

**REPORT ON THE SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON THE 1994 WILDLIFE
LAW**

**ORGANISED CAD AND RSG IN COLLABORATION WITH MINFOF IN
NGUSI**

FROM THE 24-25 JULY 2009

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ABBREVIATIONS

CAD Community Action for Development
MINFOF Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINEP Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
RSG Rufford Small Grants Foundation
NGO Non-governmental Organization
GoC Government of Cameroon

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Activities of local populations in the Bakossi forest landscape in the S.W Region of Cameroon have had a significant impact on wildlife resources in this region, particularly when people resort to poaching and various traditional hunting methods in the quest for food, income, medicine and to maintain cultural values and customs. While a few of these practices favour wildlife management approaches, most of the hunting methods in use are non-selective, wasteful, risky, unprofitable and fall short of meeting the demands of current national wildlife policies and regulations. Therefore as many rural people continue to remain in the strong grip of poverty due to inadequate returns from cash crops sales, increasing attention is being given to hunting and sale of bushmeat, thus, placing considerable pressure and stress on forest and wildlife resources on which they depend for survival. As a consequence, many species such as chimpanzees are today faced with extinction. Among the problems that constrain the contribution of local populations to effective wildlife management in our project area are:

- Local people's ignorance about existing wildlife policies and regulations governing the exploitation, use and management of wildlife resources;
- Inadequate capacities in current approaches to sustainable wildlife management and
- The general lack of viable alternative income-generating activities to replace hunting and bushmeat trading.

In order to raise local community awareness on Cameroon's wildlife legislation, promote exchange of information and experiences on better strategies for community wildlife management in the project area, Community Action for Development (CAD) led the organization of a Sub-Divisional workshop on Cameroon's 1994 wildlife law in Ngusi from the 24-25 July 2009 with funding from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation in the U.K.

The presence of a wide range of participants from various fields and background ensured widespread knowledge and information on the law across various stakeholders active in the forestry and wildlife sector in Kupe Muanenguba Division. 50 participants including Administrators, Opinion leaders, NGOs, Community Chiefs, hunters, bushmeat traders and staff from the technical Ministries of Forestry and Wildlife and Environment and Nature Protection actively took part in this workshop.

One of the papers presented at the workshop was an overview of unsuitable hunting practices, their demerits and impact on both people and wildlife species in the region. The second provided a vivid explanation of the content of the law and its legal provisions, the classification of animals into classes A, B and C based on degree of threats and protection, hunting procedures, offences and fines to defaulters.

It is worth noting that participants were quite receptive in learning about the law. Some of their reactions centered on issues of human-wildlife conflicts over food and cash crops, a situation that compels rural people to kill wild animals and violate laws, and the need to improve local knowledge on various protected wildlife species. However, participants frowned at the complete prohibition of the sale of bushmeat and the aspect of double punishment (a victim can pay a fine and serve a prison term at the same time) in the law.

Workshop recommendations provided a comprehensive set of guidelines for improving local knowledge and participation in policy implementation at grass root level and fostering people's engagement in livelihood options that could curb illegal hunting, bushmeat trading and the eventual stress on endangered and protected wildlife species such as chimpanzees and drills.

In line with Cameroon's forestry and wildlife policy, CAD will continue to work in an atmosphere of partnership with all stakeholders in the wildlife sector in order to better conserve endangered

species and promote economic empowerment among forest-dwelling communities in the Bakossi forest landscape in Cameroon.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation in the U.K, for the financial assistance given us towards the realization of this workshop and to all participants for their varied contributions to the outcome of this crucial meeting. This has been a mere reflection of our commitment in supporting efforts of the Government of Cameroon (GoC) in sustainable wildlife management and providing an enabling environment for wildlife policy implementation. I strongly believe that if strategies elaborated during this workshop are operationalised, then, we would not only be able to influence the reinforcement and implementation of the 1994 wildlife law, but also, our experience would rekindle the spirit of other initiatives in other parts of Cameroon, exchange experiences and above all gradually but steadily increase our impact in the various communities that we work.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Since the inception of the RSG-funded participatory wildlife project in early 2007, Community Action for Development (CAD) has been disseminating knowledge of wildlife policies and legal frameworks among hunting populations in the forest zones of Kupe Muanenguba Division in the SW Region of Cameroon. This exercise, which aims at addressing issues of ignorance and weak implementation of wildlife legislation, remains imperative as a strategy to foster community wildlife management in the region.

