



Republic of Cameroon
MINISTRY OF FORESTS AND WILDLIFE



SENSITIZATION AND PROMOTION MANUAL FOR

CO-MANAGEMENT OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPs)

IN FOREST CONCESSIONS AND SOME PROTECTED AREAS

September 2018

With the support of

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

ProPFE - Support Programme for the Implementation of the Rural Sector
Development Strategy, Component Forest/Environment

Po Box: 7814 Yaoundé, Cameroon

Program Director: Dr. Stefan Kachelriess-Matthess

Core person : Dr NGUENANG Guy Merlin

Photos credit: GIZ ProPFE

Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF)

Director of Promotion and Processing of Forest Products

M. DJOGO Toumouksala

Tél : +237 222 23 92 33

Email : djogo2@yahoo.fr

Sub Director of Promotion and Processing of Non Timber Forest Products

Ms SOL OUMBEN Nadège Pélagie

Email : rosine_sol@yahoo.fr

PREAMBLE

One of the missions of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife as assigned by the Cameroon Vision 2035 and the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) is to increase the sector's contribution to the national economy.

Besides, the forestry policy recommends that the Cameroon Government take into account and actively involve local populations in the sustainable management of forestry and wildlife resources. This is why the riparian communities are, increasingly, becoming key partners in the various management forms of these resources.

In keeping with the respective hierarchical planning levels, Cameroon came up in 2012 with a National Development Plan for NTFPs (NTFPs-NDP) which was revised in 2017. The second action of this plan is aimed at "better managing and increasing the production of NTFPs"

To implement the aforementioned policies, MINFOF and development partners have carried out in the field pilot activities of co-management of NTFPs, notably in forest concessions and some protected areas. The analysis of these experiments has proven win-win partnerships. It is therefore important to bring this experience to general use throughout the country, so long as the technical, social and environmental conditions are favourable.

Such is the goal of this manual which is a veritable sensitization and training tool during the development process of NTFPs Co-management frameworks in Cameroon.

This is the opportunity to thank the partners, economic operators and supervisory institutions for their contribution not only in the experimentation of the NTFPs Co-management concept, but also in its publication.

CONTENTS

Preamble.....	3
List of abbreviations.....	6
List of boxes.....	7
Introduction.....	9
I. Definitions.....	12
II. Major stakeholders targeted by this Manual.....	13
III. What is a NTFPs Co-management Framework?.....	14
IV. What importance is to put in place a NTFPs Co-management Framework?.....	14
V. Possible types of NTFPs Co-management frameworks.....	15
VI. Putting in place and implementation process of NTFPs Co-management Frameworks	18
Bibliography.....	26
Annexes.....	27

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANAFOR	National Forestry Development Agency
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CIG	Common Initiative Group
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMIFAC	Central African Forests Commission
CPF	Peasant-Forest Committee
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
EIG	Economic Interest Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FMU	Forest Management Unit
GA	General Assembly
GiZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
MC NP	Mount Cameroon National Park
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAT	Ministry of Territorial Administration
MINFI	<i>Ministry of Finance</i>
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MOCAP	Mount Cameroon Prunus Management
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Management Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Products
NTFP-NDP	Non-timber Forest Products National Development Plan
PACEBCo	Réseau des Associations des Femmes de l'Arrondissement de Mbang
PAU	Prunus allocation units
PSMNR	Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West Region
RAFAMBA	Network of Mbang Subdivision Women's Associations
SFID	Doumé Industrial Forestry Corporation
UAP	Special Products Attribution Unit
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZIC	Hunting Area



LIST OF BOXES

1. Legal entities representing Communities
2. Need to involve all social strata
3. Key elements of a memorandum of understanding on
4. Elements of legality for marketing
5. Success factors
6. Co-management of *Prunus africana* in the Mount Cameroon National Park
7. PSMNR's NTFPs Strategy
8. NTFPs Co-management Framework between SFID concession and the RAFAMBA network
9. Co-management of riparian populations/MINFOF and/or private in and around the Lobeke National Park, South-East, Cameroon.



