



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



SOMMAIRE

<hr/>	
WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS	3
WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR	4-5
FORÊTS ET DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL	6-9
KEY FIGURES	10 - 11
HIGHLIGHTSS	12 - 15
OUR ACTIONS	16
<hr/>	
A - Governance of natural resources	17
B - Biodiversity and environment	35
c - Entreprenariat rural	36
<hr/>	
ACTIV COMMUNICATION ACTIONS	38
<hr/>	
Media Relation	39
Reseaux sociaux	39
Websites	39
Documentation centre in FODER	40
Review of communication actions on the IFM	40
support to national and local civil society organisation	40
<hr/>	
OUR PUBLICATIONS IN 2019	41- 44
2019 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT	45

WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Partners, Stakeholders and Readers

It is with enthusiasm and happiness that we present to you the 2019 annual report of the Association Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER). This report highlights the remarkable work done for you and by your side through the professional commitment of our dynamic personnel. Through this report, we fulfil our assignment of accountability towards you not only for actions, but also for impacts and change our actions provoked and those they contributed in community life members, functioning of institutions we accompany, support and assist in the field of forests, mines, environment and entrepreneurship. Being a national organization with an international vocation, we have a lot of challenges to overcome in natural resources management, biodiversity and environmental protection, and rural development.

In 2019, several actions scheduled sometimes many more years before have finally reached to the end, while new perspectives are opened or are being conceived at different stages of projects development.

Our teams assessed the quality and results of each of our projects towards developing and proposing innovative solutions as responses to challenges of fighting against illegal natural resources exploitation, namely in forest and mining sector.

Generally, FODER conducts a permanent thinking towards continuously increase impacts of its actions and get adapted to the trend of community needs, public administrations and private sectors that we work with.

In the Congo Basin Sub-Region, we committed ourselves to share our experience and our management quality and monitoring approach of internal, contextual and strategical risks. At request of organization carrying out the same activities in Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo, FODER supported initiatives of implementing Quality Management systems; not only to guarantee the quality and usefulness of the information generated, but also to sustainably ensure credibility, effectiveness and efficiency of independent monitoring of natural



Rodrigue NGONZO

resources management.

to improve our effectiveness and better meet expectations of our stakeholders, we rely on the support of administrative authorities involved in natural resources management, judiciary authorities, community leaders, mayors that we strengthen our collaboration frameworks with.

Our aim is not only to diversify and increase the size of our interventions on ground, but to reinforce our means of impacts assessment during the year 2020 to better contribute to ambitious sustainable development goals, this for a better world.

We express our deep gratitude to our partners and allies, our sponsors and fund donors, as well as institutional and community collaborators, whose continuous support and commitment allowed us to be different and offer new ways of management and approaches.

It is through you and once more confidence granted to us that Développement Rural maintained a vanguard position in natural resources management. I am sincerely grateful to the personnel members, volunteers and members of boards of directors for their permanent commitment. .

Best Reading
Rodrigue NGONZO,
Chairman of the
Board of Directors

WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR (YEAR IN REVIEW)

Justin KAMGA ◀

The year 2019 for FODER, was a period of revival and continuation of activities in the mining, forestry, land and environment sectors. Faithful to its mission, these actions have been carried out with a great deal of professionalism and commitment of staff members. From Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM) activities with the SNOIE approach, to impact communication actions, through advocacy activities at national and international levels, research-action, support and coaching, capacity building of actors or stakeholders, FODER has set in motion the engine of change in the field of Governance of the natural resources sector (Mining and Forestry). These include impacts resulting from actions: improved transparency and strengthened law enforcement, better consideration of the rights of communities living near natural resources through the retrocession of land to agro-industries and compensation by mining companies for the destruction of customary spaces and farmlands for gold mining, as well as the inclusion of communities in the distribution of revenue from logging, including communal forests which has been improved. In addition, our actions have led administrations in charge of natural resources to be more accountable on



the basis of the information made available to them. We also noticed the increase in dissuasive actions of central and local administrations which have most of the time led to the seizure of thousands of m3 of different species of timber illegally exploited and to the improvement of State revenue through transactions and public auctions.

FODER's involvement in defending the rights of communities has enabled them to gain confidence and boost their capacity to carry out actions at the local level to defend their rights and participate in the protection of forest resources.

In 2019, FODER's experience was promoted and valorised outside Cameroon, in the Congo Basin countries and those of West Africa. This extension enabled the reinforcement of the skills of civil society actors and governments in terms of forest control and independent observation, as well as the implementation of an Independent Forest Monitoring system based on the quality management system.

We remain convinced that through these actions, FODER has taken a step further towards the creation of an enabling framework for sustainable development.



FORETS ET DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL

Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) is an international non-profit ecological association established in Cameroon, under Declaration No. 76/J10/BAPP of 2 December 2002. The objectives of the association are to:

1. Contribute to the protection of the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources,
2. Combat all forms of marginalisation and discrimination on the management of natural resources,
3. Contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the population,
4. Contribute to the improvement of policies and laws related to our areas of intervention, build the capacities of the association and those of partner organisations,
5. Develop partnerships and mobilise funds for the achievement of its mission.

The head office of FODER is in Yaounde, Cameroon. The association has a regional branch in the town of Bertoua in the East region of Cameroon, this branch covers the Adamawa and North Regions and deals with the mining and biodiversity conservation sectors.

VISION

We strive for a more just society, without marginalisation or discrimination, putting its natural resources at the service of sustainable development.

MISSION

Our mission is to create an enabling environment for sustainable development through actions aimed at ensuring justice and equity, rights and democracy, the transparent, participatory and sustainable management of natural resources, the preservation of biological diversity and the improvement of the quality of life, and the environment.

OUR ACTIONS

Our actions generally concern governance and sustainable management of natural resources, the rights of local and indigenous communities, biodiversity and climate. In cooperation with other national and international organisations and public institutions, we develop and implement projects that meet the current and future needs and challenges of sustainable development. Our actions are based on a participatory approach that ensures both the involvement of stakeholders in the management of the project cycle (from design to evaluation) and the implementation of sustainable processes that guarantee positive impacts on society.

OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE

We operate in various sectors, including:

- *forestry and wildlife ;*
- *environment and climate;*
- *mines and energy;*
- *agriculture and land issues*

Our actions in these sectors fall under the following three priorities:

1. Governance of natural resources;
2. Biodiversity and environment;
3. Rural entrepreneurship.

OUR POLICIES

WHAT WE OFFER

FODER cooperates and collaborates with any local, national or international, public or private organisation or institution pursuing similar and/or related objectives. Since 2002, we have been offering our services in the fields of project design, management follow-up and evaluation, interim management, carrying out studies and internal audits, strategic and operational planning, communication of influence, organisation of workshops and seminars, support for the implementation of quality management systems and capacity building for independent observation, communication, recruitment and management of personnel, financial and accounting management, community management of natural resources etc.).

Over time, we have set up a system to monitor our development in relation to the evolution of the local, national and international context in order to anticipate future needs and changes. With a view to clearly assert its values and fully assume its responsibility, FODER has made public its policies on gender, integrity and anti-corruption in its management, respect for the environment in the implementation of its activities, protection of vulnerable persons and groups, and health and safety.

A NETWORK ORGANISATION

Since its establishment, our organisation has been networking with other organisations and institutions and works in partnership and/or collaboration with several international, national and local organisations and institutions.

WOMEN AND MEN OF FODER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of FODER defines the main orientations of the association. It defines the action plans, the budget and the annual accounts of the association. It is composed of the founding members and members elected by the General Assembly for a renewable three-year term, to which are added persons appointed or invited by the Board of Directors. The Board meets at least once (1) every year.

As of 31 December 2019, the Board of Directors had twelve (12) members (that is, 6 women and 6 men) with strong associative commitment and skills useful to the association.

Composition of the Board of Directors as of 31 December 2019 :

Chairperson: Rodrigue **NGONZO**, (Forester, Founder)

Vice Chairperson: Sébastien **TCHEBAYOU**, (Forest Manager, Founder)

Secretary General: Edith **ABILOGO**, Communicator

Audit Commissioners: Armelle **MANKO** (management and quality of audits) and Pamela **MEPOUY** (Accounting audit)

Monitoring and Evaluation Commissioners: Jean Sylvestre **NYECK** (Forestry entrepreneur),

Other Members

Prof **KEKEUNOU** Sévior (Biologist, Founder)

DONFACK Jean (Forester, Founder)

EPAM Jules, (Priest and expert in ethical issues)

COORDINATION

The coordination is the executive and day-to-day management body of the association. It is placed under the responsibility of a Coordinator.

The Co-ordinator is recruited or appointed by the Board of Directors for a period defined in the act of recruitment or appointment.

The purpose of coordination is to implement

the general objectives of the association, to plan, organise and administer its daily operations according to the guidelines defined by the General Assembly, the procedures adopted and the directives defined by the Board of Directors.

Since December 2018, the Coordination of FODER is ensured by Mr Justin **KAMGA**, forest Manager.

STAFF

FODER is committed to respecting the environmental, social and labour standards that we promote, and to putting first our values into practice in our own work environment.

As of 31 December 2019, FODER has 25 direct employees, including 9 women and 16 men, 17 at the headquarters in Yaoundé and 7 in

Bertoua. 24 of the employees are under local contracts regularly registered with the social welfare authorities and benefiting from a complementary health and accident insurance policy and one (1) was under a contract of international volunteer worker and his term of office expired at the end of 2019.

QUALITY OF LIFE

The active participation and development of our staff is an integral part of our success. We recognize the importance of providing our employees with opportunities for training, development and learning, both personally and professionally, to enable them to commit themselves to work more effectively and professionally in achieving our mission. We aspire to develop a learning culture within our organisation to enable knowledge sharing and collective development. Staff learning and development is promoted throughout the organisation. In 2019, FODER staff received training and capacity building on a variety of topics including financial management and sustainability, gender mainstreaming, development and design of project proposals for funding.

DIVERSITY

Our policies and practices are designed to attract and select rigorously a wide variety of staff with diverse skills and abilities to meet our needs. FODER is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion because we believe that these core values drive our mission and enable us to boost creativity and innovation. In our

gender policy, managers and staff are reminded of their duties regarding equality and diversity during the recruitment process and throughout the employment relationship.

