

## **MINFOF & WWF workshop on wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon**

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*Meeting report, by Guy Patrice Dkamela, CARPE Cameroon*

### **Background**

The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and WWF organized a one-day national workshop on wildlife law enforcement. This workshop was also supported by the Central Africa office of the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, TRAFFIC. This national workshop was the last after the seven others held in Bertoua, Ebolowa, Limbé, Douala, Yaoundé, Garoua and Bafoussam. These meetings aimed at building the capacities of the main actors involved in wildlife law enforcement, i.e. investigation and operations. About hundred people from diverse organisations and sectors took part to the national workshop.

### **Objectives of the national workshop**

The specific objectives of the national workshop were the following:

- To address the challenges in the enforcement of wildlife law using the lessons learned from provinces with the prospect of revising the forestry and wildlife law, taking into account the new criminal code.
- To promote the development of synergy at national and international levels through the collaboration of different stakeholders for the improvement of the enforcement of wildlife law. The other actors targeted here are the Ministry of territorial administration and decentralisation, Ministry of justice, Ministry of defence, National security, Ministry of finance, TRAFFIC, CITES and NGOs.
- To identify opportunities from which support could help face the challenges of wildlife law enforcement.

### **Some results of the workshop**

The workshop used a participatory methodology based on seven presentations followed by questions-answers sessions. The presentations aimed at presenting the background of the meeting, drawing the lessons learned and identifying solutions, activities and responsibilities. Some of the results achieved are the following:

- Identification of the root causes of the non enforcement of wildlife law and their impacts on poverty and sustainable management of biodiversity.
- Identification of key actions for the improvement of wildlife law enforcement.
- Adoption of concrete propositions for the improvement of collaboration/synergy between MINFOF, MINJUSTICE and NGOs.
- Alternatives to fight illegal activities in the wildlife sector were discussed.
- An action plan with key activities was adopted for one year with identified leading institutions.

### **Issue of importance to CARPE**

The workshop on wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon fall within the country matrix work plan 2008 as an activity to be led by WWF. This activity was relevant to issues such as the national forestry and wildlife control strategies, prosecutions for wildlife crime, training of magistrates on prosecutions, arrest and trial of poachers which are components of WWF's responsibilities in the Cameroon country team. Therefore, the implementation of the action plan adopted during the workshop should bear the attention of CARPE Cameroon focal point. This should be an activity for the 2009 country matrix.