



WORKSHOP ON

**DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN PRACTICE:
APPLYING THE PARIS DECLARATION TO ADVANCING
GENDER EQUALITY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

DUBLIN, IRELAND

26-27 APRIL 2007

**Session A - Discussant
Ownership and Alignment**

**Cameroon
Forest and Environment Sector Programme**

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MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES

Paris, 24 April 2007

CAMEROON FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR PROGRAMME

The Cameroon Forest and Environment Sector Program is designed to promote the environment as a critical engine of pro-poor growth. The Program embeds all the principles of the Paris Declaration (alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual responsibility). In a context where ownership remains a risk, the Program emphasizes publicity and reaches out to a wide array of non-government interests.

Cameroon's forests cover 225.000 km² (22.5 million ha), just under half the area of the country. They include production forests under state concession contracts, forests in protected areas and community forests. Forests are estimated to generate directly or indirectly about 8% of Cameroon's GDP, over 12.000 jobs in the formal sector alone, and fiscal revenue, to the tune of 24 billion CFA francs (about 50 million euros) in 2005, not including 8 million euros in revenue for local governments.

The sector is under two ministries, Forests (MINFOF) and Environment (MINEP), and two laws:

- ✓ the Forest, Fauna and Fisheries Act (1994)
- ✓ the Environment Management Framework Act (1996),

Both laws are based on principles of sustainable management, growth and poverty reduction, conservation and good governance.

Among the interesting features of the sector is the link between environmental management, growth and poverty reduction. Forests and derived industries represent a generous source of employment, both formal and informal, with a low cost of job creation. In their assessment of the Cameroon Poverty Reduction Strategy, IDA and the IMF have singled out the forest sector as an engine of pro-poor economic growth. Sustainable growth and poverty reduction therefore depend on proper management of Cameroon's forest estate.

The Forest and Environment Sector Program (FESP) is designed to reverse crippling economic policies of the past, when recruitments were halted to curb public expenditures. Accordingly, the FESP will rehabilitate and rejuvenate human resources for the management of the environment, including the recruitment of 1.550 new staff in the MINFOF and MINEP.

Based on the dual forest and environment legislation, the FESP features five components :

- ✓ environmental management, involving environmental monitoring and awareness
- ✓ production, including concession contracting and supervision, and promotion of industrial processing
- ✓ wildlife and protected areas, to develop a network of protected areas properly financed and managed with local participation
- ✓ community forest management, with three sub-components :
 - community forest management

- community forest regeneration
- fuelwood supply in northern regions.
- ✓ institutional strengthening, training and research, focusing on MINFOF.

Extending over a ten year period (2005 – 2015), the Programme is scheduled to invest 150 million euros over the first five years, including a large effort by the Government and support from the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the EU, DFID, GTZ, SNV (Netherlands), France, CIDA, UNDP, FAO, WWF and the IUCN. France has granted a first contribution of ten million euros for 2006-2008 and plans a similar in 2008 if conditions of tranche release (shown below) are met.

OWNERSHIP

Ownership is a challenge in Cameroon, as explained in a recent report.¹ Years of neglect of the forest sector will not be easy to erase. A recent IMF review (Dec. 2006) indicated that the momentum for governance reforms was slowing and called for government action to revive growth. Reforms to foster sustainable forestry production have apparently led to decreased utilization of forestry permits. For the IMF, weakened ownership in view of upcoming elections and difficult reforms in the areas of governance and civil service remains a matter of concern.

ALIGNMENT

The FESP includes a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) consistent with the overall Government MTEF. Budget support is based on conditionality designed to track progress in the FESP, as summarized in the table below.

Cameroon FESP
Tranche conditionality (summarized) for IDA and GEF disbursement.

Components	1st tranche : programme effectiveness	2nd tranche	3rd tranche
Environmental management	Environmental Impact Mitigation Plan (EMP) adopted and ready for implementation	2005 EMP implemented	impact of FESP evaluated and made public
Logging	All concessions awarded prior to 2000 reviewed; those conforming with requirements approved. Report on all violations, penalties and transactions between 2000 and 2005.	All concessions prior to 2002 and all Community Management Plans reviewed	Illegal logging totally under control. All concessions reassigned away from ONADEF to appropriately managed structures
Protected Areas	8 supervision teams ready for operation	2 additional teams created	One additional team created. Supervision shows improved management performance.
Community forestry	Study on fiscal revenue and hiring of consultant for capacity building	10 community plans successfully implemented	
Institutional strengthening	MINFOR & MINEP staffed, budgeted and equipped with effective operating systems for public financial management	Work plans consistent with Medium Term Expenditure Framework	Same, premises upgraded

HARMONIZATION

A Code of Conduct, signed by the development partners on 5 January 2006, and inspired by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, recognizes that fragmentation of assistance and lack of coordinated support to the forest and environment sector have undermined the effectiveness of aid assistance. Partners have therefore jointly undertaken to harmonize their assistance within the framework of the FESP. In addition to budget support, funding includes a common “basket fund” for pooled technical assistance and training.

MANAGING FOR RESULTS

¹ *Une arrivée et un nouveau départ : partenariats au Cameroun après le point d'achèvement PPTTE, Andrew Rogerson, Lamine Loum, Olivier Lafourcade, ODI, mai 2006*

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is designed to integrate budget management with physical information on program implementation and tranche release conditions. The M&E system relies on the existing services of the MINFOF and MINEP, while allowing for contributions from specialized NGOs and the civil society, and emphasising publicity of the results. The aim of the M&E system is to monitor progress in the management of forests and protected areas, with the ultimate millennium development goal (n° 7) of achieving environmental sustainability. Beyond the sector, as mentioned earlier, the Program is also expected to contribute to millennium development goal n° 1 (reducing extreme poverty).

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

In exchange for tranche conditionality, partners declare their intention of indicating their support for the FESP for a given period (Code of Conduct, §14).