



Acknowledgment

This report covers the activities carried out by AJESH in 2015. The results of the works here reported are realisations by all the staff of AJESH.

AJESH would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the representatives of the Ministries, local, national and international NGOs, and local community representative who gave their time, ideas and contributed positively during the implementation of our projects.

In particular, the AJESH team appreciates RFUK, EU-PASC, Plan International (Cameroon Office), FODER, CED, IRESCO, LTS International, Rainbow Environment Consult, WRI, Eyes on Africa, Transparency International (Cameroon) for providing the necessary financial and material support that enabled the realisation and attainment of some of our project objectives.

In addition, AJESH wishes to express its appreciation to all partners: the Administrators of Nguti and Eyumojock, the DMOs for Tombel, Mbonge, Ekond Titi, and Kumba, other National NGO and SCOs, for their tireless support in seeing that planned activities are realised within the state norms. We equally appreciate the Green Vision Newspaper for all their publication and visibility of AJESH's activities.

We equally wish to express our hearty thanks to University of Wolverhampton UK, Well Grounded, MINFOF (C2D PSFE2), RFUK, PASC, for building staff capacities on: forest Governance, Leadership, Project development, Community Support, Advocacy, Accountability and Transparency, etc.

Finally, but most importantly, the AJESH team would like to thank the Mayor of Nguti for hosting most of our meetings in the Council Chambers free of charge, the Member of Parliament for Nguti, and the Chiefs and members of the Communities who walked and travelled for many hours through notoriously difficult roads to attend our meeting and participating effectively in the implementation of our activities in their villages. We very much hope their efforts will finally be rewarded.

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Acronyms

| | |
|---------|---|
| BMWS | Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary |
| BCC | Behaviour Change Communication |
| CED | Centre for Environment and Development |
| CHW | Community Health Worker |
| CLIP | Consentement Libre, Informé et Préalable (Free Prior Informed Consent) |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| DFID | Department for International Development (UK Government) |
| DO | Divisional Officer |
| DMO | District Medical Officer |
| EFI | European Forest Institute |
| EU | European Union |
| EU-PASC | European Union - Programme d'Appui à la Société Civile |
| FGMC | Forest Governance Markets & Climate |
| FLEGT | Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade |
| FODER | Forêts et Développement Rurale (a National NGO) |
| FORUDEF | Food and Rural Development Foundation |
| FPIC | Free Prior Informed Consent |
| GoC | Government of Cameroon |
| IRAD | Institute for Agronomic Research and Development |
| LTS | LTS International Ltd (Consulting Firm) |
| MFG | Mapping and Forest Governance |
| NGO | Non Governmental Organisation |
| NTFP | Non-Timber Forest Product |
| OPM | Office of the Prime Minister |
| PAs | Protected Areas |
| PASC | Programme d'Appui à la Société Civile (Civil Society Strengthening Programme) |
| RFA | Redevance Forestier Annuel (Annual Area Fee paid by Forest Concession) |
| RPP | Readiness Preparation Proposal |
| RRI | Rights & Resources Initiative |
| SNOIE | Normalise External Independent Forest Monitoring System |
| SSV | Sales by Standing Volumes |
| SUFI | Scaling Up Malaria Control For Impact |
| SWECSON | South West Civil Society Organisations Network |
| VFMC | Village Forest Management Committees |
| WRI | World Resource Institute |
| WWF | World Wide Fund for Nature |

FOREWORD

This report is a summary of our activities implemented within the annual year 2014/2015. During this year, we continued with our driven goal to approach people-centered issues like, the enhancement of the livelihood of our target audience towards sustainable development even with limited funds.

The rural communities within these years have developed strong interest in forest governance and climate change related issues that impact their livelihoods. The interest of the rural communities on the environment is primordial in our work, for we believe there cannot be any development if the concerned persons are not involved and their rights taken into consideration. It is on this note that our activities are focused in making communities understand their rights to land tenure, health, and other related environmental issues

Our efforts in societal development has improved people's interest in agricultural production, processing and marketing and sustainable natural resources use specifically in the domestication and marketing of NTFPs such as *Prunus africana*, Njangsang, Bush mango etc.

Through our efforts, people in the local community people are gradually becoming aware and have begun to understand the importance of actively participating in activities that impact their lives.

