



Analog forestry pathway for biodiversity conservation and agro-enterprise development

Facing The Realities of Communal Resource management

... Being a herbalist I love nature because it is from nature that I derive all I need to heal people. Thus in my farm I give priority to local tree species that have medicinal value. With the coming of analog forestry I have added a few new species that were lacking in my farm and which can give me an income.....".

Akombo Gregory
(Herbalist)

You can also partner with CENDEP

Our Contact:

cendep2001@yahoo.com .

Website: www.cendep.org



Dear Readers,

In the last issue of our newsletter we reported on the training and follow up of farmers in Bafut on beekeeping as well as the monitoring of measures undertaken to facilitate the resolution of the ongoing conflict in the management of the watersheds in Bafut.

During the last two months, trainees of the bee keeping workshop demonstrated their commitment in putting into practice the knowledge acquired. The 50 hives targeted to be produced during this period were all produced. 25 of the hives were distributed to individual bee farmers while the other 25 were donated to the Dialogue committee, created after the conflict resolution workshop.



Warehouse for project donated bee hives

Support was given to individual analog forestry farmers. We targeted farmers who needed to improve on the farms to qualify as analog forests. The key activities included gap analysis to identify the missing strata/species from their farms. For example, Mr. Akombo Gregory, a herbalist specializes in growing a variety of medicinal plants in his farm. He also cultivates fruit trees, palms, etc. A comparison of his farm with the native forest indicated the absence of climbers. Amongst the climbers he was interested was *Gnetum* spp. Seedlings were obtained from the forest region of South West Cameroon and introduced into his farm. He chose this vine because of its high economic value. In addition to the climber Mr. Akombo Gregory has introduced other new species to his young analog forest. He is advised to diversify the tree crops as much as possible.



At the communal level 250 tree seedlings were planted in two water catchments. We continued to sensitize the population on the need to protect the planted trees. In the Mughie community the main threat to the planted trees is bush fires that result from slash and burn agriculture around the catchment. Hunters, cattle farmers and wild honey harvesters also set fires that sometimes stray into the catchment area destroying planted trees.



Prior to the demarcation of some sites as watersheds, these sites were grazing land. Cattle farmers explain that their cattle are already accustomed to these sites and sometimes go to graze there unaccompanied. The dialogue committee now realizes that fences are not the solution to keep cattle out of the protected watersheds...more is needed

Prior to the demarcation of some sites as watersheds, these sites were grazing land. Cattle farmers explain that their cattle are already accustomed to these sites and sometimes go to graze there unaccompanied. Fencing of the sites is necessary and costly for the communities. In the Akofungubah community two meetings were held with the cattle farmers in an effort to protect the planted trees. The meetings were initiated by the president of the Akofungubah Development Association (AKOCUDA with CENDEP as observer. The major outcome for this period was the recognition of the dialogue committee by the community. For example the committee is currently handling a dispute between a crop farmer and a cattle farmer. At CENDEP we are keenly monitoring this issue.

The Bafut community has also recognized CENDEP as an important force to reckon with. We were invited to give a talk during the annual general assembly meeting of the Njimuyah Development Association. Njimuyah is one of the communities benefiting from CENDEP support in the Bafut Fondom. In his talk, Mr Limshu Augustine, who represented the team leader, Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel narrated the history of RSG support to the Bafut community since 2010. He highlighted the achievements and challenges of the work and made suggestions on way forward.

Reacting to the talk, the President of Akofungubah Development Association, Mr. Ndifor Clement thanked CENDEP for the marvelous work that they have been doing in their community and regretted the fact that cattle remained a problem. He was bitter about the destruction of planted trees by cattle and he called on all the grazers present to stop grazing at that catchment. Because of this reaction, the President of the Ntaya youths which is made up predominantly of grazers said he and his youths did not know about this destruction and would do everything possible to stop cattle from grazing in the catchment area. A onetime CENDEP field staff and now Director of a local NGO known as EPDA, Mr. Tanda Godwin threw more light on the history, achievements and challenges of the project.

A representative of the community Mr. attended the constituent meeting of the Cameroon Analog Forestry Network (CAFON) where he argued for status of farmers within the network. He recommended the payment of full membership dues by farmer groups into the network so that they could have full benefits from the network.

News compiled by Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel (Project leader)

Contributors: Limshu Augustine & Wirsiy Eric F.