



# CENDEP NEWSLETTER



Vol.1: Issue 2, Jan. 2011

REDD+ & Ecosystem Restoration and Protection: Pathway for business based conservation for forest dependent people



“.....Local experiences with donor funded conservation initiatives dictate that conservation now takes a business approach. And for this, the rules of fair trade apply.....”

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### Who we are

The Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP) was created in 1999 as a farmer group and legalized as a Common Initiative Group (CIG) on the 19th July 2000. Her mission is to assist and/or train local people in the domestication, sustainable production and marketing of Non Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) and agricultural products of economic importance and in the sustainable management of natural resources".

CENDEP's activities cover principally the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon. In the NW Region our activities are aimed at addressing issues of climate change indirectly. This is through our Analogue Forestry program through which we are assisting local communities to establish permanent forests to buffer extreme weather events and also to act as carbon sinks. The interest and participation of the local population is driven by their assurance on the water supply services of permanent forests.

In the SW Region our activities are centred on domestication and development of the value chain for Eru. Eru is a perennial crop which starts to produce after 3-5 years, and then can be productive for 30-50 years. Value chain development activities are carried around the Mount Cameroon Region and in the buffer zone of the Korup National Park. Sustainable agriculture and environmental education activities are carried out in the two regions.

### CENDEP Newsletter (CN)

CN is a bimonthly update of the field activities of CENDEP.

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**"In the face of an emerging and steadily growing carbon market worldwide, it is imperative for African nations to play an active role and tap into the huge financial resource flows coming from carbon finance which according to analysts is now worth a staggering \$170 billion"**

## A word from CENDEP Director



**Youndjie Koleoko**

The January 2011 issue of CENDEP Newsletter covers one of the tough periods in the life of CENDEP; a period when the organization had to struggle without the much valuable funds from her donors. Funding from our major donors, ICCO Netherlands and IUCN Netherlands ended on April 31, 2010 and August, 31, 2010 respectively. The applications these international NGOs made to the Dutch government for funding was met with disappointing results signaling same for local NGOs in the South like CENDEP who rely almost fully on funds from the North.

Despite this financial crisis the CENDEP team remained as motivated as before and focused their efforts on fundraising through the development of projects that respond to the needs of our target groups. This was made possible by the online training offered by “The Centre for Sustainable Development”. The remaining scarce resources of the organization were thus invested in building the capacity of her staff so that they can develop captivating “from the ground” proposals to attract funds to sustain the organization.

We embarked on developing new partnerships, amongst which is an internship program with the Hogeschool Zuyd, Maastricht School Of International Communication P.O. Box 634, 6200AP Maastricht, The Netherlands. This program will be of great importance for both institutions as it will help students of the aforementioned institution to carry out field work while at the same time participating in CENDEP’s program activities. This has yielded fruit with the arrival on the first intern scheduled for the end of January 2011. Amongst other duties the intern shall contribute in the development of a communication plan for CENDEP.

Another partnership was with a Dutch Company Face the Future. CENDEP and Face the Future share a similar mission of creating a sustainable planet and future by rehabilitating and conserving forests and other ecosystems. While CENDEP is addressing this mission through the analog forestry ecosystem restoration method, Face the Future develops forest rehabilitating and forest conservation projects, including carbon certification. The CENDEP Face the Future partnership is intended to enable the local communities with whom CENDEP works to benefit from the emerging carbon trade for their conservation work. This conservation work is expected to be partly funded for by the price that is paid for the amount of carbon sequestered when these communities design and implement forest rehabilitation or conservation projects that result in clear benefits for themselves, the global society and biodiversity. CENDEP and her target group intend to tap from Face the Future’s expertise on sale and brokering of carbon credits.

## **Editorial**

***By Wirsiy Eric Fondzenyuy***

There is an increasing need for the documentation of the experiences of different development initiatives be they locally, nationally or internationally. This is an orientation towards learning from the successes and failures of such initiatives to expand and improve future development efforts. Unfortunately, it is rare that time and effort is put into organizing, analyzing and documenting experiences by many development organizations for various reasons. The Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP) has adopted a paradigm shift by deciding to share her field-based experiences with development and natural resource management practitioners. CENDEP intends to achieve this by documenting and sharing her experiences and approaches with relevant stakeholders using different tools, a bimonthly newsletter being one of them.

