

International Conference on
Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise
New Opportunities for Central & West Africa

Agenda

May 25 – 29, 2009
 Hôtel Mont Fébé, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Hosted by:



Ministry of Forests
 and Wildlife of
 Cameroon

Co-organized by:



International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), World Conservation Union (IUCN), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Intercooperation, Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF), Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOP)

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State Secretariat for
 Economic Affairs SECO

United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Ford Foundation, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Buitenlandse Zaken), United States Department of State, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) & State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

About the Conference

This conference on forest tenure, governance and enterprise will catalyze new and broader actions on securing tenure rights in Central and West Africa. Through panels and working groups, participants will share experiences in securing tenure rights, and their relationship to other goals of uplifting livelihoods, securing investment, spurring small scale enterprises, and addressing climate change. The knowledge gained, coupled with new call to action will help strengthen the impact of other key initiatives, particularly on forest law enforcement and governance and Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) in preparation, all emphasizing the necessity and urgency of clarifying rights. The five-day meeting will convene government leaders of ITTO producer countries, including representatives from ministries in charge of land and property matters, and members of civil society and community groups and representatives of international and donor organizations. Participants will identify goals and develop agendas for new interventions and reform in the region.

Context

In Central and West Africa, as in many regions across the world, it is widely recognized that weak governance and insecure tenure rights, inequity in allocation, overlapping or conflicting claims, or a lack of recognition of customary ownership, undermine the contributions of forestry to local, national and regional livelihoods and economies, and to the health of our global environment.

The national policies and legislation of most Central and West African countries limit community forest management and enterprise. Even where permitted, the public and private sectors are not yet oriented or equipped to provide the needed support for these to develop and thrive. In many cases, community forest tenure and business face unfounded prejudice. Communities themselves often lack the requisite collective self-confidence to take on these challenging yet rewarding endeavors.

Clarifying and recognizing their tenure rights and access opens up opportunities for forest communities to invest in and enhance the sustainable use of forests. Communities across the world have demonstrated an ability to develop globally competitive enterprises that provide creative and dignified employment in ecological services, extraction of timber and non-timber forest products, and value addition. Furthermore, unlike the dominant forest management and industry models, community enterprises tend to reinvest the locally-generated wealth into productive and social infrastructure, ensuring a virtuous cycle of economic and social development.

Climate change presents all countries with an enormous additional challenge. Forests are both a source of emissions and a biome impacted by climate change, and are important to mitigation and adaptation strategies. Clear and secure forest tenure is needed to ensure equity as well as effectiveness of adaptation efforts and reduce new emissions from deforestation and degradation.

This conference is organized in response to the calls from the African participants in the 2007 International Conference on Community Forest Management and Enterprise in Acre, Brazil, previously organized by the ITTO, RRI, IUCN, the Global Alliance of Forest Communities (GACF), and the Government of Brazil. In that meeting African delegates proposed a follow-on conference and recommended that it chart a time-bound plan for systematically expanding community forest tenure, management and enterprise in Africa to agreed, achievable targets by 2015. The convening of this conference clearly reflects the commitment made by the Central and West African regions. This event foretells a new vision in the development of forest tenure policies and management practices in this part of the African continent.

Conference Methodology

The conference is divided into sessions. Each session starts with either a Keynote Address, a Roundtable or a Panel Presentation to discuss the different session themes and to present an array of perspectives on the session topic. Sessions will provide ample time for working groups to meet in to advance on decisions of key issues and messages on each theme. In the working groups, participants will discuss a set of topical questions, listing the key problems, strategies, recommendations and lessons in relation to the particular session sub-theme. On the last day, participants will divide according to actor group to ensure that 1) recommendations are internalized within these groups, 2) priorities for concrete action are set and 3) groups take on responsibilities.

Facilitators

James Gasana, Intercooperation

Prudence Galega, Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, Cameroon

Registration – Sunday May 24

Registration will take place on the Sunday evening before the conference, at the participants' respective hotels: Mont Fébé, Meumi Hotel, Meumi Palais and Tou'ngou.