We believe that employing local staff is more beneficial to the communities we work with while giving us a better understanding of environment and local needs.. This strategy also allows us to transfer skills at the local level while contributing to the direct improvement of the living conditions of some households in the localities where we work.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety is one of our organisation's top responsibilities and priorities. We acknowledge that the staff of a development organisation can perform very demanding work in complex and dangerous situations. Our occupational health and safety policy is designed to ensure that the risks inherent in our activities are properly managed. We strive to ensure that all staff, including trainees and volunteers, are always provided with a healthy and safe working environment, equipment and systems, as well as the resources, information, instruction, skills, training and necessary supervision.



KEY FIGURES



18 denunciation reports on cases of illegal logging produced through the Normalised system of civil society independent forest monitoring. Reports published on the Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM) coordination website (www.oiecameroun.org) and the summaries of these reports shared via mailing lists. .

231 alerts on suspected illegal logging transmitted by participating communities through the ForestLink¹ system . They triggered 5 SNOIE verification missions and 6 forest law enforcement missions..

¹Système de suivi en temps réel permettant aux communautés (Observateurs et Leaders Communautaires, Comités Paysans Forêts (CPF) formés), quel que soit l'endroit où elles se trouvent dans le monde, d'enregistrer et de transmettre des informations géo référencées sur les activités présumées illégales menées dans les forêts. C'est une source d'information pour le SNOIE.



35

Communities of the East, Centre, South and Littoral regions are involved in real-time community monitoring of forest resources management.

77

Members of the participating communities trained in the collection and transmission of alerts through the Collector application of the Forest-link system. 63 people, about 27% of whom are women, used the system to report suspected illegal forest activities

1 473 054

*Visitors of the FODER website
(www.forest4dev.org)*

HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY 2019

Start of the replication process of SNOIE in the Republic of Congo by FODER within the framework of the project “Strengthening independent forest monitoring by supporting the implementation of quality management systems in the Congo Basin: Support for the development and implementation of SNOIE – Congo”.



FÉVRIER 2019

Establishment of a physical and numerical Documentary Reference Centre (DRC) on natural resources governance. The centre is opened to all, especially students and researchers. A “library” tab has been created on the FODER website to facilitate access to documents on natural resources available at the DRC.

MARCH 2019

30 Magistrats dont 67% d’hommes et 33% de femmes en service dans 15 Tribunaux d’instance des Régions du Centre, du Littoral, de l’Est et du Sud sont sensibilisés sur leur rôle dans l’application des lois forestières et l’impact du renforcement de leur implication dans suivi de l’application de la loi dans le secteur.

MAY 2019

- Monitoring Audit and Maintenance of the ISO 9001:2015 Certificate of the normalised system of civil society independent forest monitoring after the first surveillance audit of this system, which proved to be satisfactory.
- Capacity of 75 people including 34.7% women and 65.3% men from 27 CSOs strengthened for the elaboration and design of project proposals for funding, gender mainstreaming in the development project cycle, and personal and organisational effectiveness.
- Initiation of the implementation process for the development of the QMS-IFM in DRC within the framework of the “Strengthening Independent Forest Monitoring by Supporting the Implementation of a Quality Management System in the Congo Basin: Support for the Development and Implementation of a QMS-IFM”.
- Submission of a memo to the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MIN-MIDT) presenting the state of play, recommendations and possible solutions to improve the governance of artisanal and semi-mechanized mining in Cameroon (24 May 2019). Download

the memo: French version: <https://forest4dev.org/download/1696/> ; English version: <https://forest4dev.org/download/2550/>)

- Official launch of the Mines-Environment-Health and Society Project (ProMESS), Phase II (May 28, 2019). The project aims to contribute to the improvement of mining governance in Cameroon through participatory monitoring of mining activities and the promotion of transparency in the extractive sector.

JULY 2019

FODER FODER elected to lead the Regional Committee of Members for Central and West Africa (CREMACO) at the end of the General Assembly of IUCN members in Central and West Africa. One of FODER's challenges is to boost the network and facilitate Africa's preparation and influential participation in the World Conservation Congress to be held in Marseille in 2020 .

SEPTEMBER 2019

Organisation of a mission of monitoring-evaluation of FODER's activities by the sectoral administrations with which we interact in the implementation of our actions in the forestry, mining, environment, land and rural entrepreneurship sectors. The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), and the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MIN-MIDT) were able to evaluate FODER's activities and their impact on the governance of natural resources, the promotion of rural entrepreneurship, and the protection of biodiversity and the environment. The recommendations made at the end of this mission will enable FODER to improve its interventions. This activity was part of FODER's accountability mechanism to the beneficiaries of its interventions as well as the quality management in which the organisation is engaged. The recommendations made at the end of this mission will allow FODER to improve its interventions.



OCTOBER 2019

- Participation of FODER in the Climate Chance 2019 Summit from 16 to 18 October in Accra, Ghana. More than 1000 actors in the fight against climate change from Africa and Europe informed about the experience of integrating forest and climate governance in academic training institutions. FODER is also a member of the Coalition on the Circular Economy, where it contributed to the development of the coalition's roadmap for the coming months.



- Official launch of the “Project for Independent Monitoring of Timber Supply Chains and Amplification of Information from Independent Forest Monitoring (Relai-OI Project)”. The overall objective of the project is to develop and implement a methodology for independent monitoring of timber supply chains and to strengthen the follow-up of IFM recommendations at the national level through the involvement of EU Timber Regulation Stakeholders (EU-TBR) and CITES Management Bodies (CITES-MBs).

3-4 DECEMBER 2019

Participation de FODER au 21st EU-NGO HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM. Notre expérience du système participatif certifié de suivi indépendant de la gestion des ressources naturelles déployé au Cameroun et dans le bassin du Congo, partagé aux participants.



OUR ACTIONS

Three areas of intervention are at the heart of the mission of the association Forêts et Développement Rural. The five (5) projects implemented during the past fiscal year, were developed around 3 main axes namely governance of natural resources, biodiversity and environment, rural entrepreneurship. These axes ensure coherence between our intentions (vision and mission), our competences and our interventions. Transversal to the projects carried out as well as to the territories of interventions, the thematic axes reflect FODER's willingness to respond to the complex issues of good governance of natural resources and the promotion of entrepreneurship. In 2019, the five (05) projects implemented by FODER, with various funding sources, are oriented in the forest, environment and mining sectors. Thus, four (4) projects carried out actions oriented in the forest sector. These projects include the Citizens' Voices for Change: Congo Basin Forest Monitoring (CV4C), Integrating Real-time Community Monitoring for Livelihoods and Forests in Central and West Africa (CV4C) projects. (RTM2), **«Project for Independent Monitoring of Timber Supply Chains and Amplification of Information from Independent Forest Monitoring»** (Relai-OI), **«Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme»** (Bamboo Project), and a project whose actions were oriented towards the mining and environment sector, namely the Mine-Environment-Health and Society Project (ProMESS). All of these projects have transversally covered aspects related to the environment sector and take into account gender and inclusion issues.

A. GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

With a view to contributing to good governance of natural resources in Cameroon, FODER has in 2019 oriented its actions on the basis of five (5) types of interventions: training or capacity building of actors or stakeholders, support and coaching, research to better define and adapt our approaches and make reliable data available to stakeholders, advocacy and lobbying to influence decision-making processes related to the governance of natural resources at national and international levels and independent monitoring (IFM) to strengthen law enforcement and contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources..

I - CAPACITY BUILDING

A- CAPACITY BUILDING OF STAKEHOLDERS

240 240 people, that is, 110 women and 130 men, benefited from the training organized by FODER. These trainings were aimed at national and international levels for partner civil society organisations (CSOs), leaders and community observers involved in the implementation of projects intervening in external independent monitoring, bamboo and rattan craftsmen, forest peasant committees, and administrative staff in charge of forest, mining resource management as well as those in charge of justice. Trainings were organized in the framework of the projects *“Integrating real-time community monitoring to sustain livelihoods and forests in Central and West Africa”* (RTM2), *“Mines Health and Environment Project”* (ProMESS) phase 2, *“Citizens’ Voice for Change”* (CV4C) and *“Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers*

Livelihood Development Programme” (Bamboo Project).

trainings provided aimed, among other things, to provide theoretical and practical knowledge to the target groups of our actions, with a view to contributing, among other things, to their organisational development, to improve their skills on new techniques and practices, in particular in terms of project set-up, bamboo-rotting, techniques for the rehabilitation of mining sites and the responsible use of mercury, investigation of fraud and corruption in the mining sector, community advocacy, use of new technologies for denunciations of cases of illegal forest exploitation (application Collectaur 2.0 of the ForestLink system), the development of an internal communication plan ...

The pedagogical method of the training courses given over the past year was centred on theoretical presentations, group work, case studies and field situations. Experiences from foreign

countries such as Ghana (training on mine site rehabilitation and responsible use of mercury in artisanal and semi-mechanized mining, etc.) were used as a basis for the training.

