

Brainforest



Protéger l'environnement est notre engagement



ANNUAL REPORT

2009



***To Protect environment
is our commitment.***



THE WORD OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

2009, year of all the political upheavals due to the second President of the History of Gabon disappearance.

2009, decisive year for all of us and for our label Brainforest.

Difficult year due to the incomprehensions with some authorities of the country. Incomprehensions because the contradictions and the idea of sharing the power, as well as the acceptance of a questioning of its decisions are not the elements of this power yet, power which nevertheless claims to the democracy.

2009, decisive year for us, because of the definition of a common vision by all the team which, eventually, aims at making of our NGO, one of the most professional organizations in environmental protection and in defence of the rights of native and local populations.

On 2009, decisive year for all the free actors of the Gabonese civil society, the one who sees her consecration through the awarding of the prestigious Environmental Price Goldman Prize, for all the African continent.

This consecration deserves that we linger a little bit on it because, beyond my humble person against threats and attempts of all kinds, it is a new race of men and women, stemming from the new generation of our society who work, from now on, for more justice and democracy in Africa.

Beyond my person and through this award, it is the whole Gabonese civil society which rises above the clichés and hurried judgments about its existence and its ability to win fame among the most successful of the continent in order to raise itself at the world level.

Despite the threats, the plots and the detentions, we carried on, not only to draw the authorities attention to the strict necessity of respecting our legal framework in the environmental field, but also to impose the realization of studies in the environmental impact for all the economic operators, as the code of the environment demands.

And the summit of Copenhagen? This big mass of United Nations. They expended so much energy ! They swallow up so much money! They mobilized so many people for three sheets of a not restricting political text! The failure of Copenhagen calls the Africans in the South of Sahara on a collective awareness in view of the supremacy of the wild capitalism on environmental issues.

Copenhagen was the battlefield of the interests of multinationals of the North, emerging countries and China. And as we say it so well in Africa, when two elephants fight, the shrubs are those that suffer.



Marc Ona Essangui
Secrétaire Exécutif,
Prix Goldman 2009.



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GENERAL CONTEXT OF YEAR 2009

Placed under the sign of excellence, year 2009 witnessed how BRAINFOREST took up several challenges. These challenges could group together in four categories:

- *To make a success of the perfect execution of the projects entrusted by partners and financial backers;*
- *To raise in a significant threshold the in house technical skills and the dynamism of the NGO;*
- *To define a strategic orientation by the choice of a planned vision of our activities;*
- *To carry out the difficult role of the leader of the organizations of the civil society in the Gabonese socio-political context.*

The common purpose to all these challenges was to encourage Brainforest to break with the ambient amateurism to raise itself towards standards more corresponding to the national and international standards.

That is the reason why the present report gives you a panoramic view of what the activities of Brainforest were in 2009, as well as brief summaries of the results the organization obtained.

Besides the two first aims mentioned above, a reference will be made on the particular context in which the institution had to move to obtain the results explained here.

Actually, the socio-political situation of the country in 2009 will have widely pressed on our activities.

We would have simply ended this report 2009 by presenting the partners with whom our organization works. But, the imperative of exhaustiveness requires the integration of other processes in which the NGO participated as member. It will be, especially, about the coalition "Publish what you pay", within the framework of the promotion of the Initiative of Transparency in the Mining Industries (ITIE) in Gabon.





I – ACTIVITIES / PROJECTS LED DURING THE YEAR

Five projects made up the central skeleton of the activities led by Brainforest during year 2009.

Focused on several themes, these projects had two main centres of interest:

1. On one hand, encourage the completed and efficient consideration of the issue of the sustainable management of forest resources in Gabon
2. On the other hand, work for the protection of the rights of communities to benefit from direct and indirect effects of the wealth of our forests.

For a practical implementation of these aims, each of these five projects had their own methodological approach and strategic orientation. To that effect, the various thematic corpus declines as mentioned below:

I.1. THE PROJECT OF PARTICIPATIVE CARTOGRAPHY IN THE CONGO BASIN (DFID FINANCING)

This project aims at securing the access of the rural communities and the native people of the Congo Basin to the necessary resources for their survival. Thus, it supports the elaboration of participative maps of the traditional soils of these populations.

