

GCP/RAF/408/EC

MOBILIZATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
INVOLVED IN NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS VALUE CHAINS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UPDATING OF LAW
N° 94-01 OF 20th JANUARY 1994 TO LAY DOWN FORESTRY,
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES REGULATIONS IN CAMEROON
AND ITS TEXTS OF APPLICATION**



**Preliminary Technical Consultation Workshop
on Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP)**

Ayaba Hotel, Bamenda: May 3rd – 5th 2010

Final Report

JULY 2010



GCP/RAF/408/EC

“Mobilisation and capacity building of small and medium enterprises
involved in non-wood forest products value chains in central Africa”

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ABBREVIATIONS

CAMCull	:	Cameroon Cooperative Credit Union League
CCPM	:	Concerted Action Circle of MINFOF partners
CED	:	Centre for Environment and Development
CIFOR	:	Centre for International Forestry Research
COMIFAC	:	Central Africa Forest Commission
CRTV	:	Cameroon Radio and Television
DRC	:	Democratic Republic of Congo
EC	:	European Commission
EU	:	European Union
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FGF	:	Forest Governance Facility
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
CIG	:	Common Initiative Group
GIS	:	Geographical Information System
GTZ	:	German Technical Cooperation
ICRAF	:	World Agro-forestry Centre
MINFOF	:	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINEP	:	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature
NPFD	:	Non-Permanent Forest Land
NWFP	:	Non-Wood Forest Products
PFD	:	Permanent Forest Estate
SME	:	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	:	Netherlands Development Organisation
WWF	:	World Wildlife Fund

1. Background to the Organisation of the Workshop

The project dubbed ***Mobilisation and Capacity Building of Small and Medium Enterprises involved in Non-wood Forest Value Chains in Central Africa*** funded by the European Union (GCP/RAF/408//EC) is executed by a Consortium of four international organisations with the FAO as leader partner. The other executing partners of the project are the International Centre for Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Agro-forestry Centre (ICRAF) and the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV). Though the project is being executed only in the Republic of Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, it is expected to cover Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

According to its current design, the goal of the project is to increase revenue and for individual and organized groups of high value Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP) while enhancing sustainable management practices through five complementary outcomes defined as follows:

- Improved entrepreneurial and marketing skills of actors;
- Improved sustainable production techniques;
- Improved processing for value additions of priority NWFP;
- Enhanced access to market information and credit facilities to actors;
- Improved institutional setting and enabling policies.

Project execution coincides with the engagement of the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) to update the regulatory framework governing forestry, wildlife and fisheries as demonstrated through the following actions:

- Decision N°0098/D/MINFOF/SG /DF/SDFC of 12/02/2009 adopting a revised Manual of the Procedures for the Acquisition and Norms for Management of Community Forests in Cameroon;
- Decision N° 0941/D/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF of 02/09/2008 Creating an Ad-hoc Working Group Responsible for the Follow-up of the Revision of Law N° 94-01 of 20 January 1994 ;
- Participation of Director of Forestry in a Public Debate on the Revision of Law N° 94-01 of 20 January 1994 on Radio Environnement of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on Wednesday 13/05/2009 sponsored by Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and SNV-FGF ;
- Decision N° 0557/D/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF of 05/05/2009 Creating an Ad-Hoc Working Group Responsible for the Follow-up of the Updating the Forest Policy and Law N° 94-01 of 20 January 1994 modifying Decision N° 0941 of 02/09/2008;
- Technical Meeting of 27/05/09 in MINFOF to adopt the Terms of Reference of the Ad-hoc Working Group and Support Consulting Firm to facilitate the process of updating the forestry law.

2. Objectives of the Bamenda Preliminary Technical Consultation Workshop

Against this background, the Bamenda Preliminary Technical Consultation workshop was organized with the following objectives:

Objective 1: To Inform Forest-environment Sector Actors out of Yaounde of the organisation of the updating of the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law and its Text of Application and Progress so far made;

Objective 2: To Identify, Analyse and Summarize the Constraints related to the Use of the Provisions of the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law and related texts of application with a focus on NWFP;

Objective 3: Share the emerging results of Project GC/RAF/408/EC/ entitled: Mobilisation and Enhancement of Capacities of Small and Medium Size Enterprises of the NWFP Sector in Central Africa;

Objective 4: Make follow up recommendations based on the improved knowledge of Project GC/RAF/408/EC and the organization of the process of updating the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law and its Text of Application;

The **expected outcomes** of the workshop were;

1. Improved knowledge of the approach and organization of the process of updating the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law and its texts of application by all actors ;
2. Summary of the key constraints documented and transformed into Articles of the Law and Texts of Application for submission to MINFOF (Decree of the Law, Order, Service Note, Decision, Circular Letter);
3. Improved knowledge of the FAO Project GC/RAF/408/EC entitled: Mobilisation and Enhancement of Capacities of Small and Medium Size Enterprises of the NWFP Sector in Central Africa ;

Delivery on these objectives and outcomes was achieved using a Workshop Program developed by a team of resource persons comprising the FAO, workshop moderator and project consultants. The program was sequentially implemented by Dr. Michael Boboh VABI hired as facilitator of the workshop (Annex 1).

3. Participants and Participation in the Workshop

A total of eighty seven (87) people representing at least 12 actor groups and/or organisation were targeted and invited to the workshop as summarized in the table below. The full list of participants is included as Annex 2 of this report.

Composition of Participants of the Preliminary Technical Regional Workshop

Description	Number Present	Observations
Traders in NWFP	07	Essentially permit holders
Community-based producers	17	Individuals and organised CIG/Association
Civil society organisations including micro-finance establishments	10	Micro-finance establishment CamCULL included
State ministries	09	MINFOF and MINEP
Highway control uniform officers	09	Police, Gendarmes, Customs but does not include Councils and MINFOF, etc.
COMIFAC	01	Representative of Executive Secretary
Executing partners of project GC/RAF/408/EC	05	SNV, ICRAF and CIFOR
Media	06	CRTV, Cameroon Tribune and local news organs
Local administration	04	Essentially governor and delegate of city councils
FAO resource persons	06	Includes moderator, jurist, and other short-term consultants of the project
Support staff	05	Drivers, secretaries and IT
FAO Representation	03	Includes Regional Coordinator and other long-term permanent staff
Total	87	

4. Workshop Approaches and Methodology

Highly participatory and interactive approaches and techniques were used throughout the workshop. Overall, deliberations of the workshop were structured in such a way that the late afternoon of the first day was devoted to the official opening while the two days that followed focused on presentations/discussions of the emerging outcomes of project **GCP/RAF/408//EC** and the analyses and formulation of proposals for updating the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law and texts of application with a focus on NWFP.

In addition to plenary session presentations and discussions, participants worked in five groups. Executing partners of Project GCP/RAF/408//EC led the presentations of the emerging outcomes of the project.

All plenary session presentations were followed by lively and highly interactive sessions during which questions, answers, contributions and comments from participants featured prominently.

5. Evolution of the Workshop

5.1 Official opening ceremony of the workshop

A total of five speeches were made during the official opening ceremony of the workshop:

- A welcome speech from the Government Delegate to the Bamenda City Council read by the Inspector of Services, **Madam Julie Amaah CHAMBI**;
- Statement from the Regional Delegate of MINFOF of the Northwest Region **Mr. Joseph MBOMGLANG**;
- Speech from the representative of COMIFAC read by **Mr. Daniel Mbolo BAMELA**, Technical Advisor of COMIFAC;
- Speech from the representative of the FAO read by **Dr. Ousseynou NDOYE**;
- Official opening speech by His Excellency the Governor of the Northwest Region read by **Mr. Sama Benjamin**, Legal Advisor in the Governor's office.

