

## 4. Target group engagement strategy

### Approach

In the framework of PSMNR-SWR phase IV in particular hunters but also other target groups are identified and engaged in a strategy aimed to change their livelihood options. The Specific objectives are :

- To identify target groups having a positive (guide and porters) or negative (poachers) attitude towards the management of Protected Areas and their Peripheral Zones ;
- To mobilize the entire community and selected target groups in addressing identified management issues (Fire, poaching, encroachment, eco-tourism etc) ;
- To engage the most active members of target groups into alternative livelihood measures (Livestock, Farm management, Bee farming, NTFP...) ;
- To agree and enforce compliance mechanisms at individual, group and community levels.

### Implementation

- More than 500 beneficiaries are engaged into alternative livelihoods projects ;
- Identified site specific management issues have been addressed significantly.



Community member surrenders gun and wire snares to Mt Cameroon National Park conservator.

## 5. Conservation Education

The PSMNR-SW has established an Integrated Conservation Education Centre (ICEC) hosted in the Limbe Botanic Garden (LBG) to up-scale conservation education and outreach programmes in targeted communities around the Protected Areas (PAs) where PSMNR intervenes. ICEC therefore is providing a platform for MINFOF and its partners to give visibility to biodiversity conservation issues by rallying local stakeholders, decision makers and donor agencies; and also using the Limbe Botanic Garden (LBG) facilities to organize events, conduct study tours, trainings, awareness raising campaigns, environmental education clubs in schools and other outreach programmes.

ICEC also backstops the conservation services of the PAs in animating conservation education activities through co-management institutions in their communities and environmental clubs in schools. Community members, student / pupils and other forest user groups around the different PAs carry out Study Tours to the ICEC Centre in Limbe for awareness raising, educational programs and trainings.

The center further animates scholarship and vocational training schemes for targeted youths from the different PAs.

### For more information

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PROGRAMME FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION  
(PSMNR-SWR)

## COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT APPROACH



Collaborative management means that park services and villagers collectively negotiate, agree upon, guarantee and implement a fair share of management functions, benefits and responsibilities of managing the national parks.

In this regard, the Protected Areas (PAs) negotiate and sign Cluster Conservation and Development Agreements (CCDAs) with local communities which establish the roles and responsibilities of both parties to collaborate in the long-term management of the PAs and in development of its peripheral zone. Thus the final CCDA document produced is based on a careful sensitization and negotiation process which fosters mutual understanding and trust.



# Five main pillars of collaborative management

## 1. Conservation and Development Agreements (CDAs)

The Conservation and Development Agreements are a major tool for the implementation of Collaborative Management of Protected Areas in the South West Region in Cameroon. The rationale is to see communities and the Protected Area Managers acting as true partners in the management of Protected Areas (PA) and the sustainable development of their peripheral zones. The collaborative management approach was introduced in 2011 in Korup, Takamanda and Mount Cameroon National Parks. About one ninety villages signed Conservation Development Agreements (CDA) with different Protected Areas.

The CDA negotiation process introduced some major changes in the relationship between the Park Services and the communities and re-enforced their roles in the management of PAs. It has also permitted them to define the scope of their interventions, terms of collaboration, responsibilities and benefits.

The process was time consuming. This and many other lessons learnt led in 2016 to some major adjustments in approach, in particular to negotiate agreement at cluster level : Cluster Conservation Development Agreements (Cluster CDA). Enlarged cluster platform consultations involving concerned communities, Councils and other local stakeholders permitted the PAs to identify and discuss with communities on site specific management issues as well as propose strategies to address them. These Cluster CDAs are negotiated and signed by the concerned communities, the Conservators and endorsed by their respective Mayors.

## 2. Organization of VFMCs & Establishment of the Cluster Platforms

The Village Forest Management Committees (VFMCs) is the legal instrument for community involvement in both

the creation and management of PAs. It is vital that a fair representation of the major forest user groups having an interest in PA management (e.g. NTFP collectors, hunters...) are involved as members of the VFMCs.



**Chief of Bonakanda village explaining to visiting PSMNR/MINFOR officials how his community collaborates with MCNP services.**



**Community Members who abandoned poaching were supported in modern beekeeping.**



**Students from around PAs during study tours at ICEC.**

The PAs are Sub Divided into Management Zones, called the Cluster Conservation Zones (CCZ), for whose management a cluster of villages is co-responsible. Members of the Cluster Platforms are elected representatives of the Village Forests Management Committees of the cluster villages . These Cluster Platforms (CPs) have been constituted to serve as a central communication hub between the PA Services and the cluster villages for planning, implementation and evaluation of co-management activities and village development measures within their respective Cluster. The Cluster platforms can be enlarged as need be, to include other stakeholders (Council representatives, economic operators and local NGOs).

Cluster Platforms facilitate the mobilization of communities on site specific management issues and the coordination of activities within the PAs and its peripheral zones. CPs facilitate the appropriation of the micro-zonings of the PAs, including access and users' rights, agreed upon in the CCDAs. The Cluster Platforms agrees on a half-yearly action plan with the park service; its implementation is regularly evaluated. To animate the relationship between the park service and the communities of a cluster on a day to day basis, a Cluster Facilitator (CF), which is a member of one of the communities, has been selected and is remunerated by the PA for his/her services.

The various elements collected during the cluster consultations are integrated into the protected areas management plans. As far as relevant they are also integrated into other planning instruments such as the Communal Development Plans (CDP) and Land Use Plans (LUP).

## 3. Negotiation of Access and User's Rights

During cluster consultations and CCDA negotiation the protected area zoning is agreed upon between the communities and the park service in particular the delimitation of the Limited Access Zone, in which User's and Access rights are determined including access to resources , regulations, associated benefits and penalties for defaulters. Human activities are usually not tolerated in the core zone of the park.