

## **Project Update: December 2010**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Following a series of village-based sensitisation meetings with local populations against unsustainable hunting practices and the plight of endangered species and the need foster participatory management of the Bakossi Forest area, CAD organised a training workshop on monitoring and control of poaching for leaders of wildlife groups in Bangem on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The workshop that was officiated by the Chief of Section, Environment and Nature Protection for Kupe Muanenguba, Ebene Nsako Clement., brought together 35 participants including wildlife group leaders, traditional Chiefs and councillors. Besides providing techniques in monitoring and control of illegal exploitation of forest resources, participants addressed key issues in group dynamics, customary tenure rights and rules and problems local populations face with the 1994 forestry law in exercising land and forest property rights. All these issues were found to contribute tremendously to severe conflicts, forest resource degradation and poverty.

### **2.0 Workshop Objectives and Expected results**

#### **Objectives**

- To provide practical skills and knowledge on monitoring and control of illegal exploitation of forest resources;
- To build the capacity of wildlife groups formed by CAD
- To identify customary and ownership rights over forest resources;
- To define the role of local communities in wildlife management

#### **Expected results**

### **3.0 Workshop Methods and Principles**

In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, the Facilitator, Mr Atanga Wilson introduced the following methods and principles.

#### **Workshop methods**

- Brainstorming
- Discussion
- Question and answers
- Presentation
- Group works
- Plenary

#### **Workshop Principles**

- Nobody knows everything but everybody knows something
- Feel free to ask questions
- Use simple language
- Respect ideas of others
- Give everyone a chance
- Be straight to the point
- Respect time and make fun

### **Workshop Facilitation and Report**

This workshop was realised with the hired services of Mr Ebene Nsako Clement (MINEP, Kupe Muanenguba) who trained village wildlife groups on monitoring and control of illegal exploitation of resources. Workshop facilitation and reporting was done by Martin, meanwhile Ekane Godlove and Epolle Edie Lillian served as support staff.

### **4.0 Workshop Proceedings**

The workshop started at 9.30am with prayers and the presentation and adoption of workshop agenda. This was closely followed by self-introduction and a welcome speech by the host chief, His Royal Highness Chief Sone Ekoge of Bangem. Chief Sone expressed gratitude for choosing Bangem as the seat of the workshop and called participants to pay keen attention during the training as well as pass on the information gained to others not able to attend.

Next was the Coordinator of Community Action for Development (CAD), Mr Martin Etone who sincerely thanked participants for honouring CAD's invitation to the workshop. He briefed participants on CAD's activities and how local people can benefit from them to improve rural livelihoods with focus on rural development and biodiversity conservation.

Furthermore, Mr. Etone said the purpose of the workshop is to build local people's capacities in monitoring and control of illegal exploitation of forest and wildlife resources in the Bakossi area. While decrying current illegal practices, he called on local communities to work in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon to better achieve sustainable management of forest resources and improved livelihoods and reduced confrontations among forest users. The Coordinator called on participants to pay keen attention to explanations to be given, expressing hope that the knowledge and skills gained will go a long way to empower communities to monitor and control on-going unsuitable wildlife exploitation activities. He finally urged participants to reinforce and document existing customary rights and rules as well as make contributions towards the current 1994 Forestry Law review process so that their community tenure rights can be taken care of.

The Chief of Section for Environment and Nature Protection, Ebene Nsako Clement presided over the training workshop. He thanked CAD for organising the workshop and the work being done in the Bakossi area to change the mentality of local populations on the use of forest resources. He remarked that the workshop is going to present important guidelines on what can be done to reduce conflicts between local communities and the forestry administration and ensuring effective implementation of the 1994 forestry law in the field. Mr Ebene said conflicts are rife in the Bakossi land because everybody claims ownership and interest in defending his property without recognising the rights of others. The Chief of section added that the workshop presents a unique and rare occasion for all actors to obtain good information in sustainable wildlife management to guarantee the wellbeing of both *users and owners* of resources and the entire world community. he reiterated his appreciation about CAD's effort and requested the extension of conservation education activities in all forest-dependent communities living in and around the Bakossi forest area.

### **Participants Expectations**

In a brainstorming session, expressed their expectations from the workshop. These included:

- Get information on how to go ahead
- To know how to manage farms in the Bakossi Forests region;
- To get alternative ways for reducing poaching and overfishing;

- Local people gain skills and knowledge on monitoring and control of wildlife activities;
- Improve capacity of Wildlife Groups ;
- People understand their role in management of local resources.

