

**TRAINING OF WILDLIFE GROUPS ON  
MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ILLEGAL  
HUNTING ORGANISED BY CAD IN  
COLLABORATION WITH RSG IN NGUSI**

**29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

## 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 wildlife management,, CAD organised a training workshop on monitoring and control of poaching for leaders of newly formed wildlife groups at the women Empowerment and family Center in Nguisi on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2009. The workshop that received the financial support of the Rufford Small Grants Programme (RSG), was officiated by the Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post, Mrs Akonjuen Helen, brought together 30 participants(28 men and 2 women) including wildlife group leaders, traditional Chiefs and councillors drawn from Bekume, Ngusi, Mahole, Mbenmekoge, Yoge and Ndizi villages. 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.

## 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

## Workshop methods and Principles

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

<b>Workshop methods</b>
Brainstorming
Discussion
Question and answers
Presentation
Group works
Plenary

<b>Workshop Principles</b>
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 was done by Atanga Wilson and reporting by Martin Etone. Etali Augustin and Akonjuen Helen served as support staff.

### **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 Abwe of Ngusi. The Chief expressed gratitude for choosing Ngusi as the seat of the workshop and called on 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 Mt. Kupe forest area. While decrying current illegal practices taking place in the area, he called on local communities to work in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon to better achieve sustainable management of forest resources, 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 Forestry and Wildlife Post, Mrs. Helen Akonjuen opened and presided over the training workshop. She thanked CAD organising the workshop and the work being done in the Bakossi forest region to change the mentality of local populations on the use of forest resources. She 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. She said conflicts are rife in the Kupe Forest area because everybody claims ownership and interest in defending his property without recognising the rights of others. The Chief of post 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. She reiterated her appreciation of CAD's effort and requested the extension of conservation education activities in all forest-dependent communities living in Tombel sub-division.

### **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 Kupe Reserve 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. Presentation 1. Group Management: Rendering Wildlife Groups Functional**

In order to ensure that village wildlife management structures are rendered functional and dynamic, it was deemed necessary that we integrate basic elements of group management into this workshop. Mr. Atanga Wilson 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 bushmeat marketing and the type of information to be collected were presented some of these include:

##### **Why control illegal hunting and exploitation of Resources?**

- 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 behavior/attitudes over use of forest resources;
- To conserve our wildlife heritage.

##### **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 supplied;
- \* Where they supply (markets)?
- \* Who buys (bay am Salam, individual, men, women, youths, etc

## **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. Atanga Wilson 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:

### **4.3. 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).

**Members of the group:** Happi DanielVimo(President), Diange Lawson Botia; Morfaw Alexander, Obodia Bah Tembi, Esua Alphonsus(Secretary), Marcelus N. Fon, Nformi Jeremih, Ewona Hannah Lengu, Akonjuen Helen, Ebi John Epee, Ewome Hannah Liengu, Etali Augustin.

**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**

	<b>Customary rights</b>	Law/Procedure
land	<b>Individual rights</b> -Right for natives to own land for housing and agriculture and forest-based businesses; -Rights to own family land -Right to use and protect forest and land resources	-Ownership is free and hereditary within families. For non-natives an agreement conferring ownership signed after consultation with family head. -Land owners contribute (cash, land for community development)
	<b>Community rights</b>	
	-to own land community land. Most villages set aside land for community development interest, eg schools, hospitals, farming areas. -to acquire and own land even for strangers;	-ownership conferred following consultation with Traditional Chief and subject to endorsement of land agreement; -traditional council manages land disputes; -undefined fines exist e.g. defaulters forcefully ejected out of community land and any investment destroyed, goat, palm wine
	Individual/family forest	
Forest land	-to own individual and family forests; -to own planted forests and trees	-consultation with individual or family head in case of non-family member subject to agreement
	-to own community forest e.g.: sacred forests, community forest reserves, water catchment, etc.	-Must consult Chief/councillors to obtain collection permit in these areas -Community land/forest property is given maximum protection by locals
	<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	
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### **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
- 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 older
- Criminality for instance theft.

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

- Conflicts over use of resources in the face of galloping population increase, some times 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

#### **Group Two members included:**

Ngum James, Orock Mosess, Chief Sone Koke (President), Martin Etone, Eban Robert (secretary), Agien Francis, Bange Augustin, Fola Christopher, Ebene Nsako Clement, Atamga Wilson,

#### **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 Kupe 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. 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.

## **7.0 Closing**

During closing, the Chief of Ngusi sincerely thanked CAD for the training which he said has given orientating and empowering local populations on monitoring and control of illegal hunting and bushmeat selling. He pleaded 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 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 ATANGA WILSON

**What is a group?** Its people coming together for a common goal or objectives

**Who has to be a member?** Any natural person who will respect the rules and regulations of the group

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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

## **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

## **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 (MINEP)

#### 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.

#### 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

#### How to monitor wildlife?

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

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

#### Parameters to record during wildlife monitoring

- In wildlife monitoring, the following parameters will be recorded and for both animals and human use.
- 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.
- Human parameters included campsites, gun shots, cartridge shells, traps, trees cuts, hunting tracks, etc.

#### 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.

### **Who should monitor wildlife?**

- The monitoring actors are
- Government
- NGOs and civil society organizations
- Local communities.

### **Why control illegal hunting?**

Many reasons are motivated ant poaching control. Some of theme have been selected and are:

- To reduce poor hunting practices;
- To reinforce and implement the wildlife law;
- To promote legally accepted hunting practices;
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### **What villagers can do to fight against illegal hunting?**

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- Organize anti-poaching control at village level in collaboration with MINFOF.

**Annex 3:**

**Training Workshop on Monitoring and Control of Illegal Hunting organized by CAD in collaboration with UNDP-GEF and MINFOF in Malende on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

**Workshop Programme**

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Resp</b>
<b>Friday 25 April 2008</b>		
<b>8.30-9.00am: Arrival of Participants</b>	Arrival and registration of participants	Etali
	Arrival of Divisional Delegates MNFOF, Environment/Nature Conservation	
<b>9.00-9.40am: Opening Session</b>	National Anthem	Atanga/ Etone
	Word of Prayer from a Notable	
	Welcome by the Lord Mayor	
	Speech from CAD coordinator	
	Introduction of Participants	
	Presentation of workshop Objectives and Outputs	
	Opening Speech by Representative of Divisional Delegate for MINFOF	
	Group Picture	
<b>9.40am-12.40pm: Technical Presentations</b>	Participants' Expectations	
	Workshop Methodology	
	<b>Presentation I:</b> Traditional Hunting Methods and Practices in the Bakossi: Impact on Local Livelihoods and Wildlife Resources Questions and Answers	Martin N. Etone
	<b>Presentation II:</b> The 1994 Wildlife/Fisheries Law and Its Legal Provisions Discussions Group Work (3 groups)	Amin Thomas, (MNIFOF)
12.40-1.40	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
1.40-2.20pm	Continue work in groups	
2.20-3.00pm	Plenary session	
3.00-3.40	Elaboration of strategies on sustainable wildlife use and management	
3.40-4.00pm:	Workshop Evaluation	
4.00-4.15pm	Closing and departure	