



National Workshop of Parliamentarians, traditional chiefs and Opinion Leaders for the Strengthening of Communities' Rights in the Context of land & forest tenure reforms in Cameroon



Workshop report

Yaounde 16-17 March 2010



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World Agroforestry Centre, 2010

Acronyms

ACDI:	Agence Canadienne de Développement International
CAFT:	Coopérative AgroForestière de la Trinationale
CED:	Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement
CIFOR:	Centre for International Forestry Research
CEFDHAC:	Conférence des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale
CTFC:	Centre Technique de la Foret Communale
DFID:	Department for International Development
FAO:	United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization
FEDEFKOM	: Fédération pour la Foresterie Communautaire
FFBC:	Fonds Forestier du Bassin du Congo
GTZ:	German Technical Cooperation
ICRAF:	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (World Agroforestry Centre)
IUCN:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MINATD:	Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale et de la Décentralisation
MINDAF:	Ministère des Domaines et Affaires Foncières
MINEPAT:	Ministère de l'Economie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire
MINEP:	Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature
MINFOF:	Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune
MINPROFF:	Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille
MP:	Member of Parliament
NGO:	Non Governmental Organisation
NRM:	Natural Resources Management
UICN:	Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature

USAID:	United State Assistance for International Development
USA:	United States of America
OIBT:	Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux
PSFE:	Programme Sectoriel Forets et Environnement (Forest and Environment Sector Programme)
REPAR:	Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers d’Afrique Centrale
RRG:	Rights and Resources Group, Secretariat de la coalition RRI
RRI:	Rights and Resources Initiative
SNV:	Netherlands Development Organisation
WWF:	Wildlife World Fund

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Foreword

Forest and tree tenure issues combined with NRM related governance represent a very important pillar to support sustainable development in the tropics. It is estimated that several millions of rural people in Africa live in forest areas and that in Cameroon, approximately one third of the population depend on forest resources for their livelihoods. However, as per existing regulatory and policy instruments, the challenge remains to formalize and advance recognition of community rights in the new forestry law reform undertaken since some times in the country. Additionally, though several reforms are taking place in Cameroon, the institutional orientation of forest agencies does not address rights-based development and tenure.

It is therefore clear that all major actors working with and for forest dependent communities need to collaborate from various angles to seek strategies, thoughts and community leaders' opinion towards compromised solutions in favor of the poor living in and around forest areas. Expected changes in the 1994 forestry law should increasingly take into account farmers' daily survival efforts to cope with poverty based stress, their rights contestations as well as community secular stewardship in forest management and environment. The reality is that day by day we are having natural resource related conflicts especially in forest zones of Cameroon and the possibility to attempt resolution is becoming more remote if the question of access and rights are not properly addressed and included in the regulatory mechanisms governing forests , land and trees. Since poverty alleviation is the top agenda item for the Cameroon government, the issue of strengthening community rights fits well in the high level ongoing political will and stakeholders in the domain ought to bring on the reform table various communities and farmers claims for consideration and inclusion in the new expected texts. As highlighted by the previous International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and enterprise held in Yaoundé in May 2009, insecure forest tenure experienced since more that 400 years by African communities in many countries slows social and economic development, hampers sustainable forest management and leads to resource conflicts.

The present workshop report outlines major lessons and lobbying strategies for extended rights based on what the RRI coalition in Cameroon and community partners have achieved in tackling forest resource rights through studies, syntheses and policy dialogue

meetings for the past few years. In conjunction with many more actions by MPs, traditional chiefs and other opinion leaders on the move, we expect to see a stable long-term regulatory framework put in place in Cameroon to recognize customary law and tenure rights in order to establish co-managed forests resources uses to both state and rural people's benefits.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the group formed by ICRAF and IUCN staff that, at short notice rallied a good number of stakeholders and experts from Mali, USA and Cameroon to attend the national workshop. Their reflections captured herein would serve greatly to push the agenda of community based forest tenure rights in Cameroon and probably catalyze reforms in the sub region. For this reason, we strongly encourage RRG and other donors to continue sustainable investments to strengthen the coalition as it remains committed to the ongoing rights related work in Cameroon and beyond. This could boost the ever dreamt green revolution in Africa.

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IUCN- Cameroon Office

Summary

A two day workshop to develop a roadmap comprising scientific local and indigenous knowledge on the integration of rights of communities within the framework of land and forest tenure reform in Cameroon held 16-17 March in Yaoundé. The meeting which brought together some members of Parliament from Cameroon and Mali, traditional authorities and NGOs was organised by the World Agroforestry Centre in collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Rights and Resources Initiative ¹(RRI). The workshop is a follow up of the International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and community enterprise held in 2009 in Yaounde. Addressing participants at the opening, the regional coordinator of ICRAF-WCA, Dr Zac Tchoundjeu in thirteen points, summarised the key issues that were identified by the International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Community Enterprise. Amongst which include; insecure forest tenure in many communities which slows social and economic development, the non-recognition of customary law and tenure rights since the time of colonial rule, and the independent state legal claim of ownership over forest lands which limits the rights of communities to access and own what they legitimately consider to be their natural resources.

The workshop aimed at rendering the MPs and opinion leaders as operating vehicles of the lessons and stakes and transforming them to well-informed advocates of rights of tenure and access to resources by communities. In the course of the workshop, the organisers were able to share the results of community rights mapping studies led by RRI partners and collaborators in Cameroon, (ICRAF, IUCN, CIFOR, CED, Cameroon Ecology, and CAFT), in collaboration with communities. As a tool for communication and conflict resolution, participatory community rights mapping promises to provide administrative and political decision-makers with technical support to highlight socio-cultural, political and economic realities related to land and forest tenure and to

¹The Rights and Resources Initiative (www.rightsandresources.org) is a new global coalition of international, regional and community organizations that pro-actively engages governments to adopt institutional reforms; advances a more strategic understanding of the global threats, opportunities and promising tenure and business models; and catalyzes more effective and efficient intervention on tenure and governance. The Secretariat of the coalition RRI is based in Washington DC, USA.

communities' claims on necessary elements to take into account during the current forest policy reform process.

A series of presentations and questions and answers sessions comprised most of the brainstorming part. The rich experience on lobbying and policy influence presented by the Mali team² during the sessions and active participation and contribution of traditional rulers and the head of reform committee at the ministry of forestry (MINFOF) was significant to the success of the workshop.

Cameroon's Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, through his representative, reiterated government's commitment and determination to move forward with the ongoing reforms in order to strengthen the rights of communities whose livelihood depend on the land use. One on the key message of this workshop is that "community rights are Human Rights".

² Intercooperation- Sahel (un des partenaires de RRI au Mali) dans le cadre de ses activités de promotion des droits des communautés dans le contexte de la décentralisation au Sahel est entrain de mettre en place «un dossier de plaidoyer sur le transfert des ressources forestières et fauniques et sa défense par les acteurs maliens autour de l'Assemblée Nationale et du Haut Conseil des Collectivités Territoriales ». L'objectif de cette action est d'influencer le processus d'élaboration des textes d'application de la décentralisation notamment l'effectivité du transfert de compétences en gestion des ressources naturelles GRN. Il est attendu de cette action que l'Assemblée nationale (AN) et le Haut conseil des collectivités territoriales (HCCT) interpellent le Premier Ministre (PM) sur le dossier des décrets de transfert de compétences des ressources forestières et fauniques

Introduction

The issue of rights of communities in the management of forest resources is nowadays becoming a cause for concern for various actors in sustainable development. Besides, in Cameroon, the review of the 1994 Forest Law, the initiative of reviewing the current law and resolutions from various multi partners consultations, notably the commitments taken by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) during the international conference on forest tenure held in Yaoundé in May 2009 (see Proceedings from the Conference) clearly show the political and institutional will by Cameroonian authorities to conduct the process of reforming laws and regulations towards a recognition of the rights of communities, whose survival depends on the scope of access to natural resources.

Moreover, the decentralisation policy and the procedures handbook stands as enough evidence of efforts put in to move towards more equity in the concerted and sustainable management of forests. It is probably also for this same reason that during an inter cabinet meeting between the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, and the Forest Environment Sector Programme (PSFE), the Permanent General of MINFOF declared: “Challenges brought about by forests as a whole henceforth go beyond agriculture, illegal exploitation and poaching; they include nowadays mines and the clarification of forest tenure scheme of rural communities whose well-being relies on the said forests...” Yaoundé, August 2008). However, there is no multi-partners initiative to render productive from a consensual and effective manner these efforts aimed at carrying out an integrating reform of current issues, whereas access to forest property and other resources are more and more hindered by social and economic frailty as well as changes in the ecological milieu (Ndikumagenge, 2009).

