

# Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West Province of Cameroon

## Stakeholder Workshop for the Creation of Council Forest in Nguti Council Area



*21<sup>st</sup> March 2007, Nguti Council Chambers*

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*For GTZ-PGDRN  
Programme for the Sustainable management of  
Natural Resources*

# Table of contents

<b>Executive summary .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Context and Justification .....	3
1.2 Objective of the Meeting .....	4
1.3 Expected Result of the Meeting .....	4
1.4 Programme of the Meeting .....	5
1.5 Preliminary Planning Meetings .....	5
1.5.1 Planning Meeting in Buea .....	5
1.6 Planning meetings in Nguti .....	5
<b>2. The Nguti Meeting .....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Attendance at the Meeting .....	6
2.2 Welcome Address .....	6
2.3 Opening Address .....	6
2.4 Word of Introduction by the Provincial Delegate, MINFOF .....	6
2.5 The Presentations .....	6
2.5.1 German Development Cooperation in the SW Province .....	7
2.5.2 Legal Aspects: Forest categories in Cameroon .....	8
2.5.3 TOU Concept and various forest land use types .....	9
2.5.4 The Gazettement and Management of Council Forests .....	10
2.6 Way Forward .....	11
2.6.1 Main conclusions of the meeting .....	11
2.6.2 Action Plan .....	12
<b>3. Overall conclusions of the meeting .....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 Participatory management of the Council Forest .....	12
3.2 Transparency .....	12
<b>4. Literature .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5. Annexes .....</b>	<b>14</b>
5.1 Programme of the Meeting: Nguti , 20/03/07 .....	14
5.2 Attendance List .....	16
5.3 Presentation I: German Dev. Cooperation in the SW Province .....	20
5.4 Presentation II: Legal Aspects and Forest categories .....	22
5.5 Presentation IV: Gazettement and Management of Council Forests .....	24
5.6 Presentation III: The TOU Concept and integrated landscape management .....	27
5.7 Map of the prospected area .....	28

## **Executive summary**

The German Development Cooperation is contributing actively to support the Government of the Republic of Cameroon to manage natural resources. The three main structures of this Cooperation (GTZ, KfW, DED) are all working in the South West Province within the context of the *“Development Programme of the Republic of Cameroon, co-financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW, in cooperation with GTZ and DED”*. The cooperation objective focuses on conservation of high value forest ecosystems and contribution to the alleviation of poverty of local people living in the area.

Council forestry has been identified as a potential area of intervention, whereby valuable forest massifs shall be sustainably exploited and revenue generated in the councils shall be used to implement community development measures.

After sensitization of six councils in the South West Province notably, Mundemba, Toko, Nguti, Konye, Tinto and Mamfe on the council forest option, only three councils so far have manifested interest. These include Mundemba, Konye and Nguti councils. In order to confirm the commitment of the said councils and neighbouring populations on the creation and management of council forests, three separate meetings have been organised in the respective council areas. Participants in the meetings include:

- The council administration, including Mayors and Councilors from the areas concerned.
- Local Administrative authority, notably the Divisional officers and entourage
- Chiefs of the concerned villages, including chairmen of village traditional councils, female and youth representatives
- Staff of forestry administration and other related government services notably Agriculture and Environment
- Development and conservation organizations working in the areas.

After a series of technical presentations on the legal, administrative and financial pre-requisites to acquire and manage council forests;

In all three council areas, a strong commitment to acquire and manage council forests was expressed and participants requested for government support to get the process through. Though the councils lack the necessary technical and financial resources to proceed with the initiative on their own, they pledged to provide their contribution to get the process through. Action plans to follow up the creation of the council forests were elaborated for each area.

## 1. Introduction

The new Forestry Law of 1994 and its accompanying Texts of Application of 1995 provide the basis by which Councils in Cameroon could participate in the management of Council Forests as an integral effort to improve on their cash flow and contribute to the much expected developmental needs of their people. This Law has opened the way for the involvement of community people in the participatory management of forests.

### 1.1 Context and Justification

Discussions for the creation of a Council Forest in Nguti are within the scope of the current administrative reforms to foster decentralization in Cameroon. Councils are increasingly called upon to take upon them more responsibilities in the development of their Council areas and the population living therein. Forests have been identified as a potential source of generating additional revenue for endowed Councils to carry on this important mission.

The overall low success rate in the implementation of the community forest concept in the SW Province during the last 12 years opens up opportunity to push forward the council forest approach in appropriate areas. The Nguti Council is adequately provided, in terms of forest resources on which to create and manage a council forest.

The process for the acquisition of a council forest is cumbersome, involving the redefinition of land tenure in the area and may well affect the relationship between the concerned villages and the Nguti Council over the management and use of funds derived from the Council Forest, but there are emerging opportunities to support interested Councils in their initiative to create and manage council forests.

Development Partners, notably German Development Cooperation, are working closely with the Government of Cameroon to support decentralized forest management. These Development Partners include among others:

- The Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the SW Province, whose Planned Result 2 states that, *Regional land use and zoning plans for the respective TOUs including Community Forestry and Collaborative Management of protected areas are bindingly established.* Also, Planned Result 3 states that a *pilot management plan for a Council Forest is approved and Forest Management Units and Council Forests are professionally monitored.* Consequently the Nguti Council is well advised to make good use of this opportunity.
- The Council Forest Project of the Association of Councils of the Forest Zone of Cameroon.
- The GTZ/FCS Project on certification of Council Forests.
- The GTZ Programme on Decentralization, which is working with Councils to improve on their management and administrative systems.

These provide a huge useful advantage from which interested Councils would benefit. Although some of these Projects and Programmes do not have the SW Province as their core area of activities, they do present excellent opportunity for exchange of information and experience on Council Forest creation and management.

