



CAMEROON MANGROVE CONSERVATION NETWORK

Chapter of African Mangrove network (AMN)

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Matanda News

To inform and educate the Cameroonian public on mangrove conservation issues

Matanda News

Quarterly Newsletter of
Cameroon Mangrove
Conservation network

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Nowadays, the earth faces a great danger; mangroves ecosystems are no less spared. Cameroon is one of the few countries in the world with mangroves covering more than 200,000 hectares representing 30% of the coastal area. It is an important natural resource. However, there has been gradual deterioration of our mangrove forests due not only to excessive deforestation and uncontrolled wetlands occupation, but also to global warming which leads to increased flooding and coastal erosion; increased frequency of tropical storms; with changing distribution and abundance of biological resources of the coastal zone.

Indeed, there is no doubt that the Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network (CMN) has made the difference as a major player in civil society in protecting this ecosystem. The development of the sustainable mangrove use method of improved system for fish smoking is an illustrative example. Concerted actions of government, governmental organisations and NGOs are most significant. Despite these, very much is still to be done. It is probably in the same way that the quarterly newsletter "Matanda News" sets not only to raise awareness of the danger to our environment but also the need to protect it.

Global warming is not therefore a concept invented to "control" the world, it is a reality and it affects us as much as others: One of your actions can save our mangrove ecosystem, so let's join to protect our mangrove forests from further degradation and loss.

**Best wishes for the year 2010 and
happy reading!**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

A public notice has just been ensured by The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife for the re-gazettement of the mangrove rich Douala-Edea into a national park with marine extension. The reserve covers part of the administrative divisions of Sanaga-Maritime (Edea 1, Mouanko and Dizangué subdivisions) and Wouri (Manoka – Douala VI subdivision).

This new park covers a total area of two hundred ninety-six hectares (296,000) consisting of 04 enclaves totalling 23,396 ha:

Enclave1: Yoyo Malimba (Souélaba-Coconut-Kombo Moulongo Maldjedou) 7,105 ha.

- Enclave 2: Badangue Malimba 3,346 ha
- Enclave 3: Yassoukou area of 7,752 ha
- Enclave 4: Lower Sanaga Area (Bonapombè Pongo Songo 5,194 ha.

The populations of the area described are informed that they have a period of 30 days from the date of posting or dissemination of this public notice to file in their complaints in these places: heads of administrative districts (prefectures and sub-prefectures), councils, traditional leaders or local services of the Ministries of Forestry and Wildlife. After that, any claim or objection will no longer be considered.



Map of the Douala-Edea National Park

Fight against the degradation of mangroves: 3000 trees planted in Campo

Some 3000 trees (essentially *Rhizophora racemosa*) were outplanted in the Campo beach area in the South Region on the shores of the Ntem mangrove area to protect the shoreline against coastal erosion and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The project is led by the Cameroon Mangrove Network (CMN) in collaboration with the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), civil society and NGOs based in the coastal areas of the country.



The sustainable use of mangroves by the use of improved system for smoking fish

The exploitation of firewood for smoking fish is the greatest threats to the sustainability of mangrove ecosystem in the Douala-Edea wildlife Reserve (DEWR) being raised into a National Park. The high rate of wood consumption is the result of the low efficient open-type traditional smoking system used in the area.

To reduce this loss and trend in order to save the mangrove forests we recommend the introduction of the improved fish smoking in the coastal cities of Cameroon. The use of the traditional smoking may be the main cause of the current overexploitation of mangrove wood in most coastal region cities. Like the Yoyo fishing camps located in the coast of Mouanko. Many studies undertaken by Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society have shown that using the improved system of fish smoking may reduce up to 60% mangrove wood consumption by the fishing households and reduction of smoking time from 2-3 days to 4-8 hours, the working conditions of Women and children will be improved and even the reduction of poverty because the extra money for the purchase of wood or used to treat smoke related illnesses will be saved including time and used for other purposes.