INTRODUCTION

The Congo basin is the second largest rainforest in the world after the Amazon. It covers about 1.9 million km². Meanwhile, Cameroon has about 22 million hectares of dense forest, representing 47% of its territory. The forests are full of abundant timber and wildlife resources, as well as with non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

Besides, Cameroon's coastal forest zoning plan categorises these forests into permanent forest estate and non-permanent forest estate. The permanent forest estate consists of (i) production forests assigned to title holders, (ii) protected areas and (iii) council forests. According to the legal instruments in force, economic activities of rural communities are only authorized in agro-forestry areas of the non-permanent forest estate. As concerns the permanent forest estate which covers 30% of the national territory, harvesting by local communities is regulated in accordance with the management plans of the forests, generally restricted to the exercise of exploitation rights, and must not go beyond home needs.

However, it is generally known that rural and urban populations directly depend on the NTFPs either for their food security, pharmacopoeia, culture, or otherwise, to market them in order to cover other basic needs than food. In addition, collection of NTFPs is more carried out by the most vulnerable groups of the populations, namely women and children and other minorities.

After several studies on the ecology of NTFPs, it is evident that a good number of products are found beyond the agro-forestry areas in the permanent forest estate (forest concessions, council forests, protected areas).

In the exploitation right of management plans for production forests, riparian communities and indigenous peoples are given access to forest concessions and other protected areas to harvest NTFPs.

In spite of these provisions in the management plans, in most cases there is hardly any formal collaboration framework with the riparian communities.

The muddle often experienced between NTFPs exploitation and poaching creates a climate of distrust from forest concession holders who are often compelled to impose restrictive access measures on the local populations, thus creating conflict.

Concession holders accuse the local population of non-respect of management specifications (prohibited items and unsustainable harvesting) and, what is worse, also impute to them rightly or wrongly, the fraudulent exploitation of timber, non-timber and even wildlife products. The result is that each year a significant amount of NTFPs are abandoned in the resource areas.

In order to reconcile the interests of both categories of stakeholders and especially implement the Non-timber Forest Products National Development Plan (NTFPs-NDP) whose goal is to improve management and increase the volume of production of NTFPs, the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, in collaboration with the German Cooperation, has carried out co-management of pilot experimentation in some resource areas.

The encouraging results obtained need to be factored in order to give local communities easier access to Non-timber forest products from the permanent forest estate, and especially through memoranda of understanding.

The putting in place of frameworks for co-management of NTFPs is further driven by the Sub-regional Directives made by COMIFAC on the participation of local communities, indigenous populations and NGOs in the sustainable management of Central African forests

which were adopted by COMIFAC in November 2010 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. They encourage operators of the private sector to promote income generating activities of the local communities and indigenous peoples of protected areas and forest concessions. (Principle 1, Directive 5, Action 6).

This Manual is aimed at promoting such frameworks for the co-management of NTFPs between the populations concerned and FMUs holders and Hunting Areas (ZICs) on the one hand, and between organized groups of riparian populations and Conservators of some protected areas on the other. The implementation of co-management is expected to optimize sustainable harvesting of NTFPs in the resource areas.

The Manual consists of five parts as follows:

1. Definitions
2. Why Co-management of NTFPs;
3. Major beneficiaries of co-management of NTFPs;
4. Types of Co-management frameworks;
5. Creation and implementation process of Co-management Frameworks/NTFPs

I. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are provided for the purpose of a common understanding of the key terms used in this manual.

