

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report provides an overview of work carried out by AJESH within the course of 2017. The detailed results illustrated in this report are realisations attained by the entire staff team with support from the Board of Directors (BODs) and some affiliated partners.

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

In particular, the AJESH team appreciates RFUK, C2D-PSFE2 (MINFOF), FODER, IRESCO, LTS International UK, EFI, Well Grounded, Rainbow Environment Consult, The Tenure Facility, RRI, WRI, Eyes on Africa, Transparency International (Cameroon), and PNDP for providing the necessary financial and material backing that contributed to the realisation and attainment of recorded achievements.

In addition, AJESH wishes to express its appreciation to all partners and stakeholders: the Administration particularly, the Governor of the South West Region, the Sub-Divisional Officers for Mbonge, Nguti and Eyumojock; the Councils of Nguti, Mamfe, Menji, Alou and Bangem; the District Medical Officers for Tombel, Nguti, Ekondo Titi, Konye and Kumba; PSMNR, SEFECAM, National and International NGOs for their tireless efforts in seeing that planned activities were realised with respect the state norms. We equally appreciate the Print and Video media houses such as: The Green Vision and The SCOOP, for all their publications that made AJESH's activities visible to the wider world.

We also wish to express our hearty thanks to, Well Grounded, MINFOF (C2D PSFE2), RFUK, KOICA, CGLC, and IRESCO/Global Fund for building staff capacities on: Forest Governance, Leadership, Project Development, Community Support, Advocacy, Accountability and Transparency, etc.

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ACRONYMS

AFD	Agence Francaise pour le Développement
AIDs	Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome
AJESH	AJEMALEBU SELF HELP
AMCUID	Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to fight Malaria for Long-term Impact.
ANC	Anti Natal Care
ASA-GLEN	Is a development education program based in Germany, ENGAGEMENT GLOBAL
BCC	Bahavior Change Communication
BMWS	Bayang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary
BNP	Bakossi national Park
C2D	Contrat Désendettement et Développement
CED	Centre for Environment and Development
CGLC	Canaan Global Leadership Centre
CHW	Community Health Worker
CLUP	Community Land Use Planning
CMP	Common Mapping Platform
CNFF	Cameroon National Forest Forum)
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
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FODER	Forêts et Développement Rurale
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
FP	Family Planning
GAGGA	Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESP	Growth Employment Strategy Paper
GRASP	Great Ape Survival Partnership
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IRESCO	I'Institut pour la Recherche, le développement Socioéconomique et la Communication
KAAC	Korean Alumina Association Cameroon
KOICA	Korean International Cooperation Agency

LUP	Land Use Planning
LTS	LTS International Ltd (Consulting Firm)
MFG	Mapping and Forest Governance
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINADT	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation
MINDCAF	Ministry of Cadastral and Land Tenure
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economic, Planning and Regional Development
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINSANTE	Ministry of Public Health
NACC	National AIDS Control Committee
NCI	National Cartographic Institute
NMCP	National Malaria Control Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTCP	National Tuberculosis Control Programme
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
PAs	Protected Areas
PIB	Public Investment Budget
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PNDP	Programme National de Developpement Participatif
RAINBOW	Rainbow Environment Consult
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation as well as conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RFUK	Rainforest Foundation United Kingdom
RPP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RRI	Rights & Resources Initiative
SCORECARD	Citizens Report Card
SGSOC	SG Sustainable. Oils Cameroon PLC
SSV	Sales by Standing Volume
SUFACHAC	Sustainable Farming and Critical Habitat Conservation to Achieve Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Protected Areas Management Effectiveness in Western Cameroon
SWECSON	South West Civil Society Organisations Network
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreements
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
VFMC	Village Forest Management Committees
WRI	World Resource Institute

FOREWORD

This report sums up our activities implemented within the year 2017. During this year, we continued with our goal to approach people-centred issues such as enhancing natural resource management and livelihoods of our target audience towards sustainable development as well as building firm partnerships with both international and national stakeholders.

Rural and the urban communities in recent years have developed strong interest in forest governance, climate change and health related issues that impact their lives. The interest of these communities in the environment remains central to our work, for we keep believing that there cannot be any development if the concerned persons are not involved and their rights not taken into consideration. It is on this basis that our activities remained focused on making communities understand their rights to land tenure, health, and other related environmental issues while at the same time bringing to them the different facilities to improve their livelihoods.

Our efforts in societal development have increased local people's interest in agricultural production, processing, marketing (adding value in their activities) and sustainable natural resources use. Specific interest has been in guiding the communities to effectively manage their forest resources as well as strategically plan better ways to improve on the management of their tenure systems through participatory mapping and land use planning.

Through our efforts, people in the local communities are gradually becoming aware of the need to actively participate in activities that impact their lives and as a result they are taking ownership of community programmes.

We would not have attained this level of achievement without the commitment and support from our staff, the Administration, consultants, partners and international cooperate bodies. The smooth collaboration and technical support received from our partners spurred our implementation approaches that led to some project realisations as well as contributed enormously to building the capacities of staff in a series of training workshops.

The AJESH Team

1. INTRODUCING AJESH

1.1 Organisation's 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 then “Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation” as a Non-Profit and apolitical Organisation in Cameroon.

1.1.1 Vision

Achieve an empowered, healthy and sustainable society that is free from poverty and injustice in harmony with its environment.

1.1.2 Mission

Improve on the socio-economic conditions of communities, through the empowerment of community members to sustainably manage their natural resources.

1.1.3 Global Objective

To empower communities towards the improvement of their socio-economic wellbeing through participatory management of their natural resources.

1.1.4 Specific objectives

1. Accompany communities to be able to defend their rights and sustainably manage their resources.
2. Strengthen communities by providing sustainable agriculture and income-generating activities.
3. To facilitate access to health services and provide knowledge and skills to improve health practices in communities.
4. Constantly enhance the organisation's capacity and build partnerships that will enable the attainment of set objectives.