The key speeches read during the official opening ceremony of the workshop are included in Annex 3 of this report. Apart from urging those invited to the workshop to draw on their expert knowledge and skills to make concrete proposals for updating the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law and texts of application during the workshop, all the speeches during the official opening ceremony:

- Acclaimed the government of the Republic of Cameroon for taking the initiative to review the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law and its text of application, after 16 years of the systematic application of their provisions;
- Pointed out the inappropriateness of the current legal and institutional framework to the development of NWFP sector;
- Highlighted the specificities of NWFP;
- Emphasized the role of nwfps in the livelihoods of rural and urban populations.

5.2 Presentation of emerging outcomes of Project GCP/RAF/408//EC

After a presentation of the overall structure of Project GCP/RAF/408//EC by the Regional Coordinator Dr. Ousseynou NDOYE and progress of execution of the FAO components by Dr. Julius Chupezi TIEGUHONG, executing partners of project then took their turns in presenting the emerging outcomes of the different components of the project. According to the Regional Coordinator, the project entitled *Mobilisation and Capacity Building of Small and Medium Enterprises involved in Non-wood Forest Value Chains in Central Africa* funded by the European Union (GCP/RAF/408//EC) falls in line with the Convergence Plan of the Heads of States of the Central African Sub-region whose supervision is under the responsibility of the Forestry Commission of Central Africa (COMIFAC).

In general terms, the project seeks to achieve a win/win situation by ensuring that the capacities of small and medium size enterprises of the NWFP sector are developed through enhanced capacities, improved harvesting and processing techniques and the putting in place of an adapted legal and institutional framework in Central Africa.

Using a three phase techniques of the Market Analysis and Development, the emerging outcomes of the component of the project being executed by the FAO as presented by Dr. Julius Chupezi TIEGUHONG include:

- The identification of actors involved in NWFP sector using a market analysis and development approach;
- An inventory of NWFP in targeted administrative units of Cameroon and the DRC;
- The development of 62 Enterprise Development Projects (EDP) in Cameroon;
- Production and dissemination of sub-regional guidelines related to sustainable management of NWFP;
- The conduct of a case study on *Gnetum* spp.;
- Development of illustrative document on the articles of the law related to NWFP;
- Provision of technical assistance to groups for accessing credits from financial institutions.

Despite the progress made, several legal and institutional were raised prominent amongst the, being the following:

- Non application of the concepts of empowerment, equity, governance and transparency;
- Stagnation of development in the NWFP sector;
- Weaknesses in legal system necessitating support to MINFOF in revision of current regulatory instruments.

The presentation by FAO was followed by another exciting presentation by Madam Verina INGRAM of CIFOR. Progress made on the component being executed by CIFOR so far include:

- The production and dissemination of 05 Policy Briefs on a) *Prunus africana*: inventory, production, processing, marketing and use; b) Bush mango (*Irvingia* spp); c) honey; d) African Plum and e) Gum Arabic;
- Conduct of market studies on NWFP in the Southwest and Littoral Regions of Cameroon ;
- Development of a NTFP value chains methodology;

The presentation also raised a series of facts about the Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) sector which include the effective use of NTFP by many households; it is used for barter, gifts, household consumption but increasingly being sold. The sector provides indirect employment to over 250,000 people involved in the value chain and direct employment to over 32,700 people. During the 2007/2008 fiscal year, NTFPs generated about 17,000, 220 FCFA to the GDP of Cameroon.

Furthermore, the key features of the NTFP are:

- Its informal trade which is generally, under-appreciated and largely un-captured in national statistics and policies;
- They make positive impacts on forest based, rural and urban livelihoods;
- There is large and growing demand for NTFPs in rural, and especially, urban areas;
- NTFPs key role in food security, health and income to meet basic needs is recognised;
- The demand for ntfp is need-based not greed-based (20% own consumption in cameroon);
- The organisation and efficiency of markets depend on local culture, products and location with respect to access to information and markets;
- There is a general lack of knowledge among actors about their chain;
- Market information influences level of processing and vertical integration;
- Governance arrangements differ widely with huge impacts on income equity and distribution, access, control, profit margins
- There is a wide variances in sustainability of livelihoods and chains
- The zeal for domestication is a good indicator of sustainability indicator

The opportunities of the sector as presented by CIFOR include:

- The policy and regulatory extremes and inappropriate legal framework are ripe for rationalisation, and adaption to real NTFP and the context of small and medium size enterprises ;
- Stakeholders are open to participate in formulating policy options;
- Tenure and rational permits key to secure sustainable exploitation;
- Employment and profitability can be increased by securing and professionalising sector instead of criminalising;
- Importance of business, infrastructure and technical support to facilitate operating environment for Small and Medium Size Forest Enterprises and chains;
- Processing, storage and value adding techniques offer enormous potential to increase profit margins;
- Domestication is key to sustainable supply;
- Sustainable harvest techniques do exist and need to be disseminated;

- Market information system trials and platforms show positive results;

The key challenges of the sector also presented were:

- The long term un-sustainability of chains (e.g. Average 40% eru and 70% of pygeum are unsustainably exploited);
- The lack of knowledge on sustainable harvesting techniques;
- Domestication techniques exist but not widely known;
- Unsustainable supply and increasing demand and insecure supply;
- Initiatives are not compensated by regulations, governance or domestication;
- There are numerous inconsistent policies, agencies and regulations for different ntfps;
- Market information systems are still inefficient;
- There is low value additions, reflecting as lack of vision and low technology use;
- Informal 'taxes' (e.g. Constitute 14% of the costs of *gnetum* spp.);
- Ntftp constitutes important sources of income but are inequitable, unpredictable and hence create unfavourable business climates.

After the presentation by CIFOR, it was the turn of ICRAF represented by Mr. Ebenezer ASAAH, to present the emerging outcomes of the execution of project activities being executed by ICRAF. The main outcomes of this component are:

- The consolidation and dissemination of techniques of domestication of *Irvingia gabonensis*) in the South Region of Cameroon, *Prunus africana* in the Northwest Region, Gum Arabic in the North and Far North Regions;
- The training of farmer groups in techniques of domestication of high value nwfps in the South Region and honey loving trees in the Northwest Region;
- The conduct of a market survey in the Adamawa, North and Far North Regions of Cameroon ;
- The development of business plans for 07 rural nurseries ;
- The production of technical guidelines on *Prunus africana* cultivation and sustainable bark harvesting ;
- The creation of 205 rural nurseries focusing the domestication of *Irvingia* spp, *Prunus* sp., *Acacia* spp., honey loving trees and other agro forestry tree products;
- The provision of logistical support to 07 pilot nurseries ;
- Support to the creation and functioning of 39 pilot nurseries;
- The training of 07 local partners for relay support to village-based nurseries;

After the presentation by ICRAF, Mr. Kenneth SIGHAN of SNV ended up the series of presentations of emerging outcomes of project activities. Unlike other executing partners, SNV contributed to the execution of the four components of the project and in all the regions targeted for the project. The key outcomes of project activities being executed by SNV include amongst others:

Result 1: Strengthened capacities of SME in NTFP

North West Region

Prunus africana Value chain:

- Multi-stakeholders platform in place managing affairs of *Prunus africana*.
- Dialogue initiated as a tool to address unsustainable exploitation.

Honey Value Chain:

- Improved labelling and better exploitation of distribution channels.
- SME able to segment their Honey market with more distribution channels (e.g. in supermarkets)

Centre, South, East Regions

Bush Mango:

- Improved administrative and financial management skills of 11 SME in NTFP (Baka associations, Bantou producers)

North Far North - Region:

Gum arabic

- Internal and external communication plan designed between actors in Gum arabic chain.
- Capacities of SNV/FAO developed for GIS data mapping.
- Improved management and accounting skills of SMS group leaders

Result 2: Develop the value chains of major NTFP

North West Region:

Prunus africana Value chain

- Multi-stakeholders platform in place managing the affairs of actors along the chain.