- 1. Co-management** broadly speaking, co-management refers to two or more organs or parties acting together in the management or administration of an institution, company, social group, service, resource etc. In the context of this manual, Co-management deals more with a collaboration framework put in place to regulate and ease access to a NTFPs resource area, between an assigned authority (forest concession holder, conservation service...) and the riparian stakeholders (communities).
- 2. Non-timber forest products:** “Non-timber Forest Products” (NTFPs) means the same as “minor”, “secondary” or “non-industrial” forest products, used to refer to the wide range of plant and animal resources other than timber (or industrial timber, in the case of “non-industrial”), forest by-products, non-timber tree species or herbaceous species.
More specifically, the FAO refers to them as goods of biological origin other than wood, acquired from forests, other wooded areas and lone trees. They are products meant for human consumption in form of foods, drinks, medicinal plants and other products (including fruits, berries, nuts, honey, game, mushroom, etc.).
In this manual, however, NTFPs is restricted to resources of plant origin.
- 3. Special Products:** The forestry law defines them as “animal, plant and medicinal species or those which are of particular interest”.
Article 2 of Decision No. 0336/D/MINFOF of 6 July 2006 defining the list of special forest products of “particular interest” specifies that “they are products of relative scarcity or for which the fixing of quotas is indispensable owing to the threat presented by their exploitation method and their perennial nature”.
Special products are managed through approvals, exploitation titles and quotas issued by MINFOF. Most permits granted to economic operators for special products often give room to trade with the outside world.
- 4. Forest Concessions:** The area on which an exploitation contract is executed. It may comprise one or more forest exploitation Units (FMUs).

5. **Protected Area (PA):** Geographical area defined and managed for the purpose of attaining specific goals relating to conservation and sustainable development of one or several natural resources.
6. **Hunting Area (ZIC):** This is a Protected Area meant for hunting, which may either be managed as a trust by wildlife authorities, or leased to a professional hunting guide or a safari company, or perhaps still to a community, to carry out sporting hunting expeditions for the animal species therein, following a pre-drafted quota.

II. MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS TARGETED BY THIS MANUAL

The NTFPs Co-management Manual targets varied stakeholders at different levels, among who are the major beneficiaries namely:

● The ministry in charge of forestry

In all national sector planning documents, MINFOF's action is to increase the contribution of the Forestry and Wildlife sub-sector to the national GDP. One of the means to achieve this is to improve on the quality, but more especially, on the quantity of NTFPs exploited each year.

● Holders of forest concessions and hunting areas

Concession holders who agree the co-management of NTFPs resource areas with the riparian populations shall improve their relations with the said populations and earn points in terms of their corporate social responsibility (CSR).

● Conservation authorities of protected areas

Conservation authorities of protected areas should be able to improve relations with local communities, subject to the stakes of various food chains and the equilibrium of the ecosystem.

◉ Councils that have been assigned council forests

Councils that have been assigned council forests and that agree to the co-management of NTFPs resource areas shall win the trust of local communities getting them to better cooperate in sustainable management and development activities that border on forests.

◉ Organised groups of riparian communities

Riparian communities as a whole and women and indigenous people in particular are very interested in co-management of NTFPs. Their access to production areas entails an increase in both the quantity of NTFPs exploited and the income of the communities concerned.

◉ Holders of special permits

Co-management frameworks enable an increase in the volume of NTFPs in the production pools for holders of special permit who hardly attain their quotas.

III. WHAT IS A NTFPs CO-MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK?

The NTFPs co-management frameworks within the context of this manual is understood as a formal collaboration framework established between holders of forest and wildlife exploitation titles and protected areas managers on the one hand, and organized groups of local populations and indigenous people on the other. It specifies the terms and conditions for access and sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products after a consultation process and participatory negotiations.

IV. WHAT IMPORTANCE OF THE PUTTING IN PLACE OF NTFPs CO-MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS?

The putting in place of co-management frameworks for NTFPs resource areas in the permanent forest estate between organized groups of riparian populations and holders of forest exploitation titles and protected areas managers helps to implement the forestry policy relating to the involvement of local populations in the participatory management of forest resources.

The NTFPs co-management framework will:

- improve sustainable enhancement of NTFPs potential in permanent forest estates;
- ease the implementation of the social component of the management plans and as thus reduce social conflict;
- contribute to income generation from the harvesting and marketing of NTFPs by local populations.

V. TYPES OF CO-MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

Depending on the type of resource area that interests the local communities, the various co-management frameworks can be envisaged between the organised local communities and managers of the said areas.