The first issue of this newsletter was produced in October 2010. The newsletter was initially intended to provide a bimonthly update of CENDEP's project aimed at restoring and protecting three degraded watersheds in Bafut in the NW Region of Cameroon, with financial support from the Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation. CENDEP management gave a positive feedback to the newsletter recommending that it be broadened to include all the work that CENDEP is carrying out with her target group as well as developments within CENDEP itself.

So in this issue, you will read about our work on Value Chain Development, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+), visit by some of our partners, training on eru domestication and staff capacity building.

Most of the work we do usually produce desirable results only in the long term. This work involves a mix of development actors and stakeholders with varied skills and interests. By documenting and sharing our experiences we are able to reflect on and to re-evaluate our achievements and failures, enabling others and ourselves to build on the work already done. By doing so we contribute in developing a framework for knowledge generation and dissemination essential for the improvement of field approaches, practices and activities through lessons learnt.

We think this newsletter will be useful to development organizations, students and natural resource management practitioners, especially those intending to carry out similar activities elsewhere as well as those intending to carry on from where we have ended.

We would be happy to get your feed back on the newsletter and if you need further details on any of our activities do not hesitate to contact us for it is by sharing that we learn most.

## Bafut Watershed Restoration & Protection

By Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel



The main activities planned were to continue the management of the three community nurseries that were established at the start of the project, carry out environmental education activities in schools and assist willing farming in the design of their farms to include analog forests. Nursery management activities were carried out by the community members under the supervision of the community facilitator, Mr. Lawir Felix. So far 731 tree seedlings were transplanted from the seed beds into polythene bags. Only seedlings of some four fast growing species were ready for potting. All the three community tree nurseries were provided with shade to protect the young seedlings from damage by the scorching sun. Regular weeding and watering of seedlings was carried out by the community members. The three communities established a time table to ease the watering of the seedlings. Members of the various forest/water management committees were split into 3 or 4 groups. Each group does watering of the seedlings or one week and then the other takes over. This approach is well respected in two of the three communities.

Five new seed species were acquired and nursed in the various community nurseries as per the table below. The names may not be exact but we are liaising with the SABOGA Botanic Garden for a proper identification of the species.

S/N	Tree Species	Community Nursery			Total
		Akofungubah	Adiemokong	Mughie	
1	Maesopsis	250	260	249	759
2	Mellitia conrau	298	287	300	885
3	Entada abyssinica	445	419	455	1319
4	Pittosporum ("Liv")	823	796	814	2433
5	Polysia fulva	324	412	343	1079
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2140</b>	<b>2174</b>	<b>2161</b>	<b>6475</b>

### *Environmental Education in Schools*

In the coming months they will be taught how to transplant the seedlings into polythene bags and how to harden them up before taking them to the field. Three tree nurseries shall be created in the primary schools selected to participate in the project. This will give room for the children to participate in outdoor activities that they cherish much.

Only pupils of Government School Adiemokong participated in outdoor activities like potting of mature seedlings in the community tree nursery. In the other schools the pupils were preparing for end of term examinations when the potting was due.

Analog Forestry on individual farms:

Eleven farmers indicated willingness to incorporate analog forestry in the farms. Mr. Koleoko Gabriel and Periemintah K. Ndzefemmegho assisted the field staff and farmer in the design of their farms. The seven farmers came from the communities of Moghie (3 farmers), Adiemokong (4 farmers) and Akofungubah (4 farmers). The community facilitator is assisting these farmers to choose the type of tree species that will be planted when the rain comes in April.

Many other farmers are still very interested in the incorporating analog forestry in the farms so the farm designs process will continue in the days ahead. The community facilitator was sick and on bed rest. This gave the back up staff, Mr. Isidor the opportunity to test his extension skills. Mr. Isidor is very motivated

**The most important outcomes of our work were:**

- i. Three (3) individual farmers in 2 of the 3 communities (Adiemokong and Akofugubah) were able to use the knowledge acquired in tree nursery establishment and management to set up private nurseries.
- ii. Eleven (11) farmers requested assistance in designing their farmland to incorporate analog forestry. At the beginning we targeted restoration of watershed. It is very interesting that the local people have quickly understood the benefits of analog forestry besides water provision.
- iii. In Mughie some community members have decided to establish individual nurseries to compliment seedlings produced from the community nursery. This action is intended to enable the project to meet its target in seedling production.

Generally the local people have maintained their enthusiasm in the project as participation in field activities is very encouraging compared to other areas where we have worked.