1.1.5 Structure:

General Assembly (Supreme body)

Board of Directors (Directing body)

Executive Directorate (Executing body)

1.1.6 Contact

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1.1.7 Location

AJESH works in the entire Cameroon but has offices in the following towns:

Coordination office: Kumba, Nyasosso, Nguti, Konye, Mbonge and Ekondo Titi

Relay persons: Yaounde and Douala

1.1.7 Target Groups

- ❖ The rural and the urban poor
- ❖ Rural women and girls
 - Youths and children
 - Men and boys
 - Elders/the aged

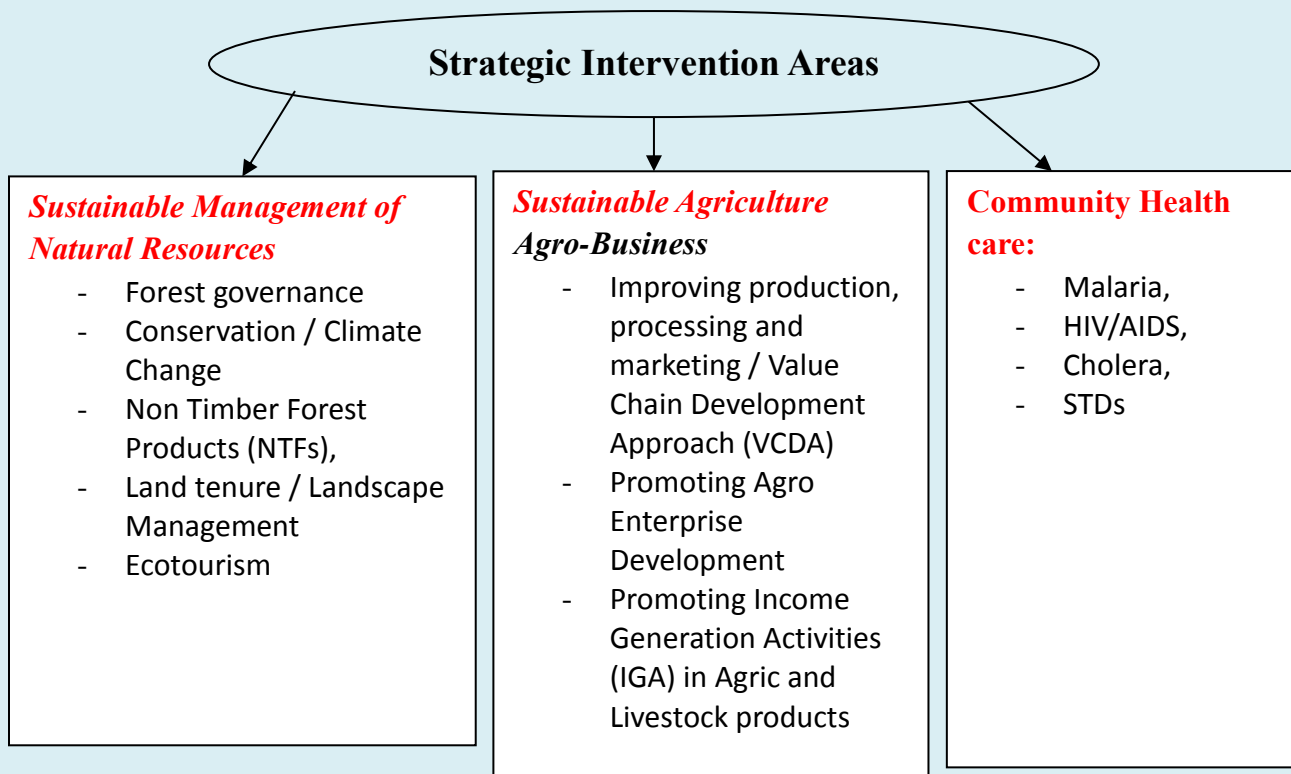
1.1.8 Staff Strength

Number of staff: 20

Community workers: 230

Internship: Varies (international and national)

1.2. Strategic Intervention Areas (2015-2020)



1.3 Affiliation with other Organisations

1.3.1 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
- ❖ Coalition of Natural Resources Management – Cameroon (CNRM)
- ❖ National Land Coalition Platform (NLCP)

- ❖ KAAC: Korean Alumina Association Cameroon
- ❖ National Network for the Defenders of the Rights of Environmental Defenders

1.3.2 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

1.3.3 Partners

- Ministries: MINADER, MINADT, MINDCAF, MINEPAT – PNDP - NCI, MINEPDED, MINFOF, MINSANTE, MINRS - IRAD,

- Municipal Councils: Alou, Bangem, Mamfe, Mbonge, Menji, Nguti, Tinto, etc

- National NGOs

CED

CEFAID

EU

FODER

IRESKO

Plan Cameroon

Rainbow Environment Consult

WWF - Cameroon

International

ASA-GLEN

EFI (European Forest Institute)

Eye on Africa USA

Global Fund

LTS International UK

Plan International

RFUK

Well Grounded

2. PROGRESS MADE

2.1. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

2.1.1. Forest Governance

With respect to the Cameroon forestry law of 1994 that gives rural communities access rights to forest resources in or around their villages and to effectively participate in the management of forest concessions in collaboration with logging companies, AJESH reorganised and trained 72 selected VFMCs around Manyu Division on their roles in the management of FMUs in accordance to the law. Concentration within this year was focused on VFMC around FMUs: 11001, 11002, 11003/4 and 11006 all under being concessions of SEFECAM/SIENCAM.

AJESH, on the invitation of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, carried out the aforementioned trainings within the framework of the implementation of activities of the project “*Amanagement et Suivi des forets du Cameroun*” within the contractual obligation entered between MINFOF and AJESH under the Indebtedness and Development program (C2D) in pursuance to the dispositions of the convention of affectation No. CCM1233 01 G of 28th of June 2012 signed between AFD and the government of Cameroon.

