

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

Objective

The objective of the programme is to contribute to the preservation of high-value ecosystems in the South-West Region of Cameroon, thereby contributing to the improvement of livelihoods of the surrounding communities. It aims at promoting sustainable forest and wildlife management by affected stakeholders for their own benefit.

Context

The South West Region of Cameroon is part of the Gulf of the Guinea Forests, is of utmost importance for biodiversity conservation not only in Cameroon, but worldwide as one of the eight biodiversity hotspots in Africa.

It is known for its exceptional diversity and heterogeneity of habitats and the immense richness in both animal and plant species, many of which are endemic and exposed to risks of extinction due to habitat destruction and unsustainable utilisation of natural resources, but also poaching and effects of climate change.

Approach and Results

Management of Protected Areas

The programme is supporting the five protected areas in all management aspects including creation of infrastructure and providing of equipment. But its particularity is the implementation of an approach of collaborative management with the local communities. It concerns 171 communities around the 5 PAs concerned.

Local communities are organized, empowered and capacitated to collaborate with the park services in park management and in the implementation of development measures in the peripheral zones of the PAs.

Core element is the negotiation and signing of "Cluster Conservation and Development

Name of the Project	Programme for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in South West Region (PSMNR-SWR)
Donors	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Execution	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)
Partners	WWF, WCS, Local Support organizations, councils
Programme consultant	GFA/DFS
Country and areas of the project	Cameroon, South West Region, Mt Cameroon National Park (MCNP); Korup National Park (KNP); Bakossi National Park (BNP); Takamanda National Park (TNP); and Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary (BMWS)
Funding volume	Phase I : 7 Million Euros Phase II & III : 20 Millions Euros Phase IV : 15 millions Euros
Duration	Phase I: 2006-2010 Phase II-III: 2011-2017 Phase IV: 2018 -2022
Web site	https://www.psmnr-swr.org https://www.mtcameroonnationalpark.org/

Agreements" after an intensive participative process of consultation and strategic planning concerning conservation and development issues together with representatives of the local communities and in association with the concerned councils. Access zones and rules for sustainable harvest of Non-timber forest Products (NTFPs) are agreed upon. Half-yearly action plans are elaborated.

As much as possible park management activities are organized as collaborative management activities with the involvement of local communities, community members and local organizations: boundary opening and monitoring, bio-monitoring, surveillance, monitoring of Non-Timber Forest product's harvest.

Mt Cameroon National park has a big potential for eco-tourism ; therefore, the programme is supporting the development of eco-tourism and has created two eco-lodges on the mountain which have been managed for tourists in the last four years.

PSMNR-SWR is also engaged in the development of sustainable financing mechanism, especially with the creation of the Mt Cameroon Fund.



Landscape management approach

Complementary and supporting the intervention in the PAs is an integrated landscape management approach around them : mediating of land use conflicts, participatory wildlife corridor management in collaboration with councils, creation and management of trans-boundary biosphere reserves for the case of Korup and Takamanda NPs and Cross River National Park in Nigeria , support to the management of community and council forests and collaboration with Forest Management Units in particular in the peripheral zones of the PAs and targeted corridors.

Strategic adaptation of phase IV

In Phase I-III all villages were targeted for livelihood support (green income generating activities and socio-economic infrastructure (water, farm-to market motorbike road). This “partnership for sustainable development” has proved to create positive economic impact in the villages, to reduce poverty, and create favourable conditions for the collaboration with park services. However, poaching had still not been sufficiently reduced and a real appropriation of conservation issues by local communities is to be further improved.

In phase IV specific high impact “hotspot” villages (for poaching, bush meat trade) in all PAs and therein forest user groups are targeted. The PA services engage particularly with hunters (but also other forest user groups) for involving them in alternative livelihood strategies (vocational training, cocoa farm enrichment, small livestock projects, beekeeping).

Engaged beneficiaries are collaborating with the park services in trap removal and handing over their hunting guns. Entire targeted villages are benefitting from implementation of socio-economic infrastructures and development of multi-purpose nurseries.

The collaborative management approach alone without an effective law enforcement approach to monitor compliance and arrest defaulters and outsiders committing illegal activities cannot preserve key wildlife species; therefore PSMNR-SWR has developed also new approaches to law enforcement in order to make it more effective.

In phase IV more and more management responsibilities are delegated to local communities and Local Support Organizations are involved in activity implementation in the protected area and in development activities in the peripheral zones.

To enhance conservation education the “Integrated Conservation Education Centre (ICEC)” hosted in the Limbe Botanical Garden (LBG) was created as Unit of PSMNR-SWR. The Centre is organizing conservation education study tours in Limbe for school children and community members coming from the five protected areas and animates outreach programmes in schools and communities.

It is planned to develop ICEC in collaboration with local NGOs to a hub for the promotion of biodiversity conservation in the South West Region.

Some key achievements of PSMNR-SWR since inception :

- Creation of two new national parks (Mt Cameroon NP and Takamanda NP, 123,000 ha) ;
- Management of four National Parks and one Wildlife sanctuary (345,000) in one of the 8 biodiversity hotspots of Africa ;
- Initiation of the creation of two trans-boundary biosphere reserves with Nigeria ;
- Construction of two eco-lodges in Mt Cameroon National park Construction of two park head quarters (Mt Cameroon and Takamanda NP) ;
- 120 villages engaged in collaborative park management ;
- More than 13,000 households have increased their agricultural productivity and income and leading to a reduction of deforestation ;
- More than 150 km farm to market-road (motor-bike road)/ bridges and 24 water projects constructed for the benefit of 40 villages (37,000 habitants) ;
- 9 water projects under construction phase IV ;
- More than 300,000 seedlings of trees, NTFPs and cocoa nursed and planted in agro-forestry systems, community forests and on park boundaries (phase IV) ;
- 175,000 EURO sales of Prunus bark from sustainable production of the Mt Cameroon area ;
- More than 500 hunters engaged in alternative livelihood strategies in phase IV (vocational training, small livestock projects, modern beekeeping, cocoa farming) ,
- Removal of more than 10,000 traps by the hunters and handing over of more than 50 hunting guns.



For more information

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