**The most disappointing outcomes of our work**

- a. The people of Akofugubah community have not been taking good care of their tree nursery. Some members are not respecting the schedule established to water the seedlings. This led to the death of some of the tree seedlings.

An adamant school teacher in Government School Mughie converted part of the school tree nursery into a yam farm destroying some of the seedlings that were already sprouting. This is very unusual for a literate member of the community. No reason was given for this action.

The community facilitator requested assistance from the office in diagnosing the reasons for the behavior of the Akofugubah community members as well as the Mughie school teacher and Mr. Tanda Godwin Ade, an indigene of the area was dispatched to provide the assistance. Mr. Ade understands the dialect and culture of the people. As a result of Mr. Ade's intervention, Mr. Che Isidor, the project volunteer, has agreed with the school authorities to move the nursery to a new site where the seedlings will be spread for hardening. A teacher from Catholic School Akofugubah, Mr. Nyamyelle George, has committed himself to be watering the seedlings every morning before going for his day's activities. One community member has equally requested for permission for dual usage of the community watering can in his farm as well as in the nursery. In this way he will continue watering the seedlings until a long lasting solution is sought.

**Conclusions:**

The various water/forest management committees have continued reiterating their request for support in legalizing their groups. This is an important issue bordering on the sustainability of the groups as well as the protection of the forests that the communities are establishing.

Women complained that the tools donated for nursery work were tools used by men and not suitable for women. This was taken lightly but the women have continued to raise the issue. In addition to routine nursery management and environmental education in schools, fire tracing shall be done around the water catchments. More farmers will be assisted in the design of their farms so that they can incorporate analog forestry as a component of their land use.

## **Training on *Eru* domestication**

### **By Tanda Godwin Ade**

In July 2000 CIFOR and CENDEP signed a partnership agreement within the framework of the Congo Basin Forest Climate Change Adaptation and Participatory Action Research (CoFCCA-PAR) project. Through this partnership, three forest communities in Yokadouma were trained on the domestication of *Eru*. The domestication of *Eru* was chosen by these communities as one of their adaptation strategies to climate change. After the training, one of the recommendations was to carry out technical support visits to assist the trainees to overcome the technical difficulties that they might encounter in the absence of the trainers. This was based on CENDEP's experience training forest resource users in other parts of Cameroon. As part of the agreement, an exchange visit would be conducted to promote farmer to farmer exchanges. Because CIFOR was phasing out on December 31, 2010, it was recommended that the support visits also end by December 31, 2010. Two visits were scheduled between November and December 2010. The first visit took place from 23<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> November, 2010, and involved three of the trained communities namely Mendoungue, Mopouo and Djalobékoé made up of the entities of ASMIMI; ESSAYONS VOIR and MORIKOUA LIYE respectively in Yokadouma (Eastern Region of Cameroon).

#### **Objectives of the technical follow-up visit were to:**

- a. Accompany the 3 trained forest communities to independently produce *eru* seedlings for farm establishment.
- b. Reinforce the capacities of the 32 trainees in the mastery of *Eru* seedling production, nursery management, and farm management techniques.
- c. Support forest communities by providing additional start-up nursery equipment where necessary for the successful production of *Eru* seedlings.

#### **Approach/Activities**

The CENDEP team visited the nursery and demonstration sites to assess for themselves the level of care and mastery of the techniques by the beneficiaries. This was followed by a question and answer session to compliment the observations made in the field and better understand the difficulties faced by the farmers. Through this forum we shared information on solutions to the identified problems. Communication was both in French and the local dialect, through the use of a community facilitator identified during the training session on *eru* domestication.

##### **A. Observations:**

A number of problems were identified. Some were linked to the mastery of the *eru* domestication methodology (technical problems) while others were linked to dynamics of the *eru* domestication groups.

A.1: Two technical problems were observed namely:

Yellowing of leaves (cuttings) in the propagators in two communities

Improper watering of cuttings in the propagators (provision of too much or less water )

A.2: Problems related to the dynamics of the eru domestication groups included:

- ◇ Failure to pot rooted cuttings despite successful rooting at the recommended periods (6-8 weeks after insertion)
- ◇ Improper care of the propagators as evidenced by holes and leakages
- ◇ Poor participation of trainees in routine nursery follow up activities after training



**Mr. Tanda exposes a successfully rooted eru cutting**

## B. Results

The technical support visit was designed to address the technical problems related to eru domestication. At the end of the first technical follow-up visit:

- a. Members of the forest communities gained practical skills in potting rooted cuttings, weaning and shade management in pre-nurseries and eru farms (demonstration farms)
- a. Second batches of at least 150 (totaling 450 for the three communities) cuttings were successfully inserted in the rooting propagators in the three pilot communities.
- b. An agreement was reached for a second technical follow-up visit and an exchange field visit from December 12, 2010.
- c. Shade and demonstration units were maintained.