We would not have attained certain level of achievement without the commitment and support from our staff, consultants and partners. The smooth collaboration and technical backstopping received from our partners galvanised our implementation strategies that led to some project realisations. This partnership contributed enormously to building the capacities of staffs in series of training workshops.

The AJESH Team

1.0 INTRODUCING AJESH

1.1. Background:

AJESH is a Civil Society Organisation recognized under law No. 90/053 of 19/12/1990 relating to freedom of Associations in Cameroon. It was founded on June 4, 2006 and approved by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation via Prefectoral Order N^o. 298/AR/G.42/162BAPP as a Non Profit Organisation in Cameroon.

Mission:

To move towards a humane and self sustaining environment, free from poverty and injustice.

Goal:

To promote Sustainable Development (SD) through self reliant efforts, education, and training to reduce the impact of societal poverty.

Objectives:

- To encourage and promote education, training, refresher courses for poor local people;
- To carry out actions that ensure the sustainable management of natural resources;
- To initiate and carry out work studies/research, represent, follow up and influence policies that safeguard the interests of the under privilege group in the society.

Structure:

General Assembly (Supreme body)
Executive Bureau (Directing body)
Executive Directorate (Executing body)

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Organisational website: www.ajesh.org
Office Situations: Area of Jurisdiction covers the Entire South West Region of Cameroon)

Location:

AJESH runs offices in the following towns:

Coordination office: Kumba

Nyasoso - Tombel, Kupe-Muanenguba Division,
Manyemen - Nguti, Mbonge and Ekondotiti

Target Groups:

- ❖ The rural and the urban poor
- ❖ Rural Women and girls
- ❖ Youths and children
- ❖ Men and boys
- ❖ Retrench ,elder and aged persons

Staff Strength:

Number of staff: 10
Number of intents: 3
Community workers: 20

1.2. Strategic Intervention Areas (2013/2017)**a) Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Forestry)**

- Forest governance (promoting FLEGT and REDD+ actions)
- Promoting conservation
- Promoting the domestication of NTFPs
- Community/communal forest,
- Landscape Management,
- Resource based conflict management,
- Prevention & mitigation of natural disasters, and
- Waste management

c) Sustainable Agriculture

- Improving production, processing and marketing, using the Value Chain Development Approach (VCDA)
- Capacity building of local groups, Promoting Income Generation Activities,
- Livestock Development,
- Food security, and
- Micro-Project approach

d) Community Health care:

- Malaria
- HIV/AIDS
- STDs

e) Advocacy and social works

- Promoting Elderly Issues
- Lobbying,
- Gender and Women's issues,
- Institutional Strengthening and Organisational Development
- Democracy & Governance,
- Children & youth,
- Enhancing bargaining capacity of local people,
- Problems of minorities and Health

1.2. Affiliation with other Organizations

a) National Level

- ❖ Member of the SWECSON (South West Civil Society Organisations Network) with head office in Buea, Cameroon
- ❖ Forest Monitoring Coordination (FGM)
- ❖ Forest Community Platform (FCP)
- ❖ Dynamique Citoyenne (NETWORK of civil society organisation members monitoring Public Investment Budgets)
- ❖ CNFF(Cameroon National Forest Forum) under the auspices of COMIFAC
- ❖ National REDD+ platform
- ❖ Member of the RUURCIID (Rural and Urban Continental Investment Initiatives for Development) Network group.

b) International Level

- ❖ Registered member EC with a PADOR number
- ❖ Registered member with Global Giving
- ❖ IFA (International Federation on Ageing) member
- ❖ CIF(Council of International Fellowship) member

2.0. Progress Made

2.1. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

2.1.1. Forest Governance

2.1.1.1. Monitoring of illegal logging (SNIOE)



In our efforts to contribute in curbing corruption in the forestry sector of the GoC, we monitored, documented and denounced some alleged irregularities within some logging concessions in Nguti municipality within the framework of the SNIOE (Normalised Independent Monitoring System) project based on ISO 9001:2008 quality standard. AJESH successfully documented alleged irregularities in Sales by Standing Volumes (SSVs) managed by UNIPROVINCE, WAMBA SARL, and NAMBOIS SARL, in which it was recorded gross abandonment of logs, cuts out of authorised limits, unmarked logs and stumps, Non respect of tree dimensioned, amongst others.

Documented cases of irregularity were forwarded to the CSOs National Coordination and verification organisations, FODER, for onward forwarding to the state monitoring body.

