



Community Assistance in Development
COMAID
ANNUAL REPORT, 2020

Approved Narrative Report, 2020
Board Chair, COMAID

Executive Summary 2020 Fiscal Year

COMAID is a Non-Governmental Organization based in Bamenda, the regional headquarter of the North West Region of Cameroon. The goal of COMAID is to improve the standards of living of communities in the urban and rural areas of Cameroon. COMAID works in five specific objective areas to attain its goal namely: land governance; biodiversity conservation; income generation; GIS/GPS in development and institutional development. COMAID has made major strides in all her objective areas in 2020 through her continuous interventions and support to local communities in four regions of Cameroon.

In the area of **land governance**, COMAID continued the creation and strengthening of regional observatories to monitor large scale land acquisition that dispossess local communities of their ancestral lands and life resources that they depend on. The lead members of the North West Land Observatory (NWLO), South West Land Observatory (SWLO) and South Land Observatory (SLO) were trained on the land concession process in Cameroon, a training which was restituted to over 40 CSOs in the three region. Also, COMAID supported the three regional Observatories financially to engage in peaceful redress processes on problematic and irresponsible investments that affect the livelihood of local and indigenous communities. Also within the year, three communities in the regions were supported to protest against irresponsible concession projects, a process that was accompanied by two experience sharing workshops to take stock on the advancements of redress processes. Furthermore, COMAID supported local communities around the Ebo forest in Nkam Division on using Free, Prior, Informed, Consent (FPIC) as a tool to protect community rights in forest concession processes. COMAID was very instrumental in the protest against MINFOF's decision in classifying part of the Ebo forest which is a biodiversity hotspot into a forest management unit, this protest resulted to the President of the Republic suspending the classification process.

In the area of **Conservation and biodiversity protection** COMAID started the implementation of a project in three communities around the Ebo forest notably; Mamba, Ebo and Ndogbong. The action that is being financed by IUCN/PPI aims at promoting participatory management of the Ebo forest through participatory landuse plans (PLUP). Of late the Ebo forest has been at the center of media attraction with the government of Cameroon through the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife's decision to allocate the Ebo forest as a forest management unit. COMAID worked with the three

beneficiary communities to develop PLUPs with the aim of protecting community land and resources while promoting community-based conservation initiatives.

In the area of **Income Generation** and livelihoods, COMAID through the IUCN/PPI project supported the establishment of a cocoa plantation of 3000 seedling capacity. This initiative targets the community members of the three beneficiary communities to provide alternative income generation sources to these communities. This action is part of a strategy to reduce the dependence of these community members on hunting and sale of wildlife and wildlife parts.

In the area of **Institutional development**, COMAID continued to support Nwa Council to update the Nwa Council Development Plan (CDP) and a five year-strategic development plan in line with the decentralization process of Cameroon. Also, partnership with the National Employment Fund enabled COMAID to train and equip three volunteers to gain practical experience in order to prepare them for the job market. 2020 also witnessed international and national training of the COMAID board and staff virtually and face to face. In the course of the year, new partnership was sort with Both Ends, IUCN-PPI.