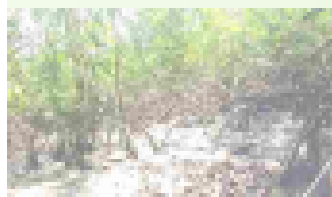


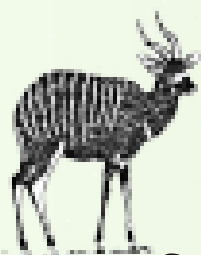
Cameroon Mangrove & Wetlands Conservation Network



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Six-monthly Information Bulletin

To Educate and Inform Cameroonians on Mangroves and Wetlands



CWCS

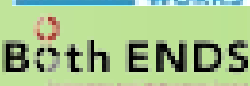
**Cameroon Wildlife
Conservation Society**



Our Partners



Regional Committee
of the Netherlands



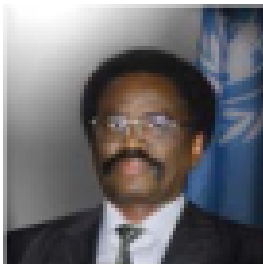
Cameroon Mangrove & Wetlands Conservation Network (CMN) - network of over 40 active grassroots national NGOs, CBOs and experts involved in sustainable mangrove, coastal area and wetlands management issues in Cameroon within a wider regional network-African Mangrove Network (AMN) based in Dakar Senegal. CMN secretariat is hosted by Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS) at Mouanko (National Coordination) and Cameroon Ecology (CAMECO) (Secretary General). Matanda is the coastal parlance for mangroves. Matanda News is a six monthly newsletter of CMN activities and partners.

Editorial

"Matanda News provides relevant news in respect of mangrove ecosystems and wetlands"

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Mr Abari Maï Moussa

Welcome to the latest edition of "Matanda News", the CMN six-monthly newsletter. This bulletin provides relevant news in respect of mangroves ecosystems and wetlands. This is an open platform in which donors, NGOs, beneficiaries can contribute. "Matanda News" is an instrumental tool for CMN to increase its visibility in the field in terms of planning and implementation of activities. This edition is focusing amongst others in various activities achieved by CWCS and partners during the last six months. You will find articles related to a workshop on sustainable and responsible fisheries in mangrove areas with the objective to raise awareness and training of local communities on sustainable and responsible fishing and looking for their effective involvement in the protection of this ecosystem. Other article of interest is the interview granted by the Director of Conservation, Monitoring and Promotion of Natural Resources in MINEPDED and National Coordinator of the FAO-GEF mangroves ecosystems management project. Dr Wassouni emphasizes on what has been achieved so far by this project and the way forward after one year and half of implementation. Lastly, CWCS given the important activities achieved in the area of mangroves ecosystems and wetlands management and protection has been designated by MINEPDED as representative of Cameroonian NGOS in GTIE which is a great accomplishment and recognition of well done job. Enjoy it!

**Mr Abari Maï Moussa,
Resident Representative FAO
Cameroon**

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CWCS Organizes a Workshop on Sustainable and Responsible Fisheries in Mangrove Areas

Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS) is a national organization working in the field of biodiversity conservation. In continuation of its activities in favor of environmental protection and especially wetlands in Cameroon, CWCS organized from 2 to 6 May 2014 workshop held in the conference room of the Sub-Divisional office of Mouanko before an audience of over 47 participants. Participants were village and clan chiefs, representatives of foreign communities, opinion leaders, and representatives of fisherfolk including fishermen, bivalve collectors, firewood collectors and fish smokers.

within the context of the continued capacity building workshop for traditional rulers and opinion leaders in the Mouanko sub Division in Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve as engine and agent of change for the realization of the regazettement process of this reserve into a national park.