Workshop objectives and expected results

The workshop aimed primarily at not only rendering the Parliamentarians, traditional chiefs and leaders of opinion who will be present, operating vehicles of lessons and stakes they would have learned, but also gradually transforming them into well-informed advocates of rights to tenure and to access resources by communities.

Secondly, the workshop sought to share the results of studies carried out by RRI in Cameroon and to promote participatory mapping of the rights of communities. Presentations are to be organised with regards to research topics followed by short questions-and-answers sessions spiced up with discussions and exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

Finally, the workshop aimed at mobilising the impact of MPs, traditional chiefs and leaders of opinion, so as to let them bring in more effective contributions by negotiating more extended rights for communities within the framework of the reform of the forest law currently being carried out in Cameroon. Plans of actions and strategies prior to priority actions to come shall be set up during group works.

Workshop running and Synthesis

On March 16 and 17, 2010, the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in collaboration with other members of the RRI (CIFOR, CED, Cameroon Ecology, and CAFT), organised an important national workshop in Yaoundé. The main objective focused on setting up a strategy and a plan of action that can help parliamentarians and other elected officials as well as opinion leaders take advantage of the revision of the forest law to introduce pertinent amendments aimed at strengthening the rights of communities on the resources. It was also a timely opportunity for the coalition to share beforehand among participants the most effective outcome of its intense endeavour in favour of communities suffering from the numerous consequences of unrecognized rights. This event was successfully moderated by Professor Paul Tchawa under the coordination of Serge Ngendakumana and Dr Zac Tchoundjeu.

I – Strategic and Methodological Approach of the Workshop

In order to achieve this crucial objective, the strategy enacted by the coalition consisted of choosing adequately participants who may be classified into four major groups.

1 – The group of participants from government officials and policy makers. Within this category, were participants from MINFOF who were part of the Committee for the Revision of the Forest Law, civil society agents (Mayors, Officials of associations) who are confronted on a daily basis with many complaints from communities, and some members of the coalition who, within the framework of their activities, had displayed means and methods rendered quite effective.

2 – The group of participants who are considered to have a good mastery of the various appearances of the sources of communities' rights and who are capable of speaking legitimately on behalf of the said communities. This category of participants is represented by traditional chiefs from the South, Centre and South-West Regions of the country. Traditional chiefs have effectively shown their good knowledge of the ins and outs of the issue, by outlining the immaterial and sacred characteristics of forest resources.

Their presence has at last let each and everyone to be aware of the regional specificities on the issue of rights of communities in Cameroon.

3 – The category including participants capable of sharing their experiences and their know-how in terms of lobbying directed towards taking into account prescribed innovations for the transfers of competencies related to the management of forest and wildlife resources. This category of participants is represented by Intercoopération Sahel and the National Assembly of Mali whose presentation entitled “Local Conventions and a Plea for the Transfer of Competencies” got thumbs-up from the audience.

4 – The last category includes those who were approached to conduct the strategy of lobbying towards reinforcing the rights of communities. This category obviously comprised parliamentarians, most of whom are members of the “Réseau des Parlementaires pour la Gestion Durable des Ecosystèmes Forestiers d’Afrique Centrale” (REPAR).

To the well-informed on the choice of participants, it is worth adding a strategy that lays emphasis on the participative approach and on equality. Works were thus conducted in a friendly atmosphere whereby all the parties on seat freely expressed their points of view. It has also been suggested and adopted, that in such circumstances, it would be preferable the workshop focuses on precise aspects to be amended. Similarly, it was adopted that the objective should be clearly identified in order to maximise the probability for adoption. Finally, participants acknowledged that any changes being basically subject to rejection, there was need to come up with a well-thought strategy and avoid by all means any conflicts with the State; such conflicts could lead to rejection. It is in this line that Chief Atem Ebako suggested that priority be given to the win-win principle; that is, proposing amendments in favour of the strengthening of communities’ rights on resources while keeping in mind that the State of Cameroon could, on its own, tip non negotiable priorities due to the principle of sovereignty, among others.

II- Content of the Workshop

The workshop per se was made up of two categories: The first category was divided into two types of presentations. As for the second category of presentation was dedicated to group works.

II.1 Plenary presentations and discussions

The first type was aimed at putting all the participants at the same level of information on the issue of rights of communities. Thus, in a nutshell, Serge Ngendakumana in his presentation recalled the context surrounding the workshop, the objectives and results that were expected at the end of the meeting. He indicated that the global objective of the important event had to do with seeking efficient popular and social levers towards impacting reforms of current forest policies in Cameroon.

As for Samuel Nguiffo's presentation, it opportunely stated that *those who rely the most on resources are those who paradoxically have less access rights to the said resources*. Hence, the role of RRI coalition in Cameroon and elsewhere in the world is to provide a response to this paradox by inducting reforms in favor of the population living in poverty. In Cameroon, the RRI coalition is in permanent consultation with the administration, communities as well as opinion leaders in order to see how to get significant progress towards community rights inclusion within the framework of the reform of the 1994 forest law currently going on. However, as highlighted by Samuel Nguiffo: "the end of the law review process should not bring to an end the started discussions on community rights in Cameroon. There is a need to consider further more other laws and texts which have an impact on the forest sector such as land and mines laws". He further emphasized the need to carry out reforms in favor of needy populations and to insure that resources are being improved, controlled and fairly redistributed.

It is in this line that Yves Mandjem , through his presentation, emphasized on monopolistic character of the forests management by the government of Cameroon (as it is in several African countries), and pursued his address on the challenge of recognizing ownership rights, marginalization of indigenous people and elites impunity. For a better community rights consideration, Mr Mandjem insisted at the end on the need to improve

regulatory and legal frameworks while targeting at the same time decentralized and participatory forests management alongside co-management.

On his part, Benjamin Zambo started his presentation on an informative note about the context of the ongoing forest law review. He said that the need for the review arose from the diagnosis done on the implementation of the existing texts which revealed important problems on certain aspects and many more emerging issues which were not covered or taken in account before as echoed by one of the traditional chiefs in the following terms: *“we have been victims and we are still suffering from the 1994 forestry law”*. Mr Zambo also elaborated on the law review process which, according to his presentation, started in September 2008, when MINFOF was given power to create an inter-ministerial commission for the review of the forestry law and its application texts. He additionally informed the participants about the task force set up to carry out the review exercise as well as details on the twelve forest governance related themes identified to guide stakeholders during the review process. Based on the recommendations from the Yaoundé International Conference on forest tenure and the commitment made by MINFOF for tenure reforms, the RRI coalition in Cameroon had been chosen to lead the thematic area “Rights, tenure, and community forest enterprises”.

The presentation of Samuel Assembe on the situation of the rural populations’ collective rights laid emphasis on the need in addition to focusing on land tenure and forest systems to assess the nature, the consistency and the scope of communities’ legitimate rights. **“Community rights are Human rights”** said Samuel and in Cameroon the Constitution recognises “the need for a healthy environment”. However, there is no National policy document on the recognition of community rights and on rural development. Without a better understanding of the spirit of the law it cannot be implemented well. While acknowledging that there was a wide range of communities’ recognized rights, the speaker stressed out that those rights were far from being effective. The main reasons for such a breach are the marginalisation of custom rights as well as a poor awareness and implementation of existing laws.

The second type of presentations had to do with diverse experiences. Cecile Ndjebet and Patrice André Pa’ah shared with participants their experience related to community rights mapping and consultations. The mapping experience covers areas on which both forest

exploitation and mining activities are carried out. From that experience, one could acknowledge the effectiveness of the tool which better brings out the complexity of the rights of communities on the natural resources. It was unanimously acknowledged that the tool ought to be widely disseminated and institutionalised. Consultations done with communities in the East, South, Centre, and Littoral of Cameroon are done to collect communities suggestions on what and how the revision of the law should take into account their rights and daily constraints in forest management. One of the key findings from the consultations with communities is that the national zoning plan has created a lot of frustrations for communities; therefore, participatory community rights mapping should be promoted as the tool to better assess the superposition of rights in permanent state domains, which are basically sources of conflicts.

The other experience was from REPAR, presented by Honourable Zam Jean Jacques. It had to do not with structure, functioning, strategy, lobbying, but mostly with partnership, particularly with traditional chieftaincy and how the network of parliamentarians in the Congo Basin has taken up the lead to make sure forest ecosystems are managed sustainably and community rights recognized in forest reforms.

