COMMUNITY FOREST ENTERPRISE

"CASE STUDY OF THE AGRO-FORESTRY COOPERATIVE OF THE TRI-NATIONAL"

NGOYLA, CAMEROON

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ABREVIATIONS

COBABA	The Community of Ba' aBa
COBAM	The Bamaboul Community of Menkouom
CODEL	Lelene Development Committee
CODEM	Messok-Messok Development Committee
CODENVI	Ngoyla Village Development Committee
CODEVIE	Etekessang Village Development Committee
CODOUM	Doumzock Development Committee
COVILAM	The Village Community of Lamson
COVINKO	The Village Community of Nkondong
DMA	Minimum diameter for Management
DME	Minimum diameter of Exploitability
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FOB	Free On Board
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICRAF	International Center for Research in Agroforestry
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Fauna
NC-UICN	Dutch committee for the World Conservation Union
OCBB	Observatory of the Cultures of Baka and Bantou
ONADEF	National office for the Development of Forest
PFNL	Non-Wood Forest products
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
WCS	World Conservation Society
WWF	World Wilde Fund for Nature

1. FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON: an overview of legal frameworks and practices

1.1 History and situation of Community forest management

From the creation of the state of Cameroon in January 1960 until January 20, 1994, the management of Cameroon's forest estates has been centralized within government. Cameroon's citizens who reside in the forest belts enjoyed rights as traditional users only. This situation has been largely maintained by repressive and dissuasive measures with traditional activities limited to the use of certain forest resources mainly for subsistence. Official titles for forest development and exploitation were often granted without consultation at the local level. The situation has been the same in the recent classification of forest domains into Parks or Reserves of fauna and flora. The forest policy of Cameroon during this period has thus had little consideration for the prospects of livelihood-linked sustainability and has not encouraged community entrepreneurship based on the sustainable management of forest resources.

The ensuing economic crisis at the onset of the 1990s compelled the state of Cameroon to re-think the management of her strategic forest resources in view of budgetary needs and as a means of alleviating rural poverty. Such reflections have been provoked partly by declarations at international level such as those of the Rio summit of 1992 on sustainable forest management, being a part of global efforts to ensure climate stability and protection of biodiversity. These processes were to mature with the promulgation of the January 1994 forestry and wildlife regulations. The 1994 forest and wildlife laws thus ushered in a new forestry policy environment founded on the need to decentralize forest management and ensure the involvement of local communities and other interests and stakeholders. These new policies also engendered the measured consultation of concerned populations throughout the process, ultimately leading to the categorization of all forest domains into permanent and non-permanent estates.

These steps created a legal precedent and opened up opportunities for community entrepreneurship in the domain of forest management. The introduction of the community forest politic is thus an illustration of government's intention to create just such an environment. It thus provides in principle, real opportunities for communities to generate goods and services and ensure forest protection through wise management, deriving benefits from them. The forest policy however, maintains certain limits to access, thus for instance, sets a target of 30% of national forest estates to be considered as protected areas. These legal controls thus usher in a new system of land tenure, access and users rights.

1.2 Land tenure system in the forest zone, rights of access and legal frameworks

In putting in place the new policies, a zoning plan was decreed in 1996. This classified forests into two main domains, comprising:

(i) permanent forest estates: protected areas, forest exploitation concessions (UFAs) and communal forests.
(ii) non-permanent forest estates: multiple vocation domains, such as community forests

This zoning process is a thus futuristic plan which describes the long-term use ends of all the different forest types in Cameroon's southern forest zones. If the permanent forest estates are restrictive in terms of access by local communities, the non-permanent ones are expected to provide opportunities for legal community-based management and poverty alleviation.

On this basis, in January 2004, the communities within the administrative subdivision of NGOYLA, in southeastern Cameroon, legally acquired nine community forests with the support of the non-governmental organization OCBB. These nine community forests constitute the Agroforestry Cooperative of the Tri-National (CAFT).

The management of community forests is generally carried-out in Cameroon on the basis of legal texts which guide the main axes of forest exploitation. The table below presents references to the main texts framing forest management in Cameroon and at the same time providing opportunities for community involvement.

Table 1: Extracts of legal texts relevant to Community based forest Management

REFERENCE TEXTS	**ARTICLES**	**MAIN INDICATIONS and APPLICATIONS**
Law N° 94/01 of 20 January 1994: This defines Cameroon's forest policies wherein one of the objectives is to enhance the extent of participation of local populations in sustainable forest resources management.	Article 8	Indicates user and customary rights vis-à-vis local communities.
	Article 37	Indicates the objectives of the law regarding community forests and the use of products by communities.
	Article 38	Indicates the objectives of the management convention for community forest management and relevant directives.
Decree N° 95/531 PM of 23rd August 1995. This decree fixes the mode of application of legal texts relating to forest domains/types.	Article 3	Covers the management convention and the Simple Management Plan for Community Forests
	Article 27	Stipulates the maximum size limit for community forests and indicates the zones wherein community forests are possible.
	Article 28	Stipulates legal entities acceptable for community forests.
	Article 29	The allocation dossier and responsible authorities and personalities for forestry operations.
	Article 30	Stipulates the period (25 years) for which a Simple Management Plan is valid.
	Article 31/ 32	Stipulates administrative sanctions and conditions for suspension of Management Conventions
	Article 95	Provides information on commercialization of timber from Community forests.
	Article 96	Provides information of the use and distribution of benefits from Community forest exploitation
Decree N° 2006/0129 /PM of 27 January 2006 modifying and completing certain provisions of the decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995 fixing the mode of application of legal texts relating to forest domains/types.	Article 86	Deals with permits for exploitation of poles, fuel wood and timber for local transformation reserved for Cameroonian nationals.
Decision N° 253/D/MINEF/DF of April 1998		Manual of procedures for the attribution of, and norms for Community Forest Management.
Decision N°1985/D/MINEF/SG/DF /CFC of 24 June 2002		Practical modalities for controlled/selective felling within the framework of the establishment of Simple Management Plans for Community forests.
Order N° 252/A/CAB/MINEF/DF		Model of a Community forest Convention within relevant forests over the national territory.

Of April 1998		
Order N° 0518/MINEF/CAB of 21 December 2001		Modalities and conditions for preferential attribution of forests to neighboring communities for the creation/development of community forests.
White paper/circular letter N° 0131 LC/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF/SN of 28 March 2006		Relevant to procedures for the award of limited forest exploitation titles.

1.3 Systems of forest production, production trends and market situation

Forest exploitation in Cameroon is organized at two levels, comprising:

(i) *Industrial type exploitation*. This type of forest exploitation is carried out by large multi-nationals who obtain and manage extensive areas of forest, referred-to as concession licenses or forest management units, within the domain of permanent forest estates. Up until 1999 a large part of industrial forest exploitation was characterized by the extraction of whole logs which were exported mainly to Europe and Asia. By 2000 it became mandatory to transform the majority of timber into semi-finished products within the country prior to export. Thus higher grade products as opposed to raw logs left sawmills and were exported to Europe and Asia. Such forest exploitation uses principally externally-sourced financial resources. Equipment and investment capital employed tend to be heavy, costly, and imported; thus banks and other multi-national financial institutions are often involved. Managing these forest exploitation enterprises requires connections at high levels in government and financial institutions, as well as requiring high levels of expertise and specializations in moving huge sums of currency and materials across the globe.

(ii) *Non-industrial type exploitation*. This type of forest exploitation is practiced mainly by Cameroonians, locally and within the designated multiple use agro-forestry zones. This requires the putting in place local entrepreneurship mechanisms. In such practices, short-term and limited permits are awarded by the state for exploitation. Local communities also have access to these kinds of permits to extract timber, wood for poles, and wood for fuel and charcoal. On the other hand, when a community signs a management convention with the state, that community acquires the right to exploit the forest in a controlled way. Under these regulations, community forests have a maximum limit of 5000 hectares of exploitable surface area, and only $1/25^{th}$ of the community forest can be exploited each year.

As a pre-requisite to obtaining a community forest, the community must be organized as an association, a common initiative group, a business group or a cooperative. Non-industrial forest exploration uses light equipment supposed to be less-destructive to the forest environment and reduce the intensity of the harvest. The products from this non-industrial exploitation are destined mainly for the local and national markets, and consequently the communities engaged in this type of exploitation do not have access to European, Asian or most international markets.

