

THE IMPACTS OF MINERAL EXPLOITATION AND ASSOCIATED TRADE ON WILDLIFE  
IN THE DJA-BOUMBA MINING AREA EAST CAMEROON

FORUM ORGANIZED TO INTEGRATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
IN THE DJA-BOUMBA MINING AREA



A cross section of the participants listening to the presentation of the project coordinator © E.N.A.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Dja-Boumba forest is endowed with abundant wildlife resources and varied. The mineral resource potential is outstanding in this forest, with world-class deposits of iron, bauxite, nickel, cobalt and diamonds. The wildlife plays an essential role in local economies and livelihood of the local communities. Enhancing wildlife management is a priority for conservation of natural resources in the Dja-Boumba mining area.

This conference was organized to inform, sensitize and harness the interest of partners in the area and to finance micro-projects or priority activities which will go a long way to address the problems of wildlife exploitation.

This round table meeting took place in Kongo community hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2013. This meeting was attended by local administrators, staff of the forestry department, staff of the mining sector, economic operator, school teachers, local communities, NGO and CBOs. List of participants is attached as annex.

### 1.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this forum were to:

- Evaluate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rufford Small Grant project and prepare for the Booster Grant;
- Sensitize stakeholders of the mining sector and other organisations to finance micro-projects that will help to reduce the pressure on bushmeat harvest and trade in the mining area;
- Harmonize intervention of various stakeholders which operate in the area and develop synergies.

### 1.3 METHODOLOGY

Invitation letters signed by the conservator of the Dja Biosphere Reserve were distributed to all the stakeholders and local communities by the project coordinator. The project coordinator personally presented the reports of activities of the project to all the invitees. The reports were distributed one week before the forum.

## **2. THE MEETING**

### **2.1 OPENING CEREMONY**

The meeting was opened by Jacque Essomba the conservator of the Dja Biosphere Reserve, permanent representative of the Ministry of the Forestry and Fauna. He recalled the Conference objective and the importance of the wildlife to the local populations and to the ecosystem of the Dja-Boumba forest. He said despite this vital role played by this forest, there is a general trend of the rapid degradation of its resources notably wildlife species. He pointed out that most of the threats were caused by man induced factors which could easily be controlled through a participative approach. He stressed that if adequate targeted measures are not taken by all the stakeholders in the area in collaboration with local communities, with the timely support of the government, most of the resources of the Dja-Boumba forest will be extinct and the environment degraded forever. It was in this vein that the coordinator of the Rufford Small Grant project is insisting on the integration of mining with wildlife management for the benefit of the future generation.

He concluded by thanking all the partners present in the forum and hoped that meaningful measures will be taken to save the wildlife species of the Dja-Boumba forest in Cameroon.

The official opening ceremony ended with a group photograph of participants and a coffee break.

### **2.2 CONTENTS OF THE FORUM**

The Roundtable discussions were moderated by Daniel Ngonga, the biologist of the project. Participants carried out a self-introduction exercise indicating the organisations /administrations they represented. After the presentations, a question and answer session followed which enabled the partners present to seek clarification on some of the components of the reports (which had earlier been distributed a week prior to the meeting).

The project was evaluated by determining the project impacts, sustainability of the impacts and contributions to the livelihoods of the local communities. The participant of the Kongo forum evaluated the project participatively using the project reports, other project documents and a brief field visit to see some practical activities stated in the reports. The evaluation result is presented in table 1.

Table 1. Project evaluation carried out by the forum participants.

Goal	Indicators	Measurement	Collection techniques	Remarks
The impacts of mineral exploitation and associated trade, on wildlife in the Dja-Boumba mining area	Ecological monitoring data collection	Percentage of animals captured, sold, consumed	Field surveys, markets, household and direct observation and reports production	Objective obtained
	Empowerment on alternative source of nutrients and income	Species of vegetables and rabbits revenues	Monthly assessment of crops and rabbits diversity, production and income, and reports production	Objective obtained
	Capacity building	Various project activities with the local communities	Reports production	Objective obtained
	Awareness raising	Clubs activities	Reports production	Objective obtained
	Dissemination and communication of results	Reports and booklets distribution	Reports and booklets distribution	Objective obtained

### 2.3 LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

- Project was identified through a truly representative and participatory process; community equity presented, not just as paid labor.
- Effective participatory democratic and open management.
- Plan, policies and results regular disseminated.
- Full participation of youths to show that they are the future stewards of the conservation of the Congo Basin tropical rain forest.

### 2.4 INTERESTED PARTIES ENGAGEMENT

The partners were amazed with the results of the project and attributed the pressure on bushmeat harvest and trade on the high level of concentration of economic activities and pressure caused by the high population density. This session of the Roundtable dealt with the engagements taken by the participating partners who expressed their organizations' preference to integrate wildlife management with their organisations planning, design, budget and implementation calendar.