Types of co-management frameworks	Objectives	Actors	Roles	Interests/Beneficiaries
Riparian populations/ forest concessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Management Plans (MPs) • Take into account certification requirements • Reduce conflicts • Contribute to sustainable development 	Holders of concessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize access to the NTFPs resource • Ease harvesting logistics • Monitor the activity • Oversee the concession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSR • Cooperation of riparian populations • Securing of the forest • Better relations between concession holders and local populations
		Organised local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest NTFPs sustainably complying with the regulations in force • Contribute to monitoring of the forest • Sensitize non-members of the community to comply with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the area and volume of NTFPs exploited • Increase in income, • Better livelihood • Better relations between the local populations and concession holders
		MINFOF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the concept of co-management • Supervise stakeholders • Monitor and evaluate the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management and development • Increase in the contribution of the sub-sector to GDP

Types of co-management frameworks	Objectives	Actors	Roles	Interests/Beneficiaries
Riparian populations/ Protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Management Plans (MPs) • Take into account the requirements of sustainable management and development • Reduce disputes • Contribute to sustainable development 	Conservators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize access to the NTFPs resource • Monitor the activity • Supervise the PAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of PAs and contribution to sustainable development • Cooperation of riparian populations • Securing of the PAs • Better relations between conservation of PAs and local populations
		Organised local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest NTFPs sustainably complying with the regulations in force • Contribute to the monitoring of the forest • Sensitize non-members of the community to comply with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the area and volume of NTFPs exploited • Increase in income • Better livelihood • Better relations between the local populations and conservation of PAs
		MINFOF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the concept of co-management • Supervise stakeholders • Monitor and evaluate the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management and development • Increase in the contribution of the sub-sector to GDP
Riparian populations/ ZIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement shooting policies • Take into account the requirements of sustainable management and development 	Hunting Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize access to the NTFPs resource • Monitor the activity • Supervise Hunting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of ZIC and contribution to sustainable development • Cooperation of riparian populations • Securing of the ZIC • Better relations between the hunting guide and local populations

Types of co-management frameworks	Objectives	Actors	Roles	Interests/Beneficiaries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce conflicts • Contribute to sustainable development 	Organised local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest NTFPs sustainably complying with the regulations in force • Contribute to the monitoring of council forests • Sensitize non-members of the community to comply with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the area and volume of NTFPs exploited • Increase in income • Better livelihood • Better relations between the local populations and the hunting guides
		MINFOF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the concept of co-management • Supervise stakeholders • Monitor and evaluate the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management and development • Increase in the contribution of the sub-sector to GDP
Riparian/ Council forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Management Plans (MPs) • Take into account the requirements of sustainable management and development • Reduce conflicts • Contribute to sustainable development 	Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize access to the NTFPs resource • Monitor the activity • Supervise council forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of council forests and contribution to sustainable development • Cooperation of riparian populations • Securing council forests • Income generating activity and job creation • Improvement of the standard of living of the populations • Better relations between councils and the populations

Types of co-management frameworks	Objectives	Actors	Roles	Interests/Beneficiaries
		Organised local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest NTFPs sustainably complying with the regulations in force Contribute to the monitoring of council forests Sensitize non-members of the community to comply with the regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the area and volume of NTFPs exploited Increase in income Better livelihood Better relations between the local populations and the councils concerned
		MINFOF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the concept of co-management Supervise stakeholders Monitor and evaluate the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable management and development Increase in the contribution of the sub-sector to GDP Fostering of decentralization in the forestry sub-sector

VI. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF NTFPs CO-MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS

The implementation process of NTFPs co-management frameworks deserves encouragement and support as a tool for application of the forestry policy that seeks to promote participatory management of forest resources.

It appears to be an indispensable tool to be used in implementing the social component of the management plans of forest concessions or protected areas.

In this respect, the putting in place of frameworks for the co-management of NTFPs resource areas should be clearly perceived and understood as local governance and participatory management mechanism among other specifications of the management plans to be implemented.

