

# WHO PROFITS FROM PROTECTED AREAS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LAND?

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Jutta Kill

[jutta@gn.apc.org](mailto:jutta@gn.apc.org)

[www.wrm.org.uy](http://www.wrm.org.uy)

TU Berlin Lecture Series Development Policy  
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Indigenous People[s], Land and Nature

# WHO PROFITS FROM PROTECTED AREAS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LAND?

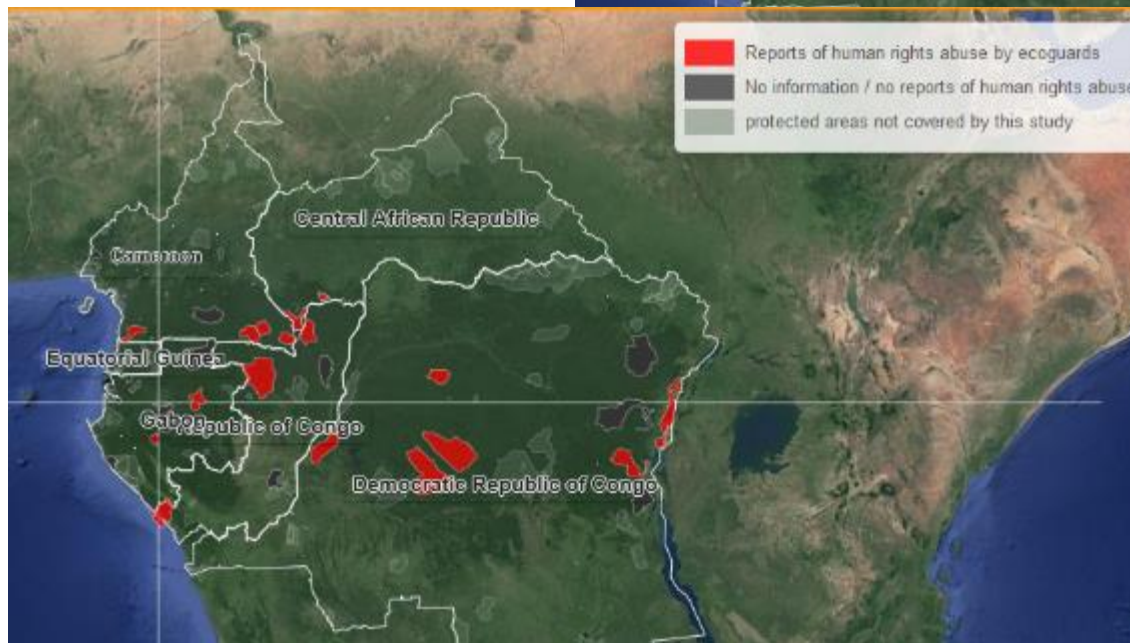
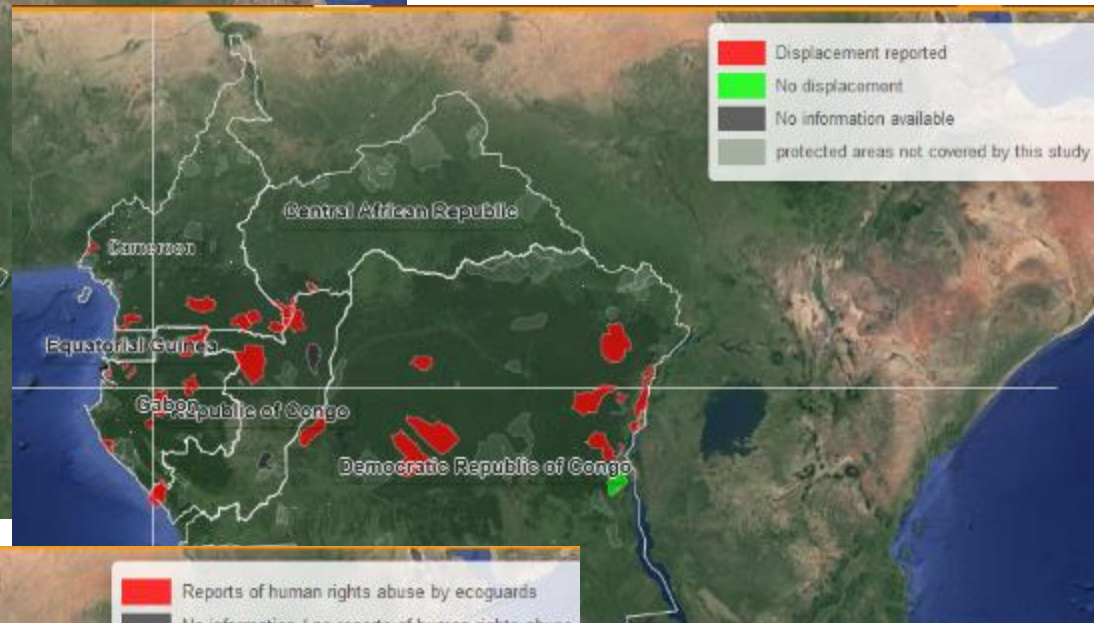
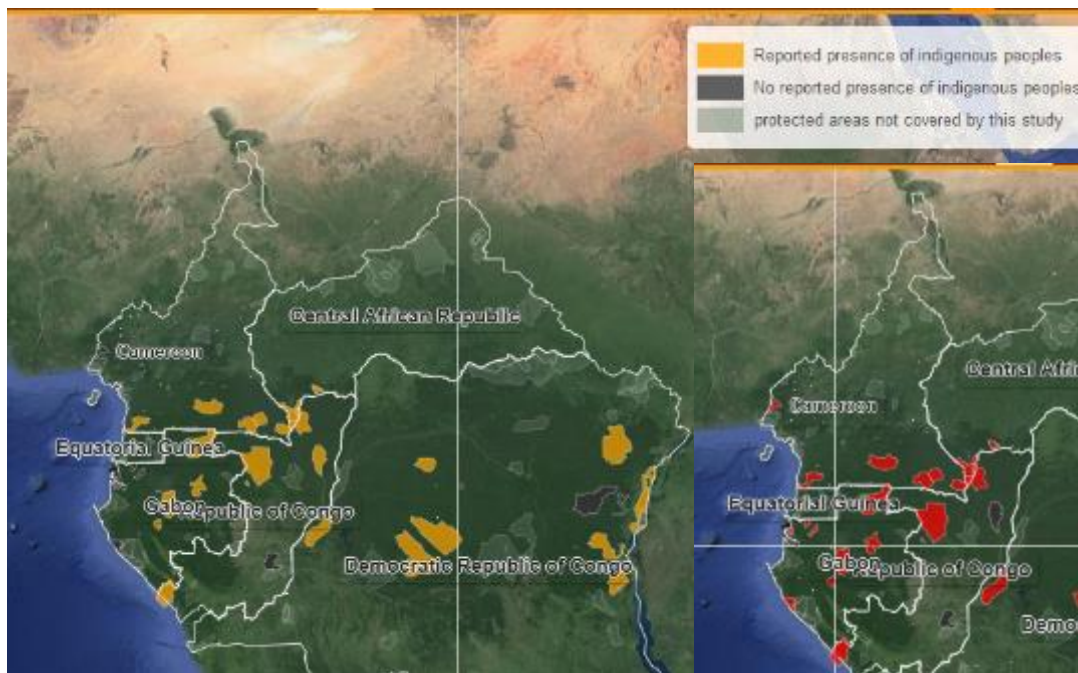


