



COMAID

Community Assistance in Development
COMAID
ANNUAL REPORT, 2017

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Board Chair, COMAID

Executive Summary

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 has achieved a lot in the 2017 fiscal year, in all its five objective areas. Significant achievements were recorded in the area of land governance, conservation initiatives, income generation for CBOs, integration of GIS in local economic development and the institutional development of COMAID as an organization.

In the area of land governance, COMAID has put more effort to continue to ensure equitable access and control of land for target local communities. COMAID started a project to support over 75 small scale farmers in Ndu to secure their land rights and enhance their livelihood. This was an outcome of a Situational Analysis supported by the National Engagement Strategy (NES). A participatory land use plan project started in the last quarter of 2017 to secure the land rights of tea farmers in Ndu, in partnership with CENDEP. Also prominent in this area, COMAID and CENDEP is promoting control and ownership of land for women in the North West region. Consultation meetings have been organized with women groups to develop a lobby and advocacy strategy for women to submit land policy suggestions to hierarchy with the ongoing land reform of Cameroon. Also, COMAID has also provided emergency food relief to over 3,797 Mbororo pastoralist Fulani refugees, fleeing from the Saradauna Local government area of Nigeria as a result of farmer grazer conflict with the Mambila warriors. COMAID's action in the area of land governance has also been visible in the production of Radio Magazine in support of the World Indigenous People's Day, ten years after the United Nations Declaration of the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in November 2007. COMAID being one of the four members of International Land Coalition in Cameroon, supported the organization of the ILC-Africa Assembly at Mont Febe in Yaoundé in September 2017. Also COMAID participated in the joint commitment based initiative (CBI) for the fight against land grabbing with Centre for Environment and Development (CED) to research on large scale land acquisition in Central Africa and developed a 'Model Contract' to be used by Central African states in large scale land acquisition.

The conservation and biodiversity protection component of COMAID made relevant strives to enhance the conservation of the rich sub montane and montane forest ecosystems of the

Bamenda Highlands. The Dom Food forest phase II project, supported by the International Tree Foundation was completed in 2017, with over 15000 trees planted in the buffer zone of Dom forest. COMAID also completed the New England Biolabs Foundation project which greatly assisted the communities of Baba II and Santa Mbei in the protection of their community forest attributed by the Government of Cameroon in 2010. Their forest management institutions were strengthened, re-organized and trained in relevant areas to manage their FMIs and protect their community forest.

The GIS component of COMAID recorded some achievements in 2017. Partnership were created with two local Councils for the update of their Council Development Plans. GIS as a cross cutting tool was used to map geo-spatial features and create a spatial database to support decision making in Ndu and Balikumbat Councils of the North West Region. The development of a participatory land use plan for small scale tea farmers in Ndu will serve as a lobby tool to protect the land rights of tea farmers. The farmer's capacities have been built and GPS data was collected on the field pending analysis. This project shall be continued for 2018 fiscal year.

In the income generation and livelihood component, COMAID has supported five women groups in Ndu and Balikumbat Councils in fundraising, project writing and networking with different government departments for them to benefit with government sector programs, especially in the sector of agriculture and livestock.

In the area of institutional development, COMAID was able to create partnerships with three new donors, namely Full circle Foundation (FCF), Both Ends Netherlands and GAGGA. Also, COMAID also engaged with the National Employment Fund (NEF) to support the training of two volunteers to gain practical experience on the field. Effective partnership has been developed with CENDEP of Limbe to secure the projects with GAGGA and Both Ends Netherlands. COMAID has continued to engage more partnerships with local councils; in addition to Ndu and Balikumbat Councils, COMAID has also engaged with Mbiame Council to update their Council development Plans. It is hoped that with the era of decentralization of Cameroon, COMAID will offer support services to enhance local economic development in many Councils.