Against this backdrop, AJESH organised two-day workshops each in Eyumojock, Mamfe and Tinto Subdivisions respectively to train some selected VFMCs around the concerned FMUs in Manyu Division. The focus of the workshop sessions were on the following:

- Forest and wildlife legislation in Cameroon;
- Importance of forest governance and its importance to the government;
- Importance, roles, responsibilities of VFMCs and their relationship with companies exploiting timber in the area and MINFOF;
- Importance of FMUs and their contribution to council and village development;
- User rights, surveillance and control of illegal activities in FMUs;
- Conflict management and resolution;
- Identifying and setting up projects;

- Planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation activities.

Presentations during the workshop stressed the following issues:

- Assessment of activities of timber companies and community involvement in the management of forest resources especially in areas with conflicts.
- Forestry Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) with a focus on Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).
- Factors that promote illegal logging such as: unfair and insecure rights to own and access forests, corruption that undermines laws enforcement, exclusion from decision making of communities that depend on the forest.



Community representatives and government officials at the workshop

2.1.2 Land Tenure / Landscape Management

Deforestation in Cameroon is on the rise – largely driven by expansion of agro-industry, slash and burn agriculture, logging, fuelwood demands, mining and infrastructure development. Competition for productive land in Cameroon has increased, notably with foreign companies seeking large tracts of land (10,000 hectares and above) for agricultural development. Since 2012 the Ministry of State Lands (MINDCAF) has engaged in a nationwide process to identify and reserve large areas of land to offer to future investors.

In Cameroon (and the region) there has been limited practical experience in both drafting and implementing holistic and inclusive Land Use Plans (LUPs) that reconcile diverse interests in a negotiated and balanced way. The urgency to resolve land disputes, promote sustainable land management and reduce deforestation are high on the public agenda. The Government is currently seeking to promote multi-sectoral land use planning in the context of the 2011 Orientation Law on Land Management and Sustainable Development (the 2011 LUP Law), and draft new Rural Development Strategy (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), 2015).

The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries (VGGT) promote the respect of customary tenure during all phases of land use planning, allocation and management. Recognition of customary tenure and LUPs are also a pre-requisite for Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) during REDD+ project development processes (UN-REDD, 2015). In particular, building an effective participatory approach to land use planning at the local (council) level that balances environmental, social and economic prerogatives is seen as an essential foundation for successful implementation of the Rural Development Strategy (2015).

Moreover, commitments were made in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement to address deforestation and land use change as key pillars of a global strategy to keep climate change within safe limits. Cameroon's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution sets out to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent from current projected emissions by 2035. In addition, there is a rapidly increasing membership of companies in the Tropical Forestry Alliance 2020 (TFA2020), which have pledged to achieve zero deforestation in their supply chains by the year 2020.

It is within this framework that MINEPAT instituted the national and Regional Zoning plan with the decentralization process in Cameroon which is also being established in most of the countries of the Congo basin, with communities' involvement in decision-making becoming an imperative as far as the management of land and resources are concerned. It is within this bracket that AJESH and its partners, delved in mapping and LUP with aims to:

- ✓ Give the government and other concerned stakeholders accurate information on how communities use their lands and resources;
- ✓ Empower community members to be part of decision-making processes concerning their lands;
- ✓ Secure communities's livelihood sources and
- ✓ Guide communities on how to plan and manage their lands and resources in a sustainable manner.

2.1.2.1 Community Participatory Mapping

2017 marked the continuation of the third year of implementation of the DFID funded project “Mapping and Forest Governance (MFG) in the Congo Basin” with coordination from RFUK. AJESH being one of the key implementing partners in Cameroon proceeded with the final documentation of forest communities’ land tenure and governance system; with the development of community participatory mapping lands and forest resources as stipulated by law as defined by the NCI.

This project, which also supports stakeholders, forest communities, NGOs, administrative authorities and institutions, use the project data and results to inform land and resource users in their planning processes in order to recognise community rights. The project equally went to its completion with the mapping of the villages that make up the entire Nguti Municipality in Nguti Sub-division, Kupe-Muanenguba Division, South West Region of Cameroon. AJESH successfully mapped the customary land and resources of 53 out of 54 village communities within Nguti Municipality. Copies of these maps were handed to each community mapped and shared with project partners, the council and the Administration of Nguti.

Within the context of the MFG project, participative mapping stands as a tool to defend the rights of local communities in natural resource management. The participation of the communities to effectively document and map their natural resources provides opportunities for real-time data collection.

In addition, AJESH in collaboration with RAINBOW ENVIRONMENT CONSULT with support from The Tenure Facility succeeded to developing and validating a harmonized a National participatory mapping methodology for all of Cameroon which will ensure systematic and consistent methods across organisations implementing community mapping. The methodology was approved and authorized for use by MINEPAT under the technical supervision of NCI.

2.1.2.2. Community Land Use Planning (CLUP)

Within the framework of LUP by MINEPAT and with the decentralization process that is gaining grounds in Cameroon and other countries of the Congo basin, communities' involvement in decision-making becomes imperative especially regarding land use planning. It was in this light that the management of AJESH with assistance of RFUK reviewed the CLUP methodology that was developed and tested in Upper Balong clan in 2016 when certain gaps were realised with the method. This revised methodology was therefore used by AJESH in the realization of CLUP in some communities in the Nguti municipality, as pilot.

In order to further test the revised guide, AJESH then supported three clans in the implementation of their Community Land Use Planning. A total of 15 community LUP maps have been developed in Upper Balong, Bebum and Bassossi Clans within Nguti Sub Division of Cameroon.