The last presentation of this category was that of Intercooperation-Sahel, on the institutions that might be targeted during the lobbying process to advance equity and rights in decentralized forest governance. Emphasis was being laid on local conventions; but, the record was said straight at this level, so as to avoid mixing up the issue of transferring competencies to local governments on which the activity of RRI Mali is based, and the issue of sustaining the rights of local communities advocated by the RRI coalition in Cameroon. The experience from Mali got a positive feedback from all the participants.

It should also be noted that some participants would have liked to have more precise references on various wildlife aspects. Similarly, there is need to tackle the issue of conflicts between the State and local populations regarding access to resources, while keeping in mind that the forest has more to offer beyond material value. In most cases, the immaterial and psychological dimension is not considered. Thus, there is a need to take into consideration those immaterial aspects in the new forest law just as people should be given the opportunity to suggest ideas regarding reforms to be carried out.

The workshop also raised the issue related to the discriminative idea of indigenous people or "*peuples autochtones*" in French which was often pointed out by some speakers.

Before the workshop ended, it was unanimously agreed to use but the term *rural populations*, instead of the polemic term “*autochthones*” which, in the Cameroonian context, is very complex and contested.

Besides those formal presentations, it is worth taking note of the point of view of traditional chiefs who unanimously acknowledged that:

1 – It is urgent to think about setting up information mechanisms through easy-going means, in favour of populations;

2 – Rural communities should legitimately benefit from a pre-emptive right related to their settlement on a given land long before the advent of unitary State;

3 – The idea of *fight against poverty* should go alongside that of sustaining the rights of rural populations;

4 – The fact that the State goes on proclaiming its exclusive ownership rights over lands, whereas the settlement of communities that occurred long before the creation of the State entity is enough reason to acknowledge the rights they claim. Consequently, putting forward Land Certificate as sole proof of ownership is not consistent.

This stance was sustained with several illustrations, among which Chief Atem's, who argued that the fate of rural lands is piloted from Yaoundé, whereas it is often a matter of attempting to snatch thousands of hectares, regardless of rural populations' practices.

To sum up all that has been stated earlier, organisers of the workshop directed the following questions to participants who, afterward, amended them:

II.2 Main problems arising from consecutive presentations and discussions

Under this section, a series of questions and concerns emerged from various discussions. The following are the major ones synthesized during participants exchanges:

1 – What action should be taken so that rural populations who depend on natural resources do no longer feel themselves as mere users?

2 – How to improve the control and fair access to resources?

3 – How to act on the forest reform so that it can better help solve the critical state of rural poverty?

4 – The issue of conflict between the State and local populations should be tackled without passion, in a constructive manner, insuring actions lead to win-win solutions.

5 – Several rights of rural populations to resources seem to be recognized, but:

- how to sustain them?
- how to dispel the numerous restrictions that plague them?
- how to render them flexible enough to take into account local particularities (South-West, East, South, etc.)?
- how to render them effective so that rural populations can actually understand how they impact their life on a daily basis?
- how to go about it in such a way that a maximum of people living in rural areas grasp the provisions of the laws which concern them?
- how to dispel terminological ambiguities and confusions (autochthones...) and readopt a less discriminatory and more inclusive terminology?

6 – Introducing the immaterial, spiritual, psychological and symbolical dimension of the law currently being revised, for the stakes are not always financial;

7 – There is absolute need for land tenure, conferred solely with the issuing of land certificate, to be reconsidered from its development;

8 – There is need to succeed in reconciling divergent objectives, on the face of it (industrial or agro industrial development / basic human rights / conservation of resources);

9 – the issue of forest governance should be clearly taken into consideration in the current reform (cases of urban elites, of distribution of forest-generated income, of initial means to be mobilised by the rural populations in order to sponsor the process of acceding to community forests, of concessions to foreign operators, of securing the populations' access to the peripherals of current agro industries and of insuring facilities inscribed in concessions contracts, common forest / community forest / relationship between representatives of the administration and rural populations);

10 – Clarifying the funding mechanisms of projects by international organisations so that the full mastery of the process by the State would be quite visible;

11 – Partnership, participation and representation of rural populations:

- Who has to speak on behalf of rural populations? (Civil society? Traditional institutions?)
- How to bring rural populations to involve themselves in these processes which impact the very essence of their living?
- What types of partnerships to be signed between REPAR and traditional chieftaincies?
- What is the contribution of women in the management of forest and land resources?

12 – The participatory community mapping of space and rights:

- How can it be disseminated in target sites in order to better state out the complexity of rights?
- How to extend the mastery of such a tool to all parties involved?
- How to insure that its practice be institutionalised and explicitly inscribed within the legal provisions?

14 – Specificities of custom laws should be absolutely incorporated within the positive law within the framework of this reform and should not be contrasted, as noticed.

15 – The role of training and sensitization in the process of recognizing the rights of communities.

- With regards still on law review process, one of the key questions was the composition of the task force set up. Participants wanted why those involved in making decision over the law review process are mostly international organizations based in Cameroon and voiced out this as weakness which shows a lack of process ownership spirit by national actors and local communities who ought to be more concerned by their forestry law. That is why one of the traditional rulers exclaimed

ironically in the following terms « a stranger has come to mourn my mother's death ».

- The misleading perception of communities to be trained and build their capacities because they are not expert in forest resources management. But as rightly stated by one of the chief relating one statement of a community member in Ebako South West Province: “The forest for us has served for education. My mother who did not receive formal education knows all the names of the trees and birds in the forest”; thus to say, communities know their forests and should be the main decision makers and benefiter.

II.3 –Discussing and analyzing community rights and forest governance: perspectives from different stakeholders

Group work approach was designed to achieve the 3rd workshop objective “Mobilizing the influence of MPs, traditional chiefs and opinions leaders, providing them a forum to bring in their effective contributions to negotiate extended community rights within the framework of the reform of the forest law currently being carried out in Cameroon. The approach was set up to anticipate plans of actions and strategies prior to priority actions to come. Participants were categorised according to the following criteria: background, service of origin and gender. The following measures were taken regarding working in groups and methodology: Firstly, the setting up of groups has been carried out according to the background of participants, in such a way that participants from the same sector of activities would not find themselves within the same groups. Then, the assignment of groups was clearly elaborated and presented. It included a core item that tackled the issues of methods, then after three blocks of issues considered as substantive. The main issues discussed included the identified gaps with regards to community rights to forests resources in the existing law and how best RRI coalition could advance the recognition of those denied rights in the new anticipated texts.

The first group was to tackle the following points:

- 1- What are the points that absolutely have to be stated out in the plea?
- 2- What should be the targets of such a plea?

- 3- How to support REPAR in its assignment as the leader?
- 4- What partnerships and what mechanisms of collaboration to be implemented to that effect?

The assignment of the second group was as follows:

- 5- How to follow up and assess the evolution of the plea?
- 6- What lessons to learn from other countries' experiences?
- 7- Feed-back mechanisms at the level of rural communities.

And the third group was to brainstorm on the following points:

- 8- What are the obstacles that affect the plea? How to overcome them?
- 9- Seeking attempts to solving those issues or overcoming the obstacles.
- 10- How to finance the activities associated to the plea?
- 11- Bringing out a chronogram towards finalising the plea.

Key ideas from the group discussions are summarized in the three sections below.

1- Forest Governance, Community Rights, and Participation

This section was debated upon using institutional analysis tools via problems identification, constraints highlight and related solution, before tackling the funding challenges and timing. The table below indicates details hereafter.

Identified problems	Key constraints	Solutions	Funding
Implications and participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mastery of the texts • Lack of existing texts dissemination mechanism • Ignorance • Inappropriate texts application process • Absence of collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and sensitization of local populations • Extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public funds • Autofinancing • External donors

Gouvernance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad practices • Absence of transparency • Corruption • Legal gaps and incoherences • Impunity • Inappropriate texts application process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find against corruption • Strict Application of penal law • Clarification of rules and completion of inexistant texts • Sensitisation on good gouvernance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public funds • Autofinancing • External donors
Populations rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignorance of existing rights • Absence of global policy documents on rural populations rights • Marginalization of land and customary laws • No consideration of local knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization of existing rights • Elaboration of global policy documents on rural populations rights • Review of existing laws on the rural populations rights • Valuing customary law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public funds • Autofinancing • External donors
Training and sensitization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of human resources • Lack of funding • Lack of adequate didactic material • Lack of training modules and programmes • No enough structures to support rural populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of trainers • Decentralisation of training programmes • Developing training programmes on rural populations rights • Conception and production and dissemination of didactic material on rural populations rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public funds • Autofinancing • External donors

Elements mentioned above might bring about changes in community livelihoods if decision makers take them into account in the process.

