

Diary

15 to 19 November 2011

Workshop organized by WCS and MINEP to sensitize local communities and civil society in the southwest area on the REDD process in Cameroon.

28 November to 9 December 2011

17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban (South Africa)

Facts and figures

Cameroon received **200,000 USD** that is about 100 million CFA francs through the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) for REDD R-PP elaboration.

The date mentioned by the Government for the submission of Cameroon R-PP to the FCPF is **5 months** ahead.

In Short

R-PIN: The concept note of a project. In REDD context, it is a document of about 40 pages which usually provides an overview of the country's forests.

R-PP: It is the Readiness Preparation Proposal and not the country REDD strategy. It is a document of more than 100 pages which contains information on the setting up of the institutional framework, stakeholders' consultation and participation process, reforms to be undertaken, identification of deforestation drivers, establishment of carbon monitoring system, etc.

Some Recommended Readings

Global Witness, *Forest Carbon, Cash and Crime: The Risk of Criminal Engagement in REDD+*.

This new report presents two contrasting views of REDD process: on the one hand, it helped to place forest management at the top of the political agenda, and represents an unprecedented opportunity to tackle deforestation. At the same time "the risks of criminalizing activities around the process are numerous and they have not been taken into account by those who wrote it," said Peter

Younger of Interpol. This is an additional challenge for those who will define Cameroon REDD Proposal.

Sandrine Maljean-Dubois and Matthew Wemaëre, *La diplomatie climatique. Les enjeux d'un régime international du climat* (Climate Diplomacy. The challenges of an international climate regime), Paris, Pedone, October 2010 - 380 pages

Non-governmental actors in climate diplomacy: A comparative analysis of multiple actors and expertise in deci-



sion-making process of climate diplomacy in France, Great Britain and Germany, 2008, 338 pages.

To download online, click the following link: <http://www.gip-ecofor.org/doc/drupal/gicc/9-03AdemeKesslerRF.pdf>



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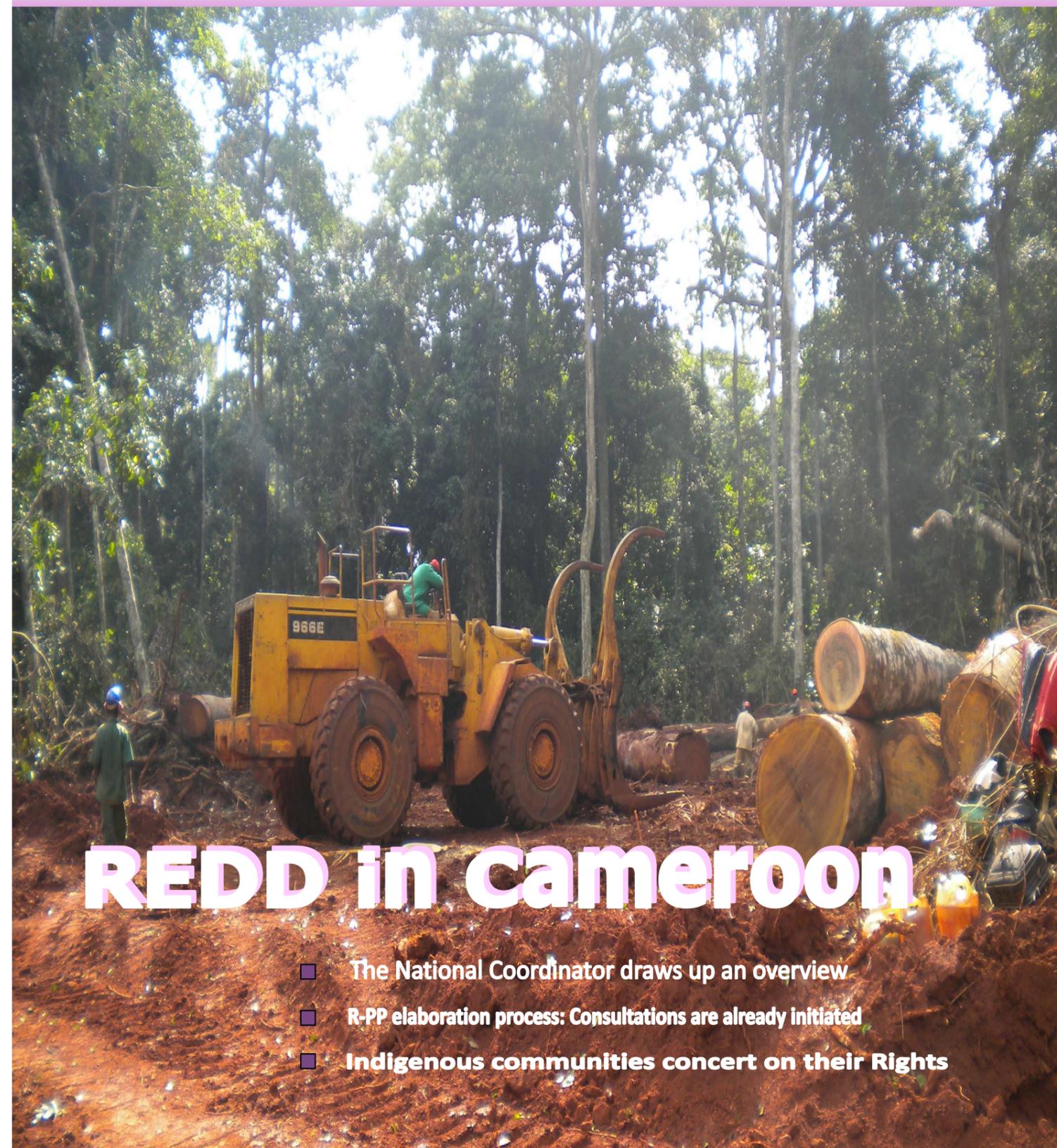


