

October 2014

China-Africa Forest Governance Project

Cameroon Work plan –
Draft October 2014



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About the project

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China-Africa forest governance project¹

Cameroon Work Plan – Draft October 2014

SUMMARY OF THE WORK PLANNED 2014 TO 2017

(A) MAIN EMPHASIS OF THE WORK

Cameroon's development strategy involves increasing investments in natural resource exploitation in a variety of sectors, notably logging, mining and agro-industries. These investments tend to be linked to large infrastructure developments - in energy, transportation and other sectors. In all this, Chinese investors are playing an increasing role and the Chinese market is becoming increasingly important for companies in Cameroon. Furthermore, Cameroon is looking at China as a development model – in the hope that it too can make the transition from developing to developed economy in no more than two generations. So cooperation between China and Cameroon is built on the assumption that Cameroon can learn from the Chinese experience.

This project provides the opportunity to improve governance in the forestry sector in Cameroon, and improve China-Africa cooperation in favour of sustainable investments in land use, by: (1) Developing and sharing information among African and Chinese teams in the project. (2) Improving the understanding of Chinese engagement in Cameroon. (3) Creating and seizing the opportunities to give Chinese engagement a “green push” towards best practices.

Significant political space to make progress with this project is created by the work to date on improving forest governance, including through the Forest, Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and through work on forest certification. Other sectors, such as palm oil, might learn from the forest sector in this regard. The Government of Cameroon's involvement in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is also significant, and this is now beginning to extend to the forestry sector, thus providing an opportunity for effective dialogue on accountable and holistic governance of natural resources. A holistic approach is much needed since there is a serious problem with overlapping permits in, for example, forestry, mining and agribusiness.

The Centre for Environment and Development (CED), the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Africa (NESDA), and WWF Cameroon will steer this work in Cameroon, in collaboration with IIED. This team will collaborate with the Forest Governance Learning Group in Cameroon, and with government agencies, the private sector and a range of organisations doing complementary work, such as the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The initiative will contribute to WWF's Green Heart of Africa (Congo Basin) strategy and will build on key China-Africa work that WWF is carrying out, notably in Gabon.

(B) MAIN ACTIVITIES

Activities anticipated in this project in Cameroon can be summarised as follows.

Output 1. Evidence. A ‘diagnostic’ or situation analysis will be carried out – on China-linked investments in Cameroon and associated forest governance issues. Further research will then be undertaken on key issues in a range of relevant non-forest sectors such as agribusiness, infrastructure and mining, and on forestry investments and the timber trade. Analysis will be drawn in from, and offered to, colleagues in other countries, and translations and development of key evidence products will be undertaken.

¹ This document describes a working partnership which is part of an international project managed by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). See <http://www.iied.org/china-africa-forest-governance-project> for a description of this wider project.

Output 2. Capacity and dialogue. Training and mentoring within the project team will build capability to engage with key relevant policy processes and investment practices. Evidence will be explored, verified and spread by participation in the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform and through contributions to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and other dialogue initiatives. Work will be carried out to engage with Chinese investors and to support improvements in organisation and practice. Collaboration with journalists to cover relevant issues, and a small number of well-targeted work placements in China and Cameroon, are also planned.

Output 3. Policy and investment practice. Collaborative assessments of the challenges facing a range of individual China-linked companies will be undertaken and support developed for improved legality and implementation of codes of practice. Support for effective association of companies and traders will also be explored, as will identification of specific policy improvement targets.

Further detail on this work is available below – in the form of two tables: firstly on baselines, milestones and targets; and secondly on activities, actors and timeframes.