Harvested Firewood for smoking fish should be used efficient manner



Traditional fish smoking oven (Photo CWCS)



CWCS Improve fish smoking oven in the Douala-Edea (Photo CWCS)

Involve local communities in mangrove management may help safeguard our mangrove forests



Copenhagen: Uncertain future for the reduction of CO₂ and greenhouse gas emissions

For years the world has been looking for ways to reduce our CO₂ and greenhouse gas emissions and fight against global warming. All this was reflected in the well known Kyoto Protocol, where industrialized countries accepted a drastic reduction of their emissions of CO₂ for years without knowing what otherwise would be the impact of these quasi-ideological commitments on economic development and employment.

Four years after Kyoto, Copenhagen Global warming Forum has brought together 193 countries in the world whose target was to reach a global agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And if the cause is common, the approaches are different and countries arrive in order to impose their opinions. Differences between north and south countries are hardened and emerging countries will not become the scapegoat for Western powers which are still very polluting.

If there is a point on the climate crisis between real threats and false prophecies, between hope and reality, between requirement of some and rejection of others, we perceive clearly that the economic issue is closely related to and is very considerable. Indeed, the reduction of CO₂ can appear to some as a recession. But if there is mild recession, it will be acceptable because the quality of living improves. The big obstacle here is that environmental efforts seem to be too detrimental to economic activity, employment tax and the daily lives for industrialized countries.

Copenhagen built on these impulses, could only take place under extreme tension and doomed to failure. Kyoto Agreements seem to have fallen into disrepair with the forum of global warming: CO₂ reduction remaining uncertain.

African voice in Copenhagen: The African representatives have bangedists on the table



Djemouai Kamel: Head of the Algerian delegation

European Commission has approved 50 million euro to 04 countries in the Horn of Africa whose population suffers recurrent droughts caused by global climate change. France pretends not to leave Africa on the edge of the road with this ambitious joint appeal to France and Ethiopia representing Africa Copenhagen.

Despite the boycott of the African continent to the forum, accepting 100million of dollars per year in 2020 against 150 million need estimated by Europe and a target of limiting warming from 2°C to 1,5°C. Africa has stretched a hand towards the USA and China whose refuse concessions.

African countries are among the countries most vulnerable to climate change and therefore the most to lose in case of failure of negotiation: "There is a yardstick of injustice while the continent with the least involved in the rejection of greenhouse gas emissions about 3.8% for Africa is

Africa is victim and not responsible for climate change, with the lowest emission rate of greenhouse gas emissions incurred over the impact of climate change. In fact Africa wanted to be heard: one of the main demands for compensation from industrialized countries.

Poor countries are most affected by climate change, mainly victims with the exception of South Africa. Africa produces little greenhouse gas emissions, it requires a responsible country and the emission of greenhouse gases emissions repairs. It has nothing to offer if not fully developed; it awaits efforts on the part of the main polluters. For the African Union's death Kyoto protocol is the death of Africa. They fear the end of the compensation mechanism with the abandonment of the protocol: that is why they have slammed the door to the plenary in protest. Africa has been sympathetic to accept the agreement even as the



African delegation in Copenhagen

paradoxically the most vulnerable and least equipped to cope with climate change "but it is highly regrettable that this gesture comes from the most vulnerable and not those who are historically responsables for climate change.

CMN poised to step up efforts to curb further degradation and loss of mangrove and associated coastal forests in Cameroon

Serious concerns for continuous loss of mangrove forests in Cameroon have been raised within Cameroon Mangrove Network (CMN) in two of its executive committee meetings (ECM) and conferences held in Campo and Buea under the banner of coastal resilience to climate change: Building capacities of local organisations in assessing the resilience of mangroves and coastal areas to climate change impacts and development of adaptation strategies. According to UNEP 2007 assessment report, some 3000 ha of mangrove forests is lost annually about 28% with about 200 000ha remaining. Major factors blamed for the losses include: urbanisation (extension of towns, urban infrastructural development, etc), economic development (industrialisation, development of ports, etc), activities of extractive industries (agro-plantations, quarry and sand extraction, mineral and petroleum exploration/exploitation activities), unsustainable extraction for its uses (wood for fish smoking and processing of other fisheries produce, construction, etc) accentuated by driving factors of population growth, economic development, poverty and climate change.

