

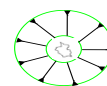
FGLG-Cameroon

NARRATIVE REPORT 2011



**NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL
AFRICA (NESDA-CA)**

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FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP – CAMEROON

IIED – SOCIAL JUSTICE IN FORESTRY

Project 2010



Project Six-Monthly Report Narrative

Project Period: May 2010 to March 2013
Report Period: January 2011 to June 2011

This report covers the period January to June, 2011 during which, we finalized the 2011 work plan, and pursued the implementation of GREG's new thematic group strategy. The report will highlight the main activities carried out for each of the thematic group; it will also present GREG's perspectives and the financial situation.

I – Progress with activities

GREG's organization and teamwork were revamped along the Learning Group's four thematic lines. The team's human resources were deployed accordingly, on the basis of the revised work plan and schedule submitted earlier. A fifth thematic area on biodiversity may be emerging and is briefly presented below (see links with other EU-supported initiatives).

The thematic groups have thoroughly reviewed their activities, adapting their current needs and situations; this was done during very productive meetings. Four reports of the thematic groups' meetings were sent to IIED together with the revised work plan, including one on SFEs held on 14th June, 2011; two on PFLs held on 16 June and 23 June; and one on CC held on 30th June, 2011.

Output 1: Forest Rights and Small Forest Enterprises

As a result of the workshop on SFEs held in October, the thematic group has decided to: (i) finalise the general report; (ii) re-define the terms of reference of the follow up committee so as to re-commit it. Also, a partnership with the African Model Forest Network is envisaged on the effect of coaching and mentoring VSFEs based on the work currently being done on the two model forest sites in the East and South regions of Cameroon. The group is to define the terms of reference of this work. The process will be documented and results will be published as a policy brief to exchange with FGLG members at the next Learning Event.

Output 2: Legitimate Forest Products

A two-day workshop has been planned for September, 2011 aiming at further exploring the notion of legitimate forest products, and identifying gaps between legitimacy and

legality for a selected set of forest products and actors. It is scheduled in five points including (i) official opening ceremony (including speeches of ministries involved, as well as partnering NGOs); (ii) key note speaker giving genesis, objectives, concepts and expected results; (iii) four case studies covering presentations on legality, legitimacy and combined experience on certification and independent observation; (iv) debate (questions/answers leading to expected results of the workshop); and (v) conclusions and closing ceremony. Besides, this thematic group has also envisaged writing a paper on the VPA accord in Cameroon. Finally, a partnership has been initiated with the “Tri National de la Sangha” Foundation in order to carry out a study on the management of national parks and the legitimacy of forest products.

Output 3: Pro-poor Climate Change Mitigation

This thematic group has evaluated the two activities carried out previously, namely (i) the seminar on the climate change held in a church community which aimed at assessing the level of understanding of climate change by the local community and actors; sensitizing the youths on the question; and providing people with some understanding of the climate change debate; and (ii) the workshop organised in on 2nd and 3rd March, 2011 in collaboration with the African Model Forest network and the IUCN and CIFOR with the aim of identifying local conditions of a successful putting in place of a REDD plan in rural landscapes and model forests. We gave specific attention to the review of the existing policy and legislation outlining governance implications with regards to the interests of the local communities and minority groups. These two events covered key aspects of the climate change discussion and initiatives, including issues of risk, uncertainty and local governance, REDD+ financial architecture, link to forest-based innovations and enterprises, carbon rights and tenure, information asymmetries, research, governance, institutions and policies. More targeted climate change actions are targeted for the next period. In that line, GREG will convene an i-learn seminar to be animated by one of the teams involved in the revision of the forest law (led by ICRAF) to discuss proposed amendments in relation to CC and related governance issues.

— Forest governance developments

— Impacts

The Ministerial order 522 related to the equitable benefits sharing which GREG has helped to put in place is now in force with all the local structures at the communities level to implement it. The neighbouring committees (comités riverains) have then been elected in several localities; they are now working in synergy with the other local committees and persons in charge of national participative development plan and the council members to synergize in their respective plans.

