



years, the proportion of non-cultivated arable land, estimated at about 7.2 million hectares, has been the cause of recurrent conflicts between these main categories of agricultural operators: The Herakles case is an example among others. It is possible that in their race towards emergence, these categories compete against each other even more intensely in the next 20 years. As such, there seems to be an urgent need to analyse the underlying causes of these on-going conflicts, their consequences and more important, solutions to these disputes.

3. **Mines:** Regarded as one of the main levers (alongside second-generation agriculture and great infrastructures) for Cameroon's emergence by 2035, the mining sector experienced a real boom in the last 5 years with the award of a little more than 170 mining titles. Generally speaking, this sector is still largely underdeveloped as it only has 5 mining licences. However, a study carried out in 2012 already revealed the existence of growing conflicts between mining titles and other commercial and community titles. These are indicators of greater problems to come in the next years which could undermine Cameroon's ambitions of becoming an emerging country by 2035.

4. **Rights of environmental advocates:** The three sectors described above developed rapidly

over the last 20 years. Not only are they active in rural areas which contain 60% of the Cameroonian population but also drastically reduce or even lead to the loss of allocated land and resources as well as adversely impact traditional lifestyles (various forms of pollution). Some communities affected by this situation opposed projects undertaken on their land. They demanded their inclusion in the allocation of land and resources and the practice of collective bargaining relating to the benefits derived from future projects. While in several cases the opposition was non-violent, there is a rise in violent resistances, but most important an increase in the number of activists or environmental advocates. Understanding these advocates and protecting them are prerequisites for a better inclusion of rural communities in development projects in Cameroon.

