

**CENTRE FOR NURSERY DEVELOPMENT AND ERU PROPAGATION
(CENDEP)**



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(Restoration of degraded montane forests in Cameroon, using analogue forestry techniques)

(Project no.:600160)

Report:

2nd Project Review and Planning Workshop (August 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009)

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Executive summary

For one year now, CENDEP has been working with stakeholders in Bui Division in the North West Region of Cameroon, to introduce analogue forestry in the region. Seven communities are involved in the project. The project has as aim to restore degraded forest lands, improve forest cover around water catchment areas, and discourage unsustainable agricultural practices resulting in poor yields and soil impoverishment. It will result in the practice of organic farming for the improvement of food security, enhancement of income generating opportunities and promote the conservation of biodiversity.

This workshop is the second in the series coming behind the first one which took place on Thursday July 31st 2008 at CENDEP's Regional Office in Kumbo. The 35 workshop participants came from five of the seven project communities (Mbiame, Kitiwum, Sop, Wvem, Kikaikela'aki). Invited local NGOs and CBOs were also present as well as the catholic media news house "L'Effort Camerounais". Unavoidably absent were participants from Ngomrin and Jakiri as well as two government services (MINADER and MINFOF).

The aim of this workshop was to evaluate progress made in the last six months and to plan for the next six months.

Planned Activities:

The main planned activities for the period under review were:

a) Tree planting

Routine nursery activities were scheduled to raise seedlings so as to meet up with the needs of the target communities in tree seedlings.

b) Identification and selection of interested farmers to cultivate protected areas.

This was in line with the analogue forestry restoration process (agricultural phase). The farmers catered for the young seedlings and planted food crops in the cultivated areas.

c) Eradication of invasive species from the forest and water catchments.

d) On-farm training sessions and demonstrations on organic farming and pasture improvement.

e) Environmental Education in schools

Main achievements

The main achievements realized during this period were:

- a. The selection and sowing of more than 10,000 seeds belonging to 20 different plant species in all the community nurseries
- b. Transplanting of 2589 seedlings of 15 different species into polythene bags in preparation for out planting with the advent of the rains.
- c. Out planting of 1311 tree seedlings (10 different species) in an estimated area of 7.54ha giving a total of 11.54ha of degraded land so far been planted with trees
- d. A total of 210 interested farmers were selected and trained to cultivate in protected areas on land estimated at 40ha. These farmers cultivate a variety of crops for consumption and surpluses for sale, thus an improvement in their livelihoods. Their presence in these areas also contributed to the high survival rate ($\geq 80\%$) of the planted trees. Two income generating activities (apple cultivation and snail farming) were introduced in the different communities and a total of 25 farmers were beneficiaries to this.
- e. Cattle farmers were trained on the production of improved pasture through the establishment of demonstration plots on their fields.
- f. Assisted natural regeneration was carried out through fire tracing, eradication of invasive species and enrichment planting,
- g. Environmental education was introduced in primary and secondary schools
- h. Efforts to sustain the project included:
 - Partnership with the New Forests Project that resulted in the acquisition of more than 5kg of seeds for reforestation and soil fertility improvement purposes as well as the preparation of a joint proposal in line with our reforestation activities.
 - At the local level CENDEP established win-win relations with GREEN CARE that led to joint seed collection expeditions and sharing of information on seed propagation techniques. In turn GREEN CARE embarked on promoting analogue forestry in her working area.
 - Through the IAFN, CENDEP indicated interest in carbon trading using analogue forestry (REDD activities). IAFN is proposing putting CENDEP in direct contact with First Climate www.firstclimate.com and First climate is reviewing her capacity to provide technical assistance to integrate CENDEP and others into the Carbon trading system. First Climate has also indicated there is potential in

developing analogue forests into a REDD project. If this works then there is potential for CENDEP to continue restoration work on all of the 750ha of degraded Mbiame community forest. Through this project CENDEP has targeted just 30ha (4%) of the 750 ha

The main difficulties encountered included:

- low participation in community work (principally nursery activities) as it was the same community members participating in carrying nursery and out planned activities,
- Discouragement by detractors,
- Demand for refreshments and motivation by some community members after field work,
- Continued grazing by some graziers in and around protected areas.

Notwithstanding, there was a general improvement in the number of people participating as 210 farmers agreed to cater for the planted trees while cultivating seasonal crops for their own use.