Abandon and unmarked wood tracked with the use of GPS and Camera

2.1.1.2 Communities involvement in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM):



We carried out a study and documented community involvement in forest management with emphasis placed on the extent to which communities around logging concessions participate in the management of FMUs 11005, 11003/4 and 11002 and some other forest covers around KUPE MUANEGUBA and MEME Divisions. Findings from the study showed clearly that communities were not actively involved in the management of both protected areas

and forest concessions and are to some extent ignorant of the laws involving community participation in natural resource management. They turn to concentrate more on the royalties paid by the logging companies and do not pay attention in their roles in the management of these FMUs.

On these bases, AJESH organised three workshops with participants from ten VFMCs and twelve community representatives from the peripheries of the Bakossi National Park (BNP), The Bayang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, the Council Forest, etc. they were drilled on their roles and responsibilities in FMU management and on how to monitor the management of PAs and logging concessions. Three workshops were organised in EYUMOJOCK, NGUTI and KONYE bringing together various stakeholders.

Also, AJESH carried out advocacy action in collaboration with other National partners to have the 10% communities Royalties reinstated by MINFI. We succeeded in mobilising communities to actively participate by attending meetings and signing the campaign note and letter addressed to the OPM.

2.1.2 Landscape Management

AJESH is presently piloting a Land Use Planning programme in the South West Region of



Cameroon. In collaboration with the European Forest Institute (EFI), LTS International, Rainbow Environment Consult, we respectively organised 4 workshops to launch and present results from findings and mapping works that have been carried out during the entire process of developing a Local Land

Use Planning (LUP) Tool with Nguti Sub Division as the pilot site.

The workshops brought together participant from varied works of life: Administrators, the

Council, the different

Government Technical

services involved with

Planning and land Use,

MINPAT, MINFOF,

MINADER,

MINDEPDED, MINEPIA,

International and National

NGOs, Traditional Rulers,

Leaders of community

groups (Youth, Women,

etc), Managers of protected areas and Logging concessions.



Within the process of developing the tool, a Biological, Socio-Economic study was carried out with a soil suitability maps developed for Nguti municipality that gave the opportunities for case scenarios and models to be developed.



2.1.3. Community Participatory Mapping

Within the framework of the DFID funded project “Mapping and Forest Governance (MFG) in



the Congo Basin”, coordinated in Africa by RFUK, AJESH, is one of the main partners in Cameroon implementing the project in the South West Region of Cameroon. The project aims to contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable management and improved governance of tropical rainforest in the Congo Basin.

Training of local cartographers

This is done through the documentation of forest communities’ land tenure and governance system, and through the promotion and implementation of forest communities’ rights to land and forest resources.

Stakeholders (forest communities, NGOs, Administrative authorities and institutions) will use the project data to inform land and resource use planning processes that recognise community rights. AJESH successfully mapped the customary land and resources of 47 village communities within Nguti Municipality, by the reporting period.



Ground Mapping by community members

Copies of these maps were handed to each community mapped and shared with partners (RFUK, FODER, etc).



Within the context of the project, “mapping and Forest Governance”, Participative mapping stands as a tool to defend the rights of local communities in natural resources management. The participation of the communities to effectively document and map their resources provide the opportunities for real-time data collection.

Community post after Validation of map

Within the framework of participatory mapping in communities, AJESH carried out 2 missions to Nguti sub division to follow up already mapped communities on how to use their maps as a