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Cameroon Detailed Work Plan Part A: Baseline, 2015 Milestones, Targets [New Milestones to be added each year]

Project-wide Outputs	Project-wide Indicators	Cameroon Baseline 2014	Cameroon Milestones 2015	Cameroon Targets 2017
Output 1: Evidence on constraints and opportunities for forest resources in productive and resilient land use and trade generated and verified by relevant stakeholders in China and Africa	1.1 Detailed work plan for the project and number of country diagnostics, baselines and work plans in focal countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 country team work plan. 0 Cameroon diagnostic. IIED review of China-Africa forest governance issues – from China perspective, (with limited Cameroon-specific material). 2011 CIFOR Study: Chinese trade and investment and the forests of the Congo Basin: Synthesis of scoping studies in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon WWF report on status and trends of Chinese investments in Cameroon for the last 4 decades. WWF ongoing project in Cameroon on FOCAC. FERN report that analyses the Cameroonian VPA and compares it with other VPAs. VPA itself and state of implementation Map of allocated/unallocated forest concessions FGLG Cameroon (GREG Forêts) capacity - building on past record of forest governance work 	<p>1.1.a.Detailed (second draft) work plan</p> <p>1.1.b. Report of diagnostic / situation analysis</p> <p>1.1.c. Report of project inception meeting with stakeholders</p> <p>1.1.d. Reports on work plan implementation.</p> <p>1.1.e.Work plan updated and detailed for 2nd year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work plan fully implemented
	1.2 Number of collaborative research products on: Guidelines; forest management; non-forest sector investments; timber trade; Chinese domestic market and policies; legal frameworks in forestry; forest enterprise guides; and lessons from other countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level of information in public domain on Chinese linked investments and governance in Cameroon. WWF has done dissemination/training in Cameroon, and developed training materials on existing standards (FSC, RSPO, FPIC, International Council on Mining and Mineral and corporate social responsibility). WWF has done baseline studies on Chinese investments in mining and infrastructure in Cameroon 	<p>1.2.a. At least 2 studies underway with initial draft reports</p> <p>1.2.b. Contribution to at least 2 research products by others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 research products completed Contribution to at least 6 research products by others
	1.3 Number of sets of findings verified in the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform, and numbers and	China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform (launched in China in 2013)	1.3.a At least 1 research product verified by China-Africa Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 research products from Cameroon

Project-wide Outputs	Project-wide Indicators	Cameroon Baseline 2014	Cameroon Milestones 2015	Cameroon Targets 2017
	types of stakeholders to whom research products disseminated			verified by China-Africa Platform
Output 2: Capacity and dialogue improved amongst relevant stakeholders for Chinese investment in productive and resilient African land use and sustainable forest product trade between China and Africa.	2.1 Number of practitioner teams established, with improved capacity and implemented work plans through life of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong Cameroon team (CED, NESDA, WWF Cameroon) on governance issues in Cameroon. WWF-GFTN has long experience of supporting SFM and certification related activities in Cameroon. 	2.1.a Broadened cross-sectoral capacity of Cameroon team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further capacity built and work plan fully implemented by team
	2.2 Number of dialogues and learning events generating increased preparedness for improved policy and investment decision making amongst key African and Chinese stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial launch event of China-Africa FGLP held in China in 2013. Initial in-country work plans generated. Dialogue between Cameroon and China not yet well and formally established 	<p>2.2.a At least 2 dialogues or training events</p> <p>2.2.b At least 1 programme of interaction with Chinese investors in Cameroon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 6 dialogues or training events At least 3 programmes of interaction with Chinese investors in Cameroon
	2.3 Number of trainings on timber legality, sustainability and enterprise support in focal countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several training events focused on the practicalities of legality, sustainability and traceability in Cameroon within the context of VPA-FLEGT and FSC certification supported by WWF-GFTN. 0 enterprise support trainings for Chinese-linked SMEs in Cameroon 	<p>2.3.a Cooperation agreements signed with at least 2 companies</p> <p>2.3.b Action plans developed and at least 2 training sessions organized with companies in the field</p> <p>2.3.c Traceability system update for at least 1 company</p> <p>2.3.d Training session with Chinese investors held</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plans fully implemented Companies supported comply with VPA requirements
	2.4 Number of journalist exchanges and other work visits carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 group of 8 Chinese journalists facilitated to study and report on African forest governance contexts with Chinese engagement 	2.4.a At least one collaboration action with Chinese journalists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 collaboration actions with