Focus on REDD

INSIDE CAMEROON

Newsletter on the REDD process in Cameroon

N° 000 October 2011



REDD in cameroon

- The National Coordinator draws up an overview
- R-PP elaboration process: Consultations are already initiated
- Indigenous communities concert on their Rights

Meeting the Challenge

Climate change is high on the international agenda. Global warming is the greatest challenge mankind is facing. It can destroy all of us by making life impossible on earth. It hence calls for an urgent and coordinated action. Our country is challenged because the forest can contribute to mitigate or aggravate climate change depending on decisions, actions and policies that are put in place. The complexity of the problem and different levels of understanding complicate the task of establishing a coordinated and balanced action in an effort to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Cameroon.

How to prepare an effective response, including all stakeholders, across Cameroon when all of them do not have the same level of understanding? How to ensure that the rights and interests of the weakest are effectively considered in the current process of elaborating the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)? This Newsletter aims at contributing to disseminate information on the REDD process in our country. It equally intends to provide, during this delicate R-PP elaboration phase, information, analysis and viewpoints likely to throw light on the Government's and other stakeholders' decisions, but also to draw attention to the strengths and weaknesses of the process and the content of R-PP which is expected in March 2012.



Samuel Nguiffo
Secrétaire Général
CED



We dedicate this Newsletter to the memory of Professor Wangari Maathai, Ambassador of the Congo Basin Forest, Congo Basin Forest Fund Co-Chair and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 2004 who passed away on 25 September 2011. The best tribute the different actors involved in the management of natural resources in the Congo Basin could give her would be to keep alive the flame of the ideals she defended: efficiency and social justice in the management of natural resources.

Climate change is a major threat to sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and particularly in Cameroon. **What is climate change? What are the causes of climate change?**

Africa is the continent that contributes least to global greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is vulnerable to climate change, especially because it depends on rain-watered agricultural yields, poverty and lack of capacity. The effects of climate change (reduction of agricultural production, worsening of food security, increased incidence of floods and droughts, spread of diseases and increased risk of conflict due to scarcity of land and water) are already obvious in Cameroon.

Forests play a dual role as far as climate change is concerned. On the one hand, they act as a reservoir by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in the biomass (trunks, branches, roots, etc.). On the other hand, forests act as emission source because they release carbon dioxide stored in trunks, branches and roots when they are cut or burnt. The fight against deforestation and forest degradation is thus an appropriate strategy for the environment to avoid the negative effects of warming. The conservation of forest is therefore vital not only for climate stability and global ecological sustainability, but also for perpetuating local cultures. Long set aside in the search for solutions to the climate crisis, the fight against deforestation and forest degradation has for some years been given priority in the political agenda of international negotiations on climate change.