The consequences of the degradation or loss is already felt of this important ecosystem serving as a fisheries support system, nurseries grounds for fisheries and other aquatic/marine resources, shoreline protection, climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration, store house of biodiversity and its wide use of its wood and non wood products that are the main stay of rural and urban economies. These effects are visible especially at the backdrop of rising sea surges causing coastal erosion, sedimentation, inundations and altered temperatures and precipitation with diminishing fisheries stocks putting at risk the survival of over 5 million Cameroon inhabiting the coastal areas.



Through its intended nation's wide programme '**Supporting community-based sustainable utilization and reforestation of degraded mangrove and associated forests in Cameroon**' in collaborating with coastal councils, the Cameroon Mangrove network will firmly embrace a multi-stakeholders participatory approach that will involve key actors at local, regional and national levels to reduce significantly this wanton loss and degradation of our mangrove forests. There is also need for greater policy commitment that should begin with the proper incorporation of mangrove ecosystem issues in the present Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries Law revision process and more private sector involvement. Collaborative frameworks will be established to facilitate this operation to recover 3000 ha annual loss of mangrove forests in Cameroon. The network will strongly need the support of the donor community in realising this ambitious goal.

The impact of climate change on mangrove forests in Cameroon

At present, mangrove forests in Cameroon are experiencing a gradual deterioration due to excessive deforestation and uncontrolled occupation of the coast. These harmful anthropogenic activities whose intensity varies from one site to another, are the cause of coastal erosion and seawater intrusion, which leads to loss of land and housing, the decline in forest mangrove, lower returns for fishing, rice, etc..

Rising sea levels resulting in global warming could lead to increased flooding and coastal erosion, increased frequency and severity of tropical storms, changes in distribution and abundance of biological resources of the coastal zone.



Climate change and coastal sedimentation

Plant species of mangrove in terms of their characteristics react differently to the length of immersion.

The decrease in rainfall and rise in water temperature results in increased evaporation, increasing salinity and increasing the concentration of water vapor in the atmosphere. What impacts will the change in composition of flora and fauna and a decline in biological productivity produce?

Indeed, the continental deposits (river flows and runoff) are the main sources of nutrients to the soil of mangrove. Thus, a reduction in rainfall would result in:

- Accentuation of seawater intrusion that can affect the land for agricultural purposes, loss of species characteristic of brackish water;
- Slowing the growth of plants;
- A decrease in activities related to farming.

Sites that will be affected are many and the consequences are many and varied as the sites that are involved.

National Forum on integrated Management of Mineral Resources and Forestry held in Yaounde on 16th and 17th, 2009

Integrated management of the recent expansion of mining development in forest areas of Cameroon, alongside the legitimate hopes of economic development, raises some concerns about the coordination of various industrial projects and management of environmental and social impacts related to a context marked by conflicts of interest between traders, inconsistencies between public legislation and institutional coordination. On initiative of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa network, a national forum was held on 16 and 17 July in Yaounde at the end of participatory diagnosis of the situation arising from the coexistence of mining, logging, identifying related problems and proposing solutions.

Approximately 140 people representing various interests surrounding this issue have taken part in the forum: MPs of the Government (Minister of Environment and Nature Protection, Secretary of State for Forestry and Wildlife, Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Technological Development, other different administrations duly nominated by their respective hierarchies, mayors of municipalities bordering the sites of mining and forestry (Lomié, and Yokadouma Ngoyla), national NGOs (CWCS, RACOP, CED, CEW, FOCARFE, CERAD, ROLD / CEF-Dja RFC ...), private sector (Camiron, GEOVIC, FAMETAL Vic Wood / Thanry / CFC); international partners of the government (World Bank, WWF, IUCN, WCS, VNS, TRAFFIC, FSC, CIFOR, ICRAF and WRI) and finally sub-regional institutions (COMIFAC founding TNS).