The workshop focused on creating awareness and educating local communities on sustainable and responsible fishing and to encourage their effective participation in the protection of this ecosystem. It was a renewed opportunity for the organizers to bring the various targets to realize the potential of mangrove resources of mangrove and coastal multidimensiona l importance (ecological, economic, social, etc.) while showing structure as COPCVAM Environmental and Social Impact

Assessment (ESIA) as a tool for sustainable management of mangroves and coastal ecosystems. It also helped establish a better understanding of the need for ESIA for any project to be implemented around the mangrove areas and specificities to be taken into account in the implementation of ESIA.

Aware that wood is a resource that is the object of intense pressure in mangroves and coastal environments of Mouanko area, participants were made aware of the need to practice the techniques of responsible and sustainable fishing, anything that would ensure the continued production of ecosystem goods and services. The elites of the village in order to make possible the process of upgrading to the national park status which was initiated for some time realized the importance of working together. In addition, they are aware of the procedure for setting up a system for monitoring and evaluation of actions towards responsible and sustainable fishing in the mangrove and coastal areas. The workshop also provided a forum to reiterate the importance and the need to revitalize and make independent management structure as COPCVAM (Steering Committee for the and Social Conservation and Valorisation of Mangrove Resources of Mouanko). Participants were also drilled on the proposed operationalization of the tourist office in Mouanko and urgency of developing responsible tourism activities. To this end, their involvement is needed to ensure sustainable management of mangroves and other fishery resources.

This workshop presided by the DO of Mouanko Mr Youfedi Hamid and facilitated by Mr. Victor Yemi experienced strong mobilization of several national experts and local communities that resulted in several recommendations,



among which the consideration of the concerns of local communities in the process of conducting ESIA and their effective involvement, establishing mechanisms for Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) for the sustainability of fisheries resources in the area by resource users and regeneration of degraded mangrove forest areas. The workshop was ended with a call to re-eco « Together we can make Mouanko next largest tourist destination in Cameroon, just by sustainably using the resources of the mangrove and coastal zone we found both in the Cameroon estuary and in the Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve ».

By Diyouke Eugene,
CWCS



Family photograph

This workshop focused on the theme "Sustainable and responsible fisheries and use of the Protocol on Environmental and Social Studies (ESIA) in the coastal mangrove area of the Douala-Edea Reserve». This was a follow up of last year's workshop (12 to 13 April 2013 at Mouanko)

ZSL and Partners Liaise to Conserve Lake Ossa and its Biodiversity

Freshwater biodiversity is amongst the most threatened and neglected biodiversity in Africa, yet vital for human communities. At 4,000ha, Lake Ossa Wildlife Reserve on the Lower Sanaga River is a refuge for endangered West African manatee and freshwater turtles, and ranks 7th out of 1,256 catchments that qualify as Key Biodiversity Areas within the Guinean Forest Hotspot based on the number of vulnerable species.

More than 80% of the 600 households neighbouring Lake Ossa are heavily dependent on the lake and the reserve, primarily fisheries, though they suffer from high levels of poverty.



Family photograph

Dependence on these resources is only increasing as surrounding areas are increasingly developed for palm oil production. The majority of the workforce of the oil palm plantations work for part of the day and need to substitute their income from other activities – primarily from fishing. This has led to increases in overfishing, destructive fishing, and increases in fishing gear abandonment with the turnover in population. With limited financial resources, access to education and health services are limited, and women typically form the most vulnerable group.

The Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) newly funded Darwin Initiative in Lake Ossa will work with local NGOs, notably the Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS), Watershed Task Group (WTG), and Cameroon-Ecology, to build the capacity and technical skills within vulnerable communities and the Conservation Service tasked with the management of Lake Ossa Reserve, resulting in changed management practices that sustains populations of endangered species and fisheries resources, and enhances the livelihoods of local communities. One unique aspect of this project will include lake clean-ups, centred around the collection and sale of abandoned fishing nets through Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) for recycling into carpet tiles, ZSL's unique partnering initiative with Interface, called Net-Works© (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFQdcDqv5jg>).