DETAILED CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

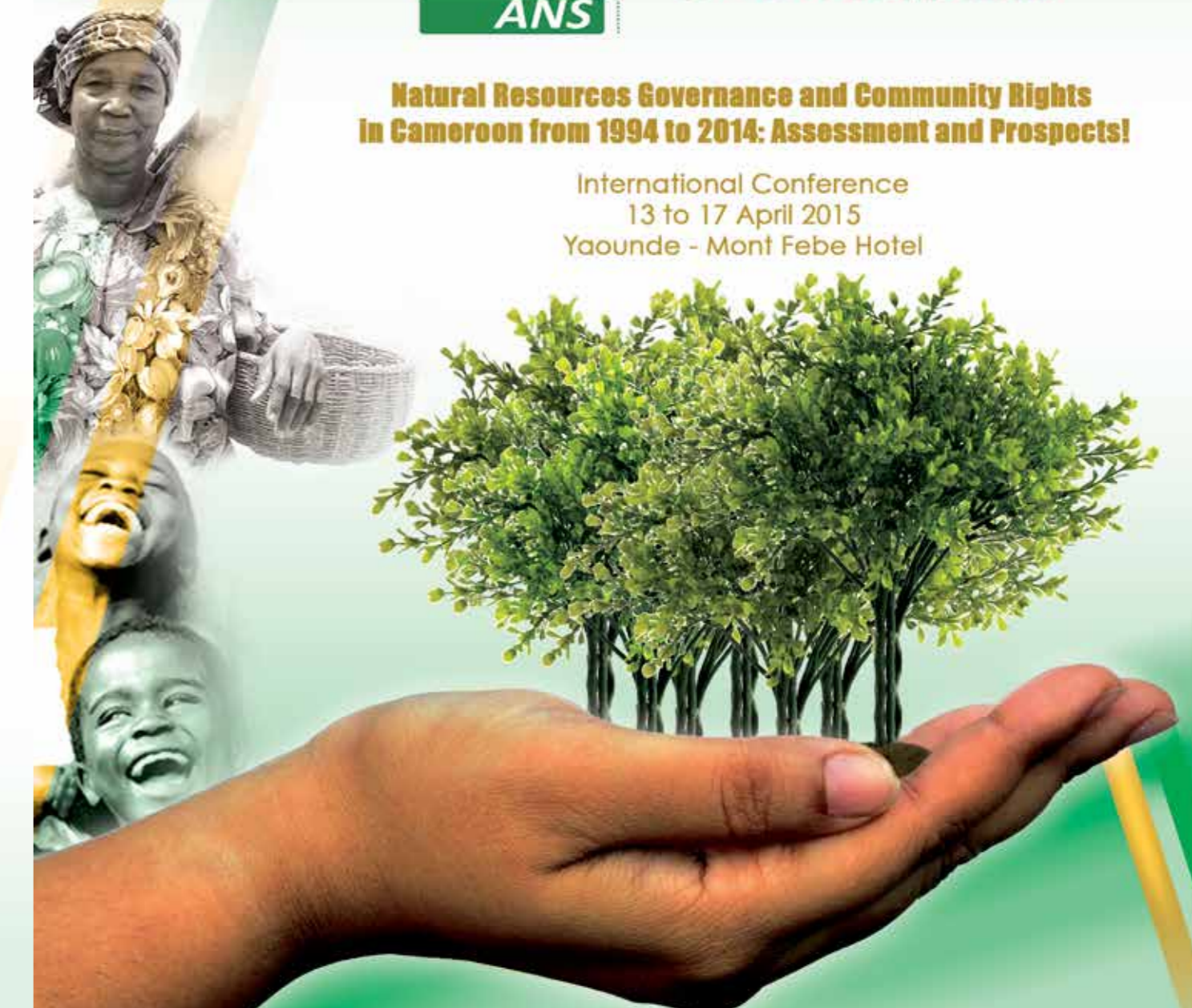
Date	Time	Activities
Monday 13 April 2015	Morning	OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech by the CED : <i>Why should we reflect on the last twenty years of natural resources management in Cameroon?</i> Official Speech 1 Official Speech 2 Official Speech 3 Opening speech
	11am - 1pm	READING OF THE AGENDA Why such an event? Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach adopted to conduct the assessment and understand the research activities of the Conference: prior understanding of civil society trends and development of general ideas, round-tables on each theme; production of a core document, etc. Screening of a 26-minute film on the evolution of natural resources management in Cameroon Presentations : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legal implications of "an emerging Cameroon by 2035" (on-going reforms, major development projects, etc). Contribution of the natural resources management to the national economy.
	2.30pm - 4.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why exploit natural resources and which exploitation model? Land policy and the sustainable management of natural resources.
Tuesday 14 April 2015	9am - 12pm	Session 1: What Assessment Can Be Made of the Forestry Sector 20 Years After the Reform? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest exploitation and community rights in Cameroon. Governance in the forestry sector. The benefits of 20 years of forest exploitation to the Cameroonian economy. 20 years of forest exploitation from a civil society standpoint. 20 years of forest exploitation in my village.
	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Session 2 : Mining and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mining situation in Cameroon. ITIE and mining in Cameroon. Mining and taxation in Cameroon. Mining and local development: A civil society analysis. 20 years of mining in my village.
Wednesday 15 April 2015	9am - 12pm	Session 3 : Arable Land and Community Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of agro-industries in Cameroon and the national policy for the development of the agricultural sector. Agro-industry or family farming: Which economic model to choose? A family farm near an agro-industry. Land rights and Community rights: Issues at stake in the reform in Cameroon.
	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Session 4 : Rights of Environmental Advocates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental advocates : New development victims The situation of environmental advocates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study in Cameroon. Case study in Gabon. Case study in Congo. Instruments for the protection of environmental advocates. Protecting the environment and Human Rights.
Thursday 16 April 2015	9am - 12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University talks with National and International Experts ; High school talks (Indigenous Leader) ; Screening of the film on CED : 20 years of promoting community rights.
	12pm - 18pm	Open day on CED's 20 years of activity : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous music groups. Exhibit of CED cards. Documents on CED working activities.
Friday 17 April 2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Parliamentarians. Meeting with Traditional Rulers. Press conference (closing ceremony).

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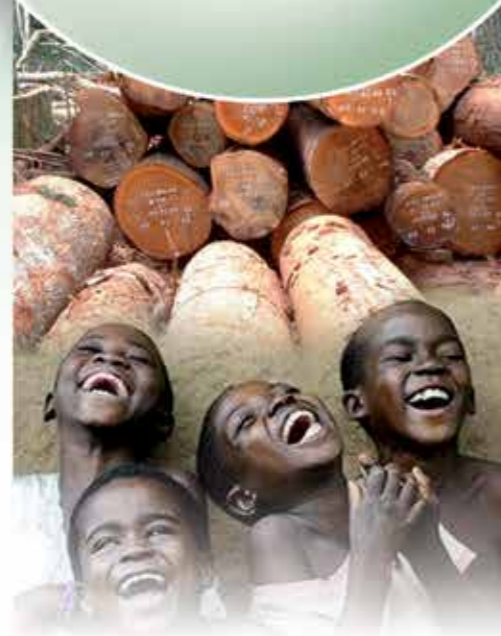
**Natural Resources Governance and Community Rights
in Cameroon from 1994 to 2014: Assessment and Prospects!**

International Conference
13 to 17 April 2015
Yaounde - Mont Febe Hotel



PRESENTATION DU CED

20 ANS
au service des droits
des communautés
dans la gestion des
ressources naturelles



The Centre for Environment and Development (CED) is an independent, non-political organization founded in 1994. It was created in response to the crisis management of forests in Cameroon, observed at the beginning of the 90s, with strong increase in industrial wood production, the development of illegal logging, increased poaching and the ecological, social and economic problems caused by this emphasizing sales pressure on forests.