2- Advocacy for community rights: Processes, Strategies, and Experiences from other countries

Under this section, the key questions were on how to monitor the advocacy process based on the lessons and experiences from other countries and how to interact with communities

through the lobbying and advocacy process. From the analysis of the participants' exchanges, the process has to start by community rights mapping and local knowledge systems mastery. This could enable the coalition to bring out tangible arguments based on forest dependent people's felt realities and perceptions with regards to the 1994 law. The strategy should consist in disseminating the law document in target communities while assisting them to come out with related problems, conflicts and incoherence before formulating propositions to the task force set up. It should be very important for the coalition to plan to take part within the whole law review process targeting key influential actors such as MINFOF, National Assembly through some MPs while interacting on a regular basis with the task force. As from Mali experience, this advocacy process could make good use of farmers' organizations and community platforms who might need to draft memoranda and other lobbying documents (ie poster, handbills, etc). Consultation Meetings and reflection workshop constitute the possible pathways to reach the target. There are several types of organization in Cameroon for this purpose such as REPAR, FEDEFKOM, Forets Modèles, réseaux des peuples autochtones, le conseil national des jeunes.

3- Community rights and decentralization

According to results from participants' ideas and aspirations, three points must be considered as advocacy for community rights are concerned: reinforcing equity in forests acquisition, equitable and transparent forest resources management and finally developing rewarding and compensation mechanisms for community and traditional chiefdoms.

Regional threats, specificities and needs should be taken into account as new texts are being developed. As decentralization is being pursued in Cameroon, RRI coalition should build on functional partnerships and networks to push the agenda of community rights. The following are the exit points of concern gathered from the various debates:

1. Participatory mapping should be a compulsory step towards delimitating forest concessions for exploitations
2. The zoning plan review should be done based on community mapping in collaboration with local and traditional governments not any logger with satellites

3. Pursue the reflection on the setting up of land security mechanisms for local people in response to the problems and conflicts from the land title which sometimes is not a key answer to land property right.
4. Community empowerment to fight for their rights through training , sensitization and support local initiatives

Several categories of actors to target had been identified as follow:

The Executive made of *MINATD, MINEPAT, MINDAF, MINFOF, Ministry of Mines and industries, MINEP, MINPROFF, Contrôle Supérieur de l'Etat...alongside* The National Assembly, the REPAR, The World Bank, Municipalities, traditional chiefdoms, civil society and private sector.

In the this process to advance community rights in Cameroon, participants advised RRI coalition to work hand in hand with bilateral cooperation bodies (GTZ, ACDI, DFID, USAID, SNV...), international Organizations (UICN, WWF, FAO, CIFOR, ICRAF, OIBT...), local NGOs, the Fonds Forestier du Bassin du Congo (FFBC) and municipalities and traditional chiefs.

Details on groups work outcomes are found in annex1 at the end of the report.

III - Conclusions

At the recap, discussions and questions helped to reach a consensus on the several key points including:

- The need to learn from the Malian experience, notably the know-how on local convention, while keeping in mind that the assignment of RRI Mali differs from that of the coalition in Cameroon.
- Among the points to be taken into account in the reform, there must be:
 - o the issue of the recognition of local communities' rights;
 - o the issue of governance in terms of managing forest resources;
 - o the issue of conflicts between various actors involved;
 - o the issue of communities' rights within the mine sectors;

- the issue of the representation of communities and the civil society in Forest resources management;
- The issue of partnership between REPAR and traditional chiefs aimed at conveying the message more effectively. To this effect, the idea of a permanent consultation framework and the elaboration of an agenda of meetings was suggested.
- The revision of the zoning plan, based on the community rights mapping among local and indigenous peoples in Cameroon;
- The empowerment of populations to let them defend their rights (through sensitization, training, support, etc.);
- Among ideas suggested, was also that of setting up an efficient mechanism of feed-back to communities, including information workshops and community radio.

Globally, after the two days of intense reflections and fruitful exchanges on community rights and forest tenure, this workshop achieved fully the expected results. In fact, participating MPs, traditional chiefs and leaders of opinion became more excited to operate as vehicles of lessons and stakes they have learned and showed much commitment as well-informed advocates of rights to tenure and to access resources for communities they represent. On the other hand, the results of studies carried out by RRI in Cameroon were globally shared through oral presentations and plenary discussions. Finally, through traditional chiefs and MP's effective contributions and Mali's experience, the workshop permitted to get more strategies towards negotiating more extended rights for communities within the framework of the reform of the forest law currently being carried out in Cameroon.

IV. Closing remarks



In the various closing remarks, participants were visibly enthusiastic with getting themselves more involved in the issue discussed. Actually, the issue of the rights of communities is a matter of human rights and, thus, should be treated as such.


- Participants from Mali reaffirmed their commitment to give in return a faithful report of the resolutions of the workshop back home, just as they are willing to pursue the collaboration initiated at the workshop.
- The RRI Africa Program Coordinator, Dr. Solange Bandiaky on her part suggested that in addition to activities related to the follow-up of the process of implementation of the plea, all other opportunities given to the coalition, notably those related to the partnership with universities should be explored.
- She thus shared the viewpoint of Dr Zac Tchoundjeu according to whom the training and the sensitization constitute a four-axis component of utmost importance in such a process.
- For having been invited by the coalition, the incessant speech expression of gratitude from Madam ATSAM Pauline, the Mayor of Ngoyla, moved most participants, just as it was unanimously recognized that the highly non-conformist attitude adopted by traditional chiefs during the workshop made it very much easy to come out with positive results.
- The chiefs, through Professor –Chief Tsala Ndzomo Guy, associated lecturer from University of Yaoundé I, reaffirmed their willingness to support the initiative as much as it aims at sustaining the rights of the communities they represent.

It is on this glimmer of hope, that Dr Zac Tchoundjeu officially closed the Yaoundé national workshop by insisting on the fact that the most exciting and the most complex were still ahead.

V. Annexes

Annex 1: Programme of workshop

Yaoundé, Hôtel Franco, 16-17 Mars 2010		
Mardi 16	Mise en route, leçons et enjeux des droits de tenure et d'accès aux ressources par les communautés au Cameroun Présidente de Séance: Dr Solange Bandiaky	
9.00-9.45	Accueil et enregistrement des participants	Serge/Adonis
	Introduction des participants/Élection des Rapporteurs	Adonis/Serge
	Mots de bienvenus : ICRAF, IUCN, RRI, un parlementaire	Adonis
	Discours d'Ouverture	Ministre /Représentant
9.45-10.15	Objectifs et attentes de l'atelier, Présentation du facilitateur désigné et des présidents de séances	Dr Zac Tchoundjeu /Serge Ngendakumana
10.15-10.45	PHOTO DE GROUPE/ PAUSE CAFE 	
10.45-11.15	Keynote : <i>Ressources forestières et Droits de tenure et d'accès par les communautés : Défis et perspectives</i>	Mme P. Galega
11.15-11.45	Processus de révision de la loi forestier de 1994 : Eubia Ndongou ou un représentant du MINFOF ou du Groupe de Travail de la révision de la loi de 1994	Facilitateur, Pr. Paul Tchawa
11.45-12.10	REPAR (rôles, objectives, stratégies, actions)	
12.10-12.25	Etat des lieux des droits collectifs reconnus aux communautés locales du Cameroun	Samuel Assembe CIFOR
12.25-13.00	Discussion/échange/point de vue des élus et leaders d'opinion	Facilitateur, Pr. Paul Tchawa
13.00-14.00	LUNCH 	
14.00-15.30	Les partenaires de RRI au Cameroun : Etudes de cas relatives à la cartographie des droits des communautés 1. Samuel Nguiffo (CED) : Moving Beyond Usage Rights: Recognizing Customary Rights of Local and Indigenous Communities in Protected Area Management in Cameroon	Facilitateur, Pr. Paul Tchawa