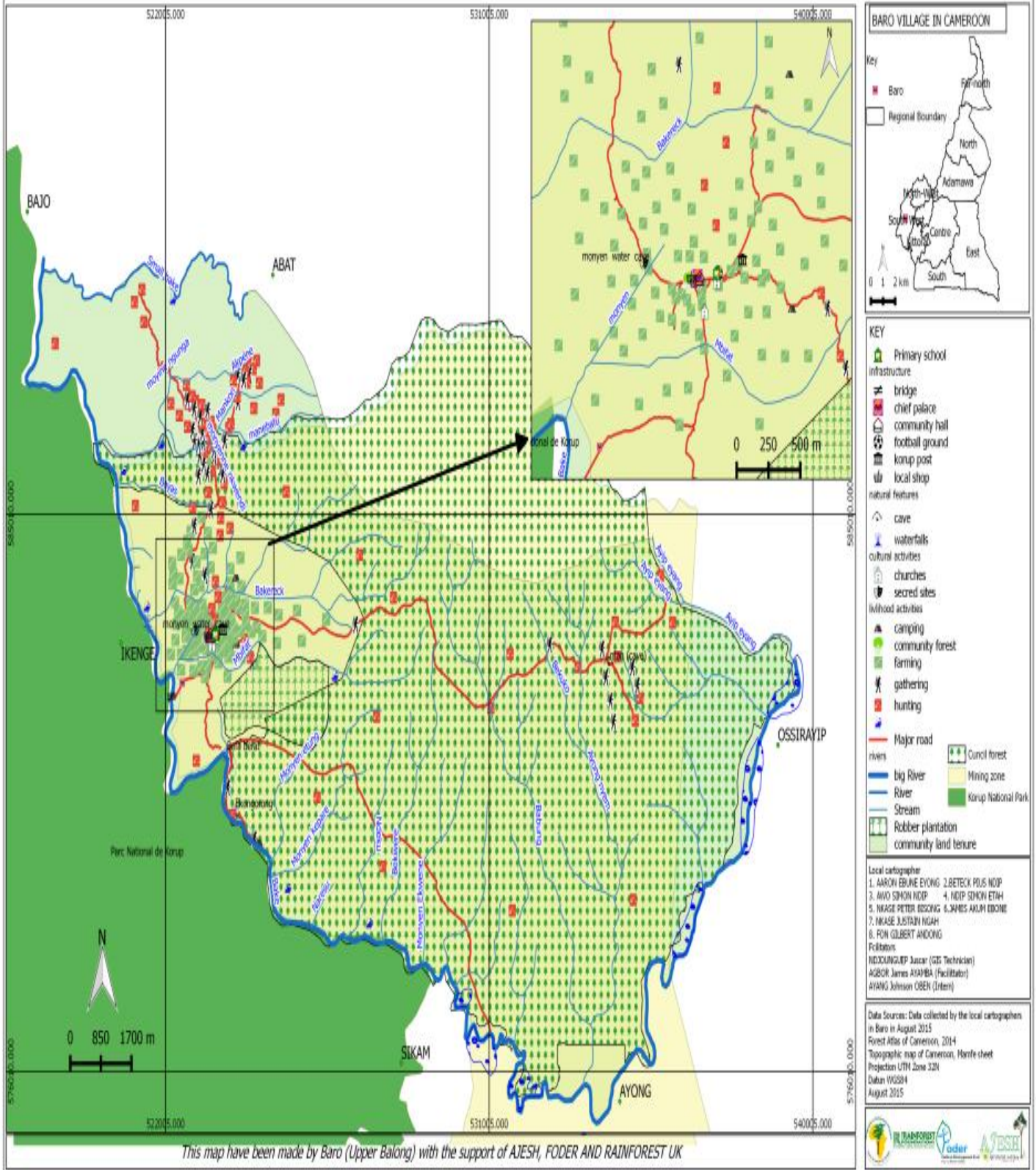


tool to fight for their rights.

During these missions, the AJESH team had discussions with the communities visited on the problems they are facing with respect to land allocation and use, identified cases of conflictual and non-conflictual overlapping of their lands and resources between neighboring villages and other land affections (Logging concessions,

Local Cartographer presenting their village map and uses protected area, Agro industrial establishment, etc.).

FOREST USAGE IN BARO (NGUTI SUBDIVISION)



Forest usage map of BARO village showing the different stakes

2.2. Sustainable Agriculture

We continued with our support and promoted sustainable agriculture so as to enhance sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty. AJESH:

- ❖ Carrying out research on the better production techniques that improve on yield of pepper and cassava products.
- ❖ Organized workshops on organic farming methods for local farmers in Nyasoso,
- ❖ Distributing to farmers and planted high yielding, short season and disease resistant varieties of cassava cuttings to farmers.

2.2.1. Agricultural Research

AJESH carried out research on better techniques of production and marketing of cassava and pepper in order to improve on crop value Chains of these commodities. The research focused on production and processing techniques, challenges within the production and processing cycle,



and marketing. Information was gotten from literature review in research centres like IRAD, the Universities of BUEA, BAMENDA and DSCHANG. Results of the research proved that, most community people were unable to obtain high yielding and disease resistant varieties of planting materials because some of them do not have the means to buy from the research centres, they are not usually selected during government distribution campaigns, they do not have influential politicians who can lobby for them, etc. In collaboration with IRAD; we succeeded distributed high quality cassava cuttings to some farmers within Tombel Sub Division.