The methodological principle of this action was to produce, with the cooperation of the concerned populations, a cartographic representation of their business areas.

So, the points where the aforementioned areas coordinate are recorded in the GPS (Global Location by Satellite Reference), then treated and integrated in the national Geographical Information System (GIS). This orientation positions the project in the intersection of the promotion of the rights of communities and the availability of the authorities in charge of forests, of an information updated in spatial occupation of grounds by the populations of the forest areas.

From then on, the practical utility of the produced maps is to be able to establish tools of defence for communities as much as instruments of decision-taking help for the administration in charge of the forest sector in Gabon.

The project of participative cartography BRAINFOREST executes was made possible, within the framework of the partnership, with the English NGO RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK based in London.

At the end of the results at mid-term, we can retain that since the starting up of the project in March, 2009, 4 sketches of participative maps were produced and are waiting for their validation.



I.2. THE PROJECT OF FACILITATION OF THE COMMITMENT OF COMMUNITIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND ELABORATION OF THE RELATIVE TEXTS OF LAW (RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK FINANCING)



This project results from data of survey stemming from the application of a protocol of participative research in the peripheral areas of the parks of Minkébé, Lopé, Ivindo and Waka, in 2008.

Introduced with the technical and financial support of the Rainforest Foundation UK and in partnership with NGO members of the platform “Gabon environment”, the deployment of the exercise of Method Accelerated by Participative Research (MARP) allowed to notice what follows :

- The rights for the access, the use and the control of the natural resources the communities depend on for their survival, are in clear regression, because of the demarcation of the national parks mentioned above;
- The disposition of the articles 18, 19 and 45 of the law N 003/2007 of August 27th, 2007 concerning the national parks which deal with the conservation of the rights of the riverside resident communities through mechanisms such as the contracts of management of soils (Article 19) and the consultative committees of local management of parks (Article 18 and 45) are this day without any text of application;
- Some measures of accompaniment planned in the document of the sectorial Program Forest Environment (PSFE) are still waited, while the conditions of living of the local communities and the native people constituted by Fang and Pygmies Baka, Bakoya and Babongo keep degrading.

With a wealth of these reports, the idea of a facilitation of the commitment of communities in the management of the national parks came to light, as well as the need to arouse the elaboration of relative texts.

For this reason, with the financial support of the RFUK and the agreement of the National Agency of the National Parks (ANPN), the relative project untitled “Facilitate the commitment of communities in the management of the national parks and the elaboration of the relative texts of law” was introduced.

As its title indicates, at the end of this project, the availability of a frame of dialogue and management of the national parks must follow.

Integrating, in a effective way, the rights of the local and native communities through, in particular, the elaboration of the plans of management or the formal signature of the contracts of management of soils between the administration of parks and the consultative local committees of management.

This aim led Brainforest to define a methodological approach, which define around three main steps :



- To know, in a better way, the communities living in the said areas and help them to diagnose their main problems about the management of natural resources and those arisen from the creation of the park.
- To facilitate the dialogue through meetings of multi-actors negotiations between the various actors who are, for this first phase, the local and native communities and the administration;
- To help these various actors in the implementation of the resolutions which will be taken.

In order to ensure the perpetuity of the project, Brainforest chose to implement a narrow and collaborative approach which establishes an active partnership with NGO Adventures Without Borders and two organizations of native people, the MINAPYGA and Edziengui.

Other argument which justified this collaboration is the will to establish a frame of exchange of experiences and knowledge in, in particular, participative approaches and facilitation of the multi-actor dialogue.

Executed in February, 2009, the project had as result the following experiences :

- A database constituted of a set of national and international texts in management of the protected areas, as well as reports on similar experiences in the other African countries;
- A set of study report pointing up the practices of some riverside resident communities of the national parks, (Minkébé and Pongara) in management of natural resources and the impact of the creation of these parks on the traditional ways of life;
- The implementation of a Platform of multi-actors exchanges about the issue of parks and consideration of the rights of communities;
- The identification of persons resources within villages for the driving of?????