	<p>2. Phil René Oyono (Consultant RRI) : State-Owned Forests and Rights Game in Southern Cameroon: Resurgence of an Old Debate with no Exit or Parting of the Ways?</p> <p>3. Cécile Ndjebet (Cameroun Ecologie) : State, Local Communities and Changing Forest Status: Exclusive Legal Dualism in Coastal Cameroon. Case Studies in the Kienké-Sud and Loungahé/Mangombè Forest Massifs</p> <p>Discussion/échange/point de vue des élus et leaders d'opinion</p>	
15.30-15.40	PAUSE CAFE 	
15.40-17.00	<p>Les partenaires de RRI au Cameroun : Etudes de cas relatives à la cartographie des droits des communautés</p> <p>1. Venant Messe : Indigenous Bagyeli Communities and the Reclassification of Forest Management Unit 09-026 in Ocean Department, Cameroon: From Marginalization to Advocacy for Rights Protection</p> <p>2. Patrice André Pa'ah (CAFT) : The Rights of Communities Confronted with Exclusive Mining Zones: The Case of Communities Neighboring the Mbalam Iron-Ore Bed in the Ngolya Region+</p> <p>Discussion/échange/point de vue des élus et leaders d'opinion</p>	Facilitateur, Pr. Paul Tchawa
17.00	Fin travaux de la première journée	Adonis
Mercredi, 17	Mobilisation de l'influence des Parlementaires et des leaders d'opinion Président de Séance:	
8.30-9.00	Collaboration Inter coopération et Assemblée Nationale du Mali pour un transfert effectif des compétences et pouvoirs dans le contexte de la décentralisation	Célestine Dembélé et Honorable Moussa Koumbéré
9.00-9.15	Recap des leçons apprises des études de cas et organisation des travaux en sous-commissions pour le développement des plans d'action	Facilitateur, Pr. Paul Tchawa
9.15-10.30	<p>Travaux en sous-commissions</p> <p>1. WG 1: Défis et enjeux des droits de la tenure foncière et forestière (Président :.....)</p> <p>2. WG 2: Contraintes, opportunités et perspectives des droits communautaires dans le contexte des</p>	Serge Ngendakumana

	<p>reformes actuelles en cours (Président :.....)</p> <p>3. WG 3: Stratégies d'influence au cours du processus et mobilisation des moyens requis (Président :.....)</p>	
10.30-11.00	Pause Café ☕	
11.00-13.00	Travaux en sous-commissions (suite) et Présentation en plénière et discussion à 12 :00	Adonis, Pr. Paul Tchawa
13.00-14.00	LUNCH 🍽️	
14.00-16.00	Sessions plénière : élaboration d'un document de plaidoyer qui définit la feuille de route des parlementaires pour un plaidoyer des droits des communautés ; Discussion sur quel partenariat RRI/ Cameroun et parlementaires	Facilitateur, Pr. Paul Tchawa
16.00-16.30	PAUSE CAFE ☕	
16.30-17.00	Wrap up et Fin des travaux	Zac /Cleto/ Solange / un Parlementaire
20.00	Diner/Cocktail	Lyliane et Christelle

Annex 2 : List of participants



Hôtel Franco – Yaoundé, 16-17 mars 2010

N	Names	Function/Responsibility/Structure	Contact Adresses
1.	M. Minong Etienne MINFOF	MINFOF	Tel : 77 51 71 81
2.	M. Bengono Alain	Inspecteur N1 MINFOF	Tel : 96 03 98 10 bengonoag@yahoo.fr
3.	M. Owono Stéphane	Chef Protocole MINFOF	22 06 92 88
4.	M. Langolo Lambert Ferry	CC RDPC Yokadouma	Tel : 70 70 00 43
5.	M. Ousmanou Ibrahim	SG CAFC Yaoundé	Tel : 77 32 53 37
6.	M. Zambo Benjamin	Point Focal Relecture de la Politique et des textes de la Loi forestière	Tel : 77 66 44 00 benjaminzambo@yahoo.fr
7.	Mme ATSAM Pauline	Maire de Ngoyla	Tel : 22 99 30 30
8.	Hon. BATOUM	Chef de Division Coopération MINFOF	Tel : 7748 86 96 96 60 04 44
9.	Hon. Gervais BANGAOUI BATADJOMO	Réseau des élus du Trinational de la Sangha (RET) Salapoumbe (Moloundou)	BP 140 Yokadouma Tel : 99 54 90 56 74 49 24 44 Met-tns@yahoo.fr , bangaoui05@yahoo.fr
10.	M. Gustave OSSIE	Foret modèle de Dja et Mpomo Mindourou	BP 55 Abong-Mbang Tel : 99 65 07 91 ossiegustave@yahoo.fr
11.	Chief BELL Luc Rene	Chef de Bomabom – Bondjock (Centre) Nyong et Kellé	BP 2371 Yaoundé Tel : 77664900
12.	Chief, Prof. TSALA Ndzomo Guy	Chef Traditionnel Région du Centre (Associé a l'Université de Yaoundé I)- Obala	BP 337 Yaoundé Tel : 77 70 49 84 tndzomo@yahoo.fr guysala@gmail.com
13.	Hon. Chief NN MBILE Jr	BWB Bobombi Wa Batanga Toko District, N'dian	BP 40 Mundemba Tel : 77 61 58 08

		Mundemba (Toko)	77 57 30 66 Nangia1956@yahoo.com
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14	Dr, Chief Atem Ebako	Associate Farmers (ASSOFARM) Atem-Ebako Centre for Health and Development Talangaye, Nguti, Kupe Muanenguba	C/O Mukete raod, Kumba town Atem-Ebako Centre for Health and Development Tel : 77 64 89 95 33 35 43 86 chiefatem@yahoo.com atemebakocenter@yahoo.com
15	Chief Tanyi Robinson	FEDEFKOM / GIC Tinto,	BP 987 Douala Tel: 77 60 81 94 Fax: 33 42 91 44 mfawtanyi@yahoo.co.uk fedefcom12@gmail.com
16	S.M. Bruno Mvondo	RRI / ONEPCAM South Cameroon Ebolowa	BP 831 Ebolowa Tel : 77 81 09 44 22 63 73 16 smbmvondo@yahoo.fr onepcam@yahoo.fr
17	Hon. Oyono Martin	REPAR / National Assembly Kribi/ Yaoundé	BP 4758 Yaoundé Tel : 99 68 25 67 Fax : 22 22 25 50 oyonoaac@yahoo.fr
18	Hon. Zam Jean-Jacques	REPAR Yaoundé	BP 4954 Tel : 77 67 95 63 janjakzam@yahoo.fr
19	Hon. Moussa Coumbere	Assemblée Nationale MALI	BP 340 Bamako Tel : (223) 7620 70 09 moussacoumb@yahoo.fr
20	M. Celestin Dembele	Intercoopération Bamako - Mali	Délégué IC Sahel Korofina Sud 96 x 737 Bamako Tel : (223) 20 24 60 13 celest@icsahel.org

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30	Dr Kenfack Pierre Etienne	Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement	BP 3430 Tel : 22 22 38 57/99 35 33 79 pkenfack@hotmail.com
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	M. Patrice Pa'ah	CAFT LOMIE	BP 19 99 76 11 83 Caft.cameroun@gmail.com

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36	M. Cheteu Louis Bernard	Directeur Technique CTFC	Tel : 77 75 66 62
37	M. Minong Etienne	S.G. de la ligue Africaine de la defense des DH et des libertés	Tel : 77 51 71 81
38	Akpwelokoum Charly	Commune Lomie Cameroun	BP 21 Tel : 99 09 13 85 charly.akpwelokoum@yahoo.fr
39	Ekoampa Frederic Joseph	CADDAP Abong-Mbang	BP : 547 Tel : 75 04 21 56 caddap@yahoo.fr
40	Assemble M. Samuel	CIFOR Yaoundé	BP 2008 Tel : 79 18 26 74 s.assemble@cgiar.org
41	Hon. BOKWE Samuel NGOE	National Assembly - REPART	99 97 74 44 Sam bokwe@yahoo.co.uk

Annex 3 : Group work outcomes

Groupe I

Président : Samuel Assembe

Rapporteur : Minong Etienne

Membres :

- *Hon.Bokwe*
- *Ossie*
- *Mme Atsam*
- *Zac*
- *Cecile*
- *Akpwelokoum Charly*
- *Assembe*
- *M.Minong*
- *Diomède*

Travail à faire par le groupe I :

I - Questions de méthodes

- 12- Si un point pertinent manque à cette liste, l'ajouter
- 13- Si des points méritent des détails, il faut les expliciter
- 14- Procéder au regroupement de ces points en groupes (3 ou 4)
- 15- Classer ces groupes par ordre de priorité

II - Questions de fonds

- 1- Quelles sont les contraintes liées à ce plaidoyer ? Comment les lever ?
- 2- Imaginer des esquisses de solutions aux questions ou aux goulots d'étranglement
- 3- Comment financer les activités liées à ce plaidoyer

Notre travail a constitué à regrouper le travail demandé en quatre grands problèmes :

- 1- Les droits des populations
- 2- La gouvernance
- 3- La participation et l'implication des populations rurales
- 4- La formation et la sensibilisation

Il nous a semblé que les quatre grands problèmes sont tous prioritaires de ce fait il est difficile de les classer par ordre d'importance. Ce qui nous a amené à établir un tableau pour leur meilleure compréhension au niveau du grand public.