Most communities do not have access to investment capital or the capacity to meet the initial costs involved in compiling documentation to acquire a community forest. For this type of

exploitation to bring about transformation, it also requires basic technology for timber transformation and for non-timber forest products processing. Forest management in Cameroon is generally embryonic, and thus it is not surprising that numerous insufficiencies still exist in community-based forest management. Necessary changes to mitigate these constraints and improve efficiencies include the need to rationalize the quantities and quality of value-added products, a process not often compatible with the limit set on exploitation, nor the limited access to financial resources for local investment. Technological possibilities for transformation are not often feasible within the rural milieu. From a purely location perspective, there are social and infrastructural constraints imposed by the rural milieu which do not often auger well for the organizational requirements of forest management. It should be noted that these constraints occur against the background of the expectation that this non-industrial type of exploitation is supposed to reduce rural poverty. Thus, an assessment that current institutional frameworks are not only alien to local capacities but require considerable external inputs if organizational adaptability is to respond to enterprise needs, resource mobilization, national and international market access, partnerships and management needs of community forests.

CAFT is the first Cameroonian agroforestry cooperative involved in innovative mechanisms to mobilize external financial, human and technological resources for the sustainable management of community forest resources. It is the only such cooperative in the NGOYLA region of southeastern Cameroon. Community forests in this region remain a huge potential driver of local development, as they possess considerable stocks of natural resources. The types of necessary technological and financial investments will be determined by product types, availability, quality and accessibility, current and projected market value, and need for value-addition. Yet to achieve advancement of sustainable management of community forest resources and gain the necessary resources, CAFT must meet numerous natural and man-made challenges.

2. CURRENT SITUATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON: The Case of the CAFT

2.1 Social and biophysical background of the area

The District of Ngoyla which harbors the head-office of the CAFT, is an administrative District created, following the presidential decree N°67/D/228 of May 24, 1967. In 1991, the District of Ngoyla was re-classified as a sub-division. Ngoyla is bordered to the North by the District of Lomié, to the South by the Republic of Congo, to the East by the division of Boumba and Ngoko and to the West by the South Province. In terms of distance, the District of Ngoyla is respectively, 800 km and 500 km from Douala (the economic capital) and Yaounde (the administrative capital of Cameroon).

The indigenous populations of the District of Ngoyla are made up of two principal ethnic groups: the Ndjyiem (Bantou) and Baka (Pygmies). They are settled along roadsides and tracks in small villages characteristically headed by either a head of family within the Baka, or a village head or third degree Chief within the Ndjyiem (Bantou). Among the nine villages that requested the nine Community forests, four are mixed village settlements comprising Baka and Ndjyiem with the other five comprising exclusively of Ndjyiem Bantus. In the CAFT zone there are approximately 1250 Baka inhabitants, about 25% of the population, and approximately 3750 Ndjyiém inhabitants who make up the other 75% of the population. The whole CAFT zone is considered very sparsely populated, even by

Cameroonian standards, and has a demographic density of less than one inhabitant per square kilometer. Inhabitants in the age bracket from 20 to 50 years are numerous and make the most important contributions to the local economy.

The principal economic activity in the zone is cacao cultivation – a practice valued in the Ndjyiém culture. Ndjyiém are also traditional farmers, while the Baka specialize in collecting, gathering, and collecting non-wood forest products (NWFPs) like moabi, mushrooms, wild mango, wild vegetables, and local medicinal plants. Exchanges between the two indigenous ethnic groups are barter-based.

The vegetation of the Ngoyla district is characterized by natural, dense evergreen, equatorial tropical forests (monograph of the Doumzoh village, Pa'ah 1986). Vegetation formations in the area represent a great diversity of species, though the vegetation around the villages is largely secondary, due to agricultural activity. Lately this vegetation has not been greatly disturbed, due to the absence of industrial forestry development.

The zone of Ngoyla is in an ideal situation where there is great biological diversity in an almost pristine state, and local populations are involved in the sustainable management of forest resources, exemplified by the acquisition of community forests. The Ngoyla zone occupies a strategic position within the trans-border range of protected forests (TRIDOM); the area serves as a biological corridor for large mammals migrating between the faunal reserves of the Dja and Nki in Cameroon, the Minkébé of Gabon and the Odzala of Congo. The strategic location of the zone has made it possible to suspend the attribution of forest concession licenses for industrial forest exploitation. The zone includes the eco-regions described by the USAID CARPE program, with conservation activities underway by IUCN and WWF in Cameroon and WCS and WWF in Gabon and the Congo. Numerous flora and fauna of the Ngoyla forests have been classified by IUCN as categories 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (see Appendix 1).

In terms of management reparation, the Dja landscape in Cameroon is subdivided accordingly:

Table 2: Division of Land use within the Cameroonian side of the DJA CARPE Landscape

Land use type	**Total Surface area (sq km)**	**% of Landscape**
CAFT Community Forests	188.07	0.432
Other community Forests	261.65	0.602
Protected Areas	13580.39	31.23
Concessions	27551.12	63.36
Unclassified forests	1903.37	4.38
DJA Landscape	43484.60	100.00

Source: ICRAF DJA Seminar Report, 2006

According to the national zoning plan of the forest areas of Cameroon that came into force in 1996, the forest surfaces of the district of Ngoyla are subdivided according to Table 3 below:

Table 3: Division of Forest Area in the sub-division of Ngoyla according to the Zoning Plan

Zone designation	**Surface area (ha)**	**Priority usage**	**Observations**
Ngoyla administrative unit	769 469	Multiple usage	Territorial extent of Ngoyla sud-division
Concessions	525 787	Timber exploitation and community hunting	Production forest areas cover 7 concession licences N°: 10-019, 10-027, 10-028, 10-032, 10-033, 10-034 and 10-035
NKI national park	128 236	Wildlife conservation	Gazetted in 2005
Integral ecological reserve	52,643	Complete protection of biodiversity	Reserve un-managed and is being threatened by uncontrolled exploitation of both fauna and flora.
Multiple use agro-forestry zone (Community forests)	39 488	Multiple use (agriculture and forestry)	Nine community forests established with a total surface area of 17.950 ha; 11 others in process, making an additional 21.518 ha
Mining zone	23 315	Production of minerals	Timber exploitation is also on-going there

Source: Geomatic Team, SNV/SDDL Project and GIS products (2000)
Appendix 2 Map of Cameroon's southernmost community forests of Ngoyla.

Key Fauna

In all these forest belts the biological indices indicate the presence of large and small mammals. Local people regularly report sightings of elephants, panthers, gorillas, chimpanzees, Mandrill, rodents, reptiles (boa constrictors, viper, and other snakes, crocodiles), monkeys, duikers, antelopes, Sitatunga, birds (Parrots, African Eagle and others), fish, and many others. The rich fauna in the Ngoyla zone constitute the first cause of regular damage to food and cash crop farms. These animals are harvested daily to meet the nutritional and income needs of the local populations; hunters attest that there are particularly strong concentrations of animals near the clearings and large rivers. The wild fauna of Ngoyla are potentially threatened, given that they constitute the main source of animal proteins for the entire population of Ngoyla and surrounding areas.

Hydrological characteristics

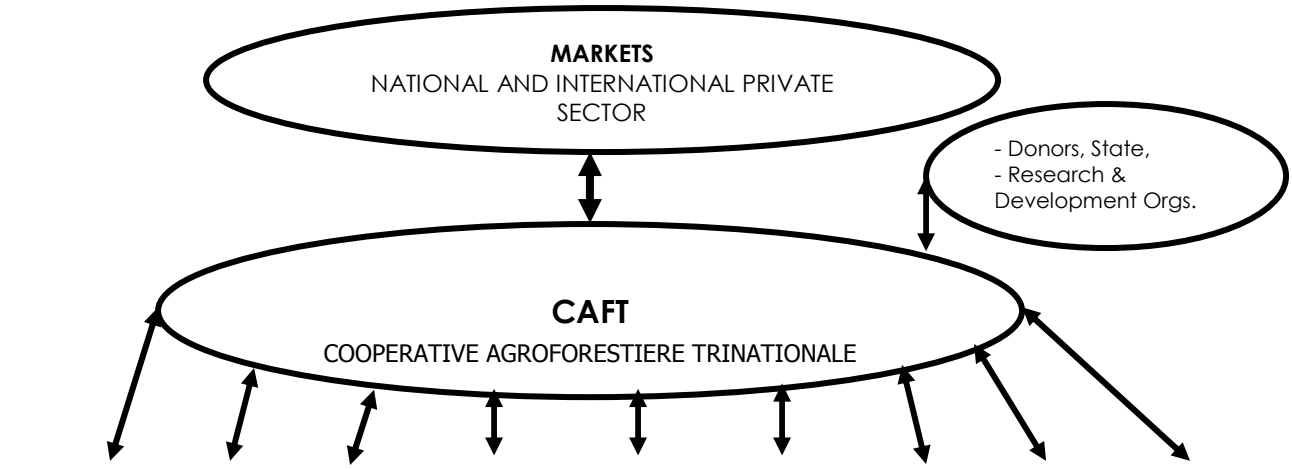
The hydrological network in the area is dense. Most running water in Ngoyla converges into the Dja river, which serves as the main river basin. Within this network, other dominant rivers and streams include the Dja, Tim, Mye, Lessogone, Kpasselé, Nsogo, Mpoumpoué, Mindjebilé, Ngoya, Mwessé, Lolobyé. Non-industrial type or subsistence fishing is intensively practiced by local populations during the dry season.