The presence of CENDEP specialists in the field attracted many youths and others interested in eru domestication. They participated in :

- ◇ Weeding/clearing in and around propagators and shade as well as ringing of Eru vines planted in demonstration units during the training
- ◇ Repairing of holes on propagators
- ◇ Soil mixture preparation and potting
- ◇ Potting of rooted cuttings
- ◇ Putting in place of a nursery monitoring and activity table to avoid problems attributed to negligence on their part.
- ◇ Collection of new cuttings, preparation and insertion



### **C. Analysis of the observations, discussions & recommendations**

As earlier mentioned, both technical and institutional issues were observed to be hampering the smooth running of eru domestication activities in the target communities.

Success rate with the rooting of cuttings varied from 24.6% in Djalobékoé to 84.3% in Mendoungue. The high success rate at Mendoungue was due to the fact that the community ability to follow the recommendations of the trainers. In the absence of the trainers they were able to:

- ◇ Protect the propagators with palm fronds to limit the amount of direct entry of sunlight into the rooting propagators.
- ◇ Monitor and maintain the water level in the propagators at the recommended levels
- ◇ Do daily damping of inserted Eru cuttings in the rooting propagators
- ◇ Check for rooting at the recommended time (6-8 weeks after insertion)
- ◇ Daily removal of dew on the inner walls of rooting propagators

This achievement was related to the level of organization of the group. The group assigned monitoring tasks to members. The group leader had good leadership skills and was able to mobilize his group members to cater for the propagator and demonstration farm.

In other communities where this leadership position was lacking, the communities did not protect the propagators from sunlight, check for rooting at the right time and this led to overgrown roots that could not be properly potted.

Complaints of nursery materials were met through the supply of watering cans and polythene bags.

The success story from Mendoungue can be used to booster adoption of the Eru propagation technology in other communities. In order to evaluate if there have been positive changes in the farmers before the next technical visit certain tasks were allowed for them to accomplish before the next visit such as completing the insertion of cuttings into propagators and the reinforcement of nursery shade.

From observation and technical point of view, the absence of immediate technical follow-up immediately after the training resulted to some failures observed. The yellowing of leaves was caused by the prolonged penetration of sunlight through the propagator into the cuttings. This would have been avoided if a technical support visit was conducted between week 3 and week 5 after training in order to reinforce sheltering shade with palm fronts even though at Mendoungue, the forest community was able to do this on their own. The waterlogged medium at Djalobékoé caused Eru cutting tip rot. Even though the 'bore hole technique' recommended by the trainers was applied, it was not thoroughly done. This could have been rescued if support was immediate. These are common problems faced by new eru farmers and can be easily overcome with through technical support.

Community participation after the training was poor.

The causes of poor participation could be suggested to be coming from the exclusion of youths in the Eru domestication training; lack of leadership in two of the three community groups; lack of group dynamics, understanding and organization. The youths turned out during the support visit and began acquiring knowledge on the training. This is a positive indication that the technology will spread if efforts are made to sustain the initiated actions.

During the first technical support visit a date was agreed with the communities for the second visit which would involve an exchange visit. Because this could not be respected, CENDEP kept in touch with the contact persons in the communities informing them of the delay. The visit could not take place because of delays in paperwork and transfer of funds to CENDEP. We will be communicating a new date for the visit in January 2011 after consultation with CIFOR.

### **Recommendations**

- I. Efforts should be made to address the issues of group dynamics that are surfacing in 2 of the 3 groups visited. We also recommend that a group dynamic training be organized to help the existing groups understand the role of and functions of members as well as group responsibility, goals and objectives.
- II. It is important for follow up to continue for at least a year to give the trainees the chance to experience eru domestication (seedling production, farm establishment and management, harvesting, processing and marketing)
- III. Finally a training of trainers' workshop should be organized for the already trained farmers so that they can continue to provide proximity support to new farmers when the project ends.



