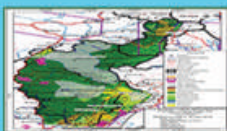




SUFACHAC NEWS

Second Edition of the biannual publication of the Sustainable farming and critical habitat conservation to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming and protected areas management effectiveness in western Cameroon



No. 002 April 2020

DEAR PARTNERS & READERS,

Welcome to the second edition of the SUFACHAC News. This edition highlights some of the progress made using results from the baseline studies carried out during the first year. ENJOY YOUR READING as your comments and observations are welcome..



EDITORIAL:

Dear Partners/Readers,

The SUFACHAC Management Unit through my voice, feel delighted to share with you information related to the SUFACHAC PROJECT. Drawing your attention to the fact that the first work plan of this Project was dedicated to gathering baseline information the team moved forward towards the achievement of project's goal through the implementation of the second Work Plan in collaboration with administrations, Civil Society Organizations, Project's Partners and all the stakeholders in the field As a matter of reminder, SUFACHAC continue to build on previous conservation efforts that had taken place within the Bakossi Bayang Mbo landscape as they set the scene for better collaborative management of protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

Major achievements registered and supported during 2019 includes amongst others the publication of the Public notice for the creation of the BBML TOU, Validation of the Management and Business plan of the Tofalla Hills Wildlife Sanctuary at the local and national levels, production of a draft Ministerial Decision and two guidelines on HCV and Biodiversity Conservation in the context of Environmental Evaluations in/around Protected Areas; Development of training tools on FPIC for various topics, Studies on the sustainable financement of Protected Areas. The Enhancement of community participation in Protected Area management have been upgraded through the strengthening of existing community structures and creation of new ones, participatory boundary demarcation, mapping of both existing and proposed PAs, Mapping of the current state of land occupation for 2018 and a projection for 2023.

I wish to appreciate the efforts of all our collaborators, partners stakeholders and especially the community members for their continuous efforts and support in ensuring the progress made towards the achievements realized this far. Communicating our progress and lessons learned is of utmost important. While hoping that you find this second edition of the SUFACHAC NEWS interesting and informative I wish you a happy collaboration for the progress of conservation work within the landscape. This publication is distributed as printed copies to partners, staff, local communities and other stake holders within and out of the landscape. A soft copy is also emailed to other partners and stakeholders and available a PDF download from our website. Contributions for publications are welcome from interested partners and stakeholders. You can contact the communication officer at sufachacproject@gef-cameroon.org

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National stakeholders Validates the Management and Business Plan for Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

(Ngueping Samuel and Stanley Acham)



Stakeholders at the national validation meeting

The Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (THWS) was created in 2014 through PM Decree No 2014/5212 /PM of 29 September 2014 with a surface area of 8087Ha. The protected area was created in the locality to conserve the rich biodiversity and ecosystem services through collaborative management. This area harbors important wildlife species amongst which are the Critically Endangered Cross River Gorilla and the Endangered Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzee. According to the government of Cameroon regulations on protected areas, a management plan must be developed after creating a protected area to facilitate the implementation process of the agreed activities and for it to be signed by the Prime Minister it has to be validated first at the village, Sub-Divisional, Divisional, Regional and National levels. National Validation Meeting for Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (THWS) was organized in this light at the Conference Hall of Hotel Relais Saint André in Mbalmayo on the 25th June 2019 to present it management and business plan for validation The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife was represented by the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas

Mr. Lekealem representing the Minister of forestry and wildlife, recalled in his opening speech that the resources in this sanctuary are inelastic whereas man's needs for these resources are very elastic the reason why the need for a sustainable exploitation of the natural resources for the present and future generations is imperative. "This then necessitates proper planning and implementation of all management programs to guarantee the availability of the natural resources at all times in the sanctuary," Mr. Lekealem Joseph added. Over 44 participants attended the meeting and it included experts from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, other sectorial ministries, local administration, elected officials, traditional authorities, and representatives of civil society organizations, conservation and development partners.