Project-wide Outputs	Project-wide Indicators	Cameroon Baseline 2014	Cameroon Milestones 2015	Cameroon Targets 2017
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CED-RRI and WWF – some prior activity to build on. 		Chinese journalists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 2 work placements
Output 3: Policy and investment practice improvement opportunities developed, in China and Africa, and in key international processes, for Chinese support of productive and resilient African land use and sustainable forest product trade between China and Africa	3.1 Number of Chinese investors supported to adopt and monitor the implementation of codes of practice.	3 well developed sets of relevant Guidelines, and 1 new draft set of Guidelines on Sustainable Forestry Products and Trade, which need to be widely adopted by Chinese enterprises and investments.	[To be developed in second draft]	[To be developed in second draft]
	3.2 Number of companies supported to achieve legal verification	More than 10 certificates (Forest Management and Chain of Custody: FSC in particular) issued in Cameroon. 0 3rd party legality audits conducted, as part of this project.	[To be developed in second draft]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions to further 3rd party legality audits conducted in Cameroon as well as to tools and guidance to be delivered further
	3.3 Number of programmes of engagement to create opportunities for change in particular policy and investment decision processes in focal countries.	0 programmes of engagement. Practitioner teams and IIED building on reviews of China-Africa forest governance issues, on past records of forest governance work, and on complementarity with other initiatives.	[To be developed in second draft]	[To be developed in second draft]

Cameroon Detailed Work Plan Part B: Activities, Actors and Timeframe [To be updated each year]

Project-wide indicators	Cameroon Activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1.1	1.1.1 Develop first draft work plan (this document)	CED	NESDA, WWF													
	1.1.2 Prepare and sign contract between each partner and IIED.	CED, WWF & IIED	NESDA													
	1.1.3 Map key contacts and information sources, published and unpublished information, and ongoing initiatives (develop in a Dropbox folder) All in team contribute and engage with e.g. CIFOR and University to request information.	CED, WWF & IIED	NESDA													
	1.1.4 Develop terms of reference for the diagnostic as well as clear selection criteria (one criterion being experience of prior similar work). Recruit consultant and conduct diagnostic study. This study on Chinese linked investments in Cameroon and associated forest governance issues will take into account existing reviews and reports and a focus will be on sustainability, law enforcement and livelihoods. Different types of Chinese linked investments will be considered, e.g.: small to large enterprise; and Chinese FDI as well as other FDI serving China (e.g. resulting in timber trade with China). Trends will also be explored e.g. increasing Chinese involvement in investments (finances, infrastructure, acquiring companies).	IIED, CED & WWF	NESDA													
	1.1.5 When first draft work plan is available, organize meeting with MINFOF and other government agencies to collect their input and ensure buy-in	CED & WWF	NESDA													

Project-wide indicators	Cameroon Activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	1.1.6 Conduct inception meeting to inform and involve other (non-government) key stakeholders as well as to gather more information on the extent of Chinese investments	CED & NESDA	WWF														
	1.1.7 Finalize detailed second draft work plan	CED & WWF	IIED														
	1.1.8 Update project as well as individual detailed work plans on an annual basis	CED	NESDA, WWF and IIED														
1.2	1.2.1 Drawing on the findings of the diagnostic, prepare and agree ToRs with IIED, and carry out a study of existing and emerging Guidelines, standards, principles and legislation, incorporating legality assessment tools/frameworks, affecting the activities of Chinese forest enterprises in Cameroon – how they are being used, how they can be further developed and improved, and how their usage can be spread and made more effective	WWF	CED, NESDA IIED, FGLG Cameroon, CIFOR, COMIFAC, CEEAC, RRI, AFMN (African Model Forest Network)														
	1.2.2 Drawing on the findings of the diagnostic, prepare and agree ToRs with IIED, and carry out an analysis of cross-sectoral issues to understand how Chinese investments in non-forest sector investments, including agribusiness, infrastructure and mining, impact on forest governance in Cameroon in particular	CED	NESDA, WWF IIED, FGLG Cameroon, CIFOR, RRI														