Thus, the process of putting in place co-management frameworks can be initiated by:

- **Forest title holders (holders of forest concessions) within the framework of the implementation of social dimensions of their management plans;**
- **Protected areas managers;**
- **Riparian communities, further broken up into organized groups seeking access to NTFPs resource areas in permanent forest estates;**
- **Forestry administration in charge of all forestry stakeholders in the field.**

Wherever and whoever initiates the process, the putting in place of NTFPs co-management framework can be broken down into 3 (three) major phases: the information and sensitization phase, the phase for negotiation and signature of the collaboration framework, and the implementation and monitoring phase.

The Information and sensitization phase

This phase can be engaged by:

- Managers of forest concessions or protected areas within the context of implementing the social specifications of the management plan;
- Local forest administration officers in charge of the participatory management process between the various parties that take an interest in the NTFPs resource area under his jurisdiction;
- Local support organizations assisting communities in the sustainable management of their natural resources;
- Communities themselves seeking regulated access to harvest NTFPs in permanent forest estates assigned to concession owners or under conservation.

Key messages during the information and sensitization phase focus on:

- The need for local populations to organise themselves into structured and registered groups like CIGs, Associations, Cooperatives etc., in order to have a reliable and representative interlocutor to face managers of forest concessions or protected areas.
- The significance, functioning, advantages and obligations of the co-management framework to be put in place.

Where there are functional Forest Peasant Committees (CPF), they can represent the community in the process of putting in place a framework for co-management of NTFPs resource area.

In any case, rather than multiplying each concerned village with groups, it is preferable to promote the existing legal entities

Organized community groups can have the following legal structures:

- Establishment
- Association
- CIG
- EIG (Economic Interest Group)
- Union
- Network
- Simplified cooperative group

In the context of rural world, the most recommended legal structures for co-management are as follows Associations, CIGs, Simplified Cooperative Groups, Networks, Unions ...

During this phase, the various negotiating parties, that is the organised group representing the communities and managers of forest concessions, hunting areas or services of protected areas agree on various issues relating to:

- the forest products concerned;
- areas and harvesting modalities;
- Obligations of parties.

Commitments of both parties as well as the practical modalities of collaboration are recorded in a memorandum of understanding on co-management of NTFPs and signed by both parties concerned.

The NTFPs co-management memorandum of understanding in forest concessions or hunting areas (ZIC) signed between the forest concession owner, the professional hunter to whom a ZIC has been assigned, and the organised group of the communities under the supervision of the local forestry administrator, shall be endorsed by the Divisional administrative head for forestry, for monitoring purposes.

The memorandum of understanding on NTFPs co-management in protected areas signed between the manager of the protected areas (the conservator) and the organised group of the communities shall have prior endorsement of the Minister in charge of protected areas.

Box 2**Need to involve all social strata**

During the consultation meetings for the putting in place of a NTFPs co-management framework, it is important to involve all social strata of the community, namely: women, youths, traditional authorities, representatives of indigenous people, hunters... Appropriate communication around these partnerships is a guarantee for their long-lasting nature. The solemn signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding can take place before administrative and traditional authorities, if need be.

Implementation and monitoring phase

At the implementation phase of the memorandum of understanding, contracting parties shall:

- Respect commitments agreed upon;
- Plan on regular basis joint monitoring and conduct of harvesting (picking or plucking) operations in the field.

Local administration in charge of forestry and protected areas shall oversee and supervise the implementation of the memorandum of understanding on NTFPs co-management.

The duration of implementation is an essential element of the MoU. It could, for a start, be limited to 1 (one) or 2 (two) years renewable.

But then, before the MoU expires, it is important to hold an evaluation meeting involving all the members of the legal entity.

Box 3**Key elements of a memorandum of understanding on Co-management of NTFPs**

1. Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding: Define the terms and conditions of access and harvesting of Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in forest concessions or in some protected areas by organized local populations.

2. Duration: 2 (two) years renewable (for example).

3. Commitment of local populations:

- Being identified with badges duly signed by the hierarchical authority of the group;
- Systematic checking on of bags and other materials on entry and exit of the forest;
- Sensitizing against illegal exploitation of forest products (poaching, wood cutting);
- Reporting any cases of poaching;
- Forwarding to concession holders reports and statistics on harvest done.