„In the Congo Basin „more than anywhere else in the world, the many promises of rights-based and participatory conservation have miserably failed to materialise. For communities living in and around protected areas, the reality continues to be one of dispossession, impoverishment and widespread human rights abuses.”

- 5. CASE STUDIES**
- 5.1 Tumba Lediima Nature Reserve, Republic of Congo
  - 5.2 Boumba-Bek and Nki National Parks, Cameroon
  - 5.3 Ivindo National Park, Gabon
  - 5.4 Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Republic of Congo

<http://www.mappingforrights.org/files/38342-Rainforest-Foundation-Conservation-Study-Web-ready.pdf>

**..... very rarely, it's indigenous peoples who profit!**



Images:

[Rainforest Parks and People](#)

See also:

[Mapping for Rights](#)

No reported presence of indigenous peoples: Maiko

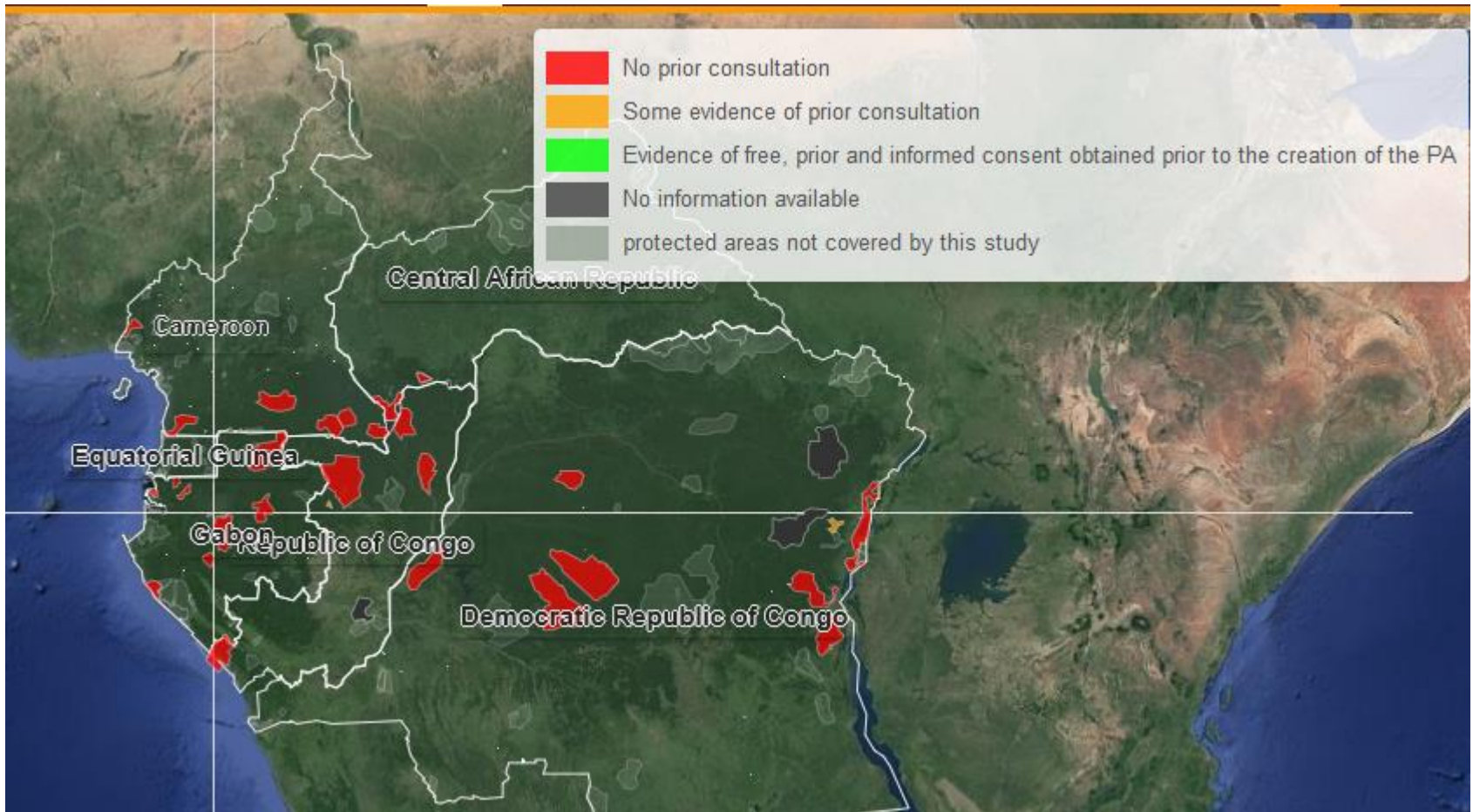
„Every time we came close to a protected area, we found the same story: forest-dependant communities, who had been managing and co-existing with their ancestral forests sustainably for generations, **had seen their lands and primary sources of livelihoods and income stripped away by protected areas that were imposed on them without their consent.**