***Proper shade management: Rooted cuttings***



***Bad shade management: Yellowish cuttings; no***

***Rooting of cuttings***

## **Honey Stakeholder Sensitization On Value Chain Development**

**By Ngah Presley Bongnjo**

On November 25, 2010, at Kumbo in the NW Region Cameroon, 30 honey value chain development stakeholders comprising honey farmers, processors, economic operators, micro financial institutions, delegates of honey farmers from bee farming groups, local NGOs and government officials meet in a workshop to contribute in the development of a support program for bee farmers in Bui and Ndonga Mantung Divisions of the NW Region of Cameroon. The workshop was organized by the Centre For Nursery Development and Eru Propagation, CENDEP, within the framework of the Cameroon Sustainable Forest Management Program, expected to be financed by ICCO from 2011-2015 and to be implemented by an a coalition of the Interchurch Organization For Development Cooperation, ICCO, partners in Cameroon. Workshop participants commented on the action plan prepared by CENDEP and submitted to ICCO. The workshop came at the end of a one week rapid survey by CENDEP to update her action plan.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

Inform all the relevant stakeholders of CENDEP's plan to contribute in the development of the value chain for savannah honey during the period 2011-2015.

Improve CENDEP's understanding of the existing savannah honey value chain and update her action plan

Know other Honey Value Chain Development stakeholders and initiate collaboration with and amongst them

A combination of approaches that included presentations, group work, question and answer sessions, and a market place were used to collect and share information.

Participants' expectations included knowledge of the concept of value chain and of the various texts and laws governing the honey sector in Cameroon. In order to better inform and prepare the participants for group work and the market place the following presentations were made:

Workshop background & objectives by Wirsiy Eric Fondzenyuy

Findings of the rapid survey on Savannah Honey and Value Chain Development concept by Mr. Periemintah Ndzefemmegho

The workshop participants were split into three groups to address key issues related to their roles.

*Bee farmers* highlighted lack of appropriate bee farming knowledge, equipment, finances, conflicts with crop and livestock farmers and markets as major challenges in bee keeping. They suggested exchange visits to successful groups/farmers to learn from each other.

*Microfinance Institutions (MFI)* identified poor farm to market roads, price fluctuations, low yields due to poor farming practices and lastly dishonesty amongst farmers as their major difficulties in financing agricultural activities. None of the MFI present had supported bee farming in the past.

However they had supported crop farmers through education and provision of fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices. They recognized their strength vis-à-vis other financial institutions such as low interest rates, proximity to farmers, interest free loans for farmers to acquire fertilizers. They were eager to see an improvement in the honey market as well as the registration of more farmers and farming groups in credit unions so as that farmers could benefit from the numerous opportunities and credit facilities they offer.

*The honey processors (buyers)* complained of the poor quality honey supplied to them by bee farmers due to poor harvesting methods such as use of cow dung in smokers, harvesting under rain that resulted in addition of water to the honey, making it susceptible to bacterial contamination, the inability for them to test honey for water content, do microbial count, sugar content etc.

They requested action by other chain actors such as extension service providers (Government and NGO) to assist farmers to improve on the quality of their production as well as organize them to facilitate purchase/marketing of their produce. They saw the need to continue to network amongst themselves after the workshop.

The key government service regulating bee farming and export marketing activities in Cameroon (Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries & Animal Industries, MINEPIA) was absent and other services present felt incompetent to address the issues under debate. The CENDEP field team would later meet them to seek their input.

A market place was organized and enabled participants to know each other in detail. As a result of the market place farmers established business links with processors. Market information such as the demand for propolis by Guiding Hope was shared. For some participants especially farmers from remote areas it was the first time for them to meet on the same table with almost every body who had a say in honey business. Participants were able to meet with people who had a solution to one or more problems that had been worrying them.

Participants were asked to reflect on and analyze why a participating farmer abandoned hives in the forest without harvesting them for lack of market while a processor in the same meeting was unable to meet the demands of her customers due to the lack of capital to purchase honey from the producer. In the same meeting was a credit union manager (MFI) who complained farmers were not making use of the financial services offered by his organization.

A few weeks after this workshop CENDEP was invited to share her experience in the honey and eru value chain with other organizations interested in introducing the concept in their working areas. Thus Mr. Ngah Presly made a presentation in Abong Mbang, in East Cameroon during a workshop organized by CADEFÉ for stakeholders implicated in the “Njangsang” sub sector. Njangsang is one of the non timber forest products selected for value chain development by a coalition of ICCO partners in Cameroon.