Onfarm training of women

2.2.2. Agricultural Workshops

We organized series of training workshops on organic farming, cassava and paper production techniques for local farmers. These workshops opened the minds of farmers on how to save and protect the environment through organic farming.

- ❖ Organized workshops with farmers on improved marketing techniques, using the Value Chain Development Approach.
- ❖ Trained women on environmentally friendly agricultural systems such as composting, agro-forestry, mixed cropping and the effect of their activities on the climate.



2.3. Community health care

Health care activities were one of our sub focus areas where we carried out series of monitoring of communities' attitude towards the use of the mosquito nets as a means to protect and prevent

malaria. Malaria is the number one killer disease in Cameroon that has over decade's caught the attention of the government of Cameroon. This disease has always plaid negatively on the implementation of our activities in the field as most often than not, those with whom we have to work fail to attend to appointments due to poor health as a result of malaria. It is for this reason that we are concerned with the fight to eradicate and thus, reduce the morbidity and mortality rate of the disease in the communities where we work. We carried out the following activities:



Training of CHW in Kombone Health Area

- ❖ Participated in the recruitment and training of 210 LLINs distributing agents for Mbonge, Ekondo Titi and Tombel health Districts. Those selected contributed in the National LLINs distribution in over 240,000 people in about 60,000 households.
- ❖ Recruited and Train_ 120 CHW on BCC, Advocacy, Counseling, home visit, diagnosis of uncomplicated malaria,



CHWs conducting Home Visit on to sensitising on Malaria control

etc. These HCWs worked directly with the community people counseling them in their homes, groups, during clinical sessions, and during public gathering such as national days, cultural festivals, etc on malaria control and prevention.

- ❖ Educated and followed up through bimonthly home visits, over 240,000 people within 21 Health Areas within 3 health Districts, on the Usage of their nets.
- ❖ Educated communities on how to diagnose complicated and uncomplicated malaria and what to do in either of the cases.

2.4. Social Works

We continued with our social activities in some communities with the support from some of our partners and international volunteers. Within this year we:



Support to underprivileged Children

- Distributed text books and other school materials to one secondary school and three primary schools in Nyasoso Tombel and in Kumba.

- School books were equally distributed to over 150 children in 15 communities in Tombel and Nguti Sub Divisions.

- Support 559 aged persons (Women and Men) with medicated reading glasses in Kumba 1, and Nguti Municipalities in the South West region of Cameroon.



Beneficiaries of medicated reading glasses

- Distributed dresses, shoes, tools, etc to over 240

underprivileged children and orphans, and some aged persons in Nyasoso, Etam 1, Etam 2 and in Mbule villages in Tombel Sub Division.



Support to underprivileged families

- Supported some 15 aged persons with food stuff and medication care in Kake 1, Bongwana, Mbonge, Big Bekondo, etc. Food stuff such as rice, palm oil, vegetable oil, salt, maggi, beverages, etc and the payment of medical services rendered to some aged and helpless sick

persons in some of sited communities were taken care of through our social work schemes.

3. Workshops

3.1. Internal Workshops

Internal capacity building sessions were organised for staff on the following themes:

- ❖ Project designing,
- ❖ Stakeholder assessment and analysis,
- ❖ Participatory Mapping,
- ❖ Leadership,
- ❖ Strategic development, etc.

3.2. External workshops/Meetings/Trainings/Forums

AJESH staff participated in series of workshops organised nationally and internationally either as facilitators, moderators, or mere participants in the following sessions:

- ❖ Participated in leadership training organized by WELL GROUNDED UK.
- ❖ Participated in an EU - PASC training on project governance.
- ❖ Training on mapping organized by Rainforest Foundation UK.
- ❖ Two-day open day forum in Buea on how to form partnerships with the public private and civil society organization organized by Reach Out.
- ❖ Best practice of CSO (civil society organizations) actions on cooperative governance.
- ❖ EU- PASC workshop in Project development and management.
- ❖ In view of promoting CSOs collaboration, AJESH participated in a two day position statement workshop for COP 21 organized by FORUDEF.
- ❖ In relation to FLEGT and REDD+ actions we participated in a two-day reinforcement capacity building workshop on the follow up of forest conversion projects, monitoring and denouncing of illegalities on the OBSTER platform.
- ❖ Participated in the RIO DEL REY mangrove platform establishment workshop organized by the National REDD+ Coordination (Cameroon Ecology) in view of promoting conservation.
- ❖ 2 staff participated in training on Independent Forest Monitoring organized by FODER.
- ❖ The Account Officer was trained on DFID and EU financial reporting by FODER.
- ❖ The Resource Mobilizing Officer participated in EU-PASC evaluation meeting in Buea.
- ❖ The CEO participated in three coordination meetings on independent monitoring.
- ❖ On different occasions AJESH staffs have regularly participated in all the FLEGT and REDD+ platform meetings.