It is in this regard that CAD organized a two-day sub-regional workshop on Cameroon's wildlife laws in Ngusi from the 24 to 25 July 2009 with financial support from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation in the UK. The main goal of this workshop was to explain and simplify the content of the law and its legal provisions to local communities with respect to use and management of local wildlife resources. Presided over by the Representative of the Divisional Officer for Tombel Sub-Division, His Royal Highness Chief Ekwoke Joseph, the workshop brought together 51 participants drawn from the Technical Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, local administration, NGOs, Security Forces, Traditional authorities, hunters and bushmeat sellers. Throughout the workshop, participants maintained active participation in both group and plenary sessions. This was reflected in the nature of discussions and the strategic recommendations made in the course of the workshop. This report presents the proceedings of the workshops.

Day One: 24 July 2009

2.0 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Opening Session:

2.1.1 Welcome by Mayor, Tombel Council

The workshop started at 9.30am prompt with the National Anthem, then prayer from Reverend Dr. Ebango. This was closely followed by a word of welcome from the Mayor to the Tombel Council, Mr Nkwelle Johnson, who congratulated CAD management for organizing such an important workshop aimed at raising awareness on the 1994 wildlife law and its legal provisions with regards to use and management of local wildlife resources. The Deputy Mayor however, discouraged current local hunting practices, which he described as non-selective, risky, little income-yielding and placing stress on wildlife resources. He remarked that if local people are engaged in unsustainable hunting practices it is partly because of ignorance on existing wildlife regulations. Furthermore, the Mayor's Representative said the 1994 Wildlife Law was promulgated to protect animal species and make hunting more sustainable and profitable. Lastly, he called on participants to support this initiative in order to enhance effective wildlife management via the elaboration of better strategies to reduce pressure on protected and endangered species of fauna and flora within the municipality.(see annexes for complete speech)

2.1.2 Address by CAD Coordinator Next on the rostrum was the Coordinator of CAD, Mr. Martin N. Etone who briefed workshop participants on the relevance of the workshop. The Coordinator situated the workshop within CAD's vision of merging conservation concerns with livelihood imperatives to achieve sustainable development and enumerated strategies being put in place to improve local livelihoods and natural resources management.

The Coordinator noted that the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fishery Law and its 1995 Decree of Implement are the main instruments governing Forestry, Wildlife and Fishery issues in Cameroon, but regretted the fact that most people, particularly those in the Mount Kupe region still remain ignorant and unaware of this law, which has to affect the way local people exploit and use wildlife resources. He further emphasized that local communities need a good knowledge of existing wildlife regulations in order to reshape attitudes towards participatory wildlife management; reduce conflicts over use of resources and curb human pressure on wild animal species.

Furthermore, Mr. Etone drew participants attention to the March 1999 Yaounde Declaration in which the Heads of State in the Congo Basin laid emphasis on sustainable wildlife management and the need for various actors in the wildlife sector to support their initiative. He disclosed that it was in the light of supporting government's efforts that the CAD in partnership with RSG, have sustained collaboration in spreading knowledge on wildlife conservation and orientate local populations towards alternative micro-enterprises that reduce stress on wildlife. The coordinator finally called on all stakeholders to galvanize efforts in assisting local participation in policy implementation and reinforcement, reiterating his expectation for participants to come up with better wildlife management strategies for Kupe and Bakossi forest regions by the end of the workshop

2.1.3 Opening by the Divisional Officer, Tombel

The Representative of the Divisional Officer for Tombel sub division, His Royal Highness Chief Ekwoje Joseph in his speech, commended CAD in her laudable initiatives which he stressed were new in the Ngusi area, particularly in informing populations about wildlife laws. He further urged, CAD and her funding partners to continue this awareness exercise with local communities and to assist them take up alternative income generating activities to reduce pressure on our wildlife resources. He further stressed that man is already in a bush meat crisis in Africa and Cameroon in particular and as such urgent corrective measures are needed to redress the situation, promising government's support to organizations that are involved in such educational programmes. The D. O equally called on the local population to collaborate in protecting our endangered wildlife species by stopping unsustainable hunting so that conservation needs and livelihoods imperatives are met.