....[...] side-lined in the management of the forests they depend on, and having to endure **heavy-handed enforcement of rules** that were not properly explained to them, with **armed park rangers arbitrarily and disproportionately targeting them for ‘poaching’ instead of going after the real criminals.”**

[Rainforest Foundation UK, 2019](#)



**Throughout the Congo Basin, establishment of protected areas on customary land of forest-dependent communities without community consent is / has been the norm**



Some evidence of prior consultation: [Tanya Gorilla Nature Reserve, DRC](#)



Stand: 29.09.2015

## Die Wunder des Waldes: Leben in Messok Dja

1 / 10

"WWF's lies about Indigenous People being "supportive" of its proposed Messok Dja National Park in the Republic of Congo. [...]"

Ltl Acorn

DJB5



086°F

030°C

07/17/2015 16:10:49

Gefilmt in der Kamerafalle © M. Gensberg & V. Mooler WWF-ETIC

### Was ist das?

Ein Elefant in unmittelbarer Nähe einer Kamerafalle.

*Im Kongo stehen die zweitgrößten Regenwälder der Welt. Diese frischen Kamerafallenbilder zeigen es: Noch sind die Wälder von Messok Dja voller Leben. Gorillas, Leoparden, Elefanten, Schimpansen, Riesenwaldschweine und, und, und. Doch das ökologische Gleichgewicht wird vor allem durch einen riesigen Staudamm und die massive Wilderei gefährdet.*

*Wir wollen das Gebiet als Nationalpark ausweisen. Der WWF Deutschland unterstützt hier die Wildhüter mit Mitteln des Bundesministeriums für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (BMZ).*

# Information about community opposition to WWF campaign to have Messok Dja declared national park was readily available to WWF funders and supporters

Messok Dja



## Die Wunder des Waldes: Leben in Messok Dja - WWF Deutschland

<https://www.wwf.de> » Fotostrecken ▾

29.09.2015 - Diese ganz frischen Kamerafallenbilder zeigen: Noch sind die Regenwälder von Messok Dja in der Republik Kongo voller Leben.

## Baka - Survival International

<https://www.survivalinternational.de/indigene/baka-messok-dja> ▾

Die Gründung des Nationalparks Messok-Dja im Nordwesten der Republik Kongo gefährdet das Überleben der Baka. Und sie ist illegal.

## Fordere den WWF auf, Messok Dja nicht mehr zu unterstützen ...

<https://www.survivalinternational.de/emails/messokdja> ▾

Sie müssen zusehen, wie ihre Wälder, in denen sie seit Generationen leben und die sie schützen, gestohlen werden, um den neuen Nationalpark Messok Dja ...

## Fragen und Antworten zum zukünftigen Schutzgebiet Messok Dja ...

[www.survivalinternational.de/artikel/3559-fragen-und-antworten-messok-dja](http://www.survivalinternational.de/artikel/3559-fragen-und-antworten-messok-dja) ▾

Wir erklären, warum Survival die Gründung des Schutzgebietes Messok Dja stoppen will.

## Urge WWF to stop backing Messok Dja - Survival International

<https://www.survivalinternational.org/emails/messokdja> ▾ [Diese Seite übersetzen](#)

They're being evicted to make way for the creation of a new national park in the Congo Basin, Messok Dja. It's backed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). And it's ...

## Baka - Survival International

<https://www.survivalinternational.org/tribes/bakamessokdja> ▾ [Diese Seite übersetzen](#)

The Baka. The creation of the Messok Dja National Park in northwest Congo threatens the survival of the Baka. And it is illegal. The Baka are being driven from ...

## Der WWF will einen neuen Nationalpark errichten und unterschlägt für ...

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/de/.../wwf-eu-messok-dja-indigene-unterschlagen> ▾

11.03.2019 - Die EU hat daraufhin dem WWF Fördermittel in Höhe von einer Million Euro für den geplanten Park Messok Dja in der Republik Kongo ...