After technical presentations and deliberations, participants proceeded to validate the proposed management and business plan of the THWS. Some recommendations reached in order to complete the validation process included;

- (1) The land certificate acquisition process of THWS should be enshrined into the management plan as an important activity including clear demarcation and limits of the THWS;
- (2) Valorize the fish species which is important in the development of Aquaculture in Cameroon;
- (3) The management plan should be proof-read and all corrections on abbreviations and acronyms inserted;

(4) Ensure regular follow up of livelihood activities put in place as well as subsidize agricultural activities to mitigate encroachment;

(5) Investments as indicated in the business plan should be rationally distributed to the surrounding villages.

Interviewed at the end of the meeting as to know what would be the next step after the national validation meeting, Dr. Louis Nkembi the CEO of ERuDeF and partner to the SUFACHAC project mentioned that the last Taskforce meeting will be organized in days ahead to integrate all the recommendations from the national validation meeting into the management plan of THWS. The final copy of the management plan edited by the Taskforce will be transmitted to the authorities concerned (Minister of Forestry and Wildlife for onward transmission to the PM office for Signature).

Sufachac Project and Implementing Partners Adopts Operational Plans for 2019 (Stanley Acham)

After the validation of the budgeted annual work plan for 2019 its effective implementation to obtain the desired output is an absolute necessity, which steered the holding of a workshop between the PMU team of SUFACHAC project and its key implementing partners. This was done on the 14th of March 2019 at the conference hall of Afrique hotel in Douala. Chaired by the National Director for SUFACHAC Mme Zaboya Adele epse. Makomra, who after appreciating all participants for honoring the invitation for this important workshop pledged the total support during the various phases of implementation of the planned activities. She further presented the major objectives of the workshop which were;

- 1) To get partners present their operational plans
- 2) To discuss with partners on how they intend to implement their planned activities
- 3) To do build their capacity on effective reporting as per agreed project standard.

Discussions that stems from the presentations of implementing partners (CHEDE Cooperative Union and the Environment and Rural Development Foundation), concluded that priority should be given to those activities that are punctual and simple to be implemented with the current socio-political situation. This then led to a working session where both partners reviewed and prioritized their activities according to their feasibility on the field. They adopted the reviewed plans amidst social challenges and its believe that the plans will go a long way.



**PMU team and Partners in a work session
to agree on priority activities**

Enhancing Community Participation in the Operationalization of the BBML TOU Process (Ongie Rose Mukete)

Confidence building, knowledge sharing and working through organized community groups are key at enhancing community participation in the natural resource management process. A mass awareness campaign jointly carried out by the management unit of the SUFACHAC Project and MINFOF to the village forest management committees (VFMCs), chiefs, elites and other community groups opened avenues for the local communities of BBML to embrace the technical operation unit (TOU) initiatives. Clarifying previous perception on the TOU initiatives updated community's knowledge on its creation and management process. Their role in the operationalization of this process will be fully enhanced by building their capacity in the forest management techniques, introduction of feasible and adaptive livelihood programs.



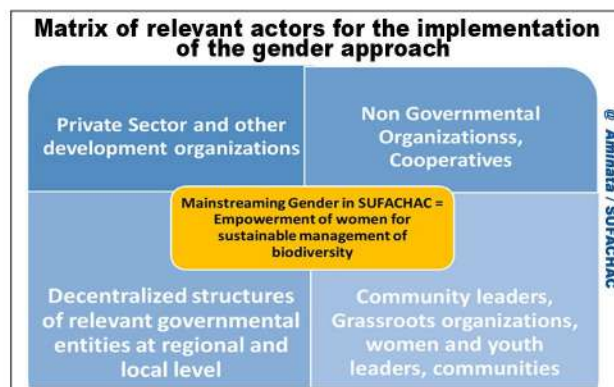
Participants at the awareness campaign meetings