In the South West Province, the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources is very supportive of this initiative and would be a Partner to accompany the Nguti Council in this novel venture. The Nguti Council would undoubtedly be prepared to assume more responsibility in sustainable forest management, improved governance and transparent promotion of local development in the Council Area, as a prerequisite to obtain support from ongoing initiatives.

The Government of Cameroon, through the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, the Council Support Fund (FEICOM) and other national initiatives would provide support to deserving Councils.

The Korup-Ndongere Technical Operations Unit is one of the key intervention areas of the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West Province (PSMNR-SWP). It is in the plan of the said Programme to bring developmental efforts to the villages in the TOU Areas, with clear focus around protected areas such as the Korup National Park. Although the proposed Nguti Council Forest areas are far from the Korup National Park, they fall within the TOU and therefore, some villages in the Nguti Municipality stand to benefit through the Council Forest initiative.

The PSMNR would provide only very limited technical and financial assistance to the Nguti Council to create and manage a Council Forest. It is therefore incumbent on the Council to look for additional technical and financial resources to carry on with this initiative.

The Nguti Council could opt for this approach. She could seek assistance from the Programme to secure financial resources to undertake the gazettment process and promote sustainable forest management, which will lead to a sustained flow of revenue to the Council to be used in transparent development over a long time.

## **1.2 Objective of the Meeting**

The Objectives of the Nguti Meeting consisted in:

- To inform and sensitize stakeholders in Nguti on the concept of Council Forests, as embodied in the 1994 Forestry Law.
- To present the procedures of the process to acquire and manage a Council Forest.
- To evaluate the commitment of the stakeholders in Nguti to continue the process to acquire a Council Forest.

## **1.3 Expected Result of the Meeting**

At the end of the Meeting, it was expected that:

- The stakeholders would have been well informed and sensitized on the concept and the process for acquiring a council forest.
- The Delegates, as representatives of their villages would then agree to adopt and go for the council forest approach, as an opportunity that would contribute to the development of their area.

## **1.4 Programme of the Meeting**

The Moderator presented the Programme of the Meeting. It was enthusiastically accepted and adopted for use (See Annex I).

## **1.5 Preliminary Planning Meetings**

### ***1.5.1 Planning Meeting in Buea***

On Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> March, a planning meeting was held in the PSMNR-SWP Office, Buea. Messrs Stenmanns Frank (GFA/DFS), Okenye Mambo (GTZ Technical Adviser), Jean-Pierre Kebou, Besong Simon (Forest Officers at the Provincial Delegation of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife and Njie Emmanuel (Consultant) attended this meeting. These members constitute the 'Council Forest Work Group for the PSMNR-SWP'.

Basically, this meeting agreed on the Objectives, Conduct and Itinerary of the visit to Nguti. Departure from Buea was agreed for Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> March and a sensitization meeting was planned for Nguti that same day, to prepare Council Leaders for a successful Meeting to be held in Nguti on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

## **1.6 Planning meetings in Nguti**

Further to the contacts that had been taken in August 2006 by the GTZ Technical Adviser and other contact meetings in November 2006 and January 2007, a planning meeting was held with some leaders of the Municipality of Nguti on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

- During this meeting, a very enthusiastic Mayor informed the Council Forest Work Group that, invitations had gone out and he had personally sensitized some of the key chiefs and representatives. Hence, a good turnout was to be expected. It was disclosed that, the meeting would hold in the Council Chambers and the Divisional Officer for Nguti had been contacted and he gave assurances to be present and would deliver the opening speech.
- Another short meeting was held on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> March in the late afternoon, as the Council Forest Work Group arrived Nguti from Mundemba. The Divisional Officer was present at this meeting.

This meeting confirmed earlier plans and put in finishing touches for the meeting of the next day; a generator was hired with standby technicians to ensure a constant flow of 'power' to facilitate the power-point presentations. All other items of logistics were taken care of to ensure a successful meeting.

## **2. The Nguti Meeting**

### **2.1 Attendance at the Meeting**

Through self-introduction, it was seen that the DO, Mayor, Deputy Mayors, Councillors, Chiefs, Regent Chiefs, Chairmen of Traditional Councils, Women representatives from villages, the Chief of Forestry Post, Nguti and the Council Forest Work Group from Buea attended this meeting (See Annex II).

### **2.2 Welcome Address**

A jubilant, smiling Mayor of Nguti welcomed the participants to the meeting. He expressed his optimism that, this meeting, attended by the representatives of those directly concerned and even those who were not so directly concerned, would listen attentively to the proceedings of the meeting and in the end, see the logic of agreeing to the option of a Council Forest in their Municipality. This option, he went on, would not only strengthen the Nguti Council financially but also enable the Council to meet her urgent developmental needs over a long period of time

### **2.3 Opening Address**

The Divisional Officer for Nguti was personally very happy to be part of a good idea and was ready to contribute to the Meeting. In his opening address, he said that, the option of a council forest was new but enjoined his people to use this golden opportunity for their future development. He was very optimistic that the meeting would be favourable to the option of a council forest.

### **2.4 Word of Introduction by the Provincial Delegate, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife**

Mr. Jean-Pierre Kebou, Provincial Chief of Service, Forestry, representing the Provincial Delegate presented the 'Word of Introduction'. In appreciating the turnout, he welcomed the participants for taking time off, to attend this important meeting on an option not implemented, so far, in the SW Province.

He asserted that, decentralized forest management (council forestry) is an option from the Government of Cameroon by which local developmental needs would be met by Councils. He showered thanks on the Hon. Members of the National Assembly who passed this Law; paving the way for community participation in forest management to help alleviate poverty. He was very hopeful that, the Nguti meeting would see the necessity of not only discussing this option but also agreeing to go along with it.

### **2.5 The Presentations**

In all, 4 presentations were done using power point. At the end of each presentation, the Moderator did an analysis, as it were to highlight the presentation for enhanced understanding. Participants were then encouraged to go into discussion through comments, questions, answers and/or contributions. This was a systematic attempt to create a better appreciation of the presentations.