## Exposed by BuzzFeed News: WWF's lies about Indigenous People ...

<https://redd-monitor.org/.../exposed-by-buzzfeed-news-wwfs-lies...> ▾ [Diese Seite übersetzen](#)

13.03.2019 - WWF told its EU funders that Indigenous Peoples support its proposed Messok Dja National Park. BuzzFeed News reports on an internal WWF ...

BuzzFeed: 'WWF's Secret War'

# WWF Funds Guards Who Have Tortured And Killed People

The World Wide Fund for Nature funds vicious paramilitary forces to fight poaching. A BuzzFeed News investigation reveals the hidden human cost.



**Tom Warren**

Investigations Correspondent



**Katie J.M. Baker**

BuzzFeed News Investigative Reporter

Chitwan National Park, Nepal  
Salonga National Park, DR Congo  
Lobéké National Park, Cameroon  
Kaziranga National Park, India



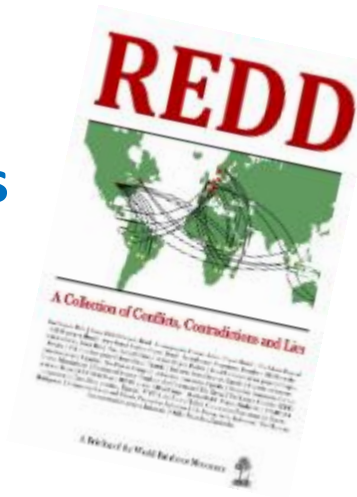
“Indigenous groups living near Chitwan [**Nepal**] have long detailed a host of abuses by these forces. Villagers have reported beatings, torture, sexual assaults, and killings by the park's guards. They’ve accused park officials of confiscating their firewood and vegetables, and forcing them into unpaid labor.”

“Indigenous people living near one park in southeast **Cameroon** described a litany of horrors in interviews and documents obtained by BuzzFeed News: dead-of-night break-ins by men wielding machetes, rifle butt bludgeonings, burn torture involving chilis ground into paste, and homes and camps torched to the ground.”

Excerpts from BuzzFeed investigation **WWF's Secret War**

# Similar patterns of use restrictions, evictions, conflicts and abuse in relation to conservation in the name of climate protection

## REDD: A Collection of Conflicts, Contradictions and Lies



*“Suffering here to help them over there” – Parana, Brasil*

*“They lie when they say REDD+ is good” – Costa Rica*

*“We don’t want this conservation area, we want land titles first” - Peru*

*“We were evicted without discussion” – Uganda*

*“It is our forest and other people are managing it in our place” – DR Congo*

*“There is no compensation, only penalties to pay” – Madagascar*

*“I and my people have suffered for five years now” – Nigeria*

# Who profits?

## RECURSOS ENDS/FUNDO DA AMAZÔNIA EM TERRAS INDÍGENAS PRAZO 36 MESES:

<http://www.fundoamazonia.gov.br/pt/carteira-de-projetos/busca/index.html?facet=tema/terras-indigenas/&reloaded&page=5>

<b>CTI</b> – Centro de Trabalho Indigenista	R\$ 19.043.330,00 + R\$ 11.934.540,00 = R\$ 30.977.870,00
TNC – The Nature Conservancy	R\$ 15.750.406,00
FASE –	R\$ 7.615.854,00
FUNBIO –	R\$ 16.900.000,00
FUNDAÇÃO BANCO DO BRASIL	R\$ 15.000.000,00
ISA – Instituto Socioambiental	R\$ 8.023.856,00 + R\$ 11.720.000,00 = R\$ 19.735.856,00

### \* Conservation Industry:

➔ Funding, Fundraising, Control over indigenous territories across the globe

ASSOC FLORESTA PROTEGIDA	R\$ 9.089.870,67
ISPN –	R\$ 12.843.876,04
UNIV AMAZONAS E MURAKI –	R\$ 4.614.587,03
WWF BRASIL –	R\$ 3.205.943,00

### \* Bilateral and multilateral agencies

➔ Disbursement of large sums to small group of conservation organisations with headquarters in industrialized countries

# Who does not profit?



"Before the Tumba Lediima Reserve, life was not complicated, as all the solutions could be found in the forest; but today, we are starting to enter our forests as if we were thieves".