2.2 CAFT institutional framework, local land tenure and the user rights situation

According to the zoning plan designating different forest management units, all gazetted areas had the statutory obligation to recognize the rights-of-use of forest resources by neighboring populations. Taking advantage of this opportunity and in conformity with law

No. 90/053 of December 1990, the CAFT was thus created by the ensemble of nine community forests to fill-in organizational and management deficiencies within the purely community structures themselves. By organizing itself into a development association, the CAFT could then call on the assistance of local NGOs such as the OCBB (a local ONG) and others through consultation for assistance in the community forest attribution and development process. Subsequently, the staff and organs of the CAFT in-turn thus provide support to all stages of the development of the community forests such as in administration, planning, exploitation, commercialization and conservation as well as reinvestment of the proceeds of community forest exploitation with the continued help of all others sharing their aspirations towards productive and profitable activities.

Figure 1: Members, Partners and relationships of the CAFT



Cobam	Codenvi	Codevie	Covinko I	Cobaba	Codem	Codel	Covilam	Codoum
Village Communities with Community forests in the Ngoyla sub-division								

Each community with a community forest is linked to CAFT by a collaboration contract defining the rights and obligations of each party vis-à-vis the other. The members of CAFT thus originate from the nine community forests. Within this partnership, the communities produce the raw or semi-raw materials, while the CAFT handles collection, stocking, transformation and marketing of semi finished and finished products. Table 4 below presents the division of statutory roles in the CAFT.

Table 4: Principal responsibilities of the relevant legal community-based entities

Name of Entity	President	Management responsibility	Legalisation Number	Surface area under management (ha)
COBAM	Pa'ah Patrice André	Gouah Gouah Emmanuel	20/RDA /B13/BAPP	3.500
CODENVI	Nanga Mathurin	Mpono Pierre	26/RDA/B13/BAPP	2.300
CODEVIE	Nanga Mbongo Felix	Nanga Emmanuel	21/RDA/B13/BAPP	2.750
COBABA	Metoul Ndong H. Charles	Babot Pascal	24/RDA/B13/BAPP	2.300
COVINKOI	Mekouobieh Paul René	Ngningone Jacquimart	23/RDA/B13/BAPP	3.220
CODEM	Assembé Bruno	Eloua Rephael	22/RDA/B13/BAPP	1.300
CODEL	Ngouelé Evariste	Memieh Ernest	25/RDA/B13/BAPP	1.400
CODOUM	Mebiam Martin	Ndjobab Jean Bernard	19/RDA//B13/BAPP	550
COVILAM	Ndong Ngnignim Rody	Nzié Rock	18/RDA/B13/BAPP	650
CAFT	PA'AH Patrice André		N. ES/CO/05/02/1536	17.970

2.3 History of the Agro forestry Co-operative of the Tri-nationale (CAFT)

The Agro forestry Co-operative of the Tri-national (CAFT) was created following a series of four strategic analysis workshops prior to the creation of community forests in the Ngoyla region. These workshops were organized by OCBB in conjunction with the leaders of the associations of the community forests at the Etékessang village. Following the analyses and outcomes of the workshops, the leaders of the nine village communities unanimously decided that only a regrouping within a local cooperative could meet their needs for community forest management. The nine communities named representatives respectively into the Board of directors as well as the Monitoring Committee of the CAFT. These bodies comprise nine Administrators and three Supervisors, respectively.

Therefore, the CAFT was created on December 7th 2001, in the village of Etékessang (District of Ngoyla), created by the representatives of nine associations of the community forests of Ngoyla during their constitutive general assembly meeting. CAFT was subsequently legalized on the 10th of April 2002 in Bertoua under the provisions of regulation ES/CO/05/02/1536 of law N° 92/006 of August 14, 1992 regarding the creation and operation of co-operatives and common initiative groups and in conformity with decree N° 92/455/PM of November 23, 1992.

2.4 Forest management goals of the CAFT: linking organizational and marketing objectives

The founding members of the CAFT are the nine community forest associations. The top priorities of this cooperative, the priorities of the communities that they represent are unambiguous and are as follows:

- Introduce innovative approaches and techniques in production and management and protection of agro-forestry resources within the realm of the association's members.
- Create centers for the collection, treatment and transformation of agriculture and forest products (wood and non-wood).
- Seek commercial outlets for finished and semi-finished products emanating from the affiliates of the CAFT.
- Negotiate binding contracts and agreements covering production, transformation and commercialization of agriculture and forestry products (wood and non-wood).
- Ensure good governance: transparent management, traceability of products, participation, representation and effective sharing of benefits with deserving members.
- Ensure that the ecological base of the forest is secured, and that the CAFT communities are appropriately compensated for the environmental services that they provide to visitors, neighboring and other interests.

CAFT intends to introduce modern methods to guarantee that the management of community forest resources becomes more sustainable and beneficial for meeting local needs, and can meet local needs according to the laws of Simple Management Plans for community forests. The members of the CAFT and the communities thus resolve to respect the regulations guiding forest exploitation in the 25 years of community forest management. The communities have committed themselves to ensuring that the economic, social and ecological objectives of community forests are respected.

To support this process, OCBB and CAFT conducted a project for conserving the forest genetic resources of the Ngoyla forest. This project has facilitated the completion of a 100% multi-resource inventory of the Ngoyla forests, which in-turn has facilitated more realistic planning for the exploitation of some major forest resources. Thus, CAFT is poised to negotiate relevant contracts and partnerships in developing commercialization channels and to propose relevant sustainable quantities of products from the community forests. Envisaged thematic business plans to come from this project should provide greater clarity within the framework of value-added to natural products. CAFT also intends to develop project proposals and provide backstopping to communities on new approaches for low-impact forest use. CAFT is actively seeking investors, partners, and knowledge bases that could add value to the process of managing the forest resources of the Ngoyla area.

3. ORGANISATION, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

3.1 Management Structure

Figure 2: ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF THE CAFT

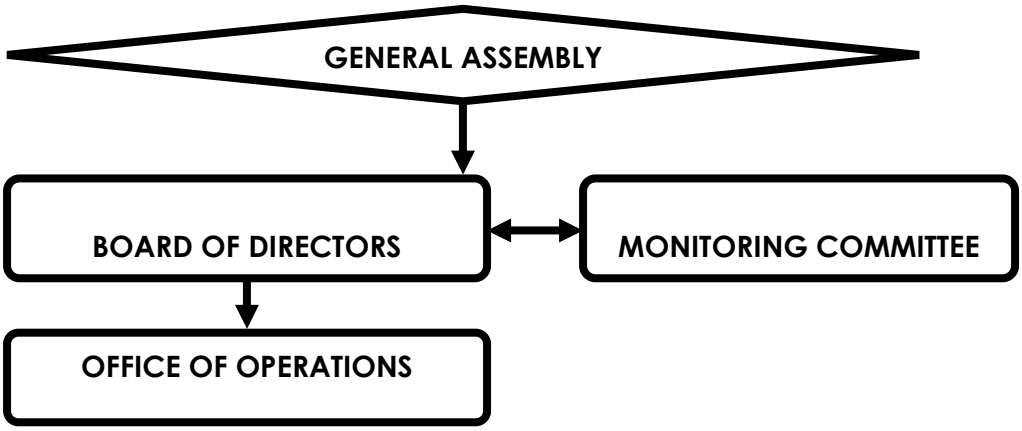


Table 5: Statutory Roles and Responsibilities of the CAFT organs

The organs	Role and Responsibility
General Assembly	Defines Strategic orientations of the CAFT Takes and endorses high level decisions of the CAFT Delegates powers of execution, monitoring and evaluation of management and administration
Board of Directors	Supervises and steers implementation following the orientations and decisions taken by the general assembly
Monitoring Committee	Ensures control and feedback in external and external processes of the CAFT
Office of Operations	Executes tasks as stipulated and approved by the board of directors

3.2 Role of the local communities in decision-making within the CAFT

The CAFT is driven by the need to seek benefits for its constituent members, and achieves this through collective agreement and actions. Within this orientation the principle of equity, transparency and democratic deliberations guides the decisions taken by the CAFT. Each delegate in the Board of Directors is designated by the community he/she represents and on whose behalf he/she contributes or deliberates as a board member. The general assembly determines the broad orientations and then invests in the board of directors to ensure execution. These decisions are thus evaluated periodically by the monitoring and evaluation units. Benefits accruing from CAFT's activities are thus distributed within the relevant communities each according to its contributions and each according to their considered, deserved and negotiated needs towards poverty reduction. The evolution of decision-making within the CAFT is thus controlled by its interested and constituent parties.

