



To inform and educate the Cameroonian public on mangrove conservation issues

Editorial:

Cameroon mangrove ecosystems cover an area of more than 200,000 hectares representing 30% of the 590 km which the coast occupies. These ecosystems are very important from the biological point of view with a high biodiversity; more than 80% of fish species caught at sea are dependent on. From the ecological point of view, they facilitate fertilization, stabilization, filtration processes within the coastal-marine interface. They also play a key role in the reproduction of fish species; they are useful in the control of microclimate and they play a key role in climate change mitigation strategies. According to the research of Daniel Donato, research ecologist at the doctoral research post station of Hilo in Hawaii, mangroves are highly productive ecosystems of the carbon cycle. Besides, mangrove soils are five times deeper than other tropical forest soils. In reality, water of marshes better retains organic matter in the soil, which because of its low oxygen content is a perfect store of carbon storage better than other forest soils. Despite this wealth, these ecosystems are destroyed at an alarming rate. In Douala for example over 80% of the mangrove of "Bois des Singes" disappeared. Currently, there is practically 20% of

original mangrove left and this is due to the extension of the inhabitants. If the international and national NGOs in synergy with the state think the rehabilitation of areas destroyed through multiple action plans, bills, legislation, a real problem arises regardless the nonchalant attitude of the locals. What strategy to establish effective and productive ecosystems? The Cameroon Mangrove Network does not remain indifferent. Through its different programs and projects for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity resources and poverty reduction, indigenous populations have always been sensitized on the advantages of protecting and enhancing the environment. From this newsletter, every reader understands that protecting the environment is everyone's business. Just like the adage goes a healthy environment is a healthy body and mind.

Anne Abilla

Happy reading!!!

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Matanda News

CMN Newsletter:

Editor:

Dr Gordon Ajonina
CMN National Coordinator

Coordinators:

Mr. Isidore Ayissi, Dr Georges Chuyong.

Write up :

Yvonne Caroline Miyema ; Anne Abila

Production :

Yvonne Caroline Miyema ; Anne Abila

Email:

Matanda_news@yahoo.fr

Web site

Partners:

Naturskyddsföreningen
The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Netherlands
Mangrove Action Project (MAP)



CIG - PPC: work and actions synchronized



*Mr Kiam and other
CIG PPC members*

The Common Initiative Group (CIG) Farmers, Fishing, Livestock, Commerce, Development of multiservice conservation, wise use and protection of natural resources « mangroves » (CIG-PPC) and member of CMN in collaboration the National Support Agency for Forestry Development (ANAFOR), the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Douala City Council ,and the Douala 4 Municipality have been working for the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems, coastal wetlands and fishery resources towards Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM), Reducing greenhouse gas Emissions resulting from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD). These concepts are designed to combine the climate change mitigation and management of forests and natural landscapes, to secure livelihoods essential for

rural populations and other ecosystem services. They are therefore drivers of reforestation of mangrove ecosystems. It is an action of CIG-PPC under the coordination of its promoter Mr. Daniel KIAM Regional representative of Cameroon Mangrove Network to create a nursery of *Rhizophora* (red mangrove) and *Avicennia germinans* (white mangrove) in this area located in Douala 3 called Ngonga SONG BOH KON and also in Douala II precisely at New Priso and “Bois des Singes”.



Degraded land

Partnership between GEREAZOH and the Cameroon Mangrove Network

“Mangrove, one soul many trees”

A Synergy has been formed between the public administrations, the private sector and civil society represented by the Cameroon Mangrove Network (CMN) on environmentally sound management of ecosystems along the Atlantic coast and wetlands in the coastal region of the country. These efforts are united around the project entitled “Supporting community-based sustainable utilization and reforestation of degraded mangrove and associated forests in Cameroon” abbreviated (ACUDREMFAC) with the slogan “one soul many trees per year”. Its objective being to unite the efforts of the State and civil society to reverse the trends of losses and accelerated degradation of mangroves and coastal forests in Cameroon by at least half the current rate through collective actions at local, sub national and national levels geared towards sustainable utilization and reforestation of degraded mangrove forests to enhance its ecosystem services provision and climate change amelioration functions for socio-economic and ecological securities of coastal communities.

Environmentalists in Douala joined others the world over to commemorate the world day for the environment. The Cameroon Mangrove Network (CMN) joined the train under the theme “Green Economy: Does it include you?” For this purpose a synergy of actions are taken for the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems, coastal wetlands and fishery resources in Cameroon. Like the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) these concepts are intended to combine the climate change mitigation and sustainable management of forests and landscapes, to secure other ecosystem services essential for livelihoods of rural populations.



