



# MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

PROVINCIAL DELEGATION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, SWP, BUEA.

PRORAMME FOR THE SUSTAINABLE AMNAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SOUTH WEST PROVINCE, CAMEROON (PSMNR-SW).

REPORT OF SENSITISATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND EXTERNAL ELITES OF THE NGUTI COUNCIL AREA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NGUTI COUNCIL FOREST.



NGUTI TOWN, APRIL 2008

#### 1.0 Introduction.

The ministerial decision No 1354/D/MINEF/CAB of 26<sup>th</sup> November 1999 gives the legal procedure for establishing Permanent Forests in Cameroon. Following this legal orientation, the procedure for the establishment of the Nguti Council Forest within the Nguti Municipality of the Kupe Muanengouba Division was initiated within the frame work of the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, South West Province, Cameroon (PSMNR-SW).

After preliminary sensitisation, boundary identification and data collection by MINFOF (PDFOF, Buea) with the assistance of her technical partner; GFA, a Technical Note was prepared which led to the signing of the Public Notice in November 2007.

After the publication of the Public Notice, the next legal stage is the sensitisation of local Administration and external elites. This activity was carried out though a workshop on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April of 2008, at the Nguti Council Hall.

This report is the outcome of a workshop organised to sensitise local administration and external elites on the proposed establishment of the Nguti Council Forest within the Nguti municipality.

### 1.1 Participants.

The decision stated above specifies clearly the statutory participants in this sensitisation workshop, but however gives room for the participation of other resource persons if necessary. The following categories of participants were present:

- Territorial Administration: Senior Divisional Officer for Kupe Muanengouba and his two Assistants, Divisional Officer for Nguti Subdivision, Mayor Nguti Council and his Deputies;
- Forces of Law and Order: Gendarmarie, Police;

- Divisional Delegates: MINFOF, MINEP, MINEPIA, MINNE, MINDAF, MINPAT, MIMINE, MINDUH Commerce and Industry;
- Provincial staff MINFOF Buea: PD, PCF, PCWPA, PCG, PCT, PCAF;
- Religious Institutions;
- Councillors, Nguti Council
- External elites: Baro, Osirayib, Sikam, Ayong
- NGOs: Nature Cameroon;
- Resources Persons
- Local Observers.

On the whole, about 55 participants took part in the one day workshop.

### **1.2** Opening formalities

After the adoption of the agenda (See Annexe 1), the workshop, which started about three hours behind schedule, began with the singing of the National Anthem.

This was strictly followed by a welcome speech by the Mayor of the Nguti Municipality Mr Ayumpe George. In his speech, the Mayor appreciated the massive turn out of participants which to him was a clear testimony of their commitment to the development of His municipality. He thanked MINFOF and here partners for the technical and financial support offered to make the council forest a reality. He finally acknowledged the ever ready support of the Administration and the financial provision by the German Development Service (DED) for the payment of the Council Forester for the first four years. (See annex 2)

While opening the workshop, the Senior Divisional Officer for Kupe Muanengouba, Mr. Eboue reminded participants of the strategy of the New Deal Government to alleviate poverty through the sustainable use of our available resources for community development. This strategy he continued fits within the framework of establishing and managing a council forest for the Nguti municipality. Satisfied with the rich technical diversity of participants, the SDO was optimistic that the workshop expectations will be met at the end of the day. He enjoined all participants to be frank, and honest in all deliberations. (See Annexe 3).

#### 2.0 Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the sensitisation workshop were twofold:

- 1. To sensitise and be sensitised on the concept of Council Forest Management in Cameroon;
- 2. To give an overview of activities carried out so far within the classification process as well as other activities leading to the management of the forest.

### 3.0 TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 3.1 Presentation 1: The concept of Council Forest Management.

This presentation which was the gateway to all deliberations was given by the Provincial Delegate (PD) for MINFOF SW, Mrs Mbah Grace. In this detailed presentation, the PD started by reviewing the Cameroon Forestry Policy, and ended with a run down of the interventions of the PSMNR-SW. She explained the procedure of establishing a council forest, the expected management strategy and the GoC expectations from the financial returns. She finally stressed the need for active participation of all stakeholders in the management of the CF.