### **2.5.1 German Development Cooperation and the Management of Natural Resources in the SW Province**

Mr. Besong Simon of the Provincial Delegation of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife delivered this presentation (See Annex III). Starting with the conditions, which prevailed during the pre-Projects Era, he got to the Projects Era (PROFA, KORUP and MOUNT CAMEROON), showing what was elaborated and implemented in each of these areas.

He stressed that, the objectives of the Projects were, nature conservation, management of forest reserves and national parks and the education of local populations on related issues. Though the Projects produced some results, there were major limitations, which hindered the attainment of larger goals.

- Financial limitations
- Institutional limitations
- A poorly developed link between conservation and development
- Limited Zones of intervention within the Projects.

To redress these Project limitations, the German Development Cooperation decided to adopt the joint technical and financial cooperation approach which focuses on nature conservation, sustainable natural resource management and village development by improving on local livelihood in the Programme Area.

The Programme overall objective is to contribute towards the preservation of high value ecosystems in the Province and sustainable forest management, notably around the 3 Technical Operation Units (TOUs), thereby contributing to improved livelihoods of the surrounding communities.

The Programme Purpose and Areas of Intervention were presented. The 5 Programme planned Results were also presented, of which Result 3 stresses that 'a pilot management plan for a Council Forest is approved and forest management units and council forests are professionally monitored.

Sources of funding for the Programme, Programme Implementation and some successes achieved so far were also presented.

***Of particular importance to the Nguti Stakeholders' meeting is the plan to bring development to villages within the Korup Ndongere TOU through the identification of potential areas, the creation and management of Council Forests.***

#### **Discussion: Question and Answer session:**

Question: Councillor Atem wanted to know why 'Mbayang Mbo' was not mentioned?

Answer: Mr. Besong answered that, 'Mbayang Mbo' is a wildlife sanctuary in the area and as such not related to the council forest topic. It is out of focus



Question: Esapa Peter: “What is to be expected in Village Development?”

Answer: Frank explained that, village development is directed through the elaboration of village development plans.

Question: Chief Enow Adamson: What is conservation and development as in the council forest approach?

Answer: Mr. Besong responded that, conservation and development, in the context of council forest, is the sustainable use of the resources in a well-managed council forest, when the revenues accruing are transparently channeled to development initiatives in the Municipality.

Question: Chief Tambe Tabi wanted to know which villages would benefit?

Answer: Frank responded that, council forest driven development initiatives are for the benefit of the entire Municipality.

### ***2.5.2 Legal Aspects: Forest categories in Cameroon***

Jean-Pierre Kebou, Provincial Chief of Service for the South West Province did this presentation. His presentation was well planned to indicate the objectives of the National Forest Policy, Forest Categories, and their gazettement and management procedures (See Annex IV)



For some details he explained that, the permanent forest estate category (forests that are expected to be used on a permanent basis over a long period of time), include state forests and council forests.

He defined a Council Forest as any forest that has been gazetted by Government on behalf of a local Council. He touched on the gazettement process but left this for a subsequent presentation.

On the issue of management, he stressed that a Council Forest had to be managed by the Council together with the village communities concerned through the participatory elaboration of the forest management plan.

In conclusion, Mr. Kebou said that, Council Forests are clearly defined as a forest category in the Law, and that decentralized forest management is foreseen in the Law through Private, Community and Council Forests

Discussion: Question and Answer session:

Question: If a Council Forest coincided with a Private Forest, what would happen?

Answer; Mr. Kebou responded that if indeed procedures for land ownership were followed, this could not happen. The Nguti Council and villages concerned are responsible for demarcating the external boundaries of a Council Forest. They are likely to include land, which is already privately used but not owned.

Question: Chief Enow Adamson desired to be clear on the conflict arising from locating a council forest farmland or farming area.

Answer; Mr. Kebou responded that, the location of council forests will be facilitated by technicians who use and understand aerial photo interpretation.

### ***2.5.3 Technical Operations Unit (TOU) Concept and various land use types with emphasis on production and protection forest areas***

Mr. Mambo Okenye, the GTZ Forestry Technical Adviser did this presentation. He explained that the TOU Concept is an integrated landscape approach in the management of natural resources. It fits squarely in the creation and management of council forests in the SW Province (See Annex V).



In some detail he talked of what a TOU is and why TOUs are needed. He also talked on land use planning and why land use planning was being carried out. In conclusion, he touched on the identification of potential areas, suitable for the creation of Council Forests in the Nguti Municipality, but warned that, what he was presenting as 'Maps' should be considered as drafts, prepared on desktops using existing base maps and satellite images.

These 'Maps' must be seen as an attempt to guide the Council and villages concerned, whose responsibility it is, to carry out the actual demarcation of forestland for Council Forests.

In recent years, conservation effort has been concentrated on protection; as in reserves and national parks. Today the emphasis is shifting to both protection and production. The Council Forest approach is essentially focusing o promote sustainable forest production to enhance local development.

## Discussion and comments:

- Potential Areas for the creation of Council Forests in the Nguti Municipality have been identified and indicated on 'maps' by Forestry Technicians in Buea. No work has as yet been initiated in the actual demarcation of external boundaries of council forest areas. This step must await the outcome of this meeting.
- The Nguti Council must work closely and transparently with the villages concerned, in the creation and management of a Council Forest. This is an issue that would solve conflicts and enhance development in the area.
- Indeed a Council Forest can be located inside the Buffer Zone of a National Park. Most likely this will be the situation in Nguti.

### ***2.5.4 The Gazettement and Management of Council Forests***

Mr. Frank Stenmanns, the Technical Adviser of GFA/DFS is a Consultant working for the German Development Bank (KfW), a major Partner of the Programme, did this key presentation through power point.