Table 1: Trainings organised in 2019 for stakeholders

Trainings organised	Intermediate results of these training activities
CV4C Project	
<i>Training on gender mainstreaming in the forest governance project cycle</i>	A total of thirty two (32) people including 11 women and 21 men members of CSO members of the Platform for Forests and Communities (PFC), of the Coordination of External Independent Monitoring (IFM) and of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations (IPs) capable of mainstreaming gender in the different stages of the project cycle and of monitoring the impacts of mainstreaming.
<i>Personal Effectiveness, Performance Management and Leadership Training</i>	18 FODER staff including 13 men and 5 women capable of handling with greater confidence all factors that may positively or negatively affect their effectiveness.
<i>Training in project design and proposal writing for improved forest governance.</i>	25 people including 10 women and 15 men representing 15 member organisations of the IFM coordination including FODER and 4 partner organisations of FODER with greater capacity to design projects and write project proposals, using a variety of tools, including the logical framework.
<i>Training of staff of CSO members of the IFM coordination on communication and visibility</i>	<p>14 Staff members of the IFM coordination including 5 men and 9 women have communication prerequisites.</p> <p>Three organisations have been able to create their account on social media (PAPEL, OFERA, SUHE) and have started to put into practice the knowledge acquired during the training course.</p> <p>A communication plan for the RC-OIE available;</p>

<i>Training on the methodology for assessing transparency in the forest and environment sector</i>	10 staff (including 6 men and 4 women) from 6 civil society organisations from Gabon, CAR, DRC, Cameroon and Republic of Congo as well as staff from a public institution have the tools and skills to assess one or more dimensions of transparency in the forest and/or environment sector. They understand and are able to plan the steps of a transparency assessment in the forest and environment sector.
<i>Training of the CPFs of the Akom 2 subdivision</i>	40 people including 12 women and 28 men from 14 CPFs representing 22 villages in Akom 2 subdivision able to effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities in the monitoring of forest management and the defence of their rights and interests.
ProMESS 2	
<i>Training of trainers on mine site rehabilitation and responsible use of mercury in artisanal and semi-mechanized mining</i>	32 persons (including 06 women and 26 men) made up of personnel from the administrations involved in the management of the mines and FODER staff are able to develop mine site rehabilitation plans and are aware of the techniques developed by Ghana to reduce the effects of mercury on the environment and the health of artisanal miners
<i>Training of journalists on legality, fraud and corruption in the mining sector in Cameroon</i>	12 people including 08 men and 04 women from the media were trained on mining legislation and the tools and methods for fighting fraud and corruption in the mining sector in Cameroon
RTM2 Project	
<i>Training of community leaders, traditional chiefs, CPF members in community advocacy</i>	112 members of communities including 54 women have community advocacy skills, and their communities each have an advocacy plan developed to take into account their rights and seek solutions to the problems they face in relation to logging.
<i>Training of community leaders, traditional chiefs, CPF members in external independent monitoring (IFM) and the use of ForestLink</i>	128 members of communities including 56 women have expertise in community-based forest monitoring techniques, monitoring of forestry activities

Bamboo Project	
<i>Training Workshop at Akom 2 in the South region of Cameroon on participatory management of bamboo by communities, networking and development of bamboo enterprises and bamboo agroforestry in Cameroon</i>	<p>86 persons including 44 men and 42 women were trained on participatory community management of bamboo, networking and bamboo enterprise development, and bamboo agroforestry in Cameroon.</p> <p>160 women sensitised following training by OFERA and informed on the potentialities of bamboo.</p> <p>Creation of a section OFERA Bamboo for the elaboration of mini-projects for the valorisation of bamboo in the South region of Cameroon (Minutes of the constitutive general assembly of OFERA for the production, transformation and commercialisation of Indian bamboo in Cameroon (OFERA-bamboo).</p> <p>Participation in the fair of small and medium sized enterprises organised in the Dja and Lobo Division to present bamboo products or a bamboo cottage and prize awards.</p>
<i>Training Workshop in Dschang in the West Region of Cameroon on Participatory Management of Bamboo by Communities, Networking and Development of Bamboo Enterprises and Bamboo Agroforestry in Cameroon</i>	<p>59 persons including 43 men and 16 women were trained on participatory community management of bamboo, networking and bamboo enterprise development, and bamboo agroforestry in Cameroon.</p>
<i>Training Workshop in Makak in the Centre region of Cameroon on participatory management of bamboo by communities, networking and development of bamboo enterprises and bamboo agroforestry in Cameroon</i>	<p>62 persons including 45 men and 17 women were trained on participatory community management of bamboo, networking and bamboo enterprise development, and bamboo agroforestry in Cameroon.</p>
<i>Training Workshop in Yaoundé in the Centre Region of Cameroon on the first transformation, processing and different components of Indian bamboo in Cameroon</i>	<p>73 persons including 47 men and 26 women were trained on the first transformation, processing and different components of Indian bamboo in Cameroon.</p>

B - CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE PERSONNEL OF FODER

In order to make human resources more efficient and its skills more optimized, in 2019 FODER allowed its team members to follow training courses organised by other partner organisations. Thus, FODER staff took part in a total of ten (10) trainings. The different trainings were the following:

- Training in the creation and management of databases organised by the FLAG and EIA organisations;
- Financial and Illicit Flows in Africa (Training organised by the Network for Fiscal Justice Africa (RJFA)/International Academy for Fiscal Justice (24 to 28 2019 June in Senegal);
- Selection of Audit topics in the Mining sector (organised by Cowater Sogema International/ Conseil Régional de Formation des Institutions Supérieures de Contrôle des Finances Publiques d'Afrique Francophone Subsaharienne (CRE-FIAF), Projet d'Amélioration de la Surveillance des Industries Extractives en Afrique Francophone (14-25 January 2019 in Cameroon) ;
- Local Economy and Social Development in the Extractive Industries (Artisanal Mining and Semi-mechanised Crafts), (organised by the University of Queensland-Australia (11 February-12 April 2019 in Australia and Ghana);
- Physical monitoring of exploration activities and mining production operations, (Training

organised by Cowater Sogema International/ Conseil Régional de Formation des Institutions Supérieures de Contrôle des Finances Publiques d'Afrique Francophone Sub-Saharienne (CRE-FIAF), Projet d'Amélioration de la Surveillance des Industries Extractives en Afrique Francophone (25-27 November 2019 in Cameroon);

- Training of coaches of the Observatory of Protected Areas and Biodiversity in West and Central Africa held from 20 to 31 May 2019 at the ERAIFT of the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The training focused on the Evaluation of Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas using the IMET (Integrated Management Effectiveness Tools).

Training on research and investigation, organised by Greenpeace from 12 to 15 July 2019, in Ebolowa.

Training in remote piloting of drones and photogrammetric processing from 7 to 10 November 2019 in Yaounde organised by the consortium GTE, Ingeo Projects, Smeg Consulting, GML, ABZ Monde Cartographie and NGomez Engineering (GISGAN)

Training on financial management of EU grants facilitated by AXIOM and organised by CIDT and FLAG for the benefit of CV4C project partners from 24 to 28 June 2019 in Douala.

The quality introduced in FODER's document and material management

Within the framework of quality management in which the association has been engaged since 2015, in 2019 we experimented the 5S method in the management of documentary and material control within FODER. The staff trained in 5S approach, were able to implement the standard requirements in their different places of work. This method has allowed the staff to improve their performance by reducing the time spent searching for documents or material. Over the past year, this approach has enabled us to achieve an improvement of nearly 50% in the control of document and material management within the organisation during the past year. The staff expressed satisfaction with the improvement of the work environment through the 5S quality tool³.

³ The 5S Approach: Seiri=Sort, Seiton=Arrange, Seiso=Clean, Shitsuke=Conserve, Seiketsu=Standardize and Involve



SUPPORT AND COACHING

In order to contribute to the harmonization of approaches and to guarantee the quality of Independent Monitoring (IFM) in Cameroon and in the Congo Basin countries, FODER has been conducting since 2019 a vast programme to support and strengthen Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on quality management. In Cameroon, three (3) local CSOs (CaBuRo⁴, CADDE⁵ and SUHE⁶) were coached in 2019 to carry out IFM missions in compliance with quality requirements and procedures of the normalised system of civil society independent forest monitoring (SNOIE). The coaching of these organisations has increased the number of CSOs capable of carrying out IFM missions following the approach and quality requirements set up by the SNOIE autonomously from 4 to 5, while two CSOs are demonstrating progress in planning, conducting and reporting high quality IFM activities.

⁴Capacity Building and Human Right Organisation

⁵ Centre Africain pour le Développement Durable et l'environnement

⁶ Association terre et ressource pour le développement durable

At the national level, the coaching approach has also consisted in making partner CSOs responsible for conducting internal audits within the framework of SNOIE and coaching other local CSOs. At the end of this accountability process, one (1) head of a CSO member of the SNOIE (Henri MEVAH, Coordinator of PAPEL) is now in a position to carry out internal audits of the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

At the international level, two (2) organisations have benefited from our support and coaching. They are the organisations Observatoire de la gouvernance forestière (OGF) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Comptoir Juridique Junior (CJJ) in the Republic of Congo. OGF has been accompanied in the implementation of a Quality Management System for Independent Mandated Monitoring (QMS-IFM). At the end of 2019, the System was at the halfway point of its development with 02 missions already carried out focusing on activities such as: i) the diagnosis of the partner CSO according to the requirements of the ISO 9001 standard; ii) the consultation of the Stakeholders and the elaboration of the drafts of the QMS-IFM documents. This OGF coaching has aroused the interest of other stakeholders involved in the management of natural resources in DRC to see this developing system extended to other sectors such as mining.

As for the organisation Comptoir Juridique Junior (CJJ), the support aimed at replicating and setting up SNOIE-Congo in the Republic of Congo. SNOIE-Congo has been developed and entered its test phase in December 2019. Eight (08) CSOs are involved in it.



Furthermore, in the context of facilitating the right of access to justice for local and indigenous communities, we have also provided legal and judicial assistance to victims of various human rights abuses and violations. In this respect, two cases are pending before the competent courts in Lom and Djerem, Kadéï and Upper-Nyong for violations of civil, economic and social rights in the mining and forestry sectors. Two cases are also in the conciliation phase through the referral of cases to the competent institutions and authorities at local and national level. In addition, victims of destruction of property (livestock, crops, etc.) have been accompanied in various non-judicial proceedings to obtain compensation for the damage suffered.

2

RESEARCH

To better define our intervention approaches but also to better inform and influence stakeholders in natural resource governance processes at the national and international levels data and critical analyses are important assets. This consideration being acquired, FODER has in the past year carried out several research works. These have led to the development of methodologies for the evaluation of governance indicators, the elaboration and publication of civil society position papers and the production of policy briefs. Thus, , three (3) evaluation methodologies were developed, one of which is related to the evaluation of transparency in the forest sector, the other to the evaluation of transparency in the environment sector and the other to the evaluation of financial losses caused by corruption in the forest sector. Each of the first two methodologies specifies the dimensions of transparency as well as specific criteria of assessment. All these assessment methodologies were developed in a participatory approach with representatives of concerned stakeholders. National and international CSO partners were subsequently trained in the use of these methodologies. At the end of the training, seven (07) organisations of the Congo Basin (CED, FODER, FLAG, CIEDD, CAGDF, OGF and Brainforest) and public institution (ONACC) are now able to conduct assessments on one or several dimensions of forest and environmental transparency.

