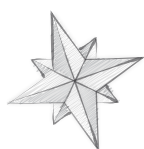


Impacts of agro-industrial and logging activities on great ape conservation and livelihoods in Cameroon

Workshop report, Yaoundé, Cameroon
26 November 2014



PCLG EVENT REPORT



Poverty and
Conservation
Learning Group



GREG
forêts

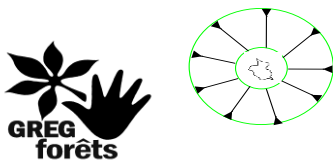
Author information

This report was compiled by Stanley Dinsi.

About the event

For more information about this event and the project: "Great ape conservation and poverty reduction: PCLG Cameroon 2013-2015", visit <http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/cameroon-pclg>, or contact Stanley Dinsi (dinsistanley@yahoo.fr) or Angeline Ndo (ndoa03@yahoo.fr).

This meeting was organised by



Groupe de Réflexion et d'Echange sur la Gouvernance des Forêts, with the support of the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Africa (NESDA-CA).

GREG-Forêts is an independent network that brings together experts from various organisations working in the sectors of forest and environmental governance in Cameroon. Founded in Yaoundé in May 2006, GREG-Forêts' main goal is to reflect on relevant issues (nationally and internationally) with regards to forest governance. Its mission is to contribute to the improvement of the range of social, economic and environmental benefits derived from the management of forestry resources. This is done through a participatory approach, improved governance, exchange of experiences at national and international levels, and capacity building.

GREG-Forêts consists of about 20 members coming from key segments of the forestry and environment sectors in Cameroon, including members from ministries in charge of forestry and wildlife (MINFOF) and environment, protection of nature and sustainable development (MINEPDED), the National Assembly, international NGOs, research institutes, bilateral and multilateral organisations, private sector and civil society.

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Back cover photo: Stanley Dinsi, Cameroon, 2014.

“Great ape conservation and poverty reduction” (April 2013 to March 2016) is a project that brings together conservation and development practitioners to share their experiences and to work together to better inform development and conservation policy and practice, particularly in great are range states. In Cameroon, this work is convened by GREG-Forêts - an alliance of independent organisations with a shared interest in forest governance. In November 2014, GREG-Forêts organised a workshop to present and validate the results of a field study carried out to evaluate the impacts of agro-industrial and logging activities on great ape conservation and poverty in Cameroon. Presentations of the results of the initial study, were followed by discussions in plenary and in groups. The goal was to propose concrete actions to improve great ape conservation and livelihoods in areas affected by agro-industrial and logging activities in Cameroon. This report outlines the workshop’s proceedings.

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Acronyms

AMFN	African Model Forest Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDC	Cameroon Development Corporation
GA	Great Ape
GREG-Forêts	Groupe de Réflexion et d'Etudes sur la Gouvernance Forestière (Forest Governance Learning Group)
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
MINADER	Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINEPDED	Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINMIDT	Ministry of Industry, Mines and Technological Development
MINTOUR	Ministry of Tourism and Leisure
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NESDA-CA	Network for Environment and Sustainable Development Cameroon
NGO	Non Government Organisation
PCLG	Poverty and Conservation Learning Group
UFA	Unité Forestière d'Aménagement (Forestry Management Unit)

I. Introduction

Context and justification

This workshop was organised within the framework of the implementation of the Cameroon Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (Cameroon PCLG) work plan for 2013-2015. A study was carried out by Cameroon PCLG members on the impacts of agro-industry & logging companies on conservation and livelihoods in Cameroon. This work was done through a field research in two separate sites: one in an agro-industrial zone (southwest Cameroon) and the other in a wood extraction zone (south Cameroon). This work complements a previous study carried out by Cameroon PCLG in the first half of 2014 that mapped great ape conservation institutions in Cameroon. A workshop was held on November 26th 2014 to present and validate the field study report.

Methodology

This workshop revolved around two presentations given by the two Cameroon PCLG researchers who carried out the field research work on the impacts of agro-industry & logging companies on conservation and livelihoods in Cameroon. These presentations were followed by discussions and debates in two working groups. The goal of these discussions was to propose concrete actions linking great ape conservation and development, identify key actors involved in the process, and lastly make recommendations for next steps.