Talking about Council Forests, he stressed the important steps and issues required in the acquisition process, the management of council forests and possible support available during the process (See Annex VI).

He outlined that, due to technical, financial and administrative constraints, the gazettement and management of Council Forests in Cameroon has not been initiated. But thanks to the ongoing decentralization process in Cameroon, council forestry has the potential to support councils, such as the Nguti Council, in their general mission of local development and the improvement of livelihoods.

In regards to important steps, gazettement serves to establish a land certificate of the forest on behalf of the Nguti Council, making the council forest, the property of the Council. A management plan, which outlines the objectives, and a plan of activity must be elaborated prior to the exploitation of the forest.. The implementation of the management plan would then have to be done transparently with the participation of all those villages concerned.

He dealt carefully and explicitly with a touchy point in the management of a council forest; 'the User Rights' of surrounding villages. He declared that:

- The harvesting of NTFPs is secured, but needs to be carried out sustainably. The managers of the council forest could propose improvements in harvesting and commercialization.
- Hunting is allowed but must conform to Forest Policy.
- Use of timber for local construction is allowed and needs to feature in the management plan.
- **He emphasized that, Farming is not allowed as the Council Forest falls within the permanent forest estate category.**

The participation of surrounding villages is paramount to successful management.

- Village Forest Management Committees (VFMCs) must be established.
- A management Committee for the transparent management of the Council Forest must be set up, with representatives from surrounding villages.

- Between the Council and Villages, a Convention must be elaborated, defining clearly the responsibilities of each side.

A crucial point in successful management of a council forest is the contribution to local development and transparency in financial management;

- There needs to be an engagement between the Council and Villages to use the revenues from the Council Forest for the development of the Nguti Municipality.
- The transparency of financial flows and effective use of funds for local development must be guaranteed through the establishment of Institutional and Administrative procedures.

Support for the effort to acquire and manage a Council Forest in the Nguti Municipality is available: The Programme supports the identification of potential areas for council forests, could carry out institutional diagnosis of the Nguti Council and provide technical and financial support in the gazettment process.

In conclusion, he pointed out that, the Nguti Council would need to employ a professional forester, guarantee transparency in financial management and engage to use council forest revenues for local development for the good and satisfaction of the community people.

Question: Who is going to 'police' our council forest to check against abusive use?

Answer: A council forest, when classified, is the private property of the said Council, to be managed through the transparent implementation of the participatorily elaborated management plan.

Question: In the exploitation of timber from a council forest, could timber be sold to private mill owners?

Answer: Mr. Kebou responded that, this was permissible, as such timber is regarded as 'certified'.

- **Observation:**

The Divisional Officer for Nguti sub-Division observed that, the population of Nguti might be skeptical of the council forest approach, but after these enlightening presentations, they might not be hostile to the acquisition of a Council Forest in the Nguti Municipality.

## **2.6 Way Forward**

To the great satisfaction of the Mayor, Councillors and all the other participants, the Nguti Meeting came out enthusiastically, with a very promising 'Way Forward':

### **2.6.1 Main conclusions of the meeting**

- *The option of council forest for the Nguti Municipality is hereby accepted without reservations.*
- *The conclusions and message of this meeting shall be taken back to the village communities.*

- A formal request will be channeled to MINFOF and the Programme for support to continue the process of the acquisition and management of a Council Forest in the Nguti Municipality.

### 2.6.2 Action Plan

To transform the conclusions of the meeting into activities, a short-term action plan was proposed, discussed and agreed upon:

No	Action	Time-frame	Milestone	Responsible
1.	Chiefs and Delegates attending this meeting are to sensitize all other community members	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2007	Minutes of village meeting	Chiefs, Delegates, Councillors
2.	Villages agree on the external boundaries of the Council Forest	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2007	Report	Council, Villages
3.	Mapping the Council Forest	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2007	Map	Council, MINFOF

## 3. Overall conclusions of the meeting

These came out clearly during the presentations, comments, question and answer sessions. Without these being implemented, the very promising council forest option, might progress only with very serious difficulties.

### 3.1 Participatory management of the Council Forest

All hands would be taken on board. Village suspicions and lack of confidence in the management of centralized issues would be allayed. ***The Participation of concerned villages at all levels in the creation and management of the Nguti Council Forest is accepted as a prerequisite for real development.***

### 3.2 Transparency

Taking decisions and financial transparency need the approval of the representatives of the village communities. It would be just not enough to make and spend money. **Expenditure of revenues originating from the management of the Nguti Council Forest would be made to contribute adequately to the development of the Nguti Municipality as a whole.**

#### **4. Literature**

- 1.1 Law No. 94/01 of 20<sup>th</sup> January 1994:  
Lays down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations.
- 1.2 Decree No. 95/531/PM of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1995:  
Lays down the terms and conditions for implementing the Forestry Law.
- 1.3 Projet PPP: Partenariat Secteur Public – secteur Privé  
Stratégie d'intervention auprès des communes demandeuses
- 1.4 Okenye Mambo: Mission Report  
Feasibility study carried out, on the creation of Council Forests in the SW Province.