A. CLUP for Upper Balong Clan (completing 2017 work)

In 2017, in a bid to further guide communities on how to plan and manage their lands and resources in a sustainable manner, AJESH collected supplementary data for the 7 out of the 8 villages in the Upper Balong clan as an added value to the land use planning work that was tested in 2016. Supplementary data was collected in the following domains.

Strategic Directives (Rules)

The communities were guided in identifying what type of development they envisaged and needed for their communities and clan specifically in the domains of: built up areas, croplands, ecotourism, Forest reserves and wildlife management. They developed strategic directions which guide them on ways to follow up development projects in their communities as well as rules and sanctions a means of dispute resolution for defaulters of the laws of the land. Those perturbing development will be brought to book with the use of forces of law and order.



Cross-section of Upper Balong community developing their strategic directives

Identification of Monitoring Plan

In each of the 7 communities, a monitoring plan developed by the CLUP committee established in order to define communities' local solutions or action to be used to ensure the sustainability of the implementation of their land use plan. For this, one monitoring plan was made for each land use type (Built Area, Croplands, Ecotourism, Community Forest and the Forest).



Cross-section of development of monitoring plan in Talangaye and Ayong village in Upper Balong

Identification of Action Plan

An action plan for the empowering of the decision makers in the community to tie the relationship between the different themes of developing strategic directions and monitoring plan was developed relative to built area, agricultural land and community forest.



Development of an action plan at Ayong and Baro village for Upper Balong

B: CLUP for Bebum Clan

With the success of test phase of CLUP exercise in Upper Balong clan using the revised methodology, AJESH through RFUK with funds from DFID was given the opportunity to further test the methodology in the field in other clans in Nguti Subdivision.

In order to ensure that the effective involvement of all stakeholders would lead to a clear and sustained expression of communities' interests, a participatory approach was adopted not only to ensure the free expression and commitment of all components of the community, but to also present the information collected on communities and external actors to promote dialogue and communication between all stakeholders in land management.

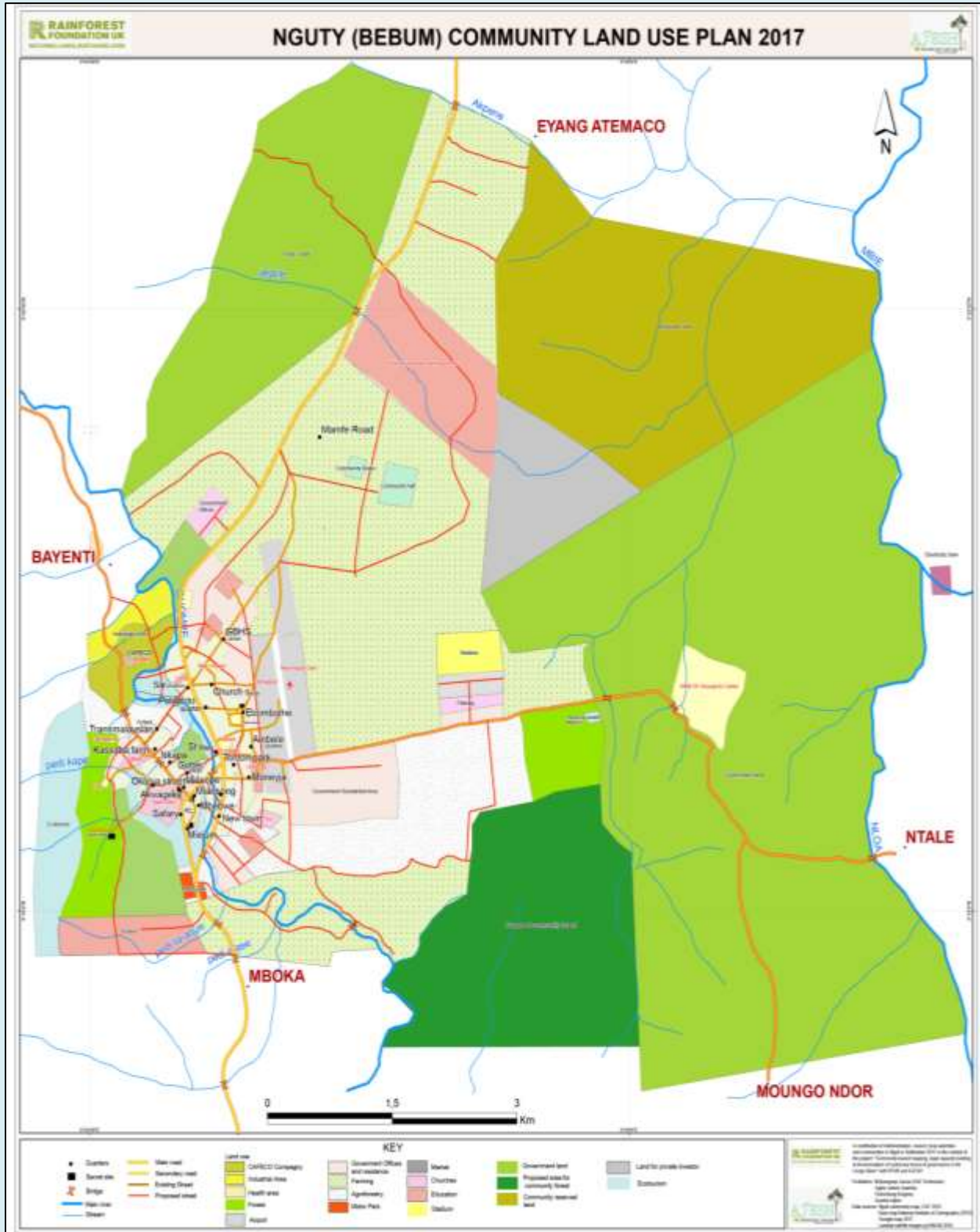
It is within this context that AJESH supported the Bebum clan on community land use planning. This clan is significantly affected by SGSOC, established logging concession, sales by standing volume (SSV), FMU (FMU 11-006), community forest, Nkwende Hills Forest Reserve, heavy administrative investments and infrastructures. With all this in mind, the Bebum community worked diligently respecting all the processes in developing their CLUP.