— Lessons

Under a REDD climate change project carried out by NESDA, an important component is to enhance capacity building of Members of Parliament who will later disseminate basic REDD knowledge to their respective constituency. From the rapid appraisal performed, 70% of people did not know the REDD process. The problem is now solved at least in area covered by the project. From the above it would be important to continuing strongly implicating local communities in REDD initiatives to better achieve tangible results.

— Implications for the work ahead

— **Relationship with state authorities**

Coordination is enhanced with the Ministry of forestry and Wildlife with a designated representative by the Minister to contribute to GREG members working group (CARPE) to strengthen the country team working specifically on forest governance. The country team brought a significant contribution to project selection at national level related to strengthened natural resources governance strengthened. GREG also played an active role in the Brazzaville Three Tropical blocs' summit held, by putting at the disposal of authorities relevant documents related to the event. Coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection, in charge of international CC and biodiversity negotiations, is on-going and has been marked by the Ministry's sponsorship of the REDD workshop with AMFN, several reports and workshops made by Prudence Galega on behalf of the Ministry on the ABS negotiation and Cameroon's ABS process, as well as the contribution of a GREG representative to a national ABS workshop organized by the Ministry in April at the Congress Hall in Yaoundé. Discussions are underway concerning one of the coming GREG thematic seminars that would be held at the Ministry.

— **Relationship with other organizations**

There is ongoing collaboration with the international relations institute of Cameroon, through a recent Master program on international cooperation and sustainable development. GREG members will present several conferences throughout the year. The first one is scheduled in September 2011. In addition GREG members supported technically several seminars organized by US Forest Service aiming at promoting landscapes approaches in both micro and macro zones. The related guides are currently finalized for dissemination.

— **Links made with other EU-supported initiatives**

GREG is working in a Human-Wildlife conflict case study. The purpose of the study is to understand key factors for such conflicts and how they are solve at local or institutional levels and will screen compliance between the legislation and the field reality. Results from the study will be integrated in a wider range of other cases in order to analyze similarities or differences in other countries from Africa.

— **EC support acknowledged in outputs resulting from this contract**

II – Perspectives

- Major recommendations that came out of the work and preliminary discussions between Prudence and GREG-Forêts members on the outcomes of the Nagoya conference are as follows: there is now a period of two years for ratification of the Nagoya protocol. Africa should go ahead with policies (national, regional) to protect the gains from Nagoya. GREG-Forêts should work toward that objective. In addition, there is an urgent need to build community capacity for mutually agreed terms, and to develop community models for negotiations. The Ministry of Environment (MINEP) has submitted a proposal along those lines to GEF. GREG-Forêts and organizations such as NESDA-CA and Model Forests should work as partners to the ministry of environment and nature protection in that process.
- The six recommendations from the workshop on VSFs need to be implemented under the follow-up committee's impulsion. GREG-Forêts will have to co-ordinate this.

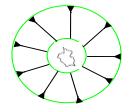
— Follow up on meeting to be held with the Prime Minister.

III – Finances

Since no big event was carried out over the period, the only expenses disbursed relate to the general meetings and thematic groups meetings. See details in financial report attached.

Done in Yaoundé on 30th August, 2011

By Angeline Ndo on behalf of GREG-Forêts



FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP (FGLG)

GREG-FORETS Cameroon



(Project: SOCIAL JUSTICE IN FORESTRY)

Forêts

Project Status Report

Project Period: May 2010 to March 2013

Report Period: July 2011 to December 2011

This report covers the period of July to December, 2011 over which the GREG-Forêts group implemented the revised work plan as announced in the previous six-monthly report covering January to June 2011. This report, therefore presents the activities carried out as planned and the achievements made accordingly, covering the following contents. .