The methodology for assessing the financial losses caused by corruption in the forest sector was also developed in a participatory approach with different stakeholders in the forest sector, namely the forest administration (2 persons), tax administration (1 person), research (2 persons) and the private sector (1 person).




3

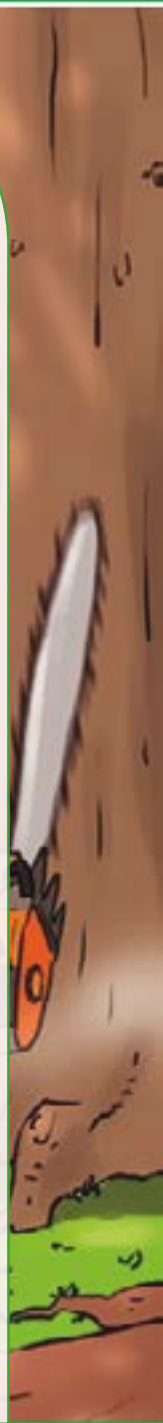
Avant qu'il ne soit trop tard et pour que les générations futures puissent aussi bénéficier des bienfaits de la forêt, Dénonçons l'exploitation forestière qui ne respecte pas les lois. Oui à la Légimité, Oui à la Vie!

ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

Respect of external social obligations of forest companies



Our advocacy and lobbying works have been carried out both nationally and internationally. At the national level, our approach has been directed towards supporting and building the capacity of communities for community advocacy. The support of the Forêts et Développement Rural Association (FODER) consisted in training communities in advocacy, including the steps of the process; from the identification of the problem to be addressed to the development of a community advocacy plan. At the end of the capacity building sessions, an advocacy plan was developed for each participating community, summarising the actions to be carried out, targets, leaders, and indicators of achievement. thus, through the project "Integrating real-time community monitoring to support community livelihoods and forests in Central and West Africa" (RTM2 Project), FODER accompanied beneficiary communities through their Community Leaders in monitoring the implementation of actions planned in advocacy plans developed by these communities. About 20 community advocacy plans have been developed after the practical training session. The 35 participating communities monitor the implementation of the actions provided for in their respective plans through monitoring committees for these community advocacy plans.



Our support in 2019 to communities in the community advocacy process enabled, among others, seven (07) communities in the East region to take possession of about FCFA 8.5 million of contributions for the fulfilment of social obligations by forestry companies. These contributions were paid back to the communities for the purchase of medicines, the implementation of about 12 community micro-projects and the construction of sheds. The communities supported in this process are those of the villages of Dioula, Koul, Tonkla, Ampel, Medjoh, Djaposten (Dja subdivision), Baréko (Messok subdivision) located in the East region of Cameroon.

Thus, for the first three villages (Dioula, Koul, Tonkla), the main problem to be addressed was that the logging company that was allocated FMU 10068 had little success in fulfilling its social obligations. The latter, following community actions⁷ paid back to the populations a sum of FCFA 5 million at a meeting chaired by the Divisional Officer of Dja subdivision. At the meeting for the allocation of this sum, the needs of the communities and the related micro-projects were identified by the populations and recorded in the minutes. The funds intended for the implementation of the said projects are at the disposal of the Divisional Officer of Dja who

is waiting for the appropriate time for their implementation.

At the level of the peasant-Forests Committees (CPF) of Dja North, made up of the Ampel, Medjoh and Djaposten communities, community advocacy activities have enabled population to obtain medicines worth CFAF 1.5 million from the beneficiary of FMU 10040 as social achievements. The medicines were received by the Divisional Officer of the Dja subdivision on 17 July 2019. In Baréko (Messok subdivision), the company subcontracting the CADIBA Community Forest (CF), paid the concerned community the sum of CFAF 1 million for the development of a drinking water point. Indeed, during a palaver meeting held with the community of Baréko, the Bois Nation Company had promised the construction of eight (08) sheds for the improvement of the habitat. Six (06) out of the eight (08) promised have actually been built. The advocacy actions carried out by the community with the company enabled them to obtain CFAF 1 million for the construction of the two remaining sheds. As the priority needs of the communities have evolved, they would like this money to be used for the improvement of a water point in the village.

Strengthening the enforcement of sanctions in the forestry sector

FODER, as head of the IFM Coordination Secretariat, facilitated during the past year the publication of a position paper by the IFM Coordination. This note is on strengthening forest law enforcement through the effective application of sanctions it was transmitted to the competent authorities of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife as well as to other national and international stakeholders in the forest sector. After the publication of this position paper, sanctions were applied,

including the suspension of titles by MINFOP against those responsible for illegal forest activities; that is, approximately 2 years after the last suspensions were made public at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017 as well as suspension of some logging titles. We hope that this deterrent dynamic of the forest administration will be systematised and extended to other sectoral administrations with prerogatives in terms of control and law enforcement in natural resources management.

⁷These actions consisted in sensitizing communities in the villages of Nkoul, Tonkla, Dioula on their role and responsibility in forest management by the members of the advocacy committee set up; the development of a community advocacy plan, the holding of a meeting between the community of Djaposten and the COFA company, chaired by the Dja Divisional Officer

Land rights and community livelihoods

Among the needs identified by the communities and included in the advocacy plans, is the expansion of agroforestry areas near the allocated areas for logging. In the Dja subdivision (Mindourou), the advocacy initiated by the local communities of Ampel and Djaposten since 2017 for the extension of the boundaries of FMUs 10044 and 10047B (resulted in 2019 in a raid by a team from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) in order to consult the local people of Ampel on the need to extend the boundaries of these FMUs. This forest administration mission was also an opportunity to monitor the implementation of the management plans (MPs) of these FMUs. The implementation of these plans is also the subject of advocacy for the extension of the boundaries of FMUs 10037, 10036 and 10041 in Eschiambor (Lomié) village.

Among the community advocacy actions carried out to solve the problem of narrowness of agroforestry areas, two multi-stakeholder meetings held in Mindourou (July 2017) and Abong Mbang (July 2019). At the end of the second multi-stakeholder meeting, the company awarded FMU 10037 started implementing the recommendations. This company itself organised a meeting in Zoulabot 2 on 12 August 2019 for the retreat of the boundaries of their FMU at the level of Massen and Zoulabot villages. The company also made it possible, following dis-



cussions that could be described as peaceful, for the community of Eschiambor to mark the tracks created for exploitation in order to access and evacuate the timber from the annual plot of the ZIENGUA MILEME Community Forest located near the FMU. It also undertook the rectification of the disposal layon separating FMU 10037 from this ZIENGUA MILEME's CF.

Forests Profit sharing

In Eboumetoum (Messamena subdivision) located in the East region, the advocacy work is aimed at getting the administrative authorities to recognize the village's proximity to the Mindourou-Messamena Communal Forest (FCM2). The objective is to show the local authorities that Eboumetoum should benefit from the 30% from the exploitation of this Communal Forest. Indeed, for the 2018 annual allocation of this Communal Forest, Eboumetoum was not considered as a close-by village in the official

documents. However, the village is located at less than 10 km from the Communal Forest. In order to demonstrate their closeness, FODER supported communities in the production of a map showing the location of the community of Eboumetoum in relation to the Communal Forest. The community plans to attach this map to the request written for this purpose in order to complete the advocacy file to be transmitted to the Mayor of Messamena and the Senior Divisional Officer of the Upper-Nyong

Division. The advocacy committees of the other villages of Somalomo (Massea-Nkoulkoua) in the East and South (Engong village) regions are supported by FODER for the elaboration and monitoring of the implementation of micro-projects to benefit from the income generated by forest exploitation (in particular the annual forest royalty).

At the international level, our advocacy actions have been carried out through participation in strategy meetings at the national and international level. For example, a trip to advocate and influence European stakeholders on forest governance was organised. During this trip, more than twenty stakeholders from Europe and the Congo Basin were met,

including 2 Members of Parliament, 2 competent authorities, 10 civil society organisations, 5 technical and financial cooperation institutions from European countries and 3 European Commission officials. Discussions were held on the place of forests in the European Union's (EU) 2018-2022 action plan, the role of CSOs and the place of forest governance in the Congo Basin countries' National Defined Contributions (NDCs). Our participation in the Climate Chance 2019 Summit enabled our present and future FODER actions to be enriched by the experiences of West African countries in the fight against climate change.

Social Achievements and Compensation in Mining Communities

In the artisanal and small scale mining sector, the advocacy actions carried out by the members of the Citizen's Watch Committees (CVC) with State actors and private sector operators have promoted a better consideration of the rights and interests of the communities. These actions have led to, among others: the development of 01 football stadium and the construction of a primary school by a mining company in Ngoue (Ngoura); the compensation of a mining artisan (MOUSSA WAKASSO) to the sum of CFAF 200,000 by the company SOUTHLAND MINING in WAKASSO following the destruction of property and the use of the artisan's space; the care of an injured employee (amputee) abandoned by the employer. The advocacy actions carried out following the accident led to the employer taking care of the victim and the setting in motion of the modalities of compensation; the suspension by the Senior Divisional Officer of Boumba and Ngoko of an illegitimate committee for the management of revenues from logging in the villages (Ngoundi 1, Sambo Ngoundi 2 and Lambo) installed in Gari-Gombo.

At the international level, FODER has produced a policy note on the major challenges of the forest sector in Cameroon. The note was shared during the advocacy tour to European forest sector stakeholders organised by the CV4C project in September 2019. More than a hundred national and international forest sector stakeholders were informed about the major challenges of the forest sector in Came-



roon. They include civil society organisations, competent authorities of EU member countries in the framework of the European Union Timber Regulation (EU TBR), European Parliamentarians. The main challenges being: the downgrading of forests from the permanent forest estate (PFE) to agro-industry, the persistence of illegal logging, the revision of legality grids, the effectiveness of the joint action framework for a deforestation-free cocoa in Cameroon. At the end of the advocacy tour, Members of the European Parliament committed to use the information in the note to influence EU policies on deforestation.