However, the results presented here don't have to hide the existence of some difficulties which were serious gravities in the pursuit of the global objectives of the project. We can, on this subject, retain :

- The socio-political context the country went through after the political transition due to the death of the President of the Republic and the post-electoral tensions.
- - The narrowness of the budget which didn't allow to carry our actions at very significant levels.
- - The many changes of the persons in charge of the Agency of Parks, which required every time to start again the negotiations concerning the formalisation of the partnership for the solving of the heart of the problem the project raises.

1.3.) THE PROJECT OF INTENSIFICATION OF CAPACITIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE (RECAGE, EGP FINANCING OF THE UICN NL).



The project aims at reinforcing the professionalism, the adaptability and the efficiency of BRAINFOREST and the other partner environmental organizations. It is, in particular, about the Platform Gabon environment.

For that purpose, the project is a tool helping the Gabonese civil society and which aim is to allow to this last one an efficient exercise of its mission of accompaniment of public policies in sustainable management of forest resources. That is the reason why the project settles the following aims :



- To strengthen the institutional and organizational capacities by the accompaniment, the training and the financing of in house specific skills of BRAINFOREST.
- To increase the organizational and institutional capacities of the NGO by the mutualization and the exchange of the experiences stemming from financed actions.
- To strengthen the monitoring and the follow-up of environmental policies in Gabon by strengthening the Platform Gabon environment and by including a frame of exchanges and defence of the civil society and the media.
- To promote the integration of the native and local communities or their partners in the control and sustainable management of forest resources, to assure their effective participation in the negotiations regarding their rights within the forest spaces.
- To support and stimulate the development of the policies aiming at a community and decentralized management by natural resources.

The implementation of this project started in May, 2008 and will end in June, 2010. The formal results for year 2009 decline as mentioned below:

a) The intensification of the institutional and organizational capacities by the accompaniment, the training and the financing of in house specific skills of BRAINFOREST.

This was about the training of the NGO BRAINFOREST and its partners in the methodological principles of the search, with financial backers, of financing of the projects to be executed.

For that purpose, one of the core tasks was to train the NGO and its partners in the mechanism of the strategic planning.

Thus, in the form of practical case, Brainforest three-yearly strategic plan 2010-2012 was elaborated in February, 2009. To date, this document is available and was submitted both to the organizations partner and to potential financial backers.

Besides this training, a member of the NGO benefited a training in financial management of the NGO.



B) To increase the organizational and institutional capacities of the NGO by the mutualization and exchange of the experiences stemming from financed actions.

For this aim, the members of Brainforest and those of the other organizations had to think about a successful and innovative definition of the instruments of monitoring of their respective organizations.

So, we were able to attend the organization of General Extraordinary Assemblies (GEA), which mission was to examine, to elaborate and to validate new organic texts with various NGO.

For this reason, the texts of Brainforest were the subject of a detailed examination and numerous modifications, on both content and form, were introduced in the founding texts (Statutes and Internal Regulation).

Besides these revisions, the increase of the organizational and institutional capacities allowed to Brainforest staff to familiarize with and to take part to the validation of the other tools which are:

- The strategic 2010-2012 plan.
- The administrative and accounting procedures manual;
- The PTA. Thanks to the mutualization which Brainforest establishes, within the framework of the implementation of the elements of the action plan FLEGT in Gabon, all the organizations affiliated to the network, could benefit trainings.

The commitment of these organizations of the civil society in the activities led by Brainforest is the result of, on one hand, the concern to share the knowledge and the lessons learnt, and on the other hand, the concern to contribute to the construction of a strong and dynamic civil society, capable of taking part in all the major processes our country involves.

C) To Strengthen the monitoring and the follow-up of environmental policies in Gabon by strengthening the Platform Gabon environment and by including a frame of exchanges and defence of the civil society and the media.

This axis was about the awareness of the media to the consideration of the stakes of the issues on which the NGO works. So, we could see several articles published in the foreign and national media relating the approached issues to the public opinion.

Despite the brief synthesis of these results, we do not have to forget the difficulties met during year 2009, and some of which were mentioned above.

Thus, we can say that, in addition to the difficulties common to all the current projects in 2009 which salient point was that they arose from the socio-political context in Gabon, we can add the obstacles due to the projects themselves.