4. Commitment of title holders/conservators

- Giving access authorization to exploiters to resource areas;
- Providing transport facilities to exploiters;
- Sensitizing the harvesters on:
 - sustainable harvesting techniques of NTFPs,
 - legal provisions of NTFPs management.

5. Execution of the follow-up of the MoU

- Both parties shall comply with their commitments;
- Any dispute shall be settled amicably.

6. Final provisions: the Memorandum of Understanding may be renewed, amended, or nullified upon mutual agreement.

Box 4

ELEMENTS OF LEGALITY FOR MARKETING

For organized residents, co-management has the advantage of increasing collection volumes as part of their traditional usage rights. They may also decide to sell the surplus of the production. In this case, they must either get closer to the forest administration to obtain the required documents or collaborate with the holders of valid NTFP marketing permits (See Prunus Box in the Mount Cameroon National Park).

BOX 5

SUCCESS FACTORS

- Valorising the existing peasant organisations;
- External facilitator accepted by both parties;
- Involvement and endorsement of local forestry administration;
- Clear definition or statement of commitments of parties as commonly agreed;
- Solemn signing of the MoU, in the presence of administrative and traditional authorities, representatives of associations and other organised groups, etc.;
- Entering co-management frameworks only with holders of legal titles;
- Informing or involving Forest Peasant Committees (CPF) where they are functional;
- Amicable settlement of disputes.

BOX 6

CO-MANAGEMENT OF PRUNUS AFRICANA IN THE MOUNT CAMEROON NATIONAL PARK

During the participatory creation process of the Mount Cameroon National Park (MCNP), communities gave their consent and expressed the wish to be an integral part of the community management of the Prunus which was their main source of income. It is on this basis that officials of the Park and the Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife (RD-MINFOF) for the South West, with the technical and financial support of the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (PSMNR) in the South-West, put in place a co-management framework of Prunus africana with the local populations.

The following steps enabled the creation, setting up and monitoring of that framework: Letter No. 2337/L/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF/SN of 18 October 2010 on the exercise of exploitation rights in the Mount Cameroon National Park over the *Prunus africana*;

- Creation of the CIG MOCAP which organises all the riparian villages around the Park in the sustainable exploitation of *Prunus* barks;
- Sensitization, negotiations and the signing of two MoUs: one between DRFOF-MCNP-MOCAP CIG on exploitation modalities and sustainable management, and the other between MOCAP CIG and AFRIMED for the marketing of the product after MINFOF endorsement;
- Selection and training of exploiters of tree barks in keeping with CITES requirements;
- Participatory drafting and MINFOF approval of a simple management plan for *Prunus* in the Mount Cameroon Allocation Unit that attributes quotas, rotation, exploitation bases, exploitation techniques and the distribution of profits;
- Geo-referential inventory at 100%, marking and labelling of all the heads;
- Sustainable exploitation, transportation, weighing, marketing and monitoring of the use of income;
- Monitoring and evaluation of all activities (Park, RD-MINFOF, DDFOF, PCFC, MOCAP, PSMNR).

The implementation of this co-management framework has enabled sustainable harvest of 112.96 tons of barks, generating CFA F 52,774,271 between 2012 and 2017, and distributed following the equitable sharing of approved profits. About 80% of this income was remitted to the community, the other remaining 20% was used to follow-up activities and regeneration of the species.

Box 7

PSMNR's NTFPs STRATEGY

Protected areas of the South-West Region have a high potential for NTFPs, which unfortunately are exploited in an anarchic manner with the complicity of actors from neighbouring countries. The Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife for the South-West in collaboration with PSMNR have put in place a co-management framework aimed at organizing sustainable exploitation, monitoring and marketing of NTFPs to improve on the livelihood of the local populations while ensuring biodiversity conservation in the protected areas concerned (Takamanda National Park, Korup National Park and the Bayang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary).

Steps undertaken:

- Creation and capacity-building of group members;
- Putting in place of a harvesting and marketing platform for legal NTFPs (with permits/FREPROM and members of created groups);
- Choice of pilot NTFPs (Wild mango, Rondelle and Ndjangsang) depending on market peculiarities;
- Negotiation, development and signing of MoU with FREPROM ;
- Monitoring and evaluation (MINFOF, PSMNR).