Agenda – Day I

Official conference opening – Welcome

8h30 Background and introduction to conference
Kyeretwie Opoku, Coordinator of Civic Response and RRI Facilitator in Africa

Presentation of conference objectives, methodology and agenda
James Gasana, Intercooperation
Prudence Galega, Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, Cameroon

Opening address
Cécile Ndjébet, Cameroon Ecology and N'gonga Community Forest
Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
His Excellency Dr. Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary, Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)

Official opening
Representative of the Government of Cameroon

10h30 Coffee break

Keynote address

10h45 Management of the *Domaine Nationale* of Cameroon
Vincent Nkou Owona, Ministry of State Property and Land Tenure of Cameroon (MINDAF)

Tenure for development in Africa: The Land Policy Initiative of the African Union
Paul Tchawa, lead expert on the core drafting team of AU Land Policy Initiative, Head of Geography Department, University of Yaoundé I

What is happening to forest ownership on the continent?
Liz Alden Wily, RRI Fellow

12h30 Question & answer session

13h00 Lunch break

Session 1: Current status of tenure and emerging lessons from ongoing reform

This session will give a historical review of forest tenure in Africa, and reflect on the issues raised by these systems, as well as strategic lessons that they can provide to other countries.

Chair: Raymond Mbitikon, COMIFAC

Rapporteur: Antoine Kalinganire, Senior tree scientist, ICRAF

14h00 **Panel presentations**

- Reforming the Forestry Law in Cameroon: Objectives and rationale – *Denis Koulagna, General Secretary, MINFOF*
- Tropical forest tenure assessment: Status, trends and implications for Central Africa – *Samuel Nguiffo, Executive Director, Center for Environment and Development*
- Legal dimensions of forest and land ownership in Africa – *Patrick McAuslan, Professor of Law, Birkbeck, University of London*

15h00 **Plenary discussion**

15h30 *Coffee break*

Session 2: Tenure reform – Experiences and lessons from other countries

This session provides an opportunity for experts and nationals of countries within and outside of Africa to share their experiences with land tenure reform, to provide examples of how other countries have proceeded, and to discuss the impacts on social and economic development of past and present tenure regimes.

Chair: Cyrie Sendashonga, CIFOR-Cameroon

Rapporteur: Marc Vandenhoute, Cameroon Facilitator, FLEGT Delegation of the European Union

15h45 **Panel presentations**

- Global trends in forest tenure: Emerging findings from four forested regions – *Francesca Romano, FAO*
- Experience of Brazil in land and forest policy reform: Rationale and impacts – *Manoel Sobral Filho, Former executive Director, ITTO*
- Collective forest tenure reform in China – *Li Shuxin, Policy Division Chief, Department of Policy and Law, State Forestry Administration, Peoples' Republic of China*
- Forest and tribal land reforms in India – *Arvind Khare, Director of Finance and Policy, RRI*

17h00 **Plenary discussion**

17h30 *Conclusion of Day 1*

18h30 *Reception and Dinner*

Agenda – Day 2

Session 3: The role and perspectives of forest communities in the forest reform process

This session will provide community perspectives on forest reform, including their role in reform processes in their country, the need for community capacity to provide positive inputs into the reform process and their strategies for internal consultation and interaction with government.

Chair: Hon. John Woods, Forest Development Authority, Liberia
Rapporteur: Daniel Tiveau, CIFOR-Burkina Faso

8h30 Roundtable discussion

- *Erick Cuellar, Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP)*
- *Ghan Shyam Pandey, Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)*
- *Patrice Pa'ah, Director, Trinational Agroforestry Cooperative, member of GACF Africa*
- *Charles Meshack, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group*
- *Michael Gachanja, Coordinator, Kenya Forests Working Group*

10h00 Question & answer session

10h30 Coffee break

Session 4: Tools and strategies for recognizing and mapping rights

This section provides the opportunity to share diverse experiences on community rights mapping in the region. Presented through a “talk show” format, panelists will speak to questions on the development of methodologies, securing local tenure and supporting forest peoples’ rights.