Honey Value Chain

- Bee keeping trainers have the skills to train bee keepers (Bambalang, Mbengwi). Trainers training new groups.
- Honey actors exercise entrepreneurship skills
- Honey market expand with more distribution channels (e.g. in supermarkets)

Centre, South, East Region:

Bush Mango

- Developed a market information system (MIS) based on a national network of community radio for exchanging supply and demand information on quantity, quality and price of NTFP
- Developing tools for data collection by focal points, community radios
- Mini video on the MIS with baka producers

Far North Region:

Arabic Gum

- Improved production techniques from appropriation of learning through exchange visit to Chad

Result 3 sustainable production, harvesting and domestication techniques for NTFP

North West Region:

Honey:

- Bee keeping trainers have the skills to train bee keepers production, harvesting and domestication techniques.
- Use of better labelling and Research on packaging honey products.

Centre, South and East Region:

Bush Mango

- Invented the bush mango cutting machine used for sustainable productivity
- Machine in use in production basins in the centre, south, East, South East regions
- Synergy between the MIS and the popularization of the machine: production of a radio spot accompanying MIS radio emissions
- Set a sustainable mechanism of the manufacture and sale of the machines

Far North Region:

Arabic Gum:

- Improved groups dynamics in 10 communities through a multi-stakeholder platform

Result 4: Adaptation of legal and institutional measures that facilitate SME operation

North West Region:

Prunus africana Value chain:

- Voice of SME felt in elaboration of National Prunus management

Honey Value Chain:

- Honey Residue monitoring scheme developed leading to first honey export from Cameroon in 2009 (by GIC Guiding Hope)
- Participatory quality standard of honey assured by Regional bee keepers platforms

Centre, South, East Region:

Bush Mango:

- Bush mango actors sensitised on the need to participate in various discussion on the forest law.
- The voice of Baka pygmies is being felt in the current discussion on the forest law

Perspectives for 2010

- Carrying a market study of some NTFP in Nigeria (Ebaye and mushrooms)
- Continue the production and the sales of bush mango cutting machines in various production basin
- Carry out discussion with actors on the sustainability of the MIS
- Ethno botanical survey of NTFP in Region (in progress) to identify NTFP of market value and their uses.

The following documents, developed by project implementation partners, were also distributed to participants during the workshop.

Project Documents

- Enhancing the contributions of Non-Wood Forest products to poverty Alleviation and Food Security in central African Countries (GCP/RAF/441/GER);
- Policy Brief No. 1 (October 2009) related to *Prunus africana* Value Chain in Cameroon with regard to production processing marketing and uses;
- Policy Brief No. 2 (December 2009) presenting results of the *Prunus africana* inventory in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon;
- Policy Brief No. 3 (December 2009) presenting studies of the Ndo or Bush Mango (*Irvingia* spp) value chain in three Regions in Cameroon;
- Policy Brief No. 4 (January 2010) presenting results of the assessment of natural stands of Gum Arabic trees and socio-economic context of the species value chain in the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon;
- Policy Brief No. 5 (April 2010) presenting results of baseline study of honey in the Bas Congo and Kinshasa provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);
- Policy Brief No. 6 (April 2010) presenting results of baseline studies of the *Dacryodes edulis* value chain in the Bas Congo and Kinshasa provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);

- Suggested Sectors on the NWFP to be Amended and Proposed Improvements to the Forestry law;
- Dissemination document of the legal framework regulating the Exploitation and Commercialisation of NWFP in Cameroon and the Sub-Regional Directives related to the sustainable management of NWFP of plant origin in central Africa.

CIFOR Documents

- Factsheet Prunus Africana in Cameroon
- Factsheet Eru in Cameroon
- Factsheet Eru au Cameroun
- Factsheet Ndo'o au Cameroun
- Factsheet Bush Mango in Cameroon
- Factsheet Les Produits Apicoles au Cameroun
- Factsheet Apiculture products in Cameroon
- Cameroun Policy Brief on NTFPs
- Cameroon Policy Brief on NTFPs
- CAM Summary Prunus Africana bark harvest 2010
- CAM Summary Irvingia baseline SW 2010
- CAM Summary Irvingia baseline CSL 2010
- CAM Summary Prunus baseline 2010
- CAM Summary Prunus inventory SW & NW 2010
- CAM Summary Prunus Mgt Plan 2010
- CAM Summary Eru SW & W
- Values NTFPs 2010
- CAM Eru baseline study SW & L
- CAM Etude de Base de Prunus SO & NO
- CAM Inventaire de Prunus SO & NO
- CAM Ndo'o baseline study CSL

MINFOF Documents

- Décision N° 0941/D/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF du 02 septembre 2008 portant création d'un groupe de travail chargé du suivi des travaux de révision de la loi N° 94-01 du 20 janvier 18994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche et de ses textes d'application
- Décision N°05571/D/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF du 5 mai 2009 Portant création d'un Groupe de Travail Chargé du Suivi des Travaux de Relecture de la Politique forestière et des textes de la loi N° 94-01 du 20 janvier 18994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche et de ses décret d'application modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions de la décision N° 0941/D/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF du 02 septembre 2008 portant création d'un groupe de travail chargé du suivi des travaux de révision de la loi N° 94-01 du 20 janvier 18994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche et de ses textes d'application
- Draft 3 of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of National Working Group and Consulting Firm for the Updating of Law N° 94-01 of 20 January 1994 and its texts of application.

5.3 Presentation of related legal and institutional background documents

Four main lead presentations were made during this session as outlined below, respectively by MINFOF and the FAO team of resource persons.

The lead presentation of by MINFOF was both informative and awareness raising on the organisation and status of updating of the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law and texts of application. The high points of the presentation were:

- The creation of a multi-institutional stakeholder National Working Group for the supervision of the process of updating of the Forestry Law by MINFOF;
- The production of Terms of Reference for the Exercise ;
- The production of Terms of Reference for a Consultant to assist MINFOF in the smooth execution of the exercise;
- The determination and distribution of the tasks into thematic areas to ease the effective updating of the law and texts of application to development partners of MINFOF as Thematic Leaders particularly FAO, SNV, WWF, etc.
- Current challenges and hurdles of the process within and outside MINFOF.

Dr. William Armand MALA, FAO consultant then took to the queue to present an illustrated *Awareness Raising Document on the Legal Framework governing the exploitation and marketing of NWFPs in Cameroon*. The presentation identified and highlighted the main articles of in both the 1994 forestry law, the decree 1995 of application and challenges of application of the provisions of the current legal and institutional framework in Cameroon.

Dr Ousseynou NDOYE then took the turn in presenting the main points requiring attention in the process of updating the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law and texts of application. The main concerns raised in his presentation were:

- Unclearly about definition of Non-wood Forest Products;
- Limitation of exercise of User Rights;
- Exploitation of NWFP in forest concessions;
- Procedures for delivery of exploitation permits and their duration.

The session on background legal and institutional texts on NWFP ended up with a presentation of a Sub-regional Guidelines on the Sustainable Management of NWFP of plant origin in Central Africa by Mr Armand Asseng ZE a consultant of the FAO. The high points of the presentation included the methodology for the implementation of the Sub-regional Guidelines and proposed actions for incorporation into the national regulatory frameworks by COMIFAC member countries;

5.4 Putting in Place of Working Groups

Initially programmed to have four working groups, Five working groups were finally established based on suggestion from workshop participants. The working groups took into account the specificity of the NWFP sub-sector, the need to adequately address current challenges throughout the different stages of the value chain: production and u, processing and marketing as well as the context of the exploitation of NWFP. The five working groups were:

Group 1: Definitions and categorization NWFP

Group 2: Rights of forest dwelling and/or forest peoples to NWFP

Group 3: Administrative procedures and documentation for trading in NWFP

Group 4: Commercialization of NWFP

Group 5: Support to sustainable management of NWFP.

The FAO resource persons were assigned to each of the groups depending on the technical orientation of each working group. Similarly, participants voluntarily joined the groups where they could optimize their contributions drawing from their experiences in the use of the different provisions of the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law and texts of application.

While all the working groups were given the same tasks, they were all independent the choice of chairperson, reporters and facilitators. After presentation and extensive discussions in the plenary session, the outcomes of group working sessions are summarized in the tables that follow.