Between 2012 and 2017, this platform helped organize 700 harvesters of NTFPs into 85 groups affiliated to FREPROM cooperative in 31 communities in the Takamanda and Korup National Parks as well as the Bayang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary. During this period, 23 tons of wild mango were collected.

The idea is to have organized groups form into simplified cooperatives.

Box 8

NTFPs CO-MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK BETWEEN SFID TITLE HOLDER AND RAFAMBA NETWORK

The Network of Women Associations of Mbang Subdivision (RAFAMBA) was created in 2007 and legalized in 2010. It brings together 28 Associations.

RAFAMBA was confronted with several challenges in carrying out its activities, due in part to poaching practices, which is strictly prohibited by the law in FMUs of SFID, among others. Following repeated disputes between SFID and the local populations, the title holders had to deny them access to their FMUs. Faced with this denial, RAFAMBA had to sensitize their members on anti-poaching.

In addition, surveys conducted have shown that these FMUs had an abundance of NTFPs that attracted women's groups. Faced with this situation, the Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife in the East, in partnership with GIZ, was inspired to come up with a collaboration agreement between SFID and the women's Network. A feasibility study was carried out and the student behind the study proposed a draft agreement for both parties.

RAFAMBA women had to:

- submit to searches on entry and exit of the forest;
- put on their badges;
- report all poaching activities in the FMU;
- produce statistical reports after each harvest.
-

SFID, for their part, had to:

- put a transport truck at the disposal of the women to carry them to harvest sites and back to the village two weeks later, with their products;
- Search the women on their exit from the forest.

The above clauses were agreed upon by the parties. An agreement was signed in 2015 and renewed in 2016. The agreement has enabled women to increase their productivity and productions. As concerns the monitoring, MINFOF was responsible for ensuring anti-poaching and also renewal of the agreement. Upon expiry, both parties were satisfied with the partnership.

CO-MANAGEMENT OF RIPARIAN POPULATIONS/MINFOF AND/OR PRIVATE IN AND AROUND THE LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH-EAST, CAMEROON

The co-management of forestry and wildlife resources in and around the Lobéké National Park has been organized both inside and outside, in dedicated areas known as community areas. The latter were established by Decree No. 2001/101/ CAB/PM of 19 March 2001 to establish the Lobéké National Park (LNP).

In concrete terms, the various stakeholders are involved in the planning, organization and coordination of all conservation activities initiated within the framework of the sustainable management of the LNP and its periphery.

Populations of the following villages: Bangoy 1, Bangoy 2, Banana, Yenga, Mbateka, Guilili, Dioula, Koumela and MINFOF represented by the LNP conservator have, during the consultation, recognized the need for a co-management framework capable to meet the challenges posed by the sustainable management of the LNP. Similarly, as concerns the ZICs, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed between the local professional hunting guides and MINFOF representative.

The commitments of the riparian populations are as follows:

- denounce or report people coming from outside who fraudulently buy bush meat from their community;
- denounce restaurant owners who collaborate with poachers by fraudulently buying prohibited species,
- denounce the buy and sellam who supply hunters with cartridges,
- denounce unidentified gun bearers,
- denounce people who set traps inside the park,
- denounce poachers.

The commitments of MINFOF (LNP Conservation Services); the professional hunting guide:

- Extend the traditional resource exploitation zone 10 km away from the peripheral zone inside and to the periphery;
- allow the women of the community to collect firewood beyond 5km from the peripheral zone;
- allow the community to practice wild mango harvesting, oroko (wild salad), honey and wild yam beyond July and especially until September;
- allow populations to set traps to catch animals (hares, palm kernels, squirrels) beyond 5km from the peripheral zone;
- allow the populations to collect dead wood for domestic use beyond 5km from the peripheral zone of the LNP;
- organize a transparent auction sales, according to the terms and conditions made available to communities through the chieftaincy and Riverside Committees whenever animals are seized in a village;
- ensure that SAFARIS make available to the community part of animals from each beat for local consumption,