The pressure on forests observed today worsens the situation because they harbor a remarkable diversity of flora and fauna

and provide food, traditional medicines, household energy and building materials to nearly eight million Cameroonians of which over 50,000 are indigenous people. Rainforests of the South region of Cameroon are described as part "of forests that have the highest biodiversity and are the most threatened in the Congo Basin."



Indeed, in 2005, Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica initiated, as part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the adoption of a mechanism to encourage, through financial compensation, developing countries willing to reduce deforestation (RED) below a previously established baseline. The first idea was then extended to degradation, conservation of forest carbon

« The conservation of forest is therefore vital not only for climate stability and global ecological sustainability, but also for perpetuating local cultures (...) However, one risk remains: if we do not address the real drivers of deforestation and degradation, REDD+ may not lead to the expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. »

stocks, enhancement of carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests in 2007 and 2008 during the Conferences of the Parties in Bali and Poznan, under the impetus of developing countries which do not have a high historical rate of deforestation, notably those of COMIFAC: This is actually known as REDD+.

If several questions concerning the operational phase of REDD+ are still currently discussed at the international level (including the source of its funding), there seems to be a consensus as regards the implementation of the mechanism in three successive phases:

- Elaboration of national strategies and capacity building;

- Implementation of policies and measures taken and defined during the preparation phase;
- Payment based on the results of noticed emission reduction following the baseline through a reliable and transparent monitoring, reporting and verification system.

Such approach, if properly conducted, could attract significant environmental and socio-economic benefits. Indeed, the funds generated by REDD+ could help develop policies that address the real drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. In the same context, a debate on the rights of local and indigenous communities on forest lands and resources could also be considered.

However, one risk remains: if we do not address the real drivers of deforestation and degradation, REDD+ may not lead to the expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. This could also worsen the situation of people who closely depend on the forest, including using the implementation of REDD+ projects as a pretext for grabbing forest lands. In the worst scenario, the indigenous and local communities may be excluded from the benefits generated by the process in the absence of an equitable and transparent redistribution system. The manna will thus fly away as it is the case with other financial benefits from forest management in Cameroon.

Dr WASSOUNI AMADOU

Dr. Wassouni Amadou, REDD National Coordinator and Director of Monitoring, Conservation and Promotion of Natural Resources at the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP)

What is REDD?

REDD is Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. The Congo Basin countries urged to request for benefits for those who want to keep their forests intact. So, they fought for the plus (+) which represents conservation. That is why there is talk of REDD+ now.

Is there a link between REDD and climate change?

The central point between the two concepts is the forest. It helps to reduce the harsh climate. The forest provides resources for survival. It captures carbon and people want to buy the carbon stored in trees which allows us to withstand the effects of global warming. So, the two

are closely linked. REDD is a process that helps forests owners to obtain a financial benefit by reducing carbon emissions and forest carbon sequestration.

What would Cameroon gain in participating in such a process?

Cameroon, like other forest countries, would also like to benefit from its forest, not only for survival, but also for its economic and social development. Therefore, as it owns forests like the rest of Congo Basin countries, Cameroon puts itself in the same vein to protect and better manage its resources in order to benefit from the international community which will pay financial compensation for the carbon sequestered in its forests.



Women at the heart of REDD

IUCN, in partnership with We-Do and MINEP, organized two training workshops on gender mainstreaming in the REDD process in Cameroon for civil society women and government representatives. Assuming that women are recognized as key actors of change, their participation in national consultations and discussions to develop REDD+ strategy is essential if a fair and equitable REDD+ mechanism should be established. With this in mind, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized two workshops on gender and REDD from 13 to 19 Sep-

tember in Mbalmayo.

The first workshop focused on gender issues, gender roles, climate change and its relationship with the forest, gender and various climate change impacts, an overview of forests in Cameroon and worldwide. The discussions led to a consensus on how women could be mobilized to ensure their concerns are better taken into account in formulating REDD+ policies.