Suggested sections on NWFP to be amended			Proposals		Proposed formulation
Concerns Raised	Legal reference concerned	Problems identified	Arguments	Suggested orientations for updating the law	
Definition and Categorisation of NWFP	Section 9(1) and (2) of the law: Article 3(32) and 26(1) of the Decree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confusion between special forest product and secondary forest product NTFP - No clarification/ specification on the term “non-wood” in the definition of forest products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eru is listed as a special product whereas Bush Mango Njangsang are not - Ebony (wood) and eru are considered to be special products - The term NWFP has been adopted by FAO for a long time and it is also the term adopted by COMIFAC. As Cameroon is part both COMIFAC and the FAO, the term NWFP should be adopted. - By harmonizing the special forest products and secondary forest products, the confusion between the two would disappear since a single term would now be used. - This will remove the ambiguity associated with the listing of special forest products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do a proper classification and categorization of NWFPs of plant origin. - The notion of special forest products and secondary products should be harmonized. - Special products that are woody (all Ebony, Funtumia, poles, Aniegre, charcoal, fuel wood) should be classified in a separate category from non-woody special product (NWFP) 	According to FAO (1999) NWFP are “products of biological origin other than wood, derived from forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests”

Suggested sections on NWFP to be amended			Proposals		Proposed formulation
Concerns Raised	Legal reference concerned	Problems identified	Arguments	Suggested orientations for updating the law	
Limited usufruct or customary right	Sections 8 (1), 8 (2), 29(1), 30(2), 38(2), and 39(4) of the Law	NWFPs cannot be marketed as part of customary right	Repugnant to Millenium Development Goals (MDG) and the Economic Recovery Strategy Paper (ERSP)	<p>Introduce commercial usufruct right to enable the local population to market NWFP harvested as part of their customary rights and satisfy their basic needs such as soap, kerosene.</p> <p>-Users rights shall include sales of some NWFP. The quantity shall not exceed 25 Kg at one sale. Sales can be done anywhere within the country</p>	<p>Formulate a proposal to be validated through a participatory approach</p> <p>See COMIFAC guidelines on users rights and add quantities.</p>
Exploitation of NWFP in FMUs (forest concessions)	Sections 26(1), (2) and 62 of the Law	The regulation or prohibition of local people's access to Forest Management Units (FMU) is not clearly defined	The access right of local populations to NWFP are often violated by owners of forest concessions	<p>-Clearly specify and incorporate user or customary rights of the local populations in the management plans of concessions</p> <p>-Specify the legal framework governing access to and the marketing of NWFP from in FMU</p> <p>Access could through the exercise of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • users rights, • Special permits 	Cordial relationships between owners of concessions and local populations are indispensible
Validity of exploitation permit	Section 56 (2) of the Law	-Currently limited to 12 months corresponding to the fiscal year instead of the date of attribution.	Does not encourage investments in resource conservation and domestication.	Envisage the granting of exploitation permits whose validity exceed &é months to encourage conservation and domestication	Envisage the granting of separate commercialization and harvesting permits whose validity do not exceed 36 months but with annual harvesting quotas and controls by the appropriate services of the administration

<p>- No clear categorization of NWFP</p>		<p>NWFP have different economic values for the same quantities therefore, should not be taxed the same.</p> <p>-NWFP that are endangered should be taxed higher than those that are still abundant.</p>	<p>- Scientific name, common names, local names and commercial names for each NWFP should be well specified.</p> <p>-The economic value of each NWFP should be established</p> <p>-The conservation status of each NWFP should be determined and made known</p>	<p>-The law should classify NWFP based on their economic values</p> <p>- The law should classify NWFP based on their conservation status</p> <p>(endangered species, economic values, vulnerability, etc.)</p>	<p>Update and categorize the list of existing special products</p> <p>-Research should develop unique identifiers for cultivars of NWFP being domesticated.</p> <p>-Register farms having NWFP with competent state services and subsequently establish certificates of origin of NWFP at harvesting.</p>
<p>Regeneration tax</p>	<p>Section 123 (2) of the Law</p>	<p>This section of the law does not take into account the availability and profitability of NWFP</p>	<p>Existence of perishable NWFP such as <i>Gnetum</i> and <i>Irvingia</i> fruits</p>	<p>- Introduce bidding procedures based on results of inventories.</p> <p>-Develop a tax regime based on types of NWFP (for example, taxes on <i>Gnetum</i> should be different from those on <i>Irvingia</i>, which should also be different from that of the tax on ebony</p>	<p>-Include quotas for annuals regeneration preferably within the same locality or division, corresponding to the regeneration tax per category</p> <p>In case of non compliance to the above the concern pays the regeneration tax plus a penalty to the concerned local council.</p>
<p>Transfer of exploitation permit</p>	<p>Section 60 of the Law</p>	<p>Exploitation permits are often transferred in the form of waybills in contravention to the provisions of law.</p>	<p>Exploitation permits are sold as waybills at prices higher than current regeneration tax of CFAF 10 per KG</p> <p>This illegality generally results to the overharvesting well above the quotas allocated by the permit</p>	<p>Prohibit the transfer of exploitation permits in whatever form (waybills)</p> <p>-Punish holders of permits who sell them as waybills by suspending the permits and punish lenient MINFOF staff on control</p>	

<p>Excessive road checks by agents from different services</p>	<p>Section 127 (2) of the Law</p>	<p>- Informal taxes often collected by control agents: the police, the gendarmerie, MINFOF staff, the customs, councils, road safety, etc.</p> <p>-Poor appraisal of documents and categories of NWFP by control agents</p>	<p>-Between Sa'a and Idenau, a trader easily spends up to 239,000 CFAF as along the road (corruption??) for a load of 2,500 packets of <i>Gnetum</i>, broken down as follows: 99,000 CFAF for the gendarmes, 63,000 CFAF for the police, 49,000 CFAF for MINFOF and 28,000 CFAF other road control agent (Source : Ndoye and Awono, 2007) ;</p> <p>-Informal payments on the road or corruption can make a trader to lose up to about 20% of his gross annual revenues,</p> <p>-Consequently, traders transfer these costs to producers, by buying the product at very low prices, and to consumers, by selling at very high prices;</p> <p>-Control agents (police and gendarmerie) do not realize that okok or eru is same as <i>Gnetum</i>. This is also true of the other NWFP</p>	<p>-Reduce or even abolish excessive road checks and punish control agents identified;</p> <p>-Raise awareness and train road control agents to enable them adequately identify NWFP using local and scientific names e.g. okok or eru, depending on whether one is in the Francophone or Anglophone part of the country.</p>	
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Suggested sections on NWFP to be amended			Proposals		Proposed formulation
Concerns Raised	Legal reference concerned	Problems identified	Arguments	Suggested orientations for updating the law	
<p>No legal provision that differentiates domesticated and wild NWFP</p> <p>-Local people are not free to exploit domesticated NWFP</p>	None	<p>Cultivated or domesticated NWFP are often taxed and/or seized by MINFOF agents.</p> <p>-Difficulties in differentiating cultivated NWFP from those harvested from the wild</p>	<p>Several local communities have cultivated NWFP on their small farms and/or even extensive plantations</p> <p>-Encouraging local people to plant NWFP could enhance sustainability and stimulate further domestication while creating employment</p> <p>-People with plantations should be encouraged to identify them (size, type of product, etc.) with the nearest competent government agency.</p> <p>-NWFP harvested from plantations should benefit from tax incentives.</p> <p>- Proper categorization of NWFP will facilitate regulation and law enforcement</p>	<p>-Develop and implement the traceability of cultivated NWFP</p> <p>-Simplify the legal procedures which attest that a NWFP was planted/cultivated so as to foster their domestication;</p> <p>-Make provisions for tax incentives that encourage the cultivation of NWFP</p> <p>- All cultivated/planted NWFP could be called agro-forestry tree products</p>	<p>-Persons who plant NWFP should be exempted from paying some taxes</p> <p>-For traceability, government should identify people who plant and certify their products</p> <p>-Provide operational equipment to MINFOF in order to follow up farmers</p> <p>-The law should classify NWFP into 4 categories; cultivated, wild, spontaneous (grows in both wild and plantations e.g Mushroom) and agro forestry tree products.</p> <p>-The different morphological structures should be used to classify NWFP i.e. leaves, roots, barks, fruits, resins, etc.</p>
<p>No annual exploitation certificates specific to NWFP from community forests</p>		<p>Annual exploitation certificates specific only to timber</p>	<p>No legal document authorizing the exploitation of NWFP in community forests.</p>	<p>Incorporate NWFP from community forests into annual exploitation certificate (CAE)</p>	

