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**REPORT OF PARTNERSHIP'S PARTICIPATION TO
THE UNFF MEETING ON PROMOTING
COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT.**

Drawn by

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Douala, the 04 January 2010

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INTRODUCTION

Invited by United Nations Forum on Forests, M. CHEKEM Pierre, Coordinator of Partnership (a Cameroonian NGO) attended the meeting organised in Yokohama, Japan on 19 and 20 December 2009.

Place : Yokohama – Japan

Date: 19 and 20 December 2009

Theme: Brainstorming meeting on North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on Sustainable Forest Management.

Participants: 28 attendants

Routing: Douala – Libreville – Addis Ababa – Bangkok – Tokyo – Yokohama – Douala.

Departure: 15 December 2009

Return: 22 December 2009

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I wish to specially thank the Japanese Embassy (Yaounde) for the visa they kindly provided me on short notice when I came from Douala. My departure would not have been possible as I had to go back to Douala and get my flight for Libreville.

I thank UNFF Secretariat for inviting me to that important meeting.

I thank ITTO and her staff for the support and guidance given me during my difficult trip.

After two days in Libreville because of plane failure, and two more days in Addis Ababa because of poor coordination between Libreville and Addis Ababa offices of Ethiopian Airlines, I was able to give my contribution and participate to the second day of the meeting.

The discussions dealt on elements of strategy on south-south, north-south, and triangular cooperation on SFM (Sustainable Forest Management).

Pending the publication of the report by UNFF, the current one only summarises our contribution to that meeting and finishes on suggestions and recommendations.

Partnership's contribution insisted on improving the existing mechanisms in terms of flexibility, resources mobilisation and negotiation capacity at all levels (global – regional – national and operational levels).

- Publication and dissemination of current cooperation agenda in countries represented at the meeting for the actors and the media.
- Promotion of advocacy and awareness campaigns on forestry and environmental issues in order to create enabling environment for interactions.
- Address issues of resource mobilisation by improving the channelling of resources to actors in the field.
- Address the out come of Copenhagen: how do we act from there?
- Better know the **Commission On Forest of Central Africa (COMIFAC)** www.comifac.org and support all her operational organs in terms of sustainability.

SUGGESTED AREAS OF INTEREST FOR CSOS

1. Environmental governance
2. capacity building as per African NGOS capacity Building report dated 21st April 1998
3. Research and development
4. Advocacy, Education and training
 - Promoting awareness of SFM using new technologies
 - Outreach programmes for all the stakeholders.
5. Resource Mobilisation
 - Priority to be given to programs instead of projects.
 - Core funding of civil society organisations and their programs.
6. Broaden the base for peoples' partnerships, including forest ecosystems and Non timber forest products.
7. Initiate and reinforce links with existing conventions and local implementation actors (CCD; convention on biological diversity).

SUGGESTED PLATFORMS FOR COOPERATION

Platform of North-South; South-South and triangular cooperation

- Bilateral
- Multilateral
- Institutions
- Collaborations and partnerships

- ➔ All stakeholders (public-private – CSO) should participate.
- ➔ COMIFAC and her institutions should be at the forefront for the Congo Basin and Africa.
- ➔ At country levels use existing platforms and reinforce various synergies between public, private and community operational platforms.
- ➔ Multiply and capitalise after meeting restitutions at all levels in each country with active support of existing media.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Take into account the impacts of cooperation at all levels and adapt accordingly.
- In Africa, COMIFAC and her organs are key tools to be reinforce if we want impacts to be felt at grassroots levels.
- Publish cooperation agenda and get all the actors (public – private – civil society) on board at all levels (local, national, regional, international)
- Bear in mind that sustainability generally means bottom-up approach.
- 2010 should be the environmental and forests governance year (participation of all stakeholders; transparency, accountability, sustainability, results oriented actions.

LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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For the past twenty one years of our involvement in the cooperation at the national, Continental and intercontinental levels, we are convinced that:
We can no more continue to do business as usual.

In the South, North and East, the climate, power, and paradigms are changing.

The priority must then be put on HUMAN SECURITY.

We should, at all levels avoid double language and build mutual trust and confidence
Amongst all actors.

