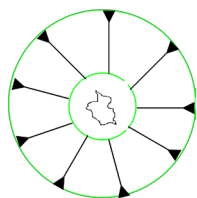


December 2014

Forest Governance Learning Group

Cameroon

Contributing to improving livelihoods by
influencing policy and law-makers



Author information

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About the project

For more information about this report, or the Forest Governance Learning Group and the Social Justice in Forestry project, visit <http://iied.org/forest-governance-learning-group>, or contact: James Mayers, James.Mayers@iied.org.

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1. Summary of targets, team, tactics and main actions

Key issues in social justice in forestry that FGLG Cameroon (GREG-Forêts) sought to address

Following establishment of the work plan, elaboration and revision of terms of reference (ToRs) for thematic groups, and coordination of the work of these thematic groups, the GREG-Forêts team pursued the following outputs and actions:

- **Output 1: Forest rights and very small forest enterprise (VSFEs)**
 - Conduct a baseline assessment of VSFEs in Cameroon.
 - Facilitate a stakeholders' workshop on VSFEs and develop ToRs for collaborative research.
 - Coach and monitor some key VSFEs.
 - Develop and publish a guide on successful VSFEs.
 - Research and publish on tenure, VSFEs and local economic governance.
 - Hold a VSFEs seminar and develop an agenda for policy action.

- **Output 2: Legitimate forest products (LFPs)**
 - Revisit the notion of legitimate forest products (LFPs) and identify gaps between legitimacy and legality for a selected set of forest products and actors.
 - Assess Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) outcomes for smallholders in the forest sector.
 - Contribute to citizens' ownership of legal instruments through training and information.
 - Arrange an information and learning (i-learn) seminar series on LFPs (including issues centred on forest products, small forest enterprises [SFEs], legal challenges, para-legal programmes and VPA impacts).
 - Establish and facilitate an information platform on forest products through work with the media and publications.

- **Output 3: Pro-poor climate mitigation and adaptation through forestry**
 - Review the need and institutional framework for climate adaptation and mitigation in Cameroon.
 - Develop a suite of training modules and tools for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - Contribute to facilitation coordination, sharing and learning among the various governmental and civil society initiatives on climate change.
 - Carry out study on the lessons and prospects from COP 15.

- **Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness**
 - Coordinate and facilitate all GREG-Forêts learning events related to SFEs, LFPs and climate change.

- Develop the tools, networks and strategies for effective GREG-Forêts media, e-networking, publication and dissemination action.
- Cooperate with, strengthen and, where needed, facilitate pan-African networks on SFEs, LFPs and climate change action, and on REDD.
- Establish linkages, person-to-person (p2p) exchanges and visits, and networks with other Asian and African Groups on SFEs, LFPs and climate change.

Structures of the team and wider consultative groupings

The GREG-Forêts team is composed of experts from various national and international organisations (see the list of members in Annex 1). It is a coalition that reflects on, and digs into, issues during its regular meetings, as well as through engagement with external actors, including in i-learn seminars and workshops. The coalition enables large consultations to inform decision making and exploration of solutions to real problems, drawing on the different approaches adopted by each organisation. Its overall objective is to influence policy and law makers with a view to contributing to the improvement of local livelihoods. Direct impact in the field is mainly realised through work achieved by member organisations.

The organisation and teamwork of GREG-Forêts were revamped along the learning group's four thematic lines through general meetings and thematic group meetings. The thematic groups were able to thoroughly review their activities, adapting them to current needs and situations. Wider consultations were achieved during workshops, organised when GREG-Forêts tackled a thematic line for the first time – aiming to develop a complete picture of the issues by maximising the collection of stakeholders' views and stories from the field. These consultative groupings included:

Five workshops grouping between 30 and 50 participants each from various organisations and representing all key sector stakeholders. The debate and experience-sharing in each case was informed by background work and exposés prepared and presented by GREG-Forêts members and other experts. These took place yearly from 2009 to 2013.

- Three i-learns of around 30 participants each.

Main tactics used

The main tactics used to address the issues of social justice in forestry were: lobbying and advocacy (during meetings and dialogue sessions with top officials of sector ministries); reports; desk research; regular meetings; field studies; seminars, workshops, i-learns and roundtables; and meetings with state officials (Prime Minister's Services, ministers and collaborators).