Problèmes identifiés	Contraintes	Solutions	Financement	Timing
Implications et participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non connaissance des textes • Non diffusion des textes existants • Ignorance • Mauvaise application des textes • Absence de collaboration • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formations et sensibilisations des populations rurales • vulgarisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fonds publics • Autofinancement • Bailleurs de fonds extérieurs 	Processus continu
La gouvernance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauvaises pratiques • Absence de transparence • Corruption • Lacune et vides juridiques • Impunités • Mauvaises applications des textes existants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lutte contre la corruption • Application stricte de la loi pénale • Clarification des règles et compléter les textes inexistants • Sensibilisation à la bonne gouvernance 	Fonds publics Autofinancement Bailleurs de fonds extérieurs	Processus continus
Droits des populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignorance des droits existants • Absence d'un document de politique globale sur les droits des populations rurales • Marginalisation de la loi foncière et coutumière • Non pris en compte des us et 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensibilisation sur les droits existants • Elaboration des politiques des droits des populations rurales • Révisions des lois existant sur les droits des populations rurales • Valorisation du droit coutumier 	Fonds publics Autofinancement Bailleurs de fonds extérieurs	Processus continus

	coutumes			
La formation et la sensibilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence des ressources humaines • Absence des financements • Absence du matériel didactique adéquat • Absences des programmes et des modules de formations • Insuffisance des structures d'encadrement des populations rurales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formations des formateurs • Décentralisation des programmes de formations • Elaboration des programmes de formations en matière de droits des populations rurales • Conception et diffusion des supports didactiques en matière de droits des populations rurales 	Fonds public Autofinancement Bailleurs de fonds extérieurs	Processus continu

Nous pensons en conclusion que l'appropriation des éléments de notre travail par les décideurs apportera un plus dans l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations rurales.

GROUPE 2

Questions

9. Comment suivre et évaluer le cheminement de ce plaidoyer

10. Quelles leçons tirées des expériences des autres pays

11. Mécanismes de feedbacks au niveau des communautés rurales

Brainstorming sur des préalables

- Documenter les droits communautaires qui existent et des savoirs locaux/ endogènes (ce qui va permettre de sortir des arguments sur les réalités locales)
- Loi forestière de 1994 : apprécier comment les différents acteurs perçoivent l'application de loi 1994 sur le terrain : quels sont les handicaps et blocages ?
- Faire des propositions pour l'écriture de la loi
- S'assurer que la loi est diffusée et vulgariser au niveau local

- Identifier les aspects qui font problèmes et qui ne sont pas mentionnés mais qui sont réclamés par les communautés : forces, faiblesses, et manquements ?
- Implication effective des communautés dans les prises de décisions
- Formulation des contributions des différentes prenantes à intégrer dans la nouvelle loi
 - o Sécurisation des droits des communautés et mettre en place un plan de communication et vulgarisation
 - o Intégrer la cartographie participative
 - o Valoriser les us et coutumes favorables à la gestion forestière

9. Comment suivre et évaluer le cheminement de ce plaidoyer?

- Un logframe, plan d'action, suivi, et évaluation pour le REPAR pour l'exécution du document de plaidoyer
- Rôle des experts pour donner forme
- RRI Cameroun doit participer à tout les processus de révision

Identification du problème : Insuffisance dans la prise en compte des droits des communautés dans la loi actuelle

Solution de plaidoyer : Implication de tous les acteurs locaux au processus de réforme et dans la gouvernance forestière ;

Cibles

- o MINFOF
- o Groupe de travail de la révision de la loi
- o Assemblée Nationale

Mécanismes de suivi

- Cadre de concertation avec différents réseaux au niveau local (consultations et échanges)
- Atelier multi-acteurs : RRI, réseaux au niveau local, et Groupe de travail de la révision de la loi sur droits et tenure
- Logframe du plan de plaidoyer
- Représentation des différentes zones écologiques du Cameroun

10. Expériences d'autres pays

Mali :

- Plateforme de concertation des organisations paysannes qui a établi un Mémoire sur leurs positions ;
- Les Conventions Locales

Cameroun

- Recueils de positions : chefs traditionnels, les maires, les réseaux de femmes et associations faitières officiellement reconnues, FEDEFKOM, Forêts Modèles, réseaux des peuples autochtones, le conseil national des jeunes ;
- Institutionnalisation des modes de gestion traditionnelle foncière et forestière en conventions locales ;

11. Mécanismes de feedbacks au niveau communautaire

- Radios communautaires
- Ateliers de restitutions
- Affiches et communiqués

GROUPE 3 « intelligence décentralisée »

Liste des membres du Groupe

1. Hon. OYONO = Président élu Démocratiquement
2. SM. MVONDO = Rapporteur
3. Hon. COUMBERE = Ambassadeur Itinérant
4. SM. BELL = Patriarche
5. M. PA'AH = Directeur de la CAFT
6. Mme DJEBET = Coordonnatrice de Cameroun Ecologie
7. M. BIYONG = Consultant indépendant
8. M. MESSE = Membre de FPP et représentant des peuples autochtones M. MILOL = IUCN

Les points devant figurer absolument dans le plaidoyer ?

- Le développement et renforcement de la notion d'équité dans l'acquisition des forêts
- Développement des mécanismes de renforcement d'une gestion équitable et transparente des ressources issus de la forêt
- Les mécanismes clairs de compensation des populations riveraines victimes de l'exploitation de la forêt (*ex : certains villages sans droit d'avoir des FCT ou FC parce que espaces sont alloués aux exploitants privés ou à la conservation ou à l'exploitation minière*)
- La prise en compte des spécificités de chaque région dans la rédaction des textes d'application accompagnant la mise en œuvre de la loi
- Le renforcement du régime juridique de la gestion participative/cogestion des communautés locales et des chefferies traditionnelles (*NB : l'implication des autorités traditionnelles et des comités de gestion villageois doit être systématique et obligatoire dans tous les processus au niveau de leurs localités*)

QUESTIONS DE FONDS(2)

Les points devant figurer absolument dans le plaidoyer ? (suite)

- La cartographie participative comme une étape obligatoire dans la délimitation des espaces à exploiter
- La révision du plan de zonage en s'appuyant sur la cartographie participative avec la collaboration étroite des communautés locales, non pas des satellites
- La poursuite de la réflexion et la mise en place des mécanismes sur la sécurisation foncière des populations locales
- Renforcement des capacités des populations pour la défense de leurs droits (*sensibilisation, formation, accompagnement...*)

QUESTIONS DE FONDS(3)

- Les cibles du plaidoyer ?
- L'Exécutif (*Le MINATD, Le MINEPAT, Le MINDAF, Le MINFOF, Le Ministère des Mines et Industries, le MINEP, le MINPROFF, Contrôle Supérieur de l'Etat...*)
- L'Assemblée Nationale
- Le REPAR
- La Cours des Comptes
- Les Parlementaires
- La Banque Mondiale
- Les Municipalités
- Les Chefferies Traditionnelles
- La Société Civile
- Les opérateurs privés des secteurs concernés

QUESTIONS DE FONDS(4)

Comment accompagner le REPAR dans sa mission de leader ?

- Mettre en place un agenda des rencontres avec le REPAR (TDR...)
- Créer un cadre de concertation permanent avec les acteurs ciblés plus haut ?
- Lui fournir informations et des pistes de solutions sur les réalités locales dans les communautés
- Plaidoyer pour la prise des textes d'application des lois dans des délais raisonnables
- Renforcer ses capacités techniques, organisationnelles et institutionnelles

QUESTIONS DE FONDS(5)

Quels partenaires et quels mécanismes de collaboration mettre en œuvre à cet effet ?