## 5. Annexes

### 5.1 Programme of the Meeting: Nguti , 20/03/07

Time	Activity	Responsible
8.30 - 9.00 am	Arrival and registration of participants	Moderator
9.00 – 9.10 am	Word of prayer and singing of the National Anthem	Moderator
9.10 – 9.30 am	Introduction of participants	Moderator
9.30 – 9.40 am	Welcome by the Mayor	Mayor
9.40 – 9.50 am	Opening of meeting by D.O of the area	D.O
9.50 – 10.00 am	Introductory word by MINFOF	MINFOF
10.00 – 10.15 am	Presentation of meeting programme and objective	Moderator
10.15 – 11.00 am	<b><u>Presentation:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme for the sustainable management of Natural Resources in the SWP and opportunities for collaboration</li> <li>• Legal aspects – forest categories in Cameroon + examples in Cameroon</li> <li>• Discussions</li> </ul>	MINFOF
11.00 – 11.30 am	<b>Short Break</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
11.30 – 12.15 pm	<b><u>Presentation:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOU concept and various land use types with emphasis on production and protection forest areas</li> <li>• Presentation of identified areas for the creation of council forests (avoiding present and future farming areas), including maps</li> <li>• Discussions</li> </ul>	GTZ
12.15 – 13.00 pm	<b><u>Presentation:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gazettement and management of council forests               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gazettement process</li> <li>2. User rights of villages surrounding the council forest</li> <li>3. Participation of councils and communities in management</li> <li>4. Setting up of a forestry unit within the council structure</li> <li>5. Sharing of benefits between councils and communities</li> <li>6. Costs involved in creating and managing a council forest (community forest) and</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	MINFOF/GFA

	financing opportunities	
13.00 – 14.00 pm	<b><u>General Discussions:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Way forward, main conclusions of the meeting</li> <li>• Action plan</li> </ul>	Moderator
14.00 – 14.10 pm	Closing remark	D.O
14.10 – 15.00 pm	Refreshment	Mayor
15.00 pm	Departure	All



## 5.2 Attendance List

gtz

PGDRN  
Programme de Gestion Durable  
des Ressources Naturelles

Program Nr.: 03.2097.8-00

Site: ☒ Buea ☐ Mamfe ☐ Mundemba ☐ Yaounde ☐ Yokadouma

Date: 21/03/02

### LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS AUX SEMINAIRES ET REUNIONS ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, MEETINGS

Title: Council Forest: NGUTI STAKEHOLDERS INFORMATION MEETING

No.	Name of Participant	Institution/Organisation/Village	Title	Signature
1	NBIFA John NICO	Administration	D. O	[Signature]
2	Nhan Alung Mbome	Mayas Nguti Council	Mayor	[Signature]
3	MBELLA MBELLA	ACB NGUTI	ACB	[Signature]
4	ELADSON F.C	NGUTI COUNCIL	M.T	[Signature]
5	EKWO HELLEN E	NGUTI	1st deputy mayor	[Signature]
6	ASTUM MACMOI	Managemen team	1st deputy mayor	[Signature]
7	Jafred Enondo	Babembi II	Regent	[Signature]
8	Tabi Thomas Asok	Betook	Regent	[Signature]
9	Tabi Sarah	Betook	Forer wife	[Signature]
10	TABI NAPOLEON	BARO	chief	[Signature]
11	TABI THERES	BARO	Councilor	[Signature]
12	Bonifacio B. Kope	Ofrikpa Bi Village	Representative	[Signature]
13	ABIA ALEXANDER	EKIYA	Representative	[Signature]
14	Ebebi Elizabeth	Babembi I	W/R	[Signature]
15	Ebong Armstrong	Edeungo	sec	[Signature]
16	Ngutus Michael	Ajulu Town	M/C	[Signature]
17	Black Black	Managemen	Regent	[Signature]
18	Pesong APPER	Managemen	W/R	[Signature]
19	Tabilangason Lucas	Managemen team	chairman	[Signature]
20	Eyamba Stephen	NGUTI	Technical	[Signature]
21	Akime Grace	W.C.D.M. SEC. PRO. X/M II	President	[Signature]

Luttons tous ensemble contre le VIH/Sida et contre la pauvreté au Cameroun

Attendance list Workshop

Program Nr.: 03.2097.8-00

Site: ☐ Buea ☐ Mamfe ☐ Mundemba ☐ Yaounde ☐ Yokadouma

Date: 21/03/07

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS AUX SEMINAIRES ET REUNIONS  
ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, MEETINGS

Title: Council Forest : NGUTI

No.	Name of Participant	Institution/Organisation/Village	Title	Signature
22	Ebai Besong	Ebanga	Regent	[Signature]
23	Tabi Simon	Ebanga	Chief	[Signature]
24	Eyabi Joseph	BABENSI II	Chairman	[Signature]
25	Emilia Abia	Babensi II	W.R.	[Signature]
26	Chief Tombi Daniel	EKITA	Chief	[Signature]
27	Harold Council	EKITA Bassin	ph. man	[Signature]
28	Harold Mungu	EKITA	Wpman	[Signature]
29	Thomas Fobi	Ekanga	Ch. man	[Signature]
30	Abongaya Vie	Ekanga	W.R.	[Signature]
31	Abperpo Edward	Nguti - town	Regent	[Signature]
32	Esepa Patrice	" "	Quater-H	[Signature]
33	Ewane Joseph	Babensi II	Chairman	[Signature]
34	EPREY EKY	MBOKA	R. Chief	[Signature]
35	Enyngene	Joseph	Regent	[Signature]
36	John Fobia	Nguti		[Signature]
37	Besong Henri	MBOKA	Council	[Signature]
38	Abia Gafab	Babensi I	R. Chief	[Signature]
39	Ebai Weller	Iabangaye	Tradition	[Signature]
40	Elubeh Louis	MBOKA	Sec.	[Signature]
41	Erub Ndube	OF R. pabai	Chief	[Signature]
42	EKOKO JOHN	BABENSI I	CHAIRMAN	[Signature]

Luttons tous ensemble contre le VIH/Sida et contre la pauvreté au Cameroun

Attendance list Workshops

Program Nr.: 03.2097.8-00

Site: ☐ Buea ☐ Mamfe ☐ Mundemba ☐ Yaounde ☐ Yokadouma

Date: 23/03/07

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS AUX SEMINAIRES ET REUNIONS  
ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, MEETINGS