3.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES and EXPECTED RESULTS

Workshop objectives were presented by the facilitator, Atanga Wilson as follows:

3.1 Workshop Objectives

- To explain the Cameroon's 1994 wildlife law and its legal provisions to the local people.
- To highlight the effects of current local unsustainable hunting practices/methods both people and wildlife resources to the local populations in the Kupe/Bakossi forest regions of Cameroon.
- To elaborate a strategy for wildlife management and livelihood improvement in the Bakossi/Kupe forest region

3.2 Expected Results/Outputs

- Local people are aware and understand the 1994 wildlife law and its legal provisions,
- Participants recognize the harmful effects of poor/unsustainable hunting methods and practices,
- The participation of local communities in the implementation of the wildlife law is enlisted.

4.0 PARTICIPANTS EXPECTATIONS AND FEARS

5.0 WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

6.0 TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

Two main papers were presented closely followed by a discussion session. These included:

An Overview of Local Hunting Practices in the Kupe/Bakossi Forest Region: Impact on Wildlife Resources and Local Livelihoods, *By Martin N. Etone (CAD Coordinator)*

The 1994 Wildlife Law and its Legal Provisions *by Mr. Kemgang Apollinaire(MINEP) and Mrs Ngaleu Bertille (MINFOF)*

6.1 Presentation I: An Overview of Local Hunting Practices in the Bakossi Forest Landscape: Impact on Wildlife Resources and Local Livelihoods, By Martin N. Etone (CAD Coordinator)

This paper highlighted current hunting practices in the Bakossi region and push factors for such unsustainable practices. In addition, it examined the advantages and disadvantages of local hunting methods, current threats and impact on people and wildlife, traditional norms in favour of wildlife management, hunting and gender and the efforts being made by CAD in redressing the situation with local communities. It was reflected that poverty is the main drive behind unsustainable hunting practices, as people desire to satisfy the basic needs of food, income, medicine and cultural imperatives. However, it was noted that local hunting methods and practices fall short of fulfilling existing wildlife policy and regulations. (See presentation as annex)

Discussions

Discussions centered on the need to improve local participation in wildlife management, knowing which species of animals are endangered and legally protected, cultural values pushing people to hunt, and possibilities of detecting animals killed through chemical poisoning. One of the participants explained that poisoned animals are identified if the tongue and anus are black with a characteristic unusual smell. This presentation ended with lunch at 2.00pm.

6.2 Presentation on the 1994 Wildlife Law and its legal Provisions by the Divisional Chief of Environment and Nature Protection for Boyo, Kemgang Apollinaire and Chief of Post, Forestry and Wildlife for Tombel Sub-division, Mrs. Ngaleu Bertille

This was a presentation of the 1994 Wildlife Law in its entirety. This paper looked at the major evolutions in the Wildlife sector and laid emphasis on aspects relating to hunting and trading in wild animals by local populations. During the first day of the workshop elements such as main application instrument, classification of animal species into various Classes; A, B and C, with classes A and B being under strict protection were treated. Besides explaining modalities for the killing of such animals, Mr. Kemgang also treated principles prohibiting the killing of Classes A and B animals. Participants retired at 6.30 pm for this presentation to continue the next day.