Making Gender Count in a Sustainable Environment within the BBML (Ongie Rose Mukete)

The Unequal Access to and Control of Natural Resources, Unbalanced Participation and Decision Making in Environmental Planning and Governance at all Levels and the Uneven Access to Socio-Economic Benefits and Services are the 03 major gaps identified by GEF as limiting factors to equal opportunities to environmental benefits and sustainable development. Bridging this gaps to ensure gender equality in the management, governance and access to resources requires a proper definition of strategies that will integrate every aspect of gender in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation within the Bakossi Bayang Mbo landscape. SUFACHAC in order to harness gender roles in sustainable management of biodiversity within the BBML engaged on gender studies as part of the baseline information gathering process. A lot of information has been generated and a holistic approach identified as appropriate to bridge the existing gap and establish elevated roles for these women. Implementing this approach therefore requires the involvement of relevant actors at all levels using various tools to strengthen women's self-confidence, ability to advance their interests to have equitable access to resources and actively participate in decision-making processes.

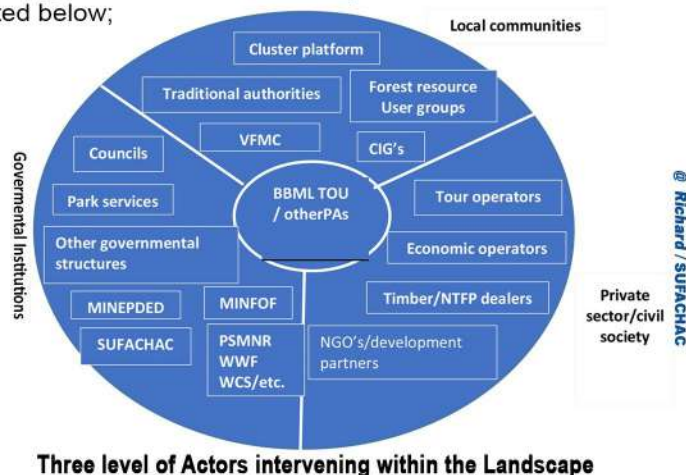
The matrix below represents a model of the actors identified within the landscape to implement the approach.



Operationalization of this approach by all the actors involved is of absolute necessity and so therefore a workshop has been organized to disseminate study results, agree actor's roles and present gender activities and outputs that are linked to the project's log frame.

Conservation and Development Actors in the BBML (Ongie Rose Mukete)

SUFACHAC in a bid at understanding how Protected Area management could be effective within the BBML embarked in its first phase of existence at identifying the current and potential key actors intervening in both conservation and development actions in the landscape. A coalition of institutional partners that brings together a wider range of civil society, Government stakeholders and other partners at various levels to work together while recognizing the importance of each actor's role as well as building capacity of local institutions comes out as an essential element to an effective protected area management within the landscape. These three levels of intervening actors are thus grouped in the model presented below;



Strengthening the Capacities of National Project Teams Towards the Mastery of UN Environment / GEF Project Management Tools and Procedures.

(Dr. J. Hude Moudingo)

The project team from the 24th to the 28th of June participated in a training workshop on UN Environment/GEF project management tools and procedures organized by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – GEF in Lomé, Togo.