The second workshop was designed to train managers of sector-based administrations involved in REDD+ on gender and to identify various ways to include gender in the process. The workshop also dwelt on the need to draw up a roadmap in view of considering gender in the REDD+ process in Cameroon.

A total of 56 women and six (6) men were trained on the recognition of gender in natural resource management and REDD+.

Source : IUCN



REDD+ process has a new National Coordinator

He is called Amadou Wassouni. He replaces Joseph Armathée Amougou, current Focal Point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The new coordinator is also the Director of Monitoring, Conservation and Promotion of Natural Resources at the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP).



R-PP is still awaiting the team of consultants for its elaboration

The recruitment of consultants for the elaboration of the REDD R-PP is scheduled for 19 August 2011. This announcement was made by MINEP on 28 June 2011 in Mbalmayo during the workshop to launch Cameroon R-PP. To date, the identity of the consultants is still to be officially known. According to a source in MINEP, this delay is due to the non submission of technical and financial bid by the first shortlisted team of consultants. The Government of Cameroon submitted the shortlist to the World Bank. The same source indicates that the second team was chosen. It has already submitted its bid and is currently negotiating with the Government.

Climate change: A reality for us or an issue for Whites?

We often hear people say that climate change is mostly "An issue for Whites" and that the Congo Basin is only used in finding a solution. This is one of the arguments which often justify market support. It is quite logical since we 'sell' solutions to people who have problems. However, the situation is somewhat different: climate change is a concern for all of us. As a matter of fact, those who know Yaoundé simply need to walk in the

neighborhood of the Lake which was the colonial administrators' residential area before the independence. They will notice that houses have chimneys, reminiscent of the fact that at a time not so long ago, there was a need for heating in Yaounde. Then, the need disappeared and today the use of air conditioners and fans has become widespread. Therefore, the fight against climate change is everyone's business.



FCPF team on an evaluation mission of the REDD process in Cameroon

The main provider of technical and financial support to the Government of Cameroon in its REDD readiness process, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank, is currently on mission in Cameroon. The mission will run until 4 November and aims at assessing the progress made in the process and analyzing actions of the various stakeholders involved.

A World Bank report confirms the collapse of carbon market

Indeed, in its report "Mobilizing Climate Finance" intended for the G20 meeting in November, the World Bank states that "The value of transactions in the primary CDM market declined sharply in 2009 and further in 2010 ... amid chronic uncertainties about future mitigation targets and market mechanisms after 2012". This report also reveals the disorder which currently characterizes the carbon market.

REDD in Cameroon: Where are we?

In 2005, Cameroon embarked on international negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and Forest degradation, including conservation, enhancement of carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests (REDD+). This mechanism is expected to be environmentally, socially and economically beneficial for developing forest countries. Cameroon is supported by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a multi-lateral Fund managed by the World Bank, to start up

its readiness. The Concept Paper (R-PIN) was validated in 2008 by the FCPF. Three years later, Cameroon launched the elaboration of its R-PP (Readiness Preparation Proposal). It was during a meeting held in June 2011 involving key stakeholders of the REDD process. A new roadmap was adopted which includes, among other activities, conducting consultations in the five ecological regions (eco-regions) of Cameroon, recruiting a team of consultants to elaborate the Readiness Preparation Proposal, producing a draft of

the Proposal in November, organizing the R-PP national validation workshop in February 2012 and submitting the R-PP to the Participants Committee in March 2012.

The first consultations are underway since August 2011. The National REDD Coordinator announces that the contract with the firm that will help Cameroon to elaborate its R-PP will be signed in three weeks. After that, he said Cameroon will start field work, including consultations and discussions with various stakeholders.



REDD Consultations

Indigenous communities concert on the REDD Process in Cameroon

The Centre for Environment and Development (CED) and the Rainforest UK (RFUK) hosted an information and awareness raising meeting to sensitize indigenous peoples on their participation in the REDD process in Cameroon.



The meeting took place in Mbalmayo on 18 and 19 October 2011 and witnessed the presence of about thirty representatives of indigenous communities from the East and South regions of Cameroon, representatives of indigenous peoples Associations, representatives of indigenous communities local support organizations and a representative of the Ministry in charge of the REDD proc-

ess. It aimed at raising awareness of indigenous peoples on the risks and opportunities of REDD related to their rights and keeping them abreast of recent developments in the REDD process in Cameroon.