5

Independent monitoring

With a view to continuing our contribution to law enforcement, in 2019 we stepped up our efforts to monitor the management of natural resources. This monitoring was carried out since 2015 via the procedures of the normalised system of civil society independent forest monitoring (SNOIE), certified ISO 9001:2015. Thus, thanks to the financial support of the CV4C, RTM2 and Relai OI projects, the system has been able to carry out 18 Independent External Monitoring missions. This brings the number of missions carried out within the framework of SNOIE since 2015 to 78 missions.

Denunciations of illegal logging via SNOIE in 2019 enabled the Government of Cameroon to recover an amount of FCFA 15,765,950 from the auction of seized timber and fines. This, through public auctions of seized timber of various species.

It should be noted that this contribution by SNOIE to forest revenues in 2019 makes it possible to increase the level of SNOIE's financial contribution to these revenues since 2016 to more than CFAF 72.5 million.



The VEPs and fines concerned were issued following forest law enforcement missions triggered by five (05) denunciation reports transmitted to MINFOF by SNOIE's Coordination. These are 2 reports transmitted in 2016, 1 in 2018 and 2 in 2019. The forest irregularities denounced were observed in the villages of Logbii (Ngwei subdivision, Sanaga Maritime Division, Littoral Region), Bandevouri (Lokoundjé subdivision, Ocean Division) and Bandevouri (Lokoundjé subdivision, Ocean Division, South Region), Ngoum, Ina, Manja, Wassaba, Wue and their environs (Ngambé Tikar and Yoko subdivisions, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region), BIFA'A and their environs (Niété Borough, Ocean Division, South Region). The State should thus be able to recover an amount of about CFAF 61 million for a volume of about 1,612.528 cubic metres of timber.

Public auctions of illegally logged timber include species such as: Padouk (Pterocarpus soyauxii); Tali (Erythroleum ivorense), Azobe (Lophira alata), Frake (Terminalia superba), Ilomba (Pycnanthus angolensis), Mahogany/Ngollon (Khaya ivorensis); Aiélé (Canarium schweinfurthii); Pachy (Afzelia pachyloba); Nkanang/Lotofa (Sterculia rhinopetala); Iroko (Milicia excelsa); Ayous (Triplochiton scleroxylon); Onzabili (Antrocaryon klaineum); Eyong (Eribroma oblongum)

In addition to the VEPs and monetary fines imposed on illegal loggers, the SNOIE reports triggered law enforcement missions by the different MINFOF Forest Law Enforcement Brigades. Thus, out of the 18 IFM reports submitted to the Ministry of Forestry and wildlife (MINFOF) in 2019, three (03) law enforcement missions were carried out and these led to the seizure of timber and equipment, the opening of legal proceedings against the offending companies and the suspension of permits. Thus, three (03) litigation cases were opened against the Société des Bois Africains du Cameroun (SBAC), the Société Africaine des Bois de l'Est (SABE) and the Société Forestière Bouraka (SFB).

These companies were found guilty by MINFOF of illegal logging in the national forest estate and in the titles allocated in four forest regions. In addition to these litigation cases, four (04) joint missions (CSO-SNOIE & MINFOF) were organised. These joint missions led directly to the seizure of timber by the heads of forest posts and hunting in the areas concerned by the mission, the drafting of seizure statements of offence and hearing statements, notification of seizure, and summons letters to the authors of the offences. These joint missions contributed to strengthening collaboration with MINFOF

in the framework of independent monitoring of forest activities.

Whistleblower reports also led to the suspension of two logging companies. Indeed, the logging companies Société Bois Africains du Cameroun (SBAC) and Société Forestière de Bouraka (SFB) have been suspended from all logging activities since 7 November 2019 by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). These two companies are respectively the assignees of FMU 10050 located around the villages of Massea, Nkoulkoua and Londjap, in the Somalomo subdivision, Upper-Nyong Division, East Region - Cameroon and of FMU 08006, located in Yoko, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region. According to Decision No. 1367/D/MINFOF/CAB 07 November 2019 suspending logging activities in a state-owned forest, SBAC was found guilty of logging beyond the limits of the forest concession and of failing to comply with technical logging standards. And, as for Decision No. 1289/D/MINFOF/CAB of 31 October 2019 suspending activities in a state-owned forest, SFB was found guilty of logging in a state-owned forest beyond the limits of the delineated cut-off base (AAC 3-2).

The IFM missions of SNOIE were carried out by FODER (6 missions) and its partner organisations using SNOIE to carry out their IFM activities. These include ECODEV (4 missions), CEDLA (3 missions), PAPEL (5 missions). The development and deployment of certified SNOIE in Cameroon and its extension in the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), were carried out within the framework of the implementation of projects which benefit from the financial support of the European Union (EU), FAO through its FAO EU FLEGT programme, the Department for International Development (DFID), Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK), the Centre for International Develop-



ment and Training (CIDT) and its partners.

As far as the mining sector is concerned, within the framework of the collaboration with the administration in charge of the management of mining resources, FODER has been associated with a control mission of the companies involved in small scale mining. The mission carried out in the Ngoura and Bétéra-oya subdivisions with the Lom and Djérem Divisional Delegation allowed a better collaboration between FODER and the mining administration in the tracking down of illegal operators in the exploitation sites. In this respect, 6 illegal companies operating in the field were sealed, which led them to approach the competent authorities with a view to their legalization.

Summary table of some reports of denunciations that led to the issuance of notices of public auction of seized timber and fines. (2016-2019)

Links to IFM reports that have contributed to financial penalties and forest revenues	Authors of the OI report	Year the report was written	Perpetrators	Amount to be collected by MINFOF (in FCFA) Auction sales ¹	
					Fines ¹
https://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/rapports/cedla_rapport%20oie%201%20bandevouri.pdf	CeDLA	2016	Société forestière Bois du Cameroun (BODUCAM)	5. 287. 613	
http://oiecameroun.org/images/rapports/Rapport_de_mission_de_verification_effectuee_dans_le_village_Logbii.pdf	FODER	2016	BIBEHE Martin	40 000 000	
https://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/rapports/Rapport_mission_OIE_Ngambe_Tikar_Yoko.pdf	FODER	2018	Etablissement Mgbatou Pierre and Scierie du Mbam et Kim	10 680 650	
https://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/012_RO-SNOIE_CeDLA_Bifaa_052019_VF.pdf	CeDLA	2019		4 280 225	
https://oiecameroun.org/images/rapports/Rapport_de_mission_d_observation_des_allegations_d_exploitation_forestieres_illegales_dans_les_villages_Ngwei1_Mapoubi_Logbi_Ebombe_Ikonde_Logbamal_et_Songmbock.pdf	FODER	2017	Eloungou Toua		1 000 000
https://oiecameroun.org/index.php/8-actualites/103-un-contentieux-ouvert-a-l-encontre-d-une-societe-forestiere-pour-exploitation-hors-des-limites	FODER	2018	Vera Forestière		3 000 000
https://oiecameroun.org/images/rapports/Rapport_de_mission_cas_presumes_d_activites_d_exploitation_et_de_gestion_forestiere_illegale_dans_le_village_Mboumo_et_ses_environs.pdf	PAPEL	2016	Oye et Compagnie		7 500 000
				Total auction sales and fines	CFAF 72,5 million

⁹https://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/VENTES_AUX_ENCHERES_PUBLIQUES_DE_BOIS_SAISIS_092019.pdf

¹⁰<https://oiecameroun.org/index.php/sommier-des-infractions>

The Standardized System of Independent External Observation retains its ISO 9001:2015 certificate

The ISO 9001:2015 certificate of the Standardised System of Independent External Observation (SNOIE) renewed. Indeed, the first surveillance audit of this system, carried out in May 2019, proved conclusive. This conclusive audit allows the Coordination of the SNOIE to keep its ISO 9001:2015 certificate obtained one year ago (April 2018). Opportunities for improvement of this IFM approach, whose development is based on the requirements of the ISO standard, were proposed at the end of the surveillance audit. This audit was carried out by Interface NRM Ltd¹¹, with the financial support of the project “Citizens’ Voices for Change: Forest Monitoring in the Congo Basin (CV4C Project)”.

This renewal of the SNOIE quality certificate was made possible thanks to the remarkable and professional intervention of all the partner organisations (which have adopted SNOIE as an approach for the deployment of their Independent External Monitoring (IFM) activity. These are organisations such as PAPEL (Programme d’Appui à l’Elevage et à la Préservation de la Biodiversité), CeDLA (Centre pour le Développement Local et Alternatif) which operate respectively in the East and in the Ocean, ECODEV (Ecosystèmes et Développement) intervening in the Mbam and Kim, Centre region. SUHE (Terre et vie pour le développement durable), a community-based organisation (CBO), based in the Sanaga Maritime, which contributes to the denunciations made available to MINFOF through the Real Time Community Forest Monitoring (STR). Transparency International-Cameroon (TI-C), SNOIE’s lobbyist organisation, which uses its influence to ensure that actions are taken by MINFOF following the denunciations transmitted.

Community Incentives

In order to increase community involvement in the fight against illegal logging (EFI), the Forêts et Développement Rural Association (FODER) has been initiating community incentives since 2018. In 2019, this approach was also at the heart of our interventions. For example, as part of the project “Integrating real-time community monitoring to support livelihoods and forests in Central and West Africa” (RTM 2), communities in the project’s intervention zones benefited from solar equipment. Thus, three (03) generators were handed over during the past year in the communities of Oboul1 (Abong-Mbang) and Eboumetoum (Messamena) in the East and one to OFERA which is a women’s organisation based in Akom2 in the South. Three (03) solar panels were given respectively to the Kong integrated health centre in the Centre Region, the Somalomo (Messamena) and Koungoulou (Lomié) communities in the East Region. Twenty-five (25) solar lamps were given to community observers and leaders in the target villages. This equipment thus contributed to improving access to electrical energy in rural areas, enabling them to better participate in forest monitoring as the equipment offered facilitated the charging of telephone batteries made available to them to enable them to make denunciations in real time via the Collecteur platform, monitor the implementation of community advocacy plan actions.