Discussions centred on the management of revenue, field operations as well as the representation of the villages in the management structure of the council forest. On this issues, participants were informed that a Council Forest Management Committee (CFMC) will be formed were villages will be represented through the Village Forest Management Committees (VFMCs). This committee which will also have as members, Administration, MINFOF, and Development partners etc, will ensure that the principles of good governance and transparency are respected in the course of managing the forest.

Some other general questions during the deliberations included:

*Question*; Will the government take action when an individual cut a tree in the national forest estate not classified? *By Obenanyoh Zacharia* **Ans**; Villagers or those living around forest areas are custodians and have the right under the supervision of the local forestry service. Application for permit is required if an individual is out of his locality.

*Q*; Can one clear a particular area for farming? *Nzoh Mamfred Amah* **Ans**; Yes in non permanent forest and no in permanent forest or government *reserves* 

*Q*; Can council forest have duration of operation? Ndip Denis **Ans**; Once classified, it remains a permanent forest until the government decides to declassify the area. For declassification to take place, a new area of the same ecological importance will be gazetted and classified to replace the declassified area

*Q*; What is the position of the village with respect to management in the case of change of mayor? Is it alright for the council and the villages to sign a MoU with the villages to prohibit further thought and ensure trust? *Elad Felix* **Ans**; *An institutional study will soon be carried out. All fears would be taken into consideration in the institutional setup for the CF. Roles and responsibilities for the CFMC and VFMC will be clearly outlined* 

**Q**; The international community and foreign partners are interested in our forest. What kind of assistance do we expect from them? He cited the case of global warming! *Nguti Parliamentarian* 

**Ans**; The FESP is developed by the Government. International organisations have been requested to assist the government in this domain. For the objective of FESP be accomplished, both financial and technical support will be given. Forest also gives opportunities for local communities to negotiate markets within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism projects, thus the communities stands to benefit more.

Q; what is the duration of a council forest?

**Ans**; It a long term engagement following a management plan that is elaborated for 5 years renewable. Different blocks will be exploited in rotation for the 30 years.

*Q*; Since CF has not started running, can these villages start having support from PSMNR before revenue start coming from the forest? *Lawson Asek* **Ans**; *The PSMNR has already identify and prioritize elements in the VDP of these villages under the supervision of DED. Selected micro projects can be implemented by PSMNR while the others will be from CF funds* 

Mr Epie Emmanuel (DD MINADER) informed participants that within the framework of the Rumpi Hills Development Project, the VDP of the four surrounding villages will be look into and certain projects financed.

**Q:** Can individual projects be sponsored by the programme? *Inspector Basua* **Ans**; Yes, but the individual will be expected to make a personal contribution, the amount of which varies with the project.

# **3.2 Presentation 2:** An overview of activities carried out in line with the establishment of the Council Forest.

The aim of the presentation by the Provincial Chief of Forestry Mr. Kebo, was to brief participants on all activities carried out so far in the proposed Nguti Council Forest area. This included activities leading to the classification of the forest as well as those intended to assist in the subsequent preparation of a Management Plan for the council forest. He summarised the activities as follows:

 Those within the classification procedure: Boundary identification, preliminary socio-economic and ecological survey, preparation of technical note, Dissemination of Public Notice;  Those aimed at elaborating a MP: timber inventory, socio-economic survey, forest classification map, NTFP survey, formation of VFMCs etc.

Since this presentation was more or less informative, discussions centred on clarifications. However, one question was asked by Mr Ekale Martin:

**Q**; Forest has other resources, what happened to the management of other resources like gold, diamond etc?

**Ans**; Depending on the value of the resources, an EIA, can be carried out and the area declassified or made as an enclave.

# **3.3 Presentation 3:** Institutional set-up for the management of council forest.

For a successful implementation of the council forest management plan, the council forest management structures must be fully integrated into the normal council management procedures. Therefore a platform for the participation of all stakeholders in decision making concerning the management of the council forest must be developed and managed.