6. Participants' Evaluation of the Workshop

Prior to the closing ceremony, all participants were each given a conference card on which they invited to make free written comments on any aspect of the workshop. The outcome of the assessment of the workshop by participants has been categorised into three as presented below.

a) Workshop Processes and Outcomes

- The workshop was rich in the presentations, objectives and discussions;
- I do appreciate the workshop because of the considerations the government is taking measures to put into place a NTFP to guide people around the forest areas;
- The workshop was quite interesting and this set a good standing for baseline information
- The workshop is good, understandable and participatory
- The workshop was good and enlightening
- I have a positive view of the workshop because I have learnt a lot about NWFP
- The workshop was very educative
- The workshop was very interesting because of the presence of different actors of the sector, organisation of different working groups and discussions between different actors,
- Good facilitation
- Appreciation first to the FAO and other organisations present at the workshop who should hel look into the problems raised
- Thanks also to the FAO for motivating us at the workshop
- L'atelier était intéressant
- L'atelier était très instructif car il a permis la remise à niveau des textes régissant les PFNL
- The workshop was very good
- A very instrumental workshop which edified participants on the laws regulating NWFP
- Very interesting arguments, the arguments of the experts brought clarity
- The workshop in Ayaba was very interesting
- Échanges constructifs and participatifs
- Atelier constructif pour la réforme de cadre légal et réglementaire des PFNL
- Atelier enrichissant dans le fond
- Lacunes sur le plan matériel (salle confinée, alimentation, prise en charge financière)
- Workshop organisation was good but there is need for order and quietness during the workshop
- Overall, the workshop was well organised, discussions were opened and frank

- I appreciate and encourage the bilingual nature of our discussions and wish that it be encouraged in the other towns that will host the workshops
- The workshop was well done
- The workshop was very educative, very informative and made us feel belonging to our country since our views have been heard
- Discussions during the workshop helped us to understand what government thinks about the poor people in the communities
- The workshop was well prepared; all actions related to NWFP were identified both from the law and decree; participants had received better knowledge of the FAO project.
- Good organisation and excellent resource persons
- The workshop was nice but the hotel was very bad
- Interesting presentations, work in groups very good but logistics not very good
- Site and language of the workshop were good
- Good facilitation, topics too legal for common mind
- MINPESSA and MINADER absent
- Productive, rich and prospective workshop
- The workshop was of great importance to all stakeholders, very poor logistics in Ayaba Hotel
- L'atelier sur les PFNL a été bénéfique car il nous a permis de se faire une idée réelle des réalités et des difficultés des communautés, GIC et associations
- Very good workshop, if these proposals can be used for the formulation of the law, then we are moving towards sustainable management of our resources; thanks to workshop organisers
- Atelier enrichissant
- Well organised workshop and moderated but too much time spent on presentations, the mix was good and debates lively, poor maintenance of those not lodged

b) Issues to remember and recommendations

- Do not forget to send reports to participants
- Il faut pour les sujets, recueillis et les propositions soient partagées à la base (villages)
- Put in place a technical committee to iron out hanging issues e.g. inventories, quantity for NTFP exploitation per NTFP in case of user rights
- Time was very short for the discussions and analysis
- Use the Baptist Centre for the workshop next time
- I wish that such workshops be organised regularly so that local farmers could also know the law governing them
- The follow-up committee that will be set up should consider the recommendations proposed by all the workshop participants

- Products like Vocanga are still pack with farmers we wish something should be done
- Give participants workshop materials in time
- Better organise logistics e.g, common lunch, timely payment of participants perdiems
- The FAO team should be opened to new ideas and update literature to end with a futuristic document
- I think if these laws are equally follow-up to implementation, it will be very good
- Project partners (ICRAF) should do the regeneration with EDP groups not their own groups
- More workshops of this type be organised
- Transportation for NTFP should be done in special vans and not in passenger vehicles
- Changes in the laws should reach participant at their final destinations
- Si adoption de tous les texts, le secteur PFNL évoluera vers une professionnalisation qui va faciliter la régénération, une maîtrise des acteurs de ce secteur
- Que les experts évitent trop de flexibilité par soucis d'accessibilité à la ressource
- Permit some participants to know what to do if interested in the commodity
- Improve on the methodology of group work
- The government should assist local communities financially to set up small business enterprises in relation to NWFPs e.g. funding should be allocated by the state to support SMEs
- A synthesis of the aspects of the law to be amended should have been provided
- The orientation in the workshop gave me the impression that our discussions ought to be conform to existing texts; but I recommend that our discussions should also orientate the drafting of the texts in the ministry
- The time was too short to properly go through all the discussions
- Involve MINPMESSA, MINEPIA and MINADER and other related ministries in other workshops
- More active participation by MINEP.

c) Unclassified

- I appreciate Ayaba Hotel, the FAO, COMIFAC etc, for their concerns
- I am not happy because I got the invitation three hours before the meeting
- Thanks to the different experts present at the workshop
- Reference was made to other texts being proposed in the ministry and the worry now is whether these texts are being done in the framework of the update being proposed in the law or not.

7. Closing Ceremony of the Workshop

Two main points featured prominently during the official closing ceremony of the workshop: the reading of a Final Statement or Communiqué by participants and closing remarks by both the Representative of the FAO and that of His Excellency the Governor of the Northwest Region. The final statement (**Annex 4**) was read, behalf of participants at the workshop by Mme FUNDOH Julie while Dr Ousseynou NDOYE expressed the gratefulness of the FAO to participants in a closing speech (**Annex 5**). The official closing speech of the workshop was read by Mr. SAMA Benjamin who lauded hard work of participants at the workshop.

8. Conclusions and Way Forward

The workshop was successful as the expected outcomes were largely achieved: improved knowledge of the approach and processes of updating the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law and texts of application by all actors, key constraints of the 1994 forestry, wildlife and fisheries law identified, largely discussed and documented and knowledge of the FAO Project GC/RAF/408/EC improved. Similarly, the lead presentations by the FAO team of resource persons and executing partners of project GC/RAF/408/EC contributed to an improved understanding of the challenges the exploitation of NWFP and transforming them into enterprises for creating incomes. A number of issues emerged that require follow-up actions by the FAO and MINFOF. These include but not limited to the following:

- The adoption of an all-inclusive definition of Non-Wood Forest Products considering that other terms, *Non-timber Forest Products and Agro-forestry Tree Products* were also used interchangeably during the workshop. This also includes the debate as to whether or not environmental services constitute part of NWFP;
- Finalization of discussions on the imperative of conducting inventories of nwfps prior to the issuing of exploitation permits by the administration;
- The role of MINFOF in the conduct of inventories of NWFP prior to the issuing of exploitation permits;
- Collaboration amongst and between relevant state services in the domestication and exploitation of NWFP especially MINFOF, MNPMESSA, MINADER and MINEP;
- The importance of cross referencing to related texts of the sector to avoid recommendations on issues that have already been regulated by other texts e.g. User rights, exploitation permits, etc.;
- The importance of giving NWFP sector the importance it deserves by avoiding the issues of derogatory terms such as '**Special Permits**';
- The importance of specifying what constitute user rights and methodologies for compensating such local people's rights in situation where such rights are temporary or permanent suspended

While there was consensus that user rights are poorly articulated in the current context, there was no consensus on the exploitable quantities by local communities in the execution of their user rights. Against this background, FAO was urged to put in place a Technical Committee to discuss and make recommendations on minimum exploitable quantities of different NWFP in the exercise of user rights by local communities.