During the periods following the provision of lighting equipment, there was also an increase in the number of hospitalizations and a reduction in home health care in Kong village (Ngambé-Tikar subdivision). In addition, a greater involvement of communities in the fight against illegal logging through an increase in the number of alerts collected and transmitted on the ForestLink Cameroon platform was also noted. In 2019 we received 231 alerts.

¹¹National accreditation body based in the United Kingdom, responsible for determining, in the public interest, the technical competence and integrity of organisations such as those providing testing, calibration and certification services. <https://www.ukas.com/>

B. Biodiversity and environment



Our actions in 2019 have helped to influence community attitudes towards the environment and international discussions related to biodiversity conservation. Indeed, in the mining sector at the national level, awareness-raising actions directed at artisanal miners led to the closure of mining holes opened after exploitation. In Longa Mali, a village located in the East region, the Village Chief, influenced by our awareness-raising activities, instructed artisanal miners in his area of competence to close the holes. By the end of 2019, approximately 40 artisanal miners have embraced the idea of closing the holes and are working to gradually close them in an artisanal manner¹² after exploitation. These activities have contributed to the protection of the environment and have reinforced the right to a healthy environment of the communities bordering these mining sites. The training in mining site rehabilitation techniques provided in 2019 to the staff of the administrations in charge of mining resource management should enable ac-

tions to be taken in 2020 in relation to post-mining environmental protection.

At the international level, FODER through its participation in the Regional Conservation Forum in Central and West Africa held in Bissau and having as its theme: “Conserving nature for peace, security and sustainable economic development in Central and West Africa”, was able to influence discussions on solutions to better address the issues and challenges of biodiversity conservation and climate change. The solutions envisaged relate to policy change, the making of strong commitments by States to ensure that nature is a central issue in finding solutions to climate change at the 15th Conference of Parties (CoP 15) to the Convention on Biodiversity among others. In 2019, the Presidency of CREMACO was entrusted to FODER.

¹²The closing of the said holes does not comply with the relevant standards. However, the craftsmen fill the holes with earth from the old holes without being able to attest to the stability of the closed holes

C. Rural Entrepreneurship

Promoting and assisting local communities in our intervention zones in the development and implementation of income-generating activities (IGAs) was one of our major objectives in 2019. Thus, within the framework of the implementation of the RTM2 and ProMESS phase 2 projects, our assistance to the rural entrepreneurship of the communities was done through the granting of work materials or equipment and awareness raising actions. Thus, within the framework of the RTM 2 project, nine (09) doors were granted to five (5) communities in the East region and two rural women's associations in the Southern and Central regions. Thus, five (05) doors were all given to the communities of Ndem 2, Djira, Abanga (Batouri), Djouyaya (Mindourou/Dja) and Koungoulou (Lomié) in East Cameroon. The OFERA women's association (Akom 2 subdivision) in the South benefited from two (02) doors as well as the women's association of Kong village (Ngambé-Tikar subdivision) in the Centre. This allocation of nine (09) doors has facilitated the transportation of agricultural products of women who are usually responsible for supplying the family with water and firewood in rural areas. In order to improve the income of the Akom 2 Rural Women's Association (OFERA), the RTM 2 project facilitated the obtaining and making available to women, one thousand (1000) cassava cuttings selected from the Insti-



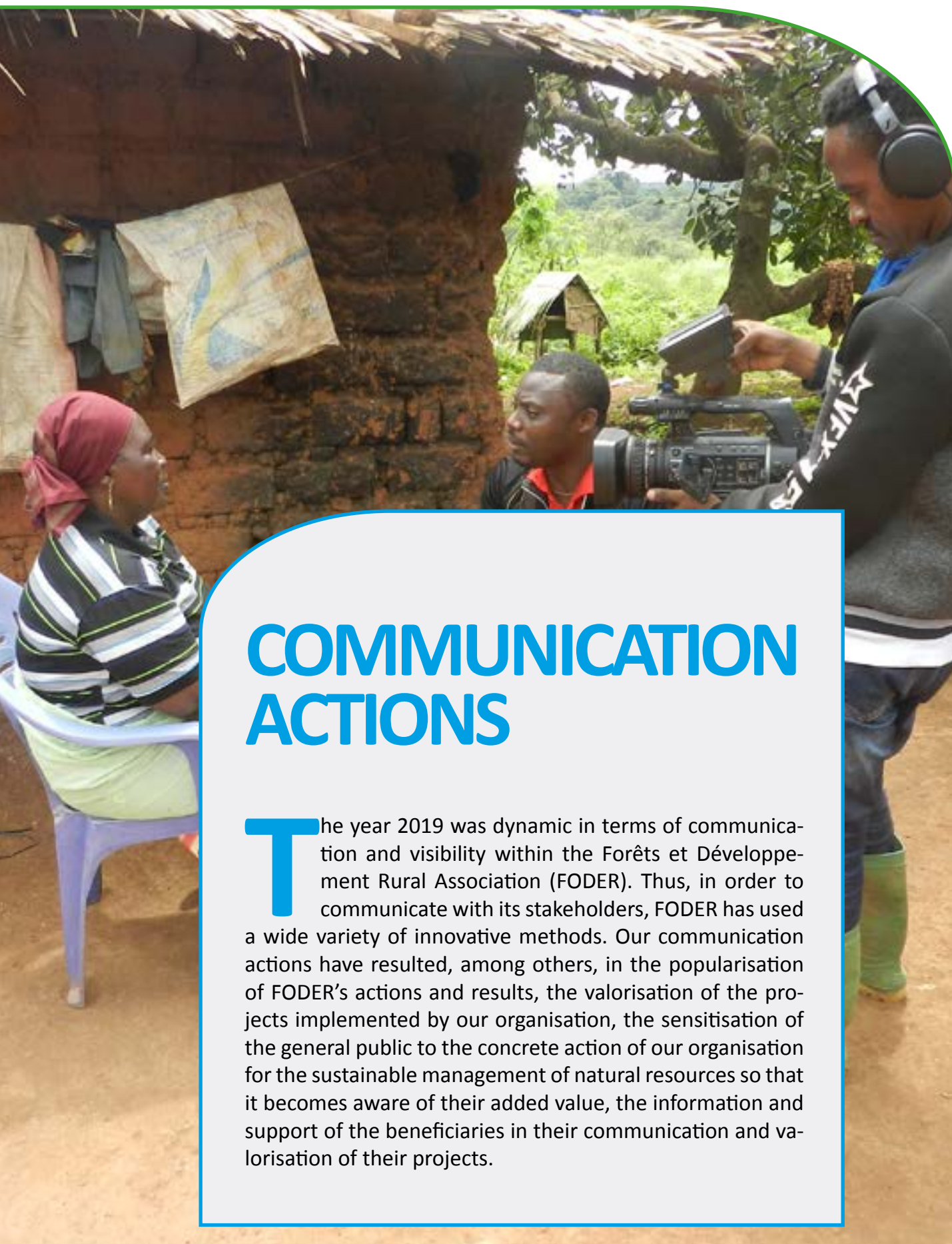
tute of Research in Agronomy for Development (IRAD). Five (05) experimental fields were developed to test this variety of cassava newly produced by IRAD. Once the commercialization of this cassava variety with a production two to three times higher than the classical variety is achieved, FODER is convinced that, the living conditions of the women who benefited will be considerably improved.

Awareness-raising activities have been directed towards artisanal miners. This action was part of the support and structuring of mining cooperatives. Since the resumption of the project, at

least 120 awareness-raising sessions have therefore been organised for the craftsmen with a view to presenting to them the importance for them to organise themselves into mining cooperatives. At least 1,000 mining craftsmen and farmers made up of young men and women have been reached by these awareness-raising sessions. These artisanal miners and farmers came from the villages of Gbanam, Kombolaka, Fell , Wakasso , Secretary, Bindiba , Longa-mali , Mbang-Bel , Gbengou-bou , Bohanto (15), Woumbou Ngoe, Kolomine, Ngoura, Samba, Mball, Tikondi, Pater, Ndem 2, Kambélé, Mboy-Ampaya, Nyabonda, Ngoundi 1 and 2, Gari gombo, Botoundou-Ouessou. At the end of the sensitization, artisanal miners and farmers from the communities of Gbanam, Kombolaka, Mboy, Ampaya, Botoundou-Ouessou organised themselves into cooperatives. To date, some of these organisations stand out, such as the Association of Dynamic Women of Gbanam, which has managed to save an amount of five hundred and ninety-seven thousand nine hundred CFA francs (597,900 FCFA) in monthly dues to provide various forms of support to members. This savings has enabled the association to support members in difficulty, particularly in cases of illness. This association of women artisans, currently being formalized as a cooperative, has to date twenty-eight (28) members, including twenty-four (24) women and four (4) men, all committed to improving their living conditions through mining cooperatives.



In addition to raising awareness, in 2019 FODER conducted a functional and structural diagnosis of the existing cooperatives in its areas of intervention. At the end of each diagnostic carried out, a recovery plan was proposed to each cooperative involved. The diagnosis revealed that five (05) cooperatives including one (01) in Yokadouma, one (01) in Gari-Gombo, three (03) in Ngoura and two (02) in Bétaré-Oya are functional with up-to-date members. The latter were able to create two hectares of maize in Bohanto. The prospects in 2020 include improving the management and operation of these cooperatives through training that will be provided to members. The objective is to organise and structure them to defend their rights and improve their living conditions through their activities.



COMMUNICATION ACTIONS

The year 2019 was dynamic in terms of communication and visibility within the Forêts et Développement Rural Association (FODER). Thus, in order to communicate with its stakeholders, FODER has used a wide variety of innovative methods. Our communication actions have resulted, among others, in the popularisation of FODER's actions and results, the valorisation of the projects implemented by our organisation, the sensitisation of the general public to the concrete action of our organisation for the sustainable management of natural resources so that it becomes aware of their added value, the information and support of the beneficiaries in their communication and valorisation of their projects.