On June 18th and June 19th, ZSL organized the first annual planning meetings to present components of the project and to develop a work plan for this first fiscal year. Partners present included the Conservation Service and the MINFOF, CWCS, WTG, Cameroon-Ecology, and the African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization. Work will begin in the coming months, and many studies will be carried out in the field to determine the impact on local communities, fisheries and wildlife over the course of the project. ZSL looks forward to bringing more attention to the unique and complex biodiversity found within the Lake Ossa Reserve and to secure its protection as the most important lake found within the boundaries of Cameroon.

By Lauren Redmore,
ZSL

Designation of CWCS as Representative of Cameroonian NGOs in GTIE

This is no longer a shadow of a doubt; Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS) is one of the NGOs whose merits in the field of biodiversity conservation are recognized internationally, regionally, and especially nationally. Also, this strong declaration is not born of an act of chance. Indeed, in correspondence No. 001108L/MINEPDED/SG/DDPE/ DPS / SPE dated June 17, 2014, the Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) appointed CWCS as one of two organizations that represent non-governmental organizations of civil society in Cameroon in the Technical Working Group on Information on Environmental Indicators. This appointment follows the publication of the decision No. 00091/D/MINEPDED/SG/DDPE/DPS of 15 May 2014 concerning the creation of GTIE. The primary mission of this working group whose importance is not to be re-emphasized is to provide guidance in the collection and analysis of data, monitoring, evaluation, development, production and dissemination of the biennial report on the state of the environment in Cameroon. With this experience and actions in favor of environmental protection and especially wetlands in Cameroon, CWCS will contribute actively with other representatives of ministries

Cameroon mangrove project Second Annual Work Plan and Budget

The Second Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB 2014) for the Cameroon mangrove project "GCP/CMR/030/GFF" was adopted during the Second Technical Steering Committee (TSCo) held last 30 April 2014 in Douala, Cameroon. The conference room of the Hotel Makepe PALACE in Douala, Cameroon hosted two meetings notably the planning and the Technical Steering Committee meetings for the Cameroon Mangrove project, each with over twenty participant's representing the administration, co-financing partners, resource persons among others. All were convened by the Minister of



whose activities touch on the environment.

This designation was received with great satisfaction by the CWCS team. This is also why the Coordinator of CWCS in the person of Dr. Gordon Ajonina, did not fail to express his excitement and gratitude for the renewed confidence that the Minister has put in his organization. Although aware that loving what you do, is to devote oneself without waiting for any reward he did not hesitate to finish his remarks during an internal meeting by imitating the famous thought of John Ruskin « The ultimate reward of work is not what it allows you to gain, but what it allows you to become ».

By Jiazet N. Stéfany, Intern CWCS

Environment, Nature protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). During the planning meeting the implementing partners namely CamEco, CWCS and OPED presented reports of achievements and the difficulties encountered for the AWPB 2013. The discussions from the presentations of



*FAO Monitoring team
in the field*

different partners revealed that reporting, Coordination, follow up missions and Communication / comparative advantages impeded the smooth delivery of the outcomes.

To address some of the challenges faced in the first year of project implementation, the general procedures for managing (GEF) funds and FAO administrative procedures were also presented to elucidate implementing partners on aspects of financial accounts and expenditure to avoid gaps and inconsistencies observed during the AWPBs 2013 execution. The adopted AWPB 2014 will be implemented during a seven months period.

The planning and steering committee meetings were followed by a field visit to some project realizations in Kribi area notably experimental aquaculture sites and mangrove regeneration site.

**by Jean-Hude Ekindi and Julius
NIBA FON - FAO PMU**

Trade of Oysters In Ntem Estuary and Part of the Cameroon Estuary

The NGO OPED conducted a study in 2013 on trade of oysters within the framework of the FAO / GEF project titled "Community Management and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems in Cameroon "to support the management of mangrove ecosystems along the coast of Cameroon. Extensive investigations and strategic and operational information on specific trade of oysters on the sea coast of Cameroon between the Wouri estuary and the border with Equatorial Guinea were collected and recorded.