To this end the key message of the speech was delivered by the Honorable Emilia MONJAWA lifaki, vice president of the National Assembly as well as key papers delivered and discussed in plenary sessions have touched respectively on:

- difficulties in the coordination of public policies for managing natural resources;
- the challenges of environmental compliance and social projects of mining or forestry.
- case studies illustrating the opportunities and constraints for integrated management of forestry and mining sectors.

Three committees were formed to discuss the main steps of the roadmap adopted for the review and implementation of these recommendations.

The first session focused on issues related to the coherence of different public policies for managing natural resources.

The second committee was devoted to discussing the challenges of social and environmental compliance projects for mining or forestry. During this session, two mining companies (CAMIRON and GEOVIC), Forest Enterprise (Group Thanry Vic Wood), and program support and organization of the traditional mining (CAPAM) have outlined their activities and, where appropriate approaches to take into account environmental and social requirements.

The third was devoted to a series of papers on case studies illustrating the opportunities and challenges of mining and forestry.

The work of Dr. Gordon Ajonina of the NGO Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS) showed interest on some innovative mechanisms such as payments for environmental services, "biodiversity offset" as well as mechanisms for the carbon market.

The closing ceremony was punctuated by speeches by the Honorable Jean Jacques ZAM, Coordinator of RAPAR, Mr. Bertin Tchikangwa, WWF Climate Change Partnership Coordinator, representing the Regional Representative of WWF and the vice president of the National Assembly of Cameroon.

The 8th Executive Committee Meeting of Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network held on April 21 to 23, 2009 in Campo

From 21 to 23 April 2009 was held in Campo in the South Region near the mangroves of Ntem at the Cameroon – Equatorial Guinea border the 8th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) of Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network (CMN) and the National Capacity Building Seminar on mangrove and climate change. Organized by the national coordination, the meeting was held in the sumptuous hall of the city of Campo.

The main objectives of the meeting were to make a final evaluation of the 2008 action plan, elaborate a strategic action plan of CMN (2009-2014) and prepare the general assembly meeting in Limbe. Some local administrative and elected authorities took part in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the National Coordinator of the CMN Dr Gordon Ajonina.

This meeting was an opportunity to follow up resolutions adopted at the 7th ECM held in Edea in June 2008; after official opening by the Divisional Officer and Mayor of Campo, the national report was read by the national coordinator Dr. Gordon Ajonina. Discussion was opened on methods of financing the CMN; the National Treasurer Ms Hortense Motalindja gave a run down of the membership situation of the network and financial situation of the network which was not too good. Members were urged to meet their various financial obligations to the network so that it can function adequately.

In his opening remarks the National Coordinator of CMN expressed the hope that the two days of work in Campo should not only allow CMN to assess its progress but also an opportunity to strengthen the participants capacity on methodology for assessing vulnerability and adaptation in the coastal area and impacts of climate change on mangroves. The various participants including CMN, local NGOs, local communities and the conservation department of the Campo Ma'an National Park were appreciated for their efforts made in making the meeting a success.

The National Seminar was focussed on the theme: Capacity building on mangrove and climate change issues: development of a vulnerability assessment methodology and adaptation of mangroves to climate change.

This session was moderated by Mr. Bertin Tchikangwa of WWF. The following presentations were made:

- Dr Gordon Ajonina, on the overview;
- Mr. George Chuyong, on the environmental aspect;
- Mr. Simon Edjimbi D.O. of Mouanko on institutional aspects;
- Mr. Bertin Tchikangwa, on prospects for developing a broad national program.

Discussions and exchanges following the presentations were fruitful and participants left for their different destinations after closing remarks by the National Coordinator.