4.0. Networking

- ❖ The CEO and the Project Officer participated in three network meetings of the Community and Forest Platform (CFP) on the evaluation of the project EPI-FLEGT.
- ❖ Member of the SWECSON (South West Civil Society Organisations Network) with Head office in Buea, Cameroon.
- ❖ Dynamique Citoyenne (NETWORK of civil society organisation members monitoring Public Investment Budgets)
- ❖ Member of the RUURCIID (Rural and Urban Continental Investment Initiatives for Development) Network group with Head Office in Limbe, Cameroon.

5.0 Cooperation with Government Departments

AJESH has very cordial and fruitful relationships with various Government Ministries and Agencies notably:

MINSANTE (Ministry of Public Health)

MINFOF (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife)

MINADER (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)

MINEPIA (Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries)

MINEPAT (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development)

6.0. Lessons learned and Difficulties encountered.

6.1. Difficulties encountered

- Difficulty in obtaining information from some communities slowed down mapping and the documentation of illegalities forest activities in some their localities.
- Heavy rains contributed in destroying the already bad roads, making accessibility into communities difficult.
- The natures of the terrain i.e. the topography of some communities are hilly, stony. This damaged most of our working materials especially the bikes and the GPS tablets as a result of constant falling with materials carried on head load to some communities.
- The communities are totally not electrified. This poor or no energy supply slowed down the mapping process in most of the communities where we carried out mapping since we print the maps in the village.

- Due to limited finances we could not attain our objectives 100%.
- Our work was also to some extent perturbed by the reluctance and Administrative bottlenecks of some government administrative authorities and the virtuousness of some private sectors and CSOs in providing relevant documentation and information required.

6.2. Lessons learned

- Deal with patience and be explicit to the fullest when dealing with communities
- It is often easier to work with communities when you have their FPIC.
- Participative mapping approach has easily led the identification of potential and future conflict zones between different communities.
- Using participative approaches when dealing with forest communities is the best way to preserve cultural heritage as well as biodiversity.
- Adequate time management is very important in project implementation.
- Participative approaches help community to express them self fully and they have the feeling that they are fully implicated/involved in the decision making process.

7.0. Staff Composition

| S/N | Name | Sex | Position |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 01 | Harrison Nnoko Ngaaje | M | Executive President (CEO) |
| 02 | Patrick Piemme Epie | M | Projects Officer |
| 03 | Mercy Dione Nnoko | F | Account Officer |
| 04 | Collins Kangué | M | Project Coordinator (SUF1) |
| 05 | Aline Dione Esemé | F | Resource Mobilising Officer |
| 06 | James Ayamba Agbor | M | Project Facilitator (MFG) |
| 07 | Juscar Ndjuep | M | GIS technician (MFG) |
| 08 | Lizette Marumba | F | Secretary |
| 09 | Kube Ignatius | F | Extension Staff |
| 10 | Sale Ntoko | M | Extension Staff |
| 11 | Nkem Doris | F | Extension Staff |
| 12 | Emmanuel Ewang | M | Security |

8.0. CONCLUSION

The year 2014/2015 was a very challenging year, as we developed new partnerships and initiated multitude of activities and projects with little financial and unmatched human resources, policy level changes and unforeseen hostile climatic conditions. However, our desire to press on and quest for continual improvement and perfection was our main driving force. This was also possible with the continual technical and financial support from partners and the dynamism of our staffs. We were able to attain a certain level of success through the support from our partners, collaborators and staff, although we registered a few setbacks which was beyond our control. Notwithstanding, in 2016 we hope to capitalize and drew experiences from our past experience to improve on our performance and attain our mission “to move towards a humane and self sustaining environment, free from poverty and injustice”.



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