Context:

Mangrove ecosystems on Cameroon's coast are important both for their contributions to the livelihoods of local people and for the universally important biodiversity they contain. However, these areas are threatened by a number of urban development pressures and by unsustainable management and exploitation practices of local communities living therein. To limit the damage, OPED in partnership with FAO / GEF has conducted a study of the oyster trade to develop alternatives to the degradation of mangrove ecosystems for the well being of coastal populations. Within the Douala-Edea fauna Reserve Douala-Edea, the oyster harvesting is a major socio-economic activities. The advent of the economic crisis with the limitation of recruitment within the state administration resulted in an increase of the actors in the sector. The objective is to ensure long-term

sustainability of the livelihoods of local communities living in and around the mangrove areas. For this reason, involved a hand to have a good knowledge of the oyster trade and secondly, to have good knowledge of potentialities, strengths and weaknesses of the industry.

Balance sheet:

Although the general trend of global landings of catching oysters and collecting shellfish in the estuary and Wouri and the income from it are on the rise, the situation remains that landings are declining. Surveys show that the exploitation of shellfish represents 30-40% and oysters 25% of revenues in the region in the estuary of Wouri. Whereas in the past decade, 55% of people consider as "decrease" or "excessive reduction" in stocks of oysters and shellfish resources in the estuary of Wouri as major causes : excessive harvesting products with youth and men (18%); degradation of the environment (63%) and rapid population growth (75%). In the opinion of respondents, the main impact of declining resources: lower revenues (66 %%%); rising unemployment and poverty (48%); debt (5%); migration to other areas (14%). Cooked oysters are sold in the estuary of Ntem. They are rare in the city of Kribi and the delight of gourmets where they are sold on skewers at bus stations, bars, toll and most of the time by a few women who say oysters come from Mouanko or Edea. Their daily profit after sales varies between 1,000 and 4,500 FCFA.

Use of oysters and shellfish

Oysters are prized gastronomically especially in Mouanko. In Cameroon, most of the annual production comes from this area. Oysters can be eaten raw or cooked. In addition, they can cause serious food poisoning. The oyster shells are crushed and recycled as a source of calcium particularly to poultry farms and of brine shrimp (the example of those produced by AQUASOL Kribi) to improve egg production and growth of chicken and shrimp. Calcium from oyster shell is considered



*Oyster shells used in the
manufacture of feeds at
kribi*

highly bioavailable, but may also have accumulated various heavy metals. In Wouri estuary, oyster shells have various destinations and are valued in the decoration, painting, feed, building and making of dishes. These shells are very appreciative in Ghana and Nigeria and tons are transported in these countries.

At the Wouri estuary, the oyster's distribution circuit most commonly used in the Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve is short. It is frequented by fishermen, local populations, bayam sellam. Oysters have geographical variety destinations (national and international local,). The use of capital is high and the use of means of transport is the rule (trucks, boat, car, etc.) and every day. The markets are supplied daily by a large number of oysters. The marketing channel has no proper organization and no structure is responsible for the supervision of actors. But there is a tax at the local council, Fisheries

Delegation, Forestry Post, Conservation and bribes at government centres. Moreover there is no system of financing or micro-credits for supporting players.

Environmental impact:

Environmentally, this activity in the estuary of Cameroon has an impact on forest resources. Specifically, the firewood that is cut for charcoal (Ajonina et al. 2004), harvest rates of deforestation or are not updated. Today, there is no information available for the relationship between the resource and the mangrove forests. However, the Divisional Officer issued a text to reduce the period of activity of this resource to allow biological recovery. It appears that oysters are an important socio-economic activity around the town of Mouanko by the number of players involved, the revenue generated in households. But we need a more adequate organization of the activity to ensure its sustainability.

Solutions for the development of alternatives to the degradation of mangrove ecosystems:

Reduce pressure on fisheries resources by developing research and investment in aquaculture (fish farming, oyster, shrimp ...) as an alternative; adapting fisheries regulations in each specific context lagoon-river and empowering local people (taking into account the positive aspects of local customary fisheries law) in the monitoring and enforcement measures in their respective territories; organizing dialogue sessions to find management measures concerning lagoon-river fisheries. Strengthen fishermen, professionalizing fishermen reports, local government institutions, traditional authorities, research, producers, private sector, financial and commercial actors and supporting fishermen by providing them with adequate technical expertise and adequate financial resources and more flexible mobilization.