- authorize the population to harvest wild fruits for personal and family use without prior authorization of the conservator or hunting guide;
- recognize that the riparian communities have the right to harvest leaves, barks and roots in the LNP for pharmacopoeia use and not for marketing.
- This experience was deemed satisfactory by the stakeholders and is now taken into account in the development of specifications of the concessions holders or the revision of development plans of protected areas and the hunting zones
- Initiative supported by WWF and the PACEBCo programme



Bibliography:

MINFOF, 1994: Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994). Section 47, paragraph 1,

MINFOF, 1995: Decree 95 on Wildlife regulations).

MINFOF, 2017: National Development Plan for Non-Timber Forest Products

ANNEXES

Sample memorandum of understanding on ntfps co-management

Preamble

The exploitation of NTFPs in forest concessions, National Parks and other forests has to meet the satisfaction of socio-economic needs of actors, sustainable management and sustainable development goals, and biodiversity preservation.

SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND DURATION OF THE MOU

Article 1: Purpose of the MoU

Define the terms and conditions of access and harvesting of Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in forest concessions, parks and other forests by the local populations.

Article 2: Duration of the MoU

The duration of the signed MoU must be stated, specifying whether it is renewable or not.

SECTION 2: SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS OF THE PARTIES

Article 3: Commitments of local populations

The legal entity (community) undertakes to:

ensure that each member of the group who wishes to harvest NTFPs in forest concessions and in some protected areas be identifiable by wearing a badge duly signed by the authority of the group before any access to the resource area;

Accept that their bags and other harvesting materials must be systematically checked on at their entry and exit from the resource areas;

- desist from all poaching activities, wood cutting and agricultural activities within the resource area;
- Sensitize its members on the risk they run in the event of any illegal exploitation of forest resources within the resource area concerned;

- anonymously report poaching culprits and wood cutters to concession holders conservators of parks and other title holders;
- Provide harvest statistics to the partner and the local/regional administration in charge of Forestry and Wildlife;
- Provide reports of activities at the end of each exploitation season.

Article 4: Commitments of Concession holder, Park conservators and other title holders

Forest concession holders, park conservators and other title holders undertake to:

Authorize harvesters who are members of the legal entity to this agreement, to have access to FMUs, Parks or Hunting Areas, to harvest specified NTFPs;

Give transport facilities, where applicable, to members of the local populations concerned (to and fro) according to an exploitation programme earlier agreed to by both parties;

- sensitize members of the legal entity and even the community at large on the techniques of sustainable exploitation of NTFPs and the legal and regulatory provisions governing the management of NTFPs.

SECTION 3: EXECUTION AND MONITORING OF THE MOU

Article 5: Respect of Commitments

Either party shall respect the commitments made. In the event that the forest concession holder, park conservator or other title holder considers that the members of the legal entity do not respect their commitments, he shall notify the officials of the said organization in writing. If, within one month, the warning is not followed by effects deemed satisfactory, the other party is entitled to unilaterally terminate the protocol and ask to be freed immediately from its effects.

In the event that the legal entity considers that the forest concession holder, park conservator or other title owners do not respect its commitments, he shall notify the concerned official in writing. If, within one month, the warning is not followed by effects deemed satisfactory by the legal entity, the latter is entitled to unilaterally terminate the protocol and ask to be freed immediately from its effects.

Article 6: Dispute settlement:

Any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of the provisions of this MOU shall be settled amicably by the parties thereto.

In case of disagreement, one of the parties may appeal to arbitration of a neutral legal person mutually agreed by parties.

SECTION 4: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 7: Amendment and annulment

This MOU can only be amended, supplemented or annulled upon agreement of the parties thereto. Either party reserves the right to initiate the procedure.

The MOU is subject to the laws and regulations in force in Cameroon.

Article 8: Signature and publication

This MoU is signed in duplicate, one for the concession holder, park conservator or other title holder, and the other for the designated legal entity representing the local populations. It shall be published wherever need arises.

Done aton the.....