These indigenous communities were enlightened on the advantages and disadvantages of the REDD process. They equally seized this opportunity to

express their concerns. Indeed, they fear that the implementation of REDD may further restrict the practice of their daily activities in the forest which, according to them, does not destroy the forest. The other concern was the sharing of benefits arising from the REDD process. Indigenous communities are afraid they will not benefit from REDD financial returns as it is the case with royalties from logging.

Indigenous communities were not fully involved in the elaboration of the R-PIN and their participation in the first regional awareness raising meetings held in Bertoua and Kribi within the framework of the R-PP was limited. This bad experience led them to pay more attention to their rights. They henceforth want to defend their rights and ensure they are

respected under the REDD process.

Therefore, they used Mbalmayo workshop to channel their concerns to the representative of the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP) through recommendations. These include adopting a consultation policy tailored to the indigenous culture and realities, applying free, prior and informed consent during the consultations that will be conducted in order to comply with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) signed by Cameroon and finally, effectively taking into account concerns, interests, individual and collective rights of indigenous communities.

R-PP

WWF and MINEP sensitize stakeholders

Both structures organized two information and training workshops on the REDD process in Kribi and Bertoua.

The understanding of the REDD process and its challenges is still vague for local communities and stakeholders in the Sangha Tri-National (TNS), Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Tri-National (TRIDOM) and Kribi-Campo-Ma 'an. Based on this observation, WWF and the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP) organized two workshops on the implementation of REDD in Cam-



Kribi workshop

eroon. The workshops took place from 16 to 20 August and 30 August to 2 September 2011, respectively in Bertoua and Kribi. Participants were local populations and other stakeholders of the areas.

Several presentations were made: The issue of climate change, the definition of REDD and its progress status in Cameroon, the elaboration of REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), current REDD projects or initiatives in Cameroon and the recognition of indigenous and local communities' rights in the REDD process. The role and involve-

ment of various stakeholders in the process led the discussions during four days. The organizers aimed at educating participants on REDD basic concepts and highlighting the role they have to play during the implementation phase.

The participants from local and indigenous communities, decentralized local administration, private sector and civil society have subsequently set up working groups to enhance their understanding of the various topics. Some recommendations were made at the end of this session. Actors of the REDD process in TNS and TRIDOM areas urged decision-makers to give priority to a REDD approach that values local communities' know-how. They also requested that R-PP draft



Bertoua workshop

should be made available to them prior to the national validation workshop and hoped the issues of climate change will be integrated into the Forest Law which is currently under review.

East

Local Communities empowered by NGO

As a prelude to consultations within the framework of R-PP elaboration, Mintom and Ngoyla populations attended an information meeting on REDD+.

REDD is a new concept whose challenges are not yet fully understood by the various stakeholders of the process in Cameroon. This is the case of indigenous and local communities in Ngoyla-Mintom Forest massif. This site is one of the biggest attractions for REDD project developers in Cameroon because of its intact forest.

In view of improving the knowledge of local communities on the REDD process, its key challenges, risks and opportunities, the Association of indigenous peoples, OKANI, organized two workshops of one

day each on REDD and Rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. The workshops took place on 26 and 28 August 2011 in Mintom and Ngoyla in the East Region thanks to the technical support of the Centre for Environment and Development (CED) and Forest Peoples Programme (FPP).

Local administration representatives, local elected officials, representatives of indigenous communities' organizations and international NGOs participated in the workshops. After explaining what REDD+ is all about and outlining its

main challenges, risks and opportunities to participants, an observation was made: the forest management system in Cameroon seems to be favorable to those who are responsible for deforestation since they might benefit from REDD more than local and indigenous communities which contribute to keep forests since the dawn of time.

With this in mind, indigenous and local communities channeled their concerns to government representatives present in the Hall. They namely want their land and forest rights to be recognized and respected during the implementation of REDD+ projects. Moreover, they

want their sacred sites to be respected.

In order to better address their complaints, the administration officials expressed their wish to see a synergy built up between the various actors and a REDD multi-stakeholder platform set up in Ngoyla-Mintom area.



Ngoyla forest massif