Day Two: Saturday 25 July 2009

Following a review of previous day's work, participants continued with the presentation on the law. Aspects treated during this part of the workshop were Traditional Hunting and Hunting Arms, the legal responsibilities for killing of protected animals, liability, offences and their corresponding penalties. In addition, the Chief of Post for MINFOF explained certain factors that hinder the field implementation of the law among which were:

- Ignorance and lack of awareness of the 1994 Law by local populations and other stakeholders;
- Inadequate capacity of stakeholders in wildlife management;
- Inadequate involvement of actors (NGOs, local populations, economic operators etc) in sustainable wildlife management efforts;
- Inadequate Personnel/Logistics for MINFOF to monitor and control wildlife exploitation

She concluded by calling on all to exploit the wildlife resources sustainably for the interest of the present and future generations thus adopting the new wildlife policy prescribed by the 1994 Law.

Discussions:

Issues that emanated from discussions centered on human-wildlife conflicts over food and cash crops, the law and domestication of wild animals, improved local knowledge on the various protected animal species, provision of alternative livelihood options to hunting populations, and how the government could ensure control on killing of protected species. In addition, participants criticized the complete prohibition of sale of bushmeat and the aspect of double punishment in the law.

Lastly Chief Mbide John of Ngab village remarked on the population's total ignorance about the Wildlife Law and recommended that copies of it be made available for distribution to various

communities to help sensitize and expose more individuals to the law. He bitterly frowned at the Government's attitude of making laws without sensitizing the population on them.

7.0 GROUP WORK AND GROUP RESULTS

During this session, participants broke into three work groups to make an analysis of feasible alternative livelihood options to unsustainable hunting and sought ways to enhance local participation in the implementation of the wildlife policies and regulations. Group one comprised of all the Traditional Authorities (Chiefs), while group 2 and 3 were made of Hunters/Bushmeat traders and Government Officials, NGOs and Opinion Leaders respectively.

7.1 Group Results

After intensive discussions among various participants within the groups, various rapporteurs presented group results in a plenary. Results obtained were as follows:

Group One: Hunters and Bushmeat Sellers

<p>1.0 What Alternative activities other than hunting can we do to reduce pressure on wildlife?</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *1 Promote modern agricultural techniques among local populations; *2 Domestication of animals such as cutting grass; *3 Do beekeeping and snail farming *4 Do fish farming *5 Keep pigs <p>N/B: to attain all these, local people need both technical and financial support from the government of Cameroon, NGOs and donors.</p>
<p>2.0 How can we improve local participation in the reinforcement and implementation of the Wildlife Law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Creation of community forests; ◆ Sustain the sensitization on the law and campaign against unsustainable hunting ◆ Creation of village wildlife committees made of hunters, bushmeat sellers and consumers ◆ Government should give assistance for people to open up alternative businesses ◆ Reduce taxes on butchers ◆ Creation of more captive programmes such as zoological gardens ◆ Involve local communities in protected area management ◆ Local council management involving hunters and bushmeat sellers
<p>3.0 What do you think is not good in the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Law is too strong especially aspect of double punishment(both fines and imprisonment at the same time) ■ To total prohibition of selling of animals, even those that the law permits for traditional hunting
<p>Group one members; John Epie, Koge Njume John, Hene Patricia, Ngalame Lionel, Nkwelle Johnson, Nzalle Sylvester, Etape Melle, Ngolle Ajang, Nzoge Valery, Njume Catherine, Agnes Ewane, Ngulle, Nzame, Njume Julius, Elad Alexander, Nzoge Fritz, Kemgang Apillinaire, Nzoge Anthony.</p>	
<p>Group Two: Traditional Rulers and Opinion Leaders</p>	
<p>1.0 What Alternative activities other than hunting can we do to reduce pressure on</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Agriculture *6 Livestock and fisheries