The 9th Executive Committee Meeting of Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network held on 29 December, 2009 in Buea

The ninth Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) of Cameroon Mangrove Network (CMN) was held at Buea on the 29 december 2009 at the University of Buea , Faculty of Science Conference hall .Key points on the agenda were : evaluation of the progress of implementation of the ongoing 2009 Action plan which was put at between 70-80% , organisation of the second national Capacity Building Seminar , Donor's forum and general Assembly (GA) in March 2010 including the CMN contribution in the ongoing revision of the National Forestry , Wildlife and Fisheries Law.Two new organisations were registered raising the CMN membership from 39 to 41 member NGOs and CBOs.

Ghana: African conference on mangrove conservation on 28th - 30th April 2009 in Accra

The 16 African countries that share the coastal vegetation met to devise specific strategies aim at effective implementation of the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands. The general assembly meeting of the African Mangrove Conservation Network and the renewal of the executive Bureau of the network was held in Accra –Ghana from the 28th – 30th April 2009. Discussions were focussed on the various activities of the network and members of the network. These were marked by key presentations from different case studies from Ghana, Benin, Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville and Kenya which showed the real progress of human action in improving the ecosystem.



A strategic action plan of the network was revised and allowed the network to work with a common voice in the eyes of partners. The meeting was supported by the Netherlands Committee of IUCN and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation. The Togolese contribution through the NGO Globe-Verta presented GIS methods of assessment and management of African mangrove areas.

The Senegalese NGO WAAME (West African for Marine Environment) which holds the current secretariat of the network coordinated the activities of the conference.



Mr Daniel KIAM

Mr Daniel KIAM, Littoral Regional Coordinator of Cameroon Mangrove Conservation network (CMN) through an interview to the editorial staff says he supports the genesis, objectives and initiatives of the CMN, its point of view on global warming and climate forum in Copenhagen is no exception, hear him...

Matanda News: Mr Kiam can you tell us more about yourself and your work in the CMN?

Mr. Kiam: I am the representative of the common initiative group (GIC-PPC), member of CMN. In this network I am the Regional Coordinator of the Littoral Block (Block B) cumulatively with my duties as Manoka Zonal Coordinator (left bank) following the designation of coordinator of for this block after the 5th ECM held in Mounako and under reference note: RCM/CN/010-07 of November 5, 2007 at Mouanko. I coordinate the activities of CMN within the Littoral coastal region; enforces its policy and implementing its action plans; convenes and chairs regional coordination meetings.

Matanda News: What is CMN?

Mr. Kiam: CMN is a civil society organisation operating under the protection and conservation of mangrove ecosystems.

Matanda News: Its genesis?

Mr. Kiam: It is through multiple meetings with people interested in and concerned with the problems of mangrove ecosystems that the Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network was founded.

Matanda News: Its structure?

Mr. Kiam: The CMN is composed of NGOs, associations and conservation organisations, common initiative groups (CIGs) and grassroots organisations.

Matanda News: The evolution?

Mr. Kiam: The CMN hold consultation meetings and has evolved with the establishment of the basic organs that are the Zonal Contact Groups (ZCG) and the Blocks that have been created in all mangrove forests areas in Cameroon.

Matanda News: Its key actions?

Mr. Kiam:

a) Strengthening conservation, cooperation and partnership between NGOs, CIGs, Associations, and Community based Organizations (CBOs);

b) Strengthen institutional capacities (material, organisational, technical and financial capacities) of NGO associations, CIGs and CBOs within the mangrove area in pursuit of their activities in Cameroon;

- c) Educate and raise awareness among members of the CMN and other stakeholders on all actions that could affect the mangrove ecosystems;
- d) Promote networking on the local, national, regional and international levels;
- e) Strengthen the participation of local people, groups and local councils in the development, implementation of a national program on conservation and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems with relevant government agencies;
- f) Undertake an active lobbying for the signing of agreements and the establishment of appropriate legislation for the mangrove ecosystems;
- g) Integrate the gender aspect and minorities in all processes of conservation and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems;
- h) Develop partnerships between the CMN, national and international organizations.