For this reason, we will essentially mention the obstacle concerning the programming and the strict respect for deadlines agreed for the holding of trainings. Actually, it would be advisable to specify that the trainings mentioned within the framework of this project of intensification of the organizational and institutional capacities are assured by consultants contacted by the team of project, and that at this level, there are most of the time some schedule problems. However, after

the mid-term estimation of the project, numerous activities are postponed for January, 2010.

1.4.) THE FLEGT PROJECT (EUROPEAN UNION FINANCING)

The FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) is the answer of the European Union to the problem of the illegal exploitation of the wood in the countries of the Congo Basin and in the other forest regions of the world.

This project aims at the implementation of a network of organizations of the civil society, the training of the members of the network

about the thematic elements of the action plan FLEGT of the EU and finally, its active commitment in the national discussions concerning the negotiation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Gabon and the European Union.

The project which started in January, 2009 will last 3 years. For the first year of execution, the expected aims were, on one hand, the implementation and the training of the network and, on the other hand, the driving of a deep analysis of the forest laws in order to bring an important added value for the reform of forest regulatory framework for a more rational, sustainable and fair use of the resource.

Involved in a partnership with the NGO FERN, Brainforest could benefit the execution of this process for the civil society in Gabon. So to speak, according to the two aims of the current year, the following results were obtained:

1) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NETWORK.

We will retain that a coalition of 25 organizations of the civil society was implemented this day to support the process FLEGT in Gabon, that several working meetings and two workshops took place during this year, according to a working schedule established at the beginning of the first year of execution.

2) THE ANALYSIS OF THE TEXTS OF LAWS.

About the analysis of the texts of laws, Brainforest defined the Reference Terms (TDR) of a team of consultants and jurists and environmental experts to lead the study in a effective way.

However, the effective starting up of the analysis could not be made once again because of, the narrowness of the budget the NGO had for this first phase of the project.

Beyond the results formally expected, we can emphasize that the project also allowed to rake in "unexpected effects", according to the old theoretical principle of the modelling and the perverse effects.

On this subject, we can retain that the implementation of the FLEGT allowed Brainforest to rake in a "positive perverse effect": the consolidation of its process of "crédibilisation" with the partners in general and with the European Union, in particular.





Here, the implementation of a team of project constituted by young people but endowed with a considerable capital of experiences, motivated and most of all professional, allowed the creation of a context of dynamic work, used as trame de fond to the current results of the project.

However, despite the picture which has just been painted, we do not have to forget that the particular context in which the present results were obtained. Actually, it is important to mention that the socio-political situation Gabon lived from June, 2009 heavily slowed down our activities. So, the chronograph established by common consent by the various participants of the FLEGT process was, for instance, seriously disrupted.

For this reason, about the perspectives to come in an immediate future, the focus of our actions will mainly aim at the analysis of the regulatory framework in order to catch up the delay on this important activity of the exercise 2009. This, to bring a positive added value to the discussions that must end in the adoption of a scale of legality at the end of the second year of the project.

Then, the other effort will concern the disposal of the members of the civil society, of practical trainings that must bring them an increase in operational of efficiency, within the framework of the adoption and of the implementation of a system of follow-up of the traceability of wood in Gabon.

1.5) THE CIFOR PROJECT (CIFOR FINANCING)

Untitled Illegal Exploitation of Wood in Cameroon and in Gabon: international process FLEGT, national trends and local impacts, the project aims at seizing the extent of a phenomenon denounced by the national and international community, as well as by the major organizations which purpose is to support the implementation of sustainable policies of management of forest resources in the world.

In this logic, the International Center for the Forest Research (CIFOR) defined a regionalist approach of the study of this plague. On this matter, a convention of financing was signed with the Dutch DGIS to make possible a better knowledge of the sector of illegal exploitation of the wood for Gabon and Cameroon.

The purpose of this exercise is to bring the administrations in charge of forests to set up adequate corrective or incentive measures.

To reach this results; the project defines three main themes :

- Estimation of the volume of illegal wood;





- Description of the network and the estimation of the local impacts;
- Propositions of solution to legalize the "illegal wood" in or outside the process FLEGT;

In order to make a success of the deployment of all these points on the ground, the "Task Forces Project" defined a complex set of follow-up operations. That is the reason why the CIFOR asked Brainforest to assure these practical aspects of the project in Gabon.