3.3 Organizational effectiveness and capacity to meet goals

The board of directors is the de facto execution organ of the CAFT. For statutory reasons the nine administrators originate from the nine communities constituting the CAFT and oversees the interests of their respective communities. The administrators are ultimately responsible for adherence to CAFT guidelines in meeting the aspirations of their respective communities. All identified management needs are allocated to at least one administrator. Such matters include follow-up actions and conflict management challenges, often prevalent in natural resources management. In the day-to-day execution of tasks this execution organ of the CAFT is often obliged to delegate duties to ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of the cooperative with regards to both community needs and the interests of partners and clients.

Table 6: Members of the Board of Directors: their functions and responsibilities

Board of director member	**Function**	**Responsibilities**
Pa'ah Patrice André	President – Board of Directors	Presides, supervises and coordinates the execution of decisions by the general assembly
Mikouoh Eloua Jean Nestor	Vice President of the Board of directors	Acts in place of the President in the former's absence and assists in evaluating investment projects
Nanga Mbongo Félix	General Secretary responsible for management and administration	Management human resources projects and micro-projects and other income-generating activities
Babot Pascal	Assistant general secretary in charge of finance and stores accounting	Plans for expenditures and receipts procedures of the CAFT
Amann Adeline Espérance	Adviser on management and administration	Develops strategies for managing CAFT resources, promotion and marketing of products
Metoul Ndong Herve	Stores keeper and accounts assistant	Controls usage of material and delivery of requests
Memieh Ernest	Financial Secretary	Keeps and Controls the books on expenditure and receipts
Gningone Jacquemart	Financial Secretary	Keeps and Controls the books on expenditure and receipts and publish company accounts
Nanga Mathurin	Adviser on internal conflict management	Oversees the cordiality amongst company members and provides support towards managing conflicts.

4. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

4.1 Production, transformation and marketing prospects for timber products

CAFT has not yet begun sales from the timber or non-timber products produced in the region. Since December 2001, CAFT has been functioning through in-kind and species contributions by members, and thanks to subsidies for the organization of production and operation.

The community forests managed by the CAFT respect approved plans recognized by the authorities responsible for forests. The forest products assessments carried-out with the assistance of the NGO OCBB within the framework of the project on the conservation of genetic resources in the forest of Ngoyla has permitted the estimation of different natural resources within the forest with much greater precision. Tables 7 and 8 below are summaries of the production potential of the Ngoyla forests in terms of timber stocks.

Table 7: Annual Productive potential in terms of number of harvestable trees

	ANNUAL POSSIBILITY (Number of trees)		**Surface area (ha)**
Community Forests	DME	DMA	
Doumzock (Codoum)	23.92	9.52	550
Lamson (Covilam)	71	30.52	650
Messok-Messok (Codem)	101.96	48	1300
Lelene (Codel)	110.04	47.36	1400
Ngoyla village (Codenvi)	143.92	58.64	2300
Zoulabot I (Cobaba)	186.8	76.48	2300
Etekessang (Codevie)	286.28	126.52	2750
Nkondong (Covinko 1)	180.12	71.76	3220
Menkouom (Cobam)	305.4	130.2	3500
Total	1409.44	599	17970

DME: Minimum Exploitable Diameter ; DMA : Minimum Management Diameter

Table 8: Annual Productive potential in terms of standing exploitable volume

	ANNUAL POSSIBILITY (Volume in m3)		**Surface area (ha)**
Community Forests	DME	DMA	
Doumzock (Codoum)	111.45	62.59	550
Lamson (Covilam)	322.32	211,01	650
Messok-Messok (Codem)	620.95	403.59	1300
Lelene (Codel)	508.48	322.37	1400
Ngoyla village (Codenvi)	734.60	427.57	2300
Zoulabot I (Cobaba)	901.57	555.43	2300
Etekessang (Codevie)	1530.26	979.21	2750
Nkondong (Covinko 1)	966.26	570.40	3220
Menkouom (Cobam)	1544.71	953.97	3500
Total	7240.60	4486.14	17970

The tables above arising from the OCBB-led multi-resource inventory project indicate two things. First, the tables indicate the number of exploitable trees of different species in terms of the minimum exploitable diameter possible under current laws in force within the 9 community forests of the CAFT (DME). The second (DMA) are the quantities differentiated in terms of local sustainable management choices and or preferences. Note that the DMA are lower than the DME. Meaning that although by law 23.92 trees can be exploited from Doumzock for instance, under CAFT regulations a new constraint has been imposed (DMA), within which only 9.52 are harvestable. Likewise in table 8, 111.45 cubic meters of timber are possible under statutory regulations, but here too the CAFT prefers what they consider as the management volume of 62.59, again, if we consider the community of Doumzock. DMA is thus considered more sustainable under community forestry regimes than the DME. Thus although the nine community forests can produce an annual DME of 7240.60 cubic meters a

year under the DMA exploitation regime, only 4486.14 is recommended. To this end, the CAFT intends to off-set loses incurable due this lower exploitation levels ensure sustainable management and meet poverty reduction goals by adding value through the development of special products and identifying niche markets to facilitate effective and strategic positioning based on eco-labeling.

Table 9: Economic profitability of the project: Estimated operating statement over three years.

	Headings	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**
Products	1375 m³ in boards, slats, rafters	137,500,000	137,500,000	137,500,000
	250 m³ en Components of furniture pieces : panels, doors, windows, skirting and art products		100,000,000	100,000,000
	6.000 kg of honey			9,000,000
	Funds requested	50,600,000		
Total 1		**188,100,000**	**237,500,000**	**196,500,000**
Charges	1375 m³ charges for wood purchased	41,250,000	41,250,000	41,250,000
	Purchase 250 m³ in components of pieces of furniture and art products		7,500,000	7,500,000
	Hired labor charges	48,540,000	46,620,000	46,620,000
	Charges for initial investments	71,600,000	-	-
	Charges for regular investments that will depreciate	17,900,000	17,900,000	17,900,000
	Financial charges for exploitation and production	11,000,000	11,000,000	11,000,000
	Fees and taxes	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
	Other charges	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Total 2		**200,290,000**	**134,270,000**	**134,270,000**
Result		**-12,190,000**	**103,230,000**	**103,230,000**
Cash flows		**-12,190,000**	**103,230,000**	**103,230,000**
Cash flows totaled			**91,040,000**	**194,270,000**

It should be noted that the potential for production of primary materials from community forests greatly exceeds the capacities of absorption of the CAFT.

Once CAFT is fully operational, it will employ 42 full-time employees, and 155 temporary/seasonal positions during the first three years of full operation. Annual total wage bill will vary between 46,620,000 FCFA to 48,540,000 FCFA or $93,240 to $97,080 USD.

4.2 Gross financial information from timber

Based on the Free On-Board (FOB) prices at the port of export (Douala), and as shown in table 9 below, a cubic meter of timber can produce a significant amount of annual revenue for the CAFT.

Table 10: Gross Market value of Community Forest timber in terms of DME and DMA

Community Forest	Gross Total Revenue (DME) (F CFA)	DME revenue Per year (FCFA)	Gross Total Revenue (DMA) (F CFA)	DMA revenue Per year (FCFA)	Surface Area (ha)
Doumzock (Codoum)	205 107 145	8 204 286	118 349 407	4 733 976	550
Lamson (Covilam)	502 497 833	20 099 913	321 507 555	12 860 302	650
Messok-Messok (Codem)	1 283 270 775	51 330 831	885 111 447	35 404 458	1 300
Lelene (Codel)	928 799 270	37 151 971	601 007 893	24 040 316	1 400
Ngoyla village (Codenvi)	1 760 183 715	70 407 349	1 132 530 729	45 301 229	2 300
Zoulabot I (Cobaba)	1 361 059 129	54 442 365	816 783 227	32 671 329	2 300
Etekessang (Codevie)	2 898 563 332	115 942 533	1 910 676 512	76 427 060	2 750
Nkondong (Covinko 1)	1 864 692 984	74 587 719	1 170 193 468	46 807 739	3 220
Menkouom (Cobam)	3 057 127 439	122 285 098	1 974 729 824	78 989 193	3 500
TOTAL	13 861 301 624	554 452 065	8 930 890 062	357 235 602	17 970

Source: Report of the Project on the Conservation of Genetic Resources in the Ngoyla Forest, OCBB, 2005.