#### **4.0 Technical Presentations**

##### **4.1. Presentation1. Group Management: Rendering Wildlife Groups Functional**

In order to ensure that village wildlife management structures around the Bakossi forest are rendered functional and dynamic, it was deemed necessary that we integrate basic elements of group management into this workshop. Mr. Martin Etone presented on Group Management. During this presented aspects highlighted include: group definition, how to form groups, the role of the executive, registration and functionalization of groups. In addition, the presentation schooled participants on good leadership and accountability.

##### **4.2 Presentation 2. Monitoring and Control of illegal hunting practices**

This presentation was made by the main trainer Mr. Ebene Nsako Clement, of the Divisional Delegation of Environment and Nature Protection for Kupe Muanenguba Division. During the presentation participants were schooled on reasons and need for monitoring resources, ways to monitor and human and animal parameters taken into consideration during this process, monitoring equipments as well actors. In addition, reasons for controlling poaching and bush meat marketing and the type of information to be collected were presented some of these include:

##### **What Local Populations Can Do to Fight Against Illegal Hunting?**

Some activities shall be carried out by villagers to avoid poaching in their area included

- Destroy hunting tracks, traps and hunting camps;
- Sensitize others against poor hunting practices;
- Report victims of poaching to traditional authority and MINFOF;
- Explain the wildlife law to other villagers;
- Record all information in bush meat hunting and marketing;
- Explain the procedure of acquiring hunting permit and other (family forest lands, community forest, etc.);
- Organize anti-poaching control at village level in collaboration with MINFOF.

After this presentation, the facilitator, Mr. Martin Etone helped participants to have a clear understanding between the words **Observation** and **See** as well as the role of local communities in wildlife management. This was followed by introduction of group work and themes:

##### **4.4. Group work and plenary session**

During this session, participants were to answer relevant questions to reflect their commitment community wildlife management. Participants broke into two groups each group comprising of fourteen (14) members. Group one discussed on the role of Local communities in wildlife management while group two was charged with identification of customary rights and rules in land and forest tenure.

## **GROUP ONE:**

**Question: What is the role of local communities in wildlife management?**

### **Group Results**

Some of the activities that local communities can do to and avoid poaching and contribute to resource management include:

- Destroying hunting tracks, traps and hunting camps;
- Sensitize others against poor hunting practices;
- Report victims of poaching to traditional authority and MINFOF;
- Explain the wildlife law to other villagers;
- Record all information in bush meat hunting and marketing;
- Explain the procedure of acquiring hunting permit and other (family forest lands, community forest, etc.);
- Organize anti-poaching control at village level in collaboration with MINFOF
- Documentation of customary laws,
- Conduct inventory on existing wildlife,
- Domestication of some animals species,
- Agro forestry and on farm tree planting,
- Sensitization on existing laws and policies (both National and Customary).

## GROUP TWO:

**Question: identify existing of customary rights (land and forest tenure rights) and Problems/ consequences of Protected Areas and Agro-industries on Communities and natural Resources**

### Group Results

After presentation and discussion of work done by this group, note the rights and laws for the table below:

#### a). Existing Customary rights and laws over land/forest resources

	Customary rights	Law/Procedure
land	<b>Individual rights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right for natives to own land for housing and agriculture and forest-based businesses;</li> <li>Rights to own family land</li> <li>Right to use and protect forest and land resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ownership is free and hereditary within families. For non-natives an agreement conferring ownership signed after consultation with family head.</li> <li>Land owners contribute(cash, land for community development</li> </ul>
	<b>Community rights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to own land community land. Most villages set aside land for community development interest, eg schools, hospitals, farming areas.</li> <li>to acquire and own land even for strangers;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ownership conferred following consultation with Traditional Chief and subject to endorsement of land agreement;</li> <li>traditional council manages land disputes;</li> <li>undefined fines exist eg defaulters forcefully ejected out of community land and any investment destroyed, goat, palm wine</li> </ul>
	<b>Individual/family forest</b>	
Forest land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to own individual and family forests;</li> <li>to own planted forests and trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consultation with individual or family head in case of non-family member subject to agreement</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to own community forest e.g.: sacred forests, community forest reserves, water catchment, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must consult Chief/councillors to obtain collection permit in these areas</li> <li>Community land/forest property is given maximum protection by locals</li> </ul>
	<b>Existing Customary rights are:</b> Ownership Rights User rights Control rights Settlement rights Management rights Right for Protection and to be protected Right to develop forest-based enterprises	

