



Acronym: CARPE
Full Name: Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment
Website: <http://carpe.umd.edu/>
Established: 1995
Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Areas of expertise: Reduction of the rate of forest degradation and loss of biodiversity by supporting increased local, national and regional resource management capacity.

Main Partners and collaborations: African Wild Foundation (AWF), Conservation International (CI), NASA, USAID, World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Wildlife Found (WWF).

Short Description:

The Congo Basin forest is the second largest contiguous moist tropical forest in the world and plays a key role in securing the livelihoods of Central African citizens. The forest also provides critical habitat for biodiversity conservation and supplies vital regional and worldwide ecological services. Thus, CARPE was initiated as a regional program in order to promote sustainable natural resource management in the Congo Basin.

The Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) initiative and its strategic objective is to reduce the rate of forest degradation and loss of biodiversity in the Congo Basin by increasing local, national, and regional natural resource management capacity.

The CARPE program was first authorized by the U.S. Government in 1995 and was initially proposed as a 20-year regional initiative divided three strategic phases. Phase I began operating out in 1997 and centred on gathering information on the Central African forest ecosystem, while simultaneously building regional human resources and institutional capacity. In January of 2003, CARPE began its second strategic phase and officially transferred management to the region. At the completion of Phase II in 2011, a third CARPE strategic phase is expected to continue through 2016. Phase III is projected as the final period of transfer, when CARPE activities will be turned over to Central African institutions.

Main activities:

The CARPE program is directly concerned with the sustainable management of the Congo Basin forest ecosystem. Thus the majority of CARPE funds are allocated to support activities in designated landscapes. By implementing a landscape approach to natural resource management, CARPE works to integrate conservation objectives with objectives concerning the subsistence of human populations, commercial exploitation and agriculture, industry, and urban development. Additionally, CARPE supports a large-scale tropical forest landscape management planning process as part of its overall objective to slow the rate of tropical forest and biodiversity loss in Central Africa.

The Website of CARPE offers useful Information and Resources like the CARPE Mapper, which helps to monitor threats against the Congo Basin forest and assist conservation efforts by providing a focal point for CARPE partners to provide and share spatial information on both land use and conservation activities.

Contact:

Office Address: 198 Isiro Ave., Kinshasa, Gombe.
Mailing Address: USAID-Kinshasa
Unit 31550, APO AE 09828
Kinshasa DRC
Telephone: (243) 81-700-5701

CARPE Director Email : joflynn@usaid.gov

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