

Acknowledgements

This volume, the conference on which it is based, and on-going interdisciplinary, international collaboration through the Sangha River Network would not have been possible without the support and assistance of colleagues, mentors, institutions, friends and family. Since the conference, book, and network are so inextricably entwined, we take this occasion to express our gratitude to those involved in all three, at the risk of going on at great length and even then forgetting some who contributed. By gratefully mentioning those who helped us, we do not implicate them in the shortcomings of the Sangha River projects, of course. Errors that still stand in the publication are entirely our own.

The impulse behind our interdisciplinary work on the Sangha River region emerges from our respective experiences there. For many years, the three volume editors have been conducting both research in the region and conversations about how such research might be more collaborative, more accessible to stakeholders in the region, and more involved in building local capacities for analysis and action on environmental issues.

To this end, since 1995 we have held several gatherings in Central Africa, both formal and informal. From these contacts emerged the community, some of whose members came to participate in the Yale conference, many at great expense in time and effort. We thank each of them. It was a moving experience to see so many familiar faces finally in one place, sharing ideas, debating, discussing, and developing what we hope will become a long term dialogue about our different approaches to common conservation, development, and educational objectives.

The initial concept for the Sangha River conference emerged from a discussion in September 1996 with Kira Hall, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Yale University, who convinced us of the value of graduate student-initiated conferences. As the organizing concepts for the conference solidified, several Yale professors offered intellectual support. Eric Worby, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, and Stephen R. Kellert, Professor of Social Ecology at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, have served as faculty advisors for the project since its inception. They have guided us through the complex process of crossing boundaries among disciplines and between academic and applied work. Professor James Scott of the Department of Political Science and the Program in Agrarian Studies at Yale, and Professor Robert Harms of the History Department at Yale also supported the conference project at crucial junctures. We offer special thanks to Professor William Foltz of the Political Science Department

at Yale who led an interesting discussion for conference participants about the complicated political situation of French-speaking equatorial Africa.

Despite the odds against graduate students raising the necessary funds for such a large international conference, a variety of offices, departments, and organizations at Yale University enthusiastically provided financial support. Primary funding came from the Office of the Provost at Yale University. Associate Provost Arline McCord generously committed half the amount requested in our proposed budget for the conference, thereby encouraging others to join in supporting our efforts. After the successful conclusion of the conference, her office and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies committed the bulk of the funds necessary for the publication and dissemination of this volume. Financial commitment from the Kempf Memorial Fund and the Provost's Office was unparalleled, and Arline McCord's intellectual support and personal guidance have seen the project through from the beginning until the present.

Provost Alison Richard of Yale is our professor and has acted as an academic thesis advisor for three successive Ph.D. dissertations on the Sangha River region, those of Richard Carroll, Melissa Remis, and Rebecca Hardin. She has consistently provided enthusiastic support for this project without letting us lose sight of its role relative to our individual academic careers. We also thank Nancy Ruther, Associate Director of the Center for International and Area Studies at Yale, who met with us on numerous occasions to discuss the development of our work, consistently improving our thinking and planning. We cannot thank Arline McCord, Alison Richard, and Nancy Ruther enough for their inspiration and encouragement.

Support within Yale ultimately came from several quarters. We thank the faculty and administration of the Department of Anthropology, especially Professor and Chairman of the Department William Kelly, Associate Dean Gordon Geballe and former Dean Jared Cohon of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and Stanley Gartska, Deputy Dean of the School of Management, for their contributions. The Yale Center for International and Area Studies, the Program in Agrarian Studies, and the Council on African Studies also gave valuable financial and intellectual support. The Coca-Cola World Fund at Yale, the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, the McDougal Graduate Student Center at Yale, and the Tropical Resources Institute of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies also provided funds for our endeavors.

As we reached beyond Yale to other organizations, we were buoyed by enthusiastic and generous support from Laurent Magloire Somé and Jim Graham at USAID's Central Africa Regional Program

for the Environment (CARPE), and Richard Carroll, Mark Freudenberger and Antoine Mokombo at World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-US) in Washington D.C. The German agency Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) also provided financial support for conference participant travel.

Numerous people contributed to the complicated logistical arrangements necessary for the conference. Donna Perry, an Africanist graduate student in the Department of Anthropology, was the logistical coordinator for the Sangha River conference. Her expertise and dedication provided an enormous contribution to its success. Donna Delbuco, Business Manager for the Department of Anthropology, stalwartly handled our accounts during the intricate conference stage, and the complex process of reimbursements in multiple currencies at the conclusion of the conference. Kathleen Rosetti (formerly of the Yale Center for International and Area Studies) prepared our information brochure for the conference and worked tirelessly through numerous revisions. Many thanks are also due to James Eves, who designed the conference poster and the Sangha River Conference website and who continues to work with us on our Sangha River Network website development.