- I MEMBERSHIP
- II PROGRESS WITH ACTIVITIES
- III FOREST GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS
- IV IMPACTS
- V LESSONS LEARNED
- VI IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORK AHEAD
- VII MEETING EC REQUIREMENTS
- VIII FINANCES

I MEMBERSHIP

GREG-Forêts has experienced some movements among its membership with the departure of Yolande Fouda for an appointment abroad; the change of structure of Marie Madeleine

Bassalang from WWF (World Wide Funds) to a mining extraction company and the coming in of Dominique Endamana (IUCN) will certainly increase GREG's areas of intervention. Current membership stands at 30 individuals/institutions.

II PROGRESS WITH ACTIVITIES

GREG's work plan for 2011 (herein attached) provided for the organization of workshops, studies/surveys and meetings to cover the four thematic priorities identified for Cameroon, which were defined as key outputs for the project. Within the six months of operation, the group made significant progress in delivering the following outputs:

1) Organizing meetings

GREG-Forêts organized eight monthly thematic groups' meetings, one ordinary meeting and one annual meeting with an impressive attendance and with members' contributions recorded. Within the reporting period, the thematic groups held one meeting for Group 1 (SMFEs); five meetings for Group 2 (LFPs); one meeting for Group 3 (CC) and one meeting for Group 4 (Transnational). (See reports attached).

2) Thematic Working Groups

Organizing GREG's work in four thematic groups as per four key outputs defined has proven its efficiency for all groups, achieving considerable deliverables. The activities carried out were drawn from concept notes developed by the respective thematic groups as reported previously. Workshops were covered by national media (pictures and video are available).

2.1) Output 1: Forest Rights and Small Forest Enterprises

The group on Small and Medium Forest Enterprises engaged on (i) initiating a contribution to be proposed for consideration on SMFEs in the ongoing forestry law review; (ii) implementing the recommendations of October 2010 workshop for putting multi-actor collaboration in place; (iii) elaborating terms of reference for the mission of the follow-up committee; and (iv) providing thematic group 4 with information to disseminate on a continuous basis.

2.2) Output 2: Legitimate Forest Products

Organization of two national workshops:

➤ Workshop on Legitimate Forest Products

A two-day workshop was organized on the 28th and 29th of September 2011 with the theme: *"Reflection on strategies for reconciling legality and legitimacy of forest products in Cameroon"*. The overall objective of this workshop was to reflect on the implementation of a strategy to reconcile legality and legitimacy in national forest governance, in order to improve the contents, understanding and application of the legal and regulatory framework in force.

To attain this objective, attendance of more than 50 participants were drawn from government departments, local councils, civil society, local communities, I/NGOs,

regional programmes, private sector, independent observant etc... all involved in and/or concerned with the duality existing between legality and legitimacy of forest products. The discussions during the two days workshop focused on three specific objectives, including: (i) agreeing on the criteria for legitimacy of forest products; (ii) Identifying in a participatory way, criteria, gaps and proposing solutions pathways; (iii) Working out implementation strategies of the solutions for their possible consideration in ongoing policy reforms and forest legislation.

A number of strong recommendations were issued from this workshop (see report of the workshop sent to IIED).

➤ **Workshop on Human Wildlife Conflicts**

The workshop was held from 25 to 26 of October 2011 with the theme: *“Reflection, analysis and research of solutions of mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflicts in Cameroon”*. About 30 participants attended the workshop including but not limited to conservators from national parks, senior staff from several ministerial departments (forestry, environment, agriculture, territorial administration and decentralization, livestock and fisheries); MPs, international organizations, higher institutions of learning (FASA); civil society etc.

The main objective of this workshop was to make an overview of HWC in Cameroon and to seek solutions to address them. During the workshop, participants were able to analyze the historical and socio-economic context and nature of HWC in order to locate them geographically and analyze the legal framework and institutional challenges in managing HWC. A number of key recommendations were made during the workshop, including among others, the integration of HWC in the legal framework or national policy; and the enhancement of institutional coordination to address the problem, etc. (See workshop report).

