



Community Assistance in Development
COMAID
ANNUAL REPORT, 2016

Approved Narrative Report, 2016
Board Chair, COMAID

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Assistance In Development, COMAID in 2016 made significant thrives in the key objective areas where the organization is intervening to consolidate results achieved in the previous years and to step up support to local communities. COMAID increased actions aimed at securing land rights of local communities and assisting the conservation of the montane forest biodiversity of the Bamenda Highlands. Partners with other CSOs, sector ministries, councils and funding bodies were strengthened and improved on while new partners were also engaged.

In the area of ensuring equitable access and control over land by local communities, COMAID extended the activities of the NWLO to the Divisions to effectively capture and intervene in issues on access and control over land by local communities. This was further reinforced with the putting in place of a system to monitor land issues by the observatory. The role of COMAID in the National Engagement Strategy on land governance in Cameroon was consolidated following the accession of COMAID to the International Land Coalition platform in 2015. COMAID participated in the Regional ILC general assembly for Africa in Ghana.

In 2016, the nature conservation and biodiversity protection component of the COMAID continued to provide relevant support to some communities in the North West Region to improving on the diverse ecosystems of the region. COMAID strengthened partnership with the Dom community through the Dom Food forest phase II project that was supported by the International Tree Foundation. More efforts were made to secure the habitats of the Tubah chimps through the demarcation and inclusion of the chimp habitat in the proposed new wildlife sanctuary that will see the change of name and status of the existing Mbi Crater Game Reserve. COMAID also carried out a study on the community forestry in the Bamenda Highlands Region of Cameroon that lead to a new project with the New Engalnd Biolabs Foundation to assist the communities of Baba II and Santa Mbei in the protection of the community forest attributed by the Government of Cameroon in 2010.

Some major actions were carried out in the areas of GIS and supporting government sectors, councils and CSOs in facilitating the attainment of their objectives. The use of GIS to support

many of COMAID's partners in different fields increased in 2016. COMAID also provided technical assistance to GP DERUDEP to come up with a mitigation plan for some roads in the North West Region. New partnership was engaged with PNDP in assisting the councils of Ndu and Balikumbat to update the Council development Plans of the two councils.

In 2016, COMAID was able to maintain the achievements of the past years while new horizon was opened with the reinforcement of existing partnerships and the engagement of new strategic collaborations to enhance sustainable development of our local communities. The year ended with the organization envisaging to improve and increase results and output with an eminent increase in staff strengthening to match the numerous challenges envisaged in 2017. This report provides detail of the activities carried out in 2016, as well as challenges encountered in the course of the year.