

REPORT ON THE SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON THE 1994 WILDLIFE LAW ORGANISED CAD/RSG IN COLLABORATION WITH MINFOF IN TOMBEL, FROM THE 25-26 APRIL 2008

Reported by:
Martin N. Etone
Hilary Ewang Ngide

© April 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE	3
1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
2.0 WORKSHOP 3.0 PROCEEDINGS	4
♦ <i>Opening Session</i>	
4.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS	6
4.0 PARTICIPANTS' EXPECTATIONS	6
5.0 WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES	6
6.0 TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS	7
7.0 GROUP WORK	8
♦ <i>Group Results</i>	
8.0 ELABORATION OF STRATEGIES ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	11
9.0 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	12
10. WORKSHOP EVALUATION AND CLOSING	13

ABBREVIATIONS

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The proceedings of the workshop documented in this report is the joint effort of CAD and other stakeholders active in the wildlife sector in Kupe Muanenguba Division in the S.W province of Cameroon. I would like to express deep appreciation to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation (RSG), in the United Kingdom, for the financial assistance towards the realization of this workshop. The active participation and the outcome of the workshop is our commitment in supporting the efforts of the government of Cameroon in

sustainable wildlife management and in providing an enabling environment for wildlife policy implementation.

I very much appreciate the establishment of a feasible strategy for wildlife management in the Muanenguba/Bakossi forest zones. I strongly believe that if fully operationalised, not only shall we be able to influence the reinforcement and implementation of the 1994 wildlife law, but 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.

Martin N. ETONE
Project Coordinator

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Since its enactment, in 1994, the Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law and its 1995 Decree of Implementation are the main instrument governing the exploitation and use of natural resources in Cameroon. Unfortunately, many people remain ignorant and unaware of the content of this law and its legal provisions. Worse still, the complexity and dispersed nature of these legal instruments make its interpretation and application somewhat difficult. It is in the light of the above reasons that CAD organized a sensitization workshop in Tombel with the intention to bring the law closer to the people as well as explain and break it down to a simple understandable and usable form.

This report presents the proceedings of the sensitization workshop on the 1994 Wildlife Law and its 1995 Decree of Implementation. The workshop that held from the 25-26 April 2008 in the Council Hall in Tombel was organized by Community Action for Development (CAD) with financial support from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation in the U.K. Presided over by the Divisional Officer for Tombel Sub-Division, Mr. Mboule Samuel, the workshop brought together 59 participants drawn from the Technical Ministries of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP), local administration, NGOs, 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.

2.0 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Day One: Friday 25 April 2008

2.1 Opening Session

The workshop started at 10.00am 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)

Next on the rostrum was the Coordinator of CAD, Mr. Martin N. Etone who briefed workshop participants on the relevance of this participatory wildlife management project and expressed sincere gratitude to the Rufford Small Grant Foundation in the U.K for the financial support given CAD to make the workshop a resounding success. The Coordinator situated the workshop within the 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.

He further 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 Bangem region still remain ignorant and unaware of this law, which has to affect the way local communities and other stakeholders exploit and use wildlife resources. Moreover, he said the workshop was aimed at keeping local people informed about the law as well as breaking it down in a simple, understandable and usable form. 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, the Coordinator 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 this government's efforts that the CAD/RSG Participatory project emerged to spread knowledge on wildlife conservation and orientate local populations towards alternative livelihood activities that reduce stress on wild animal species. He concluded by calling on participants to put ideas together and elaborate a wildlife strategy for the Kupe a and Bakossi forest regions.

In his opening speech, the Divisional Officer for Tombel Sub-Division, Mr.. Mboule Samuel, appreciated CAD's efforts in bringing various actors in the wildlife sector together to share information and knowledge on the 1994 Wildlife Law with respect to the exploitation of wildlife resources. He denounced the wanton destruction of wildlife resources through deforestation and illegal activities such as poaching and other unsustainable hunting practices in the area. He said the Central African Sub-region has been plunged into a bushmeat crisis because of the unwise exploitation of resources by some logging companies and unscrupulous individuals involved in illegal hunting activities. The Divisional Officer called on joint and urgent corrective actions if sustainable wildlife management has to be achieved.

He also, highlighted efforts being made by the government of Cameroon to redress unsustainable exploitations of natural resources. Among these were enactment of the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fishery Law that allows for participatory approaches to wildlife management and the 1999 Yaounde Declaration in which Central African Heads of State exhibited a strong committed to sustainable wildlife management within the Congo Basin. In order to reinforce these efforts at Sub-Divisional level, he called on the local population to desist from poaching and avoid encroachment into various zones already earmarked as reserves within the sub-division. In addition, the Divisional officer called on civil society organizations and local communities to take the lead in giving maximum support to government's action to safeguard not only Cameroon's wildlife resource-base for the betterment of both the present and future generations. The Administrator encouraged participants to take interest in alternative food and income sources if sustainable wildlife management has to be achieved. Again, he urged workshop participants to endeavour to come up with other approaches to curb the current pressure on wildlife especially as CAD is in the process of putting in place Wildlife Vigilante Committees in various villages. He ended by officially declaring the workshop opened

3.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS (RESULTS)

3.1 Workshop Objectives

- * To explain the 1994 Wildlife Law and its legal provisions to local people;
- * To highlight the effects of current local unsustainable practices on both people and wildlife resources;
- * To elaborate a strategy for wildlife management and livelihood improvement in the Muanenguba/Bakossi forest areas.