Other ICCO partners at the workshop included CERUT, CAMECO, CEPFILD. They also made presentations based on their experiences on the value chains for pepper, moabi and cassava respectively

## **“Using Carbon as a funding mechanism for conservation”**

***By Periementah Kutocheh Ndzemfemmegho***

In February 2010, CENDEP was selected to attend a three-phase training on “Using Carbon as a Funding Mechanism for Conservation”. This training was offered by the World Land Trust, WLT in collaboration with the Netherlands Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN NL.

The training was in three phases with eliminations at each stage:

1<sup>st</sup> Workshop: Carbon funding mechanisms, lessons learned from projects in Africa and opportunities for the future.

2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop: On site demonstration of a carbon forest restoration project

3<sup>rd</sup> Project development training for NGOs to develop proposals ready to submit for funding.

The aim was for World Land Trust and IUCN NL to enhance capacities of African partner NGOs to use carbon as a funding mechanism for conservation. It was designed to cover both general aspects of global climate policy and associated funding mechanisms along with technical aspects of voluntary forest carbon projects with high biodiversity value. It also explored lessons learned from existing forest carbon projects in Africa, identifying key challenges and opportunities for such projects in the African context.



Mr. Wirsiy Eric Fondzenyuy attended the first workshop in Ghana and handed the relay to Mr.

***Perry (extreme left) & other trainees working with Raj (Face the Future) on their PINs***

Periementah Kutocheh Ndzemfemmegho who had the relevant technical background for the second workshop. CENDEP made it to the last phase of the training and benefited from Face the Future’s expertise through coaching in the development of the Project Idea Note (PIN) that was judged viable for funding by investors.

The major outcome of the workshops was the introduction of climate mitigation strategies through reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) and the development of REDD project idea notes (PINs). REDD+ is an innovative business like conservation approach that is expected to provide long term financing for forest conservation and restoration initiatives that have clear benefits for the local people, biodiversity and the global society. The development of PINs was specific to each organization and reflected the realities each organization faces at the national or regional level. International standards such as the Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) were the guiding principles used in developing the PINs.

### *Outcomes of the training*

At the end of the training, CENDEP developed a REDD+ feasibility study for two indigenous forest reserves – Rumpi hills and Nta-Ali of Southwestern Cameroon – one of the regions where she intervenes. The goal of the project is to avoid deforestation and enhance carbon stocks through the introduction of afforestation and reforestation (A/R) in the two forest reserves that comprise the support zones of the Korup National Park with a surface area of 85,486ha. Drawing from very conservative estimates, project implementation is expected to generate 3,294,165 tCO<sub>2</sub> of Voluntary Carbon Units (VCUs) (already discounting non-permanence and leakage buffers).

As a result of the training, CENDEP has been partnering with Face the Future. CENDEP and Face the Future share a similar mission of creating a sustainable planet and future, by rehabilitating and conserving forests and other ecosystems. While CENDEP is addressing this mission through the analog forestry ecosystem restoration method, Face the Future develops forest rehabilitating and forest conservation projects, including carbon certification.

Face the Future's business model consists in:

- Consultancy (PIN, PDD, etc.)
- Sale and brokering of carbon credits
- Combination of both two
  - i. PDD, etc. at discounted rate or in-kind investment
  - ii. Revenue share of carbon sales

The CENDEP Face the Future partnership is intended to enable the local communities with whom CENDEP works to benefit from the emerging carbon trade for their conservation work. This conservation work can be partly funded for by the price that is paid for the amount of carbon sequestered when a well designed and implemented forest rehabilitation or conservation project results in clear benefits for local communities, the global society and biodiversity, so a true triple win situation. CENDEP and her target group intends to tap from Face the Future's expertise on sale and brokering of carbon credits.

In December 2010, CENDEP applied the knowledge acquired from this training in developing and submitting a concept note on a REDD+ project to the International Climate Initiative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

The proposed REDD+ will be carried out in the support zones of two forest reserves with a surface area of 85,486ha. Management shall consist in avoiding deforestation and introducing reforestation and afforestation. A proposed stakeholder management board will complement work of a technical operation unit that oversees the region's forest management initiatives.

