

Project Partners

CIDT – The Centre for International Development and Training at the University of Wolverhampton has long and unrivalled expertise in forestry training and capacity building in Africa and Asia. CIDT will focus on developing training to address skills/ knowledge gaps among network members, key VPA actors and educational institutions.

CED – The Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED) has long standing experience of capacity building provision and support to NGOs and local associations in forest areas in Cameroon as well as in other countries in the Congo Basin on issues related to rights, illegal logging and support to indigenous communities.

CIEDD – Centre pour l'Information Environnementale et le Développement Durable. CIEDD will focus of national forest legislation and reform working with the national civil society platform to make proposals for integration of rights and participation of forest peoples' in relevant reform processes in CAR.

FERN – FERN will strengthen policy analysis and advocacy at national level, support local partners to create effective communication tools for use at community levels and ensure project visibility and dissemination of learning regionally and internationally.

FODER – Forêts et Développement Rurale. FODER's areas of expertise are on forestry, rights of forest people, rural development, fight against corruption and lobbying. FODER will deliver capacity building events, create tools for awareness raising as well as facilitate lesson learning and experience sharing.

FPP – The Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) has high-level legal expertise on the rights of forest communities and indigenous peoples which will support and complement the work that CED and CIEDD will develop at national level in Cameroon and CAR.

MEFP – Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmées (MEFP) will work with indigenous people to facilitate their participation in legal reform processes and ensure that they are fully represented and their concerns are taken into consideration.

Contact us

If you are interested in sharing your experience and expertise on forest governance or would like more information about the project, please contact:

Dr Aurelian Mbazibain, Project Manager
Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT)
University of Wolverhampton, Telford Campus, Shifnal Road, Priorslee, Telford,
TF2 9NT. United Kingdom

Email: cidt@wlv.ac.uk or a.mbazibain2@wlv.ac.uk

Tel: **+44 (0)1902 323 219**

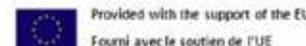
For project related information please visit: www.wlv.ac.uk/cidt



Congo Basin Voluntary Partnership Agreement Implementation

Championing forest peoples' rights
and participation

This project is part-funded by the European Union and UK Department for International Development





Background

World Bank estimates show \$10-15 billion annually are lost world wide due to illegal logging; with close to \$5 billion lost due to uncollected taxes and royalties on legally sanctioned timber harvests due to corruption.

Such losses of state revenue prevent timber-rich Congo Basin governments from meeting development goals and public services of basic healthcare and education, as well as improvements in sustainable forest management.

Poor and disadvantaged communities suffer the most from poor governance of the forest sector, especially due to being denied a voice to actively participate in decision-making processes concerning their land and resources.

Project objectives

The project seeks to contribute to:

- strong inclusive national Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) processes that guide and frame effective implementation of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)/VPAs in Cameroon and Central African Republic (CAR).
- shared regional experiences of how to achieve inclusive negotiations to improve buy-in to implementation.

More specifically, the project aims to ensure that civil society organisations' (CSO) and indigenous peoples' (IP) capacity is built through contributing to development, implementation and monitoring of VPAs.

Expected results: 1

Concerns of non-state actors, including recognition of the rights of local communities including indigenous peoples, integrated into VPA actions

Expected results: 2

Effective implementation of VPAs, through greater direct input from CSOs, to ensure VPAs deliver improved forest governance

Key activities

Result 1

- Raise local communities and indigenous peoples' awareness of governance aspects of VPA.
- Develop mechanisms toward improved representation of communities and indigenous peoples.
- Support for civil society platforms to play an effective role in VPA implementation.
- VPA implementation and Rights Training courses.
- Organisational development courses for national civil society platforms and local partners.
- CS and community participation in legal, policy and institutional reforms relevant to the rights of forest communities.
- Legal, organisational and other support to CS to ensure effective participation in legal reform processes and implementation committees.

Result 2

- Facilitate regional communication and experience sharing through African Community Rights Network (2014, 2016), Forest Forum (2015).
- Support update/revision of curriculum with higher forestry educational institutions eg. Centre Regional en Agriculture Forêt Bois (CRESA), FASA, Ecole des Eaux de Forêts de Mbalmayo.

Project target

The National Civil Society Platforms in Cameroon and CAR are central to the project. From these, communication and actions will target advocacy to policy and decision makers in government and the international community, and member organisations feed information to communities and indigenous peoples. The project seeks to strengthen the links, representation and ability of the local communities, indigenous peoples to feed information back to strengthen accountability and protect their rights.

- 30 organisations that are members of the platform Gestion Durable des Ressources Naturelles et de l'Environnement (GDRNE) in CAR.
- 40 organisations that form the Forests and Communities Platform in Cameroon.
- Indigenous peoples' associations and their representatives in National VPA Committees in CAR and Cameroon.
- Academia and vocational training institutions in CAR and Cameroon.