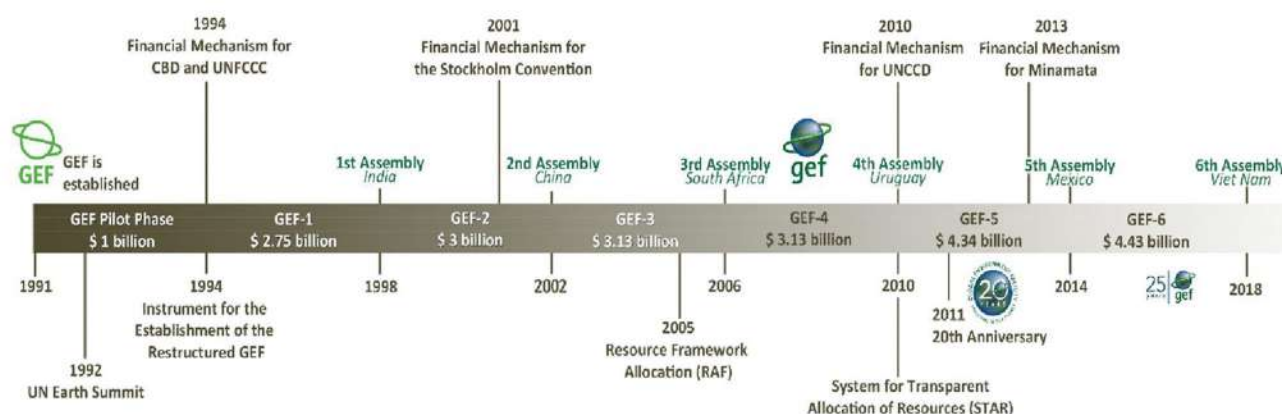
The workshop that was held at Hotel Concorde Conference Hall, Lomé, Togo involved National Directors, Project Coordinator, Monitoring and evaluation experts and Financial and Accountable Experts. UN Environment been one of the first three Agencies that created the GEF even though the number of accredited agencies to the GEF has risen up to 18 today, they can therefore facilitate the development of projects and their implementation at national, regional or global level. These agencies use their procedures in managing the funds made available to them by the GEF. For UN Environment projects, therefore its project management and implementation procedures apply in the implementation of agreements with States and partner institutions that implement UN projects took part in the workshop. It included Canada and Haiti representing

(Project title -Haiti Cote Sud) Madagascar (-COKETES, -GDT Bongolava Madagascar and -PA/Mangroves), Guinea Conakry and Ghana (-Fouta-Djallon),, CONGO (-Conkouati Dimonika and - Congo Loango), Belguim and Cameroon (-Salonga and Cobalam, Bakassi and SUFACH-AC), Côte D'ivoire (-OIPR/PROGIAP-CI and - GDT Côte D'ivoire), Senegal(-Habitat vert Senegal), Mali (-GDT-Kouliokoro), and Gabon (-Gabon ABS) and those from Kenya (UN Environment/GEF Unit), United Kingdom (UN Environment/GEF Unit).

Presentations and facilitation was either done by Dr. Adamou Bouhari (UN Projet Task manager)Eric Mugo (Finance Administrator, UNEP) and Dr Maidagi (consultant) to Ecosystems UN Environment (UNEP) West Africa Sub-Regional Office. During the four days, aforementioned persons on different thematic issues pertaining to either the technical experts, Financial and Accountable Experts made quite a good number of presentations. Amongst the many presentation we had;

- General Presentation on the GEF and the UN Environment / GEF Project Management Modalities (By Dr Buhari)
- Annual Planning: Tools (Logframe, Operations Plan, PPG Studies, Past Annual Reports, Evaluation Report, Path ways, CP Recommendations, Supervision Missions) and Processes
- Gender and Indigenous Peoples Inclusion in project implementation
- Presentation of a typical pattern of Project Annual Work plan by Dr Maidagi
- Framework for monitoring achievements: Example of Rain Forest Alliance
- Cooperation Agreement: Development and monitoring
- General information on technical and financial reports
- Gender Equity Reporting GEF "Secretariat Gender Specialist"
- Communication and Visibility Adamou
- Project Management System: ANUBIS ERIC
- Tracking tools, Core Indicator, Project Taxonomy, MTR and Final Evaluation Adamou
- Application for Advance Funds, Annual Audits Co-financing reports, Situation of Materials and Equipment and Final Financial Report –Eric Mugo