II. Workshop activities

1. Opening Ceremony

a. Welcome statement from the Coordinator of NESDA-CA

Welcoming participants, the coordinator of NESDA-CA, Mrs Angeline NDO, expressed gratitude to all for honouring Cameroon PCLG's invitation. The coordinator also reminded participants that the field research was a scheduled activity in the current Cameroon PCLG work plan. She also mentioned that participants (especially government ministries) at the Cameroon PCLG workshop in April 2014 had requested that such a field study be carried out, to complement Cameroon PCLG's previous desk study that mapped great ape conservation institutions in Cameroon. Impressed with the presence of key people from directly concerned ministerial departments, Mrs Angeline NDO also reminded participants of their important role in the workshop proceedings in their respective capacity as strategic partners who have always made significant contributions to great ape conservation efforts in Cameroon. Mrs NDO wished participants a happy working session and called for constructive and open minded contributions, which would eventually be reflected in the quality of the final research report.

b. Welcome statement from the Convenor

Taking the floor after the Coordinator, the Convenor of Cameroon PCLG, Dr. Chimere DIAW, who is also Director General of the African Model Forest Network (AMFN), thanked the moderator for giving him the opportunity to address participants during this very important workshop. He praised the organising committee for arranging the workshop. After appreciating the efforts of the group so far, Dr. Chimere DIAW gave a brief overview of great ape state in Africa, and highlighted the relationship between the forests and all other environmental components which are related to growth and development. He told participants that Africa is classified as the region with the highest level of investments taking place in the world today. He said that therefore all conservation initiatives should take into consideration a sustainable transformation strategy. In his final words, he stressed the necessity for great apes to be placed at the centre of development, and in the transformation of the local and regional economies.

c. Attendance

The field research validation workshop brought together the following key stakeholders: representatives of sector ministries including: MINEPDED, MINFOF, MINEPIA, MINADER, MINTOUL, MINMIDT; the CBD Focal Point for Cameroon; representatives of local councils; civil society representatives; the media and Cameroon PCLG members (see annex 4 for a full list of participants).

2. Objectives and expected results

The presenter informed participants that the main objective of the workshop was to: **present and validate the results of a field study on the impacts of agro-industry & logging companies on conservation and livelihoods in Cameroon, taking into consideration the suggestions and inputs of the workshop participants.** But it was also an opportunity to initiate a discussion with key ministerial departments, in a well-structured manner, on these important issues, which are in line with the objectives and priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity (notably the protection of ecosystems and the habitats of endangered species).

3. Presentation of study results

At this point of the workshop, Stanley Chung DINSI and Simeon ABE EYEBE, the two consultants who carried out the field research work that formed the basis of this workshop, presented the results of their research work. The main goals of their research was to:

- a. Analyse the positive and negative impacts of agro-industrial and logging activities on conservation in general and great ape (GA) conservation in particular;
- b. Analyse the positive and negative impacts of agro-industrial and logging activities on local livelihoods;
- c. Provide recommendations to promote sustainable agro-industrial and logging activities, to boost great ape conservation and ensure improvement in local livelihoods.

Stanley Chung DINSI carried out the field research work in the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) agro-industrial zone of the southwest region of Cameroon. The logging section of the study was carried out in the vicinity of Forest Management Unit-UFA 09025 assigned to WIJMA - a logging company in the south region of Cameroon by Simeon ABE EYEBE. A summary of the key points from these presentations is provided below. The full power point presentations can be accessed on the PCLG website:

<http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/workshop-share-and-enrich-results-study-linkages-between-private-sector-investments-great>

a. The link between great ape conservation and poverty around the CDC industrial zone

This presentation started by reviewing some of the positive impacts, identified during the study, of the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) agro-industry on conservation and local livelihoods. These include: employment, land surrender scheme, land rental and offer, social development programmes, infrastructure and markets, free donation of food for wildlife, and low prices for alternative food for wildlife. The presenter then moved on to the threats posed by the agro-industry to conservation and to the local livelihoods of the Bakweri and other parts of southwest Cameroon. The following are some of the major threats that were identified in the course of the study: loss of land ownership rights, social costs, loss of alternative revenue, environmental/human risks, loss of permanent forested lands, land grab for agribusiness, threats to conservation, loss of biodiversity, and contamination of water sources for wildlife. In conclusion, this study finds that the CDC agro-industrial activities, which are penetrating deep into other parts of the region where great ape conservation activities are ongoing, pose a major threat to the survival of these protected species.

b. The link between great ape conservation and poverty alleviation around the UFA 09025-WIJMA in the south region of Cameroon

It is generally agreed that timber extraction activities negatively affect great ape survival, as these animals' habitats and paths are destroyed or modified. As a result of timber extraction activities, animals are forced out of their natural habitats into cultivated land causing damage to local farmers' crops and agro-industrial plantations alike. Also, the transportation of logs destroys and contaminates water sources in the area; logging activities also cause sound and air pollution.