#### b). Problems of Protected Areas and Agro- industries on Communities and Resources

- Land and forest laws exist but not available or handy to the population, thus most communities remain ignorant about national land/forest legislation.
- The law greatly limits community access and ownership of land and forest resources (no access to protected area by, no ownership of even community forests, sacred places and planted trees). Communities are given just managerial rights and still need permits to exploit resources in a community forest.
- Restriction of the emergence and expansion in small farm holders activities
- Ejection and resettlement of out of areas to be turned into protected areas and agro- industries
  - industries
- Conflicts over use of resources in face increase population/limited land/forest resources
- Illegal exploitation of resources

- Limitation in the development of forest-based enterprises
- Extreme poverty among small farm holder
- Criminality eg theft

**c). Consequences and impact on local populations and resources**

- Conflicts over use of resources in the face of galloping population increase, sometimes resulting to casualties and death
- Illegal exploitation of resources
- Retarded emergence and expansion in small farm holders activities
- Limitation in the development of forest-based enterprises (community forests, NTFPs)
- Extreme poverty among natives
- Increase in crime e.g theft by landless people such as unemployed youths

**5.0. Achievements and results from the training workshop:**

- 30 representatives from wildlife groups gain practical knowledge and skills in monitoring and control of illegal hunting activities in the Southern Bakundu forest area;
- The roles of local communities in monitoring have been identified
- Key customary rights and problems generated by protected area and agro-industries in resource management have been identified;

**6.0. Lessons learnt:**

- Over 1000 individuals have encroached into the Southern Bakundu reserve in search of land for agriculture and settlement;
- Severe conflicts in the project area have resulted in many casualties and court cases;

**7.0. Recommendations and suggestions:**

During the workshop, participants came up with a number of recommendations among which were:

- Local communities should be organised into legalised functional wildlife groups that will be in charge of monitoring illegal activities at village level in collaboration with MINFOF staff.
- The groups need to sensitise others against poor hunting practices and share acquired knowledge on the 1994 wildlife law and destroy hunting tracks, traps and hunting camps;
- Local groups should report victims to traditional authorities and MINFOF as well as record all information on bush meat hunting and marketing.
- The need to explain the procedures of acquiring hunting permits, community forest etc
- Organize anti-poaching control at village level in collaboration with MINFOF.

## **Closing**

During closing, the host Chief sincerely thanked CAD for the training which he said has helped in orientating and empowering local populations on monitoring and control of illegal hunting and bush meat selling. He earnestly requested for continuous support from CAD in helping local communities to take leadership in wildlife management. Next the Coordinator of CAD, Martin Etone expressed his gratitude for participant's interest and active participation at the workshop. He however remarked that he will be more pleased if wildlife groups effectively assume their roles of checking illegal hunting back home. He further reminded various wildlife groups represented at the workshop to hasten up the legal registration of the groups that will soon become close collaborators of MINFOF field staff. Finally he wished participants hard work and safe return to their various destinations.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX 1: PRESENTATION ON GROUP MANAGEMENT: RENDERING WILDLIFE GROUPS FUNCTIONAL, BY MARTIN ETONE

1. **What is a group?** Its people coming together for a common goal/objectives
2. **Who has to be a member?** Any natural person who will respect the rules and regulations of the group
3. **How to form a group?**
  - Sit in a constituent meeting;
  - Elect Executive and minutes
  - Draw by laws/article of association
  - Register the group as CIG or association
  - Hold regular meetings.
4. **Roles of executive members**
  - President; call meetings, draw agenda, manage finances and take decision in consultation with members, represents the group in public meetings or can delegate.
  - Secretary general' write minutes/agenda, call meeting in the absent of the president
  - Treasurer' keeps group's account/money, keeps all financial documents, and draws annual financial plans.
  - Financial secretary' entre all financial transaction of the group, write statement of accounts of the group.
5. **Functionalizing a group**
  - Holding meetings
  - Draft internal rules and regulations
  - Register the group either as association or CIG

**Why holding meetings**

  - To discuss problems of the group
  - To share experience, etc.
6. **How to register a group?**
  - Get minimum of seven members
  - Write an article of association/constituent meeting minutes
  - Application to the registrar of CIG/Cooperatives
  - Fiscal stamp
  - Registration fee
7. **Who is a good leader**

Good leader shall be respectably, straight forward, charismatic, open, innovative, voluntary work for the group, Good leader shall be honestly, voluntary work for group, free hand safe, right thinking, don't wait for all members to follow his ideas. Transparent (leader and members), beneficiary sharing

8. **What keeps the group together?**
  - Respect rules and regulations of the group
  - Good leadership
  - Commitments to group activities
  - Individual activity should not disturb group work and vice-versa
  - Make sacrifices for the group

## ANNEX 2: PRESENTATION 2: MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ILLEGAL HUNTING

EBENE NSAKO CLEMENT

### 1. What is monitoring?

**Monitoring** is regular observation and recording of positive and negative effects on wildlife

**Transect** is a path along which observations and information collection is made. It's an important tool in monitoring.

