

**REPORT OF VILLAGE TO VILLAGE SENSITISATION FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NGUTI COUNCIL FOREST PRESENTED TO
THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSION BY MR. NDIFOR JOHN, SUB-DIVISIONAL
OFFICER FOR NGUTI SUB-DIVISION.**

Introduction

In continuation with the process of establishing the Nguti Council Forest, and with reference to Ministerial Decision No 1354/D/MINEF/CAB of 26th November 1999 which outlines the legal procedure for establishing Permanent Forests in Cameroon, the next legal step after the sensitisation of elites and local administration is village to village sensitisation.

Objectives

The process of creating and managing a Council Forest though legally provided by the Forestry Law is still little understood by all stakeholders. This is especially so because the establishment of the Nguti Council Forest is the first experience in the South West Province.

Though several meetings have been organised on this subject which brought together representatives of the relevant villages, the need to organise village to village sensitisation becomes imperative to:

- Further sensitise local community members on the whole concept of council forest;
- Explain the expected contribution of the local communities to the process;
- Discuss and agree on a participatory approach to managing the CF.

APPROACH

The approach adopted was thus:

- Meetings were organised in the relevant villages
- During each meeting, an agenda was proposed, discussed and adopted as a guide for deliberations and after opening formalities,
- Presentations were made on three technical issues;

1. An explanation of the legal steps for the establishment of a council forest,
2. An overview of the Cameroon forestry law and proposed institutional set-up for the management of the Nguti CF
3. Technical specifications for the management of a council forest.

-After each presentation, discussions followed which involved questions, clarifications, suggestions etc and finally,

-General resolutions were taken by the community members on whether or not to continue with the process.

Composition of Team

The team was composed of:

- The Sub-Divisional Officer for the Nguti Sub-Division Mr. Ndifor John
- The Divisional Delegate, MINFOF, Kupe Muanengouba Mr.Njimin Thomas
- The first Deputy Mayor Nguti Council, Mr. Tong George
- The Representative of the Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post Baro, Mr. Nde Noubissi,
- The Provincial Chief of Service for Forestry for the South West Province, Mr. Kebou Jean Pierre,
- Municipal Council for the area Mr. Tabi Napoleon,
- Mr. Besong Simon, Forestry Expert, PDFOF, SWP,
- Mr. Mor-Achankap. GIS Officer, PDFOF, SWP.

These sensitisation meetings were organised between the 27th of June 2008 and the 2nd of July 2008 in the different villages.

RESULTS

- All the villages unanimously supported the idea of establishing and managing a Council forest in the area proposed;
- However, the communities expressed the hope that the proposed institutional set-up for the management of the Council Forest will ensure transparency in the management of finances;
- The need to adjust the boundaries around Ayong to remove already existing farms to come out with a final map for the Council Forest was recommended.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

The process of establishing and managing the Nguti Council Forest is well on course and fully supported by the local population. It is recommended that the Government continues with the process.