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**CARPE Final Report: October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2006**

Project / Sub-Project No.	CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP
Agreement	Cooperative Agreement 623-A-00-03-00064-00 under leader with Associate Award LAG-A-00-99-00048-00
Sub-Project Title	Cameroon Focal Point
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Date submitted	November 15, 2006
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- **Name of Cameroon CARPE Focal Point:** Antoine Justin Eyebe
- **Partners that received USAID funding and/or that contributed cost share and technical support:** World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Global Forest Watch (GFW), World Conservation Union (IUCN), CARPE Focal Point

- **Total Cost of WWF/USAID Agreement**

	USAID	Cost Share	Total
WWF	\$352,916.83	\$148,577.79	\$501,494.62

- This report highlights activities carried out under the strategic planning of CARPE partners in Cameroon (IUCN, WWF, GFW) working with the focal point to achieve CARPE results as required by the program strategic objective and validated by the Performance Management Plan (PMP). Through the country team we were able to work outside of the landscapes on management practices and policies, strengthening environmental governance, and monitoring forests and other natural resources throughout Cameroon and beyond.

**2. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS**

**IR2 - Natural resources governance strengthened:**

**Indicator 1: Number of key new laws or policies for PAs, logging concessions, and CBNRM passed or old laws and policies reformed compared with a list of recommended or promoted reforms.**

- New definitions of norms for hunting in Cameroon were developed taking into account both CITES guidelines and the Cameroon context. This has resulted in civil society input/implication on key conservation issues such as the link between conservation and poverty alleviation around critical sites.
- Reinforced dialogue among stakeholders around protected areas through workshops and other negotiation tools permitted the reduction of conflicts.
- Stakeholders meetings on AFLEG Task Force functions were organized; legality and norms were reviewed.
- Communications enabled justice carried out against violators of wildlife and forest laws, to be seen by the general public.
- Preparatory meetings for the workshop to validate the adoption of community hunting procedures were held with MINFOF, and the document was sent to the Prime Minister for endorsement. Other stakeholders are also being continuously informed regarding the norms and procedures for the management of Community Hunting Zones through background documents prior to the validation workshop; this will enable all parties to understand the process.
- A preliminary study on the effect of capacity building for magistrates was carried out. Magistrates are now armed with knowledge and capacity to prosecute poaching offences.
- Twenty-seven members were identified for the Regional Task Force to increase awareness and understanding of forest and wildlife law enforcement.
- The organization of the forthcoming sub-regional parliamentary workshop to discuss forest management issues is in progress, with responsibilities assigned to the committee.
- A sub-regional workshop to enhance the impact of the local network on sustainable forest management was organized. Terms of reference of the indigenous task force were developed.
- Documents on sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation issues (including PCI on biodiversity management in forest concessions), and the landscape model for long term sustainable management were produced.

***Indicator 2: Number of NGO (and other civil society organizations) advocacy initiatives & activities (e.g., media articles about environmental governance issues e.g. illegal logging, bushmeat poaching; NR court cases brought or complaints filed with appropriate government agencies)***

- Improved civil society and private sector involvement in AFLEG and FLEGT processes
- Reinforced the contribution of civil society in the ITTO advisory Group.
- A community group to monitor forest management development was put in place. The group will report to IUCN and MINFOF delegates.
- A local community group to monitor target logging concessions in South Cameroon is now established and functioning.

***IR3. Natural resources monitoring institutionalized:***

***Indicator 1: Area monitored for forest condition/degradation***

- Data collected by Global Forest Watch and the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife resulted in the publication of the updated map on the current situation of logging in Cameroon; this will help the government of Cameroon in the management of the forest estate and to take necessary actions were needed.
- Publication of the updated map on the current situation of logging in Cameroon.
- Publication of the Cameroon Interactive Forest Atlas Version 2 is in progress.
- Updated maps on forest concessions and PAs are almost completed.
- Several press releases for the Interactive Atlas were carried out and WRI Web portal is currently being updated.
- Technical training for mapping and image analysis were offered to MINFOF, INC, CEW and LBZG staff. Updating the database of the logging concessions in community hunting zones and protected areas is in progress. Numerous training sessions were organized to enable key stakeholders to master the use of the Interactive Forestry Atlas. This has resulted in a better capacity of Cameroonian institutions to collect and analyze information of adequate quality for decision-making.
- Technical training sessions and support in the field of remote sensing, GIS and GPS; resulting in the enhancement of the capacity of local communities, parliamentarians, and the Ministry of forest staff, to monitor natural resources.
- A CD Rom for training local communities on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management was produced; this has helped improve the target communities' understanding of the process.
- Training and information workshop on the Interactive Forestry Atlas of Cameroon.
- Internship, student/technician support and participation in training.
- Workshops have been organized in the country to enable stakeholders to promote the use of the Atlas and assess its impact. An evaluation workshop is planned to assess the impact of these workshops.
- 21 stakeholders received training in the use of geospatial tools (GIS, GPS and remote sensing). They will now apply lessons learnt in their respective projects/programs.

