REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE

Union – Travail – Justice

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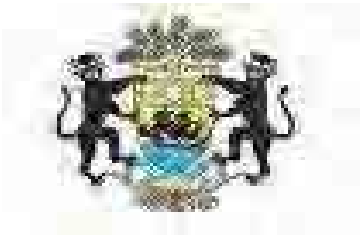

MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

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DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE

Sustainable forestry management and the links to climate change

Presented by Benoît DEMARQUEZ

CBG

PRECIOUS WOODS

Rougier Gabon

Content

1. History of forest management in Gabon
2. Technical aspect of forest management : a tool in the fight against forest degradation
3. The variety of services in sustainable forest management at different levels

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History of forest management in Gabon

1 1.1 The Gabonese forest

- Gabon :
  - 270 000 km²
  - 220 000 km² of forest (82.5 %)
  - 120 000 km² reserved for lumber production
  - 29 000 km² of national parks
  - 5.3 people/km²
  - Rate of deforestation not significant (about 0.045 % / year - FAO)

1 1.2 Forest sector in the Gabonese economy

- Annual production
  - 3 600 000 m^3 logs / year
  - 1 450 000 m^3 lumber produced

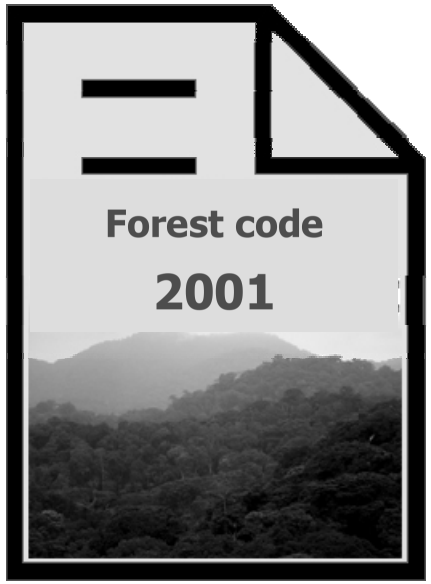
- Weight in the national economy
  - 14.5 % of the private sector employment
  - Contribution of the forest sector to the GDP : 4.1%

1 1.3 History of forest management

- Simple forest management regulations since the 1960s
- Very quick evolution from the 1990s
- First management plan initiated by the government (pilot projects)
- Forest management grasped and developped by the big private companies

1.3 History of forest management

- Policy enforced by the declaration of a new forest code in 2001 which integrates all the principles of sustainable management
- Forest management became a legal obligation for all the forest companies operating in Gabon



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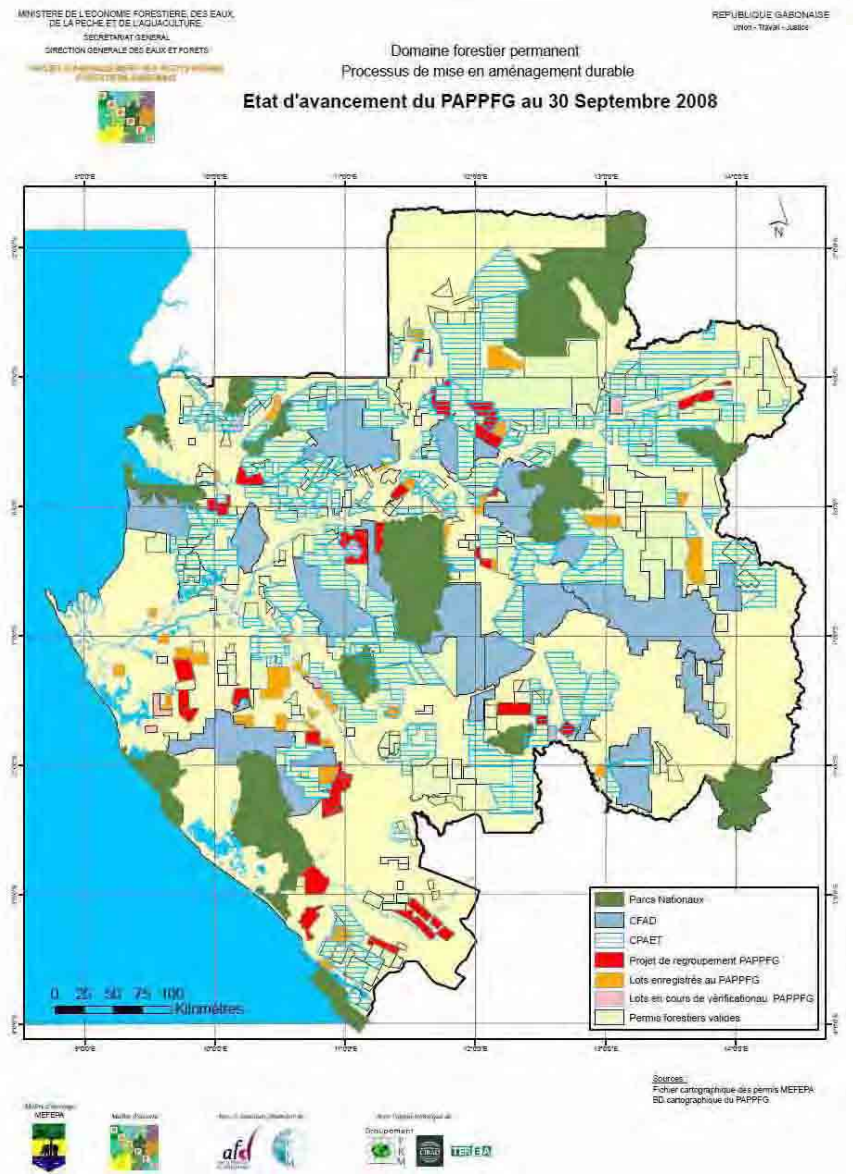
1.4 Current position of forest management in Gabon