### 2. Reasons for monitoring

Some of the reasons for monitoring in wildlife are

- Estimates population of animal species in the forest;
- Evaluates human impact and use of forest resources;
- To reduce unsustainable exploitation of resources including animals;
- To help inform management decisions

### 3. How to monitor wildlife?

The common methods used to monitor in general and wildlife in particular are;

- Observation
- Listening;
- Sighting;
- Recording;
- Questioning/interviews/discussions

### 4. Parameters to record during wildlife monitoring

In wildlife monitoring, the following parameters will be recorded and for both animals and human use.

#### 4.1. Animal parameters

- Direct counts i.e. counting the number of species physically seen;
- Indirect counts by collecting animal signs included tracks, faeces (dung), sound, smelt, footprints, fur/feather, artifices, carcass, excavation, etc.

#### 4.2. Human parameters included campsites, gun shots, cartridge shells, traps, trees cuts, hunting tracks, etc.

### 5. What we use in monitoring?

To collect data in monitoring exercise we need many materials. The main tools are checklists, recording forms, notebook, GPS (Geographical Position System), camera, machete/file, measuring tape, etc.

### 6. Who should monitor wildlife?

The monitoring actors are

- Government
- NGOs and civil society organizations
- Local communities.

### 7. Why control illegal hunting?

Many reasons are motivated ant poaching control. Some of them have been selected and are'

- To reduce poor hunting practices;
- To reinforce and implement the wildlife law;
- To promote legally accepted hunting practices;
- To reduce human pressures on forest;
- To change human behaviour/attitudes over use of forest resources;
- To conserve our wildlife heritage.

### 8. Information to collect on bush meat marketing

The following information will be collected on bush meat trade'

- Production community;
- Supply periods;
- Supply route;
- Means of transport to market;

- Number of supplies;
- Supply quantity and species supplies;
- Where they supply (markets)?
- Who buys (bay am Salam, individual, men, women, youths, etc.)?

9. **What villagers can do to fight against illegal hunting?**

Some activities shall be carried out by villagers to avoid poaching in their area included

- Destroy hunting tracks, traps and hunting camps;
- Sensitize others against poor hunting practices;
- Report victims of poaching to traditional authority and MINFOF;
- Explain the wildlife law to other villagers;
- Record all information in bush meat hunting and marketing;
- Explain the procedure of acquiring hunting permit and other (family forest lands, community forest, etc.);
- Organize anti-poaching control at village level in collaboration with MINFOF.

**Speech Presented By The Coordinator Of CAD, Mr. Martin N. ETONE, At The  
Workshop On The 1994 Wildlife Law, Organised By CAD in Bangem On the  
24<sup>th</sup> of November 2010**

The Senior Divisional Officer for Kupe Muanenguba Division;

The Lord Mayor to the Bangem Council;

The Divisional Delegate for Forestry and Wildlife, Kupe Muanenguba Division;

Various Heads of Services;

His Royal Highnesses,

Dear workshop participants;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I very much appreciate the commitment that you all have demonstrated in issues relating to wildlife conservation by attending this very important meeting. I do understand your various tight schedules and I thank you all for the enormous sacrifices made in terms of time and energy to be here today.

I welcome you all in Bangem and I remain quite hopeful that we would be able to discuss pertinent issues plaguing wildlife in Kupe Muanenguba Division in particular and in Cameroon in general in the course of this workshop.

I am particularly grateful to have the Senior Divisional Officer for Kupe Muanenguba Division, to personally preside over this gathering, with focus on the sensitization of local populations on the 1994 Wildlife Law and its 1995 Decree of Application. It is a reflection of the importance you attach to issues relating to rational exploitation of natural resources in your Division.

In the same light, I sincerely thank the Lord Mayor to the Bangem Council for accepting our invitation to this workshop, which is taking place at a time that the council operates a Five-Year Development Plan that equally addresses conservation issues. The results of this workshop would certainly be a subset of this very important Plan. I therefore, hope that your orientation would greatly help participants during their discussions, particularly when strategies to enhance wildlife management within the Municipality have to be elaborated.

