Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	CHIMI DJOMO Cédric
Project Title	In-situ conservation of two highly solicited and threatened Sapotaceae species through a community-based reforestation program in eastern Cameroon's Doumaintang
Application ID	39753-2
Date of this Report	22 th July 2024

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	ΩZ	Q P	a F	Comments
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Develop a				Firstly, a team was organised
participatory				comprising four members from
forestation/restoration				Yaounde, including Mr. Awemo,
plan within the				the chief of the communal forest
Doumaintang				unit, who facilitated a series of
Communal Forest				focus group discussions (FGDs)
				over a 5-day period in 10 villages
				within the Doumaintang
				Communal Forest (DCF). In each
				selected village, three to seven
				persons, chosen with the
				assistance of the village chief,
				participated in these FGDs. This
				approach allowed us to gainer
				and skills of local people, identify
				areas for capacity building and
				collect data to inform the
				development of a reforestation
				manual for DCF. Secondly, in
				conjunction with local people
				identified during the 1st RSG, a
				total of 23 persons took part in
				training session held at the
				Doumaintang conference room.
				The training covered topics such
				as species phenology, seed
				selection, the importance of tree
				domestication, and nursery and
				tree planting monitoring.
				Following the training, a
				autobase containing the names,
				villages of the 18 voluntoor
				stakeholders was compiled This
				database serves as a network for
				forest biodiversity restoration
				within the Doumaintana Council
				or a task force dedicated to the
				restoration of DCF. The network
				comprises members from

		communal forestry unit (three), representatives from forest- peasant communities (four) and local people (11). It is worth noting that the term "local people" refers to individuals residing near DCF who are already engaged in restoration activities.
Implement the participatory forest restoration plan through reforestation of at least 8 ha by the project team, Forest- Peasants Committee, the communal forest Unit manager, and local leaders engaged in restoration activities involved		Following consultations with the communal forest unit of Doumaintang municipality, we identified a suitable location for the construction of a permanent nursery within the Doumaintang Council area. This site was chosen to ensure effective monitoring and long-term sustainability. With seeds obtain through IRAD, we established a nursery with an estimated capacity of 4000 plants. The nursery was managed by three local volunteers over a 6-month period, resulting in approximately 3000 plants, of which 1803 plant successfully sprouted. Among the three proposed and visited pilot sites, we selected a site approximately at 5 km from the village of Seguelendom. The preparation of this site involved clearing the area, demarcating it with stakes, and digging holes 50 cm deep and 30 cm wide for tree planting. A participatory tree planting event was then organised, during which 1300 seedlings were planted over the selected pilot site in the DCF. To further encourage the involvement of keys local people in the in-situ conservation of target species, we distributed 62 Moabi plants, providing two to
		three Moabi seedlings to each of

		eight persons for planting in their own farms. Additionally, we supplied 40 plants to four representatives of the Forest Peasant Committee, with each committee receiving 10 plants to introduce into their community forest. Moreover, we supervised two local people from the Seguelendom locality to ensure that they adhered to proper tree planting requirements. This supervision aimed to guarantee the successful implementation of reforestation efforts according to the project's standards and guidelines
Project management, communication, and dissemination of the project results		In the context of this activity, we mentored 18 local volunteer stakeholders involved in DCF restoration activities. We also provided hands-on support to two of these volunteers, guiding them in tree planting on their farms to ensure they could continue the work independently once the project concludes. A report of this study was submitted to the Mayor of Doumaintnang. Dissemination efforts will continue beyond the project's completion as we are currently developing a manual in collaboration with the forest unit of Doumaintang municipality. This manual will outline the steps for establishing a forest reforestation programme suitable that is adaptable within the Doumaintang council. Morevover, we

	leveraged the fair on
	Biodiversity and Biodiversity
	Products, organised by JADD
	(leunes en Action pour le
	Développement Durable -
	Youth in Action for Sustainable
	Development) from 24 28th
	Development) from 26-28
	March 2024 in Douala, to
	share our main findings. Our
	participation included an
	exhibition of endangered
	forest plant species, such as
	Moabi plant, and involvement
	in conference debates
	focused on the sustainable
	management of NTFPs and
	hindiversity conservation
	Through educational talks we
	promoted best prostings in
	promoted best practices in
	sustainable biodiversity
	management, further
	disseminating the outcomes of
	the current project.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a) Together with the 18 key volunteer stakeholders, comprising 11 local community, four representatives from forest peasant communities, the chief of the communal forest of Doumaintang and two volunteer members from communal forest unit, we established a rousted forest biodiversity restoration network within the Doumaintang Council. This network is crucial for ensuring the project's long-term success in the Doumaintang municipality. We created a comprehensive dataset of these 18 stakeholders, identifying them as a dedicated task force for restoration activities within the Doumaintang Communal Forest. The mayor has committed to supporting this initiative, and two local people who were already mostly involve in forest trees nursery implementation have agree to work closely with the municipality, further solidifying the project's foundation and sustainability.
- b) To ensure the effective monitoring and long-term sustainability, a permanent nursery, was established near the Doumaintang council office, following the recommended nursery itinerary. This nursery has an estimated capacity of 4000 plants. Over a 6-month period, from the 3000 seeds obtained, we successfully produced 1803 seedlings of Moabi and Mukulungu. Out of these, 1300 plants were effectively used to restore a pilot site selected within Doumaintang Communal Forest. Additionally, 62 Moabi plants were distributed to local community members and representatives of forestpeasant committee (with 10 plants provided to each committee). The

remaining plants will be used to replace any that died during the ongoing monitoring process.