3.2 Expected Outputs

- * Local people are aware and understand the legal provisions of the 1994 wildlife law;
- * Participants recognize the harmful effect of poor local hunting practices;
- * The participation of local communities in the implementation of the law is enlisted;
- * A strategy on wildlife management is elaborated.

4.0 PARTICIPANTS EXPECTATIONS

In a brainstorming exercise with the Facilitator, Mr. Atanga Wilson, participants expressed the wish to satisfy the following expectations by the end of the workshop:

Participant's Expectations

Learn the Law on Wildlife
Know about co-habitation between man and wildlife;
Explore the advantages of wildlife protection and experience from other projects;
Matching the Law, forest and wildlife;
Know about the type of animals under protection
Expect to know the various methods of hunting;
Know what the law says about alternative use of livelihoods;
Understand the role of local people in the implementation of the wildlife law.

Workshop Methodology

Presentations
Brainstorming
Discussions
Question and answers
Group work
Plenary sessions

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

5.0 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 Appolinaire(MINEP) and Mrs Ngaleu Bertille (MINFOF)*

5.1 Presentation I: 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)*

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.

5.2 Presentation on the 1994 Wildlife Law and its legal Provisions by the Divisional Chief of Environment and Nature Protection for Boyo, Kemgang Appolinaire 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 26 April 2008

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.

6.0 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/ Opinion Leaders respectively.

Group work Themes

- * *What alternative activities can we do to reduce pressure on wildlife (alternative sustainable livelihood activities)*
- * *What can we do to improve local people's participation in the reinforcement and implementation of the 1994 Wildlife Law?*

Guidelines for group work

Group had as guidelines to:

- * *Elect a secretary*
- * *Elect a chairperson*
- * *Discuss and answer both questions on flip charts*
- * *Present results in plenary*

6.1 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 1: Chiefs.

<p>1.0 <i>What Alternative activities other than hunting can we do to reduce pressure on wildlife?</i></p>	<p>Results: <i>Encourage animal husbandry and poultry; Create fish ponds e.g. frogs and fishes Carry out wild animal domestication such as grass cutters and snails Creation of community hunting zones Creation of community forest zones; Restoration of degraded landscapes through tree planting; Encourage micro-enterprise development among hunters/bushmeat sellers</i></p>
<p>2.0 <i>How we can improve local participation in the reinforcement and implementation of the Wildlife law?</i></p>	<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 the law to every Chiefs Palace</i> ◆ <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>

Group one members;

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,

Group Two: Hunters and Bushmeat Sellers

1.0 What Alternative activities other than hunting can we do to reduce pressure on wildlife?	Results: Promote modern agricultural techniques among local populations; Domestication of animals such as cutting grass; Do beekeeping and snail farming Do fish farming Keep pigs N/B: to attain all these, local people need both technical and financial support from the government of Cameroon, NGOs and donors.
2.0 How we can improve local participation in the reinforcement and implementation of the Wildlife Law?	Creation of community forests; Sustain the sensitization on the law and campaign against unsustainable hunting Creation of village wildlife committees 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

List of Group TWO Members

John Epie, Koge Njume John, Hene Patricia, Ngaleme 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

Group Three: Government, NGOs and Opinion Leaders

1.0 What Alternative activities other than hunting can we do to reduce pressure on wildlife	Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture * Livestock and fisheries * Micro-business * Domestication of wildlife e.g snails, cutting grass (cane rats) * Diversification on the use of animals for cultural values; * Financing of micro-projects of community by the government and philanthropic organizations * Promotion of craft work * Promotion of eco-tourism * Improve farm to market roads and maintenance by local populations..
2.0 How we can improve local participation in the reinforcement and implementation of the Wildlife Law?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Formation of village wildlife management committees; ♦ Acquisition of hunting zones ♦ Sustain sensitization of local populations on the wildlife law; ♦ Provide environmental education in primary schools and colleges; ♦ Copies of the wildlife law need to made available to all stakeholders and in school libraries ♦ Involvement of local communities in protected area management

List of Group 3 Members

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.

7.0 ELABORATION OF STRATEGIES ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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

Guiding Question

Now we all have some knowledge of the wildlife law and understand the problems and importance of wildlife resources, how can we have greater impact in the implementation of the law and enhancement of wildlife management in the Muanenguba and Bakossi forest regions?

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.

8.0 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:

8.1 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.

8.2 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;

8.3 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

8.4 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

8.5 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..

8.6 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.

8.7 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.

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

8.9 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

98.10 Above all, participants expressed the need for the intervention of the government, NGOs and donor organizations through the provision of both financial and technical support to wildlife management efforts of local people.

9 WORKSHOP EVALUATION AND CLOSING

9.1 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	01	59
Facilitation	0	13	46	0	59
Participation	0	11	48	0	59
Target	0				

9.2 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.

“Prepared for RSG by CAD