The CED's scope has gradually spread to the problems of extractive industries (oil and other minerals), perceived as threats to the rights of people and the environment. The CED is structured by the establishment of a gender policy (extended to relations between indigenous peoples and Bantu). Gaining maturity, the Organization has developed expertise on advocacy issues, particularly in relation to the World Bank and other multilateral and bilateral agencies.

Since the beginning of the 2000s, the CED has capacity building one of the pillars of

its strategy. It provides support to local NGOs and associations of the forest zone in Cameroon, and other Congo Basin countries (CAR, Gabon, Republic of Congo, DRC) on issues related to the monitoring of logging illegal, on the approach of support to indigenous communities, questions of law (forestry, mining, indigenous communities, the environment, ...) and in regard to the monitoring of infrastructure projects and resource extraction, participatory mapping, etc.

MISSION

Our mission is to :

1. Contribute to the protection of the rights, interests, culture and aspirations of local communities and indigenous forests of Central Africa;
2. Promote environmental justice and sustainable management of natural resources in the region.

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NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS IN CAMEROON FROM 1994 TO 2014: ASSESSMENT AND PROSPECTS!

INTRODUCTION

The 1994 Forestry Law marked a decisive watershed in the management of natural resources in Cameroon and Central Africa as a whole. As the first Law incorporating sustainable development concerns, it embraces the main principles of the 1992 Rio Summit. More specifically, it contains several provisions on the respect and protection of the rights of inhabitants of forest-harvested areas. This Law goes beyond the forestry sector to changing Cameroon's approach towards natural resources; a range of innovative initiatives have been undertaken by the country: Tropical Forest Action Plan, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, the Kimberly Process, Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade in timber and by-products to the European Union (VPA-FLEGT), etc. Its primary concern is not just development but sustainable development. Other progressive Laws such as the Environmental (1996) or Mining (2001) Laws were later promulgated and a series of instruments and institutions was set up to facilitate their implementation and ensure that the communities derive the maximum benefits



from the management of natural resources in Cameroon.

20 years after these innovations, what assessment can be made of their implementation? Was it worth expending all those efforts in the management of our natural resources? Were these endeavours utilised effectively and efficiently? More important, were Cameroonians, including first and foremost, those who live, depend on and own customary rights to spaces and resources that constitute our natural heritage, included in the management and allocation of benefits derived from the management of this heritage? These are the key questions underlying the International Conference on **"Natural Resources Governance and Community Rights in Cameroon from 1994 to 2014: Assessment and Prospects"**.

The objective of this Conference is to strengthen advocacy for more inclusive natural heritage management policies and improve stakeholders' (Administrations, NGOs, Companies, Scientific research and Communities) collaboration in the implementation of these policies with a view to fostering the effective development of

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all segments of the Cameroonian population. This objective shall be achieved through active knowledge and information-sharing on failures, successes and opportunities.

The Conference shall mobilise a large spectrum of actors who shall provide an understanding of the concepts and share their field experiences. These actors include: Government officials, researchers, civil society experts and community representatives. On a practical note, it shall focus on four themes:

THEMES

The Conference is mainly concerned with promoting the rights of local and indigenous rural communities in Cameroon. As such, it shall explore four themes:

1. **Forests:** With more than 40% of its surface area covered by dense forest, Cameroon is par excellence, a forest country. This forest provides: a living environment for local and indigenous populations, food, core employment, ceremonial sites, habitat for ecological diversity and produces more than 4 million m³ of wood from legal or illegal logging. One might as well say it all started with forests: sustainable management on the one hand and the acute manifestation of governance-related problems observed in all the other sectors, on the other: low inclusion of stakeholders in the decision-making process, little transparency, corruption, illegal logging, etc. In recent years, the forestry sector has witnessed the growth of the agricultural and mining sectors which



has occurred at the expense of a rapid forest cover loss and possible loss of forest structure through the massive introduction of the so-called conversion wood. Although the impact of the overlap between forest, mining and agricultural titles on the local and indigenous populations in the current strong demographic growth context has not yet been comprehensively studied, it remains an important avenue for research. This is because it is a growing trend whose direct effect if the loss of customary rights over land now allotted to other users.

2. **Farmland:** Considered as Mother Earth by some and a simple resource by others, arable land has become the stage for the scramble between small farmers, medium-sized producers and agro-industries whose massive presence has been facilitated by the desire to upgrade to a second-generation agricultural system. In recent