

**SOS Fund number - # 6b.081**

**Proposal Title: *Field Testing and Training in a Methodology for Socio-Economic Valuation of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in Cameroon***

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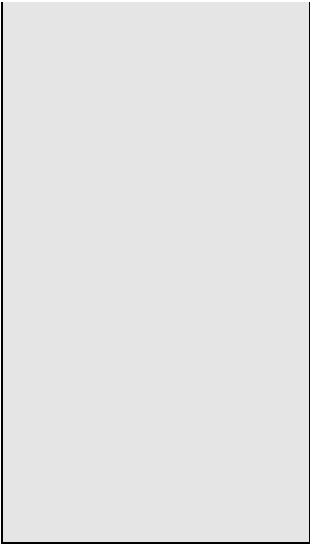
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**Abstract**

At the International Expert Workshop on Non-Wood Forest Products in Central Africa it was concluded that there is a serious knowledge gap regarding local, national and international markets in key NWFPs. A first step in any NWFP action should be to determine what people use and its relative importance in the domestic and market economy. Also, there is a need for sharing and standardising methods for conducting ecological, socio-political and economic research on NWFPs. It was recommended to execute NWFP market surveys at all levels to assess the value of NWFPs being traded, seasonal fluctuations in NWFP supplies and prices, and profit margins for traders at different locations along the market chain from producer to consumer (FAO/CARPE forthcoming).

AIDEnvironment, financially supported by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) in Cameroon, has developed a standard and statistically sound methodology to estimate value and volume of consumption and trade of NWFPs on a regional or national scale. This methodology should provide local research institutes or NGOs with an effective tool for management of the non-timber forest resource for subsistence and trade (AIDEnvironment forthcoming). During the CARPE workshop it was also recommended to share the results of case studies with local communities and forest management authorities to help reinforce local capacity to regulate use of their forest resources and thus enhance the benefits that they gain from the forest.

To refine and evaluate the NTFP valuation methodology for wide application, a field testing is proposed in two provinces of Cameroon. The proposed work forms part of a larger programme of field testing and implementing the methodology. A joint project proposal by CERUT and AIDEnvironment for the first part of the programme is under positive consideration by ICCO (Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation) in the Netherlands and WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) in Cameroon. This proposal is submitted to CARPE covering the second part of the programme, which focuses on further analysis and evaluation of the results, refining of the methodology and capacity building. Because of the close linkages and interdependence between the first and second part of the overall programme, the objectives and activities mentioned in this proposal refer to the overall programme. In the budget the contribution of CARPE to the overall programme is further specified.



The immediate objectives of the overall programme are twofold: (1) local capacity building for the socio-economic valuation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) among NGOs in Cameroon, and (2) regional field testing of the protocol for the socio-economic valuation of non-timber forest products. The programme will provide training to CERUT and other organisations, such as CARPE and WWF Cameroon Program Office, on the basis of the methodology and protocol to undertake socio-economic valuation of NTFPs.

The long term objective is a significant and positive impact on conservation efforts regarding forests and sustainable management practices. The methodology enables the assessment and valuation of non-timber forest products, for a range of products or for individual products such as rattan or bushmeat, and their contribution to the local and national economy, which can then be compared to the value of commercial logging and other alternative land uses.