

# FGLG-Cameroon

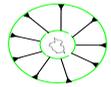
Progress report 2012



This research was part-funded by UK aid from the UK Government, however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the UK Government.

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FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP – CAMEROON  
IIED – SOCIAL JUSTICE IN FORESTRY

PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT NARRATIVE

January – December, 2012

Submitted on 31st January, 2013

By Angeline Ndo

## FOREST GOVERNANCE LEARNING GROUP (FGLG)

### GREG-Forêts Cameroon

*(Project: SOCIAL JUSTICE IN FORESTRY)*

### PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT NARRATIVE

**Project Period:** May 2010 to March 2013

**Report Period:** January 2012 to December 2012

This report covers the period January to December, 2012 over which the GREG-Forêts group implemented the revised work plan as validated in April 2012. It therefore presents the activities carried out and achievements made. The following items are covered in this report: I) Progress with activities; II) Forest governance developments; III) Impacts; IV) Lessons learned; V) Implications for the work ahead; VI) Meeting EC requirements; and VII) Finances.

#### **I PROGRESS WITH ACTIVITIES**

##### **Policy influence**

This activity targeted two achievements including (a) writing a policy brief on governance and green business lessons from Cameroon and (b) advocating with government officials.

A policy brief has effectively been written on the theme: “*Current issues to greening economy in Cameroon and future prospects*”. The aim was to analyze the key sectors including renewable energies; clean technologies; water services; mining and sustainable agriculture so as to better contribute to social equity and economic growth while addressing ecological challenges. This analysis includes weaknesses and proposition of solutions to all stakeholders involved in each sector. Copy of policy brief attached (*attachment no 1*).

Also, an intense and important activity was carried out by FGLG Cameroon’s team on January, 2013 in a bid to create or strengthen collaboration with some administrations, aiming at making the team and work achieved better known by the state officials. The team organized meetings at a very high level with officials of the Prime Minister’s services; the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF); the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). At each of the meetings, after the presentation of GREG-Forêts and its mission, goals, activities and achievements, a questions and answers moment followed and a set of documents were handed to our hosts including copies of (1) the presentation on GREG-Forêts, (2) the policy brief on Green Business, (3) the overview of Human Wildlife Conflict in Cameroon, and (4) the review on Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into National Development policy. Report on meeting with policy makers here attached (*attachment no 2*).

##### **Output 1: Forest Rights and Small Forest Enterprises**

- Activities planned under this output for 2012, included (i) an i-learn seminar on natural-based innovations and enterprise development in Cameroon; (ii) a participatory assessment of key natural resources streams for VSFs; and (iii) documenting of key advances and issues on governance and business models

for sustainable green local development. Their implementation involved a consultancy agreement with resource persons and terms of reference were elaborated and agreed with consultants.

- **Study on Green Business**  
A study was carried out on the concept of green business and Cameroon's potential in greening its economy. All key sectors of activities were covered as to assess their current weaknesses and possible solutions. This study served as basis for the i-learn seminar organized to further dig into the subject and later on for the policy brief. Report of study here attached (attachment no 3).
- **I-learn on Green Business organized on 27 July, 2012**  
This i-learn seminar, co-organized with the African Model Forests Network (AMFN) secretariat and the Congo Basin Ecosystem Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCO), was focused on governance, ecological changes, conservation and interface with local entrepreneurship and the green business (Report here attached). The value added of discussing the four issues in one single event enabled the participants to better understand how these are inter-related. This understanding enabled the group to better explain this inter-relation to policy makers, and hopefully would help in setting up small and very small forest enterprises. This i-learn also had the advantage of regrouping many participants from various sectors, including MINFOF and MINEPDED representatives, international organizations, national NGOs, eminent lecturers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Yaoundé I, research institutes and donors. Report here attached (attachment no 4).
- **I-learn on Green Business Policy Brief organized on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012**  
This i-learn was organized in order to further dig into the draft of the policy brief so as to fine-tune it prior to its publication. An emphasis was put on the recommendations that are real paths for improving methods and practices in the government action in its vision to make Cameroon emergent in 2035. Report here attached (attachment no 5).

## **Output 2: Legitimate Forest Products**

From the three activities planned under this output including (i) lobbying to improve the market regulatory environment for local NTFPs markets businesses; (ii) study/publications on (a) biodiversity conservation, (b) human wildlife conflicts; and (iii) assess the management of national parks and the legitimacy of forest products; the first one will be carried out at next step in the collaboration under formalization with the ministry of forestry and wildlife while the last one, which title was reviewed and changed into "Impact Evaluation of the Law on Communities in Protected Areas" is on-going and will be completed in the 2013 work plan. The following stages for the last activity are underway: a field/desk study, an I-learn seminar scheduled in a near future and a Policy Brief to be written eventually. Besides, GREG-Forêts contributed in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (**NBSAP**) initiated by the ministry of environment, nature protection and sustainable development (MINEPDED). The aim of GREG-Forêts contribution was to analyze the factors of loss of biodiversity in the five eco regions of Cameroon and contribute to the debate during the first validation workshop.