- Some figures :
  - Total forest area for timber production : 120 000 km²
  - 30 000 km² where management plans are implemented (25 %)
  - 60 000 km² where management plans are in preparation (50 %)
  - 10 000 km² registered to the PAPPFG project
  - 20 000 km² will be returned to the government



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1.5 Conclusion

- Policy of the government is very clear
- Implementation for about 20 years
- Before REDD
- All the concession are affected by this process
- Very important to control the real implementation of the sustainable forest rules

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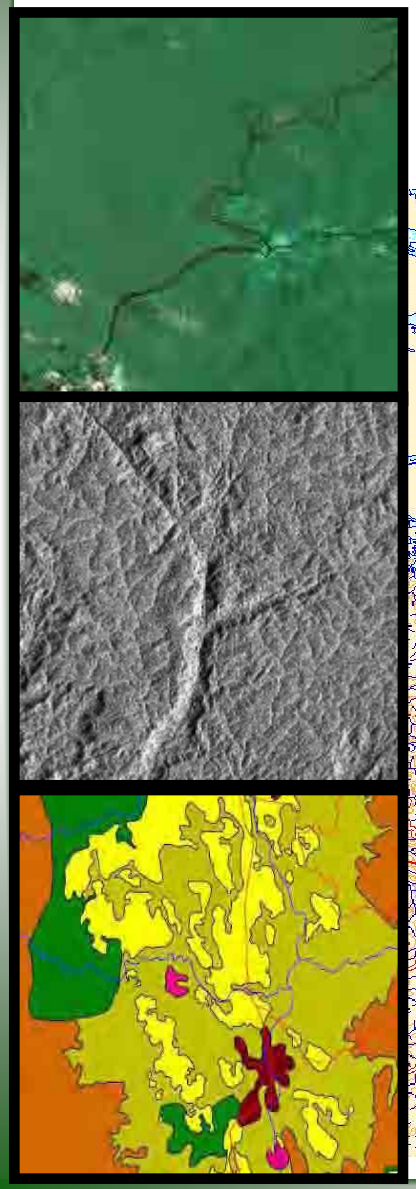
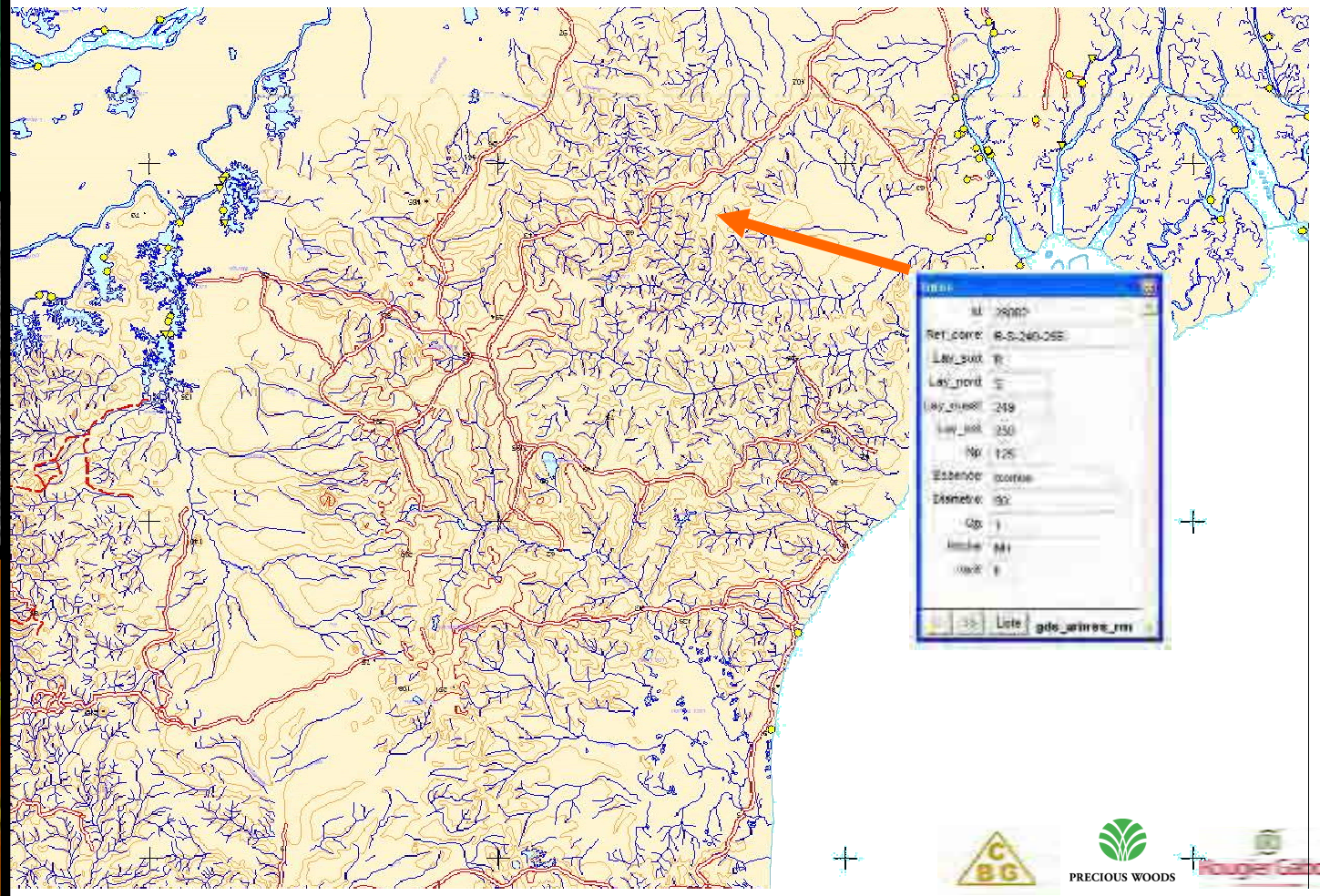
Technical aspects of forest management