9. Annexes

Annex 1. Detailed Program of the Workshop

DAY 1 : MONDAY 3rd MAY 2010		
SESSION 1 : OFFICIAL OPENING		
15:00 - 16:00	Registration of Participants	
16:00 - 16:50	<p>Welcome and Opening Speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Delegate of Bamenda City Council • Representative of MINFOF • Representative of COMIFAC • FAO Representative • Governor of North West Region 	
16:50 - 8:30	OPENING COCKTAIL	
DAY 2 : THUESDAY 4th MAY 2010		
SESSION 2: PRESENTATION OF PARTICIPANTS		
08:00 - 08:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of Participants 	
08:45 - 09:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of participants • Objective, agenda and time management 	MODERATOR
SESSION 3 : PRESENTATION OF NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS' PROJECT		
09:15 - 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of results ▪ Presentation FAO ▪ Presentation CIFOR ▪ Presentation ICRAF ▪ Presentation SNV 	FAO/CIFOR/SNV/ICRAF MODERATOR
10:30 - 11:30	COFFEE-BREAK	
11:30 - 12:45	General Discussions on presentations	FAO/CIFOR/SNV/ICRAF Participants MODERATOR
12:45 - 14:00	LUNCH	

SESSION 4 : PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS ON FOREST LAW RELATED TO NWFP		
14:00 - 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process of reappraisal of forestry law in Cameroon • Information document legal framework governing the exploitation and marketing of NWFP in Cameroon: Processes of elaboration and state of implementation • Presentation of articles to be amended related to NWFP • Sub-regional Guidelines related to sustainable management of NWFP • General Discussion 	FAO MODERATOR
15:30 - 16:00	<p>Organisation of working groups and début des travaux</p> <p>Working Groups :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1 : Categorisation of NWFP (spontaneous, cultivated, special, plant and animal origins) • Group 2 : User rights and quotas • Group 3: Exploitation of NWFP in permanent and non permanent forest domains • Group 4 : Regulations of the modalities of NWFP exploitation • Group 5 : Constraints to commercialisation and trade (road checking routier, customs, taxes, etc, ...) 	MODERATOR
16:00 - 16:15	COFFEE-BREAK	
16:15 - 18:00	• Working groups continued	MODERATOR
DAY 3 : WEDNESDAY 5th MAY 2010		
08:30 - 09:00	• Registration of participants plus Introduction of day 3	MODERATOR
09:00 - 10:00	• Working groups continued	
10:00 - 10:15	COFFEE-BREAK	
10:15 - 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and discussions of working group results • Formulation of recommandations 	MODERATOR
12:30 - 13:30	LUNCH	
13:30 - 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis of institutional and legal issues • Discussion 	Consultant- Jurist/MODERATOR
15:30 - 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation • Validation of final communiqué of consultation meeting 	MODERATOR
16:30 - 17:45	• Closing ceremony/Closing speeches	MINFOF /FAO/Governor
17:30 - 19:30	CLOSING COCKTAIL	

Annex 2: List of Participants

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72.		Cameroon Tribune		

Annex 3: Official Opening speeches of the Workshop

SPEECH OF THE GOVERNMENT DELEGATE OF BAMENDA CITY COUNCIL

The Governor of the North West Region

The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, here represented

The FAO Resident Representative in Cameroon, here represented

The Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, here represented

The Regional Coordinator of the Project GCP/RAF/408/EC,

The representatives of the project partners,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a real pleasure for me to welcome you all in the beautiful town of Bamenda and to talk at the opening ceremony of the first consultation meeting on the improvement of the legal framework on non-wood forest products in Cameroon, organized by FAO and its partners within the project GCP/RAF/408/EC, entitled "Mobilization and capacity building of Small and Middle size Enterprises involved in the Non wood forest products value Chains in Central Africa".

In fact, in the name of the entire population of Bamenda Urban Council, I wish you a warm and cordial welcome. The choice to conduct regional consultation meetings demonstrates the will of FAO to fight against hunger and poverty in all parts of Cameroon through the promotion of the small and medium scale forest enterprises based on non wood forest products. We are honored to know that the first consultation meeting on the process of improving the Cameroon's Forestry Law in relation to non-wood forest products is taking place here in Bamenda.

By organizing this consultation meeting in one of our most prestigious hotels, AYABA Hotel, FAO and its partners should expect to enjoy some of the best dishes and cultural environment during their stay in Bamenda. I would, in the name of all the inhabitants of Bamenda extend my gratitude to all the organizers of this useful initiative and to give thanks, once again, to all the NGOs, community based organizations and other partners of FAO for their participation and positive contributions to achieving the lofty objectives of this meeting.

Long live, Bamenda Urban Council

Long live, Cameroon

Thank you for your kind attention!

DISCOURS DU DELEGUE REGIONAL DU MINFOF NORD-OUEST

Excellence Monsieur le Gouverneur de la Région du Nord-Ouest,
Monsieur le Représentant du MIN FOF,
Monsieur le Délégué du Gouvernement auprès de la communauté urbaine de Bamenda,
Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC,
Monsieur le Représentant de la FAO,
Honorables invités,
Madame et Monsieur

Grande est notre satisfaction d'accueillir cette réunion de concertation. pour l'amélioration du cadre légal régissant l'exploitation et la commercialisation des PFNL au Cameroun et en particulier dans la Région du Nord-Ouest.

En effet, 16 ans après la promulgation de la loi N°94/01 du 20 Janvier 1994 portant régime des Forêts, de la Faune et de la Pêche et de ses décrets d'application, il était temps qu'une initiative comme celle-ci soit initiée pour permettre une régulation dans l'exploitation et la commercialisation des PFNLs au Cameroun.

Force nous a été de constater sur le terrain que les PFNLs sont utilisés par la majorité des populations rurales non pas uniquement pour la subsistance, mais aussi pour la commercialisation et destinés non seulement à la consommation, mais aussi à la transformation pour des biens de service. Ces PFNLs ont plusieurs spécificités; ils sont utilisés pour la consommation, ce sont des plantes médicinales, des plantes ornementales, des matériaux de construction, des matériaux de fabrication pour meuble pour ne citer que ces biens et services.

A ce propos, dans notre Région les PFNLs majeurs identifiés par nos services sont: **le *Pygeum Africanum*, le *Njansang*, l'*Andok*, le *Bush peper*, le *rotin*, le *Voacanga*,...**

Malheureusement, comme cela a pu être constaté depuis longtemps par nos services à travers nos rapports d'activités, l'exploitation de ces PFNLs est régie par une loi qui ne cadre plus avec les objectifs de développement de cette filière marqués par des limites centrées autour de:

- La non catégorisation des PFNLs: en effet, la loi regroupe tous les PFNLs sous le terme de Produits Spéciaux, ne mentionnant rien sur les PFNLs d'origine culturelle, d'origine végétale pour ne citer que ceux là,
- La légèreté dans la spécification du droit d'usage dont bénéficie les populations riveraines aux forêts en ce qui concerne l'utilisation des PFNLs; ceci, en ne mentionnant pas concrètement les quotas à prélever par espèce pour le Droit d'usage,
- L'inexistence d'une réglementation appropriée à l'exploitation des PFNLs dans les Forêts du Domaine Permanent (Réserve forestière,...) et Non Permanent de l'Etat (Forêts communautaires,...), d'autant plus que, l'on s'éloigne de plus en plus pour ce qui est des forêts du Domaine Permanent de la **conservation stricte** pour **une gestion participative** avec les communautés vivant à la périphérie de ces zones dans le but de gérer durablement la ressource,
- L'opacité de la procédure d'acquisition d'un permis d'exploitation de produits spéciaux qui décourage les opérateurs de la filière PFNLs à s'identifier auprès de nos services.