With the constitution of a team of project of three persons in April 2008, the effective starting up of the activities took place in July 2008 and the project came to an end in December 2009. We can retain about the results of this project, what follows:

1) THE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK AND THE QUANTITIES OF WOOD STEMMING FROM UNITS OF ILLEGAL HOME-MADE SAWING ARE BETTER KNOWN.

From the inventory of the dump of wood the in Libreville, as well as the continuous surveillance, days and nights, of various flow of wood entering Libreville by the main roads and the main landing stages, the types of vehicles transporting illegal wood and their load, a more or less perfect knowledge of the chain of the illegal exploitation and distribution of the woody products was made possible and registered on forms.

This method of work allowed Brainforest and the CIFOR to have an updated database, providing a precise evaluation of the quantities of wood stemming from illegal sources, which are daily dumped on the urban market, used for the construction or the furnishing.

2) STUDY OF THE PHENOMENON UPSTREAM FROM THE NETWORK

For this result, it was a question of bringing the team of project to define the deep mechanisms motivating the illegal forestry development. On this matter, three tracks of data collection were explored :

A) Socio-economic Factors

Pour cette piste, la collecte des données était focalisée sur les acteurs primaires du processus. For this track, the data collection was focused on the primary actors of the process (illegal sawyer and retailers selling back the products of illegal sawing).

Here, it was about to verify if there is a direct link of causality between the unemployment of young people and the inflation of the illegal forestry development, as an access mode to the resources necessary for their survival.

From an inverted analytical posture, the search of the socio-economic causes also required to





verify if the importance of the level of financial earnings was not rather the leitmotiv of the use to this practice.

The formulation of both areas of research showed the importance to establish a correlation between the conditions of living of illegal foresters and the degree of anchoring in this kind of forestry exploitation.

For that purpose, in addition to the descents into illegal sites of wood sawing in forest, concrete monitoring indicators had been defined and served as base of orientation for the collection.

B) The administrative collusion or the pernicious influence of some administrative persons in charge.

Here, it is especially necessary to retain that the project tried, not to identify the administrative persons in charge who feed the phenomenon, but rather to establish with certainty the tangible existence of the link with the administration.

Actually, in the validated hypothesis of an administrative collusion, it became reducing to confine the study of the phenomenon only to sawyers and illegal retailers. On the contrary, it was useful to measure this influence by the game of a skilful search for «the dynamic source of the factors of productions».

By this attitude, the study was able to reveal, in a significant degree, where the means of production came from and where the necessary security elements of guarantee for the pursuit of the activity were.

C) The heaviness of the system

That was the last track of data collection and it had for vocation to allow a precise identification of the areas of constriction which, apparently, spark off the non-conformity of the activity with the statutory texts.

By formulating the hypothesis that the nonconformity, in regulatory measures, is due to the lack of information and to the difficulty to access to the authorizations of cut, the project offers to bring to administrations and other stakeholders concerned a common reflection to facilitate the procedures.



II. THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE IN HOUSE DYNAMISM AND THE TECHNICAL CAPACITIES: THE RECRUITMENT OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND SKILLED STAFF

The decision taken by partners and other financial backers, to entrust to NGO BRAINFOREST the execution on the ground of the various projects mentioned below, reflects the assurance of a sign of confidence and, for that purpose, appeals the organization to shape up the expectations.

That is the reason why, to give a satisfactory answer to everyone, Brainforest pursued its process of institutional intensification initiated since 2008, with the recruitment of a multidisciplinary and skilled staff. This last one, placed at the head of the various projects, carries out the follow-up and the technical implementation of the operations under the hierarchical responsibility of one Coordinator of the programs.



II.1. NEEDS IN GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

Mobilized by the Rainforest Foundation UK to carry out the execution of the constituent Gabon and of the project of participative Cartography in the Congo Basin, Brainforest had to appeal to the services of a person resource, skilled in Geographical Information System (GIS).

This staff, recruited in March 2009, is responsible for the project in Gabon and, for this reason, manages a team of 10 (ten) persons including an Assistant of Project, and several Cartographers Assistants and facilitators.

With a high academic education level, this staff presents, moreover, the specificity to be feminine. This proves the other concern of the organization to promote the feminine elite of the country.

II.2. NEEDS IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND IN MANAGEMENT OF PROJECT.