Mr. Kiam directing participants



From the left to the right: Pr B. Bekolo and Dr G. Ajonina

On the occasion of the 40th World Day of the Environment the Cameroon Mangrove Network signed a partnership agreement with the University of Douala. The National Coordinator of the CMN Dr. Gordon AJONINA and the former Rector of the University of Douala Prof. Bruno Bekolo signed an agreement on behalf of the Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in Yabassi. The two partners as well agreed to work in collaboration to enhance the environment for 5 years renewable. This agreement relates to the promotion and management of mangrove ecosystem, coastal wetlands and fisheries resources. Local residents were advised to protect mangroves at “Bois des Singes” in Douala. In that light, the network issued a good number of proposals to the government like:

- Relocation of people living in the interior of the Mangrove, to occupy areas of bordering land as buffer zone;
- Construction of checkpoints and monitoring of plants by reforesting the site;
- Unannounced raids by regular elements of Technical Ministries (MINFOF / MINEPDED / CUD / CAD / FMO) in the context of redressing urban disorder;
- Implementing emergency management strategy and sustainable ecosystem monitoring; and
- The delineation of Autonomous Port of Douala ever to increase its activities in mangrove areas.

An exhibition of plants and various environmental actions were welcomed.



Family Photo at “Bois de Singes” planting site

The framework collaboration convention between CMN Littoral and the University of Douala



This agreement relates to the promotion and management of mangrove ecosystems, coastal wetlands and fishery resources in Cameroon. To this end the National Coordinator Dr. Gordon Ajonina RCM and the Rector of the University of Douala Prof. Bruno Bekolo conscious of:

- The role of the ecosystem in maintaining environmental balance and carbon sequestration in the fight against climate change;
- Its importance in the coastal economic and bio-ecological processes and particularly in the regeneration of fishery resources and the provision of diverse resources to local communities; and
- The important role of the mangroves of Cameroon within the Central African mangrove landscape;

Convinced that cooperation between the two structures would lead them to achieve their objectives efficiently,

They agree to establish a framework agreement for collaboration for 5 years renewable by tacit agreement.

The collaboration convention between the National Agency for support to Forestry Development and CIG PPC

The National Agency for Support to Forestry Development (ANAFOR), bearer of the Project for the Promotion of Communal, Community and Private Forest Plantations in Cameroon (3PF2CP), represented by Mr. Bekolo Bekolo, Director General of ANAFOR and Project Coordinator of the Common Initiative Group of Planters, Fishing, Animal Husbandry, Trade, Development multi conservation, rational use and protection of natural resources "mangroves" (CIG-PPC) represented by Mr. Daniel Kiam, Delegate of CIG-PPC has established a partnership agreement. This agreement extends over a period of two years, promotes communal, community and private forest plantations. The ultimate goal is the satisfaction of needs and sustainable exploitation of wood resources in Cameroon. This is to assist and/or advise the community in defining the objectives of the technical aspects related to the creation of plantations; regular monitoring of plantations established during project implementation period; putting up a device for recognition of community rights on the planted plantations by the authorities concerned; and technical capacity building for collection, processing and marketing of forest plantation products; finally sponsoring the project.



Dr DIN Ndongo

"Matanda News" team in the bid to assess climate change in Cameroon, its impacts on mangrove ecosystems and adaptability of populations meets Dr. Ndongo DIN of the University of Douala, a

regions and other climatic parameters are related to the first two. Certainly, changes in the timing and amount of precipitation have multiple impacts on one hand and floods and droughts on the other. In both cases, there could be consequences.

3) **Matanda News:** Any risk on mangroves following its abusive use?

Dr DIN: I would not return to the role of mangroves for local communities, but only if I say that these ecosystems have already recognized role in the world and by local people, their degradation causes minimal loss of these properties. The hardest thing for an ecosystem is its main functions which are not often seen by people before any disaster, the so-called "services" of an ecosystem is sometimes more important than the "products"

4) **Matanda News:** What are the roles of mangrove ecosystems in climate phenomena encountered by the populations of Cameroon today?

Dr DIN: In the coastal areas where mangroves grow, there is an important familiar problem known as the rising sea level and increasing their ability to grow towards the sea, they are the only ecosystem that is resistant to this phenomenon (Cap Cameroon underwater). Our advantage not to be part of the cyclonic areas does not spare us from storms or even decadal secular could shave all exposed coasts after the destruction of mangroves. Good information on this subject is very important.

mangrove expert to listen to his views on the subject.

1) **Matanda News:** Today we talk regularly on climate change, is it not an act of snobbery?

Dr DIN: Perhaps, yes, in the case of many

2) **Matanda News:** In some terms how can you define climatic events in Cameroon, what impacts?