Main actions taken over the 5 years

GREG-Forêts has organised many events, studies and publications in support of national policies and regulations:

Studies and policy briefs, and their dissemination

- Institutional mapping study on forest governance in Cameroon.
- Forest governance inventory in Cameroon: Progress and limits.
- Thematic issues on social justice in forestry: a review of interests and organizational concentration.
- Contribution to a study carried out by NESDA-CA on tenure rights of indigenous populations (Bagyéli/Bakola).
- Study on human wildlife conflict.

- Analysis of stakeholders in climate change and renewable energy in Cameroon (May 2012).
- REDD+ relevance and opportunities in relation to local communities' livelihood and the reduction of carbon emissions from local businesses: the case of Cameroon (July 2012).
- Green economy (current issues for the greening business in Cameroon and future prospects).
- Contribution to Cameroon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP); the group contributed to the issue of causes and consequences of biodiversity loss integrated in NBSAP.
- Policy brief on green business, December 2012.
- Policy brief on exploring ways to improving benefits for communities around protected areas.

Seminars and workshops, and dissemination of their findings

- Seminar on governance of land tenure and land access of local communities, including indigenous people organized by GREG-Forêts in May 2009 – and results promoted with the authorities.
- Seminar for the contribution (recognised and appreciated by government) of GREG-Forêts to the revision of the Joint Ministerial Order of 1998 related to the management of revenues deriving from forest exploitation and paid to local communities.
- Wide consultative workshop on forest rights and small enterprises, 28-29 October 2010 – and dissemination of recommendations to the various administrations concerned
- Wide consultative workshop on legitimate forest products, 28-29 September 2011.
- Participation by GREG-Forêts members in the various reflection groups – and influence debates and policies on the revision of forestry law, climate change, biodiversity (Nagoya protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystems Services), EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan and VPAs, indigenous people's rights, land and forest rights, and mines and forests issues.
- Workshop on human wildlife conflicts.
- I-learn on climate change, 27 June 2012.
- I-learn on green business, 27 July 2012.
- I-learn on exploring ways to improving benefits for communities around protected areas (Cameroon case study), 2013.

Other key policy engagements

GREG-Forêts has held a wide range of meetings with state officials – including the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), and the Ministry of Small & Medium Sized Enterprises, Social Economy & Handicrafts (MINPMEESA). In these meetings, GREG-Forêts has been increasingly strongly perceived as a reliable partner/stakeholder capable of providing technical expertise in governance issues in line with the government's strategic vision. Through this collaboration, GREG-Forêts aims to influence policy from within and has reached certain levels of understanding with key government agencies:

- Formal collaboration in the form of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between GREG-Forêts and MINFOF is at an advanced stage.
- Preliminary talks took place in early 2013 with MINEPDED (the minister himself and his collaborators), setting the scene for a possible MoU on environmental issues, and in October 2013 with the minister of MINPMEESA regarding small forest enterprises.

- The Prime Ministers' office is key in the establishment of this collaboration, as it is the coordinator of all government actions. Officials in this office have stated their intention to recommend GREG-Forêts to sector ministries.

GREG-Forêts has also continued its strong involvement in the international FGLG learning events in Mozambique in 2010 (Marie Madeleine Bassalang and Chimere Diaw attended), Vietnam in 2011 (Chimere and Angeline Ndo), and China in 2013 (Antoine Eyebe).

2. The changing context of forest governance

This section describes some of the main ways in which the context of forest governance has changed in Cameroon over the course of this project. Firstly, there are encouraging signs that the effectiveness of **forest governance** measures is improving. For example:

- A growth and employment strategy paper (DSCE) has been developed and has become quite well known by stakeholders.
- The MINFOF Priority Action Plan has been published and shared with stakeholders (and forms the basis of GREG-Forêts' preparation of an MoU with this ministry).
- Involvement of all stakeholders (including civil society) in the revision of the forestry law has been high. All aspects of forestry governance in the law are effectively under revision, including NTFPs following a ground-breaking workshop organised in Ebolowa, southern Cameroon in May 2010 by the European Commission in collaboration with MINFOF, the EU, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), SNV, the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and civil society organisations (CSOs).
- The 'convergence plan' anticipates: increased coherence of forestry policies; inventories of forest resources (timber, fauna, NTFPs, medicinal plants); reinforcement and/or putting in place national and regional observatories; improved management of forest concessions and protected areas; and a further developed timber market at regional and international levels.
- Major debates have been stimulated around forest governance – notably the 2nd Forest Forum in 2010 (the first four years earlier), and a forum on corruption in the context of the FLEGT programme with the EU.
- FLEGT-VPA agreement signed with the EU, and some evidence of follow-up in terms of control of management and resource utilization and the fight against illegal logging.
- Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) has been dynamic in facilitation with inputs from Canada, USA and other international forestry governance frameworks – the partnership is now an integral part of the global policy debate on how to prevent deforestation, illicit extraction, and unsustainable timber practices.
- Certification - more and more logging companies are making progress towards voluntary certification with the FSC.
- Almost all wood produced is given some local processing - increasing employment in the sector – and the intra-regional market is developing
- The Independent Observer function is now established, and being managed by Cameroonians not external consultants.

The **fight against corruption** in the country has also made significant progress. An autonomous National Anti-Corruption Committee is finding its feet and other measures are beginning to have encouraging effects in forest and natural resource sectors:

- Autonomous departmental anti-corruption cells in each ministry have been created, with two GREG-Forêts members among 12 nationwide sitting in the MINFOF cell, as president of the cell and cell member.
- Departmental internal anti-corruption brigades have been formed, and Rapid Results Initiatives actions identified in corruption hubs.
- And the results of the fight against corruption (penalties and incentives) of both state agents and stakeholders are widely published in the media.

Environmental decentralisation is also becoming increasingly effective. The role of civil society is better recognised and valued, and more and more collaborative platforms exist. A range of MoUs between government and CSOs have been signed with at least some signs of implementation in the field. An MoU between the government and the African Model Forest Network (AMFN) was signed in August 2013 and, as noted above an MoU with GREG-Forêts is under development. Other examples of the recognition of strong work by civil society include:

- A process of forest law review for the forest code is ongoing – and includes proposals by GREG-Forêts, through civil society and local communities, being taken into account.
- NTFP exploitation authorisations have been more effectively delivered.
- Manuals of procedures have been produced. For example, a guide for the forestry controller aligned to the national strategy on forestry and fauna, and a VPA-FLEGT legality matrix, produced by the Independent Observer, which is being finalised.
- A community forest manual of procedures has been reviewed and developed with the help of small grants from the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) – with local communities benefitting from small grant projects generating revenues.
- Model forests have been recognised and valued – notably the eco-agri business for climate change adaptation 'B-Adapt' programme, and the One-Programme.
- MINFOF has established a group of partners – the Consultation Circle of Partners (CCPM), Groupe de travail Biodiversité en Afrique centrale (GTBAC), Climate Change Group, and others. This has, for example, enabled NTFPs to be taken into consideration in government national strategies (PSFE) for poverty reduction and food security (the result of partnership between MINFOF and WWF-FAO for the promotion of sustainable management of NTFPs in forestry concessions and protected areas).
- A common position amongst a Cameroon civil society coalition was crafted on questions related to REDD+ - and was effective during the validation of the Cameroon REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).

Finally, the knowledge base has greatly improved with, for example, the 'State of forests' published every two years by CBFP, new work by Global Forest Watch, reports of independent observers, follow up reports of the PSFE and the World Bank, documents of MINFOF, and a wide range of recent publications by well-known researchers of the forest sector in Cameroon and in Central Africa including Bigombe, Cerutti, Karsenty, Lescuyer, Oyono and Nasi.

3. Examples of change

The following table offers some examples, from the five years of the project, of useful changes in aspects of forest governance and the part GREG-Forêts played in it. The examples also include description of the way that catalytic work by GREG-Forêts has been taken on by other organisations and initiatives. For some further reflection by the team on its impacts see Annex 3.