2 2.1 Preliminary studies of the management plan

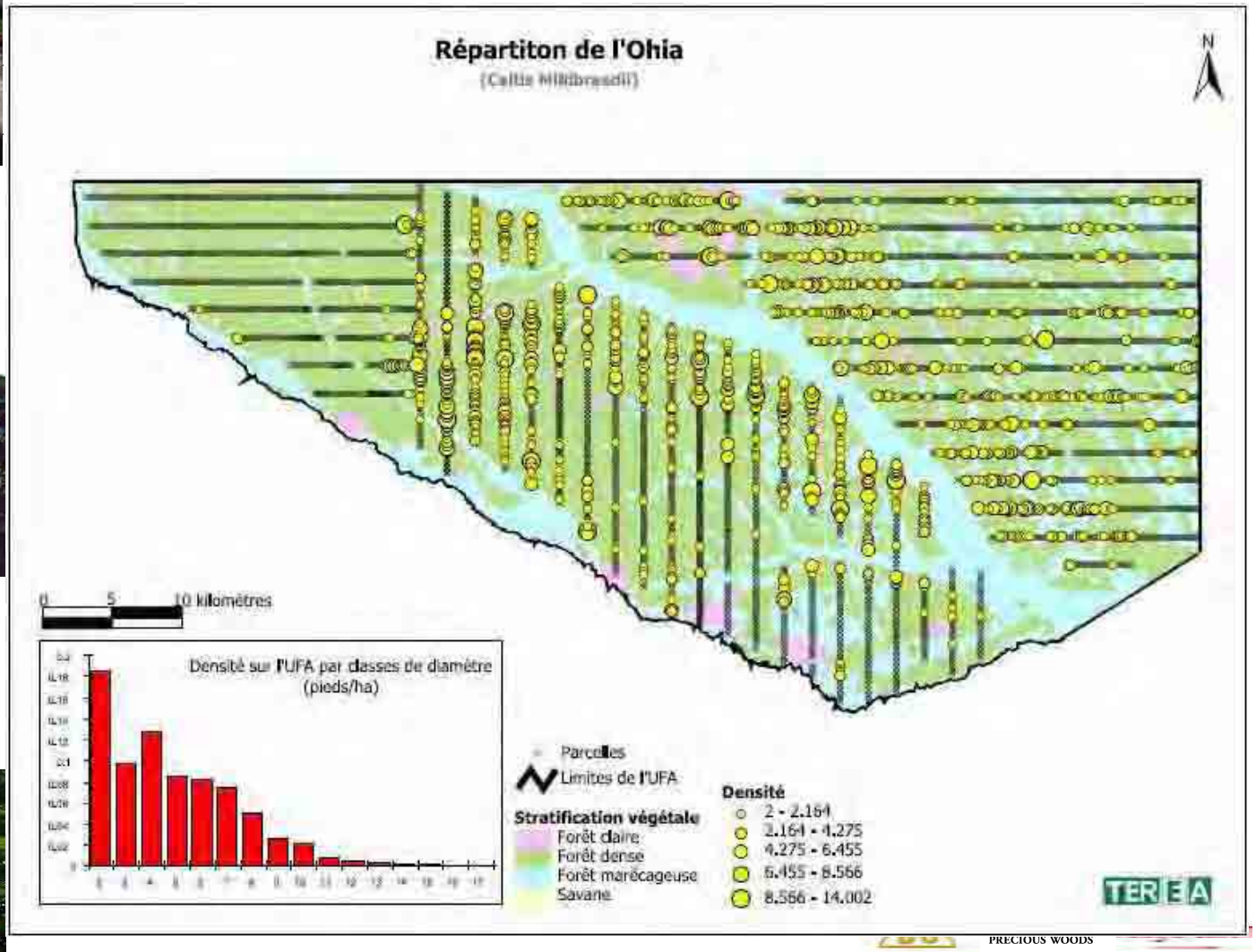


- Mapping studies



2 2.1 Preliminary studies of the management plan

Multiple resources inventory

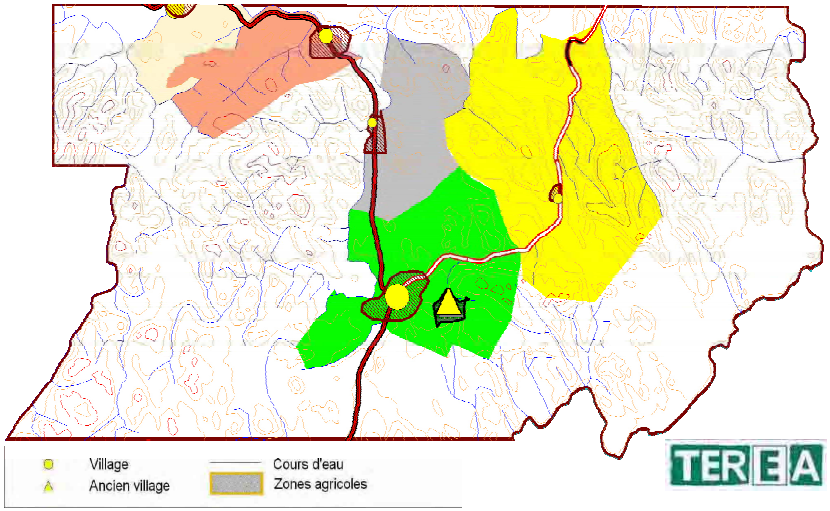


Social and economic studies

➲ Local economic activities

➲ Traditional uses of the forest

Carte des terroirs villageois



➲ Social situation inside the company

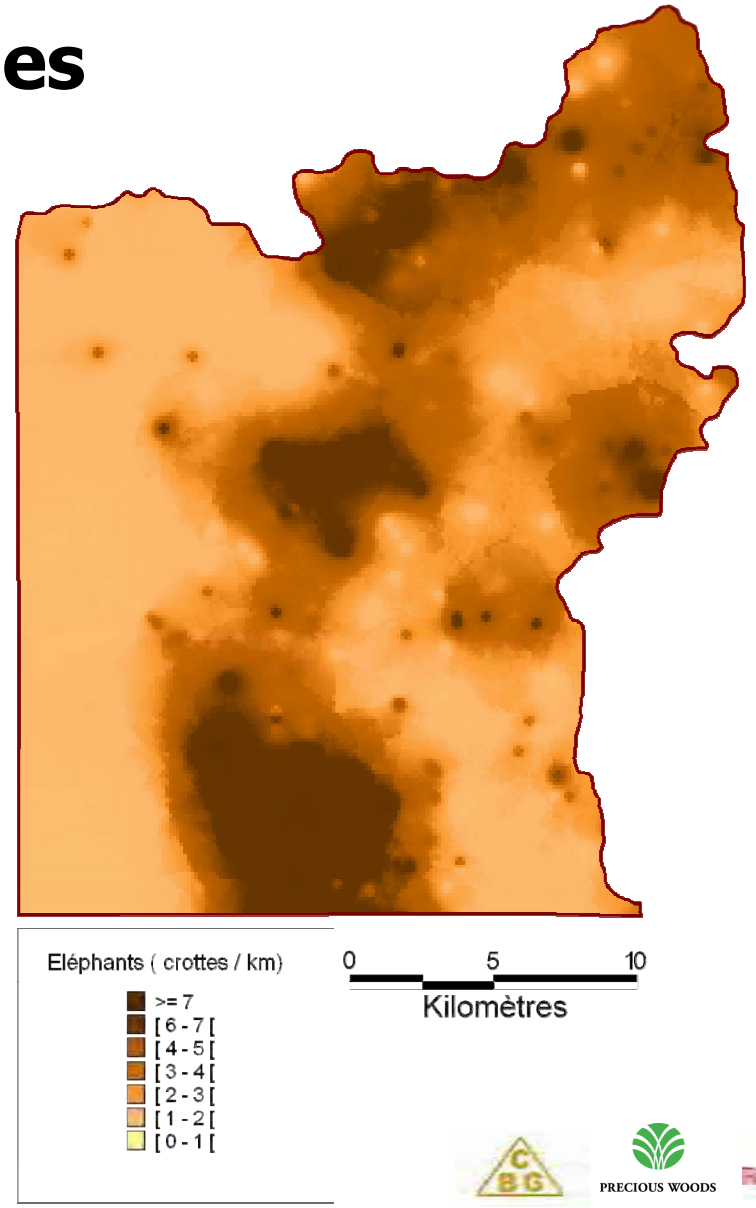
2.1 Preliminary studies of the management plan

Environmental studies

- **Wildlife studies**

- **Biodiversity studies**

- **Studies about sensitive ecosystems**



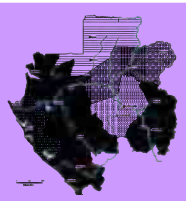
2 2.2 Creation of the management plan

◎ Environmental studies

◎ Forest inventories

◎ Social studies

Objectives of the company



Objectives of the government

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Objectives of the international commmunity