MEDIA RELATIONS

Information campaigns on the issues of good governance of natural resources were maintained in 2019. To achieve this objective, we worked to retain a group of media men and women capable of raising public awareness on issues related to natural resource management and alerting the public authorities to the urgent need to respect the rights of communities in the benefit-sharing process. Thus in 2019, more than 100 press articles were produced and disseminated by national and international journalists and media thanks to the information made available to them by FODER. Our team of experts in their respective fields were made available to the media to enlighten the general public. Within the framework of its actions in the mining sector, FODER provided technical and logistical support and accompanied international journalists¹³ (02 in total) in mining sites for information collection and thus contributed to access to information and awareness raising among stakeholders involved in the sector.

SOCIAL NETWORKS

The valorisation of the results and projects implemented by the FODER association has been reinforced during the past year through the realization and dissemination of multimedia supports for the web and social media. Thus, the Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts intended to inform about our actions and results, had over 4000 subscribers at the end of December. During the past year, the 74 twitter publications generated 5,090 impressions, while the 63 publications on Facebook reached 110,052 people. Concerning LinkedIn, we were able to produce 66 publications for 7511 impressions.

WEBSITES

A fundamental tool for the communication and dissemination of information about the actions carried out by the organisation in real time, our

website (www.forest4dev.org) had a new look in 2019. It has been redesigned with a more sober design, ergonomics and a clearer tree structure. There is accessibility to headings, sub-headings, reports and ease of navigation and research. Thanks to its regular updating, the website registered 1473054 visitors in 2019. In addition to pages dedicated to the Organisation, its functioning and activities, our website provides professional information on forest and mining governance. Links to other professional sites and sources relating to decisions taken by the administration on various forestry and mining issues are also provided. For this year, a total of 29 articles related to the popularization of FODER's actions have been published and these articles have reached more than 60,000 people. In addition to our organisation's website, as Technical Secretariat for IFM Coordination, we have continued to animate the IFM Cameroon website (www.oiecameroun.org). The site, which was redesigned in 2018, published a total of 19 articles that could be read by 4267 people. On 31 December 2019, the IFM site had 106676 visitors.

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE IN FODER

With a view to providing the actors involved in the natural resource management process with documentation, Forêts et Développement Ru-



ral (FODER) set up a documentary reference centre on natural resource governance in 2019. The centre is open to all, particularly students and researchers. A “library” tab has been created on the FODER website to facilitate access to documents on natural resources present at the Centre. During the year about ten students and researchers had access to the documentation centre.

REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ON THE IFM

Within the framework of the communication actions carried out as part of the deployment of the normalised system of civil society independent forest monitoring (SNOIE), the year 2019 was the year in which FODER evaluated the level of access to and the quality of the information on IFM disseminated to the beneficiaries of the results of our IFM actions and partners. Thus, a review of the communication and visibility actions of IFM information generated by FODER within the framework of SNOIE was carried out. The survey was carried out on a sample of 128 persons representing the different groups of actors at national and international level. The review made it possible to assess the impact of the communication actions in relation to the objectives set. The results and recommendations of this survey will enable us to readjust our communication actions in 2020.

SUPPORT TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS.



Our local partners often need to structure their activities, and within the Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) association, we do our utmost to help them develop other skills. In the field of communication, one of the means used this past year has been capacity building. Thus, 14 Civil Society Organisations, members of the IFM Coordination, were able to benefit from various support and guidance to improve their communication activities. Local partners such as OFERA, ECODEV and PAPEL, have, following our support, developed communication supports which they are leading.

OUR PUBLICATIONS IN 2019

In 2019, the Forêts et Développement Rural Association (FODER) produced a total of thirty-seven (37) publications with a view to capitalizing on the experience acquired and sharing its experiences with other actors in the sector and enhancing the results of our actions. These publications included information notes (06) and study reports (07), videos (03). Reports of external independent Monitoring missions (IFM)¹⁴ have also been produced through the Normalised system of civil society independent forest monitoring (SNOIE) approach. By the end of December 2019, a total of sixteen (18) IFM reports, five (05) summaries of IFM reports were produced and published on the IFM website (www.oiecameroun.org).

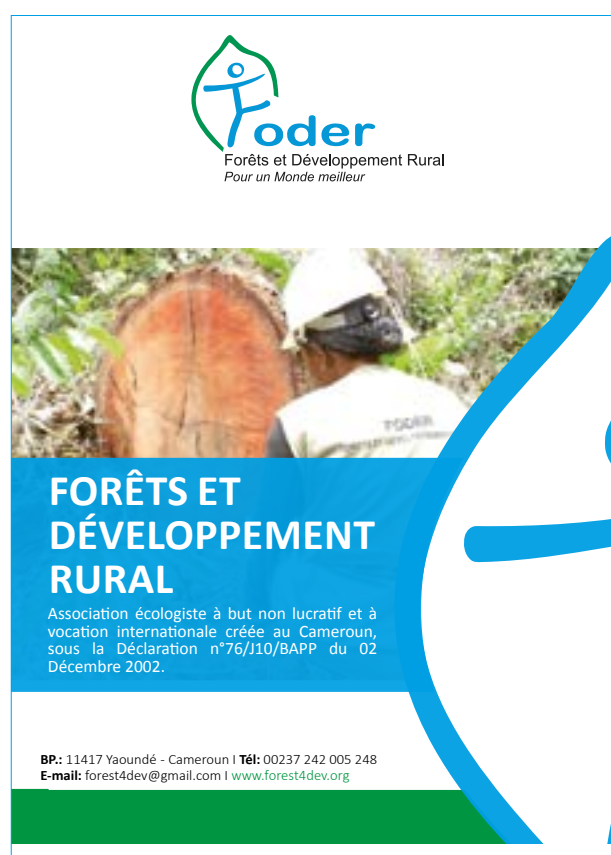
REPORTS AND STUDIES

GUIDE SIMPLIFIE DU MEMBRE DE COMITE DE VEILLE
CITOYENNE DES ACTIVITÉS MINIÈRES
(lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/142-4/>)

Brochure FODER (lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/1566/>)



This guide was produced as part of the Mines-Environnement-Santé et Société Project (ProMESS) and information contained in this guide fall under the sole responsibility of the FODER association and cannot in any case be considered as a reflection of the European Union's point of view).



Contribuer à l'amélioration de la gouvernance minière au Cameroun à travers le suivi participatif des activités minières et la promotion de la transparence. (version française : <https://forest4dev.org/download/1696/> version anglaise : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2550/>)



EXPLOITATION MINIERE SEMIMECANISEE et ARTISANALE AU CAMEROUN: Etat des lieux, recommandations et pistes de solution pour une exploitation minière durable. (lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/1618/>)

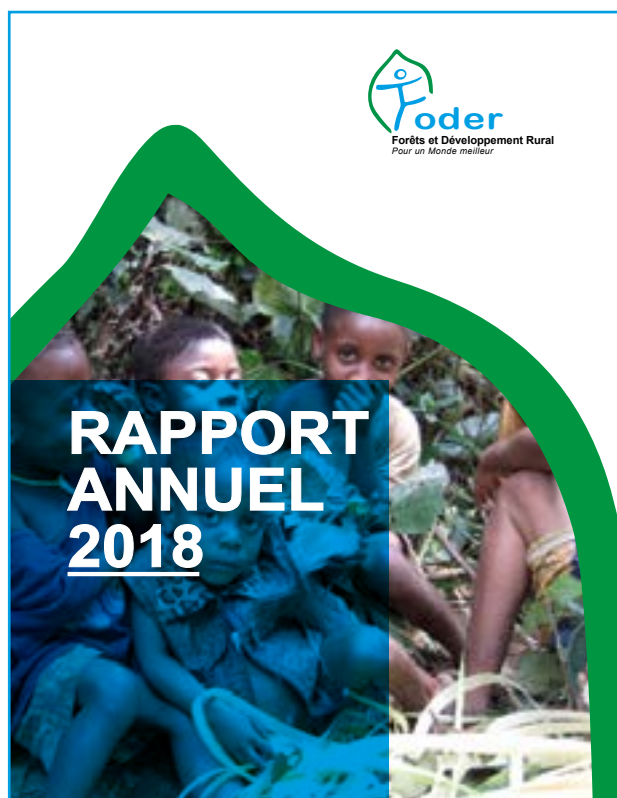


The Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme (Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Ethiopia): Training Manual on Bamboo Agroforestry in Cameroon (version anglaise: <https://forest4dev.org/download/1704/> version française: <https://forest4dev.org/download/2561/>)

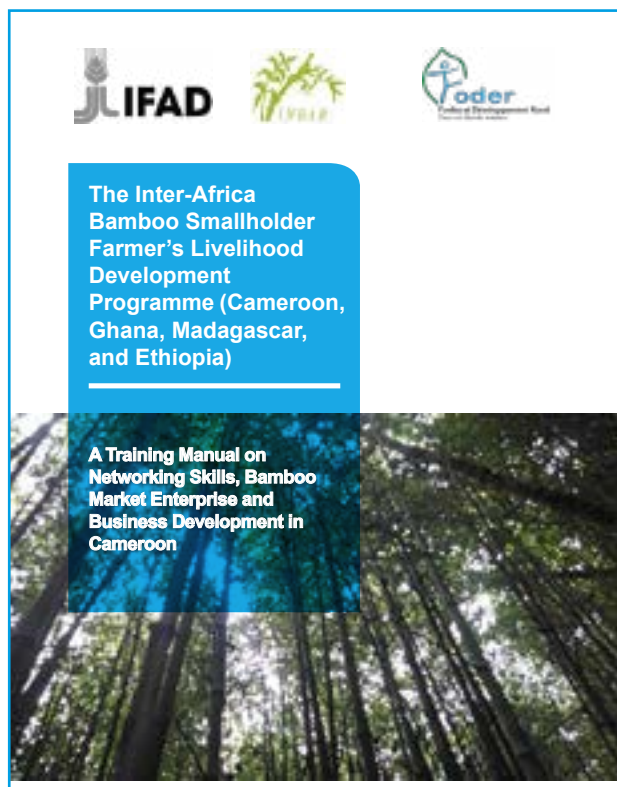


- The Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme (Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Ethiopia): A Training Manual on Networking Skills, Bamboo Market Enterprise and Business Development in Cameroon (version anglaise: <https://forest4dev.org/download/1710/> version française: <https://forest4dev.org/download/2558/>)
- The Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme (Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar and Ethiopia): A Training Manual on participatory Bamboo Resource Stewardship for Communities in Cameroon (version anglaise: <https://forest4dev.org/download/1714/> version française: <https://forest4dev.org/download/2555/>)