Each organisation's commitments were contained in filled forms and the summary verbally presented during the Roundtable by each representative of the organisations. The original form filled by each partner indicating the areas of interest is presented in table 2.

Table 2. The domain of interests expressed by the stakeholders.

Interested partners	Domain of interest	Remarks
Geovic LTD mining company	Provide alternative source of livelihoods as chickens and cane rats	Has discuss program with hierarchy
The conservator and Forestry guards(Ministry of Forestry and Fauna)	Improve on communication with local communities and anti-poaching techniques	Need more capacity building
TRAFFIC (the wildlife trade monitoring network) in collaboration with IUCN Cameroon	Improve on wildlife trade monitoring network and organization of workshops on the micro-projects management.	Internal office meeting to work out program
<b>SUNDANCE (CAMIRON)</b>	Implement pilot micro-projects developed by the local communities	Pilot micro-projects will start as soon as proposals are examined and accepted
<b>Local NGOs, CBOs and local communities</b>	Collaborate with the project for the realisation of its objectives	Participative approach in implementing project activities

## 2.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were made by the partners at the forum:

- i. Proposal for funding of micro-projects or projects should be clearly written with the following points properly explained; objectives, measurable indicators, results, sustainability and budget of the project.
- ii. A project management committee should be put in place in the mining area, to undertake monitoring and evaluation of projects.
- iii. There should be an open register to register the names of all the immigrants entering the mining area.
- iv. The local communities should participate in the identification and registration of immigrants. This will help identify the promoter of unsustainable hunting in the area.

## 2.6 CLOSING CEREMONY

While closing the event, the project coordinator congratulated the participants for the high level of their inputs which was a clear illustration of the keen interest attached to the conservation of nature resources of Cameroon in general and Dja-Boumba in particular.

He invited those organisations which had not yet expressed their interests to do so as soon as possible. He hailed the long standing spirit of collaboration and cooperation existing between the RUFFORD Small Grant Project, the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna, and the other economic operators which bore such resounding results like the engagements currently undertaken towards the integration of development projects into wildlife management for sustainable development. He wished participants a safe journey back to their respective destinations.

### 3. ANNEX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Table 3. List of participants present at the forum.

Name	Organisation	Function
Shey Collette Nena	Community based ecological monitoring committee(CBEMC)	Member in Kongo village
Akpweh Marceline	Ministry of Forestry and Fauna	Forestry officer
Avid Saffano	Government school Kongo	School Headmaster
Essomba Jacque	Ministry of Forestry and Fauna	Conservator Dja Biosphere Reserve
Etoetsine Genevieve	Local NGO Lomie	Coordinator
Tangie Edwin	Foundation Terre vivante Cameroun – Yaoundé	Field coordinator
Langa Serge	Old hunters association/ CBEMC	Local field coordinator
His Majesty Mankangla Philippe	Achip village chief / CBEMC	Member
His Majesty Alama Beye	Kongo village chief / CBEMC	Member
Ndjila Agnes	PALLISCO logging company	Worker's delegate
Tienzo Moliere	Young agricultural group-Kongo	Coordinator
His Majesty Beye Manen.	Melene village chief / CBEMC	Member
Rev. Dieudonne Ndjankoum	Rev. Father Catholic Church	Communication coordinator
Nanga Emon	Geovic mining company	Forestry inspector
Maakoh Vincent	School environmental club	President
Ogbwre Jean-Bertin	TRAFFIC / IUCN	Representative of organisation
Eboh Jean Marie	CAMIRON	Worker's delegate
Mpele Ernest Emile	Monitoring committee	Member
Oloa Stephane	Monitoring committee	Member
Mbomenkoun Emmanuel	Monitoring committee	Member
Abion Marie Epse Belfe	Monitoring committee	Member
Nandesh Simeyon	Christian women group	Member
Zeh Philomene	Christian women group	Coordinator
Songnikm Victor	Pentecostal church	Pastor and communication
Ntonga Gaston	Hunter and farmer	Member old hunters association
Nbouhim Martin	Hunter and farmer	Member old hunters association
Ibrahim Mohamed	School environmental club	Student
Alama Beye Apo	Common initiative group	President
Langa Victorine	Alternative livelihoods program	Secretary and discipline mistress government high school Lomie
Emeraut Nine Agbah	NGO- farmers of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century	Coordinator
Makazi Linus	Dja-Boumba	Project coordinator
Ngonga Daniel	Dja-Boumba	Biologist



Fig. 2.The Christian women and the ecological monitoring groups celebrating their success with palm wine © M.L.