Because of the necessity to guarantee the mobilization of the Gabonese civil society to accompany the implementation of the elements of the action plan FLEGT, the organization decided to recruit a socio-economist, skilled in forestry issues.

Actually, within the framework of the negotiations that must end up the signature of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VAP) between Gabon and the European Union, This socio-economist must devise and implement an action plan of the civil society, for its efficient accompaniment of the process FLEGT.

He also has the responsibility to identify and to carry out the organization of trainings, for



organizations mobilized for the FLEGT, in order to strengthen their technical level for an optimal involvement in the negotiations.

Academics having practiced for a long time in a research center which scientist interest of centres are social forestry issues, the aforementioned technical staff of Brainforest is, moreover, endowed with a training in planning and in evaluation of projects.

For this reason, the staff carries out the Project Manager FLEGT's responsibility and, is at the NGO's disposal since 2008. The team, it is in charge of, counts more than about twenty persons, coming from various organizations of the Gabonese civil society involved in the FLEGT project.

II.3. NEEDS IN ANALYSIS, UNDERSTANDING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENTAL INSTRUMENTS ABOUT POPULARIZATION.

Here, it is necessary to retain that the intensification of the technical capacities of the NGO, about this matter, has two origins:

The first one is intimately related to the concern to give satisfaction to the mission to lead a project of facilitation for the commitment of communities in the management of the national parks and the elaboration of the relative texts of law, in partnership with Rainforest and in association with organizations of the local civil society and the Agency of Parks.

The second one, for its part, is based on the pertinent concern for an organization which wants to be in the vanguard of environmental issues, to have a legal department enough capable of allowing the NGO to perfectly understand the texts, their stakes or their disability.

If the recruitment of the two first project managers was made at the national level, the legal project manager recruitment is the product of a sub-regional cooperation between two organizations of the Gabonese civil society (Brainforest) and Cameroonian (the CED).

The legal projects Manager is a jurist skilled in environmental laws. Having led several projects with the cameroonian rural communities, this staff proves a good experience on the ground.

Thus, it manages, today, a team of two persons but it works in collaboration with the other actors of its field, in the sub-region, to strengthen the legal sector of Brainforest.

II.4. NEEDS IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND IN ECOTOURISM

Convinced that to ensure a culture of sustainable management of natural resources, especially forest, one of the effective means is to educate the masses. For this reason, Brainforest began to mature, since April 2009, the idea to deploy a vast process of awareness about environmental security.

Brainforest explains this idea in its document of strategic planning 2010-2012.

The recruitment or the training of an in-house agent is not in phase of execution yet but stays in study.



III– THE DIFFICULT EXERCISE OF THE LEADER ROLE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE GABONESE CONTEXT: THE QUESTION OF THE STAND AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

The organization of the human societies under a state shape: devotes normative frames for the fulfilment of social actors.

For that purpose, the Fundamental Law establishes the constituents whom are the public actors invested by the public authorities (constitutional institutions) and the actors of the civil society, in order to appoint all the physical (the citizens) and the moral (the political, religious, associative, cultural organizations, etc.) constituents which constitutional role is to accompany the public policies, while exercising a mission of safeguard.

Gabon, which organizational system is established on this model, obeys this societal principle. That

is the reason why organizations as Brainforest exist: to try to play with the State, the role of accompaniment and, sometimes, of counterweight conferred by the Constitution.

However, the empirical reality in Gabon meets numerous concerns concerning the exercise of this role. In addition to the objective concerns in connection with the structural and organizational weaknesses, are also added those, not insignificant, of subjective type.

It is especially of this last category of issues this part of the report is about.



III.1. THE CITIZEN AND CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN GABON

Far from opening a debate and, above all, a fascinated one, we specify once again that the notion of «civil society» in Gabon includes a variety of entities which common denominator is that they do not exercise the authority of the State, but they take their origin from the necessity of accompanying and of completing its public action.

In this acceptance, we have to retain that the activities, initiatives and other stands of the civil society can and must be understood only in this constitutional frame of their existence.

That is the context in which Brainforest moves. It is also in this perspective that were introduced and continue to be introduced all the activities the organization leads since its creation.