By Elie NGUEKAM WAMBE
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Green Payments for our blue Carbon: An incentive for conserving our mangroves and mitigating climate change

Mangroves are keystone coastal ecosystems providing numerous goods and services. The least investigated, yet critically important service is that of carbon storage (serving both as a sink and source for carbon). The rate of carbon sequestration and storage capacities in mangroves are comparatively high, more effective and more permanent than terrestrial forests. Anthropogenic carbon (the principal greenhouse gas) in the atmosphere and oceans is the most significant cause of global climate change. Curbing climate change requires both removing the carbon from the atmosphere and oceans and avoiding new emissions. Preventing degradation and destruction and promoting restoration of our coastal vegetation dubbed

A sink is any process, activity or mechanism that removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas or aerosol from the atmosphere

terrestrial forests.

Anthropogenic carbon (the principal greenhouse gas) in the atmosphere and oceans is the most significant cause of global climate change. Curbing climate change requires both removing the carbon from the atmosphere and oceans and avoiding new emissions. Preventing degradation and destruction and promoting restoration of our coastal vegetation dubbed

Green carbon is carbon removed by photosynthesis and stored in the plants and soil of natural ecosystems thereby slowing the accumulation of greenhouse gases.

"green forests" is therefore a significant tool we can use to mitigate climate change. These 'green forests' when destroyed or degraded, can become CO₂ source due the oxidation of biomass and organic soils. They will not only stop sequestering C but also release their stores of C and become new sources of C emissions. In addition, the other vital and valuable ecosystem services they supply to the local communities will be lost. The critical question now is whether monetary payment

Blue carbon is the carbon captured by the living organisms in oceans and stored in form of sediments from mangroves for millennia (as opposed to decades or centuries for tropical rainforests).

for blue carbon can alter economic incentives to favour protection of our coastal habitats.

Recent estimates puts our mangroves at 197,500 ha and reducing at 1.1% annually



The UNEP team assessing carbon pools in the mangroves of DEWR (From L to R: J Kairo, G Ajonina, G Chuyong and G Grimsditch)

mangroves in Cameroon.

Enhancing and maximising the cherished benefits from the mangrove ecosystem will compel us to reduce emissions (reducing deforestation and degradation), conserve the carbon stocks (protected areas), ensure proper and sustainable management of existing stands (silviculture) and to also enhance the carbon stocks (afforestation/reforestation). Accomplishing this goal entails meeting the following recommendations; include mangroves in the national definition of forests in order for this ecosystem to be eligible for inclusion in the national REDD+ strategies and inclusion in national GH gas inventories and communications to UNFCCC, consideration for payments for the other ecosystem services (PES) which include fisheries, shoreline protection, wood products and tourism and the implementation of proper land use planning, coastal zone management to maintaining, restoring and enhancing this ecosystem and maximising the benefits.

by George Chuyong, Ph.D
Mangrove Conservation Expert,
GCP/CMR/030/GFF Project

INTERVIEW

" Very few activities were devoted to reforestation ..."

Dr Amadou Wassouni, Director of Conservation Monitoring and Promotion of Natural Resources in MINEPDED, and National Coordinator of the FAO-GEF-Mangrove Partners Project gives more details on the said project being implemented.



Dr Wassouni Amadou

Matanda

News: Can you remind our readers of various government policies for the conservation and management of

mangrove ecosystems in Cameroon?