In this area of intense conservation activities, the restrictions imposed by conservation policies to local communities with regards to land use rights do not give them the opportunity to develop to the fullest. Development projects put in place by the WIJMA Exploitation Company should have brought significant improvements; unfortunately such efforts have remained premature and unevenly distributed in the entire zone.

III. Discussion

Following the presentations, the discussion was opened to the floor and some major issues and ideas were raised and debated. The comments and contributions were grouped around the following aspects: policy, economic, ecological and socio-economic.

On socio-economic aspects: It was observed that more emphasis should be laid on tourism, by looking at the value of great apes in this sector, particularly their economic potential, what they present in terms of heritage and safeguards, not forgetting the role played by local communities. There is also the need to thoroughly examine the rights of local communities to land.

On economic aspects: Mention should be made of the fact that cocoa yields are far more remunerative than other types of land use, and land use choices should ensure positive returns to the economy; it is imperative to seek ways of integrating biological diversity in the national agricultural strategy. Since agriculture is a major threat to the forest, it is important to also seek ways of making this a priority.

On ecological aspects: It is necessary to identify great ape habitats, know their movements, and what they eat. One recommendation made here was to carry out a study on great ape populations in Cameroon (their characteristics and numbers); in addition, a National Park for great apes should be created containing all the necessary logistics (with a tracking system to monitor great ape movements).

On policy aspects: It is important to make a link between the above challenges and policies. In order to realise this, it is necessary to research studies and sector strategies of specialised ministries, and see how they are integrated.

IV. Working group discussions

Participants were then divided into two groups for the working group discussions. The two groups were asked to reflect on two main themes:

Theme 1: How could great ape conservation contribute to sustainable development? Identify three areas.

Theme 2: Who are the players who should be involved in each case?

Results of working groups:

Responding to the first question on providing three areas where great ape conservation could contribute to sustainable development, the working groups proposed the following answers:

On social aspects: establish a link between health, education and the promotion and/or spread of social infrastructures that could provide different employment opportunities in rural areas.

On economic aspects: develop income-generating activities which value the natural physical capital of Cameroon, such as eco-tourism.

On the environmental aspects: promote and distribute local materials.

On policy aspects: promote good governance, which is one of the favourable conditions for the promotion of tourism, and which ensures investments' benefits for local communities.

In their response to the second question that focused on **the identification of the different actors to be involved in each area or aspect**, the working groups proposed the following:

On the social aspects: the local communities, local councils, specialised platforms and the media;

On economic aspects: the State, economic operators, other investors with positive impact;

On the environment: sector ministries, national and international NGOs and specialists of the ecotourism sector (see detailed table of proposals in annex 3).

V. Workshop results

The following are the key results of the workshop:

- The knowledge and understanding of the issues at stake, by sector ministries' representatives as well as Cameroon PCLG members, was improved as a result of their participation in the workshop.
- The workshop reinforced the relations between Cameroon PCLG and sector ministries involved in great ape conservation. Sector ministries showed interest both in Cameroon PCLG activities and in the place given to the civil society by the government.
- The results of the field research were circulated to participants prior to the workshop, to give participants time to reflect on the subject of the meeting ahead of time. Based on the results of the studies, participants' contributions in group discussions gave precise recommendations on what could be done to promote the conservation of great apes in Cameroon.
- This workshop was another opportunity to witness a public-private partnership in examining the challenges of sustainable development. The meeting also gave the opportunity to highlight the relevance of this study in relation to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), to which Cameroon PCLG contributed in the elaboration and validation on the civil society component.
- Finally, this study contributes to the implementation of Cameroon NBSAP, specifically in its target 16 concerning the role of biodiversity in creating wealth, in its strategic goal C; also in targets 18 and 20 concerning the integration of biodiversity, as well as strategic goal D.