➤ **Study on Human Wildlife conflicts**

In addition to the workshop, a specific study was conducted on HWC, which enabled the better understanding of challenges on HWC in Cameroon and potential solutions for improvement. The technical document from the study will be published in IIED's occasional paper.

2.3) Output 3: Pro-poor Climate Mitigation

The group on Climate Change engaged on a specific project of MP's capacity building; a specific study on climate change and renewable energy; and a stakeholders meeting in order to coordinate synergized activities on climate change.

- Under the MP's project, GREG was able to engage the people's representatives on CC issues and build their capacities for a better understanding of the international consensus on REDD. In return, they presented this international consensus to their constituents in two pilot regions (South and South West).
- The study on CC and renewable energy is on-going. It is intended to bring out an institutional mapping of the different structures involved in these domains in Cameroon for possible synergy with GREG-Forêts and also to avoid duplication.
- A national stakeholders meeting (including GREG, CARPE, CSOs, MINEP, MINFOF, conservation organizations (IUCN, WWF), etc. was held in November, 2011 to coordinate activities in CC for the year 2012. Responsibilities were assigned to each

member under this concrete team . The meeting aimed at synergizing actions for a better coordination nationwide.

2.4) Output 4: Trans-national processes and preparedness

GREG members met under this theme to review their work plan piece and better understand the expected outputs from this thematic area. A trip to Indonesia enabled the group to grasp different aspects related to the REDD initiatives, ecotourism in relation with flag species, and HWC, as conducted in Asia. A report has been shared amongst GREG members (Copy here attached).

III FOREST GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS

- Mining exploration/exploitation has increased dramatically right up to the edge of protected areas. It is important that groups like GREG get involved in reflections related to this question.
- Likewise, a huge government infrastructural construction programme (dams, railway, deep sea ports, high ways, etc) is currently being implemented, with a big environmental impact in areas concerned. GREG should consider this as a major area of concern.
- Development and expansion of model forestry in the Congo Basin which draws its origin from the Cameroonian experience is an innovation that serves as added value in terms of partnership and advocacy to GREG's work.

IV IMPACTS

- GREG-Forêts is playing a key role in ensuring MP's involvement in the REDD mechanism in Cameroon. Recent interaction with them through GREG-Forêts initiative ensure their better understanding of the international consensus on REDD, which permits them to significantly contribute to and influence the on-going REDD mechanism in Cameroon.
- A good number of constituents have been sensitized on the stakes of REDD. They are now in a better position to denounce illegal logging – the fact that they send the information back to Government shows their level of understanding and preoccupation.
- HWC was not considered so far as a major problem. From the workshop held, policy makers are now aware of the degree of its importance and are currently reflecting on enhancing the legal framework on HWC.
- The workshop on LFP's was an occasion for building the capacities of participants from the different institutions represented. It was also an opportunity for policy makers to narrow the existing gap between legitimacy and legality. They can now act efficiently on the basis of the recommendations made.

V LESSONS LEARNED

- In their capacity as law makers and representatives of the people, MP's have helped enrich the knowledge of constituents on the REDD mechanism. MP's position reflects the opinion of the local communities which is an indication of their understanding of CC.
- The issue of HWC has brought together several stakeholders with a common consensus on the question.
- Inadequate solutions to HWC are a threat to wildlife conservation.

- Success stories from Africa in terms of wildlife management for pro-poor communities could be replicated at trans-national level.
- Problems related to natural resource management are similar in both Asia and Africa (tropical forest zones).
- An increase in degree of concern was noticed from a key financial institution (African Development Bank) in reconciling legitimacy and legality as regards exploitation, production and marketing of forest resources.