After brainstorming it was agreed that the following income generating activities be promoted to ensure that farmers get an alternative income to improve on their livelihoods or to assist forest and water management institutions to generate income to run their activities when the project ends.

Client Category	Activity chosen	Type of support needed	Comments
Water and Forest Management committees	a. Bee keeping	a. Technical know-how b. Materials/equipment (hives, harvesting equipment) c. Transformation and marketing of products	Hives would be installed in the forest and managed by the committee members. Revenue from sales would contribute income to sustain the institutions
Farmers	a. Improvement of local poultry.	a. Technical know-how b. Medication c. Improved breeds	The package consists in increasing local poultry stocks using the “Egg Replacement Technique” and protecting it from disease outbreaks.
	d. Bee keeping	a. Technical know-how b. Materials/equipment (hives, harvesting	Hives would be owned by individual farmers while equipment like

		equipment) c. Transformation and marketing of products	bee suits, smokers would be collectively owned or rented from the forest/water management institutions
	e. Fruit tree planting	a. Seedlings	Seedlings would be planted on individual farms. This initiative is ongoing
Government and NGOs	a. World environment day 2009.	Organisation	CENDEP should use this event to further raise awareness on her on going project.

Recommendations included:

- i. Involvement of more secondary schools in environmental education (EE) activities. This would help address the problem of low turn out for nursery and out planting activities as students belonging to EE clubs could be taken out to the field to support some activities as part of their practical exercises.
- ii. Intensification of the production of improved pasture in order to reduce farmer grazier problems.
- iii. Sharing of records on trees raised and out planted in the various communities with the local administration and other stakeholders
- iv. That the next workshop take place in one of the project villages as this could contribute in sensitizing the community

Introduction

The Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP) is a grassroots organization. It is an offspring of a farmers' group that was trained in 1999 on the domestication of a forest vegetable known as Eru (*Gnetum africanum*). CENDEP has as mission to assist and/or train local people in the domestication, sustainable production and marketing of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and agricultural products of economic importance and in the sustainable management of natural resources. It also engages in analogue forestry for the restoration of degraded forest lands, improvement of forest cover around water catchments, and to discourage inefficient slash and burn agriculture in favour of organic farming with the aim of improving food security, enhance income generating opportunities and promote the conservation of biodiversity in the montane forests of Cameroon.

In February 2008, CENDEP launched a project to introduce analogue forestry in Cameroon starting with stakeholders in seven communities in Bui Division of the North West Region of Cameroon. Funding for this project is provided by IUCN NL through the Ecosystem Grant Programme. The objective of the project is to contribute in resolving the region's environmental problems resulting from:

- a. extensive subsistence agriculture and low harvests,
- b. weak community tenure rights that lead to unsustainable resource use and
- c. the introduction of invasive species in former forest sites.

To ensure participatory monitoring and evaluation, six-monthly review and planning workshops were programmed with the following objectives:

- a. to evaluate progress;
- b. to plan for the next six months and
- c. to make recommendations for amendment of agreed activities so that corrective measures can be taken to ensure maximum achievement of project results.

This workshop is the second in the series coming behind the first one which took place on Thursday July 31st 2008 at CENDEP's Regional Office in Kumbo. Participants at the workshop came from five of the project communities (Mbiame, Kitiwum, Sop, Wvem, Kikaikela'aki). Invited local NGOs and CBOs were also present as well as the catholic media news house "L'Effort Camerounais". Unavoidably absent were participants from Ngomrin and Jakiri as well as two government services (MINADER and MINFOF).

Workshop Process

The workshop officially kicked off at exactly 10.00 am with an opening prayer given by Mr. Wiysenyuy Joachim, a workshop participant. This was immediately followed by a word from the delegate of CENDEP who used the occasion to express satisfaction with the level of participation. He further explained the *raison etre* of the workshop and urged all present to actively participate to ensure that all that would be deliberated upon will serve as a yard stick to contribute in further improving the way in which the project was being run. This he said was to guarantee success. At the end of his speech, participants then took the floor to introduce themselves.

This was followed by a general overview of project achievements during which the project coordinator, Mr. Wirsiy Eric highlighted the achievements of far made, the efforts towards sustaining project activities as well as project challenges. This was followed by presentations of field reports by the two field facilitators, Lawir Felix Yuven and Jivirka Ernestine. After each presentation, room was given to participants for reactions through a question and answer session during which issues of doubt were clarified and suggestions/recommendations made. Brainstorming was then conducted to agree on the income generating activities that the project would focus on during the next phase. The venue for the next workshop was debated and agreed upon. This was followed by closing remarks by the delegate of CENDEP, refreshment, group photographs and departure of participants to their various locations. The workshop ended at 3.30pm.