No	What happened?	Who did it? (or contributed to it?)	How do we know this? Is there corroborative evidence?	Why is this important? What needs to be done next?
1	Contribution to the Joint Order No 0520 MINATD/MINFI/MINFOF of 3 June, 2010. GREG-Forêts contributed in putting in place the joint Ministerial order 522 related to the equitable benefits sharing. One GREG-Forêts member and member of the inter-ministerial commission in charge of reviewing the former clause on forest revenues distribution presented the above draft order to the team, which organised a seminar during which it was discussed and amended. The version from GREG-Forêts was examined and validated.	GREG-Forêts members and invited participants.	Ministerial Order and report of seminar.	Because it enables justice to be established in the distribution of forest revenues, being jointly initiated and applied by three ministries. It enables the integration of local communities in the sustainable management of forest resources. Its implementation needs to be facilitated through advocacy. A study should be carried out to see how effective and efficient it is in the field.
2	Contribution to Cameroon's reviewed National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan with MINEPDED in December 2012. GREG-Forêts was assigned by MINEPDED to make a civil society contribution to Cameroon's new NBSAP through a signed contract between the two parties.	GREG-Forêts members, through a study and analysis of results in a seminar.	See list of participants of i-learn and report of study sent to MINEPDED.	It is important to see how large infrastructures and forest exploitation affect biodiversity and forest-dependent communities with a view to finding solutions. Also, civil society organisations were requested to contribute to the NBSAP, which is evidence of the consideration of NGOs by the government in its strategy.

				Ensure that sector ministries effectively integrate biodiversity in their development strategies.
3	B-Adapt project initiated and currently implemented by the AMFN. The workshop on SVFEs in 2010 inspired the AMFN to initiate One-programme and B-Adapt in 2012 – 2013 (partnership envisaged and established 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; this experience is a success story and was described at the GREG-Forêts roundtable organised on September 11 2013 and shared with participants (including representatives of key ministries and community forests).	AMFN (some of its members are from GREG-Forêts).	Presentation in the report of the roundtable organised on 11 September 2013.	The Ministry of Forestry has requested the AMFN to extend this experience (success story) to other localities of Cameroon. This process can be documented and results published as a policy brief that can be exchanged with other FGLG members. Record the B-Adapt project as a relevant REDD project.
4	Collaboration with ministries enables concerted participation and joint decision making, thus facilitating the influencing process with active reaction from Government. GREG-Forêts is now recognised as a partner and invited to meetings by sector ministers (MINFOF & MINEPDED). A formal collaboration (MoU) is under consideration with MINFOF.	GREG-Forêts' members and MINFOF team	Invitations to meetings from MINEPDED & MINFOF and reports of meetings.	Because GREG-Forêts can effectively and efficiently achieve its objective of influencing policies within the relations established. Pursue negotiations until the signature of MoUs (with MINFOF, MINEPDED, and others) and impose their implementation.
5	Three members of GREG-Forêts recognised for their expertise and appointed to high-level positions, including the Technical Adviser No 1 to the Minister of Environment (MINEPDED) and President and Member of MINFOF anti-corruption cell.	State officials and GREG-Forêts members concerned (Prudence Galega, Samuel Makon Weihon and Angeline Ndo).	Ministerial Order appointing members of anti-corruption cell.	Because members appointed can influence policy from within.

4. Looking ahead

This section describes how FGLG work is being taken forward, and key needs for future related work in the immediate or longer term. If funding permits, GREG-Forêts foresees the following activities:

Policy influence

- The NBSAP contains information and knowledge that can be used in the long term at both national and international levels; GREG-Forêts would be keen to continue to collaborate with government at any opportunity that might arise with regards to NBSAP.
- Recommendations from a major roundtable on all of GREG-Forêts' work in September 2013 are being sent to sector ministers (distributed already to all participants) and are likely to stimulate calls to implement them.
- Follow up on meetings with the Prime Minister's office and sector ministries to keep the collaborative relationship with state officials alive, and to capture it in agreed plans – with MINFOF, MINEPDED and MINPMEESA.
- Foster progress with policies at national and regional levels to protect the gains from the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, there is an urgent need to build community capacity for mutually agreed terms, and to develop community models for negotiations. GREG-Forêts and both NESDA-CA and AMFN should continue to work as partners of MINEPDED in that process.
- Make better use of GREG-Forêts members who have been appointed to high-responsibility positions in administration and politics (notably, Secretary General of MINFOF, Technical Adviser No1 of MINEPDED, president of anti-corruption cell at MINFOF, Senator, member of anti-corruption cell at MINFOF).
- Continue the production and publication of existing documents and dissemination of all GREG-Forêts work at national and international events.

