



AN EXCHANGE AND BRAINSTORMING WORKSHOP
ON FORESTS AND CLIMATIC PROCESSES
SYNERGIES IN CAMEROON

**SYNERGIES STRENGTHENING BETWEEN
FORESTS AND CLIMATIC PROCESSES
CONTRIBUTION PAPER**

In 2018, from June 12th to 14th, an exchange and brainstorming workshop on forest and climatic processes synergies in Cameroon was held at the Touristic Centre of Nkolandom (CTN) conference hall .

This workshop organized by Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) in the project “Citizens’ voices for change: forest monitoring in the Congo Basin” (CV4C) framework, implemented with the financial support of European Union and project partners, aimed at enable REDD+, VPA-FLEGT, AFR100 and NDC’s stakeholders to exchange on synergies between this various processes and formulate proposals for better transparency, participation and coordination.

Indeed, Cameroon has signed several international conventions concerning fight against climate change amongst which the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1192), and most recently the Paris Agreement on Climate (2015). Through these instruments, the country is firmly committed, and consistent with its current internal legal framework, to enhance the participation of various stakeholders on one hand, (Section 4-1i CCNUCC and Principle 22 Rio 1992), and to set and foster at the national level the opportunities of coordination between the instruments and pertinent institutional mechanisms (Sec. 6-8. b Paris Agreement) on the other hand.

Participated, in addition to FODER’s representatives, public administration representatives took part to this workshop -among which the Prime Minister’s office, Ministries of External Relations; Forestry and Wildlife; Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development; National Observatory on Climate Changes (ONACC), National Participatory Development Programme (PNDP)- representatives of technical partners, civil society organizations, private sector, research, local and indigenous people.

The presentations and brainstorming during the workshop focused on VPA-FLEGT, REDD+, NDC and AFR100 processes progress as well as the achievements, challenges and lessons learned in terms of participation and coordination on one hand, and experiences sharing on the participation of non-state actors to these various processes on the other hand.

At the end of these presentations and exchanges, the participants noticed several achievements of the processes concerned, namely:

- Their participatory nature with a particular accent on administrations competent opening up to various stakeholders involvement especially civil society organizations, local communities and indigenous people;
- A better consideration of civil society organizations, local communities and indigenous people concerning VPA-FLEGT and REDD+ processes;
- The synergies efforts between VPA-FLEGT and REDD+ on one hand, and between REDD+ and NDC on the other hand;
- The existence of functional consultation frameworks between various stakeholders for REDD+ and VPA-FLEGT;
- Non-state stakeholder’s commitment and quality contributions in the various processes.

Despite these achievements, some deficiencies however were noted:

- Institutions proliferation and the risks that they represent for the coordination, public action effectiveness and efficiency of forest sector and the fight against climate change ;

- lack of coordination between the VPA-FLEGT and NDC processes in its current progress;
- The low/non-use of inter-sectorial coordination frameworks and multi-stakeholders existing to strengthen the coordination between forest and climatic processes ongoing in Cameroon;
- The fragmentation of interventions and civil society organizations actions leading to the low valorisation of their contributions to the various processes;

support funds dispersion for government action who participates to the proliferation of the process management poles that they support ;The non-operationality of the VPA-FLEGT legality verification system due to the development delay in the traceability software and the disagreements between Cameroon and EU on the current development of this software; Weaknesses in the dissemination and access to information on processes both at the concerned sectorial administration level and non-state stakeholders leading to loss of coordination opportunities and strengthening the Cameroon's action effectiveness in the VPA-FLEGT, REDD+, AFR100 and NDC processes. The result is a relative optimization of opportunities offered by increased participation and coordination both at the level of the actors and processes in order to respect Cameroon's international commitments on the issues concerned Given these realities, participants recommended that stakeholders of these various processes to take concrete actions to strengthen stakeholder's participation and coordination between processes and actors. Therefore, the following proposals were formulated:

➤ **To the Government :**

- Give priority to existing institutions / bodies in charge of the implementation and monitoring of Cameroon's commitments in forest and climatic processes by strengthening as much as possible their competencies to facilitate the synergies between the processes and actors;
- Attach the "Focal Point" function to a Service / Taskforce rather than an individual to enhance the effectiveness of relationship management with the relevant Convention Secretariat , as well as the coordination of actions with national stakeholders ;
- Seize the opportunity offered by Cameroon / EU Structured Political Dialogue (SPD) to find a concerted solution on national interest issues as part of the commitments between Cameroon and EU on forest sector and and fight against climate changes ;

➤ **To technical and financial partners :**

- Prioritise the EXISTING of multi-lateral and bilateral financial mechanisms in forest sector and fight against climate changes;
- Support the State of Cameroon in strengthening the competences of institutions/organs existing in charge of the implementation and monitoring of forest and climatic commitments to facilitate synergies between processes and actors ;

➤ **To civil society organizations :**

- Build the capacity of key stakeholders including local communities, indigenous people, youths and women for an effective participation to forest and climatic processes;

- Strengthen the coordination of their actions and ensure the complementarity of their interventions to guarantee effective and efficient contribution to processes concerned; propose mechanisms and advocacy for strengthening inter-process coordination and equitable and effective participation of vulnerable groups in climate and forest processes in Cameroon
 - Propose mechanisms and carry out advocacies for the strengthening of the coordination between the processes as well as the equitable and effective participation of vulnerable groups in climatic and forest processes in Cameroon ;
 - Seize all the opportunities offered by the forest and climatic processes to carry out advocacies aiming at strengthening the consideration of non-state actors' needs and contribute to the improvement of synergies between the processes;
- **To traditional rulers:**
- Take part in the advocacies on synergies between forests and climatic various processes.

Done at Nkolandom on June 14th, 2018

The participants