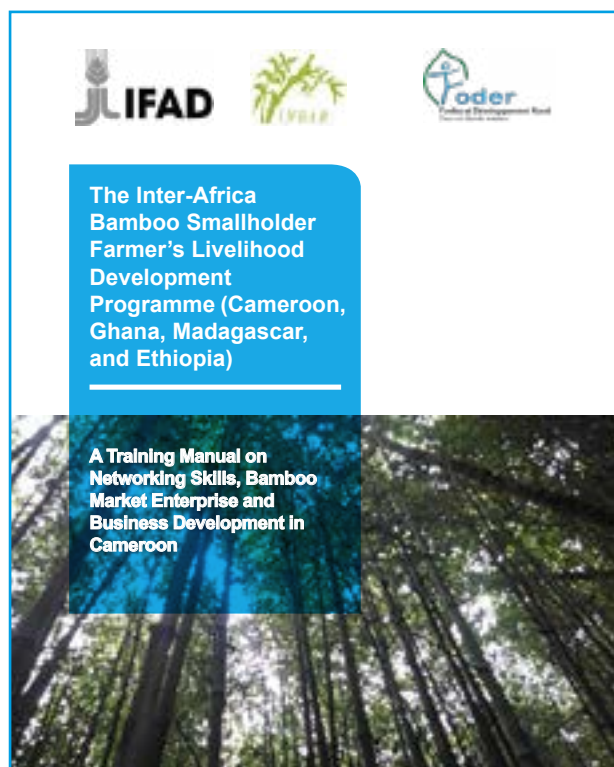
Rapport Annuel FODER 2018 (lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2544/>)



Programme interafricain pour le développement des moyens de subsistances des petits exploitants de bambou (Cameroun, Ghana, Madagascar, et Éthiopie):



Manuel de formation sur la première transformation, le traitement et les différentes composantes du bambou au Cameroun (version française : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2625/> version anglaise : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2626/>)



PROJET RELAI-OI: « Projet de suivi indépendant des chaînes d'approvisionnement en bois et d'amplification des informations issues de l'observation indépendante des forêts (lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2651/>)



RTM2 I Note d'information I Numéro 6: Obligations sociales des entreprises : Le plaidoyer communautaire contribue à la mobilisation de près de 8 millions de FCFA .(lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2660/>)

SNOIE* I Note d'information I Numéro 7: Le Système Normalisé d'Observation Indépendante Externe (SNOIE) contribue à 72,5 million de FCFA aux

recettes forestières (lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2675/>).

SNOIE* I Note d'information I Numéro 8: Deux entreprises forestières dénoncées pour exploitation forestière illégale par le Système Normalisé d'Observation Indépendante Externe (SNOIE) suspendues. (lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2680/>)

VIDEOS

Pourquoi choisir les coopératives minières (Lien : <https://youtu.be/56AzsANpJz8>)

Comment reconnaître une exploitation forestière illégale (Lien : <https://youtu.be/Ai6UyPcx08>)

Plaidoyer Communautaire RTM2 (Lien : <https://youtu.be/0V8kWrc-VUM>)

Etat du réseau routier dans les zones d'exploitation forestière dans le Mbam et Kim (lien : <https://youtu.be/zdjZM48FlrA>)

La localité de Woue sans bonne couverture sanitaire malgré la présence de l'exploitation forestière (lien :

<https://youtu.be/FCw8gjSTAgA>)

La localité de Kong sans bonne couverture sanitaire malgré la présence de l'exploitation forestière (lien : <https://youtu.be/kZgZl1vhQbE>)

Fonctionnement de l'application Collecteur 2.0 du système Forestlink (lien : <https://youtu.be/hoaJR-NobEIU>)

Les dangers de l'utilisation du mercure dans les sites miniers (lien : <https://youtu.be/rWQPWpOZ6bc>)

Briefing notes

A total of three briefing notes were produced during the year 2019 and made public on the FODER website.

Titles of briefing notes

Note d'information I Numéro 6: Obligations sociales des entreprises : Le plaidoyer communautaire contribue à la mobilisation de près de 8 millions de FCFA (Lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2660/>)

Note d'information I Numéro 7: Le Système Normalisé d'Observation Indépendante Externe (SNOIE) contribue à 72,5 million de FCFA aux recettes forestières (Lien : <https://forest4dev.org/download/2675/>)

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RAPPORT

FINANCIER ANNUEL

AU 31 DECEMBRE 2019



MOBLIZED FINANCE RESOURCES

Les The financial resources managed by FODER during the 2019 financial year are mainly constituted of:

- Operating grants;
- Provision of services: Personnel consultations;
- Contribution and membership fee;
- Previous reserve

PRODUCTS/INCOMES	SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT (FCFA)	AMOUNT EUROS
Operating grants	The Delegation of the European Union in Cameroon	175 374 223	267 356
	FAO EU FLEGT's Programme	35 000 000	53 357
	Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT) of the University of Wolverhampton,	195 656 466	298 276
	The Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK)	138 010 714	210 396
Provision of services (Consultations and Services)	JAICA	14 997 500	22 864
	IDEF	4 722 153	7 199
	FDD	2 770 760	4 224
	OIREN	1 640 000	2 500
	EY ASSOCIES	1 620 214	2 470
Contribution and membership fees	Members of the General Assembly	0	0
Previous reserve		14 877 386	22 680
Total amount of mobilized funds		584 669 416	891 323

PRODUCT ACCOUNTS

The income for the 2019 financial year amounts to 542 303 090 FCFA and it is 92.61% constituted of operating subsidies. We noticed an increase in revenues of 46.56% compared to the previous year.

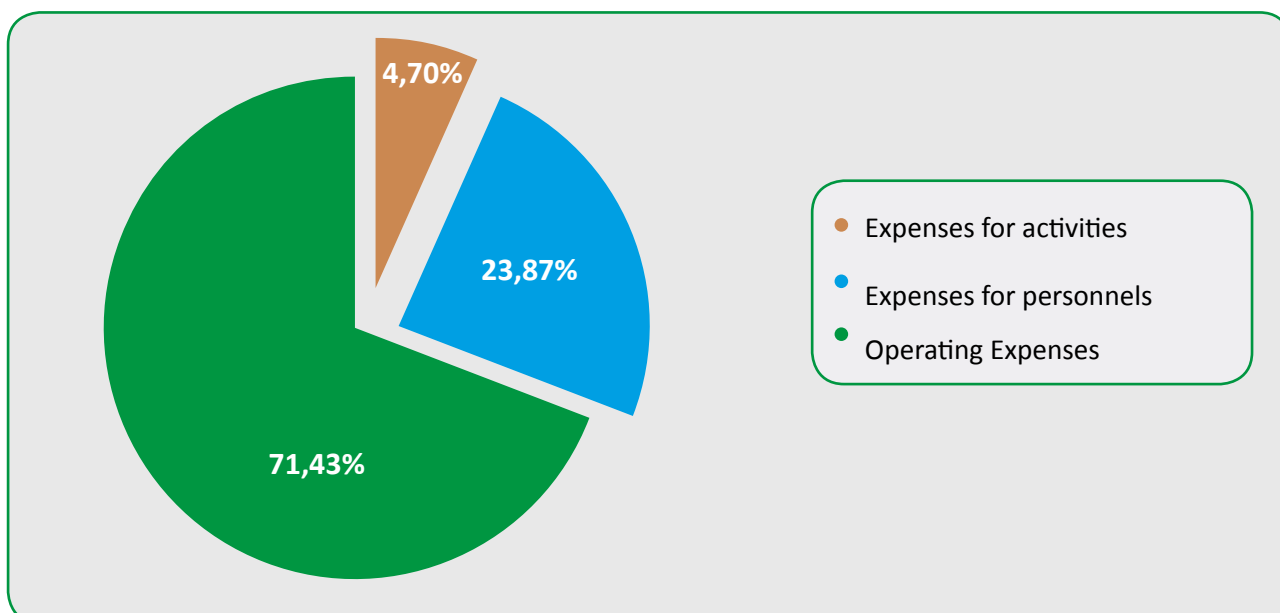
EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

The total amount of expenses amounts to 541 442 00 FCFA and comprises 71.42% of expenses related to the implementation of project activities.

Through the implementation of activities of various projects, FODER contributes to the economic and social development of Cameroon through:

1. Jobs creation;
2. Amounts paid to organizations such as:
 - Hotel establishments to host workshops, meetings and conferences;
 - Press, but also to lodge our guests;
 - Car rental companies for team's transport during field missions;
 - Graphic communication agencies and printing companies, for the design and production of visibility materials and the printing of our publications;
 - Public treasury, for the payment of social charges and declared taxes;
 - Various purchases (consumables, office supplies, non-storable supplies, etc.)
3. Support of communities in defending their rights

Graphique 3 : Distribution of expenses



INCOME STATEMENT AT 12/31/2018

INCOME	2019			2018
	Amount in FCA	Amount in Euros		Amount in FCA
Operating (functioning) Grants	513 050 432	782 140		356 687 661
Reversals of investment grants	0	0		0
Other current products	29 252 658	44 595		13 315 990
Proceeds from the disposal of fixed assets	0	0		0
TOTAL AMOUNT	542 303 090	826 736		370 003 651

EXPENSES	2019	2018	2018
	Amount in FCA	Amount in Euros	XAF
Purchases	9 529 341	14 527,39	8 028 768
Transport	10 029 521	15 289,91	9 845 062
External services	369 256 688	562 928,19	248 589 929
Dues and taxes	19315416	29 446,16	0
Various expenses	12 860 000	19 604,94	2 255 955
Personnel expenses	109 923 239	167 576,90	89 126 190
Financial expenses	2 628 195	3 627,98	2 379 798
Depreciation allowance	0	0	205 632
Allocation to provisions	7 900 000	12 043,47	7 900 000
TOTAL EXPENSES	541 442 400	825 045	368 331 334
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	860 690	1 312,11	1 672 317

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