Objectives of the local populations

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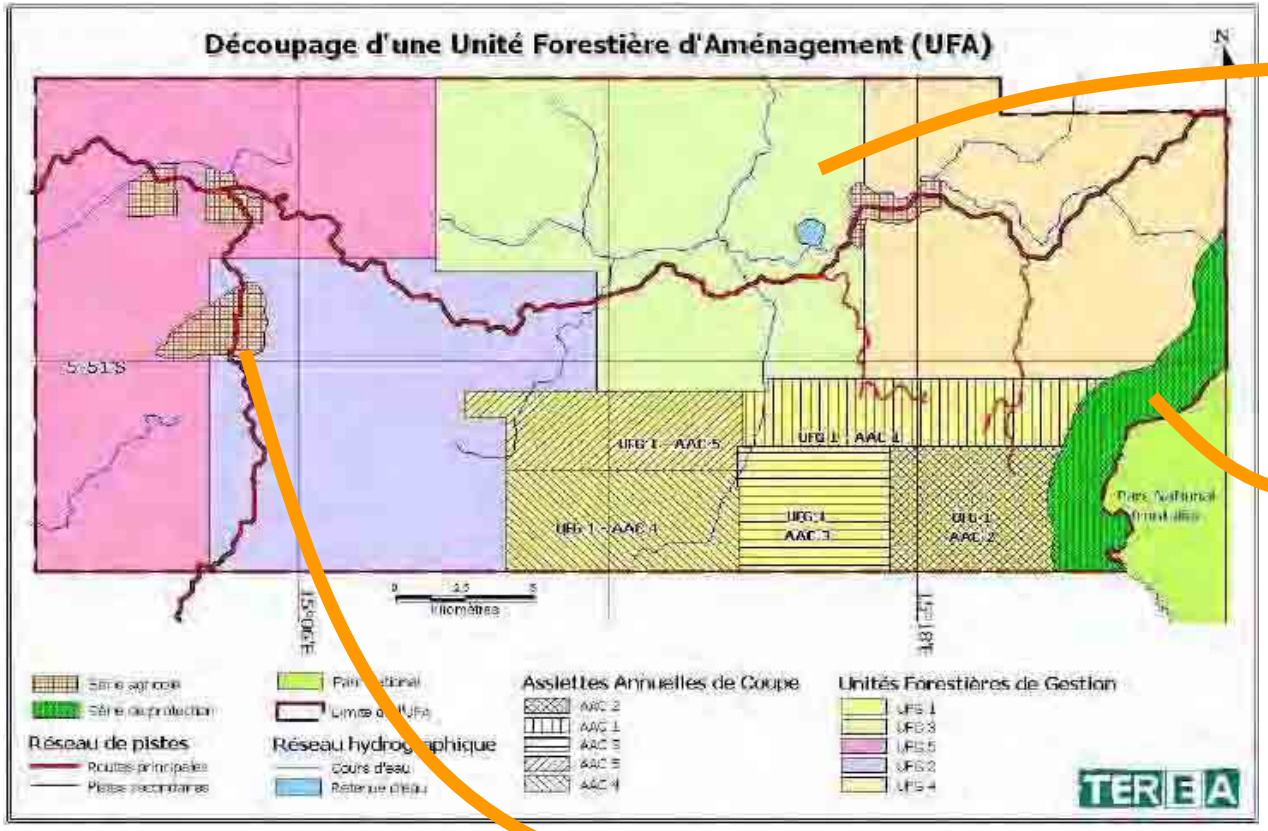
2.2 Creation of the management plan

Division of the forest into different uses



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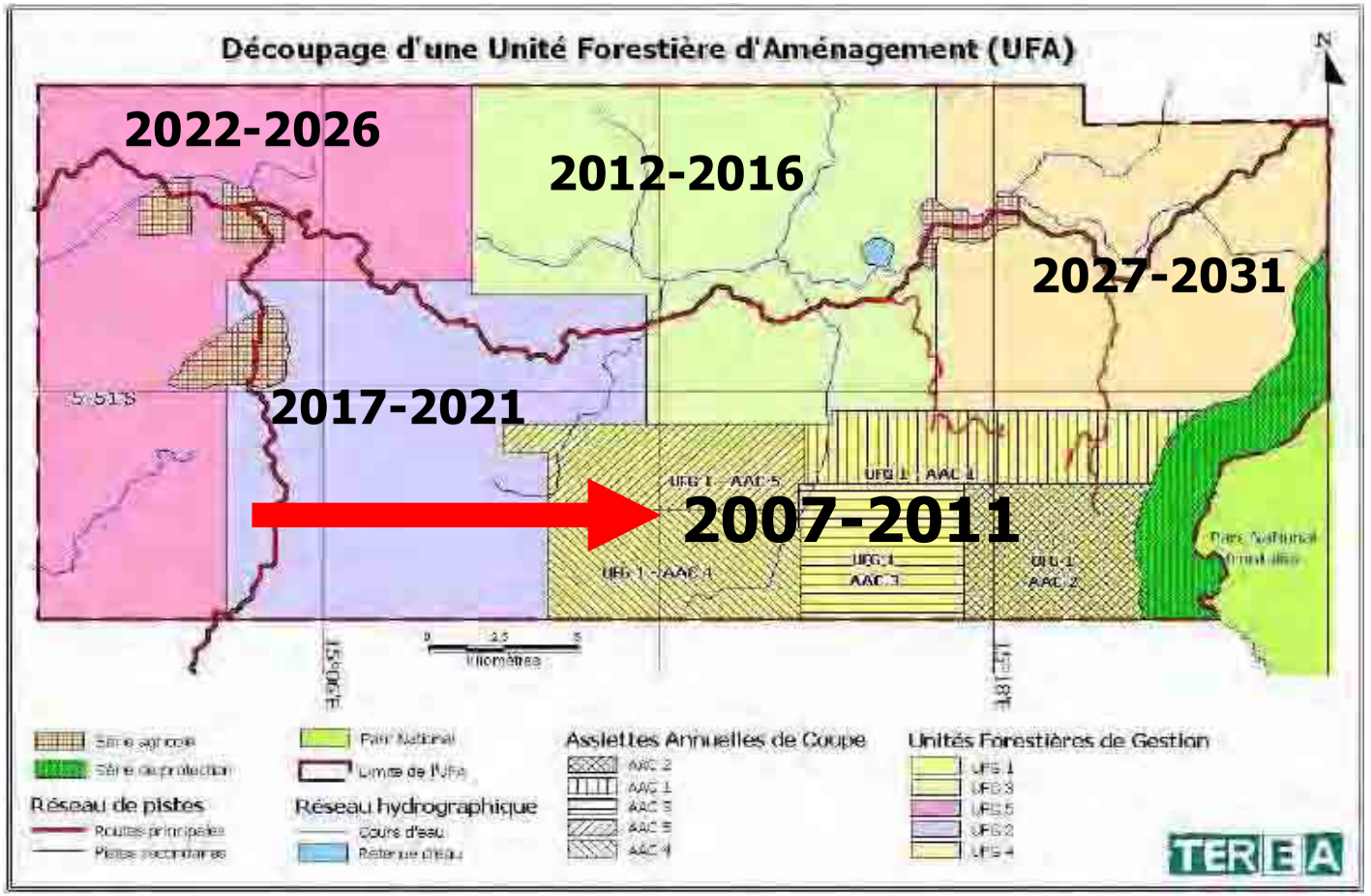
2.2 Creation of the management plan