Under conditions of saw-log production and under locally imposed management regimes the CAFT can generate a gross revenue of in the order of 8 930 890 062 FCFA or 17 861 780,124 USD over a period of 25 years of exploitation.

Furthermore, because the CAFT intends to put finished or semi-finished products on the market following its strategic plan, it is possible to increase that gross income while ensuring that forests are not over exploited. Such flow of revenue if wisely invested can radically improve the wellbeing of local communities by improving the productive potential of agroforestry systems, building human capacity and strengthening social infrastructure. This according to the CAFT is only feasible, under conditions of strict respect of management norms and if proceeds are re-invested in social infrastructure, creating the correct environment for local communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

4.3 Comparative advantage and positioning within local and international markets

Community forests occupy relatively limited surface areas. Due to their multiple-use agro-forestry potentials local communities tend to fully master these spaces. Such mastery permits communities to easily combine their knowledge and the possibilities that a geographic

information system (GIS) offers to geo-reference resource species and ensure a high level of transparency and traceability from production to market. In her transactions, the CAFT ensures that potential consumers from around the globe will thus have access to geographic information referring the places of exploitation of the raw material to permit them make sound objective judgment in terms of the legality of the source and the potential local impact of their consumption. In this way illegal logging an intractable problem within the community forestry sector will be more effectively fought giving consumers the option to choose between products of doubtful origins and those that are traceable. These are specificities that are not always available within commercial exploitation realms plagued with suspicions of illegal exploitation, ethical problems of human exploitable, some of which have led to moratoriums such as has been the case with Liberia. Sustainable practices exemplified by the imposition of DMA as opposed to DME will also be part of the eco-labeling of products from community forests. Information and evidence of re-investments of proceeds from community forests will be made available to eventual consumers through the internet and via other effective means, to clearly establish the ultimate fate of proceeds from forest products sales. These measures are expected to add to the appeal of products from community forests.

4.4 Strategic partnerships and hi-tech support

Increasingly, the marketing strategy of the CAFT will be supported by new information and communications technologies as well as by maintaining close relationships amongst others, with organizations like the World Agroforestry Center and the Center for International Forestry Research, amongst others, with access to the latest scientific information, on methods and technical approaches for integrated natural resources management. Such knowledge if at all available to the CAFT tends to be prohibitively expensive. The CAFT envisages that subsequent forest management will be characterized by the development of information systems (databases) with a strong spatial components comprising an integration of the analytic capacity of MS EXCEL and other software in economic models, spatial analyses capacity of ARC GIS and ARCVIEW as well as the robustness in data storage of MS ACCESS. Available information will be used to develop economic models in MS EXCEL with focus on sensitivity and risk analyses that will assist in decision making especially in evaluating production forecasts, forest and farm regeneration, re-investments and investment needs. Geographic Information Systems packages will be integrated with the databases to facilitate spatially explicit predictive modeling especially as CAFT's contribution to knowledge on climate change adaptations in the area. This, particular capability will be piloted in conjunction with the World Agroforestry Center within CAFT forests and extended to other areas. With a wireless system already installed jointly by the CAFT and the local Council in Lomie, information will equally be made available to consumers and partners via the internet. On-line information will facilitate interactions with economic forces, potential investors and even policy-makers over great distances as well as comprehensive characterization of the production processes for the purposes of transparency. The CAFT will specifically enter into business relationships with private sector firms dealing specifically with relevant land information systems considered crucial to its strategic orientations.

4.5 Market Niche, Eco-labeling

The CAFT is in a situation to create the right partnerships in terms of commercial, financial and technical goals required to add value to its annual production of forest products. Examples of such opportunities include cashing-in on programs such as the AGOA initiative that seeks to link United States businesses and Cameroonian ones, especially businesses in the raw or semi-finished products within the forest and agriculture sectors. Priority forest products that could be sourced from CAFT forests would include material for internal decoration, for paneling of living houses, wood pellets, objects of art, toys, innovative jewelry and aesthetic services. CAFT aims to focus on niche markets that require adding value to wood and non-wood products emanating from community forests. Thus special high value market niches within the region and internationally remains the target of the CAFT. Production from the agroforests of the CAFT will be eco-labeled using various strategies.

Small-holder producers are the major clients of the CAFT, and this fact will be sold to clients of the CAFT. Environmental indicators of performance developed through participatory processes with benefiting CAFT communities will be rendered verifiable through independent environmental impact assessments and the results put on-line. Information on the process of production/harvesting, through transformation, marketing and re-investment of proceeds will also be made available via the internet. For instance, results of assessments like maps of the distribution of endangered tropical forest species will be made available on-line to reassure investors and clients of the advantages associated with dealing in community forest products and especially that from the CAFT.

Equally, non-traditional products such as honey, forest fruits, raisins, gums, dyes, additives, nuts, roots, medicinal products will all be targeted to specific international markets under the CAFT label.

There are ongoing synthesis of studies on the potentials of Non-wood forest products whose results are being incorporated into economic models in the same way as the data in tables 7, 8 and 10 above.

Specific business plans around the production and marketing of non-wood products are expected to draw from the proceeds of timber sales and will respect, as much as possible, micro-economic conditions with necessary adjustments made for macro economic threats and trends in conjunction with clearly identified investors and their financial backers.

4.6 Non-wood forest products, subsistence agro-forestry, local pharmacopoeia and cultural identity

The Ndjyiem and the Baka in the CAFT zone have very similar modes of subsistence based on collecting, gathering of forest products and hunting using traditional tools and techniques. These products are harvested each year according to the production cycle of the particular species. Main forest products of plant origin are presented in Annex 1.

Excluding timber, cacao is by far the most important revenue product in the CAFT zone. Other food crops are harvested exclusively for local consumption; hunting and gathering of the non-wood forest products are practiced by all CAFT communities for subsistence needs. Incomes based on these products are not easily estimable; they include honey, wild fruits, almonds, vegetables and vegetable oils. The zone's position in an isolated area limits the flow of products to external sources. Organization of collection for markets is weak and does not encourage production in great quantities.

So far, the most important annual sales are those of cacao, negotiated with the assistance of companies approved to purchase cacao. Annual receipts from farmers in the CAFT cooperative vary between 35,000,000 FCFA to 55,000,000 FCFA or $70,000 to $110,000 USD. Receipts coming from the wood exploited in the community forests are still forthcoming, given that negotiations, research and financing are still in progress.

The Ndjyiem and the Baka who are the two principal ethnic groups in the CAFT zone have very similar modes of subsistence based on collecting, gathering of forest products and hunting using traditional tools and techniques. These products are harvested each year according to the production cycle of the particular species. The main forest products of plant origin are presented in Annex 1. However, other minor but important subsistence products include edible larvae, mushrooms, forest fruits, roots, tubers, bark, leaves, animals, birds and fish. These forest products are used to complement farm products such tubers (manioc, colocasia), tree crops (plantains, bananas), farm and forest vegetables (aubergine, Gnetum Africa, Okra, etc), that constitute the base of daily diets. The peculiarity with the production of forest and farm products for consumption is that the quantities are essentially limited to household consumption. Sales are not organized and the revenue generated is often very low. The CAFT thus hopes to develop marketing channels for the most charismatic forest and farm species.

The rich biological diversity in the forests of Ngoyla has permitted the populations to develop over time an in-depth knowledge of the uses of the plant part extracts. This constitutes the local pharmacopoeia. This is thus built on the knowledge acquired over many centuries of contact with different parts of forest plant species (leaves, fruits, flowers, nuts, kernel, bark, roots, wood, latex, etc) such as those found in Annex 1. Each local prescription for instance finds an appropriate plant as source of treatment. Certain magic-cultural practices are also associated with the use of plant parts in the zone such as in areas of love, hunting, fishing and interactions with others people and even for protection from individuals wishing to cause harm. The Bakas (pygmies) are legendary in the knowledge of the forest due to much closer association with forest plants and animals. During certain periods of the year the Bakas live exclusively in the forest due to the abundance of forest products during which they completely stay-off farming. It is thus the considered judgment of the CAFT that, this cultural and natural wealth which is a part of community identity needs to be valued. Research being often dispersed has not been sufficiently thematic and focused to bring out and sufficiently document such practices which die with each passing elder. Oral traditions have thus characterized the transmission of knowledge from parent to off-spring.

5. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND ASSESSMENTS.