### ***IR 3: Natural Resources Monitoring Institutionalized***

#### ***Indicator 2: Assessment of capacity of Congo Basin (African) institutions (e.g. government agencies, universities and research institutions, NGOs, regional institutions) to collect and analyze information of adequate quality for decision-making***

- An analysis of the COMIFAC Convergent Plan, which aims to coordinate forestry actions in Central Africa was carried out making linkages with AFLEG and FLEGT processes.
- A sub regional workshop was organized to make operational the COMIFAC convergent plan. Activities to be carried out under the plan were specified and responsibilities were assigned. This has given a take off to the COMIFAC convergent plan.
- Members of the country team (CARPE FP and IUCN) were part of the committee which had the responsibility to prepare the sub-regional parliamentarians conference. This has resulted in a successful preparation of this conference by the Cameroon National Assembly, the first ever organized in the sub-region.

- Fund raising strategy for the sub-regional parliamentarian conference was put in place; this has resulted in a high level of funds for this conference.
- Energized CEFDHAC national contact groups and other relevant networks, including REFADD, AFAN, REPAR-CEFDHAC, Forest Directors, etc. Developed Forest Concessions Monitoring System (FORCOMS) as a communication tool.
- Produced and disseminated communication tools to strengthen NGO capacity.
- Training workshop to enhance effectiveness in enforcement of forestry and wildlife laws in Cameroon.

### 3. SUCCESS STORY

Though it is clearly indicated that one of the purposes of Congo Basin Forest Partnership will be to promote economic development, alleviate poverty, and improve local governance, through natural resource conservation programs, we have to recognize that the social impacts of this initiative still need some improvements. CARPE implementing partners have so far carried out activities with communities in the landscape to reduce threats in natural resources and to search for a balance between conservation and development for a win-win situation, but more has to be done. To successfully promote social development under the partnership, the initiative will certainly need technical expertise and financial resources not only from CARPE/USAID; this is partly the reason to work as partners in this initiative. Besides conservation components the partnership also needs research components for a great success.

We have tried to couple these components in Farmers Enterprise Development (FED), an innovative project funded by the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (BDGDC). The originality of the project is two aspects:

- The empowerment of rural communities and the improvement of their livelihoods through the development of appropriate marketing strategies for selected Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and the transfer of very simple technology for NTFP domestication and reforestation of degraded lands, using very simple methods such as the exchange of experience, highlighting success stories as well as shortcomings;
- The execution of the project through the capitalization of expertise from CGIAR institutions, the national agricultural research centers, CARPE Focal Point, local and national NGOs, and community based organizations.

In a world driven by a strong market economy, FED does not intend to reinvent the wheel but to capitalize on value added from thinking and acting together. Farmers would certainly benefit from the Group Marketing Approach, an innovative strategy that FED has established in farmers' communities. The concept calls upon groups of farmers to gather together their harvests and sell as a single collective entity, reducing the transaction costs and increasing the benefit margin. Farmers would certainly also reduce the labour time for cracking *ricinodendron heudelotii*, a spice widely consumed in Central Africa which would replace cocoa in terms of returns, because one of the fundamental goals of the FED project is to improve the marketing strategy and incomes of rural communities, which is in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Capitalizing on lessons learned by farmers using traditional/indigenous natural methods for conserving harvests is “food for thought” to improve human health in a world where biological food is losing ground to chemical products.

Without a doubt, replicating and/or magnifying lessons learned from this project would be of great benefit to the world where exchange of experience is not a usual habit for many people.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- Our greatest challenge in implementing the program is to make sure all stakeholders are involved and have the same understanding.
- The country team approach had a great success so far because it permitted all partners to work in a complementary way at the national level. More importantly, it has helped to avoid duplication of efforts. The impact of activities conducted by the team is country wide and helps to sustainably manage resources using the “landscape approach” promoted by the CBFP.

#### **5. LESSONS LEARNED**

A “partnership type II”, under which the program was begun, is a challenging one since the success depends also on the commitment of other partners. This approach requires a clear picture of objectives, anticipated results and a good coordination. CARPE conducted successfully the facilitation for the first two years, and we hope that with the communication improvement, more people believe now in the initiative and in its components, such as the CARPE Program.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

So far the program has been successful because most of the partners (case of Cameroon) have a memorandum of collaboration with the host country. We would suggest the same approach in other countries. If host countries of CBFP do not support the program, the hand over in 2011 will not be easy. Fortunately the misunderstanding which followed the announcement of the CBFP initiative (because of financial expectations from host countries) is far behind us.