Livelihoods for local population – access to benefit sharing (ABS)

- The Joint Order No 0520 MINATD/MINFI/MINFOF of 3 June 2010 related to the equitable sharing of forest revenues is currently in force. GREG-Forêts contributed strongly to this and is ready to contribute further to its improvement and implementation as necessary, alongside policymakers.
- The B-Adapt success story of the African Model Forest Network is being appreciated by government officials, who have encouraged its extension to other localities of the country. Its implementation could be documented and results published as a policy brief.
- The six recommendations from the workshop on VSFs need to be further implemented under the follow-up committee's steering, with GREG-Forêts in the coordination role.
- Pursue and strengthen relations with MPs (in both low and high chambers) by providing them technical support to the REDD process – justified by new terms of both chambers.
- Work closely with MINADER to contribute to addressing the human-wildlife conflicts around protected areas.

Strengthening partnerships

- GREG-Forêts expects to continue to thrive – along with the partnerships it has fostered. The work of its members will continue to support the group, and be further spread by it.
- The group hopes to renew the partnership that was 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.

- Finally, GREG-Forêts hopes to play its part in exploring ways to pursue the work of the China-Africa forest governance learning platform, which has grown out of the FGLG initiative internationally – linking it with strong work by COMIFAC and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The group would like to organise a platform event in Cameroon in 2015. GREG-Forêts also aims to continue to deepen its communication and collaboration with FGLG teams in other countries.

Annex 1: Members of the GREG-Forêts team

Nbr	Name	Affiliation
1	Abe Simeon	Network for Sustainable Development in Africa
2	Assembe Mvondo Samuel	Center for International Forestry Research
3	Bassalang Marie Madeleine	Mining sector
4	Bigombe Patrice	Independent Observer
5	Diaw Chimere Maritew	African Model Forest
6	Dinsi Stanley	Network for Sustainable Development in Africa
7	Djeukam Robinson	International Consultant
8	Dkamela Patrice	International Consultant
9	Endamana Dominique	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
10	Eyebe Antoine Justin	Central African Regional Program for the Environment
11	FometeTimothée	TNS foundation
12	Gagoe Julie	African Model Forest
13	Galega Prudence	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development,
14	Koulagna Denis	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
15	Makon Weihon Samuel	International Consultant
16	Mala William	Netherlands Development organization
17	Menang Evouna Serge	World Bank
18	Mimbimi Esono Parfait	Forest Stewardship Council
19	Ndo Angeline	African Model Forest/Senator
20	Nguiffo Samuel	Center for the Environment and Development
21	Tiani Anne Marie	Center for International Forestry Research

Annex 2: List of GREG-Forêts' works under the Social Justice in Forestry's Project: 2009-2013

All publications are available upon request from NESDA-CA.

I – Articles

1. Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into National Development Policy: a case study of Cameroon, PCLG, Discussion Paper No 5, February 2012.
<http://povertyandconservation.info/sites/default/files/Biodiversity%20mainstreaming%20Cameroon%20case%20study-%20Antoine%20Eyebe-April%202012.pdf>
2. Overview of Human Wildlife Conflicts: a Cameroon case study, PCLG, Discussion Paper No 9, April 2012.
http://povertyandconservation.info/sites/default/files/Overview%20of%20Human%20wildlife%20conflict%20in%20Cameroon_0.pdf

II – Reports of studies

1. Thématiques de travail sur la « Justice Sociale en Foresterie: Revue des intérêts et concentrations organisationnelles, Décembre 2009. (Thematic work on “Social Justice in Forestry”: a review of interests and organizational concentrations, December 2009).
2. Analyse des parties prenantes sur le changement climatique et l'énergie renouvelable au Cameroun, Mai 2012. (Analysis of stakeholders on climate change and renewable energy in Cameroon, May 2012)
3. Causes and consequences of Biodiversity Loss in Cameroon, NBSAP, August, 2012.
4. Overview of Land Grab for conservation in Cameroon since 2000, March 2013.

III – Policy Briefs

1. Exploring ways to improving communities benefits around protected areas: Cameroon case study, July 2013.
2. Current issues to greening economy in Cameroon and futures prospects, December 2012.

IV – Reports of workshops – seminars/i-learns – round table

1. REDD relevance and opportunities in relation to local communities' livelihood and the reduction of carbon emissions from local businesses: the case of Cameroon, June 2012.
2. Reflection workshop on strategies for reconciling legality and legitimacy of forest products in Cameroon, September 2011.