**We are very thankful to IUCN NL and WLT for making it possible for our staff members to participate in this training.**

## **Dr. Tasila Banda visits CENDEP's proposed REDD+ project sites**

**By Wirsiy Eric Fondzenyuy**

In December 2010 Face the future, Netherlands - a carbon project developer ([www.face-thefuture.com](http://www.face-thefuture.com)), and partner of CENDEP visited CENDEP's proposed REDD+ project sites to investigate the eligibility of lands for reforestation activities. During the visit she discussed the possibility of project start-up with the local communities and policy makers at the regional level, enquired about the Designated National Authority for Cameroon and sensitized all those she meet on carbon trade. To pass her message she often made reference to, for example, Dutch people who are not ready to stop flying their planes and polluting the atmosphere and the population pressure on forests. She intimidated that since without the services and resources provided by forests, it would simply be impossible to live on earth, it was necessary for a win-win relationship be developed between the Dutch and forest dependent people. Thus polluters have to pay for the conservation of forests so that they continue to play their vital role while the people living in and around these forests also can live better lives. Dr. Tasila was led to the field by a team from CENDEP.

In Mundemba Subdivision where the Rumpi Forest reserve is located we made a field visit with the guidance of the local forestry chief of post, in charge of controlling and monitoring activities in the reserve. During the field visit, we noted and took photographs of the threat levels of the reserve.



**Encroachment into Forest Reserves: Cocoa farm in the Nta-Ali Forest Reserve**

Following this field visit, a stakeholder meeting was held in the conference hall of the delegation of Forestry and wildlife, Mundemba. This meeting comprised 15 participants from the local administration as well as leaders from the surrounding communities. A brief introduction and sensitization of the meaning of REDD+ at the sub national level as well as the market potential of carbon in intact forests was presented to the participants by the visiting team and after the presentations, a

question and answer session followed that further clarified certain misconceptions. It was unanimously acknowledged that continuous sensitization of the REDD+ process is a very necessary first step if REDD+ is to be entrenched in the community's consciousness.

Several speakers representing their village communities pledged taking home the message and spreading it during council sessions as the case of the Mayor of Mundedemba Central Subdivision and during traditional council meetings as the case for village chiefs.

The second phase of the visit was to assess the Nta-Ali Forest reserve site as well as meet with the local administrative and community leaders just as the case of the Rumpi Hills. We arrived the site from the southern end and on hand to guide us



**Cocoa is an important cash earner in the area:Farmer Dry- ing Cocoa Beans in the Sun:**

was the forestry chief of post in Eyang Atem Ako. He controls and monitors both the Nta-Ali forest reserve and the neighboring Banyang Bo wildlife sanctuary. The guided tour into the forest presented the opportunity for Dr. Tasila to take notes, photographs and GPS points of the forest boundary. It also provided an opportunity to appraise the relationship between the activities of the surrounding populations and the forest reserve and

also how these activities impact either positively or negatively on the reserve.

Following the guided tour in the forest, we then proceeded to the divisional headquarters of Tinto for the meeting with all invited stakeholders. 17 participants attended the meeting and the visiting team presented the purpose of the visit just as in the case of the Rumpi Hills.



**Dr. Tasila Addressing Community Leaders in Tinto**

Following the presentations, a discussion session started with some questions getting clarifications and some specific issues raised which could be summed up as follows:



- One. A serious shortage of cocoyam (*Colocasia* spp.) – the next most important food crop after cocoa was noticed during this past year due to its leaves drying up and which was attributed to climate change. Overcoming this phenomenon was suggested as a possible project activity with the communities.
- Two. The idea of cocoa trees absorbing carbon dioxide and whether carbon credits can be donated to cocoa farmers was raised and it was clarified that it is theoretically possible but would be practically feasible if cocoa agro forests are promoted (integrating cocoa trees with improved cultivars of economic tree crops such as “country onion”, “bush mango”, “bitter cola” etc.
- Three. Land shortage within the communities as a result of proximity to the forest reserve was a huge concern and with increasing population, there’s the fear that the population may run out of land to feed their growing families. The visiting team – notably CENDEP stressed on the need to practice improved farming techniques as technologies have proven that smallholder farmers can still feed their growing numbers on the same piece of land without having to encroach into the intact forest in search of fertile lands.
- Four. Due to the high rates of encroachment into the reserve, one participant remarked that it would be impossible for the community to allocate 4000 hectares of community land for any reforestation effort as a weak forest control mechanisms could lead to forest encroachment.
- Five. As in the Rumpi, the Nta-Ali communities also have village forest management committees that manages village lands but they face serious challenges with some powerful individual interests and only through a concerted dialogue between CENDEP and the government on the one hand and the communities on the other hand can these challenges be overcome.
- Six. Adding value to cocoa production was also highlighted as a way to improve community livelihood and should be noted a possible project activity.