Matanda News: What are the main focus areas of CMN?

Mr. Kiam: key areas of intervention of the CMN are:

- a) Conservation of biodiversity and protection of the coastal environment.
- b) Sustainable use and integrated management of mangroves to develop their production functions.
- c) Improvement of living conditions of local people.
- d) Establishing a legal and institutional framework suitable for participatory management of mangrove ecosystems involving all stakeholders

Matanda News: What are the eligibility conditions for NGOs and CBOs in the CMN?

Mr. Kiam: To be eligible in the CMN, one must first belong to a legal structure (NGO, Association, CIG or CBO), then adhere to the rules and regulations, then regularly pays its annual dues, participate in general meetings.

Matanda News: What are the projects of CMN?

Mr. Kiam: Regarding the projects, I will limit myself to those in the Littoral Region that I represent because CMN is a decentralized network. We have as projects:

- a) Continued advocacy,
- b) Establishing of mangrove nursery sites,
- c) Replanting devastated mangrove area and access to different types of training,
- d) Creating a platform for development and environmentally sound management of mangrove ecosystems for Littoral Region called (The Platform) with technical government departments especially the regional delegations of MINEP, MINFOF, MINEPIA, MINDAF MINADER, etc .

Development partners and decentralized local authorities such as the fishermen communities and other operators of mangrove resources, oil companies and other pollution prone companies, urban communities of Douala and Edea; municipal councils of Wouri, the Sanaga Maritime, and Mungo Nkam division affected by mangrove ecosystems, and civil society

Matanda News: What are the future initiatives of CMN?

Mr. Kiam: In view of the objectives of the CMN there is still plenty to do in the future. National coordination gives orientations and reflections on future initiatives and projects it is not for me to give you these future initiatives of CMN.

Matanda News: What is the action of CMN in the AMN?

Mr. Kiam: CMN feeds the General Secretariat AMN with its activities.

Matanda News: What can you say on the Climate Forum in Copenhagen in December 2009?

Mr. Kiam: I have nothing to say other than expecting the best out of it.

Matanda News: What do you think about global warming?

Mr. Kiam: I believe global warming is a major natural disaster which will lead no doubt on adverse effects on the production of various cultures and civilizations with a great influence on the lives of future generations and posterity.

Matanda News: In your opinion, what are the effects of climate change on mangroves like mangroves in Cameroon?

Mr. Kiam: The effects of climate change on mangroves like mangroves in Cameroon is very significant given its very fragile structure and productive capacity, indeed the consequences will therefore be felt in several aspects: production, biological, ecological, economic, cultural and scientific. That is why flooding continues today due to uncontrolled occupation of wetlands setting an obstacle to the movement of water which is a fundamental element of mangrove ecosystems.

NECROLOGY

YANGO edse KIAM JEANNETTE



You've been a stronghold behind the founding of the Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network (CMN). Your zeal, enthusiasm, tenacity and efforts at work have been a great contribution to the emergence of our beloved network. Now that you're not, your attitude and works will remain as an example to follow in CMN, so you will be engrave in the pantheon of CMN.

Since our Lord has given its approval, go in peace Ms. Jeannette KIAM. May your soul rest in peace and the land of your ancestors rest lightly on you...

BYE ...

05 Mai 1972-Novembre 2009

PROMOTION



**Associate Professor
George CHUYONG**

Dr. George CHUYONG has been promoted to Associate Professor of plant science and ecology at the University of Buea. Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network heartly congratulates him and wishes him good luck in his career.

SOMES IMPORTANTS ANNOUNCEMENS FOR 2010

- Meeting AMN-ECOWAS in Abuja-Nigeria (the date to be determined).
- General Assembly of CMN in Cameroon (13- 14 March).
- African Symposium on mangroves and climate change in Douala- Cameroon (04-05 May).

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