**Village chief, DRC**

[See full case study...](#)

## Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Republic of Congo

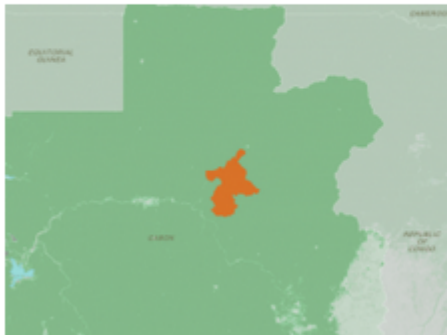


"The park could have become an economic opportunity for us but it has become like living in a prison".

**Forest dweller, Republic of Congo**

[See full case study...](#)

## Ivindo National Park, Gabon



"We don't think that the park is a bad thing in terms of conserving species; what bothers us in the way we are treated and the type of interaction that people from the park have with us".

**Forest dweller, Gabon**

[See full case study...](#)

**More detail:** <http://rainforestparksandpeople.org/detailed-case-studies/>



## Who does not profit?

***“wildlife conservation as an ideologically charged political activity rife with contradictions and denials”***

The Nature of German Imperialism  
Conservation and the Politics of Wildlife in Colonial East Africa  
Bernhard Gissibl

... could have become an economic opportunity for us but it has become like living in a prison”.

Forest dweller, Republic of Congo

***„Naturschutz bedeutet immer Einschränkung. [...]. Deshalb gibt es auch nicht immer Win-Win-Situationen.“***

Christof Schenck, FZG

See full case study...

**More detail:** <http://rainforestparksandpeople.org/detailed-case-studies/>

***Selected documentation abuses, violence and torture linked to protected areas management in connection with WWF since BuzzFeed first exposed the WWF atrocities in March 2019:***

BuzzFeed investigation 'WWF's Secret War': <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/tomwarren/wwf-world-wide-fund-nature-parks-torture-death>

Guardian article on BuzzFeed investigation: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/mar/04/wwf-accused-of-funding-guards-who-allegedly-tortured-killed-scores-of-people>

Guardian article on abuses in Sangha Tri-National Park Cameroon :  
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/mar/15/uk-charity-knew-of-alleged-abuse-in-congo-parks-but-did-not-act-sangha-tri-national-trust-fund>

REDD Monitor article about BuzzFeed and German TV and newspaper reporting on gang rape and abuses in Salonga NP, DRC: <https://redd-monitor.org/2019/04/02/torture-murder-rape-wwf-must-release-its-report-about-abuses-carried-out-by-eco-guards-in-salonga-national-park/>

Zembla documentary about abuses in Kaziranga National Park, India  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHH\\_vlhnCOI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHH_vlhnCOI&feature=youtu.be)

Channel 4 documentary about intimidation and fear around Messok Dja in RoC which WWF wants to be declared National Park: <https://survivalinternational.org/news/12145>

German TV report with some parts in French on the atrocities in Salonga: Germany's misguided conservation funding: <http://mediathek.daserste.de/REPORT-MAINZ/Die-verfehlte-Naturschutzpolitik-von-Bun/Video?bcastId=310120&documentId=61880876>

## **Nachtrag / addendum:**

Petition Survival International related to WWF campaign to have Messok Dja in the Republic of Congo declared a national park despite community opposition:

<https://www.survivalinternational.org/emails/messokdja>

Petitions, articles and letters from NGOs requesting a meaningful investigation by WWF following the recent BuzzFeed investigation into abuses, torture and violence by guards working in protected areas co-managed by WWF:

<https://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org/rfuk-calls-on-wwf-to-immediately-release-details-of-investigation-into-human-rights-abuses>

<https://www.forestpeoples.org/en/rights-based-conservation-law-policy-cultural-identity-knowledge/news-article/2019/open-letter-wwf>

<https://wrm.org.uy/articles-from-the-wrm-bulletin/section1/wwf-in-the-drcs-salonga-national-park-torture-murder-and-gang-rape/>