c) Within this project, significant efforts were made towards the in-situ conservation of Moabi and Mukulungu both within the DCF and in the farms of local riparian communities. This initiative has led to a substantial increase in the population size of these target species within the Doumaintang municipality. By distributing seedlings to local farmers and planting them in the DCF, we have ensured that these valuable species are preserved, and their populations are bolstered, contributing to the overall biodiversity and ecological health of the area.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

During the project, several unforeseen difficulties arose that impacted the execution and. Here is how we addressed them:

While we established a forest biodiversity restoration network among the stakeholders and created a WhatsApp group as a discussion platform, many stakeholders lacked access to phones or android devices, and network coverage was poor in some villages. To address this, we relied on more traditional forms of communication, such as in-person meetings and printed materials, ensuring that vital information reached all stakeholders despite technological limitations.

Moreover, related to the establishment and management of nurseries, initially, we planned to install multiple nurseries but were limited to setting up a permanent nursery near the Doumaintang municipality office. This was because the existing small nurseries had limited capacity and did not adhere to recommended guidelines.

One major challenge was the location of the suitable site for the nursery, which was near a river but far from the target village and restoration area. Additionally, livestock in the village often roamed freely and posed a risk of destroying the nurseries. Consequently, we concentrated our efforts on the nursery near the Doumaintang council office. Transportation from this nursery to the pilot site was facilitated by the vehicle provided by the Commune of Doumaintang.

Accessibility to the pilot site presented another significant challenge, as a vehicle could not enter the forest. To overcome this, we mobilised local people to carry the plants on their heads. Unfortunately, this method led to the loss of more than 142 plants during transportation. Due to limited financial resources, we were unable to provide on-site guidance to all individuals who received seedlings on how to plant them according to recommendations. However, we addressed this by delivering theoretical training sessions to impart the necessary planting techniques.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

One of the primary objectives of this project was to engage local communities in the restoration of degraded land within the FCD. To achieve this, we prioritised

stakeholders who had demonstrated enthusiasm for restoration projects and those who had been actively involved in such activities for years but lacked expertise in forest tree nurseries, planting itineraries and monitoring. Given the Doumaintang forestry unit's involvement in these activities, it was crucial to address their limited knowledge in this field. This limitation made it challenging for them to train the peasant forest communities effectively. Therefore, local communities were involved both theoretically and practically in almost all project activities. Throughout the project, we strengthened the capacities of these communities in various aspects. We provided training on the selection of forest tree seeds, nursery building, monitoring, tree planting, and post-planting care. Additionally, we supplied them with target species plants and assisted some community members with tree planting on their farms. This approach ensures their long-term involvement in the in-situ conservation of forest species of interest and the restoration of degraded areas within the DCF.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we plan to continue this work. Initially, our efforts were focused on implementing restoration in a pilot site, excluding the in-situ conservation conducted by local people on their own farms. Our plans include evaluating how these communities have monitored their trees planting efforts and supporting the Doumaintang forest unit in expanding the restoration area to address the extensive degraded land within the Communal Forest of Doumaintang. We also aim to extend the restoration efforts to cover the four forest peasant communities within the Doumaintang municipality. Additionally, we plan to continue sensitising more local communities, including those not currently involved in restoration activities, to encourage long-term restoration actions in their villages. Finally, we intend to use new approaches to change mindsets and encourage those who do not currently focus on biodiversity preservation to become actively involved in these efforts.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We have utilised various platforms to share the results of our project. Firstly, we provided the Mayor of Doumaintang with a list of contact information of 18 local volunteer stakeholders who form the forest biodiversity restoration network within the Doumaintang Council. This list can used to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project. Additionally, the findings of this project have been made available to the public. A copy of the report will be provided to the Municipality of Doumaintang. Once completed, the restoration manual can be used as a model to guide future restoration efforts, ensuring the project's expansion and longevity. We have also shared our findings on the CSNRM-Net website (www.csnrm-net.org) and through the Facebook profile. During the Biodiversity and Biodiversity Products Fair organised by the association JADD (Jeunes en Action pour le Développement Durable - Youth in Action for Sustainable Development) from 26-28th March 2024, in Douala, we seized the opportunity to present our main findings. We conducted educational talks on best practices for sustainable biodiversity management, participated in conference debates on human impact on endangered plant species and sustainable management, and discussed the alignment of UN SDGs with NTFP in biodiversity preservation. Furthermore, we exhibited some endangered forest plants species and seeds, including Moabi, to raise awareness and promote conservation efforts.