Community planners collecting household data



Validation of the Bebum LUP



Land use plan Map for Bebum

Land Use Plan for Bebum

Land use	Activities	Area	%
Community forest		2166.71	24.37
Infrastructure	Community hall	16.73	0.19
	Community Radio	4.33	0.05
	Stadium	34.28	0.39
	Government Residential Area	44.78	0.50
	Government Offices	14.72	0.17
	Parking	1398.05	15.73
	Council Guest house	2	0.02
	Petrol station	2.946	0.03
Sanitation & health	Area for waste deposit	1.79	0.02
	Health Centre	1.600	0.02
	Trash can area	1	0.01
Industry		213.051	2.40
Crop land	Farming	496.92	5.59
	Agroforestry	295.67	3.33
Forest	Private investors	198.61	2.23
	Reserved land	31.05	0.35
Build area	Residence extension	125.68683	1.41
	Residence for Government	725.99	8.17
	Actual residence area	196.6085	2.21
Transport	Moto park	6.21	0.07
	Street/road		0.00
Electricity	Dam	4.05	0.05
	Solar centre	7.43	0.08
Government land	Heracles Farm	31.40	0.35
	Forest management unit	2528.84	28.45
	Airstrip	84.304	0.95
Ecotourism		120.04	1.01
Culture	Sacred sites	1.70	0.02
	Churches	9.89	0.11
Education		79.1801	0.89
Research		4.899	0.06
Council		58.721	0.66
Private		90	1.01
Market		10	0.11
Total tenure		8890.00	100.00

C: CLUP for Bassossi Clan

Land use planning was also carried out for the Bassossi clan. This was the 3rd out of the 9 clans planned in Nguti municipality. So far, out of the 11 villages that make the clan, AJESH successfully planned 09 communities in 2017: Babensi I, Babensi II, Ekita, Ofripabi, Mboka, Ekenge, Mungo Dor, Ediengo and New Konye villages respectively.

2.1.2.3. Council Level Land Use Planning for Nguti

In view to further promulgate land use planning at council level, AJESH in collaboration with LTS and Rainbow with finances from EFI signed an MoU for the implementation of land use planning at the council level. This involved integrating CLUP into the council level planning. The factors that are addressed this type of planning process are complex.

The EFI Common Mapping Platform (CMP) is expected to play a central role in building commitment to a bottom up, participatory approach that brings together multiple stakeholders to foster a common understanding and agreement on land uses, institutions (rules) for future land management and activities necessary to achieve sustainable land management. It is also predicted that it will foster common understanding between relevant Ministries, regional delegations, civil society and private sector organisations around the data required, methodology and decision support tools to prepare local (council) LUPs. Such an approach will meet both VGGT and REDD requirements, and ensure that it is supported by the higher levels of planning that identify and prioritise national planning targets to guide local decision making.

As a continuation of the CMP Phase 1 of the project that ran from May 2014 to Feb 2016 with consultancy service offered by LTS headed by James Acworth, AJESH contributed in the realisation of the results obtained. Under the leadership of the MINEPAT, a multi-stakeholder process was put in place involving a series of workshops with national, regional and local partners. With technical support provided by LTS, Rainbow Consult and AJESH the efforts that proved effective in supporting MINEPAT build a coalition of partners. The coalition aimed at developing a methodology for

transparent and inclusive local LUPs, protocols for standard map layer preparation, and spatial planning tools that better address both social and environmental concerns. LUPs are pre-requisite for responsible governance, land management, FLEGT and REDD+. A draft set of protocols for data collection, analysis and publication has been prepared for sharing with MINEPAT, which comprised of:

1. Travel time to market developed by Simone Vaccari of LTS.
2. Oil palm suitability map prepared by Johannes Pirker.
3. Plant Biodiversity scores developed by Dr Hawthorne of the Oxford University Plant Sciences Department in collaboration with the National Herbarium.

Additional protocols and data layers were adopted from partner initiatives:

1. RFUK's participatory mapping "MappingForRights" methodology, tested in Nguti by AJESH in Phase 1.
2. Cocoa suitability map prepared by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA; Schroth et al. 2016).

Based on these protocols, fieldwork was conducted by the LTS consortium members to collect data about biodiversity, transport costs, crop suitability, and RFUK and AJESH conducted participatory mapping of customary tenure and land use, and rural infrastructure. Resulting map layers were validated by stakeholders, and integrated into a beta version of a CMP with the technical support of the World Resource Institute. A preliminary trial was conducted at a workshop with local stakeholders in Nguti organised by AJESH to test how such data can be used in combination with planning tools to identify future land use scenarios that will be analysed in more depth to prepare a full LUP for the Nguti Council. At the end of Phase 1, the MINEPAT expressly requested EFI support to further develop methods and tools for local land use planning and to test them in at least one municipality. This is an essential official endorsement of work done under Phase 1 and a necessary foundation for Phase 2.

The proposal for phase two was submitted to EFI for funding by the LTS consortium (LTS, Rainbow and AJESH) that was successful. After the MoU was signed by consortium members, the project commenced with a team workshop (Workshop 1) in Yaoundé in which focused on developing: 1. A clear Theory of Change (ToC) for land use planning and adoption of the guidelines; 2. A thorough stakeholder analysis that identifies interests, and prepares a mini-strategy and communication plan that targets engagement to ensure buy-in; 3. A detailed calendar and implementation plan for the assignment. These was developed as appropriate with representatives from EFI, MINEPAT and other identified partners from government, civil society and private sector organisations as the first step to ensure the successful implementation of Component 9 of the project (uptake and ownership).