3. Atelier de réflexion sur les PME du secteur forestier au Cameroun, Octobre 2010. (Reflection workshop on forest sector SMEs in Cameroon, October 2010).
4. Governance, conservation and ecological changes: interface with local entrepreneurship and green business, July 2012. (Gouvernance, changements écologiques, conservation et interface avec l'entreprenariat local et le "Green business", Juillet 2012).
5. Current issues on green economy and prospects for Cameroon, December 2012.
6. Round table to present and discuss GREG-Forêts' products, September 2013.

Annex 3: Self-evaluation by GREG-Forêts of its impact over the 2010-2013 project – offered to the independent evaluator in October 2013

Forest Governance Learning Group – Evaluation 2013

Self-Evaluation Format

Notes:

- a. This format gives you an opportunity for self-evaluation of the performance of FGLG and its impacts from the start of the initiative in 2005 until 2013.
- b. By completing this format you will contribute to the overall evaluation of FGLG and influence the design of any future initiatives on forest sector governance.
- c. One completed copy of this format should be prepared by each country team.
- d. All answers should refer to the performance and impacts of FGLG in your own country
- e. The completed format should be emailed to peterbranney@msn.com by the country convenor (on behalf of the whole team) by 11th October 2013 at the latest (for Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, South Africa, Vietnam and Indonesia) or handed over to Peter Branney during country visits to Cameroon, Mozambique and India during the period 8-21st October 2013
- f. You may wish to hold a meeting with all representatives of the FGLG in your country to discuss your response to these evaluation questions. Answers should be based on consensus amongst the team.
- g. You can write as much as you wish in response to the evaluation questions. Please try to be open and honest in your answers because this will help to identify lessons and will support future approaches to forest governance based on these experiences.
- h. In the table below, the first column contains a question. Please write your answers in the second column.

Country: Cameroon **Date of assessment:** 11 October, 2013

1. Approach of FGLG initiative (in your own country)

1.1 What were the major forest governance issues and opportunities in your country since 2005? [list them]?	<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materialisation/effectiveness of governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participation ○ Representation /representativity ○ Legality & legitimacy ○ Transparency and corruption • Environmental decentralisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions related to NTFP's management ○ Management stools and forest code ○ Attributions of authorisations ○ Manuals of procedures ○ Community Forests, Communal Forests and Model Forests ○ Forest concessions ○ Creation of GREG-Forêts
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- Questions related to FLEGT/VPA, convergence plan, CBFP, Certification, Independent Observer and control, MINFOF group partners (2005-2013)
- Common position of Cameroon civil society coalition on questions related to REDD+
- Major debates around governance:
 - 1st Forest Forum (2005) on the background of VPA/FLEGT
 - 2nd Forest Forum (2010)
 - Forum on corruption under the EU impulsion
- Question related to poverty within the forestry sector out of control of funds donors, with COVAREF, AFR
- Emerging of big projects
- State of forests published every two years by CBFP, Forests Atlas versions 1 & 2 published by GFW in 2005 & 2007, reports of independent Observers, follow up reports of the PSFE and the World Bank, documents of MINFOF, recent publications of well-known researchers of the forest sector in Cameroon and in Central Africa including Bigombe, Cerutti, Karsenty, Lescuyer, Oyono and Nasi.
- Land access

Opportunities

- Influence of Cameroon in the sub region with its forestry reforms
- Split of MINEF into two ministries (MINFOF and MINEPDED). This was an opportunity for more specialization and effectivity. But, it also raised important institutional coordination and policy coherence issues.
- The policy process on revision of an important benefit sharing mechanism in the forest sector, the annual forestry royalties (AFR).
- The revision of manual on community forest
- The review process of the forest policy and the 1994 forest law for a revision.
- The dialogue between the mining and forest sectors
- The upsurge of the climate debate in the forest sector (REDD+) which induced a policy process and delivered a Readiness Preparation Proposal for Cameroon.
- The handing over of the Forest Governance Facility to a national NGO. This capacity building program was an important opportunity for civil society and other stakeholders to foster forest governance.
- Elaboration of NBSAP (2002 & 2012)
- The integration of Parliamentarians
- Elaboration of Cameroons NBSAP (2002 and 2012)
- Conservation tools
- PSFE (investment from DFID, « basket funds »)
- UK trust funds
- Climate issues have changed the reflection framework of governance. Cameroon is among the last countries to integrate climate issues. Climate issues, REDD, etc become the responsibility of MINEP and land issues which of MINFOF

1.2 What have been the most effective methodologies that FGLG has used since 2005? *[describe as many as you wish. You could refer to the country level methods from page 23 of the project document]*

Nature & type of FGLG

Institutionally, many groups & organisations were created to debate governance-related questions and sustainable forest resources.