Planned activities for the period

The main planned activities for the period under review were:

- a) Tree planting
- b) Routine nursery activities were carried out to raise seedlings so as to meet up with the needs of the target communities in tree seedlings.
- c) Identification and selection of interested farmers to cultivate protected areas.
- d) This was in line with the analogue forestry restoration process (agricultural phase). The farmers catered for the young seedlings and planted food crops in the cultivated areas.
- e) Eradication of invasive species from the forest and water catchments.

- f) On-farm trainings and demonstrations on organic farming and pasture improvement.
- g) Environmental Education in schools

Main achievements

In the reporting period 1311 tree seedlings belonging to 10 different species were planted on 7.54ha of degraded forest and water catchment areas. This brought the surface area planted since the beginning of the project to 11.54ha giving a percentage achievement of 115.4 (10ha were targeted for the first year). To ensure additional protection on the trees planted, a 300m fence was constructed along the forest

A total of 210 interested farmers were selected and trained to practice analogue forestry on communal land earmarked for protection. In addition to the protection they offered to the planted trees, their presence in these areas has equally curbed the phenomenon of out migration in search of arable land. The farmers cultivated a variety of food crops that increased the food production. Excesses were sold to generate income. Farming in these areas was according to laid down guidelines. In Mbiame farmers signed agreements indicating that they were caretakers and not the owners of the trees planted.

The eradication of eucalyptus stands from the forest was carried out twice a month and water retention pools constructed to provide water for wild life. Footprints and droppings were an indication that these pools were being used by wild life.

Apples were introduced into individual farms as a means to diversify income. Twenty five farmers were involved in the initiative. Snails were distributed for trial purposes to some farmers.

Environmental education was introduced in 6 schools in the project area. Activities undertaken were linked to analogue forestry and included amongst others, lessons on current key environmental issues such as the causes of global warming and the importance of tree planting, naming of the different tree species found in the community nursery, (their uses and means of propagation) and above all, the introduction of Analogue Forestry as a new forest management technique aimed at establishing tree dominated ecosystems analogous in architectural structure and

ecological function to that which existed in the area. Tree nurseries were established in four schools that had regular water supply and where there was assurance of proper management and maintenance during holidays.

Training was conducted on agroforestry as a tool to control erosion, use of vetiver technology in erosion control. Six cattle owners grazing around the communal forest received training on improved pasture production and 6kg of improved pasture seeds. The seeds were used to establish demonstration plots on their grazing land.

The New Forests Project through her partnership donated five Kg of the following tree species for nursery work.

<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	1.5Kg
<i>Albizia lebbek</i>	1Kg
<i>Cajanus cajan</i>	500g
<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	1Kg
<i>Sesbania sesban</i>	1Kg
Total	5Kg

Another consignment of seeds has been dispatched and is awaited. These seeds will be used for agroforestry (soil improvement) and water filtration ([Moringa oleifera](#)).

CENDEP through the International Analogue Forestry Network (IAFN) indicated interest in carbon trading using analogue forestry (REDD activities). IAFN is proposing putting CENDEP in direct contact with First Climate www.firstclimate.com and First climate is reviewing her capacity to provide technical assistance to integrate CENDEP and others into the Carbon trading system. First Climate has indicated there is potential in developing analogue forests into a REDD project. If this works then there is potential for CENDEP to continue restoration work on all of the 750ha of degraded Mbiame community forest. Through this project CENDEP is reforesting just 30ha (4%) of the 750 ha

CENDEP and GREEN CARE organized joint seed collection expeditions and shared information on seed sources as well as propagation techniques. CENDEP staff received hands on training on germinating some local tree species from GREEN CARE which got involved in Analogue forestry dissemination in her project area

A seed bank was completed and is being used for seed storage, germination tests and propagation trials

Income Generating Activities

During the past one year less attention was paid to the promotion of income generating activities. The major activity was sensitization and tree planting. During brainstorming session at the workshop a list of the activities identified as income generating activities during the first six months were presented to participants. For example, to the “Water and Forest Management Committees” the following questions were asked:

1. During the first Six-monthly Project review workshop water and forest management committee members suggested that if the following activities were promoted it could enable them to generate income to run the activities of the various committees.