Division of the forest into five-year plots



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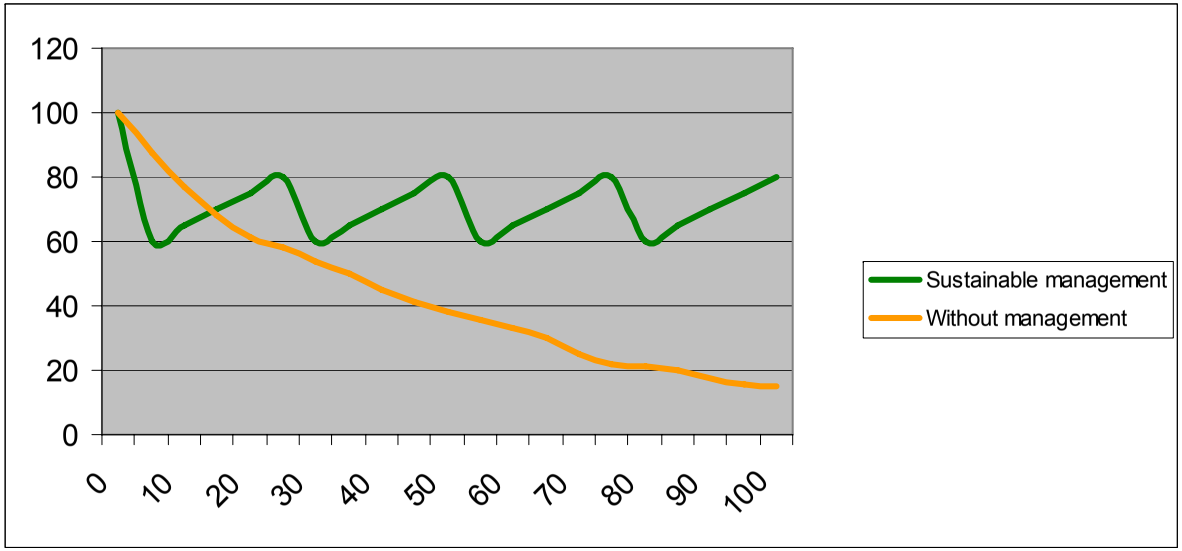
2.2 Creation of the management plan

- Harvesting cycle = long term planification
  - Time for the forest to grow back
  - Carbon storage