Toutes ces limites concourent au frein du développement de la Filière PFNLs dans notre Région.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous osons croire que l'utilisation du document relatif aux **“Directives sous-régionales relatives à la gestion durable des PFNLs d'origine végétale en Afrique Centrale”** adopté par la COMIFAC en Octobre 2008, couplé aux **“Réunions de concertation pour l'amélioration du cadre légal régissant l'exploitation et la commercialisation des PFNLs”** dans notre Région permettra d'amender considérablement les **écarts des textes règlementaires actuels** qui régissent l'exploitation et la commercialisation des PFNLs et de relancer cette filière porteuse autant pour les populations rurales, les exploitants, les producteurs que pour l'Etat à travers son soucis de gestion durable de la ressource PFNL pour les générations futures.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

SPEECH OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF COMIFAC

Your Excellency The Governor of the Northwest Region, here represented

Your Excellency The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, here represented

The Resident Representative of FAO in Cameroon, here represented

The Regional Coordinator of the Project GCP/RAF/408/EC,

The Government Delegate to the Bamenda Urban Council here represented,

Representatives Of the project partners,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a real pleasure for me to be in front of you this day in this beautiful conference room of AYABA Hotel and to speak on behalf of Mister Raymond MBITIKON, the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC at the opening of the first consultation meeting related to the improvement of the legal framework of Non-wood Forest Products in Cameroon, organized by the project GCP/RAF/408/EC, entitled “**Mobilization and capacity building of small and medium enterprises involved in non-wood forest products value chains in Central Africa**”.

It is also an occasion for me to wish you ail, a warm welcome and nice stay in the wonderful city of Bamenda. Your presence here is a testimony of your interest in the conservation and sustainable management of Cameroon’s forest ecosystems and non-wood forest products in particular.

I would like to thank, in the name of COMIFAC ail its partners and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for their collaboration, their support and ail their effort in the promotion of sustainable management of non-wood forest products in Cameroon and Central Africa at large. COMIFAC as an organization in charge of the coordination and the harmonisation of ail sub-regional initiatives in management of forest ecosystem in Central Africa gives great priority to the valorisation of non-wood forest products in its Convergence Plan, specifically its strategic area.

With support of certain partners like FAO and the others donors, COMIFAC had developed juridical and normative instruments namely:

- “Sub regional guidelines relating to the management of the non wood forest products in central Africa”
- “Sub regional agreement on forest control in Central Africa”
- And “Sub regional guidelines on implication of populations and NGO to the sustainable forests management in Central Africa”

This is why COMIFAC is happy with the organisation of this first consultation meeting that will help in making tangible propositions towards the realization of a befitting legal framework for the Non-wood forest product sector in Cameroon.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Many initiatives towards the sustainable management of forestry ecosystems in Central Africa are increasingly giving greater attention to non-wood forest products as a vehicle to socio-economic development of forest-dependent populations. This can only happen in a legally and institutionally friendly environment. But the current situation is not suitable because most production and trade are still illegally conducted and subject to illegal taxes due to weaknesses in the Cameroon Forestry Law in relation to the non-wood forest product sector. The consequence is that most small and medium scale enterprises that are based on non-wood forest products cannot develop, create jobs, reduce poverty and ensure food security as desired by the Cameroon government.

Ladies and gentlemen,

From the forgoing understanding, the process of the reappraisal of the forestry policy related to non-wood forest products in Cameroon has been taken upon by FAO, in collaboration with SNV, CIFOR and ICRAF. This is within the framework of the above-mentioned European Union funded project to examine, discuss and propose how best to improve the current law in a way that encompasses the proper functioning of the non-wood forest products sector (production, processing, transportation and trade).

I know that the knowledge and expertise of all the partners here present will facilitate the work we are gathered here to do in the next two days. I cannot end my speech without thanking all the COMIFAC partners, notably FAO, SNV, CIFOR, and ICRAF for their actions in the implementation of this project. I wish all of us success in achieving the objectives of this consultation meeting.

Long live, international cooperation,

Long live, sub regional cooperation,

Long live, FAO and its partners,

Long live, COMIFAC,

Thank you for your kind attention.

SPEECH OF FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN CAMEROON

The Representative of the Governor of the Northwest Region,

The Representative of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife,

The Representative of the Executive secretary of COMIFAC,

The Regional Coordinator of the Project GCP/RAF/408/EC

The Representative of the Government Delegate to Bamenda Urban Council,

Representatives of the project partners, SNV, CIFOR, ICRAF

Private sector, traders, communities, here represented,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to take the floor on behalf of the FAO Representative in Cameroon to welcome you to the first consultative meeting to improve the legal framework governing the NWFP sector in Cameroon in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.

On behalf of all the members of the project and partners, I would like to thank the Governor of the Nord West region for accepting to preside over this meeting. I would like also to thank the Government of Cameroon for its permanent support and for all the efforts it continuously devotes to the promotion and sustainable management of NWFP in Cameroon.

The forests of the Congo Basin in general and those of Cameroon in particular, are rich in terms of biodiversity. An important part of the population depends on forests for their food, medicines, subsistence needs and income generation. Non Wood Forest Products are the resources that are easily accessible to rural communities, women, elderly, and minorities compared to timber. That is why these products contribute to poverty reduction and food security of rural and urban populations living in Central Africa.

Despite this importance, several bottlenecks affect negatively the performance of the NWFP sector. An important one is related to the lack of appropriate legal and institutional framework to enable the valorization and sustainable management of NWFP.

That is the reason why FAO and its partners, with financial support from GTZ have produced the "Sub regional Directives for the sustainable management of NWFP of biological origin in Central Africa" as a response to the lack of an appropriate legal, fiscal and institutional framework governing the production, processing, and commercialization of NWFP and their conservation and sustainable use.

The Sub regional Directives have been adopted by the Commission of Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC) during the ministerial meeting held in Brazzaville from 26 to 27 October 2008. The ministers have invited the countries members of COMIFAC to internalize the Directives and incorporate them into their forestry legislations. Furthermore, ministers in charge of forests in Central Africa have invited development partners and particularly FAO to support COMIFAC members States to accomplish this goal.

It is in this line of action that FAO supports the incorporation of the Sub regional Directives in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo through project GCP/RAF/408/EC 'Mobilization and capacity building of small and medium enterprises involved in NWFP value chains in Central Africa' financed by the European Union. FAO supports also the integration of the Sub Regional Directives in Congo, Gabon and Central African Republic through project GCP/RAF/441/GER "Enhancing the contribution of NWFP in Central Africa through the sustainable management of NWFP" with financial support from the German Government. FAO has recently submitted another NWFP project to the Congo Basin Forest Fund to cover Tchad, Burundi, Rwanda, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe.

This consultation meeting will use a multi-stakeholder approach, including all actors involved in NWFP value chains; and will provide a venue where all regulatory issues related to the NWFP sector will be discussed openly and draft legislative texts proposed to improve the legal framework governing the production and marketing of NWFP in Cameroon.

Three other consultative meetings will be organized by FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, COMIFAC and project partners SNV, CIFOR, ICRAF, to cover Center and South regions; East region; North and Far North regions.

Long live, international cooperation,

Thank you for your kind attention.

OPENING SPEECH OF GOVERNOR OF NORTH WEST REGION – BAMENDA

The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, here represented

The Resident Representative of FAO - Cameroon, here represented

The Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, here represented

The Government Delegate of Bamenda Urban Council, here represented

The coordinator of FAO projects on Non wood forest products

The private sector and traders, here represented

Local ONGs and community based organizations, here represented

Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I address you, in the name of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon. I am glad and thankful to be part of this regional consultation meeting to improve the legal framework governing the NWFP under the project “**Mobilization and capacity building of small and medium enterprises involved in non-wood forest products value chains in Central Africa.**”

I would like to also thank the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its partners for the choice of our region to hold one of the first regional consultation meetings to improve the legal framework governing the non wood forest products sector in Cameroon. This gratitude extends to the European Union as the key funding agency for this initiative.