Thus, this is the opportunity to say that institutional reforms, as well as the process of intensification of human and structural capacities which were implemented throughout the last two years (2008 and 2009), only aim at giving to the NGO the means to carry out , at its best, its citizen duty.

III.2. THE EVENTS OF JANUARY 2009 AT THE SEAT OF BRAINFOREST, IN LOUIS DISTRICT IN LIBREVILLE.



In spite of the fact that some top-ranking officials of the State know perfectly the principles and the statutory frameworks of the organizations of the civil society specified above, we must recall that unfortunate events occurred in January 2009, in the shape of an arbitrary power difficult to justify.

Actually, some people responsible of the Gabonese civil society, among which appeared the executive Secretary of Brainforest, were prohibited to leave the territory, then placed under arrest and finally had their respective passports confiscated then restored.

It is naturally useless to say that such a situation has - logical consequence - affected the normal sequence of some of our projects. But, it is especially important to recall that such downwards are unfortunate in the fact that they constitute the most obvious expression of the democratic detachment that it is important to hammer.

III.3. THE TENSIONS ARISEN FROM THE STAND AND THE EMERGENCE OF A WALL OF INCOMPREHENSION

Far from claiming to ignore the reasons of these downwards, it would be advisable to simply say that the events of January result from an opened stand, but that the emergence of a wall of incomprehension on this attitude was the foundation of all the fury which followed.





IV – THE CHOICE OF STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS

To lead an ambition to its conclusion, as the Brainforest's one, requires technical capacities, operational means and a clear, a precise vision of what we would like to do and tops we would like to reach in the short, middle and long term.

To put itself in phase with this requirement and share at best its vision with all partners and landlords, Brainforest elaborated its document of strategic planning for the period 2010-2012.

« Aboutir à une société gabonaise dans laquelle l'environnement sera protégé, avec la participation active des populations qui bénéficieront des retombées économiques de la gestion durable des ressources naturelles »

IV.1. THE STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NGO ON THE HORIZON 2010-2012 OR THE STRATEGIC CHOICE OF AREAS OF COMPETENCES:

The strategic planning of the activities 2010-2012 of Brainforest materializes, through its various structures, the global vision of the NGO during the indicated temporal horizon.

Actually, aware of the fact that “End at a gabonese society in which the environment will be protected, with the active participation of the populations who will benefit from economic effects of the sustainable management of natural resources” can only be the result of a long process.

Brainforest, concerned about its realism, confined, in this way, its planning around six main issues.

Every sector is the object of a detailed business plan Brainforest has to realize, in order to contribute to the materialization of the institutional vision of the organization.

***To Protect environment
is our commitment.***

V – OUR PARTNERS

- Etat Gabonais
- Rainforest Foundation UK
- Union Européenne
- FERN
- Global Environment Facility
- CARPE
- UICN-NL
- CIFOR
- Global Witness
- Forest Monitor
- REM
- Global Greengrants Fund
- CED
- USAID / MSI
- OCDH
- MEFP