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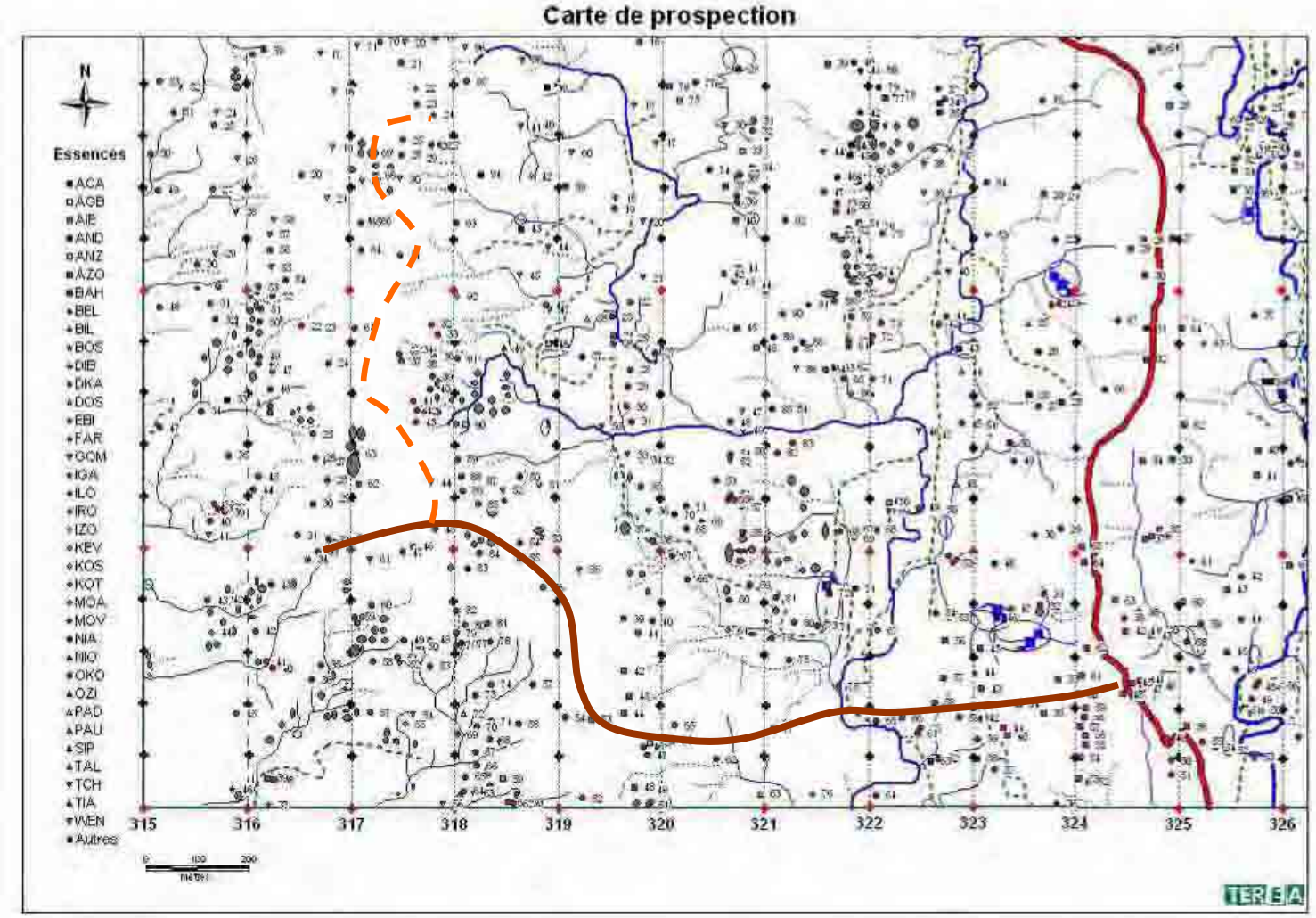
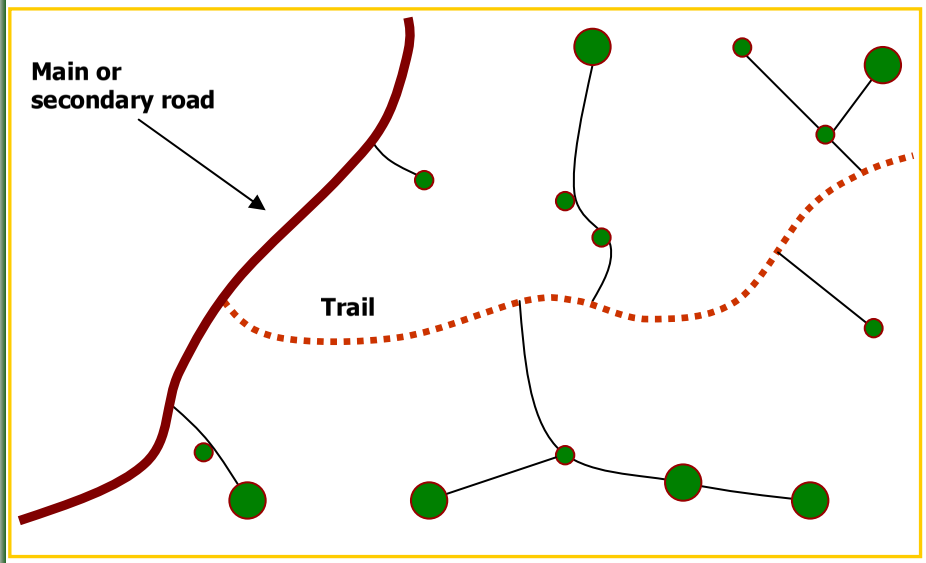
2.3 – Implementation of the management plan

- Short term planification (harvesting inventory)



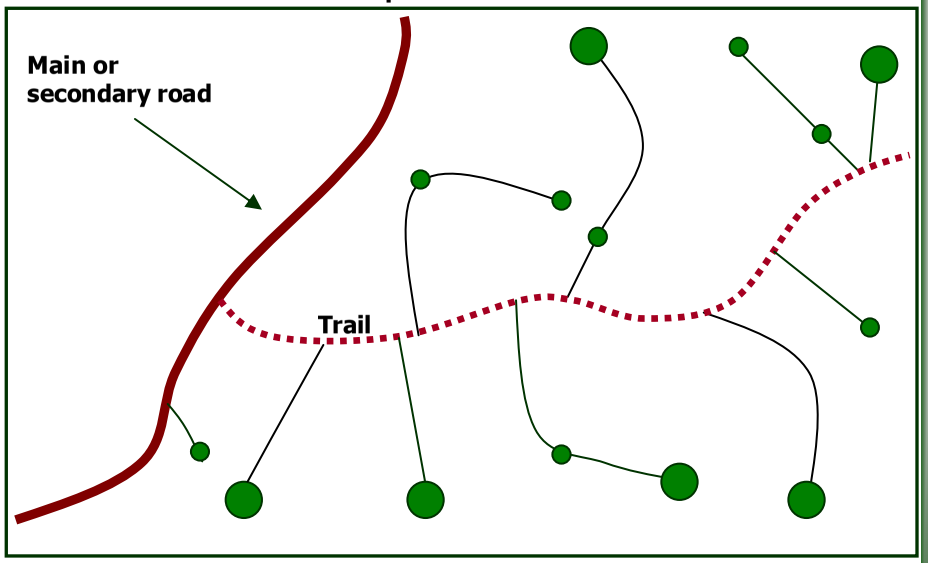
2.3 – Implementation of the management plan