## **Output 3: Pro-poor Climate Change Mitigation**

The main activity under this thematic was to assess and document REDD+ relevance and opportunity in relation to local livelihoods and carbon-smart local businesses. The assessment was done with results presentation from a desk study during an i-learn organized on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. Another two presentations were made at this occasion, including an introductory overview by the thematic group leader and a presentation of the results of a memoire research carried out on the carbon-evaluation by a post-graduate student of Yaoundé I University. Copy of the report was attached to the previous status report January to June, 2012.

## **Output 4: Trans-national Processes and Preparedness**

Having achieved quite a good number of publications, these will be circulated amongst the FGLG country members. In addition FGLG members attending China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform and FGLG Learning Event in Beijing and Tengchong will interact with other FGLG members.

### **II FOREST GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENTS**

Important developments have been registered in Cameroon during the year 2012 as follows:

- Community forest: land use planning for community forest approved;
- Forest concession: land use planning of extractive zones approved;
- Agricultural land/plantation: document on palm oil development now exists;
- REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal validated;
- Voluntary Partnership Agreement validated;
- Forestry law almost finalized with contribution of civil society.
- NBSAP finalized with GREG-Forêts contributions

### **III IMPACTS**

- Land use planning in area types in Cameroon will be expanded to other countries in Congo Basin to come out with a regional document in land uses planning;
- With the two publications on the Wildlife Human Conflict well perceived by the MINEPDED, the group has been approached to contribute in the review of the national biodiversity action plan;
- The formal establishment of collaboration between GREG-Forêts and some administrations (MINFOF, MINEPDED, Prime Minister's services) will generate positive influence for the amelioration of communities livelihood ;
- The Prime Minister's services have scheduled to recommend GREG-Forêts as a partner to the ministerial departments concerned.
- GREG-Forêts member and administrative coordinator, Angeline Ndo has been appointed member of the anti-corruption cell at the ministry of forestry and wildlife. This appointment is a good opportunity for the group as the nominee could influence issues related to corruption in the forestry sector.

### **IV LESSONS LEARNED**

- The advocacy campaign undertaken by GREG-Forêts has made Government officials more aware of the many issues/problems that exist in the forestry and environment sector and paths of solutions. This indicates that policy makers are willing to integrate recommendations provided issues are well demonstrated.
- Big poaching (200 elephants killed) in the Bouba Ndjilda National Park was done without denunciation of local communities living at the edge of the National Park, for they do not get any benefits from conservation of protected areas and species. Therefore it is important to explore ways to generate interest; social and economic benefits for local communities from protected areas (see human wildlife related solutions).
- From the three i-learn seminars organized in June, July and December, 2012 we could note an important and deep participation from GREG members and invitees. This approach has proved to be very productive for a reflection group and will be replicated as often as possible in the future.

### **V IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORK AHEAD**

- The achievements of 2012 and before will serve as basis for further work to be carried out both within the GREG-Forêts team and in any extra GREG activities. For instance, the publication on “REDD+ relevance and opportunities in relation to local livelihoods and carbon-smart local business” will help in the future collaboration between GREG-Forêts and the national observatory of climate change. Likewise, the policy brief on “Green Business” could help the administrations of the sector in the implementation of the Government strategy in making Cameroon an emergent economy by 2035.
- There are a good number of recommendations in all GREG-Forêts generated documents (reports of workshops, seminars, policy briefs, studies, etc.); these can be used by GREG-Forêts and its partners as necessary.
- Activities that were either not implemented or not completed will be scheduled in the 2013 work plan. These are:
  - Output 1: Forest rights and Small Forest Enterprises, “carry out a participatory assessment of key natural resources streams for Very Small Forest Enterprises”.
  - Output 2: Legitimate forest products, “lobbying to improve the market regulatory environment for local Non Timber Forest Products markets and businesses”.

## **VI MEETING EC REQUIREMENTS**

- Relationship with state authorities and how this relationship has affected the team’s activities:  
Good and fruitful relations are entertained between GREG-Forêts and some key ministries including MINFOF, MINEPDED and the Prime Minister’s services. A formal partnership is under establishment and will make this relationship stronger.
- Relationship with other organizations: associates, beneficiaries, other target groups, other third parties:  
The i-learn held in July 2012 was co-organized with the AMFN Secretariat and PACEBCO. Amongst the panelists were 2 lecturers of the Wisconsin University (USA), and other participants from the Yaoundé I University and research institutes from Cameroon.
- Any links made with other EU-supported initiatives:  
GREG-Forêts wrote and published an article on biodiversity mainstreaming. The article intends to examine the extent to which biodiversity conservation has been integrated into national development. This publication draws conclusions as to whether this has enhanced the implementation of key biodiversity conservation objectives and commitments. Consequently the group has been contacted to conduct a study on causes and consequences of biodiversity loss in Cameroon which has been integrated in the revised NBSAP. This initiative is also supported by EC
- How EC support has been acknowledged in any outputs resulting from this contract.

## **VII FINANCES**

See details in financial report attached.

Done in Yaoundé on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2013  
By Angeline Ndo on behalf of GREG-Forêts