



Together for birds and people



Project Title: Enhancing the rights and livelihoods of the Indigenous People (IP) in the Ngovayang Forest, Cameroon.

Project duration: 5 years (1 April 2008 – 31 March 2013)

Region/Country: Cameroon

Donors: DFID and additional funding from; BirdLife International; CBCS; Government of Cameroon; and Jensen Foundation.

Local partner: Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society (CBCS)

Total Project Cost: £524,138 (DFID, GBP 464,940)

Project Status: Ongoing

Project Description:

Overall Goal: To reduce the poverty of Indigenous People in Cameroon by empowering them to direct their own sustainable development.

Purpose: To improve the socio-economic conditions and reduce disparities in development and resource rights between the Bagyeli/Bakola (hunters/gatherers) and Bantu communities in and around the Ngovayang Forest, Cameroon

Rationale: This project will address three interlinked problems: the marginalized status of the Indigenous Bagyeli/Bakola people in the Ngovayang Forest in Cameroon, especially vis-à-vis their Bantu neighbours; their poverty situation; and the increased pressure and unsustainable use of the natural resources in the forest, this again affects the livelihoods of these Indigenous People (IP).

Main Activities:

- Provide support in the processing of civil status documentation for IP (Bagyeli/Bakola).
- Further develop the organisational and institutional capacities of existing IP organisations to enhance their ability to make their voices heard and claim their rights.
- Work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINTAD); the National Committee on Human Rights and Freedom and other agencies involved in promoting human rights to IP issues in Cameroon.
- Put in place mechanisms for IP-Bantu conflict management, equitable benefit-sharing, collaborative planning and decision-making, and the development of joint projects/activities.
- Establish and manage a small grant programme to support sustainable small-scale enterprises that increase incomes and reduce dependence on forest resources by both IP and Bantu.
- Construct water facilities and improved houses for those IP who are willing to settle, to improve health and land ownership rights through long-term occupation and use as prescribed by customary law.



- Collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINARD) and International Centre for Research in Agro-Forestry / World Agro-Forestry Centre (ICRAF) to promote improved agricultural techniques (e.g. agroforestry) of IP and Bantu.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINSAs), to provide support and raise awareness of the IP and Bantus (including children) on HIV/AIDS, malaria and general health and hygiene.
- Investigate and implement a long-term fundraising strategy, including linkages to national and international fair-trade markets, payment for ecosystem services of the forest, etc.
- Identify and fill gaps in knowledge of the forest, its uses and its traditional and current management.
- Study and document the impact of (illegal) logging, hunting and bush meat trade.
- Establish links to national Forest Law and governance enforcement programmes.
- Assess capacity needs in natural resource use, management and governance and organize
- Organise training courses/workshops and exchange visits to address the identified needs.
- Promote sustainable exploitation and management of economically valuable Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) for increased income.
- Develop a management plan for the forest to promote the wise use and conservation of the resources on which the IP depend.

Recent Project Status:

- Contract signed
- Key project staff recruited
- Project inception workshop conducted in October 2008

Last Updated: November 2008

Contact Us:

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