During the conference itself, an energetic team of graduate students from the Africa Natural Resources Group (ANRG) at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies helped to coordinate the logistical complexities of hosting such a large number of international participants. David Bowes-Lyon, Drue DeBerry, Ben Gardner, Eva Garen, Ammy Gillesberg, Elise Granek, Ngeta Kabiri, Jessica Lawrence, Kate McManus, Mila Plavsic, Jamie Shambaugh, Anne St. John, and Karen Steer provided consistent and cheerful support. Without the dedicated expertise and diligence of Forestry and Environmental Studies students John McKenna and Andrea McQuay, we would not have secured the critically important videotape record of all the conference sessions. These videotapes proved invaluable in preparation of the discussion sections and presentations appearing in this volume.

Our team of translators, most from the French Department, has been coordinated by Andre Siamundele, who has also coordinated both translation and network development since May 1998. Edward Tilson, Charles Mironko, and Cora Monroe applied their language skills from the study of literature and anthropology to more environmental issues through this work. They accomplished both simultaneous French-English interpretation during the conference sessions, and, with the invaluable assistance and editorial work of Philippe Auzel, Katherine Collin, Monique Froment, and Valerie Wolrich, translation and formatting of texts for this volume.

We were fortunate to find, in the *Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Bulletin Series*, a forum for our proceedings that matched our need for accessibility of information as well as for academic standards concerning ongoing research. The bilingual nature of our project was a first for the *Bulletin Series*, which has published monographs, conference proceedings, and other environmental work of interest by Yale faculty and students since 1912. *Bulletin Series* Co-editors Assistant Dean Jane Coppock and Librarian Joseph Miller of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies oversaw the editing of the papers in this volume, working with us to bring these texts of various styles, lengths, and topics into a coherent whole. As the publication neared completion, we were all deeply saddened by the death of Joe Miller after a long illness. We are greatly honored by the editorial effort he exerted on our project during his last months of life.

A small team of production staff entered the conference papers into a desktop publishing program. Radhika Wittunge, Mila Plavsic, Monique Froment and Tiara Valentino-Perkins have “been there” for us, getting the most minute of changes made, and the most enormous of drafts produced. Russell Shaddox of Yale’s Reprographic and Imaging Services, and Peggy Sullivan and Dottie Scott, graphic designers, have also been invaluable sources of expertise and production finesse in the final formatting stages. For sustained, visionary commitment to excellence in a final product, *Series* Editor Jane Coppock deserves a particular expression of our recognition and respect.

The Sangha River Project has moved through the conference and this publication into a network of scholars and practitioners who continue collaboration toward a deeper understanding of the development and environment needs of the Sangha River watershed. At the same time, the Sangha River Network (or SRN) has been part of the changing practice of environmental studies and regional or area studies within academic institutions. At Yale University, the SRN has joined the “Rethinking Environment and Development” group of a Ford Foundation-sponsored initiative, with the goal of stimulating intensive, regional and cross-regional studies that involve a wide array of academic and professional specialists. Through that initiative, Assistant Professor Arun Agrawal at Yale and Kalyankrishnan Sivaramakrishnan, Fellow of the Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex have become cherished collaborators. They have helping us connect our project, both institutionally and intellectually, to broader comparative work on environmental, political and economic issues.

At the University of Orléans, France, SRN has joined the ERMES-IRD laboratory’s forest studies program in order to include French-speaking scholars, particularly Africans, in emerging institutional

networks for exchange of research results and resources for further study. Georges Dupré, Alain Froment and Jean Paul Lescure have participated wholeheartedly in, and thus shaped, this experiment.

A few more thanks are in order for those mentors who have shaped our long-term vision of the project. Professor Tim Clark of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies provided us with essential guidance through the development of long and short-term planning of our collective and individual futures. We would also like to extend our deep appreciation to William Ascher of Duke University, who brought divergent conference participant views together in extremely valuable ways for future work. David Apter, Chair of Yale's Council on African Studies, has included us in discussions with his colleagues, David Cameron, Chair of the Political Science Department at Yale, and Dunstan Wai, Director of the World Bank's Capacity Building Program. Such conversations have sharpened our visions of future possibilities, and we thank Dr. Apter for facilitating such contacts.

The Yale Center for International and Area Studies continues to offer us immense support, through the guidance of Director Gustav Ranis and the hard work of staff members Beverly Kimbro and Haynie Wheeler, who advise us on financial matters and on further funding development. The Program in Agrarian Studies at Yale University, in the person of Program Coordinator Kay Mansfield, has generously offered us office space in its building, enabling us to centralize and coordinate our operations.

Somehow families and friends always seem to be relegated to the last paragraph of acknowledgments. Their position at the end of our long list reflects the fundamental nature of their roles; the Eves, Hardin, and Rupp families gave us support in ways that only families can. We would particularly like to thank Julie Hardin for her organizational skills and support during the conference. Richard Ruggiero, Philippe Auzel, and Ju-Hon Kwek have made contributions, through their acceptance, affection and encouragement, for which no words can confer adequate thanks.

Heather E. Eves, Rebecca Hardin, and Stephanie Rupp
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