Distinguished Guests,

Over the two last decades, non wood forest products have increasingly become a major concern in public, policy and scientific discourse because of the recognition of the role they play in sustainable forest management, on one hand, and for their priceless contribution to poverty alleviation and food security in our regions and in Cameroon at large.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Conscious of these stakes and since 1994, our country adopted a forest policy aiming at ensuring sustainable management of forest resources. One of the strategic aspects of this policy relates to sustainable management and valorization of non-wood forest products. Fifteen years after its adoption, the Government recently initiated with its partners, a process of reappraisal of the forestry law. The importance of non-wood forest products is reflected in this process by setting out one sub-working group on the sector to specifically work on readjusting the legal framework governing the production, processing, transportation and trade on the products. One immediate gain to this process could be greater contribution of non-wood forest product sector to the strategy of growth and employment (DSCE) recently adopted by the Cameroon Government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We expect from this consultation meeting, a number of recommendations and lessons as key inputs in the process of the reappraisal of the legal framework in support of using non-wood forest products as a vehicle to rural development. Legal and institutionally favourable environments on access to resources, access to markets and processing technologies will all be rewarding to attaining this important government objective.

Giving the high quality, competence and experiences of the stakeholders convene for this meeting reassures me of its productive outcomes. While wishing full success in your work, in the name of the Government, I declare open the first consultation meeting to improve the legal framework governing the non-wood forest products in Cameroon.

I thank you.

Annex 4: Closing speeches

SPEECH OF FAO REPRESENTATIVE IN CAMEROON AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY

The Representative of the Governor of the Northwest Region

The Representative of the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife,

The Representative of the Executive secretary of COMIFAC,

The Representative of the Government Delegate to Bamenda Urban Council,

Representatives of the project partners, SNV, CIFOR and ICRAF

Representative of the Private sector, traders, and communities,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the FAO Representative in Cameroon, all colleagues and project partners, I would like to thank you very much for your active participation and contributions to the first consultative meeting to improve the legal framework governing the NWFP sector in Cameroon in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and COMIFAC.

I would like to thank specially the Governor of the Nord West region for accepting to preside over this meeting and for allowing us to enjoy the beautiful city of Bamenda. I also would like to thank the Representative of the Government Delegate to Bamenda Urban Council for her very active participation and contributions to the meeting

As we all know the majority of the population of Cameroon derives their livelihoods from forests and other natural resources. That is why any action taken to improve the NWFP sector will help reduce poverty and enhance food security and thereby contributes to the Millennium Development Goals and the Strategic Document for Growth and Employment (DSCE).

We made a proposal in this direction using an approach where all participants expressed their ideas openly without any pressure.

The next steps will be:

- To finalize the report of the meeting and distribute it to all participants.
- To finalize the draft legislative text on NWFP and share it with all participants
- To enrich the legislative text during forthcoming meetings that will be held in other regions of Cameroon.

To conclude, I would like to again thank all participants and especially the moderator of the meeting, Dr Michael Vabi for his professionalism and good handle of the deliberations. I also would like to thank Irene for the logistical arrangements made and for traveling to the Southwest region to deliver the invitations. I also would like to thank Clarisse, Edith of CIFOR and the drivers for all the support provided.

Special thanks are also due to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, COMIFAC, Robinson Djeukam, our legal consultant, Justin for all the IT support, CIFOR, SNV, ICRAF for all their contributions.

I would like to apologize for any deficiencies observed during the meeting.

I wish you all a safe trip back home

Long live, international cooperation,

Thank you for your kind attention.

NORTH WEST REGION GOVERNOR'S SPEECH AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY

The Resident Representative of FAO,

The Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, here represented,

Distinguished personalities,

Ladies and Gentlemen

After two days of intensive and very serious interactions, deliberations and brainstorming and according to very reliable information, reaching the Governor of the North West region, I am, on behalf of Governor, very convinced that you would have arrived at very pertinent recommendations, which will guide the powers that be, and all stakeholders, concerned, to put in place realistic regulations, on adjusting the legal framework, governing the production, processing, transformation and marketing of Non-wood forest products, in Cameroon.

This, just ended workshop, will no doubt, be a reference, for future or similar endeavours.

I therefore, on behalf of the Governor of the North-west Region, seize this opportunity, to commend on the seriousness, with which you respected the agenda, in executing your task.

I finally wish to, as I declare, this seminar, officially closed, to call on the Almighty, who accompanied all of you, to equally, lead you safely, to meet your various families and loved ones.

Thank you all.

Annex 5: Final Statement of the Preliminary Regional Technical Workshop of the Updating of Law N° 94-01 of 20th January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries regulation in Cameroon and its Texts of Application

The First Preliminary Regional Technical Consultation Workshop to update the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law and its texts of application was organised in Ayaba Hotel, Bamenda between May 3th and 5th 2010. The workshop was organised by the FAO - Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations with technical support from the International Centre for Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) and the World Agro-forestry Centre (ICRAF).

The workshop brought together a total of 80 participants from the Northwest, Southwest and West Regions of Cameroon representing producers, traders, Civil Society Organisations, Forces of Law and Order (including Customs), the Ministries of Forestry and Wildlife (MIINFOF), Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP), Territorial Administration and Decentralisation (MINADT), the Central African Commission of Forest Ministers of Central Africa (COMIFAC). The workshop had two main objectives:

- Make proposals for updating the provisions of the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law and related texts of application with a focus on Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs);
- Present emerging outcomes of the Project entitled: *Mobilization and Capacity Building of Small and Medium Size Enterprises of the Non-Wood Forest Product Value Chains in Central Africa.*

The workshop was officially opened by Mr. Benjamin SAMA, representing His Excellency the Governor the Northwest Region. Four other speeches preceded the official opening speech. These were:

- 1 Welcome speech from the Government Delegate to the Bamenda City Council read by **Madam Julie Amaah CHAMBI**;
- 2 Speech from the Regional Delegate of MINFOF of the Northwest Region **Mr. Joseph MBOMGLANG**;
- 3 Speech from a representative of COMIFAC read by **Mr. Daniel Mbolu BAMELA**;
- 4 Speech from a representative of the FAO read by **Dr. Ousseynou NDOYE**.

Deliberations of the workshop were coordinated by a team of resource persons under the overall supervision of Dr. Ousseynou NDOYE.

After the official opening ceremony, participants at the workshop listened to three complementary lead presentations:

- Emerging outcomes of the execution of the Project entitled *Mobilization and Capacity Building of Small and Medium Size Enterprises of the Non-Wood Forest Product Value Chains in Central Africa* by executing partners: the FAO, CIFOR, SNV and ICRAF;
- Framework Guidelines on the legal and institutional frameworks of NWFPs in the Central Africa Sub-region by a team of FAO resource persons;
- The organisation of the process of updating the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law and Texts of application by Mr. Benjamin Zambo of MINFOF;

These presentations were followed by extensive discussions including answers and responses from the lead presenters. While expressing satisfaction on the quality of the outcomes of the Project entitled: *Mobilization and Capacity Building of Small and Medium Size Enterprises of the Non-Wood Forest Product Value Chains in Central Africa*, participants urged the FAO to intensify lobbying efforts to secure funds for another phase of the project to consolidate the results obtained during the first phase of the project in Cameroon and the DRC with a view to up-scaling the outcomes, experiences and lessons to the other countries of the COMIFAC countries.

Participants later worked in five working groups and made extensive recommendations for updating the 1994 Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Law and related texts of application related to NWFPs. The recommendation delved into:

- A coherent and consistent definition and categorisation of NWFP/Agro-forestry Tree Products;
- Ensuring access and user rights of forest dwelling and/or forest peoples to NWFPs/Agro-forestry Tree Products in categories of forests ;
- Improving administrative procedures for placing NWFP/Agro-forestry Tree Products on local, regional and international markets ;
- Improving conditions for the cultivation and processing, transportation, storage and trading of NWFPs/Agro-forestry Tree Products;
- Supporting the sustainable management of NWFP.

Done in Bamenda, this Wednesday 5th May 2010

Workshop Participants