Président : Denis Koulagna, MINFOF
Rapporteur : Prosper Situasendua-Ngetelem, Community Forestry Focal Point, Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism, Democratic Republic of Congo

10h45 Roundtable discussion

- *John Nelson, Policy Advisor, Forest Peoples’ Programme*
- *Belmond Tchoumba*
- *Peter Mbile, ICRAF-Cameroon*
- *Martijn Ter Heegde, Africa Programme Coordinator, Rainforest Foundation UK*
- *Edmund Barrow, Africa Regional Coordinator, IUCN*

12h30 Question & answer session

13h00 Lunch break

14h00 **Parallel working group discussions**

Participants will divide in to five working groups to discuss themes from the previous panels, including:

- Strategies of communities to realize their customary rights to resources
- Role of mapping initiatives in recognizing customary rights to forests
- Implications of different approaches and methodological tools for outcomes
- Role of governments, community actors, companies, advocacy groups and technical NGOs
- Lessons from particular tools and approaches
- Challenges of overlapping agency/legal jurisdictions and land use goals

15h30 *Coffee break*

Session 5: The role of tenure and governance in climate change mitigation and adaptation

This session will take the form of an interactive question and answer session. The moderator will interview a panel of experts from inside and outside the region about the issues, opportunities and the status of play, both internationally and within Central and West Africa. Panelists will field hot questions raised by the audience in an interactive session, referring as needed to the panelists' more formal presentations on printed posters and handouts.

Discussion topics will include:

- Approaches and standards for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) Readiness rights and tenure
- Rights, equity and socio-economic impacts of forest carbon trading schemes
- New pressures on forests from biofuels and green technologies
- Land tenure and carbon sequestration in Africa
- Local strategies for climate change adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Moderator: Manoel Sobral Filho, Brazil

15h45 **Roundtable discussion**

- *Don Roberts, Managing Director, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce*
- *Alain Karsenty, Economist, Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)*
- *Arthur Green, land tenure specialist, McGill University*
- *Fobissie Kalame, CIFOR-Burkina Faso*

17h00 **Question & answer session**

17h30 *Conclusion of Day 2 — Report back from Roundtables, Summary of Day*

18h30 *Evening reception cocktail: Side event presented by the ITTO Civil Society Advisory Group*

CSAG presents the current structure, priorities and recommendations. This will be followed by a cocktail reception.

Agenda – Day 3

Session 6: Experiences with conventional and alternative tenure and wood-based enterprises

This session will offer a review the range of forest business models, from small scale to industrial logging, analyzing them in terms of tenure and their impact on economic growth and livelihoods.

Chair: Andy Inglis, Forestry Advisor, DFID

Rapporteur: H.K. Chen, TRAFFIC-Southeast Asia

8h30 Panel presentations

- Concessions, tenure and community-based enterprise – *Juan Sève, Senior Program Officer, WWF-US*
- Indigenous community forest enterprise: Can capitalism pursue a social goal? – *Adolfo Chavez, PROCYMAF Coordinator for State of Michoacán, Mexico*
- The formal face of the informal forest industry in Ghana – *Gene Birikorang, Hamilton Consulting*
- Enhancing forests and rural firewood markets in the countries of the West African Sahel: Experiences and lessons – *Alioune Tamchir Thiam, TAMTAT*

10h00 Question & answer session

10h30 Coffee break

10h45 Parallel working group discussions

Five working groups will divide up to discuss the following themes:

- Industrial concessions: Local tenure, community and national benefits
- Community forest enterprise
- New initiatives to improve on status quo: VPAs, fair trade, socially responsible concessions, other regulatory and tax reforms to level playing field
- Sustainable management in logging enterprises
- Forest plantations

13h00 Lunch break

Session 7: Experience with extraction and management of non-timber forest products

This section will consider the tenure and livelihood issues related to conservation of forest resources and the commercialization of non-timber forest products.

