



CAMEROON MANGROVE CONSERVATION NETWORK

► Chapter of the African Mangrove Network (AMN) ►

www.mangrove-africa.net

Matanda News

To inform and educate the Cameroonian public on mangrove conservation issues

Quarterly newsletter

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Editorial

Dear friends,

It's our pleasure to present the maiden edition of the Newsletter of the Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network (CMN) called "Matanda News". Matanda is the local name given to mangroves by populations of the coastal zone in Cameroon. The CMN regroups about 37 NGOs and CBOs active in the conservation and sustainable management of mangroves and coastal zone in Cameroon.

Cameroon is among the very rare countries of the world with mangrove forests covering a surface area of over 400 000 ha spread over 30% of the 590 km of Atlantic coast extending from the Nigerian border from north of River Akwa Yafe at 4°40'N to the border with Equatorial Guinea within the Rio Ntem, 2°20'N. Cameroon mangroves are located in three blocks: Rio Del Rey (218 000ha) in the South West Province; Cameroon Estuary (180 000ha) in the Littoral Province; and Lokoundjé and Ntem (2 000ha) in the South Province. It is very diverse morphologically and in flora and fauna. These mangroves are very important from various respects: biologically, ecologically and economically protecting and sustaining coastal fisheries resources and people. For example, a part from protecting coastal erosion they are nursery grounds with over 80% of aquatic and marine species dependant on them for at least part of their life cycles. Mangroves are highly threatened by human activities (fish smoking, construction, etc.) and urbanisation (sand extraction, urban infrastructure development) which has contributed to over 30% loss in the past 50 years of its original mangrove surface (from 600 000 ha to 400 000 today).

Much efforts have been made by different actors to save these mangrove forests from further destruction: the Government of Cameroon through the signature of many mangrove related legislations and international conventions including the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species, the Convention on Ozone Layer and very recently the Ramsar Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands. The government has also elaborated many National Action Plans for effective implementation of these international conventions including the National Biodiversity Plan; the National Environmental Plan, the Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries legislation; the legislation on Association of 1992 enabling Cameroonians to form various associations that can also promote sustainable management of natural resources; the procedure for attribution of community forests. National and international Non Governmental Organisations have also contributed through various projects and programmes on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources and poverty reduction.

It's our duty to fight with determination towards the conservation of this fragile and rich ecosystem. But this battle can not be won without your support. We in the network and other sympathisers need to fight more.

Your articles, contributions and suggestions will continue this work; they are impatiently awaited for the next edition.

Enjoy it!

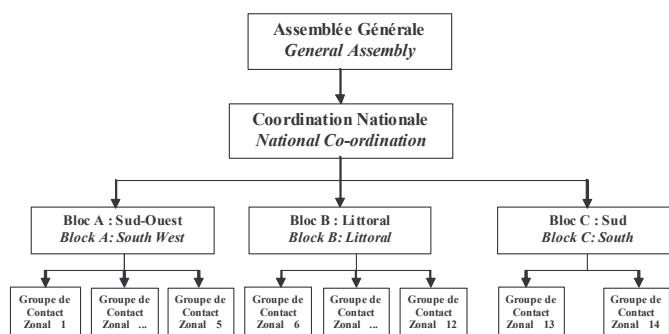
Gordon AJONINA
National Co-ordinator of CMN

Presentation of CMN

Created in January 25, 2005 at Edea, Cameroon, the Cameroon Mangrove Network (CMN) is a network of over 37 active grassroots national NGOs and CBOs involved in sustainable mangrove and coastal area management issues in Cameroon. CMN secretariat is based in Mouanko hosted by the NGO Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS), its project base in the Littoral Province. CMN operates within the wider regional network, the African Mangrove Network (AMN) whose secretariat is based in Dakar-Senegal hosted by the NGO West African Association for Marine Environment (WAAME). See the web site: www.mangrove-africa.net

CMN works with the different focal points (Zonal Contact Groups) within the mangrove and coastal provinces of South-West, Littoral and South.

The CMN's mission is to set up and run a framework of exchange and joint action with grassroot mangrove NGO and CBOs for a sustainable management of mangrove forests within the context of integrated coastal area management.



Block Info

Littoral

ITTO/Cam-Eco Mangrove Project

The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife has recently forwarded to International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) for funding a pre-project initiated by Cameroon Ecology, an NGO based in Edea, Sanaga Maritime Division, Cameroon. This pre-project entitled "Project Identification for the regeneration and management of mangrove forests within the Douala-Edea Reserve, Sanga Maritime Division, Cameroon" has been funded by ITTO.

The implementation of this pre-project was achieved through a successful organisation of three workshops successively at Edea (workshop for socialisation of stakeholders from the 10 to 11 April 2007), at Mouanko (Experts meeting from 19 to 20 June 2007), and at Edea (workshop for the validation of the project document from 2 to 3 August 2007).