I also wish to extend my sincere gratitude to various Ministerial Departments, particularly MINFOF and MINEP and Civil Society Organizations that CAD is partnering with in the conservation of natural resources in this region.

I equally wish to extend special gratitude to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation in the United Kingdom for the support given us to make this workshop a success. This Foundation has been funding CAD's activities since 2008 and it is our wish that this partnership continues from strength to strength.

Community Action for Development (CAD) is an emerging organization within Kupe Muanenuba Division with a vision to merge conservation concerns with livelihood imperatives to achieve sustainable development. Conservation education, sustainable agriculture and community health education are our core activities with local people to make our own contribution to improved livelihoods and natural resources management. Educating people on the wildlife law neatly falls within this vision.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fishery law and its 1995 Decree of implementation are the main legal instruments governing Forestry and wildlife issues in Cameroon. However, most of us still remain unaware of a law that affects the way in which local communities should exploit and use their own resources.

In addition, the complex nature of this law makes its interpretation and understanding difficult. We therefore organized this workshop for two reasons:

- \* Firstly, to keep local people informed about the law and
- \* Secondly, to break it down in a simpler, understandable and usable form.

Dear participants, our having a good knowledge and understanding of this law is important for various reasons:

- \* It will re-shape our attitudes towards current unsustainable hunting practices taking place within our forest zones;
- \* It will reduce conflicts between local communities and authorities in charge of wildlife management

- \* Ensure participatory efforts in the reinforcement and implementation of the law by the local people and authorities of the Wildlife Department;
- \* Curb the current human pressure on wildlife resources and increase local benefits derived from sustainable wildlife management.

As you might have understood, our wildlife resource-base is rapidly undergoing depletion due to the galloping human population increase; poor hunting methods and the increase in the intensity of bush meat trade for food and income in the Central African Sub-region. Supporting but surprising statistics show that about 1.1 million metric tons of bush meat is eaten in this Sub-region annually. As a result of this extreme pressure on wildlife resources, the Congo Basin is plunged into a **Bush meat Crisis**. The consequences of this crisis are many.

- \* Several important and rare wildlife species are endangered.
- \* Many others have lost their habitats and forced into extinction.

Today, we already find ourselves into this crisis. This calls for urgent collaborative efforts and actions to develop and implement bushmeat control and sustainable wildlife management. In Cameroon and in the Muanenguba region in particular, we are faced with a triple-edged challenge:

- \* Firstly, we must break the ignorance among local populations about our existing forest and wildlife policy and regulations by keeping them informed and aware of what the law says and the role of local communities in their implementation;
- \* Secondly, we must be able to seek ways of conserving the remaining and already endangered wildlife community;
- \* Thirdly, we must be able to provide the rural poor populations with suitable alternative food and income sources that would curb pressure on wildlife.

It was in the face of some of these challenges that the Government of Cameroon, created the Bayang-Mbo Sanctuary and the recently created Bakossi National Park in order to protect our biodiversity heritage and improve local living conditions. These government initiatives require collective support, particularly that of local people that are custodian of all forest resources.

But we must remind ourselves that unsustainable hunting practices would continue to pose a threat to wildlife and hence our biodiversity if practicable action is not taken in the field. Therefore, the provision of suitable alternative food and income sources to local communities must be taken seriously.

Dear workshop participants, in support of government's action towards poverty alleviation and sustainable wildlife use, CAD initiated a participatory Wildlife Management Project in early 2008. This project aims at disseminating the national forest policy and regulations at community level and engaging local populations in alternative enterprises to illegal wildlife exploitation.

We are here today so that CAD could share learning and understanding on the 1994 wildlife laws and to seek ways that local people themselves could take the lead for its implementation and reinforcement in the field. By the end of this workshop, I would expect that:

- \* Various participants are aware of the legal provisions of the 1994 Wildlife Law;
- \* We come up with an extension strategy for wildlife management in our sub-division for a greater spread effect.

As we forge ahead with our discussions, we should not fail to take sight of the way pressure on wildlife could be reduced in our region.

I call on you all to hold open-minded deliberations to attain the objectives of this workshop. I also hope that the knowledge acquired on the wildlife law would be tested by each village community here represented back home. In this manner, we would be in the direction to supporting national efforts towards achieving wildlife management and sustainable development in our country Cameroon.

Long Live the Civil Society;

Long Live Kupe Muanenguba Division

Long Live Cameroon.

Thank you for your kind attention!