As an introduction, Mr. Frank reminded participants that the technical requirements for the management of council forests are clearly spelt out in the law, but the institutional set-up needs to be discussed and agreed by stakeholders during the elaboration of the MP.

In his presentation, Mr. Frank Stennmans, GFA Technical Adviser, while informing that study of the institutional set-up of the Nguti Council will soon be commission, envisaged the likelihood of having the Council Forest Management Committee (CFMC) as the umbrella body. It is expected that the concern villages will be represented through their VFMCs he proposed. He further enumerated the different tools which could enhance the fulfilment of the management goal. These include:

- Management agreement,
- Rules and regulations on financial management,

- Village development plans, and
- Council strategic development plan.

The discussions that followed were keen, as all participants especially the elites were interested in knowing clearly how the revenue from the venture will be managed and how to accommodate the ongoing Village Development Measures.

Common questions were:

**Q**: Can farms be created in the CF? What happen in case of farm land shortage? By Councilor Tabi

**Ans**: No, no farms in the CF area because it is a permanent forest. The villages together with the experts agree on the boundaries for the CF after considering enough land for future farm extension.

**Q**; Will the development plan be done for all 54 villages? Ebolo Anthony **Ans**; No the four villages are priority villages. The council can decide to use her own quota of the fund to develop other villages including the 4 target villages

**Q**; What happens if the MP implementation is delayed and/or activities of the VDP are completely implemented. In case of other upcoming crop-animals problems, how do MINFOF intend to handle wildlife problems considering that most of such activities are nocturnal? *Belle Emmanuel* 

**Ans**; In implementing the MP, the forest is divided into 30 blocks to be exploited for 30 years in rotation, the programme can start the implementation of some micro projects while waiting for full activities to kick off.

If a village accomplishes all projects/ activities in the VDP, the VDP will be reviewed

Game hunting can be established for tourism and administrative killing done in case of destruction by animals or over population of a particular species. Also, through sensitization, better management options can be perceived that will bring global benefits and not individual benefits with little or no problems

### 4.0 SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS.

The deliberations which lasted for more than five hours were generally rich and informing. Since the presentations were organised to provide answers to some envisaged worries of participants, the exchanges at the end of each presentations were generally centred around clarifications and contributions.

The contributions of the representatives of other relevant ministries like MINEP, MINADER, Mines etc were enriching and all geared towards making the management of the proposed council forest a model in the region.

Satisfied with the deliberations, participants unanimously;

- Pledged their total support to the process;
- Urged the PDFOF, Buea and her partners to speed up the process of classification and
- Finally hoped that principles of good governance and transparency will be fully incorporated in the management of the council forest.

### 5.0 CLOSING REMARRK BY THE SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER.

The Senior Divisional Officer for Kupe Muanengouba, Mr. Eboue Njoume fully satisfied with the day's deliberations, thanked all participants for their contributions and seriousness. He pledged the unflinching support of the administration to the process of managing the proposed Nguti Council Forest as long as the relevant laws are respected. He finally wished all participants a safe trip back to their respective destinations.

The workshop ended at 05.10 PM.

Annexe 1: Workshop Agenda

Time	Activity	Responsibility	
9.30 AM	Arrival of invitees	Facilitator (Besong Simon)	
9.45 AM	Arrival of DO Nguti Subdivision		
	and MPs	Facilitator	
10.00 AM	Arrival of SDO for Kupe- Muanengouba Division	Facilitator	
10.10 AM	Singing of the National Anthem		
10.15 AM	Welcome address be the Mayor, Nguti Council	Mayor	
10.30 AM	Word from the SDO	SDO	
10.35 AM	Presentation of workshop objectives.	Facilitator	
10.40 AM	Presentation 1: Concept of council forest management	Provincial Delegate, MINFOF Buea.	
11.10 AM	Discussions/Clarifications	Facilitator	
11.40 AM	Presentation 2: An overview of activities carried out in line with the establishment of the council forest.	PDFOF/GFA	
12.10 PM	Coffee Break		
12.40 PM	Discussion/Clarifications	Facilitator	
1.10 PM	Presentation 3: Institutional set-up for the management of the council forest	GFA	
1.25 PM	Discussion/Clarifications	Facilitator	
2.00 PM	Summary of all deliberations	Facilitator	
2.30 PM	Closing remarks	SDO	
3.00 PM	Entertainment and DEPARTURE	Nguti Council	
	END OF ACTIVITIES		