A cross section of stakeholders participated in these workshops including Senior Staff of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forestry, Administrative Authorities of Sanaga Maritime Division, Chief of decentralised services of MINFOF & MINEP for the Sanaga Maritime, Nkam, Ocean & Wouri Division, decentralised territorial communities, traditional authorities of the different zones covered by the project, some representatives of the civil society, some resource persons recognized for their expertise on mangroves, consultants hired by the pre-project and local populations.

To date, the project document is being finalised for final submission to ITTO Secretariat in Japan.

CWCS/WWF-CARPO Mangrove Project

World Wide Fund For Nature-Central Africa Regional Programme Office (WWF-CARPO) through a partnership with Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS) and other local NGOs will start this month field activities within the framework of a project named: Developing a generalisable methodology for assessing the vulnerability of mangroves and associated ecosystems in Cameroon, Project N° 8C00610 funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) PDF-B via WWF-US. The project embraces a participatory approach; the methodology having been developed and adopted by a wide range of stakeholders at the Limbe inception and stakeholders' workshop held from the 23rd to 24 January. The Mangroves of Ntem River bordering Equatorial Guinea were one of the sites selected for field testing of the methodology which consist among others of capacity building of local NGOs on climatic, ecological and socioeconomic aspects of the methodology followed by the implementation of monitoring structures.

Focus on

Mangroves of Douala-Edea

CWCS mangrove conservation activities in the Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve

The Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve is a Technical Operational Unit (TOU) of first category created in 1932 by the colonial administration for the protection of wildlife including their habitats. Mangroves cover about 10% of the surface area of the reserve (about 16,000ha) and are 90% dominated by *Rhizophora racemosa* and a few species of *Avicennia africana*. Currently, these mangrove forests are subject to intense exploitation by the local populations constituting 70% foreigners (Nigerians, Ghanaians, and Malians). They use mangrove wood as fuel wood for fish smoking and for the construction of ovens, kitchens and even houses. These results in a progressive fragmentation of mangrove forests estimated at a 1% each year.

To save the mangroves, the Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS), a national NGO carrying out conservation activities within the reserve since 10 years with financial support from IUCN-NL (1997-1999) and NOVIB (2000 to date) has initiated a series of activities geared towards sustainable utilisation of the mangrove ecosystem.

These include:

- Sensitisation of the local communities on the importance and fragility of mangroves. This exercise has not always been easy given the high rate of illiteracy of the population in fishing camps. This sensitization reached the highest point in May, 2003 with the organisation of West and Central Africa regional workshop In The Hands Of Fishermen (IHOF) in Edea with the participation of all the stakeholders, in collaboration with Mangrove Action Project (MAP) under the auspices of Ministry of Environment and Forestry, on mangroves and sustainable fisheries.
- Studies on the recovery and dynamics of the mangrove ecosystem through the establishment of 1.2ha permanent sample plots since 2002 on three exploitation regimes. The sample plots whose trees are measured every two years do not only permit us quantify the productivity of the mangrove forest and elaborate viable ecological management models but also appreciate mangrove forest resilience.
- Finally, in collaboration with French NGO "Planète Urgence", CWCS carried out a community based



restoration of mangroves in degraded zones where over 5000 mangrove plants were raised in nurseries using propagules for the restoration of 3 hectares of mangrove with a success rate currently evaluated at 86% in planted areas.

It is therefore necessary to extend these activities to other degraded sites of the reserve while increasing the involvement of the local populations who initially did not believe in the artificial regeneration of mangroves. It is logical that if we harvest wood, we should think of replanting, and this is very possible mainly with the participation of local communities. For more information consult their [Web site: www.cwcs-cameroon.org](http://www.cwcs-cameroon.org).

Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings

Since its creation in January 2005 till now, CMN has held 5 Executive Committee Meetings as follows: the first on the 3rd March 2005 at Edea, the second on the 10th February 2006 at Douala, the third on the 7th June 2006 at Kribi, the fourth on the 8th November 2006 at Tiko and the fifth on the 26th April 2007 at Ekondo-Titi. All these meetings were widely publicised and attended by representatives from different mangrove stakeholders especially the Ministries of Forestry and Wildlife, Environment and Nature Protection, Fisheries Livestock and Animal Industries, etc; technical services; private sector; the member associations of CMN; national and international observers; etc. These meetings permitted the evaluation of CMN action plans, the presentation of zonal reports as well as the problems and perspectives. The report of each ECM is available at the secretariat. ***The next meeting (the sixth) is previewed in October 2007 at Mouanko***

Extra

CMN activities 2005 – 2006

CMN has during the years 2005 and 2006 realised many activities as:

- Organisation of 4 Executive Committee Meetings with the participation of the different stakeholders within the mangrove zone to evaluate the level of implementation of activities as previewed in the action plan and to elaborate perspectives.
- Implantation of the different zonal contact offices within the mangrove and coastal provinces of Cameroon.
- One Extraordinary Meeting held at Douala to resolve a conflict of competence, abuse of power and massive exploitation of mangrove forest by the former Zonal Coordinator presently in prison.
- Development of a membership and contact data base, the production of several sensitization materials including flyers, membership identification badges and calendars.