Titre: Council Forest : NGUHI

No.	Name of Participant	Institution/Organisation/Village	Title	Signature
43	AGNES BESONG	Mamfamen	Women rep	
44	ION ETAME	Njalemye Baya		
45	EKONG Peter E.	Babessi I	Commune	
46	Molozomach Jao	MTALE	Représentative	
47	ESAPA SINKE	NGUHI		
48	ALPO Eugén	Mamfi		
49	Meluse Patchy	Ngubi		
50	TAM TITUS	Namir Council	F. clerk	
51	Nguea Sapher	Mbatha Mbao	Chief of P. H. K. Storage	
52	FONGE FIDELIS	LEKWE VILLAGE	Section President	
53	Agbon Martin	Talanga Village	P. chair	
54	Cyambe Mary	Echiengoh "	w/rep	
55	Tongwa Joseph	Njalemye	Village Ch	
56	Chief Erich Achomou	EKONG PASSOSI	Chief	
57	CHIEF AKPO IN	Echiengoh Passosi	Chief	
58	Belle Bridget	Bemine	W/R	
59	Coun. Ewou Belle	Ngeme Ngou I Bemine	Councillor	
60	NGOH Elizabeth	Council	S/G	
61	Esch Stephen E	EKwenzoh-Mbo	Caractor	
62	NTORH TARANG S	Mamfamen	Caractor NO COUNCIL	
63	ATEM AGOUR	Councillor Ngubi	Notable	

Luttons tous ensemble contre le VIH/Sida et contre la pauvreté au Cameroun

Attendance list Workshops

e: ☒ Buea ☐ Mamfe ☐ Mundemba ☐ Yaounde ☐ Yokadouma

Date: 21/03/07

ile: Council Forest: NGUTI

No.	Name of Participant	Institution/Organisation/Village	Title	Signature
5	Eyeni Eyeni	Nguti Town	Councillor	[Signature]
6	Etame Niyone	Nguti Town	Police	[Signature]
7	KEROU Jean-Vincent	MINEDF / EW	PCSF	[Signature]
8	Franksteamus	GPA / KFW	TA	[Signature]
9	OKENYE MAMBA	GIP - PADERN	TA	[Signature]
10	Fambe T. Dmail	DEDA 410	T.C.	[Signature]
11	ELIZABETH ASOK	Ofitikiap -	-	ASOK
12	EBOT H. Neng	Ediengoh	M.Councillor	[Signature]
13	Ako Anthony N	Ng. Council	Councilor	[Signature]
14	Chief Adoff M. Elott	Osiragib	Chief	O.S.
15	Aboh Suma Kibick	Nguti Town	Councillor	[Signature]
16	Philip Emogene	Ediengoh	Comm. Secretary	[Signature]

## 5.3 Presentation I: German Cooperation and the sustainable management of Natural Resources in the SW Province



### GERMAN COOPERATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SOUTH WEST, CAMEROON

PRESENTATION DURING A SENSITISATION WORKSHOP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL FORESTS

Besong Simon  
PDFOF, Buea



#### PRE-PROJECTS ERA

A) CONDITIONS WHICH PREVAILED (esp. around PAs):

- Illegal and unsustainable use of natural resources especially in and around PAs;
- Lack of adequate knowledge on the importance of the rich natural resources;
- Inadequate local capacities and institutions for sustainable use of resources;
- High level of rural poverty
- Limited manpower and logistics for controlled use by MINEF



#### PROJECTS ERA

(A) PROJECTS ELABORATED AND

IMPLEMENTED



B) GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF PROJECTS

- Nature conservation and protection
- Management of forest reserves and National Parks
- Education of local populations on issues related to :
  - Nature Conservation
  - Participatory Management of Natural Resources
  - Sustainable Utilisation of Natural Resources



C) PROJECTS MAIN RESULTS

- ❖ Provided detailed information about the resource base;
- ❖ Identified and/or supported alternative income sources for local resource users;
- ❖ Initiated and/or supported CBMNR initiatives e.g FMCs, WMCs, Ecotourism, Community forestry etc
- ❖ Supported capacity building and logistics for MINEF staff;
- ❖ Strengthened the participatory approach to the management of natural resources.



D) LIMITATIONS OF PROJECTS

- ✓ Financially Limited
- ✓ Institutional Limitations
- ✓ Link between conservation and development not well established;
- ✓ Limited zones of intervention giving rise to « Conservation Islands »

**To redress these project limitations, the German Cooperation then decided to adopt the Programme Approach and bring in the Financial Cooperation.**



#### PROGRAMME FOCUS

- Nature Conservation
- Natural Resource Management, and
- Village development, improving local livelihood in the Programme Area

#### **Programme overall objective**

- Contribute towards the preservation of high value ecosystems in South West Province notable in/around Technical Operation Units (TOUs ) Mount Cameroon, Korup-Ndongere and Takamanda-Mone, thereby sustainably contributing to improved livelihoods of the surrounding communities.

8 

#### **Programme Purpose and Areas of intervention**

##### **Programme Purpose**

- Sustainable forest and wildlife management by affected stakeholders (in and around Mount Cameroon, Korup-Ndongere and Takamanda-Mone TOUs) for their benefit, with emphasis on the poorer segments of the local populations.

##### **Areas of intervention**

- The core areas of intervention are:
- the Korup National Park
- the proposed Mount Cameroon National Park which includes the Bomboko Forest Reserve,
- the proposed Takamanda National Park and their surrounding vegetations
- the villages that have an impact on these protected areas

9 

#### **Programme Results**

##### **FIVE RESULTS:**

- 1) The Technical Operation Units ( TOUs ) Mount Cameroon, Korup-Ndongere and Takamanda-Mone are functional as institutional and administrative units
- 2) Regional land use and zoning plans for the respective TOUs including Community Forests and collaborative management of Protected Areas are bindingly established
- 3) Result 3: A pilot management plan for council is approved and FMUs and council forests are professionally monitored.
- 4) Village Development Plans ( VDP ) are elaborated and prioritized measures executed ( including rehabilitation of essential infrastructure, where and as applicable.
- 5) Protected area management activities as per priorities of management plans and annual work plans are executed.