Dr DIN: The climate in Cameroon is essentially defined around the rhythm of rainfall when temperatures tend to be in several contexts,

5) **News Matanda:** Activities and habits of local residents expressed with respect to climate, it is possible that people adapt smoothly?

Dr DIN: This question is linked to the land and ecosystems involving mangroves depend on climate, such as agriculture does. Like any forest degradation that results in multiple consequences and regulation of local climate and even at regional level may be affected.

6) **News Matanda :** could it have other consequences?

Dr DIN: I do not think so

7) **Matanda News:** populations adapt to these phenomena?

Dr DIN: You should know that people adapt general after a disaster. The main products of mangroves in Cameroon (earth and wood) can be missed if all adaptations of mangroves are destroyed. Without support, there is no hope. NGOs such as CWCS must push the authorities to support the protection of mangroves.

8) **Matanda News:** As Director of Consultancy firm for studies on sustainable development of coastal and marine ecosystems; what are the measures taken to regulate climatic phenomena or management? And what actions are to celebrate World Environment Day?

Dr DIN The list of actions is not limited to participation in various forums ... and my students have organized several events.

Mangrove Project

Douala Edea

The project was initiated by the NGO Cameroon Ecology supported and approved by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) Cameroon and transmitted to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) for funding, which was provided by the Governments of United States of America and Japan for the total amount of U.S. \$ 671,031 with Cameroon Ecology personnel contribution, executing agency of U.S. \$ 154,021. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the development of mangrove ecosystems around the Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve and associated watersheds. Two main products are expected from the implementation of the project, namely (1) the development of participatory management guidelines for the mangrove ecosystems within the project area

and (2) the improvement of the living conditions of riparian population thanks to the development of a local economy based on low impact on mangrove ecosystems.

The project area covers four administrative divisions: Wouri, Sanaga Maritime, Ocean and Nkam. By the third year of the project, the expected results are about to be achieved as planned. For this purpose, the bookings of two community forests communities for Dibeng (Nkam) and Bessombè (Sanaga Maritime) were obtained and the conventions of the said forests are being signed with MINFOF. The alternative income-generating activities to reduce the abuse of mangrove resources are being successfully carried out. Among others, beekeeping, agriculture, livestock and fish farming are conducted in several communities in the project area. At the end of the socio-economic and socio-biological studies made a version of the master plan was developed and a national validation workshop of the said plan is expected before the end of 2012.



The Executive Director of ITTO, His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka, at the extreme right on the occasion of the launching of the project in Edea March 3, 2010

Mrs Cécile NDJEBET, Coordinator of Cameroon Ecology
Mr Patrice NGOKOY, Forests Manager, Cameroon Ecology

Creation and function of the National Civil Society Platform for REDD/CC and climate change in Cameroon

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, REDD and the National Climate Change Platform (PFN-REDD/CC), was created in July 23, 2011 in Yaounde to better organize civil society in Cameroon for greater participation of the latter in the national REDD process and following one of the recommendations of a national workshop to launch the national REDD - R-PP (Readiness Preparation Proposal) process in Mbalmayo held on the 27 to 28 June 2011.

Composed of twenty networks of civil society organizations in Cameroon, including the Cameroon Mangrove Network including (CMN), PFN-REDD/CC is working in the area of forest, environment, management of natural resources, human rights, sectors, etc... It was born following a workshop initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature (MINEP), through financial and technical assistance of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through its Pro-Poor REDD project.

Cameroon signed an agreement with FAO for the protection of its coastal ecosystems

On 19 April 2012, an agreement was signed by Cameroon and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to protect its mangrove ecosystems. The Agreement carrying an amount of CFAF 3 billion for 5-year implementation of projects in the coastal zone of Cameroon, which extends 402 kilometers. The project also provides for the creation of protected areas in mangrove estuaries such as the Rio Del Rey, Douala-Edea National Park, Kribi Marine Park and Campo.

The project also provides the institutional capacity for efficient management of mangrove ecosystems and the integration of the principles of convention in local development projects. It is also planned to search for alternatives for cutting mangroves that have resulted in the disappearance of marine species such as fish, essential for feeding coastal populations. In this regard, a reforestation project of 20,000 trees each year has been launched since 2009. The main co-financing partners in the implementation of this project are the Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS), Cameroon Ecology (Eco-Cam) and the Organization for Environment and Sustainable Development (OPED).

Some important

Announcements

- October : Third CMN National Seminar on REDD/Mangrove and the 10th Executive Committee Meeting of CMN
- November: National Validation of the Master Plan (IITO/Cameroon Ecology) for mangrove ecosystems of Douala-Edea Reserve and associated watersheds.
- December : Official launching of FAO-Cameroon Mangrove Project

**For any information please Contact
the team with this e-mail address:**

Matanda_news@yahoo.fr