In general and following actions plans for 2005 and 2006, over 80% of the planned activities were realised; relevant stakeholders have also been sensitised at this level with execution of some projects as “Pleins feux sur les mangroves au Cameroun” by the NGO Cameroon Environmental Watch, member of the network.

CMN has nursed a very cordial collaborative atmosphere with many stakeholders including government structures at local and national level and international NGOs. The network has consistently worked with government technical services, international NGOs especially FAO through her Mangrove Project in Cameroon where many members of the network were either

trained or were resource persons. Certain members of the network took part in various workshops, seminars and conferences organised by other NGOs within the framework of conservation, sustainable management of the mangrove and marine ecosystems. For Nature and Poverty Programme of IUCN-NL, FoE-NL and WWF-NL on marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries within the framework of the integrated management of mangrove and coastal resources, one workshop on the gazettelement of the Douala-Edea Reserve into a marine and terrestrial national park has been organised on the 28 & 29 November 2006 by CWCS.

Partners

AMN Info

Financial support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) to AMN

Taking cognizance of the necessity to preserve and conserve the mangrove ecosystems in Africa, SSNC and AMN will collaborate this year to jointly implement a project to address strategic zonal problems aimed at strengthening synergies within the network. The SSNC/RAM cooperation will be through the joint project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of African Mangrove Network for sustainable management of African mangroves".

Source: Newsletter N°1 - Juin 2007 of African Mangrove Network (AMN) www.mangrove-africa.net

MAP Info

MAP WORKS

Mangrove Action Project (MAP) Gets Kudos For Its Work With Ramsar

Gland, Switzerland 7 May 2007

Ref.: The Wetlands for the Future Fund: A 10 Year Assessment

Greetings from the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971). The Secretariat is pleased to announce that the report "The Wetlands for the Future Fund: A Performance Review of the First Ten Years" is now available, and can be downloaded at: http://www.ramsar.org/wff/wff_review_2006.pdf. This review constitutes the first effort to better understand the Fund's performance and effectiveness in the achievement of its objectives, and was made possible with the invaluable contribution of the **Mangrove Action Project** and the **Earth Island Institute**, which previously carried out project **WFF/01-2/CAR/1**, and recently submitted additional information to prepare this document. The Secretariat extends its deepest gratitude.

The Wetlands for The Future Fund has been praised by governments, NGOs, scientists, and other stakeholders as a highly useful tool to develop capacities through the exchange of information, the empowerment of local communities and the involvement of the public at the local, national and regional levels. We hope this assessment contributes to enhance the general public's understanding of the Fund, promote its wider diffusion and stimulate its continued improvement.

Adrián Ruiz Carvajal

Interim Regional Affairs Officer

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*Source: MAP News, 188th Ed. Pt.1 of 3, 7-19-07
Site web: <http://www.mangroveactionproject.org>*

► Constitution of the editorial team for the magazine Wetlands Forum

During the 5th Executive Committee Meeting of CMN at Ekondo-Titi, South-West Province, it was unanimously decided that the magazine Wetlands Forum published by Watershed Task Group (WTG), a national NGO, will be henceforth be edited by the CMN; and after that decision, a call for suggestions was made to members on how to proceed without compromising the intellectual property right of WTG.

Following different reactions, a provisional editorial team was put in place by the National Co-ordinator at least until the next Executive Committee Meeting as follows:

Director of production:	Sponsors
Technical Editor in Chief:	Chi Napoleon FORPAH
Members:	Cécile NDJEBET, Athanasius NKWATOH, Sosthène AHANDA, Dieudonné MBOG Didier NYANSI, Sylvie ONDO
Publishing / Printing:	Henry TANTOH
Design:	Thomas TEMBEI
General supervisor:	Gordon AJONINA

Following suggestions made by Mr CHI, the content of the magazine which will be produced twice a year will be as follows:

- Editorial
- NGO/Civil society activities
- Network activities
- Government activities
- Case Studies/Best practices
- Updates from Ramsar Bureau
- Environmental Governanance
- Annoucements
- Acknowledgement/Disclaimer

► Ramsar Meeting

Cameroon will organise this year the preparatory international conference for the next Meeting of countries which has signed the Ramsar Convention (COP10). In this light, a meeting grouping all relevant stakeholders involved on wetlands conservation issues, to prepare that conference is previewed on 27 September 2007 in Yaounde.

► Web sites to visit

▪ Shoreline Protection from Mangroves

Following the tsunami of December 2004, concerns about the vulnerability of coastal ecosystems have led to new approaches to mangrove management.

read more: http://www.inforesources.ch/p_news07_3_e.htm#mangroves

Source : Verina Ingram <verina_ingram@hotmail.com>
www.snvworld.org

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