10 

#### **SOURCES OF FUNDS**

11 

#### **Programme Implementation**

12 

#### **SOME PROGRAMME SUCCESSES SO FAR**

- Korup-Ndongere TOU approved, approval for Takamanda-Mone awaited, while Interim Coordinators appointed for both TOUs
- Process for re-classification of TNP complete, MtCNP process near completion
- Data update for the preparation of MPs for NPs on-going

13 

#### **SUCCESSES CON'T**

- Elements for the preparation of a Regional Landuse Plan for SW in place, final plan expected by the end of the year.
- GIS/MIS Database for the Programme put in place and staff trained for effective use.
- Implementation of 3 VDPs underway while elaboration of others on-going
- Prospective areas for CF established identified

## 5.4 Presentation II: Legal Aspects and Forest categories

1 

### LEGAL ASPECTS- FOREST CATEGORIES IN CAMEROON

- Presented by : KEBOU Jean-Pierre  
Provincial Chief of Forestry  
for the South West

2 

### PLAN

- 1.Objective of the national forest policy
- 2.Forest categories
- 3.Gazettement process of each category
- 4.Management aspect for each category
- 5.Conclusion

3 

### Objective national forest policy

- Objectif of National Forest Policy: "Improve the participation of the population in the conservation and the management of forest resources, in order to contribute to the elevation of their level of livelihood".
- Forestry Law of 1994: Creation of Council Forests

4 

### Forest categories

Within the context of the Forestry law 1994, the National forest estate is made of:

- Permanent Forest Estate
- Non Permanent Forest Estate

5 

### Permanent Forest Estate

Lands that are used solely for forestry and or as a wildlife habitat

Permanent forests:

- State forests
- Council forests

6 

### State Forests

- Areas protected for wildlife management such as:
  - National parks
  - Game reserves
  - Hunting zones
  - Game ranch belonging to the state
  - Wildlife sanctuaries
  - Buffer zone
  - Zoological gardens belonging to the state

7 

### Forest Reserves proper

- Integral ecological reserves
  - Production forests
  - Protection forests
  - Teaching and research forests
  - Plantlife sanctuaries
-

8 ☐ **Council Forests**

Any forest that had been classified on behalf of a local council or has been planted by the local council.

e.g. Dimako in East Province

9 ☐ **Non permanent forest estate**

Shall comprise lands that may be used for other purpose than forestry.

Non permanent forest/unclassified forests

They are forests situated in non permanent forest estate:

- Communal forests
- Community forests
- Private forests

10 ☐ **2.2.1. Communal Forests**

Forests that do not fall under any of the categories

NB: They shall not include orchards, agricultural plantations, fallow land...

**2.2.2. Community forests**

Community forest is a forest forming part of the non permanent forest, which is covered by a management agreement between a village community and the Forestry Administration.

11 ☐ **2.2.3. Private forests**

Forests planted by natural persons or cooperate bodies on land they acquired in accordance with the law and regulations in force.

12 ☐

**3. Gazettement aspect for the permanent forest**

Procedure for the gazettement of permanent forests (classified forests) is provided in decision N° 1354/D/MINEF/CAB of 26 November 1999 of the Minister in Charge of Forestry and Wildlife

The procedure ensured full envelopment of the stake holders (see next exposé)

13 ☐ **Management aspect**

**\* Permanent forests**

(State forest, council forest)

**- State forest**

Management done by the Technical Ministry (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife) in collaboration with the riverine communities. Collaboration ensured through the management plan jointly drawn by the stake holders.

**- Council forest**

Management done by the council together with the communities concerned

Management objectives and boundary clearly stated in the classification instrument.

14 ☐ **Non permanent Forest**

(Communal Forest, CF, Private Forest)

**• Communal forest**

- Managed by the state

**• Community forest**

- Managed by the communities concerned
- Need a management (5 years) renewable
- Need a management convention (25 years) renewable



- Forest products of all kinds resulting from the management of community forest shall belong solely to the village communities concerned.

- **Private forest**

- Managed by the person concerned
- Management plan drawn with the assistance of local forestry administration
- Plan approved by the Provincial Delegate.

15 

#### **Conclusion**

1. Council forests are clearly defined as a forest category in the Cameroonian forestry law
2. Decentralised forest management is foreseen in the law through Private, community and council forests
3. Due to lessons learned on the implementation of community forests in Cameroon, council forests management is recommended as an option to promote development of the concerned village communities

## **5.5 Presentation IV: Gazettement and Management of Council Forests**

Programme for the sustainable management of natural resources in the Southwest Province of Cameroon (PSMNR-SWP)

### **COUNCIL FORESTRY – IMPORTANT STEPS AND ISSUES**

*INFORMATION AND SENSITIZATION MEETINGS ABOUT COUNCIL FORESTRY IN SWP*

***Presented by Frank Stenmanns, TA GFA***

#### **Outline of the presentation**

- Context
- Steps to obtain and manage a council forest
- Important issues of council forestry
- Possible support in the process
- Conclusion

#### **CONTEXT**

- Prevision of Council Forest areas in the zoning plan of the southern part of Cameroon ( 14 C.F. 364.000 ha)
- Gazettement and Management process of council forests so far has moved slow ( technical, financial and administrative constraints)
- No council forest area foreseen in indicative zoning plan concerning SWP.
- Decentralization process in Cameroon: Council forestry has the potential to support councils in their general mission of local development and improvement of livelihoods of his citizens.