It was observed that reserve boundaries are clear and recognized by the communities even if there is encroachment. It was not possible to ascertain if encroachment was above the observed rates as there is a general spirit of mistrust in some of the communities. People fear REDD+ is a strategy to evict them from their land. Further sensitization is essential.

The third and last phase of the visit was a meeting with policy makers at the regional level to first of all inform them of the visits undertaken within their areas of jurisdiction and secondly to assess the policy gaps that needed to be filled if any REDD+ project activity is to take off in the proposed sites.

Three officials were earmarked for the meeting namely: the regional delegate of Forestry and Wildlife, the regional delegate of Environment and Nature Protection and the director of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Unfortunately our visit coincided with the end of year planning meeting of the forestry sector in the region. In spite of this development, the delegates dispatched representatives to attend our meeting and give them a feedback.

During the meeting, the CENDEP team presented a background to the visit in general as well as a synopsis of the field visit to the two forest reserves.



**Dr. Tasila Presents Face the Future**

This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation of Face the Future and its activities/clientele worldwide by Dr. Tasila Banda. Following her presentation, discussions centered on providing clarifications of the policy environment as far as REDD+ projects in Cameroon is concerned.

Specific mention was made on the following items:

i. Texts or statements in the 1994 Forestry law de-

scribing ownership of the forest/carbon.

ii. Land-use maps and forest management plans of the Rumpi Hills and Nta-Ali forest reserves.

iii. Maps showing degradation of both forest reserves.

iv. Requirements for authorization of REDD+ projects at the national level.

Policy clarification on who owns environmental service in Cameroon (e.g.) carbon sequestered.

The representative of the forestry delegate stated that at the moment the forestry department is not involved in any REDD+ activities or financing but hinted that during the second implementation phase of the National Forest Environment Sectoral Programme (FESP) which commences in 2015, provisions has been made to begin fundraising within the framework of a potential REDD+ program.

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**Bikes: Went to where vehicles could not**

#### **Problems encountered during the visit**

The road linking the two reserves was impassable at some spots and we had to resort to the use of motorcycles locally known as “Benskin or Ocada”.

The bureaucracy of the local administration was a serious hindrance. We could not organize meetings without authorization from some service heads who were sometimes not on site to issue the meeting permits. Notwithstanding they were very collaborative at the end.



**Our vehicle could not stand the roads!!**

#### **Challenges for REDD+ in Cameroon.**

The reaction from the communities was largely positive but it should be noted that both communities stressed the need for continuous sensitization of the meaning, scope and benefits of REDD+ credits at all strata within the communities. This is the main challenge for CENDEP as an organization. Most of the communities have never benefited from any forest royalty disbursements either from the state or from logging companies operating in the area. Introducing another benefit sharing mechanism within the framework of REDD+ and convincing communities to buy into it would also be a huge challenge going forward.

It is hoped, however, that given the necessary financial and logistical support, the positive engagement that has commenced with the communities will translate into real and tangible outcomes through sensitization and carbon enhancement projects way before any REDD+ credit begin to trickle.

## Way Forward

The way forward as far as REDD+ project implementation in the two forest reserves of south western Cameroon is concerned hinges on an enabling policy environment on the part of the government, continuous sensitization of the communities on the REDD+ process through environmental educational programs on the part of CENDEP, the continuous provision and exposure of CENDEP staff to capacity building training workshops that cover the range of technical interventions in the REDD+ process on the part of donors – notably IUCN NL and WLT and finally the continuous search for private sector /investor funding as well as guidance in project design document elaboration on the part of Face the future.

Summarily, if every stakeholder adheres to its role and responsibility, we sincerely hope that REDD+ will not just be a policy issue in Cameroon but a reality providing co-benefits to community development, climate stabilization.

# FOREST HOUSE

Forest House is a Non Governmental Business Enterprise and a subsidiary of CENDEP Cameroon. Forest House processes and markets non timber forest products whose production CENDEP is promoting.

We reinvest part of our profits in community efforts aimed at rehabilitating and conserving forest ecosystems

## forest house products



Dry Eru



Eru Seedlings



Honey

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