VI IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORK AHEAD

- Lobbying with key ministerial departments will be carried out soon to ensure the taking into consideration of positions or conclusions reached on HWC and LFPs, which all intend to influence the ongoing revision of the forestry law.
- GREG intends to have a focal point within MINEP who will liaise with the group and inform group members of any eventual developments on CC.
- Establishing good and strong working relations between the group and the new Head of MINFOF.
- The technical report from HWC study will be edited and published.
- The group will contact state authorities and other key stakeholders to discuss the forthcoming international FGLG event to be hosted by Cameroon.
- Collaboration between GREG and TNS is envisaged for 2012 to conduct a research related to better understanding of socio-anthropological dynamics around protected areas.
- The follow up committees put in place at the end of the two workshops mentioned in this report need to effectively begin their follow-up missions under GREG's supervision.

On reconciling legality with legitimacy – further implications for the work ahead

GREG recognizes that reconciling legality with legitimacy is key to developing a durable social response to rampant illegality in forest-related sectors. For the rule of law to prevail, we need to do away with the long-standing disconnect between our current system of laws – mostly inherited from the colonial and postcolonial era - and rural markets and economies.

The so-called informal timber sector accounts for 61% of the wood economy in Cameroun, and this reality also prevails in other Central African countries. The potential market for African plants, food, aromatics, cosmetics, or pharmaceuticals is humongous; but, to this day, forest-based rural producers need all kinds of papers and authorizations to sell their produce in national and regional markets. The institutional and regulatory environment will need to be drastically improved if a grounded green development economy is to strive in our rural forested landscapes.

There is, in fact, important headway being made. This is illustrated by the regional COMIFAC Directive on NTFP trade, from which stem some of the proposals made during the on-going revision of the Cameroun forest law. This, however, is just a beginning. This work will have to be thorough, systematized, and applied to a much wider range of forest-related activities (from timber to mining). At the same time, microfinance and a range of other financial, technical, pedagogical, and governance tools need to be mobilized and more efficiently packaged in support of rural producers and entrepreneurs.

We have offered Model Forest platforms as long-term governance vehicles that can effectively contribute to these innovations and mutation of our economies. In the same line,

we recently initiated the Itinerant Model Forests Field School with a number of partners to provide training as well as coaching and mentoring to local carriers of business ideas. A project to develop a *Model Forest-Green Business* label is also *en route* to mark out and better incorporate the sustainability, equity and fair trade contents of these productions, while exploring and investing new niche markets for rural entrepreneurs.

GREG-Forêts is well placed to support and contribute to this movement going forward. For example it might:

- 1-Re-activate the regulation on traditional hunting which has been stalled at the ministry desk for the past two years.
- 2-Explore if there why and how the recent legal framework for NTFP exploitation is and is not being implemented (Forestry agents, police etc appear not to understand it or pretend not to and keep on harassing sellers of these products).
- 3-Explore deeper the domestic wood market – since the majority of wood consumed in Cameroon is from the informal market with little law or regulation prevailing.

VII MEETING EC REQUIREMENTS

1. Relations with state authorities

- The Technical Adviser NO. 1 to the Minister (MINEP), Prudence Galega plays an interface role between GREG and this ministry. She has been very instrumental in setting up the MP's project described in this report.
- In MINFOF, the Secretary General who is a member of GREG will continue to be supportive to the group and facilitate the establishment of links with the new minister.
- The group's meeting with the Prime Minister will be re-launched now as the new government has been put in place.

2. Relations with other organizations

- GREG-Forêts is moving towards merging efforts with other organizations working in its thematic area, e.g. the CARPE Country team working specifically on Climate Change now has a strong relation with the group.
- SRAFM co-funded GREG's workshop on LFPs.
- The base has been set for collaboration between TNS and GREG in 2012.

3. Links with other EU-supported initiatives

- GREG-Forêts conducted a HWC study on the request of PCLG funded by IIED.

VIII FINANCES

Expenses disbursed for the above activities include NESDA-CA administrative costs, local transportation and expenses for organizing meetings, workshops and studies, and experts fees. See details in financial report attached.

GREG-Forêts received from the AMFN Secretariat, its supporting NGO for output 2, a contribution of 30% of the total cost of the workshop on LFPs. Activities carried out on HWC were financed exclusively by IIED.