VI. Recommendations

The following recommendations were made at the end of the workshop:

- A study highlighting relevant sectors' policies and the economic importance of key ministries in relation to great ape conservation should be carried out;
- An extensive study on a wider scale, with a focus on quantitative analysis, should be carried out;
- The ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industry (MINEPIA) should include great ape conservation in their programme for the preservation of animal genetic resources and should ensure close follow up to guarantee the programme is actually implemented;
- Cameroon PCLG should produce a position document on the issues here discussed, and share it with the relevant stakeholders.

VII. Annexes

Annex 1. Workshop programme

FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP (FGLG)

GREG-FORETS Cameroon

(Project: PCLG Cameroon: 2013-2014)

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

B.P. 3638 Messa, Yaounde – Cameroon

Email: nesdacam@yahoo.com, Tel: 22 01 10 12

I-learn seminar to share and enrich the results of a field comparative study on the impacts of agro-industrial and logging activities on great ape conservation and livelihoods in Cameroon

Hôtel des Députés: Wednesday 26 November, 2014

Programme

08:30	Arrival & registration of participants	Emilia Leyina
09:00	Welcome word by the Coordinator (5min)	Angeline Ndo
09:05	Introduction of participants (10min)	All
09:15	Key note address by Convener (10min)	Chimere Diaw
09:25	Moderation by Dominique Endamana	
	Objectives & expected results (5min)	Julie Gagoe
	Presentation of report (20min)	S. Dinsi & S. Abe
	Questions & answers (20min)	All
	Working groups & recommendations (30min)	Group work
	Restitution (20min)	Teams
	Evaluation of Workshop	All
11:00	Closing word by Coordinator (5min)	Angeline Ndo
11:05	Group photo	
11:10	Cocktail	
12:00	End of workshop	

Annex 2: Table showing detailed working groups deliberations

GROUP I	GROUP II
Three areas of intervention that could enable great ape conservation to contribute to sustainable development:	
<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create jobs in local communities (recruitment of eco-guardians and tourist guides); • Support the protection of local farms; • Support research initiatives on great ape nutrition and health; • Create a system where natural heritage is owned by the community. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local communities in small scale livestock and aquatic activities; • Promote eco-tourism economic activities which encourage skills, entrepreneurial culture and diversification and help accompany communities in income generation. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more National Parks for great apes; • Allocate wildlife royalties to the decentralised local communities; • Ensure strict compliance with environmental standards; • Ensure respect of logging laws. 	<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, training, awareness raising; • Eco-tourism enterprises; • The Model Forests initiative; • Create entrepreneurial and promotion activities around touristic areas. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out profitability studies; • Create communal enclosures where necessary; • Create an added value environment around great apes. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of local materials in construction; • Protect great ape habitats; • Create favorable conditions for leisure tourism.
The players to involve in each area:	
<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local councils; • Local communities. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic operators; • The State (policy makers); • Economic development partners. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector ministries; • National and international NGOs. 	<p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of the lineage; • Different platforms; • The media. <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development partners; • Other investors. <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical ministries (MINEPDED, MINFOF, MINTOUR, MINADER); • Eco-tourism specialists.

Annex 3. Post workshop evaluation

Seventeen participants filled the evaluation sheet responding to the following seven questions:

Questions	Result
What is your overall assessment of the workshop?	78% expressed a positive opinion
Did you find the topic of the workshop interesting or useful?	100% expressed a positive opinion
Did the workshop achieve the planned objectives (How)?	100% expressed a positive opinion
Knowledge and information gained from participation at this workshop (met your expectations, will be useful/applicable in your work)?	88% expressed a positive opinion
Do you think the workshop could have been more effective?	Definitely: 47% Mostly: 47% Somehow: 0% Not at all: 6%
Please comment on the organisation of the workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The workshop was effective thanks to the contribution of participants. It was good to invite other sector ministries such as MINEPAT. The venue was not the best. Give more time and respect the agreed starting time.
Comments and suggestions (including topics or issues on great apes conservation you think would be useful for the future)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is the need to define the value of great apes. This will facilitate the justification of all biodiversity endeavors for the great ape conservation. The work is commendable and important. Rethink identification of the niche of great apes. Conduct study on sector policy strategies to see how they integrate. Involve media to explain vision in TV program.

The PCLG is coordinated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), one of the world's most influential policy research organisations working at the interface between development and environment.



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Biodiversity, Poverty

Keywords:

Ape conservation, Poverty, Biodiversity,
Global Learning Network

The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) is an international network of organisations and individuals that promotes learning on the linkages between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, in order to improve policy and practice.