Project-wide indicators	Cameroon Activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	1.2.3 Informed by the findings of the diagnostic, prepare and agree ToRs with IIED, and carry out a study of timber trade and forestry investments involving Chinese companies in Cameroon and including analysis of scale, players involved, and dynamics of enterprise activity from large concessions to small enterprises (and e.g. abuse of artisanal logging permits for large scale trade), from entirely private enterprises to those that are largely state-owned. Include a value chain analysis of artisanal production destined for China.	WWF	CED, NESDA IIED, FGLG Cameroon												
	1.2.4 Drawing on the findings of the diagnostic and subsequent work, prepare and agree ToRs with IIED, and carry out an analysis of the implications from Cameroon for timber trade legality assurance systems in China	WWF	CED, NESDA IIED, FGLG Cameroon CIFOR,												
	1.2.5 Draw in lessons from syntheses of information from other countries, about forest-related investment dynamics linked to China (e.g. from Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana and Madagascar), and about investment and trade processes useful to the China-Africa FGLP (e.g. India and Myanmar) as well as in-creasing domestic markets	WWF	CED, NESDA IIED, FGLG Cameroon, CIFOR, COMIFAC, CEEAC, RRI, AFMN, etc.												
	1.2.6 Translations of key legislation and frameworks into Chinese	IIED & WWF	Institut Confucius (University of Yaounde)												
1.3	1.3.1 Explore hosting China-Africa Platform event in Cameroon in 2015, or liaise with	WWF	CED, NESDA												

Project-wide indicators	Cameroon Activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	other country team if decision is to host elsewhere															
	1.3.2 Present Cameroon research results for verification in the Platform event and co-verify results from other countries as Platform participants	CED, NESDA, WWF	FGLG Cameroon													
2.1	2.1.1 Capacity building (by participation in various training events organised within the project) and mentoring within the team for a better engagement in challenging sectors (of Chinese investments) such as mining, agri-business, infrastructural projects and TLAS. This includes capacity building for interaction with Chinese traders and investors.	WWF	CED, NESDA FGLG Cameroon IIED													
2.2	2.2.1 Contribute to existing dialogue initiatives (e.g. build on WWF FOCAC work, inputs to Congo Basin Forest Partnership and forest governance forums)	WWF	CED, NESDA													
	2.2.2 Participate in training events that open up discussion about law enforcement and governance	CED, NESDA, WWF, FGLG Cameroon, IIED														
	2.2.3 Contribute to Platform events and share evidences of researches with Chinese counterparts															
	2.2.4 Develop Chinese social media information platform – ‘China-Cameroon forest issues’ – likely on WeChat (Chinese equivalent of Twitter + Facebook), with initial information to encourage subscribers, then mix of legality with other information. Over time develop interactive features.	IIED, WWF	NESDA, CED													

Project-wide indicators	Cameroon Activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	2.2.5 Develop face to face discussion with Chinese investors – requiring care and patience in collaboration with NGOs	WWF, IIED	CED, NESDA													
2.3	2.3.1 Assess the performance of selected companies and build their capacity to comply with legality (which includes traceability) and sustainability	WWF	IIED, CED, NESDA													
	2.3.2 Hold training with Chinese investors, firstly towards the end of year one, in Douala, focused on policy and investment incentives	IIED, WWF	CED, NESDA													
2.4	2.4.1 Contribute to the identification of Cameroonian journalists for media coverage of issues in China	CED	WWF, NESDA IIED													
	2.4.2 Collaborate with the Chinese journalists when covering issues in Cameroon	CED	WWF, NESDA IIED													
	2.4.3 Explore work placements – China to Cameroon, and vice versa	CED	WWF, NESDA IIED													
3.1	3.1.1 Performance assessments by WWF of individual companies - adopting and adapting the approach developed in Gabon.	WWF	CED, NESDA IIED													
	3.1.2 Support Chinese investors in adopting and monitoring the implementation of codes of practice – based on the initial study on Chinese investments in the forestry sector (including by investors pushing for best practices by asking the companies they invest in questions on sustainability)	WWF	CED, NESDA IIED													
	3.1.3 Explore support for creating an association of traders (like Gabon example)	WWF	CED & NESDA IIED					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.2	3.2.1 Support Chinese investors in achieving legal verification [To be	WWF	CED & NESDA					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Project-wide indicators	Cameroon Activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17					
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	developed in second draft – legality verification work – how many legality verifications to aim for and how to make progress with the smaller end of the enterprise spectrum?]		IIED														
3.3	[To be developed in second draft]						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



Project Materials

Forests, natural resource management

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Governance Platform



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