	<p><i>*7 Micro-business</i></p> <p><i>*8 Domestication of wildlife e.g. snails, cutting grass (cane rats)</i></p> <p><i>*9 Diversification on the use of animals for cultural values;</i></p> <p><i>*10 Financing of micro-projects of community by the government and philanthropic organizations</i></p> <p><i>*11 Promotion of craft work</i></p> <p><i>*12 Promotion of eco-tourism</i></p> <p><i>*13 Improve farm to market roads and maintenance by local populations.</i></p>
2.0 How we can improve local participation in the reinforcement and implementation of the Wildlife Law?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Formation of village wildlife management committees;</i> ◆ <i>Acquisition of hunting zones</i> ◆ <i>Sustain sensitization of local populations on the wildlife law;</i> ◆ <i>Provide environmental education in primary schools and colleges;</i> ◆ <i>Copies of the wildlife law need to made available to all stakeholders and in school libraries</i> ◆ <i>Involvement of local communities in protected area management</i>
3.0 What do you think is not good in the law?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>The animals are more protected than humans within the same community</i> ◆ <i>The law places the killer and seller of an animal at the same punishment platform</i> ◆ <i>Number of protected species by the law is too much, thus a possibility of all animals being protected in the near future</i>
<p>Group Two members;</p> <p><i>Nhon Ekema Simon, Pastor Ewane Roland, Rev Dr Ebango, Chief Ekambi, Mbide John, Mesong Max, Ngome Carl Etuge, Etuge Samuel, Mesumbe Gabriel, Mesumbe Fritz, Muko Cicilia, Akisseh Makoge, Ngube Japhet, Nyame Edward, Hilary Ewang .N, Atanga, Kenneth Kendong</i></p>	
<p>Group three: NGOs and Administrators</p>	
1.0 What Alternative activities other than hunting can we do to reduce pressure on	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Encourage the cultivation of short cycle crops such as cabbage, tomatoes,</i> <i>*14 Encourage horticulture and silviculture</i> <i>*15 Encourage conventional and non conventional farming such as pig, goat, poultry, fish farming, frog farming and beekeeping, snail, cutting grass farming respectively in communities,</i> <i>*16 Creation of community hunting zones</i> <i>*17 Creation of community forest zones;</i> <i>*18 Restoration of degraded landscapes through tree planting;</i> <i>*19 Encourage micro-enterprise development among hunters/bushmeat sellers</i>
2.0 How we can improve local participation in the reinforcement and implementation of the Wildlife law?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Organize follow up seminars/workshops on the wildlife law at Clan level</i> ◆ <i>Create village wildlife committees to keep watch on illegal hunting and consult MINFOF and NGOs</i> ◆ <i>Produce and distribute simple information on</i>

	<p><i>the law to every Chiefs Palace</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <i>All Traditional Rulers should make efforts to have a good mastery of the wildlife law</i> ♦ <i>The Law should be translated into the local language and taught in traditional council meetings</i>
3.0 What do you think is not good in the law?	NGO Remark: To this group made up of the local NGOs and administrators, the law as it is, has no negative elements since it supports conservation which to them is a prerequisite to sustainable development via community wildlife management
<p>Group three members;</p> <p>Ngolle Hans, Njume Wilson, Etuge E. Augustine, Nkwelle Jacob, Helen Nsume, Mbonteh, Kome Pius, Nkwelle E.Monica, Edoh Divine, Ndode Joseph, Ngolle, Charles, Ngome Manfred, Bertha Ntube, Tambe Pascal, Ndando Eugen Ndille, Martin N Etone, Kowac Bandolo.</p>	

8.0 ELABORATION OF STRATEGIES ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

During this session, participants continued working in plenary, drawing inspiration from the previous group work, then harmonized results.

Following this harmonization of group results, participants came up with the strategies:

- Continue the sensitization of local populations against unsustainable hunting practices;
- Organize follow-up workshops at clan or community level to allow a greater spread of knowledge on the wildlife law;
- Introduce and promote the domestication of wild animals such as grass cutters (*Thryonomys swinderianus*) and snails;
- Introduce viable alternative activities to hunting such as beekeeping, livestock production to local populations;
- Facilitate the creation of community forest and community hunting zones;
- Promote modern agricultural techniques such as organic gardening and agroforestry;
- Promote the restoration of degraded landscapes and habitats through tree planting;
- Encourage animal husbandry and poultry;
- Create village wildlife management committees to monitor hunting activities;
- Provide environmental education on wildlife conservation in primary schools and colleges;
- Encourage micro-enterprise development among local people particularly among hunters and bushmeat sellers;
- Produce and distribute simple information on the law to various target groups;
- Build local capacities on protected area management;
- Promote eco-tourism and craft work;
- Conduct research on the marketing of bushmeat in the region.