7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

Looking ahead, several important next steps are crucial for the continued success and expansion of restoration activities within the Doumaintang commune.

- a) Long-term Monitoring: Ensuring long-term monitoring of the initial pilot site is essential to assess its ongoing success and make any necessary adjustments.
- b) Estimating Degraded areas: conducting a thorough estimation of the total degraded area within the Doumaintang Communal Forest (DCF) that requires restoration is a critical step. This will help in planning and allocating resources effectively.
- c) Extending the restoration area: Expanding the restoration efforts within the DCF is a priority to address the extensive degradation and enhance biodiversity.

Additionally, one innovative approach we are considering is establishing another nursery directly within the forest. The municipality can mobilise two permanent personnel who will be responsible for the continuous monitoring of this nursery. This strategy will help prevent seedling loss during transportation and reduce distance between the nursery and the planting site. Moreover, a permanent nursery within the municipality will be dedicated to producing plants specifically for the restoration of degraded areas surrounding the villages. This dual nursery approach will ensure a steady supply of healthy seedlings for various restoration projects and support the long-term sustainability of these efforts.

8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was prominently featured in the materials related to this project. These materials included Formal letters, PowerPoint presentations used during training sessions and t-shirts worn by the project team. Additionally, during the training, we informed all participant about the origin of the funds that allowed us to carry out this project. Furthermore, the final report to be provided to the Municipality of Doumaintang acknowledged The Rufford Foundation for its financial support. The Rufford Foundation's name and logo are already posted on the CSNRM-NET website as the project's funder (https://csnrm-net.org/project/), ensuring that the foundation received appropriate recognition and publicity throughout the course of our work.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

1. Academic and Professional collaborators will be composed of:

Dr. Zekeng Jules Christian is a Conservationist researcher and the CEO of CNSRM-Net NGO. He gave and continues to provide us with advice regarding forest ecology and conservation. He has also been awarded a Rufford Booster grant which also included reforestation activities in Angossas Communal Forest. Therefore, since it is our objective, we had closely work with him according to his experiment in this domain.

- 2. The direct team member was composed of:
 - **Dr. CHIMI DJOMO Cédric**, the Principal Investigator, is a Ph.D. holder in Forest Ecology and Natural Resources Management. He is a Researcher at the Institute of Agricultural Research for the Development (IRAD) and the Program Coordinator at CSNRM-Net Organisation.
 - **Sakou Wandji Rozane** is MSc in Ecosystems Services and Deputy Financial Officer at the CSNRM-NET organization. She was an animator team of stakeholders training on different activities related to restoration and also team member of monitoring of nursery and tree planting.
 - Yonga Guylaine, PhD student at the University of Yaounde I in Cameroon. Volunteer at the CSNRM-NET Association. Volunteer in this project. She was involved in workshop like secretary and also in practical nursery implementation.
 - **Noutanewo Pany**, MSc student at the University of Yaounde I in Cameroon. Volunteer at the CSNRM-NET Association. Volunteer in this project. He was involved in workshop and nursery implementation.
 - **Mr. AWEMO Norbert**: Head of the Communal Forestry Unit at the Commune of Doumaintang. He was a local facilitator during all the activities and was taken a charge to ensure the long-term monitoring of the project.
 - two members of the Communal forestry Unit, 4 representing of the 4 forestpeasant community and 12 volunteers' riparian people mostly involve in restoration activities were also involves in different activities.

10. Any other comments?

- We express our grateful to The Rufford Foundation for financial support; CSNRM-Net and Doumaintang council for divers supports during the implementation of this project.
- It is also the opportunity for us to thank different volunteers that accept to be involve in this project especially concerning the long-term monitoring.

Some key images.



Opening of training of local stakeholders to implement the reforestation program by the Mayor Deputy of Doumaintang



Both local Men and Women were involved in the training in Doumaintang



Both men and women were involved in the practical training in some step of nurseries put in place



Selected seeds of the two target species: Moabi (left) and mukulungu (right)



Permanent nursery of manage under trees closely to Doumaintang municipality.



Seven local people mostly involve in the implementation of this project have received a symbolic plants each 2-3 plants of Moabi to intorduce in their farm.



Ten plants of Moabi give to representing of forest peasant committee of Mbaguempal and Ngomdoumba villages to introduce in their community forests.



Monitoring tree plantation by a riparian farm of Seguelendom



Moabi trees planting in target pilot site withing Doumaintang communal forest.



Share our finding throught our parcipation to the conference debate on biodiversity and biodiversity product organize by JADD the 26-28th March 2024 at Douala (Cameroon)



Exposition of some keys endangered seeds and seedlings forest species during the biodiversity and biodiversity product fair organized by JADD. These forest species are including Moabi are those for which the human action on have significantly contribute to the reduction of these population and them restoration/reforestation or domestication with them are required to ensure their long-term conservation.



Monitoring of trees planting in Doumaintang Communal Forest