GREG-Forêts is one of the responses to those questions raised under a coalition approach of various types of organisations.

GREG-Forêts' members have adopted the following approaches:

- Lobbying/advocacy
- I learn seminar, workshops
- Reports
- Desk research
- Regular meetings
- Fields studies
- Seminars – workshops – round tables
- Meetings with services of the Prime minister
- Meetings with ministries (MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINPMEESA)
- Media, website, social network

1.3 What changes have there been in approach of FGLG in your country since the start of the initiative? Why have these changes taken place?

GREG-Forêts' initial aim was to create a framework where people could regroup and share lessons and experiences on forest governance in view to foster improvement of good governance in the forest sector in Cameroon and at international level. Later on, GREG-Forêts became a coalition group with a clear and big impact on governance issues. Currently GREG-Forêts is linking policy, projection and experience exchange.

1.4 How effective has the team-based structure and approach of FGLG been? Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of this.

Strengths

- GREG-Forêts reflects and digs into issues during i-learn seminars and workshops
- The coalition enables large concertations for decision-making
- Search for solutions to real problems from different approaches adopted by each different organization
- Field impact through work achieved by members organizations
- Quality of membership
- Access to critical information
- National driven process

Weaknesses

- Regular moves of key members in other functions inside and out of Cameroon
- Tight schedule of GREG-Forêts members at their various individual organisations making it difficult and challenging to cope with both agendas
- No, publication of GREG-Forêts works by IIED. Consequently, this could lead to non-motivation of the team
- Limited funds to effectively carry out some GREG-Forêts key activities

2. Performance and impact of FGLG (in your own country)

2.1 To what extent has FGLG has contributed to improved forest governance in your country [*tick the best box and provide an explanation for your answer*]

Significant contribution

- Sensitisation of policy-makers on results of works achieved
- Formal collaboration establishment currently on-going with state officials & structures (Prime Minister's Services, MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINADER, MINPMEESA, etc.)
- Participation of GREG-Forêts members in the various reflection groups currently going on the revision of the forestry law, the climate change, the biodiversity (NAGOYA CBD convention, IPBES), the FLEGT/VPA, the AFR, Indigenous People's rights, Land and Forest rights, mines and forests, etc., and influence on debates and policies.
- Contribution appreciated & recognised in the elaboration of the NBSAP

2.2 For each of the 4 outputs of FGLG – how do you rate the performance of FGLG [*give a score where: (1) = governance impacts have been widely achieved that have had wider impacts on the ground; (2) = governance impacts have been achieved that have had some impacts on the ground; (3) = some governance impacts have been achieved but with little actual impact on the ground; (4) = there have been only limited learning or governance impacts with no signs of tangible impacts on the ground*]. Give an explanation for your assessment score

Output 1: Forest rights and small forest enterprise

Score = 1

Explanation for score given:

- Dissemination of recommendations issued from the workshop of 28 et 29 October, 2010 to different administrations concerned
- Achieved at significant level. It's widely achieved at the landscape level

The definition of impacts is not clear for GREG-Forêts, therefore cannot be evaluated quantitatively. As a reminder, GREG-Forêts impact is the influence of policies (cf rapports sent before and the project final one).

Output 2: Legitimate forest products

Score = 1

Explanation for score given:

- The reflection was made in this thematic in collaboration of representatives of the administrations concerned during the workshops and seminars
- Dissemination of recommendations issued from the workshop of 28 et 29 Septembre, 2011 to ministries concerned
- Results and impacts are visible on the field

Output 3: Pro-poor climate change mitigation and adaptation through forestry

Score = 2

Explanation for score given:

- Organisation of workshops and seminars
- Field studies done on climat change and renewable energies (May 2012), on REDD (July 2012)

Output 4: Trans-national learning and preparedness

Score = 2

Explanation for score given:

Participation of GREG-Forêts members in various international events/meetings

- Uganda (serges and William)
- Bopal Inde (Chimère and Angéline)
- Bali Indonésie (Chimère and Antoine)
- Malawi (Chimère, Robinson and Angéline)
- Mozambique (Marie Madeleine and Antoine)
- Vietnam (Chimère and Angéline)
- Chine (Antoine)

Dissémination of documents (ongoing)

2.3 What external factors (outside the control of FGLG) have affected the impacts that FGLG has had? *[describe them]*

- Government's engagement or political will
- Availability of other civil society members to contribute to GREG-Forêts' works

2.4 Describe the performance of IIED as overall coordinator of FGLG in terms of (a) its capacity support and (b) overall management support for your in-country team and your team's actions.