5.1 Expected social benefits and potential impacts on wellbeing

The decentralization of forest management in Cameroon has conferred legal custody of community forests to local communities. The policies thus provide an opportunity for sustainable local management practices based on indigenous knowledge systems to be recognized by the wider society both locally and internationally. The role of the CAFT therefore, is to professionalize these indigenous practices and mainstream them so they become not a source a conflict with other interests that have hitherto regarded them as archaic and incompatible with modern approaches, but to regard then as complementary requiring

recognition and re-enforcement. In way of professionalizing local practices and knowledge systems, community forest management will directly create the employment of local skills required for forestry development in the form of cutters, sawyers, setters, carpenters, cabinetmakers, artists, dyers, nutritionist, herbalist and in general management, marketing and promotion of forest products. Planning of forest management operations in the short, medium and long-term in space and time, will itself constitute on-the-job training and confidence building amongst the indigenous communities.

(i) Training

Training needs have emerged as a priority area for the entire process of value addition and transformation of forest products. The first step is thus to first identify the areas requiring capacity building within production processes, build them into business plans and rationalize their costs and benefits within the management process. Training packages and experts abound within the forest management sector, mobilizing such resources remains simply a question of assessing needs and mobilizing the necessary resources. Certain community leaders will be able to support these processes of training as well as sustain them as part of the cultural heritage. The CAFT can contribute as part of its social infrastructure development programme to support the process.

Management of the CAFT community forests will in themselves constitute the basis for enterprise development and will seize to be based on externally-driven training events with no clearly defined objectives to which communities can apply aptitudes, knowledge systems and skills. The main aim of subsequent activities then becomes a means of reconciling the development needs of communities and the need to secure the natural resource base and benefit from it. According to immediate estimates, the activities of the CAFT will create in the short-term approximately 200 jobs within the Ngoyla forests alone, to be divided amongst the different specializations. It is thus envisaged that, the six thousand inhabitants of the Ngoyla area will be reached progressively, directly or indirectly by the internal economic activities generated by the activities by the CAFT.

(ii) Social infrastructure

The real indicators of wellbeing and the drivers of real economic growth will be determined by the extent to which social infrastructure benefits people and their families who may not be directly involved in community forest management. Mechanisms are thus in place to plough back part of the revenue generated through the marketing of forest products to sustain the enterprise such as storage and processing facilities, while a considerable part will be directed towards improving housing, portable water, electrical power, health and education. Light equipment required for handling forest products and which will be part of small, targeted business plans would include forest exploitation machines and non-timber forest processing tools and machines. The CAFT wishes to invest in vocational training to build local capacity directly or indirectly in technical fields of forest management and transformation of products. The CAFT envisages supporting members to create, develop and maintain, schools, access roads, sanitary and health facilities, communications equipment, etc., that require considerable investments in financial, human and political resources.

Currently, the CAFT is undertaking a study for improving the habitat in the CAFT zone, for construction of about 700 residences. The project, which will begin in June 2007, will use 15 to 30 m^3 of wood to construct better housing for close to 3500 residents.

In addition, the financial incomes resulting from the forestry development for this and other projects will in turn finance the traditional agricultural sector in local communities. New financing will allow the purchase of new tools and equipment, improving agricultural techniques and agricultural output. A strengthened agricultural sector will create a projected 650 established posts in order to ensure the food safety of the zone. The annual incomes of the agricultural sector in the CAFT zone are estimated at 240,000,000 FCFA or $480,000 USD. CAFT estimates that the poverty of communities in the zone can be reduced by more than half by 2015, based on the potential of these natural resources and incomes.

5.2 Ecosystems management approach

Environmental management for biodiversity conservation within the CAFT zone will be pursued under the innovative context of valuation of environmental services. The CAFT is an enterprise therefore, although the option and intrinsic values of biodiversity has been recognized and guarded by its indigenous communities for centuries, CAFT recognizes that, within the segregated landscapes of protected areas, concessions, community forests, etc, the impoverishment of local forest dependent people, has come largely as a result of the under-valuing of the contributions they make in agro-forestry zones towards the conservation of the wider biodiversity heritage. Therefore, CAFT's actions will be based both on using the repertoire of biodiversity information collected by OCBB and those of her technical partners and applying these within a Payment Mechanism for Environmental Services framework. The CAFT will thus seek to mobilize investment funds for enterprise and capacity development, and social infrastructure projects which support other productive agro-forestry activities. CAFT's strategy for environmental management with thus be based on the following considerations:

- For every, use, productive or management action, advertently or in-advertently executed by the CAFT or other actors in protected areas and concessions, there will be a positive or negative service rendered, which is felt somewhere by other interests within the landscape
- There are therefore positive or negative service providers, just as there are receivers of these positive or negative services within the Ngoyla forest.
- Equally, purely biodiversity conservation-oriented actions that transfer benefits to future
  generations or to the global community, for reasons of ensuring intergenerational equity, constitutes opportunity costs to the CAFT communities who render such services. Such opportunity costs will be summed-up as losses of opportunity in improving local livelihoods, for the benefit of CAFT communities as a whole today and tomorrow.
- Simple logic and social justice will require that, the CAFT as a service provider or as a loser of opportunity be compensated, by parties directly benefiting from or advocating for the provision of such services rendered by CAFT; or from the collective (Government) purse/interest for services rendered to posterity.
- CAFT in her partnership with relevant technically or research oriented organizations will employ "upstream-downstream" analyses of relationships using modern spatial and economic analyses tools to progressively identify and characterize services, their providers, services users; losers and winners in natural resource economics and ecological equations, in the CAFT forests.
- Where sustainable agriculture in the CAFT forest for instance, safeguards ecosystem services elsewhere in protected area or forest concessions, or mines, etc, such could

be evaluated. Where, land management approaches in the CAFT forest improve hydrology and positively influences wild habitats of species, these could be also be evaluated. Where transaction costs in forest products development activities, proven to support conservation are created by indigenous and traditional acts of resource conservation by local CAFT communities, such costs will be evaluated and offsetting them appropriately (through payments) as an indirect support to conservation. In general, such support systems would constitute identifying bottlenecks in resource management equations, such as start-up and environmental costs in business plans and offsetting them on a case-by-case basis under rewards mechanisms.

6. MACRO - ECONOMIC SITUATION AND LINKS BETWEEN POLICIES AND LOCAL REALITIES

The decentralization of forest management in itself did not consider all the expectations placed on the community forest politic by its would-be beneficiaries. Local communities have hitherto used forest mainly for non-wood forest products, although their user rights have always been recognized mainly as neighboring communities. Thus the decentralization policies did not cover certain critical issues constraining effective local access to the full benefits of forests. These comprise:

- The technological level in terms of information and expertise in terms of the constituting of the necessary documentation required for community forest attribution;
- The high costs of constituting the necessary documents required to establish a demand for forest attribution;
- The need for preparedness, advocacy and support in terms of entry into existing highly competitive national and international markets;
- The weak technological environment at local and national level to add value and commoditize non-wood forest products that have been the main stay of local communities prior to the onset of decentralization;
- The lack of adoption of local criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management as part of the manual of procedures for sustainable management of community forests;
- The weak level of local capacity in terms of characterization, planning and execution of community development projects;
- Insufficiently developed capacity to manage large sums of money, and in-experience in managing new forms of conflict between communities arising from this new concept of managing natural resources.

Most of these limiting factors have been minimized by the administration supposed to oversee the sustainable management of natural forests. Nevertheless, it is believed that it is only a matter of time before these issues are fully integrated in law. Local NGOs providing support to local communities in the processes leading up to community forest attribution lack sufficient funds. In the business of natural resources management there are always some prohibitively high costs to bear to employ the services of experts, unless some equally mutually benefiting partnership arrangement have been made. The majority of local

communities lack disposal financial resources. It is thus necessary to embark on negotiations and strategic partnerships to off-set unavoidable costs of accomplishing tasked requiring the expertise of persons with specialized skills. Unfortunately despite the costs professionals are necessary at all stages of the management processes of resource mobilization, product development and building of community capacities. And in recognition of the need to keep these capacities local and sustain them mechanisms need to be sought to transfer and maintain these capacities if the communities are to work themselves out of poverty, conserve and renew the productive base on which their livelihoods depend.

7. PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 Expected results within a favorable environment

The requirements for social and material development for poverty reduction in the zone are considerable. The traditional off-takes and sale of surpluses of forest products are highly unlikely to produce the level of economic development required to bring about transformation processes that may facilitate the move of the local populations out of poverty. The model situation towards which we must strive is to build on current local capacities, using local criteria and indicators of wellbeing and integrate these with modern and economically rational choices based on micro-enterprise principles, adaptable cooperative structures which identify and develop product chains on a case-by-case basis. Such an enterprise launched from a local products base should progressively fill in the gaps using new products and processes in contrast to the current situation of economic victimization and marginalization to the detriment of local wellbeing. The real vision is to put on the market, not inferior goods that will feed the cycle of poverty but 'normal' goods or commodities, into niche markets according to an appropriate labeling formula which will fetch increasing revenue per unit of product harvested or produced. Such local enterprises are not only essential for economic growth and development but are needed to maintain the populations in place, strengthen the communities, especially as this is a transnational or frontier zone.