Address the communication challenge (mutual respect).

Financial challenge (operational and inclusive mechanisms).

Governance challenge (environmental governance versus globalization).

Fill the Gap of unmet promises and expectations in cooperation.

Build integrated and sustainable approach at all levels : public, private and people's organizations.

Apply the conclusions of capacity-building meeting held by African NGOs in Abidjan
In 1998.

1 – Informer le monde que l'Afrique a toujours protégé ses forêts et est prête et décidée
A informer elle-même sur ses actions et défis auxquelles sont confrontées ses forêts.

2- L'Afrique a les forêts et plusieurs autres ressources stratégiques ; elle a des fils et des filles
parmi lesquelles sa diaspora qui peuvent à tout moment dire qui pillent les forêts
Africaines et comment les gérer durablement.

3- Les institutions que l'Afrique et le Bassin du Congo se sont données et notamment
Depuis les Sommets des Chefs d'Etats de Yaoundé (1999) et Brazzaville (2005) sont en
Place et méritent le respect et soutien de tous les défenseurs des droits des peuples.

4- Faire reculer la nouvelle escroquerie environnementale

Qui consiste à faire croire que l'Afrique ne sait rien, ne fait rien et ne peut rien faire
D'elle-même ;

Que c'est elle qui est responsable de la plus grande quantité de CO2 émis ;

Que ses forêts sont un problème pour le changement climatique ;

Que certains, au nom de leurs monnaies, ou de leurs langues, ont le droit de décider ici,

Ou partout ou besoin sera sur ce qui est bon pour l'Afrique et les Africains.

LA COOPERATION DOIT CHANGER FACE AUX CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES !

Yokohama the 20th December 2009

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MINUTES OF WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA NGO CONSULTATION ON CAPACITY BUILDING HELD IN ABIDJAN COTE D'IVOIRE 20-21 APRIL 1998

A two days consultation on Capacity Building was held in the premises of INADES-FORMATION at Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire from the 20 and April 1998.

Convened by International Working Group on Capacity Building, the purpose of the meeting was to examine the results and conclusions of country workshops.

Discuss on African NGO needs in the area of capacity building and agree on top priorities to be presented at the Brussels's meeting due to take place between the 6 and the 8 May 1998.

The participants came from the following countries: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Cameroon, Mali Burkina-Faso, Senegal and Ivory Coast

The meeting was opened by Mr. René SEGBENOU, Director General of INADES-Formation who welcomed the participants and gave the floor to Mr. JALAL, Executive Director of Inter Africa Group for the introduction of the workshop.

Mr. JALAL made a brief history of the development of the concept of capacity driven by donors, Governments and Intermediary NGOs. Then concluded that supply driven capacity building and Partnership are not working.

This is the reason why we should ask ourselves: How can NGOs in the South redefine their priorities?

He then gave the floor for each representative to summarize the conclusions of his country workshop.

After an indebt discussion on the various presentations, the meeting agreed on the following:

- Capacity building must be inclusive and aim at: strengthening the capacity of societies to work for their own interests. It should therefore imply consensus building.
- Capacity building should empower the primary stakeholders and cover these areas :
 - o Intellectual; understanding; competence; know-how, social capacity; ethics.
 - o Bearing this in mind, the consensus was reached on the following priorities:
 - 1) Improve the capacity to analyse the social and political environment
 - Promotion of civic spce for exchange and interaction.
 - Clarifying NGO roles and identities in society (such as identity
 - Workshops).
 - 2) Ability to collect analyse and disseminate information to make one's own opinions (advocacy and lobbying) and negotiation capacities.
 - 3) Information technology
 - brings NGOs close to each other
 - increases new experience and knowledge
 - 4) Risks and strategic management.
 - 5) Promotion of voluntary sector in Africa. Institutionalisation of NGOs (Programmes rather than projects) through core funding.

It was strongly suggested that all the programmes of capacity building carried out in Africa be very decentralised in order to better serve the needs of stakeholders

All points having been covered, we then went on exchanging on the WB-NGO Bamako meeting, Harare caucus, ADB/NGO interim Committee then the meeting was closed.

Abidjan the 21st of April 1998

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