Capacity supports

- Thorough and critical reading of technical reports by IIED
- Attempt to create a virtual convener's coordination group that operated for only one year.
- Good coordination of the relation between GREG-Forêts and the other groups.

Management supports

- Flexibility
- Attempt to appoint a Focal Point for Cameroun was unsuccessful, but IIED has given a permanent support to GREG-Forêts
- Technical support in writing financial reports

2.5 To what extent will partnerships and working approaches developed under FGLG continue after the end of the current phase? Comment on the sustainability of the FGLG initiative. What needs to happen for the effective approaches to continue?

- Greg will continue to exist. So will all the partnerships that were put in place
- Members' work and inputs will continue to feed the coalition
- GREG-Forêts' works products (studies reports, policy briefs, etc.) are available and Government can use them anytime
- The NBSAP contains information and knowledge that can be used on the long term at both national and international levels

2.6 Describe any changes in the relationship between government and civil society in your country as a result of FGLG?

Relationships between the state, GREG-Forêts and civil society is more and more tight, not only because of FGLG; it's also the result of interactions and Government will to integrate more stakeholders of the forest sector.

2.7 Has the FGLG had any unexpected impacts? Describe these.

No major unexpected impacts

2.8 What evidence is there to show that the various activities that you have carried out have had impacts on the ground (for target groups)? Describe this evidence – or list any documents/sources of evidence

- GREG-Forêts works (reports of seminars, studies, policy briefs, etc) presented and handed over to MINFOF and MINEPDED have led to the proposed MoUs with these two ministries; these are currently under study.
- GREG-Forêts' mandate is to do lobbying and advocacy to as to influence policy
- Members organisations have effectively achieved concrete objectives on the field (cf AMFN with their programme of creating enterprises with NTFP, agricultural products, etc)

3. Lessons learnt from FGLG

3.1 Describe any innovative approaches that FGLG has followed in your country

i-learns (composition of stakeholders, interest & influence, subjects and themes covered)

Etc.

Thematics

- REDD relevance and opportunities for local livelihood, juin 2012
- *Gouvernance, changements écologiques, conservation et interface avec l'entrepreneuriat local et le « Green Business »*, juillet 2012
- *Current issues on green economy and prospects for cameroon, décembre 2012*
- *An analysis of the legal framework of protected areas in cameroon and their impacts on neighbouring communities, fevrier 2013*

Participation

In general i-learn regroup: members of GREG-Forêts, sector ministries of the SJF four thematic areas, international organisations, civil society organisations universities

3.2 Describe (in bullets) any lessons from FGLG about effective ways of influencing forest policy and enhancing forest governance

- GREG-Forêts members belonging to various institutions (experts in various domains) have contributed efficiently in the analysis of the forest governance issues in Cameroon
- Collaboration with ministries, members of parliament, civil society, local and international NGOs, etc. enables concerted participation and decision-making and influencing process with active reaction from Government.

4. Other comments about FGLG

4.1 Do you have any other comments about the performance and lessons from FGLG? Please describe them here.

GREG-Forêts strategy from 2006-2013 has proven to be efficient with very limited funds (€110,000 or cfa 72,562,000) representing less than 1% of funds invested by partners in impacts obtained. FGLG has played a catalytic role (non-replaceable) by enabling synergies that would have been very difficult to put in place.

Learning events have proved to be key and most important at international level. However, Cameroon never had the opportunity to benefit from this experience.

The Forest Governance Learning Group is an informal alliance of in-country groups and international partners currently active in seven African and three Asian countries. We aim to connect those marginalised from forest governance to those controlling it, and to help both do things better.

This report gives an overview of the activities and achievements of the Cameroon FGLG team between 2009 and 2013.



Project materials

Forests

Keywords:

Forestry, Forest Governance Learning Group, Natural resource management



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