For each session, a general secretary and sub secretaries to collate and consolidate sessions report were selected from the poll of the list of the present dropped. Globally, the training was informative as it revealed that funding are usually oriented (either for biodiversity, land degradation...) by the developed countries such France, Sweden, Germany... The funding issues has come a long way and today GEF seven (FEM -7) project expected last years (2018) – was around plus de 4 Billion



Dr. Adamou Bouhari (UN Projet Task manager) presented the communication and visibility strategy in close to fourteen minutes. In his presentation, he dwelt on the media reach and importance to communicate well through media tools of communication such as YouTube, Facebook, videos, newspapers, etc.... He noted that some of these media are free and certainly beyond the country of implementation of the project. Examples were cited including the Bakassi Project (PINESMAP), Cameroon, which was involved in the celebration of the "World Biodiversity Day" through the shared photos while the Land Management and Mangrove and Endemic Species Projects, Madagascar, made a video on biodiversity and conservation

According to Dr. Adamou Bouhari, communication is essential at the individual, national and international level, because it allows us to sell what we do, and what cause we defend. It also gives value to what we do, and we can understand our contributions to the development effort and conservation in general. Such videos will also contribute to the recognition of the efforts of your respective countries and the international community in the implementation of multilateral conventions and international agreements. He continued his presentation by pointing to the example of the project Madagascar video (previous session), which is to emulate to convince skeptics, because he thought, it already has positive effects on behavioral change of more than one who did not know, and advocacy to preserve this wealth at the country level for the generation of the future.

He noted that most projects neglect media coverage and lack of involvement of the authorities in the coverage. He questioned the fact of what impact discount in this case. Continuing his presentation he said that communication is expensive, and one must be strategic and reasonable in the allocation of the budgets of covers. Thus, according to Adamou, it is necessary to involve the authorities in the media coverage in order to have a better visibility and national radius with an appropriation and to guarantee the sustainability at the governmental level.



With regard to lessons learned and sharing experiences, he referred to the example of the UN Environment Communication Team that came down from the "sustainable land management" project Madagascar last week to collect the images and discuss with stakeholders to develop a publication at the Conference of parties (COPs) on Desertification. He went on to say that, it will be the same to capture a "success story" for other biodiversity projects according to the themes of the COPs or published on the GEF website. All this will require, according to him, a thorough preparation to give GEF visibility. With regard to the GEF grant, he said that the joy of the GEF would lie in the fact that the whole world is sailing somewhere that their financial contribution has helped to safeguard an elephant or help local communities to know how to conserve

a species in the world and his habitat. He closed his presentation and the workshop, noting the need to do what is possible to give visibility to the GEF and its partners through media coverage, and to develop good quality videos for the GEF secretariat, which will be posted on his website via his contribution.

At the end of the training both SUFACHAC and PISNESMAP Projects teams were satisfied as saw their knowledge frontier on many projects domain improved namely the financial and technical knowledge using ANUBIS web since most of the project documents and other cash request related issues can be posted easily through this protective UNEP web site and also, carry out document search inside the said website

SUFACHAC PROJECT'S PARTICIPATION AT THE MINEPDED 2020 EXHIBITION OF CONSERVATION PROJECT (Ongie Rose Mukete)

The traditional annual conference of the Ministry of environment protection of nature and sustainable development in Cameroon experienced an innovation this year with the special invitation from the honorable minister to some conservation projects to show case their activities and achievements registered. SUFACHAC was amongst the 03 privileged project to exhibit their activities and the peculiarities of the landscape within the 02 days. Caffeine free coffee widely cultivated within the landscape and other non-timber forest products and agricultural products displayed in the stand fascinated many partners who participated in the conference thus arousing their expectations of the upcoming private investor's forum.



Project staff distributing newsletter to participants visiting their stand



Nations Director and the members of the Project Management Unit



GEF Operational Focal Point and members of the Project management unit



Project management Unit displaying various products from the BBML