Annexe 2: Welcome Speech by the Mayor, Nguti Council.

A SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE LORD MAYOR FOR THE NGUTI COUNCIL MAYOR AYUMPE GEORGE, ON THE OCCASION OF A WORKSHOP FOR THE SENSITISATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND EXTERNAL ELITES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NGUTI COUNCIL FOREST, 23rd APRIL 2008 AT THE NGUTI COUNCIL HALL.

- ► THE SDO FOR KUPE MUANENGOUBA DIVISION,
- ► THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER FOR NGUTI SUBDIVISION,
- ► HONORABLE PARLIAMENTARIAN,
- THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATE OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE FOR THE SOUTH WEST PROVINCE;
- DIVISIONAL DELEGATES;
- ► THE PROVINCIAL CHIEFS OF MINFOF;
- CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS;
- ▶ DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
- ► LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the pleasure to welcome you all into my municipality. I feel even more overwhelmed because you are all gathered here today to render your own contribution to the development of my municipality. Your presence here despite other important state matters testifies your commitment to seeing that the development aspirations of the inhabitants of this municipality are fulfilled.

The idea of managing as council forest in this municipality came like a drop of water in an ocean, but thanks to the Governments of Cameroon and Germany, through the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, South West Province, Cameroon (PSMNR-SW), we can today look back and see positive outputs. The financial, technical and moral support of the PSMNR-SW Team especially staff of MINFOF and GFA is immeasurable. This Programme had already financed many aspects of this council forest like preliminary sensitization, boundary verification, preparation of technical note, management inventory, just to name a few. These

Programme staff had to defy our tough terrain and weather conditions in the execution of their duty.

I will also want to acknowledge the ever present support of our Senior Divisional Officer who has never hesitated whenever the need arose. Mr SDO, thank you very much.

To my Councillors, collaborators and staff, your prompt and objective responses have been an asset for our management.

Ladies and gentlemen, we know that the process of establishing and managing a council forest is long and complicated, requiring a lot of technical inputs hardly found within the council management. However, with our ever present development and technical partners, we are hopeful that this process will attain its objectives. I will like at this point to appreciate the contribution of the German Development Service (DED) to pay the salary of a Council Forester for the first four years. This gesture will also relieved us of some financial stress.

While thanking you all again for rallying behind us to accomplish this lofty idea, I wish you all a happy stay within this municipality.

Long live international cooperation Long live sustainable forest use Long live the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. Annexe 3: Opening Speech by the S.D.O for Kupe Muanengouba

A SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER FOR KUPE MUANENGOUBA DIVISION MR. EBOUE NJOUME, ON THE OCCASION OF A WORKSHOP FOR THE SENSITISATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND EXTERNAL ELITES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NGUTI COUNCIL FOREST, 23rd APRIL 2008 AT THE NGUTI COUNCIL HALL.

- ► THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER FOR NGUTI SUBDIVISION,
- ► THE LORD MAYOR, NGUTI MUNICIPALITY,
- ► HONORABLE PARLIAMENTARIAN,
- THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATE OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE FOR THE SOUTH WEST PROVINCE;
- DIVISIONAL DELEGATES;
- ► THE PROVINCIAL CHIEFS OF MINFOF;
- CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS;
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

It is with great pleasure and honor that I stand here today to chair deliberations for the establishment of the Nguti Council Forest within the framework of the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (PSMNR) in the South West Province.