Road and trail planification



Opimized trail network

No planified trail network



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2.3 – Implementation of the management plan

Reduced impact logging

- Road planification
- Size of the infrastructure
- Protection of future trees
- Guiding the bulldozer
- Controled feeling
- Maintanance of regeneration
- Prevention against pollution

PRECIOUS WOODS

2

2.3 – Implementation of the management plan

Wild-life aspect

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2

2.3 – Implementation of the management plan

Social aspects

3

Variety of services in sustainable forest management at different levels

3

3.1 Advantages at the national level

- Improvment of social values
  - Taking into account the needs of the population
  - Better distribution of the benefits obtained by the forest harvesting
  - Maintaining the forest cover and supply of services to the population
  - Employment
  - Economic development of the country

3

3.1 Advantages at the national level

- Economic advantages
  - Direct and sustainable employment
  - Indirect employment
  - Taxes

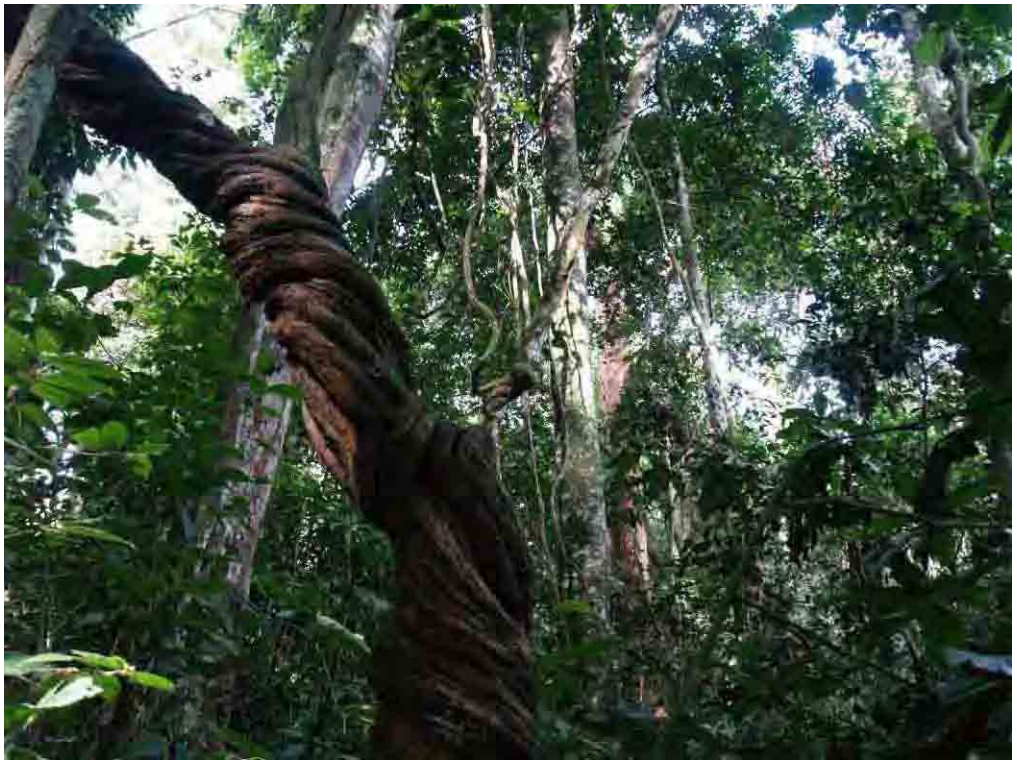
3

3.1 Advantages at the national level

- Ecological advantages
  - Conserving resources
  - Controling erosion and protecting draining areas and maintaning water flow and water resources

3 3.2 Advantages at the international level

- Ecological advantages
  - Preservation of biodiversity
  - Tool in the fight against climate change



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3.3 Without forest management…

- The risks are…
  - Substitution of the natural forest by forest plantations :
    - Loss of good carbone storage
    - Loss of social advantages and biodiversity
  - Substitution of the natural forest by industrial agricol plantations
    - Loss of carbon storage
    - Loss of biodiversity

3

3.3 Without forest management…

- The risks are
  - Allowing forest degradation
    - Loss of carbon storage
    - Loss of social advantage
    - Loss of biodiversity

3

3.4 Necessity to enforce forest management

- Forest management has to be economically benefitial in order to avoid conversion of the soil uses
- We have to encourage the companies who are seriously involved in sustainable management
- Forest certification is a tool for the sustainable forest management control on the international market

3 Conclusion