

## **Project Update: January 2014**

For the past months the field team has been in the project area to realise the following activities of the project:

### **1. Establishment of the Dja-Boumba Project Rural Cooperative (CORUP)**

For the sustainability of the project and to train the local communities, CBO and local NGOs to become increasingly self-reliant, the micro scheme credit was converted into the Dja-Boumba Project Rural Cooperative (CORUP). A democratic election was held to form an eight person committee to administer the cooperative. Any villager who pledged to continue the application of the sustainable management of wildlife resources could become a member. The constitution of the cooperative was established and members were offered shares and will receive regular annual dividends.

### **2. Evaluation of agricultural products (vegetable farms)**

The project did a tri-monthly evaluation of the vegetable products in order to assess the levels of crops diversity, quality of the crops, difficulties encountered, lessons learned and income generated from the activity. After a brief meeting with the vegetable farmers, a set of questionnaires were developed to evaluate the vegetable products. The farmers were asked to respond to questions as: how many times do you water your crops a week, when do you spread your crops, what indicators did you use to identify infections, how did you adapt your crops to climate change, what are the difficulties encountered with the crops, is the yields of your crops encouraging and how much have you already sold your crops?.

### **3. Exposition of the agricultural products in the villages**

The cooperative committee members organised an exposition of the vegetable products during the festivities period to sell the vegetables at reasonable cost to generate revenue for the local communities. The expositions of the vegetable products were done in the close village markets, village squares and directly in the farms. The local communities gained substantial cash income during this period which helps as an economic fall-back to purchase clothes and other essentials for their families.

### **4. Creation of three poultry farms in the project area to rear chickens as alternative sources of proteins.**

One of the objectives of the project was to improve on the small scale livelihood alternatives of nutrients and income as the rearing of rabbits/ guinea pigs. High demand for rabbits and guinea pigs in Cameroon created scarcity in these domestic animals. The local communities participatory accepted to replace the rabbits and guinea pigs with chickens and ducks. The project created three poultry farms in the three villages (Melene, Kongo and Achip). The three poultry farms contain 120 chickens to be managed by 12 individuals, five households and two associations or common initiative groups in the project area. The local communities were trained on the techniques of poultry rearing and the signs and symptoms

of chicken diseases and treatment by the delegate of agriculture and rural development for Lomie sub division.

#### **5. Awareness campaign activities in the project area**

The Catholic sisters in collaboration with the community based ecological monitoring team raised awareness of the local communities on artificial colonization and preservation of bee colonies, how to feed bees, planting of bee pollinated flowers, hive pests, diseases and treatment. The school wildlife clubs did the planting of bee pollinated flowers as part of the environmental education programme. The Christian women groups use theatre and songs to encourage the wives of immigrants and the military officers to be involved in vegetable gardening which is an attractive source of income and proteins that bushmeat. The Christian women groups concluded that this vegetable gardening will occupy households and bushmeat harvest and trade will be reduced in the project area.

#### **6. Participatory collection and triangulation of the community based ecological monitoring data**

The community based ecological monitoring team participatory collected data in hunting camps, along snare lines and on hunting and agricultural plots. The project coordinator triangulated the data to have a deeper analysis and have more concrete and realistic description of the findings.