NB :

- *Partenariat multi acteurs*
- *Partenariat thématiques*

QUESTIONS DE FONDS(6)

PARTENAIRES

- Coalition RRI
- Agence de coopération bilatérale (GTZ, ACDI, DFID, USAID, SNV...)
- Organisation internationales (UICN, WWF, FAO, CIFOR, ICRAF, OIBT...)
- ONG locales
- Municipalités

- Fonds Forestier du Bassin du Congo (FFBC)
- Banque Mondiale

- Chefferies Traditionnelles

- REFACOF (réseau de la société civile camerounaise)

MECANISME DE COLLABORATION

- *Concertation et actions communes*
- *Concertation, partage d'information, mobilisation des ressources*
- *Concertation, partage d'information, mobilisation des ressources*
- *Concertation, collecte et partage d'information, mobilisation des ressources*
- *Mobilisation des ressources*
- *Concertation, partage d'information, mobilisation des ressources*

- *Concertation, collecte partage d'information, mobilisation des ressources*
- *Concertation, partage d'information, mobilisation des ressources*

Annex 4: Opening ceremony's addresses and speeches

Welcome address by Dr Zac Tchoundjeu, the Regional coordinator- The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF-WCA)

Excellence Monsieur le Ministre des Forêts et de la Faune
Honorable Membres du Parlement de la République du
Cameroun

Honorable Membre du Parlement de la République Sœur du
Mali,

Madame la Représentante de RRI-USA

Monsieur le Directeur National du Bureau UICN, Cameroun

Mesdames et Messieurs les Maires des communes invitées

Ses Majestés Les Chefs traditionnels

Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations
Nationales et Internationales, partenaires de la recherche pour
le développement,

Mesdames et Messieurs les leaders d'opinion,

Distingués Invités,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je voudrais au nom du Directeur Général de World Agroforestry (ICRAF) le Docteur
Dennis Garrity, vous exprimer toute notre reconnaissance pour avoir abandonné toutes vos
occupations professionnelles et familiales pour répondre favorablement à notre invitation.

Je voudrai aussi partager avec vous la grande joie qui m'anime au moment où je prends la
parole à cet important atelier.

In fact the present workshop is timely organized as it is happened some few months after
the International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and enterprise which was held
from 25-29 May 2009 in Hilton Hotel Yaounde Cameroon. This conference which was
presided by His Excellency Elvis Ngolle Ngolle, Minister of Forests and wildlife of
Cameroon in the presence of Emmanuel Ze Meka, the Executive Director of IITO,
identified key issues and challenges we have to overcome in order to successfully deal
with land tenure and sustainable management of forest resources in Cameroon.

His Excellency Mr Minister

Honorable Parliamentarians,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished invitees,

The key issues identified by the international conference on forest tenure, governance and community enterprise could be summarized in 13 points:

- 1) Insecure forest tenure experienced by African communities in many countries slows social and economic development, hampers sustainable forest management and leads to resource conflicts.
- 2) Over the past 400 years the African continent has experienced extreme trauma as colonial rule refused to recognize customary law and tenure rights in order to establish state control over natural resources and to pursue economic goals.
- 3) The legacy of colonial control over resources passed over to the post-independence African states, who have maintained the state claim of ownership over forest lands.
- 4) Despite the survival of varied customary systems, there is a legal pluralism of tenure in most of Africa in which the formal law predominates and limits the rights of communities to access and own what they consider to be their natural resources.
- 5) Reforms are taking place throughout the world and in several African countries in response to a growing movement of communities claiming rights to participate in the processes regarding resource use and conservation, but where these reforms have taken place their implementation has been slow.
- 6) Women's tenure rights under customary and formal laws remain largely unrecognized; their rights are insufficiently considered in policy and law reforms and in the related international agenda.
- 7) Similarly, socially disadvantaged ethnic groups that depend on forests for their livelihoods continue to live with insecure resource tenure and unrecognized human rights.
- 8) The institutional orientation of forest agencies does not address rights-based development and tenure; institutional capacity is therefore inadequate for the effective use of tools for rights-based development and to respond to tenure issues.
- 9) Government institutions have been structured in a manner that separates the regulation and management of agricultural land from that of valuable natural resources such as timber or minerals.
- 10) In many African countries several barriers block the creation of community forest enterprises (CFEs). A lack of support for financing, technology, and

the integrated use of timber and non-timber forest products restricts the economic possibilities for local communities.

- 11) Due to a lack of appropriate channels and tools, communities have difficulty expressing and documenting their customary rights in order to interact with formal legal systems.
- 12) Support for forest tenure reform, forest governance and community forestry enterprise development has been neglected by international donors and funding institutions.
- 13) New and evolving global issues such as climate change and potential mitigation initiatives, biofuels production, and the global economic crisis will have an impact on forest tenure.

To solve these issues, participants from the same conference recommended the following action points to catalyze reforms in Central and West Africa in order to achieve the substantial objectives by 2015:

- a. Prioritize forest tenure as a national development issue in all African countries by 2015
- b. Expand participatory mapping programs and develop land use plans after carrying out land inventories identifying different land types (agricultural lands, hunting grounds, sacred sites, and foraging areas)
- c. Reverse the assumption that all lands are state owned and perform an inventory of the lands that are actually under state ownership and management.
- d. Set a target of doubling areas under community ownership by 2015 in countries where communities already own some percentage of the forest land; in countries where no forest lands are under community ownership establish a realistic target for 2015 for the legal recognition of community owned forest lands based on their necessity to ensure respect of rights of access to resources.
- e. Quadruple revenue of local communities from forest harvesting operations by 2015
- f. Vitalize real political will for reform and an accompanying lobbying effort
- g. Set up mechanisms to ensure the follow-up of the Yaoundé recommendations.
- h. Involve parliamentarians and designated focal points within ministries

Excellence Mr. Le Ministre,

Honorable Parlementaires,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Distingués invités,

Le présent atelier qui réunit les parlementaires du Cameroun, du Mali, les leaders d'opinion et les ONG et les chercheurs vise les objectifs suivants :

- Le partage des résultats des études financées par RRI et exécutées par ICRAF, UICN et partenaires au Cameroun
- La promotion de la cartographie participative des droits des communautés développées avec les communautés
- La mobilisation des Parlementaires et autres leaders d'opinion pour leur implication effective dans la sauvegarde des droits des communautés dans la gestion durable des ressources forestières.
- Le développement d'une feuille de route sous forme de document stratégique nourri des connaissances scientifiques et endogènes sur l'intégration adéquate des droits des communautés dans le processus de réflexion actuelle.

His Excellency Mr. Minister,

Honorable Parliamentarians,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished invitees,

I hope that at the end of this workshop our institutions, parliamentarians and opinion leaders will be well warmed with the lessons got from the case studies presented during the workshop and therefore contribute efficiently to the revision of the forestry law being conducted in Cameroon. By so doing we will have active participation of our local population to land tenure process and therefore sustainable management of our forestry resources.

Long live to Research,

Long live to international cooperation

Long live to Cameroon.

Thanks for your attention.

Welcome Speech by Dr Solange Bandiaky, RRI Representative

His Excellency Mr. Minister,

Honorable Parliamentarians,

Your Royal Highness the Traditional Chiefs,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished invitees,

It is a great honor and pleasure for the Right and Resources Group that I represent in the Coalition to address you this morning in this Franco Hotel on the occasion of this national workshop on community rights in Cameroon. This event is the follow up to other previous meetings RRI has funded and would serve to share most of the results from the studies conducted in the forest zones of Cameroon by the actors grouped in the RRI coalition. As you know, the working team here is made of the following organizations: CAFT, CAM-ECO, IUCN, CIFOR and ICRAF. We are attending this workshop during a period of forestry reform in the country and we shall spend some times discussing about community and farmers' concerns on access to and rights to forest resources. RRG is pleased to be part of the process and express his thanks to ICRAF and IUCN who made every efforts to bring together participants from various part of the countries.

Your opinions, reflections during sessions and group work will definitely contribute to the ongoing debates on 1994 forestry law review process and I personally hope that the coalition would benefit a great deal from your experiences and knowledge as community rights are concerned. This is also why we do have participants from a country , namely Mali, which had gone a long way in advocacy , lobbying and negotiation for community rights , taking advantage of the solid decentralization process in that part of West Africa.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations

Thank you very much.

Atelier national des législateurs et leaders d'opinion, 16-17 Mars, 2010

Discours d'ouverture de RRI

- Chers Honorables du Cameroun et du Mali,
- Chers membres du gouvernement,
- Chers membres de la coalition RRI du Cameroun (ICRAF, IUCN, CIFOR, le CED, Cameroun Ecologie, et la CAFT) et du Mali en l'occurrence Intercooperation représentée par Célestin Dembélé du Mali,

L'Initiative des Droits et Ressources (communément appelé en anglais Rights and Resources Initiative- RRI), est une coalition mondiale d'organisations internationales, régionales et communautaires engagées dans la conservation, la recherche et le développement. RRI intervient en Asie, Amérique latine, et en Afrique notamment l'Afrique Centrale (le Cameroun et la RDC) et l'Afrique de l'ouest (Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, et Liberia).

Les objectifs principaux de la coalition sont :

- De réduire de manière significative le nombre de personnes vivant en situation de pauvreté dans les régions forestières de la planète ;
- D'augmenter de manière substantielle les aires forestières qui appartiennent et sont administrées par les populations locales, y compris les droits garantis concernant l'utilisation et la commercialisation des produits et services forestiers.