#### **STEPS:**

- **(1) GAZETTEMENT**
  - Serves to establish a land certificate of the forest on behalf of the council.
- **(2) ELABORATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN**
  - Defines objectives of the forest management and plans activities over a 30 year period
- **(3) IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN**
  - Exploitation and other activities are implemented
- TIMEFRAME FOR (1) and (2): 2 YEARS

- Elaboration of preliminary technical note with objectives of gazettelement and description of zone including user rights; to be send to MFW.
- Posting of public notice by MFW
- Sensitization of administration and elites
- Sensitization of local population
- Work of the technical commission
- Preparation of texts for the Prime Minister

#### ➤ **ELABORATION OF FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- Socio-economic study; institutional set-up.
- Remote sense interpretation and cartography.
- Forest management inventories
- Feasibility study for exploitation, processing and commercialization
- Decision about management objectives and zoning.
- Preparation of the management plan and first 5- year plan.

#### ➤ **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

#### ➤ **IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- Pre-logging inventories
- Elaboration of annual working plans, including:
  - ✓ infrastructure construction
  - ✓ timber exploitation
  - ✓ previsions for processing and commercialization
  - ✓ NTFP and wildlife management
  - ✓ measures of surveillance

### **IMPORTANT ISSUES**

#### ➤ **USER RIGHTS OF SURROUNDING VILLAGES**

- NTFP harvest (Bush mango, Eru, Njangsang etc.) secured; possible interventions of management: - improve harvesting and commercialization
- Hunting authorized following the prescriptions of the law (no protected species, subsistence); possible intervention of forest management: - develop hunting schemes to sustain the activity.
- Use of timber for construction use; procedures shall be laid down in the management plan.
- **Farming is not allowed in a council forest**

#### ➤ **PARTICIPATION OF SURROUNDING VILLAGES:**

- Establishment of village forest management committees.
- Establishment of a management committee of the council forest with participation of representatives of the surrounding villages.
- Elaboration of a convention between council and surrounding villages about rights and obligations from each side (user rights, surveillance, employment politics, benefit sharing).

#### ➤ **CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Engagement of council and the surrounding villages to use the revenues of council forestry for development projects

➤ **TRANSPARENCY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- Establishment of institutional and administrative procedures which guarantees transparency of financial flows and effective use of funds for development

➤ **TECHNICAL CAPACITY**

- Creation of a “council forest unit”, employing at least one professional forester (technician, engineer).
- Possible Creation of other employments:
  - prospectors
  - forest guards
  - sawmill technicians

➤ **SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY:**

- Council forestry management is not only about cutting trees and getting money out of it, but also:
  - to maintain the forest as a patrimony for the coming generations.
  - to conserve wildlife, trees and other plants as much as possible.
  - to transfer the knowledge about the forests, useful plants and related culture to the next generation.

**SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL FORESTRY:**

➤ **PSMNR-SWP:**

- identification of council forest areas.
- carry out an institutional diagnostic of the council.
- technical and financial support in the gazettelement process, institutional setup and the elaboration of the forest management plan in a pilot scheme.
- KFW is always co-financing investments and activities: council has to contribute with own financing.
- Council may obtain credits and grants from FEICOM to finance council forestry.
- PSMNR will facilitate relation to programmes which are supporting council forestry e.g. “Projet de gestion durable des forêts communales” (ACFAM, FnCoFor, ONFI, FFEM)

**CONCLUSION:**



➤ **COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION:**

- Employ a professional forester from the beginning.
- Collaboration to implement measures to guarantee transparency of financial management.
- Co-financing of the process, particularly the gazettelement costs, the EIA.
- Negotiate convention with surrounding villages which assures their participation in the process.
- Engagement to use council forest revenues for local development.


➤ **OPPORTUNITY OF COUNCIL FORESTRY:**

- Creation of decentralized development funds for councils and communities.
- Creation of new employment in enclaved rural areas.
- Improvement of organizational skills of concerned councils and communities


## 5.6 Presentation III: The TOU Concept and integrated landscape management

- 1 
- 2 


**An Integrated Landscape approach in the Management of Natural resources**

Creation and management of council forests in the South West Province
- 3 


**Content of Presentation**

  - What is a technical operations unit (TOU)
  - Why do we need TOUs
  - What is land use planning
  - Why do we carry out land use planning
  - Identification of areas for creation of council forest
  - Discussions
- 4 


**What is a technical operations unit (TOU)**

A Technical Operations Unit is a delimited geographical area, placed under the management of a conservator. Activities of all stakeholders, including management of council forests are coordinated within the TOU
- 5 



**Why do we need a TOU**

  - To avoid looking at only single land use types
  - To see the relationship between the one land use type with several others
  - To bring all stakeholders together to discuss collectively on improved management
  - To enhance the protection and production functions of forest (Conservation and development)
  - An appointed conservator will oversee the TOU management
- 6 


**What is land use planning**

**Land use planning is a systematic and iterative assessment of land potentials, taking into consideration socio-economic, ecological, institutional, legal and cultural factors in order to adopt an optimal use of land resources**
- 7 

**Why do we carry out land use planning**

  - To know what activities are carried out in a given area of land, e.g council area
  - To agree on what type of use is best for different land areas (settlement areas, farming areas, protection forest areas, production forest areas, industrial zones, water ways, roads, airports, seaports, etc. etc)
  - To agree and respect boundaries of the different land uses e.g. council forest boundary
  - To optimise the productive capacity of land and land resources
  - To reduce land use related conflicts between the different users and owners
- 8 
- 9 

**Identification of potential areas for the creation of council forests**

  - Studying of maps and satellite images of the SW Province to identify extensive forest areas
  - Cross checking with the indicative zoning plan areas covered by state forests
  - Collection of information and mapping of existing and planned community forest areas
  - Preliminary visits to potential areas, including discussions with some village community members
  - Preliminary discussions with Mayors and some councillors on the feasibility of creating council forests in their locality
  - Preparation of draft maps of council forest areas, allowing for future farming areas
- 10 

**Thanks for your kind attention**



## 5.7 Map of the prospected area