Dr Amadou Wassouni: The government through the administration works with framework documents. With regard to the coast we can start from the National Environment Management Plan (NEMP) which was revised. We have our environment sector strategy that is being validated. In terms of the coastal zone we have a national action plan for the management of marine and coastal areas, which has been validated three years ago. There is also a regional project called GMCG, Large Marine Ecosystem Guinea Current, which should result in another project funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF). To these documents can also be added Biodiversity Management Strategy Document, and the national plan for the fight against desertification, which takes into account mangrove areas. The government through all these texts tries to give the management vision that should be undertaken to conserve resources that are available in the coastal zone.

Matanda News: What are the conventions that Cameroon has signed regarding the conservation and management of mangrove ecosystems?

Dr Amadou Wassouni: There is the London Convention, which deals with the management of pollution. There is the Abidjan Convention for the Prevention of Marpol against marine pollution by ships, ballast water convention. There is also a convention on the sea. Of direct interest to Cameroonians, is the Abidjan Convention responsible for the recovery, protection of resources that exist in coastal areas and

seas. It is this agreement that is the best known and oldest, since it was signed in 1981 and implemented in 1984.

Matanda News: As coordinator of the national FAO-GEF mangrove partners project, what is your appreciation on it, particularly as regards the level of achievement?

Dr Amadou Wassouni: This project was well designed since 2009, between the Government, FAO and IUCN. Between 2010 and 2011, other partners took part besides CWCS, Cameroon Ecology and OPED. The project is still in the development stage, because we started operations in 2013. We were three months late only resumed operations end of April. We are still launching activities. We cannot yet speak of results at this moment. We need to do a midterm evaluation after two years to have an idea of whether the project is making progress or not.

Matanda News: Now what is implemented on the ground?

Dr Amadou Wassouni: Compared to the partners, the government had three strategy documents. There's a strategy document on management of mangroves, the protocol for conducting environmental and social assessments in mangrove areas. The third is the research plan. OPED had a certain number of activities, including reforestation and building cages for women raising shrimps. Cameroon Ecology should provide guidance for community forests, and establish a platform made up of fishermen and mangrove exploiters. CWCS is responsible for the creation of a marine national park in Mouanko area, and transformation of the Douala-Edea wildlife reserve into a national park.

Matanda News: Although the project is only at the initial phase, are there obstacles the project faces?

Dr Amadou Wassouni: Not everything works like the clock. There was a false start. There have been misunderstandings and misconceptions between partners and the implementing agency. But this disharmony is being gradually flattened. There is no major concern that blocks us, except the one we have just discussed.

Matanda News: Have you noticed any gaps that could eventually be included in the project?

Dr Amadou Wassouni: The whole project is based on awareness raising, capacity building, but very few activities were devoted to reforestation, that is to say that replacing mangroves that people cut for various uses. I believe this was set aside in the development of this project. With funding from GEF (Global Environment Facility), there are no reforestation activities. But GEF expects that it is co-financing that will support reforestation. The GEF funds do not fund reforestation, but they support projects related to biodiversity. It's little contradiction that GEF funds don't pay people who are replanting, whereas above all they finance biodiversity conservation through the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAPs)

Matanda News: The prospects for this project?

Dr Amadou Wassouni: The history is not without surprises. Things can change at any time. At the moment things are looking pretty good. We believe that the project is in the desired direction. The key in the end is that the environment, including the marine and coastal environment through the mangroves is in good condition. That the resident populations get the most benefit from these systems and that the state feels comfortable with its people that develop while taking care of their ecosystem.

Interview by: Rowina Nguimbis

Celebration of World Wetlands Day 2014 in Nkam

Cameroon joined other nations to celebrate February 2, 2014, the 43th edition of the World Wetlands Day to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention 2 February 1971 in the Iranian city. The theme of this year is "Wetlands and agriculture: partners for growth". In the Littoral Region, particularly in the Nkam Division at Yabassi, events were under the patronage of the Rector of the University of Douala, covered the period from Saturday 1st to Sunday, February 2, 2014 at the Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (ISH) Campus. For the first time in Yabassi, these events were



Family photograph

punctuated by a lecture and discussion followed by a field visit. The Rector of the University of Douala being charged with other duties was represented by the Director of IUT. Also taking part in this important event: SDO of Nkam Division; The Regional Delegate of MINEPDED/Littoral, Personal Representative of MINEPDED; The representative of the DO of Yabassi; First Deputy Mayor of Yabassi; Director, officials and lecturers of ISH; Local administrative and traditional authorities; ISH Students; Media coverage was by CRTV / Littoral.

