



MTF/CMR/025/MSC Project

The Impact of the Sustainable Management of Forest Concessions on Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP)

INFORMATION NOTE

May 2007

Introduction

The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOR), PALLISCO SARL – a logging company, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) entered a partnership to promote sustainable management of Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP) within forest concessions in Cameroon.

Rationale

The permanent forest estate of most countries in Central Africa is dedicated to the production of timber. Actually, wet dense forests in Central Africa, with their recognized economic value, cover about 140 million hectares with a total area of 55 million hectares reserved for forest concessions, i.e 39 per cent.

In Cameroon, the forest concessions cover 42.95% of the 14 million hectares that fall within the zoning plan of forest lands of southern Cameroon. Despite the fact that the main objective of these forest concessions is the production of timber, these forest landscapes have been used for years by the local people to meet their feeding needs and improve their income through the harvesting of NWFP such as medicinal plants, food, caterpillars or bush meat.

Forest policy provides for an integrated management of all (timber and non timber) resources which are found in the permanent forest estate, and in particular in the forest concessions, in order to improve the benefits and revenues of the State (owner of forest resources), concessionaires and local populations.

Objectives and Expected Results

The overall aim of the project is promoting the sustainable management of forest concessions in Central Africa through the good use of timber and non timber resources.

The project will also aim at providing better insights into NWFP found within Pallisco Forest Management Units (FMUs), which have been selected as pilot sites for the project, and into their use by neighbouring populations.

Main results expected include the following:

1. NWFP mostly used by the local communities are identified.
2. Impact of NWFP harvest on resource sustainability will be mapped;
3. Impact of forest activities on NWFP availability will be known;
4. Recommendations for sustainable management and use of NWFP will be drafted.
5. A global assessment scheme to evaluate the impact of forest concessions on NWFP availability will be drafted;
6. Guidelines for NWFP inventory will be tested.

Project activities contribute to the implementation of Forest/Environment Sector Programme (PSFE) of Cameroonian Government and mainly aim at the attainment of Result 2, including: *“Forest concessions are sustainably managed in accordance with the rules of the games and as per legal provisions, and timber and NWFP industries are improved efficiently”.*

Contact:

MINFOR: Emmanuel Munakwa
munakwa@yahoo.fr

FAO: Samuel Ebamane
ecorsal@yahoo.fr

PALLISCO: Vincent Pelé
v.pele@pallisco-cifm.com

WWF: Elie Hakizumwami
ehakizumwami@wwfcarpo.org