9.0 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the workshop, participants formulated the following key recommendations aimed at facilitating sustainable wildlife use and management as well as promoting local participation:

9.1 Participants noted little local awareness on the importance of wildlife conservation. It was therefore recommended that CAD, MINFOF and MINEP should embark on sustained community-based sensitization campaigns against poor hunting methods and practices as well as help the recognize importance of wildlife to humanity.

9.2 Taking into account the success of the workshop (held at sub-divisional level) and the need to achieve widespread knowledge of the law, participants recommended that follow-up workshops should be organized at clan or community level;

9.3 In order to ensure circulation of information on the law, participants also recommended the production of a leaflet bearing simple and understandable information on the wildlife law and the need to make copies available in Chief Palaces, school libraries and to other stakeholders in the wildlife sector. In the same light chiefs specifically expressed the need for a translation of the law into the local language

9.4 In order to improve local people's participation in policy implementation and sustainable wildlife management, participants recommended the need to assist local communities in the acquisition of community forests and community hunting zones. In addition, there is need for local community organization into wildlife committees to monitor hunting practices at village level; build their capacity in eco-tourism development and in protected area management

9.5 Participants recommended the need to develop alternative livelihood support systems that would curb the current pressure on wildlife resources. Some of these systems include: wild animal domestication, promotion of agriculture, animal husbandry and the development of micro-enterprises among local populations, particularly among those living around the newly created Bakossi National Parks and the Kupe and Muanenguba Integral Ecological reserves currently under gazetment..

9.6 Participants recommended the provision of environmental education in primary schools and colleges with respect to wildlife conservation, noting the retentive ability of children and their tendency to share information gained in school with parents at home.

9.7 In order to understand the current situation of the wildlife resource base in the region, workshop participants recommended the need for wildlife research, particularly on the marketing of bushmeat in the project area.

9.8 Participants recommended the initiation of a habitat and landscape restoration programme through tree planting.

9.9 Men and women have important but sometimes different and complementary roles to play in wildlife utilization and conservation. Participants therefore recommended the recognition and incorporation of the roles of both men and women in any wildlife management strategies

10. WORKSHOP EVALUATION AND CLOSING

10.1 Workshop Evaluation

	BAD	GOOD	VERY GOOD	NEUTRAL	Total
Topic/objectives	0	19	40	0	59
Content	0	17	42	0	59
Presentation	0	25	36	0	59
Organization	0	10	48	0	59
Facilitation	0	13	46	01	59
Participation	0	11	48	0	59
Target	0				

10.2 Closing

On behalf of all representative NGOs, the Director of RECODEV, Mr. Nkwelle Jacob expressed satisfaction for the content of the workshop, congratulating CAD for creating awareness on the wildlife law among the population of Tombel for the very first time. While ensuring partnership with CAD, he promised that civil society organizations in the sub-division will assist in further disseminating information on the law to villages.

In addition, Reverend Pastor Ebango of the Presbyterian Church Tombel expressed much gratitude that CAD succeeded to organize this crucial workshop. He added that the event has greatly help to create an aware and informed community that is so attached to hunting, particularly hoping that knowledge of the law would help them take precautions on how to hunt as well as resort to more profitable activities in place of hunting.

On their own part the Mayor to the Tombel Council and the chief of post for Forestry and Wildlife lauded the CAD-initiative towards sustainable wildlife management and urging this organization never to relent efforts in this task by making sure that information about the law gets to all forest zones through this sensitisation exercise.

Finally the project Coordinator of CAD, Mr. Martin N Etone, appreciated the participation of all at the workshop calling on them to generously share the knowledge gained on the Wildlife Law with others who need it but were not opportune to take part in the gathering. The Coordinator ended by earnestly requesting local communities and other actors in the wildlife sector in Tombel Sub-Division to actively get involve in the implementation of the strategic recommendations that emerged from the workshop so as to contribute towards the preservation of their rich wildlife heritage.