2.1.3. Conservation / Climate Change

2.1.3.1 Promoting REDD+

Within the mapping and forest governance activity, AJESH prepared grounds for REDD+ implementation through awareness-raising on climate change challenges within and out of the country of and on the need for community participation in conserving critical biodiversity using their maps.

In 2017, during the implementation of community participatory mapping and land use planning activity, AJESH promulgated and supported REDD+ process within some communities in Nguti, Mbonge, Bangem and Kumba 1 subdivisions of the South West Region of Cameroon. The awareness raised set up the grounds for effective participation of the local communities in climate friendly activities.

AJESH held discussions and sensitized communities not only on climate change topics such as the purpose of conservation and the effects of deforestation, but also promoted informed decision making, re-forestation, biodiversity adaptation, promotion of climate friendly livelihood activities - traditional conservation activities – poor agricultural practices, and practical land zoning of community land.

In support of this AJESH continued sensitising communities on REDD+ activities with the communities of Kake, Nongomadiba, Elum II, Muaku, Elah, Ndun, Eyandong, Muandelengo, Ekanjoh Bajoh, Nzimbeng, Nyandong1, Nyandong II, Eboka Bajoh, Mekom, Boka Bajoh, Epen and Jandu in Kupe Muanenguba, and Meme Divisions in the Southwest Region.

2.1.3.2. Sensitization of Communities on Conservation

Integrated biodiversity conservation was another important mission that AJESH accomplished between 16th October and 24th November 2017 with communities in and around the Bakossi National Park through the SUFACHAC Project, with funding from

UNEP for a period of four years through its agency, the Global Environmental Fund (GEF).

In support of the implementing partners of the SUFACHAC project designed to develop and promote integrated land use planning - biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming in Bakossi Banyang Mbo terrestrial ecosystems to facilitate increased cross-sectorial investments and improved livelihood for the local communities, AJESH plaid a key role in the realisation of the field activities.

This project which aimed at ensuring restoration and management of ecosystem services in the context of a green economy operates within the following components:

- Critical wildlife habitat conservation through creation/strengthening of protected areas or high conservation value;
- Sustainable farming practices and promotion of communities' livelihood and biodiversity conservation through IESMP;
- Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation.

AJESH organised two working sessions to brief village communities and stakeholders around and within the Bakossi National Park (BNP) and Bayang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary (BMWS) on the need to effectively participate in the management of protected area (Co-Management). The meetings brought together representatives of some villages directly linked with the BNP and the BMWS.

Beyond sensitization, AJESH obtained Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from some communities; identified Village Forest Management Committees (VFMCs) in the villages within the Bakossi National Park (BNP); identified social groups, farmers' groups, cooperatives, associations, hunters' groups, youth groups, women groups, etc, for some of the villages; collected community supplementary data on the BNP as well as identified resources and focal persons for each village/groupings.



Cross-section of participants at information and sensitization meeting

Recommendations:

At the end of the meetings, participants recommended among others that:

- A thorough inventory of villages which are closer to the parks be drawn to avoid fraud and misrepresentation of the communities.
- Benefits of conservation should go to the communities who share boundaries with the BNP and BMWS.
- Efforts should always be made to have the effective quality representation of all villages in subsequent meetings.
- Programme Management Unit (PMU) should take into consideration that the forest is their heritage.
- Boundary demarcations between communities and the protected areas should be identified and properly clarified.
- That conservation activities should take much consideration not just about the parks but also the well-being of the communities within and around the parks;
- The park management should consider the aspect of demarcation of the parks in the future;
- Adapted livelihoods should be developed for the communities with considerations that they are highly dependent on the parks for their survival;

- Billboards should be only for villages with buffer zone or villages who share boundaries with parks.

2.2. Agricultural Research

In collaboration with our international interns from ASA-GLEN, we carried out research on the integration of agroforestry and the different farming methods carried out by farmers in Nguti Subdivision favourable to the environment. The research focused on meeting local farmers and asking them about their farming practices, gathering general information about cultivated crops, farming practices and production cycle with specific questions concerning agroforestry and tree use on farmlands. The goal was to promote the integration of trees and crops in a spatial disposal so that ecological and economic interactions between the components are possible.



Interview with a smallholder at Betock village

In the course of the research, 20 farms were visited in Bebum clan and 45 farms from 32 farmers in four villages of the Bassossi clan. 90% of the farmers whose farms we visited do mixed-cropping of mainly food crops. It was from these visits that vital information was gotten and presented to the community in a workshop organised at Nguti.



Focus group discussion with farmers of Ekenge village

One of the major findings was that the majority of the farmers knew little or nothing about agroforestry while others were practicing it unknowingly. Furthermore, their slash-and-burn practice of farming makes it difficult for them to realise high yields. In this case, different sustainable farming methods were proposed and the general population of Nguti community was encouraged to integrate Inga trees in their farms. These trees were freely distributed to over 120 farmers within Nguti subdivision.



Presentation of the advantages of the inga tree to the community at Nguti Council hall

2.3. Community Health Care

2.3.1. Preventing Malaria, HIV/AIDs, etc. in Communities

AJESH in continuation of the community driven health care program to ensure a healthy community succeeded in implementing the project: “Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to fight Malaria for Long-term Impact from 2015 to 2017” abbreviated AMCUID in collaboration of with Global Fund, MINSANTE and the partners (IRESCO). This project is part of the new funding mechanism of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; ensuring consistent integration of community activities of the three programmes namely National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), National AIDS Control Committee (NACC), and the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP). This programme integration led to a readjustment of activities, and consequently performances metrics of the various actors in project implementation on the ground.

AJESH worked to facilitate the implementation of the harmonized community intervention strategy whose goal is to ensure that at least 80% of the population adopts conducive practices to the promotion of healthy behaviours, the prevention and integrated management of diseases (Malaria, Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Malnutrition, Onchocerciasis, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, etc.) including combating violence and promoting FP at community level, especially in priority intervention areas.