Sequence of events

These events took place in two phases: the speeches and meetings / discussions. Regarding the speeches all started with the Director of ISH welcoming all guests. She showed the importance of this global day and thanked all the guests who travelled all the way

to Yabassi to enhance the splendor of this occasion. This was followed by MINEPDED/ Lt who took the floor to congratulate the University of Douala and particularly ISH for considering the wetlands areas and organizing the day. She then finished on the importance of wetlands. Finally, the representative of the Rector of the University of Douala after thanking the audience named ISH as a seat of wetlands observatory of the University of Douala and declared the conference opened.

During the conference and discussion phase, the different mediations were framed on explaining the issue to the public and communicating the program of activities. The panel was constituted as follows: A representative of the Faculty of Science, University of Douala; MINEPDED / CDJ; Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS), partner of ISH; The representative of IRIC / University of Yaounde II; The Institute of Fisheries Science. Five (05) major themes furnished exchanges, the Inventory of wetlands in Cameroon and the Littoral Region, to the contribution of the ISH for wetland conservation through the involvement of wetlands in the process of emergence of Cameroon, as well as the issues and place of the development of the aquatic environment and international legal instruments on wetlands. With regard to the "Inventory of wetlands in Cameroon and the Littoral Region" It was presented by Prof. Didier Dibong lecturer at the Faculty of Science, University of Douala, who spoke on the presentation of wetlands in Cameroon, economic, ecological and socio-cultural importance. He stressed the need to establish a national wetlands observatory in Cameroon. Regarding the second exposé: "Wetlands and agriculture : which issues for the emergence of Cameroon ?" presented by Dr. Gordon N. Ajonina of CWCS, ISH partner. "Policy emergence of Cameroon in 2035: Challenges and place of the development of the aquatic

environment" Presentation by Prof. Pascal Messanga Nyamding lecturer at IRIC/University of Yaounde II. "International legal instruments supervision of Wetlands" presented by Dr. Jean Kenfack of MINEPDED/CDJ, which has embarked on international documents concerning the management of the environment



Participants on trip on the River Nkam banks

in general and the management of wetlands in particular. "The contribution of the Institute of Fisheries Science in the preservation of wetlands" presentation by Mr. Eugene Ndema Nsombo lecturer at ISH / Yabassi. Following presentations by the panelists, it was followed by a set of questions and answers session that enabled participants to better understand the presentations. The day ended with a dinner. And February 2, There was field visit as part of a visit to a wetland that is found in the Nkam Division: the Nkam river.

**Andrew Rodrigue Mbita Mbita,
G.ECO, ISH**

ANNOUCEMENTS

• The REDD & CC Platform composed of more than 20 networks of Cameroonian civil society including CMN will organize from 23 to 25 July at the Mont Febe Hotel in Yaounde a forum entitled "Civil Society Forum on REDD + and climate change." The objective of the forum is to strengthen the participation of civil society in the construction of the national REDD + strategy and the REDD + process in general in Cameroon.

• The 13th Executive Committee Meeting of RCM will be held in September 2014 at Kribi

Matanda News publishes in very simple language (English and French) to targeted often non- scientific audience with especially photos wherever relevant: very short communication articles on research results, reviews, etc (max 1 page); practical experiences, reports of field activities, trips, etc (max 1 page); announcements (max 50 words), reports of meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc (max 1page); interviews (max 1 page), adverts (1/4 page) on mangroves and wetlands or related issues. It will also be of interest to provide (wherever appropriate) useful links of important mangrove and wetlands websites that can be consulted. Please send your contributions (text in Word and illustrations in JPEG format in separate files) to:

Matanda_news@yahoo.fr Or

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