7.2 Challenges for sustaining favorable outcomes

The main challenges for the future are to consolidate the enterprise approach towards managing natural resources in community forests and create conditions for community actions to ensure that. The CAFT aims to pursue a philosophy of strengthening re-investment of revenue in the form of concrete infrastructure or other means which accelerate and support productive activities and wellbeing in place of encouraging cash payments. By encouraging communities to be at the center of all production transformation and marketing activities external manipulation and exploitation should be minimized and communities will then be able to learn as they stumble. Benefits arising from from productive activities will automatically be invested in the social projects like health, education, and marketing activities as a way of ensuring equitable distribution of proceeds as opposed to making cash payments to a few individuals. Benefits sharing in the use of these social infrastructure by different social units and their forebears; from families to communities, would then be a function of how much those individuals and groups have invested in existing social infrastructure. The key to this system of alleviating poverty will depend on how efficiently the systems of governance put in place will work; how much participation, the extent of accountability, transparency, feedback and the quality of communication across all segments of the local communities. Performance indicators against which these governance elements will be evaluated will thus be put in place and agreed-upon with the cooperative members.

7.3 Potential for expansion and replication of CAFT's experiences

How community forest policies can provide alternative livelihoods and ecological buffers for conservation have not only characterized forest management in Cameroon, but is equally influencing forest management trends in places as far away as Liberia and even in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Although literature on these latter are yet few, notable ideas on community/communal forests around the Sapo national park, Liberia, by Fauna and Flora International (Ravi Prabhu and others, 2005), on the role of community/communal forests in the CARPE landscapes in the DRC and in Cameroon (Peter Mbile and others, 2006), points to an increasing interest by conservation and development lobbyists to see community forests managed sustainably to improve livelihoods and secure the natural resource base. Similarities exist within the forest zone in general and these have been based largely on the overly optimistic assessments of the value of non timber forests in livelihoods improvement within segregated multiple landscapes. As would be expected such optimism has been based on the implicit objectives of top-down policies not engendered by local realities, knowledge systems and practices. The failures of integrated conservation and development project like the Korup Project in southwest Cameroon (P Mbile and others, 2005) and conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Liberia find their roots in development ideologies that sought to separate local people from their natural heritage, which used the disregard of the value of indigenous knowledge systems as a basis for local marginalization. With forest management decentralization legal frameworks being put in place in Cameroon, Democratic republic and in Liberia this experiences led by the CAFT in Southeast Cameroon should be observed keenly across the continent for possibilities of adaptation. This CAFT experiment is perhaps the first comprehensive and pilot effort to approach community forestry in Cameroon and the region as an enterprise integrating the natural potential on a substantial scale (approx. 18000 ha), with international scientific collaboration (ICRAF, CIFOR, etc) and local knowledge systems (NGOs, local communities), all operating at the same level within a supportive legal environment. Should this model become a success it goes without saying that numerous communities within Cameroon and the region will find reason to emulate and adapt the lessons learn in this CAFT experiment. Both the private and public sectors expect such leadership in both reducing investment risks and achieving poverty reduction, respectively.

7.4 Early and indicative lessons on which governments can build

The first lesson working in favor of the CAFT experience is the level of enthusiasm and motivation at local level which have driven the local communities to put in place a cooperative. The CAFT continually initiates and encourages dialogue between the communities. Mechanisms for ensuring transparency have been established in such a way that the beneficiaries determine and control movement and progress at all stages. Benefits accruing to CAFT are automatically transmitted into the communities, be they knowledge or other fall-outs arising from the process.

Thus the search for preparedness by CAFT to warrant and attract external investors has been endorsed by the local communities who, having tasted the fruits of previous similar experiences (e.g., the 100% inventory of forest products) are confident that they, their families, forebears and their projects and initiatives will automatically be the beneficiaries in the invent of any investment.

8 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND ANNEXES

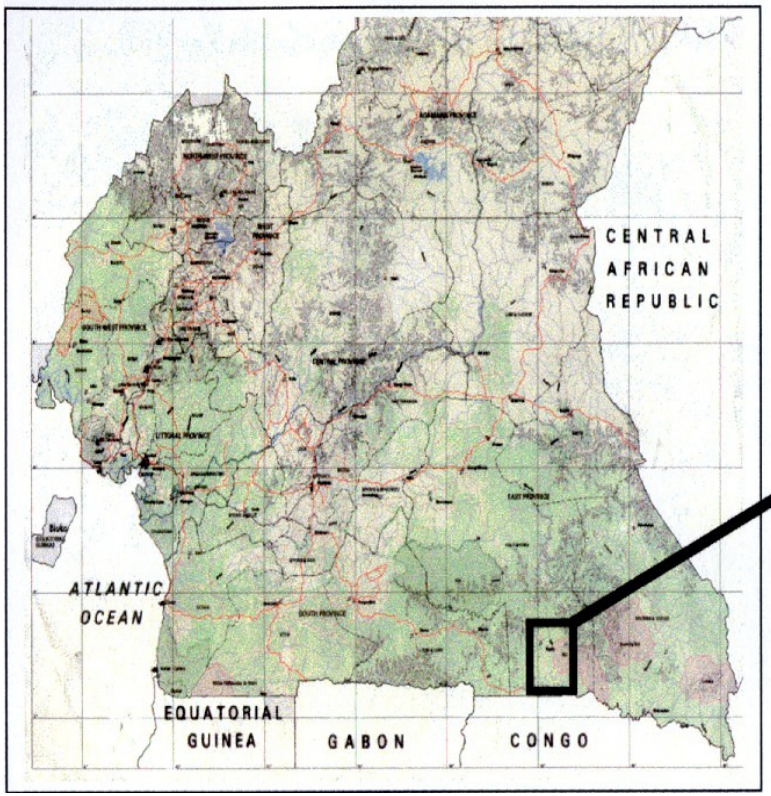
Annex 1: List of species inventoried in the forests of COBAM

Common Names	Scientific names	Family	Nb.individuals	Density/ha	%
Abalé	Pethersianthus macrocarpus	Lecythidaceae	558	0,1594	5,3664
Abam	Chrisophyllum lacourtiana	Sapotaceae	264	0,0754	2,5389
Aiélé	Canarium schweinfurthii	Burseraceae	206	0,0589	1,9812
Alep	Desbordesia glaucescens	Irvingiaceae	344	0,0983	3,3083
Amvout	Trichoscypha arborea	Anacardiaceae	115	0,0329	1,1060
Andok	Irvingia gabonensis	Irvingiaceae	134	0,0383	1,2887
Angueuk	Ongokea gore	Olacaceae	15	0,0043	0,1443
Anigré	Aningeria spp	Sapotaceae	237	0,0677	2,2793
Assamela	Pericopsis elata	Papilionaceae	33	0,0094	0,3174
Assila	Maranthes chrysophylla	Rosaceae	51	0,0146	0,4905
Avodiré	Turraeanthus africanus	Meliaceae	6	0,0017	0,0577
Ayous	Triplochyton scleroxylon	Sterculiaceae	31	0,0089	0,2981
Azobé	Lophira alata	Ochnaceae	10	0,0029	0,0962
Bahia	Mitragyna ciliata	Rubiaceae	26	0,0074	0,2500
Bété	Mansonia altissima	Sterculiaceae	17	0,0049	0,1635
Bibolo afum	Syzygium rowlandii	Myrtaceae	88	0,0251	0,8463
Bilinga	Nauclea diderrichii	Rubiaceae	10	0,0029	0,0962
Bossé clair	Guarea cedrata	Meliaceae	73	0,0209	0,7021
Bossé foncé	Guarea thompsonii	Meliaceae	34	0,0097	0,3270
Dabéma	Piptadeniastrum africanum	Mimosaceae	426	0,1217	4,0969
Diana	Celtis tesmannii	Ulmaceae	192	0,0549	1,8465
Dibétou	Lovoa trichilioides	Meliaceae	568	0,1623	5,4626
Doussié blanc	Afzelia pachyloba	Caesalpiniaceae	154	0,0440	1,4811
Ebène	Diospyros crassiflora	Ebenaceae	19	0,0054	0,1827
Emien	Alstonia boonei	Apocynaceae	569	0,1626	5,4722
Essessang	Ricinodendron heudelotii	Euphorbiaceae	549	0,1569	5,2799
Eveuss	Klainedoxa gabonensis	Irvingiaceae	269	0,0769	2,5870
Eyek	Pachyelasma tesmannii	Caesalpiniaceae	8	0,0023	0,0769
Eyong	Eribloma oblongum	Sterculiaceae	57	0,0163	0,5482
Eyoum	Dialium pachyphyllum	Caesalpiniaceae	4	0,0011	0,0385
Fraké	Terminalia superba	Combretaceae	825	0,2357	7,9342
Fromager	Ceiba pentandra	Bombacaceae	97	0,0277	0,9329
Ilomba	Pycnanthus angolensis	Myriticaceae	455	0,1300	4,3758
Iroko	Chlorophora excelsa	Moraceae	309	0,0883	2,9717
Kossipo	Entandrophragma candollei	Meliaceae	155	0,0443	1,4907
Kotibé	Nesogordonia papaverifera	Sterculiaceae	75	0,0214	0,7213
Landa	Erythroxylum mannii	Erythroxylaceae	127	0,0363	1,2214
Limbali	Gilbertiodendron dewevrei	Cesalpiniaceae	172	0,0491	1,6542
Longhi	Gambeya africana	Sapotaceae	73	0,0209	0,7021
Moabi	Baillonnella toxisperma	Sapotaceae	69	0,0197	0,6636
Moambé jaune	Enanthia chlorantha	Annonaceae	126	0,0360	1,2118
Movingui	Distemonanthus benthamianus	Cesalpiniaceae	24	0,0069	0,2308
Mubala	Penthaclethra macrophylla	Mimosaceae	266	0,0760	2,5582
Mukulungu	Austranella congolensis	Sapotaceae	40	0,0114	0,3847
Niové	Staudtia Kamerunensis	Myriticaceae	9	0,0026	0,0866
Oboto	Mammea africana	Guttifereae	6	0,0017	0,0577
Okan, Adoum	Cylicodiscus gabonensis	Mimosaceae	433	0,1237	4,1643
Olon, Bongo	Fagara heitzii	Rutaceae	123	0,0351	1,1829
Padouk rouge	Pterocarpus soyauxii	Papilionaceae	413	0,1180	3,9719
Pao Rosa	Swartzia fistuloides	Caesalpiniaceae	28	0,0080	0,2693
Rikio	Uapaca guineensis	Euphorbiaceae	319	0,0911	3,0679