Within this programme, AJESH covered Ekondo Titi, Konye Nguti and Tombel health districts out of the selected seven for the South West Region. AJESH was tasked with facilitating the implementation of Community Based Interventions in these districts which involved overseeing the day to day activities of recruited Community Health Workers (CHW) in their respective communities. In order to intensify the awareness in communities on the use of long lasting insecticidal nets as a means to protect them from malaria, which has been the number one killer disease in Cameroon for decades, AJESH through the community workers carried out a series of educational activities with the support of state health personnel working at the health districts and health area levels. Realizations so far registered included:

Activities carried out:

- ❖ Continuously trained over 237 recruited CHWs in Konye, Ekondo Titi, Nguti and Tombel health districts on the context of AMCUID;
- ❖ Continuously revised with CHWs the process on BCC, Advocacy, Counseling, home visits, diagnosis of uncomplicated malaria, educational talks, refer cases of early malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and pregnant women to the hospital (for ANC) etc. These CHWs work directly with the community people counseling them in their homes, groups, during clinical sessions, and during public gatherings such as national days, cultural festivals, etc. on malaria control and prevention, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ Carried out monthly and quarterly supervision of all CHWs in the four health districts covered by AJESH.
- ❖ Carried out bi-monthly home visits in 21 health areas within 4 health districts, and encouraged household members on the usage of mosquito nets, diagnosed cases of complicated and uncomplicated malaria and reported to the nearest health facilities for follow-up of patients.
- ❖ Organised quarterly project coordination meetings with the CHWs at each of the Health Districts at health area levels with objectives to identify challenges faced by the CHW and develop local solutions to handle such difficulties. These were also sessions where nonfunctional CHWs were urged to take their work serious.
- ❖ At health district level, the district team, AJESH and the Regional representatives organised coordination meeting where they shared lessons learnt and brainstormed on handling project field challenges and charting way forward for field activities. These sessions also opportunities to reflect on replacing non active CHWs.

2.4: Research/Studies/Facilitation/Consultancy

2.4.1. Citizen's Reporting Card (Scorecard)

The National Community-Driven Development Program (PNDP) is a tool designed in 2004 by the Government of Cameroon with the support of its technical and financial partners with a view to improving the living conditions of the populations in rural areas on the one hand, and to boost the decentralization process, on the other hand. It is one of the tools for the implementation of the GESP local planning and support to the transfer of competences to Councils of Cameroon approved and used since 2012 for the preparation of the PIB at the National level.

The implementation of the citizens' role in a Council through the Citizen Report Card (SCORECARD) stands as the means of getting various pieces of information, co-ordination and monitoring mechanisms both at council and PNDP levels, on which the citizen engagement relies.

Based on the above-mentioned, AJESH was selected by PNDP to conduct a population perception survey on the quality of public services delivery within the council environment, especially in the hydraulic, health education sectors and council services offered to the public. AJESH effectively implemented the activities in 5 council areas namely: Mamfe, Bangem, Nguti, Alou and Menji.

Activities carried out included:

- ❖ Officially launched the programme in all five council areas with the aim of sensitizing, informing and obtaining support of stakeholders involved for the effective implementation of the project activities at the municipal level;
- ❖ Lobbied local stakeholders after understanding their expectations, to equally sensitize their subjects or communities for the success of the project;
- ❖ Selected and recruited 15 enumerators in each council area and trained them on field data collection. Data collection tools were also put at their disposal;
- ❖ The trained enumerators in the 5 council areas collected field data in four sectors namely - water, health, education and council services;
- ❖ The AJESH management team supervised and ensured that data collected were effectively carried out in the council areas following the project plan;
- ❖ Assembled the data collection tools and reported on the results;



Group picture at Alou Council area



Trained enumerators in Bangem Council

3. TRAININGS/FORUMS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

Within the course of the year 2017, AJESH staff participated in a series of capacity building workshops and training courses organised both nationally and internationally as follows:

- ❖ Two staff participated in a leadership capacity course organised by Well Grounded from April 2017 to February 2018.
- ❖ Eight staff participated in the revision workshop of a community land use planning methodology organised by RFUK.
- ❖ The organization participated in the National Forest Forum in Yaounde.
- ❖ Staff participated in the capacity building training on strategic planning and budgeting organised by SWECSON from 30th October to 1st November.
- ❖ On 26th May, AJESH staff participated in an exchange forum between CSOs and political parties to discuss ways to contribute to the reinforcement of democracy in Cameroon.
- ❖ Five staff were trained as supervisors for the implementation of the citizen reporting card “SCORECARD” in in Cameroon.
- ❖ In view of promoting CSOs collaboration, AJESH organised and facilitated a capacity workshop for GAGGA initiative in Nguti.
- ❖ Four staff participated in a workshop organised by Rainbow Environment Consult on the development of guidelines for council land use and sustainable development plans and completion of data collection protocol in Yaounde.
- ❖ An in-house working session was organised with Well Grounded to enhance staff capacity on institutional strategic planning.
- ❖ AJESH staff regularly participated in all the National FLEGT and REDD+ platform meetings.
- ❖ Four staff participated in a two-day Southwest Regional Tax Force Coordination meeting in Buea: 30 October - 1st November.
- ❖ AJESH staff received series of training from the C2D PSFE2 program on the following subjects: operation and use of GIS, Forest Inventory, Forest

Management, tree species identification and monitoring and reporting of identified illegality identified in logging concessions.

- ❖ AJESH participated in workshops on “Cameroon Rural Development Course” organised by KOICA, CIAT and CGLC Korea.