2. Now select the most important activity and explain the type of support you need and indicate how you intend to continue these activities when the project ends. Who would be responsible for what, when, etc.

The results of the brainstorming session were as follows

Client Category	Activity chosen	Type of support needed	Comments
Water and Forest Management committees	b. Bee keeping	d. Technical know-how e. Materials/equipment (hives, harvesting equipment) f. Transformation and marketing of products	Hives would be installed in the forest and managed by the committee members. Revenue from sales would contribute income to sustain the institutions
Farmers	b. Improvement of local poultry.	f. Technical know-how g. Medication h. Improved breeds	The package consists in increasing local poultry stocks using the “Egg Replacement Technique” and protecting it from disease outbreaks.
	i. Bee keeping	d. Technical know-how e. Materials/equipment (hives, harvesting	Hives would be owned by individual farmers while equipment like

		equipment) f. Transformation and marketing of products	bee suits, smokers would be collectively owned or rented from the forest/water management institutions
	j. Fruit tree planting	b. Seedlings	Seedlings would be planted on individual farms. This initiative is ongoing
Government and NGOs	b. World environment day 2009.	Organisation	CENDEP should use this event to further raise awareness on her on going project.

Reactions to the presentations

Overview of the project achievements

The Divisional delegate of Environment and Nature Protection asked to know if prior to the distribution of snails to interested farmers training was organized on snail husbandry. The answer was no, and that the activity was mainly to find out if snails would withstand environmental conditions in the project area. In this respect project staff were the ones responsible for the management of the trial pens, this of course in collaboration with the farmers.

The delegate also reminded CENDEP of the need to keep in touch with the Designated National Authority (DNA) in Yaoundé, that determines if Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects meet the criteria for sustainable development and approves them. On her part CENDEP assured the delegate that she was in contact with UNEP and that UNEP has indicated she would invite CENDEP in 2009 for a workshop in relation to the development of CDM projects in Cameroon.

Mbiame Field Report

The delegate of MINEP asked to know the progress achieved in relation to the acquisition of a community forest status for the Mbiame communal forest. In response the field staff, Mr. Lawir Felix reminded that ANCO was in possession of the documents and following up the process. This was not previewed for this project but CENDEP was willing to collaborate if need be.

On the issue of lack of income to run forest management committee activities he asked why the Mbiame Forest Management Institution (FMI) was not making use of the wood resulting from the ongoing eucalyptus eradication process in the communal forest to generate income or why the institution has not considered non extractive use of the forest such as installing hives in the forest or charging community members who have installed hives in the forest to pay some money for the running of the institution. He also raised worries on the persistent reports of low turn out for community work and suggested that secondary school within and without Mbiame be included in EE activities. In this way they could participate in tree planting and nursery activities.

The field worker explained that eucalyptus being eradicated from the forest could not be used for timber as it was made up of sprouts from stumps, the real timber having been cut down by an earlier project. The only area where valuable timber could be obtained belonged to an individual. One community member explained that they had intended selling the wood as fuel wood but for the fact that it was stolen.

The deputy major for Kumbo council remarked that the Kumbo council is in dire need of ornamental trees and that this should be included in the list of trees for the community nursery to generate some income for communities to pilot their affairs. He promised providing a list of ornamental trees that could be included in the community nurseries for income generation.

On the issue of cattle encroaching in the forest it was suggested that efforts be intensified to assist graziers to improve on their pasture rather than confronting them in law courts as their cattle would always need pasture./

Kitiwum field report

The delegate of MINEP expressed worries on the survival rate of trees that were planted after August towards the approach of the dry season. He also asked to know why so many farmers were allowed to cultivate around the water catchment knowing that their practices could result in fire incident. In response he was told that strict measures have been taken to ensure the compliance of farmers to agreed norms when cultivating protected areas. An example was the signing of agreements by farmers that they would leave the area once the trees mature and farming no longer feasible.

The representative of the Major of Kumbo council reminded CENDEP that the council donated a total of 3500 trees that were planted at the Kitiwum and Kikaikelaki catchments and he expected that gesture to be mentioned in the presentation of reports from those areas. He equally reminded the field staff for this area to make contacts with the Jakiri council for there are funds made available in all the councils to support such initiatives.