VI – RECEIVED FINANCINGS

PROJET/ACTIVITÉ	DONATEUR/ PARTENAIRES	OBJET	DÉBUT	FIN	BUDGET TOTAL (FCFA)	DISPONIBILITÉS POUR BRAINFOREST (FCFA)	OBSERVATIONS
RENFORCEMENT DE CAPACITÉS DE BRAINFOREST EN MATIÈRE DE GOUVERNANCE ENVIRONNEMENTALE (REPAGE)	EGP DE L'UJCN-NL	RENFORCEMENT DE CAPACITÉS INTERNES DE L'ONG SUR LES OUTILS DE GESTION DE PROJET, LE FUNDRAISING, LE LOBBYING ET ORGANISATIONS DE RÉUNIONS SUR L'IMPLICATION DES COMMUNAUTES DANS LA GESTION DES FORÊTS	02/04/2008	06/2010	52 476 560	51 984 592,25	
« EXPLOITATION ILLÉGALE DES BOIS AU CAMEROUN ET AU GABON: PROCESSUS INTERNATIONAL FLEGT, TENDANCES NATIONALES ET IMPACTS LOCAUX »	CIFOR	RÉALISATION DES ENQUÊTES DE COLLECTE DE DONNÉES SUR L'EXPLOITATION INFORMELLE DU BOIS D'ŒUVRE DANS LA VILLE DE LIBREVILLE ET DANS LES DÉPARTEMENTS ENVIRONNANTS. (EN DEUX PHASES)	05/2008	07/2009	18 400 000	18 400 000	
« ENSURING A SEAT AT THE TABLE »	UNION EUROPÉENNE / STICHTING FERN	IMPLICATION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE GABONAISE DANS LE PROCESSUS FLEGT AU GABON.	01/2009	05/10/ 2011	63 245 560	21 661 066	« DISPONIBILITÉ » POUR 2009
FACILITER L'IMPLICATION DES COMMUNAUTES RIVERAINES DANS LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA LÉGISLATION DES PARCS NATIONAUX AU GABON	RAINFOREST FUND / RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK	FACILITER L'IMPLICATION DES COMMUNAUTES RIVERAINES DANS LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA LÉGISLATION DES PARCS NATIONAUX AU GABON	15/02/2009	15/02/2010	18 992 300	12 253 760	
PROJET DE CARTOGRAPHIE PARTICIPATIVE DANS LE BASSIN DU CONGO – COMPOSANTE GABON	DFID / RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK	LES COMMUNAUTES FORESTIÈRES, LES ORGANISATIONS DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE ET LE PERSONNEL DES POUVOIRS PUBLICS DANS CHACUN DES TROIS PAYS CIBLES (GABON, RÉPUBLIQUE DU CONGO, RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE) ONT LA CAPACITÉ ET LES RESSOURCES POUR CARTOGRAPHIER AVEC PRÉCISION L'OCCUPATION ET L'UTILISATION DES FORÊTS ET DE SE SERVIR DES DONNÉES AINSI OBTENUES POUR PRENDRE ET INFLUENCER LES DÉCISIONS AYANT TRAIT AUX FORÊTS ET AUX COMMUNAUTES FORESTIÈRES	25/03/2009	25/03/2011	140 667 940	69 988 923	DISPONIBILITÉS (OU DÉPENSES) AU MOIS DE NOVEMBRE 2009
BUDGET TOTAL (FCFA)					300 782 360	181 288 341,25	



VI - 1 WAGE BILL IN 2009

JANVIER	2 460 000
FÉVRIER	2 460 000
MARS	3 080 000
AVRIL	7 760 000
MAI	6 865 000
JUIN	5 055 000
JUILLET	5 355 000
AOÛT	5 355 000
SEPTEMBRE	5 385 000
OCTOBRE	5 460 000
NOVEMBRE	5 460 000
DÉCEMBRE	5 460 000
TOTAL ANNUEL	46 695 000
MOYENNE MENSUELLE	3 891 250

Avec une équipe salariée d'une dizaine de personnes à la fin du mois de décembre 2008, Brainforest a débuté l'année 2009 par l'arrestation et la détention de son Secrétaire Exécutif, une situation qui a eu plusieurs effets collatéraux négatifs et qui a entraîné une grande perturbation de ses activités et par ricochet, de son fonctionnement quotidien.

Le démarrage des nouveaux projets (avec FERN et RFUK) a entraîné le recrutement en cours d'année d'un personnel supplémentaire. Le personnel de Brainforest est en définitive estimé à dix-huit personnes salariées à plein temps au 31 décembre 2009.

La masse salariale pour l'année 2009 s'élève ainsi à **Quarante six millions six cent quatre-vingt quinze mille (46 695 000) FCFA**, soit une moyenne mensuelle de **Trois millions huit cent quatre-vingt onze mille deux cent cinquante (3 891 250) FCFA**.

Toutefois, avec l'augmentation des effectifs et le démarrage prévisible de nouveaux projets, il est évident que cette moyenne sera plutôt proche ou au-delà de la masse salariale mensuelle du dernier trimestre 2009 (Cf. tableau à droite), soit environ **Cinq millions quatre cent soixante mille (5 460 000) FCFA**.

Sur cette base, nous plançons au minimum sur une masse salariale annuelle comprise entre **Soixante millions et Soixante-dix millions de FCFA**.



Quartier Ancienne SOBRAGA (en face de la Direction Générale des Mines)

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INITIATION OF THE AUTOCHTONE PEOPLE TO USE GPS.



ANNUAL REPORT 2009