Dans les conclusions de la conférence internationale sur la tenure forestière en Afrique qui a eu lieu au mois de mars 2009 ici à Yaoundé (conclusions qui guident la stratégie d'intervention de RRI en Afrique il a été souligné que l'une des questions principales dans le contexte de la lutte contre la pauvreté est comment sécuriser les droits de tenure foncière et forestière des communautés locales et peuples autochtones.

Cependant la sécurisation des droits de tenure est confrontée à des défis parmi lesquels on peut noter :

Il y a un **pluralisme juridique de tenure** dans la majeure partie de l'Afrique où la loi formelle prédomine sur les divers régimes coutumiers et limite les droits des communautés à l'accès et à la possession de ce qu'elles considèrent comme étant leurs ressources naturelles

Les droits de tenure des femmes selon les droits coutumier et formel restent largement méconnus ; leurs droits ne sont pas suffisamment pris en compte dans les réformes de politique et du droit et dans les agendas internationaux connexes.

De même, **les groupes socialement défavorisés** qui dépendent des forêts pour leur subsistance continuent à vivre avec une tenure sur les ressources non sécurisée et des droits humains non reconnus

En raison de l'absence de canaux et instruments appropriés, **les communautés ont des difficultés à exprimer et à justifier leurs droits coutumiers** en vue de communiquer avec les systèmes juridiques formels.

Malgré ces défis, des opportunités existent telles que :

Les processus de politique de multiples parties prenantes et de réforme juridique sont capitaux: la participation large et organisée des parties prenantes est un élément essentiel dans le développement de la politique et de la loi sur les ressources naturelles. Les processus qui sont influencés ou qui n'ont pas été bâtis sur la base d'un consensus entre les parties prenantes conduiront inévitablement à un conflit et à une diminution des ressources. Il est nécessaire de mettre sur pied des mécanismes pour garantir une participation équitable des groupes défavorisés, en particulier les femmes et les minorités.

Le respect et la reconnaissance des systèmes coutumiers sont capitaux pour le succès : les exemples les plus brillants de réformes de la tenure forestière, en particulier en Afrique, sont ceux dans lesquels les droits établis par les systèmes coutumiers ont été compris et reconnus par les systèmes juridiques statutaires de tenure foncière et forestière. Cette compréhension et cette reconnaissance sont des éléments essentiels pour la promotion du consensus, la distribution équitable des retombées et le développement durable.

Les politiques nationales doivent reconnaître la légalité des droits coutumiers : un équilibre entre les systèmes réglementaire et coutumier est une condition préalable pour le succès.

Il est important de rappeler les recommandations de la conférence internationale de Yaoundé sur la tenure forestière et d'insister sur le Processus multi-acteurs et participatifs (i.e. acteurs l'intégration notamment les femmes, les minorités, et les groupes marginalisés) qui est une approche nécessaire pour permettre aux parties prenantes de participer équitablement dans les processus de réformes. Aussi, les réformes tiennent en compte des besoins des pauvres et des minorités, qui prennent en compte les droits coutumiers et les droits de l'homme, sont essentielles pour le développement durable.

Nous sommes convaincus que cet atelier n'est que le début d'une longue collaboration entre RRI et les élus et leaders d'opinions pour le plaidoyer pour une reconnaissance des droits des communautés dans les réformes de tenure et de la révision de la loi forestière de 1994 en cours.

Je vous remercie/ Solange Bandiaky

Annex 5: Official opening speech by MINFOF Representative

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail – Patrie

MINISTERE DES FORETS ET DE LA FAUNE

Atelier national des législateurs et leaders d'opinion pour l'élaboration d'un plan d'actions
en vue du renforcement des droits des communautés dans le cadre des réformes des
régimes foncier et forestier au Cameroun

RIGHT AND RESOURCES INITIATIVE(RRI), WORLD AGROFORESTRY
CENTRE (ICRAF), UNION MONDIALE POUR LA NATURE (UICN)

ALLOCUTION DE SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE DES FORETS
ET DE LA FAUNE

HOTEL FRANCO, YAOUNDE, 16 MARS 2010

Honorables Membres du Parlement de la République du Cameroun

Honorable Membre du Parlement de la République Sœur du Mali,

Madame la Représentante de RRI-USA

Monsieur le Coordonateur Régional de l'ICRAF, Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre,

Monsieur le Directeur National du Bureau UICN, Cameroun

Mesdames et Messieurs les Maires des communes invitées

Vos Majestés Les Chefs traditionnels

Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des Organisations Nationales et Internationales, partenaires de la recherche pour le développement durable,

Mesdames et Messieurs les leaders d'opinion,

Distingués Invités, Mesdames et

Messieurs,

Je voudrais au nom du Gouvernement Camerounais et en mon nom personnel vous souhaiter la bienvenue au Cameroun et dans cette belle salle de l'Hôtel Franco.

Je voudrais très sincèrement remercier les organisateurs de cet atelier World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) et l'Union Mondiale pour la Nature (UICN) ainsi que le bailleur de Fonds « Right and Resources Initiative » (RRI) qui n'ont jamais cessé de déployer d'importants efforts pour l'implication des communautés dans le cadre des reformes des régimes fonciers et forestiers du Cameroun.

L'action de votre réseau, vous vous en doutez Mesdames et Messieurs, concorde avec la politique du Gouvernement du Cameroun qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour mettre en place des structures internes afin de promouvoir l'accès des populations forestières aux ressources de leur milieu.

Comme vous le savez, la question de droits des communautés dans la gestion des ressources forestières constitue de nos jours une préoccupation des divers acteurs du développement durable. Au Cameroun, l'initiative de révision de la loi forestière en cours, les résolutions découlant des différentes consultations multipartenaires, les engagements pris par le MINFOF au cours de la conférence internationale sur la tenure forestière à Yaoundé en mai 2009 dénotent clairement la volonté politique et institutionnelle des autorités camerounaises à conduire le processus de réforme des textes et lois vers le renforcement des droits des communautés dont la survie dépend de l'accès aux ressources naturelles dans les paysages.

La politique de décentralisation et le Manuel des procédures des forêts communautaires constituent en outre une réelle évidence des efforts entrepris pour aller vers plus d'équité dans la gestion concertée et durable des forêts.

Ainsi nul n'est besoin de vous dire que le Gouvernement de la République demeure résolument engagé à poursuivre le processus de révision des textes et lois qui régissent la politique de gestion durable des forêts et de la lutte contre la pauvreté.

En tenant compte des défis de l'heure, la question qui se pose donc est celle de : *Comment canaliser les échanges d'idées des parties prenantes pour tirer les leçons d'ici et d'ailleurs afin de les intégrer dans les processus des réformes en vue d'assurer les droits et les aspirations des communautés forestières dans la nouvelle législation forestière du Cameroun.*

Je ne doute aucun instant que la réponse à cette question passe par le dialogue des parties prenantes, raison de saluer cet atelier qui vient à point nommé.

Honorables Députés,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Chers participants,

Le présent atelier, qui s'intègre dans cette donne vise les objectifs suivants :

- Le partage des résultats des études financées par RRI et exécutées par ICRAF, UICN et partenaires au Cameroun
- La promotion de la cartographie participative des droits des communautés

- La mobilisation des Parlementaires et autres leaders d'opinion pour leur implication effective dans la sauvegarde des droits des communautés dans la gestion durable des ressources forestières.
- Le développement d'une feuille de route sous forme de document stratégique nourri des connaissances scientifiques et endogènes sur l'intégration adéquate des droits des communautés dans le processus de réflexion actuelle.

C'est ici le lieu de saluer les efforts des initiateurs de cette rencontre qui pendant deux jours permettront aux différentes expertises et expériences générées en Afrique et ailleurs dans le monde, de contribuer à la détermination d'une stratégie efficace permettant l'implication de nos communautés dans la gestion de leurs ressources forestières.

De même je peux vous rassurer que les objectifs de cet atelier s'inscrivent en droite ligne des prescriptions de Son Excellence Monsieur Paul Biya Président de La République du Cameroun et de son Gouvernement pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie de nos communautés locales.

En remerciant les acteurs au développement d'avoir initié cet important atelier, j'ose espérer que ces deux jours de travaux nous permettront de développer une stratégie permettant une intégration effective de nos communautés dans la gestion des ressources foncières et forestières. C'est sur cette note d'espoir que je déclare ouverts les travaux

de « l'atelier national des législateurs et leaders d'opinion sur le renforcement des droits des communautés dans le cadre des réformes des régimes foncier et forestier au Cameroun »

Vive la coopération internationale,

Vive son Excellence Paul Biya,

Vive le Cameroun,

Je vous remercie

Annex 6; Workshop album