4.0. LESSONS LEARNED AND DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

4.1. Difficulties Encountered

- Limited funds to achieve planned activities for the year.
- The reluctant reception of the team in some communities delayed work.
- The unresponsive attitude of some persons towards community activities slowed down work.
- The topography of some communities are hilly, stony and undulating. This damaged most of our working materials especially the motorcycles and the GPS tablets as a result of constant falling with the materials.
- Most communities are not electrified. This poor or no energy supply slowed down work progress in most of the communities.
- To some extent, working in some was also perturbed by administrative bottlenecks and the reluctance of some government administrative authorities and the virtuousness of some private sectors and CSOs in providing relevant documentation and information required for field work.

4.2. Lessons Learned

- Determination and self-drive is the foundation needed to realise set objectives and work in the most difficult environment.
- Communication is the key for project success in communities.
- Agricultural researches help to identify how to help the communities upgrade the activities, approaches to work and identify financial sources for this to occur.
- Incorporating leadership skills is vital for every working environment.
- Practice patience and be explicit when dealing with communities.
- It is often easier to work with communities when you have their consent.

- Participatory mapping approach has easily led to the identification of potentials and future conflict zones between different communities and acts as a base for effective community planning.
- Using participatory approaches when dealing with communities is the best way to preserve cultural heritage as well as biodiversity.
- Adequate time management is very important in activity implementation in communities.
- Achieving success for implementing initiatives brings inspiration.
- Participatory approaches help communities to express themselves fully and they have the feeling that they are fully involved in the decision-making process thus, can take ownership.

5.0. STAFF / BOD COMPOSITION

a. Staff Composition

S/N	Name	Sex	Position
01	Harrison Nnoko Ngaaje	M	Executive President (CEO)
02	Epie Patrick Piemme	M	Project Coordinator
03	Nnoko Mercy Dione	F	Administrative and Finance Officer
04	NDJOUNGUEP Juscar	M	GIS Database Manager
05	Dione Esemé Aline	F	Assistant Project Coordinator/Resource Mobilising Officer
06	Agbor James Ayamba	M	Forester/ Senior programs Facilitator
07	Philomina Endzoadong	F	Cahier Officer
08	Kingsley Ayamba	F	Land Use Planning Facilitator
09	Ayaisha Agbor	M	Land Use Planning Facilitator
10	Collins Kangué	M	Tombel AMCUID Coordinator
11	Ngole Lord-Denise	M	Konye and Senior AMCUID Coordinator
13	Kube Ignatius	M	Ekondo Titi AMCUID Coordinator
14	Elad zacharia	M	Nguti AMCUID Coordinator
15	NgekjemimaGueji	F	Sanitation
16	Ngane Benjamin	M	Staff at large
17	Harold Ngole	M	Legal Adviser
18	Charlie Ntonifor	F	Research Officer
19	Volunteers		National and International

20	Student Interns		<p>From universities and professional training institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nkwemouo Djomo Marinette Vanissa (intern from University of Dschang) - Mballa Patricia (intern from University of Dschang) - Benjamin Peters (intern from Germany) - Verena Merkle (intern from Germany) - Julia Meller (interns from Germany) - Irene Ngamy (intern from the University of Buea)
21	Security	M	Sizer & Sons

b. BOD composition

NO.	NAME	PROFESSION	POSITION	SEX
1	Samson Ekwe Ntio	Forester	Chairman of the Board	M
2	Serah Malike Ngoe	Health Specialist	Financial Secretary	F
3	Christina Fonbah	Agronomist	Member	F
4	John Ewane Nnoko	Social Scientist	Adviser	M
5	Marie Louis Kelle	Farmer	Member	F

6.0. ANNUAL BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

AJESH Annual Budget for 2017 (January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017)		
Income/ Revenue	Total (FCFA)	Total (USD \$)
Special Events	5,000,000	8,850
Project Grants		
<i>Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Protection (Forest Governance, Community participatory Mapping, Conservation, lands Use Planning, climate change, forest monitoring, etc)</i>	175,000,000	309,735
<i>Sustainable Agriculture</i>	18,400,000	32,566
<i>Community Health Care</i>	21,000,000	37,168
Other Services	32,000,000	56,637
Total Revenue	251,400,000	444,956
Expenditures	Total (FCFA)	Total (USD \$)
Field Work (Activity related Cost)	166,750,000	295,133
Salaries	22,816,000	40,382
Fringe Benefits	1,450,000	2,566
Volunteers	2,500,000	4,425
Professional fees / contracted services	6,000,000	10,619
Equipments / Maintenance	18,500,000	32,743
Trainings / Conferences (Staff Capacity Building)	12,000,000	21,239
Telephone/Internet/Fax/Mails	1,200,000	2,124
Special events	2,500,000	4,425
Publications/Printing	3,500,000	6,195
Exchange visit	3,500,000	6,195
Monitoring & Evaluation	5,500,000	9,735
Annual Audit	2,000,000	3,540
Stationeries	1,250,000	2,212
Rent	2,400,000	4,248
Utilities	1,500,000	2,655
Miscellaneous	6,200,000	10,973
Total Expenses	259,566,000	459,409
Net Income / (Deficit)	-8,166,000	-14,453

1 FCFA = \$ 565

7.0. CONCLUSION

The year 2017 was challenging but successful year for us, as we developed new partnerships and initiated multiple projects with little financial, human resources. We mitigated policy level changes and unforeseen hostile socio-political condition especially the Anglophone crisis. However, our desire to press on and our tireless pursuit for continuous improvement and perfection were our main driving force; with the spirit of “WORK FIRST, SERVE FIRST AND SACRIFICE FIRST”. Our registered achievements within this year were also possible due to the sustained technical and financial backup from partners, collaborators and the dynamism of our staff. Even though we registered a few setbacks which were beyond our control, we hope to capitalize and draw inspiration from our past experiences to improve on our performance and attainment of our mission in 2018 keeping at the back of our minds that WE CAN.