Permit me to express the gratitude of the Cameroon Government to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for their sustained desire to support us in our effort to attain sustainable management of our forest patrimony for national development. My expression of thanks also goes to you participants for honoring our call to be here despite your tight schedules.

We are all gathered here today to sensitized and be sensitized on the intention of the Government of Cameroon and her development partners to establish a Council Forest within the Nguti Municipality, to be managed by all

stakeholders especially the local communities. This initiative falls within Government's approach to decentralized forest management

Forest management in our country has evolved within the years, all in a bid to ensure sustainable management of our forest patrimony, as well as enhance revenue there from for community development. This in effect contributes to poverty alleviation particularly within the rural communities, which is one of the most cherished expectations of the New Deal Government led by His Excellency President Paul Biya. In this respect, the revenue from council forest management is to be channeled for the development of the municipality with special attention to villages surrounding the council forest.

Detailed regulations governing the management of Council Forests are outlined in the 1994 Forestry Law and the subsequent texts of Application. However, this workshop is intended to explain to us varied issues relating to council forest management like the procedure for establishment, management structure envisaged among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, considering the rich technical and diverse composition of participants, and cognizance of the importance of sustainable management of our forest to all stakeholders here present, I have no doubts that this workshop will attained the aforementioned objectives.

I therefore enjoin all participants to be frank, honest, and open in all deliberations. On this note, I declare open this workshop.

Long Live Sustainable forest Management in Cameroon. Long Live Conservation and Development; Long Live International Cooperation; Long Live the Republic of Cameroon.



# Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Forest and national development
- Classification of forest in Cameroon.
- Procedure for classifying a Council Forest
- Activities forbidden in a Council Forest
- · Management of a council forest

Establishment and mgt of council forest By Mrs Mbah.

## INTRODUCTION

- An overview of the PSMNR-SW highlighting result 3 which is concern with the creation and management of Council forests.
- Stress the expected contribution of council forest management to community development.

### Establishment and mgt of council forest By Mrs Mbah.

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### Procedure for classifying a Council Forest

- Preparation of technical note including boundary description
- Issue and dissemination of public notice
- Sensitisation/consultation of local elites & administrative authorities
- Sensitisation/consultation of concerned villages Establishment and mgt of council forest By Mrs Mbah.

6



### Management of Activities in a Council Forest

### FORBIDDEN ACTIVITIES

- Farming
- Human settlement
- · Unauthorised timber exploitation
- · Setting of fire

ACCEPTABLE ACTIVITIES

- Collection of NTFPs
- Traditional hunting for subsistence
- · Controlled fishing without chemicals

Establishment and mgt of council forest By Mrs Mbah.

## Management of a council forest

Management must be participatory with the involvement of all stakeholders especially the local communities. Management of the forest will be guided by a Management Plan to be prepared jointly by all stakeholders.

Main management Institutions:

- Village Forest Management Committees
- Council Forest Management Committee

Establishment and mgt of council forest By Mrs Mbah. 8

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Annexe 5: Sensitisation workshop in Pictures.



Plate 1: Mayor Ayumpe welcomes participants.



Plate 2: The S.D.O Mr. Eboue opens the workshop.



Plate 3: The PD, Mrs Mbah presents the concept of council forest management.



Plate 4: GFA Technical Adviser, Mr. Frank presents proposals for institutional set-up.



Plate 5: An External elite contribute on the way forward during the workshop.



Plate 6: Participants in the heart of discussions.

Annexe 6: Attendance List.

## SENSITISATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND EXTERNAL ELITES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NGUTI COUNCIL FOREST.

Nguti Council Hall, 23rd April 2008.

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ATTENDANCE

### SENSITISATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND EXTERNAL ELITES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NGUTI COUNCIL FOREST.

Nguti Council Hall, 23rd April 2008.

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ATTENDANCE

# ENDORSEMENT

1. THE DIVISIONAL DELEGATE, MINFOF, KUPE MUANENGOUBA DIVISION.

2 THE SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER FOR KUPE MUANENGOUBA DIVISION.