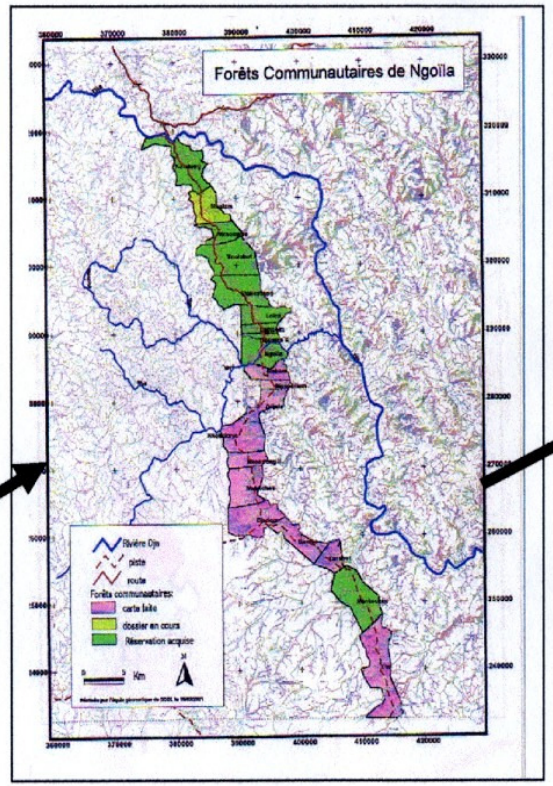
Sapelli	Entandrophragma cylindricum	Meliaceae	629	0,1797	6,0492
Sipo	Entandrophragma utile	Meliaceae	154	0,0440	1,4811
Tali	Erythrophleum ivorense	Cesalpiniaceae	515	0,1471	4,9529
Tiama	Entandrophragma angolense	Meliaceae	21	0,0060	0,2020
TOTAL			10530	3,0086	100

aps of the Zone

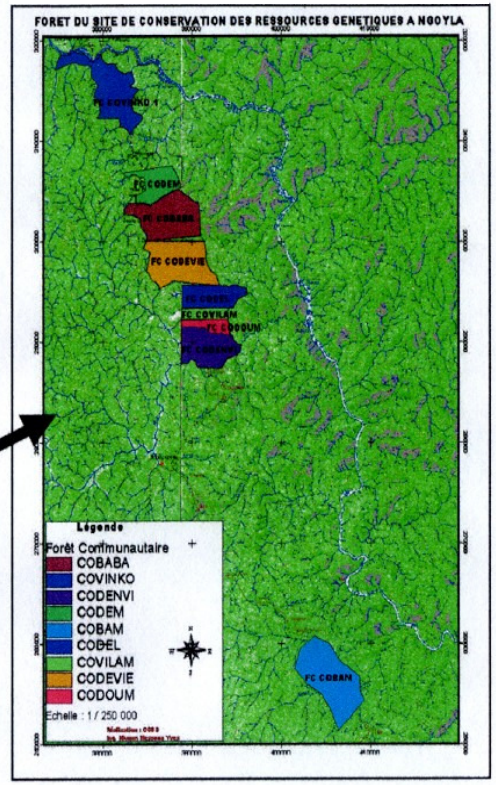
Southern Forests of Cameroon



Community Forests of Ngoyla



Community Forests of the CAFT



List of non wood forest species (plants)

Commercial names	Scientific names	Parts used	Uses
Abalé	Pethersianthus macrocarpus	Bark	Medicinal (hémorroïdes, coughs)
Abam	Chrisophyllum lacourtiana	Bark	Medicinal, Food
Aiélé / Abel	Canarium schweinfurthii	Bark, Fruits, sap	Medicinal (malaria), Food
Alep	Desbordesia glaucescens	Bark, Fruits	Medicinal, Flavouring (condiment)
Amvout	Trichoscypha arborea	Bark	Medicinal
Andok	Irvingia gabonensis	Bark, Fruits	Medicinal, Food (fruits), Flavouring, condiment (kernel)
Angueuk	Ongokea gore	Bark	Medicinal
Assamela	Pericopsis elata	Bark	Medicinal
Bété	Mansonia altissima	Bark	Medicinal
Bibolo afum	Syzygium rowlandii	Bark	Medicinal
Bilinga	Nauclea diderrichii	Bark, Roots, Fruits	Medicinal, Food (hunger supressor)
Bubinga	Guirboutia demeusei	Bark	Medicinal
Dabéma	Piptadeniastrum africanum	Bark	Medicinal
Emien	Alstonia boonei	Bark	Medicinal (malaria)
Essessang	Ricinodendron heudelotii	Bark, Kernel	Medicinal, Flavouring (kernel)
Eveuss	Klainedoxa gabonensis	Bark, fruits	Medicinal, Food
Eyong	Eribloma oblongum	Bark	Medicinal
Fraké	Terminalia superba	Bark	Medicinal (Hernia)
Ilomba	Pycnanthus angolensis	Bark	Medicinal (coughs)
Iroko	Chlorophora excelsa	Bark, seeds, leaves, exsudats	Medicinal, Food
Kotibé	Nesogordonia papaverifera	Bark	Medicinal
Landa	Erythroxylum mannii	Fruits	Food
Moabi	Baillonnella toxisperma	Bark, Fruits, Kernel	Medicinal, Food, Flavouring
Mukulungu	Austranella congolensis	Bark	Medicinal
Okan	Cylicodiscus gabonensis	Bark	Medicinal
Padouk r.	Pterocarpus soyauxii	Bark	Medicinal
Tali	Erythrophleum ivorense	Bark	Medicinal
Wawabina	Sterculia rhinopetala	Bark	Medicinal
Safoutier	Dacryodes edulis	Bark, Fruits	Medicinal, Food
Palmier à raphia	Raphia spp.	Stems, wine	Construction, Arts, drinks
Palmier à huile	Elaies guineensis	Nuts, wine	Alimentation, drinks, arts, construction
Bitter kola	Garcinia kola	Nuts	Food
Nuts de kola	Cola nitida, Cola acuminata	Nuts	Food
Bambou de chine	Arundinaria alpina, Oxytenanthera abyssinica	Stems	Construction, Arts
Casse mango	Spondias cythère	fruits	Food
Rotin	Laccosperma spp, Eremospatha spp, Oncocalamus tuteyi	Stems	Arts, construction
Okok	Gnetum africana	leaves	Food
Honey			Food, Medicinal

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