Chair: Zac Tchoundjeu, ICRAF

Rapporteur: Adewale Adeleke, IUCN

14h00 Panel presentations

- Fostering wealth and social contracts in the forest through facilitation of an enabling environment for small forest enterprises – *Sophie Grouwels, Forestry Officer, FAO*
- Alternative tenure & enterprise models for pro-poor growth : Non-timber and timber enterprises in the Gambia – *Kanimang Camara, National Consultancy on Forestry Extension and Services*
- Organic shea butter : Value-added income generation for women – *Marceline Ouédraogo, Songtaab-Yalgre Women's Group*

15h00 **Question & answer session**

15h30 *Coffee break*

15h45 **Parallel working group discussions**

Five working groups will divide up to discuss the following themes

- Non-timber forest products
- Wildlife products and services
- Ecotourism: management, benefits, potential
- Women and access to forest resources and markets: Constraints and opportunities

17h30 *Conclusion of Day 3 — Reporting from the working groups and summary of day*

Present methodology for day 5 to participants at close of Session 5. Facilitators and representatives of working groups will begin to summarize the working group discussions for use in the recommendations on the fifth day.

18h00 *Dinner*

Potential informal evening side-events to be announced.

Agenda – Day 4

Field trips

The fourth day is reserved for three parallel site visits at Mbalmayo, 45 minutes from Yaoundé; organized by CED IUCN, and MINFOF.

The goal of these field trips is to offer participants the opportunity to further explore and discuss the questions raised during the conference sessions. Participants will choose which site they wish to visit, and will receive leaflets presenting tenure issues that pertain to each site. This will facilitate a better comprehension and analysis of the situation on the ground.

Reserve in the National School of Water and Forestry

The main tenure issue in this site is a land use management conflict between government administration and communities inside the reserve occupied by agriculture fields, livestock, protected areas, and non permanent forests.

Community forest of COVIMOF

The community forest (CF) managed by COVIMOF, a community cooperative, was created in 1996. Villages involved in the FC management are Melombo, Okekat, and Fakélé. It is located in the district of Mbalmayo, Department of Nyong-So, Cental Region. The main activities are: poultry, ecotourism, timber and non-timber forest products.

Tourist area of Melombo

An attractive rural recreational area, located on the banks of the Nyong River.

Agenda – Day 5

Session 8: Reforming land tenure – How to ensure effective reforms and implementation

During this session, participants will explore how legal mechanisms, networks, and institutions can be influenced to recognize the rights of forest communities and support livelihoods. This will also be an opportunity for Africans who participated in study tours to present what they heard and learned.

Chair: Honorable Louis-Marie Essolla MP, REPAR
Rapporteur: Patrice Bigombé, CERAD

8h30 Panel presentations

- Decentralization and forest tenure reforms in the Sahel: Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso – Célestin Dembélé, *Sahel Representative, Intercooperation*
- New models of forest tenure in Benin: Lessons for phasing reform – Roch Mongbo, *Centre Béninois pour l'Environnement et le Développement Economique et Social*
- Forest tenure reforms in Southern Africa: What have we learned? – James Murombedzi, *ARD-Liberia*
- Land rights and the forest peoples of Africa – Valérie Couillard, *Legal and Human Rights Coordinator for Africa, Forest Peoples' Programme*

9h30 Question and Answers

10h00 Coffee break

10h15 Parallel working group discussions

Five working groups will divide up to discuss the following themes:

- What are the key lessons for Central and West Africa that have emerged for design and implementation of forest tenure and policy reforms that support local forest management and enterprises?
- How can we mobilize across ministries and sectors to create a common vision in Central and West African countries?
- What are the next steps to move the reform process forward in Central and West Africa?

11h30 Presentation of working groups and synthesis

13h00 Lunch break

Session 9: Next steps to accelerate reforms in Central and West Africa

Conference facilitators will provide to all participants the synthesized products of the working group reflections for each session. Priorities will also be established within actor groups.

14h00 Priorities as Actor Groups:

Participants divide into Actor Groups (Community groups, national Non-governmental Organizations, Regional and International Organizations, Government) to review all working group reflections and set priorities for themselves. Drafting committee meets in parallel to do the summary.

15h00 Presentation of conference conclusions by drafting team and discussion

16h15 Coffee break

16h30 Official closing of conference by Government of Cameroon

- *Present conference conclusions*
- *Members of Central and West African governments* ▪ *COMIFAC*
- *Central and West African community leaders* ▪ *National NGOs*

17h30 End of conference

19h30 Dinner and entertainment