Congo and in Zambia

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Zambia Feasibility Study

The Zambia feasibility study was conducted between July and early October 2013. Reviews of the draft report were provided by the UNEP (both the ESE Unit and UN-REDD team) and were integrated into a final feasibility assessment report by the end of October 2013. Conclusions emerging from this work were that sufficient information and data existed to conduct a national scale valuation of Zambia's economy. It was also deemed necessary to conduct a valuation study using a spatially explicit approach to make the analysis more useful for informing policy decisions around forest conservation and the REDD+ priority setting process underway in the country. UNEP agreed to increase the funding amount by \$14,273 to support a GIS analyst to conduct the spatial economic valuation.

Congo Feasibility Study

The feasibility study in Congo was conducted between July and October 30, 2013. Reviews were provided by UNEP following submission of the report in October. Several revisions were made based on comments received from UNEP and the final document was submitted in January 2014. Conclusions of the report were that information and data on many ecosystem services is very limited in Congo, but are sorely needed. A full scale valuation would be difficult to do using methods other than benefit transfer methods, without additional data or information.

Valuation Study in Zambia

The second phase of work in Zambia- the national scale, spatially explicit valuation study- has been completed. Approximately 6 months had been allotted for this spatial analysis of ecosystem service values in the country and was to be conducted from January 2014-June 2014. However, the amendment to the contract was not signed by UNEP until end of February 2014 and by WCS in early March 2014. Due to this delay, a considerable portion of the work for the valuation study could not begin until mid-March. The amendment and additional funding allowed WCS to hire an expert GIS analyst who also agreed to serve as the in-country coordinator. This person was critical for collecting additional data sets, cleaning the data to enable analyses¹ and supporting the spatial valuation analyses alongside the lead economist. Thus, much of the work could not proceed without this person officially signed on to the project and working closely with the economist.


The team aimed to meet the June 2014 deadline initially agreed upon in January (before the agreement was signed in March, 2014). In retrospect, when signing of the amendment was delayed, the team should have revised the timeline with UNEP because there was not sufficient time to complete six

¹ Data cleaning was not included in the feasibility study and required a significant amount of work as many data sets necessary for this study required significant pre-processing and organization. In addition, many data sets and references reported inconsistent values which required considerable amounts of work to reconcile before data analyses could begin.

months of work in a reduced time period of four months. Unfortunately, when it was apparent that the June deadline could not be met it was late June and due to travel and communication challenges among the team members from late June through early July, 2014, this did not get communicated to UNEP in advance. A few additional weeks were needed to finish the work and a first draft of the report was completed by the end of July 2014, within 5 months of signing the amendment. Reviews by UNEP and other peer reviewers were provided in August and addressed in August and September. The document was sent to government stakeholders in August but no reviews were received. A no cost extension had been agreed in June 2014 to extend the work until the end of October 2014 to allow plenty of time for peer reviews, revising the document, convening a stakeholder meeting, incorporating stakeholder feedback into a revised document and printing the report and policy brief.

We have completed all activities identified in the agreement with UNEP except the final stakeholder workshop and printing of the report. In August 2014, WCS was informed by UNEP that the stakeholder workshop would be convened by WCS in September/early October which would have left three weeks to address comments/feedback in the final report and print the report and policy brief before the agreement ended on October 31, 2014. However, WCS was informed by UNEP at the end of September that the meeting date would be moved to November. Because the WCS team was not available after October 31, 2014, it was agreed that UNEP would convene this meeting. However, UNEP informed WCS on October 8, 2014 that UNEP would hold the stakeholder meeting on October 28, 2014. This date would have been too late for WCS to organize the meeting, respond to comments from the meeting and integrate them into the report, finalize the report and print the report by October 31, 2014. Instead, WCS sent a representative from the team to the stakeholder meeting organized by UNEP and the WCS team was able to address most of the feedback from stakeholders in the three days before the deadline and submit the final report on October 31, 2014.

Because of changes in dates of the stakeholder meetings and concerns that there would not be sufficient time to revise the document in response to comments provided at a stakeholder meeting, UNEP agreed to print the report, policy brief and flyer in case there were changes to be made following the stakeholder workshop. Because the workshop was not convened by WCS and one of the consultants could not make it to the meeting, one trip by the consultant was not expensed and \$3,000 of personnel time was not necessary, as this had been budgeted specifically for coordination and organization of the final stakeholder workshop. Please see the table below for additional details on the status of budgeted deliverables and activities.

	Status	Additional Comments
Deliverables and Activities		
Zambia Feasibility Study	Completed	
Congo Feasibility Study	Completed	
Valuation Study in Zambia	Completed	The report was completed following revisions based on peer reviewers' comments and feedback from in-country stakeholders
Collection of Additional Spatial Data on Select Ecosystem Services	Completed	All data collected for this study has been organized and sent to the UNEP team via dropbox.
Collection/integration of spatial data on watershed boundaries/stream flow/hydrological services	Completed	
Basic mapping/modelling of hydrological services (i.e. sediment retention for supporting water quality,etc.) using a tool like InVest- if possible	Completed	
Spatial projection of unmapped services where possible (i.e. forests of high carbon content,pollination, wildlife for tourism)	Completed	
Synthesis of Spatial Data /integration of data layers (forest areas overlaid with other services)	Completed	
Spatial projection of ecosystem service values across forest areas in Zambia, where possible	Completed	
Spatial analysis of tradeoffs among areas of high value for REDD, non-climate related ecosystem services, and other likely development scenarios	Completed	This was completed to the extent possible; however, no funding was provided by UNEP for this activity. 
Stakeholders meeting to present key findings and discuss policy implications and recommendations	Not completed	This was not completed because the meeting was moved by from early October as originally agreed between WCS and UNEP in August 2014 to November and then in early October moved again to October 28, 2014. The agreement between WCS and UNEP stipulated that all activities would be completed by October 31, 2014 which did not leave sufficient time for WCS to organize a meeting on October 28 and finalize the report by October 31, 2014.
Printing Main Report	Not completed	The report was completed following revisions based on peer reviewers' comments and feedback from in-country stakeholders, but not printed because UNEP wanted to print the report after a stakeholder meeting that would be convened at a date later than would be possible for WCS to incorporate comments into a final report and print the report by October 31, 2014.
Printing Policy Brief	Not completed	The policy brief and advocacy materials were produced but were not printed because UNEP wanted to wait and print the report after a stakeholder meeting that would be convened at a date later than would be possible for WCS to incorporate comments into final documents and have them printed by October 31, 2014.