One participant asked to know why the community facilitator was silent on the issue of farmer grazier problems and asked to know if this problem did not exist in her area. The answer was given by a participant from the area who said it was thanks to the efforts of the caretaker of the water catchment that another fire incident had not taken place. He explained that graziers in this area have continued to use fire as a means to stimulate the sprouting of vegetation for their cattle during the dry season. He explained the community was making all efforts of maintaining good relationships with the graziers by for example providing water for their cattle. On the other hand the graziers were not collaborating as they are not willing to make their own contributions towards the maintenance of water taps meant for their cattle.

Difficulties encountered.

The low turn out of community members for project activities despite the sensitization efforts undertaken earlier on is an on-going challenge. This is confounded by the fact that some community members compare past project interventions where compensations in terms of financial reward were given before any project activity is being carried out.

Another difficulty was to balance the urgent need of community members to generate income for their families as well as to restore local biodiversity for which they did not see any immediate gains. This difficulty was overcome by allowing farmers to cultivate annual crops in areas where they were forbidden from cultivating in the past. This cultivation, however, followed laid down rules that protects the environment and was instituted both by the project and the local administrative officials in an effort to sustainably manage scarce land resources as well as provide immediate benefits to these farming communities.

Despite sensitization and efforts to assist local herders to improve on pasture for their cattle there was still threat from livestock farmers who were still grazing in forest areas allowed by past projects to regenerate naturally. Vulnerable areas where farming was allowed were fenced both to protect the young trees and the crops. Threat from bush fires persisted but when it occurred the fires were quickly put off by the community members.

Suggestions/observations

One of the major outcomes of the workshop was the recommendation made by participants for the project to target secondary schools and not just the primary schools in their Environmental Education program. Secondary school children could assist in tree planting. This approach it was reported has been successfully implemented by some local councils.

General remarks

The divisional delegate of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP) expressed satisfaction with the level of achievement so far attained and urged participants to demonstrate their full commitment to the project by participating in project activities and sensitizing other members of the community to join them. He equally advised some NGOs present who are intervening in Bui division especially those in the domain of environmental protection and related fields to emulate the example of CENDEP by also organizing workshops to present their activities. He further challenged CENDEP to take the initiative of organizing commemorative activities to mark the celebration of this year's World Environment Day come June 5, 2009.

Closing remarks

The executive director of CENDEP expressed his delight at the success of the workshop and assured all the participants that their contributions shall be taken into full consideration in the implementation of the project. He hailed all local stakeholders for their commitment and support towards the successful implementation of the Analogue Forestry Project in Bui. He then declared the workshop close and wished all the participants a safe journey back to their destinations.

List of participants

Name	Community/Organisation
BELINDA TOMLA	SOP
DINE ALEX NYUYFODZE	KIKAIKELAKI
DINE ERNESTINE NYUYFODZE	CENDEP
DZEKAMELIV HENRY	MBIAME
FAAY WO KIKAIKELAKI	KIKAIKELAKI
FEDZE LAWRENCE	WVEM
FONYEH PATRICK	KITIWUM
JOACHIM WIYSENYUY	SAVE THE YOUNG
LAINJO VINCENT MBINKAR	MBIAME
LAMBIV H. GEORGE	KITIWUM
LAWIR FELIX YUVEN	CENDEP
LAWRENCE MOMWON TATAH	WVEM
LONTUM FELIX	SOP
LOTAN ALEX	MBIAME
LUKONG EVELYNE	WVEM
MAIMO VALENTINE YUVEN	WVEM
MBINKAR MARY	MBIAME
NGORAN JOSEPH	KUMBO
NJODZEKA GILBERT	GREEN CARE
NJOLAI CAROLINE SHENYUY	WVEM
NSADZEYUF JUDE L	GREENERY
NSO CAROLINE	MBIAME
NTUTIN VITALIS NTEHYUKA	WVEM
ROMANUS KIMFOI	SOP
TABAH STEPHEN	KITIWUM
TUMI EMMANUEL	DELEGATE MINEP
WIRBA VENANTIUS	MBIAME
WIRKOM THOMAS TAR	NGONDZEN
WIRNDZEREM EMMANUEL V.	KUDOC
WIRSIY ERIC FONDZENYUY	CENDEP
WIRSIY LAWRENCE	SOP
YOUNDJIE KOLEOKO GABRIEL	CENDEP
YUFENYUY IBRAHIM	KUMBO COUNCIL
YUVEN JEAN MARIE	KUBUSCO
YUVEN PIUS	MBIAME

