

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF THE
**Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and
Sustainable Development**
(MINEPDED)



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR



THEME

**"Evolution of Environmental Assessment systems in Central
Africa: What Contribution for the Support Program of National
Association for the Environmental Assessment in Central Africa
(PAANEEAC)?"**

03th to 04th October 2013

SAWA hotel, Douala, CAMEROON

2nd Announcement and Call for Contributions

Jointly organized by :

Secretariat for the Environmental Assessment in Central Africa (SEEAC)

and :

Cameroon Association for the Environmental Assessment (ACAMEE)

Supported by :



Netherlands Commission for the
Environmental Assessment



Capacity Development and Linkages for
the Environmental Assessment in Africa



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

Other Partners to come

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1. Introduction

The Secretariat for the Environmental Assessment in Central Africa (SEEAC), a grouping of national associations for the environmental assessment of central Africa countries invites you to take part in the fifth edition of its annual international seminar under the theme "Evolution of the Environmental Assessment systems in Central Africa: What Contribution for the Support Program of National Association for the Environmental Assessment of Central Africa (PAANEEAC)?". The Seminar will hold from the 3rd to the 4th of October 2013 at the Sawa Hotel, Douala - Cameroon.

Through the organization of its international seminars, which typically bring together approximately one hundred participants, the SEEAC would like to contribute to discussions on the progress of the Environmental Assessment in Central Africa and to optimize its potential as a privileged tool for the implementation of sustainable development policies.

This year's international seminar, under the patronage of the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) is jointly organized with the Cameroon Association for the Environmental Assessment (ACAMEE), and benefits from the multi-faceted support of the Netherlands under the Support Program of National Association for the Environmental Assessment of Central Africa (PAANEEAC).

2. Context of the Seminar

For the elaboration of PAANEEAC, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) mappings were conducted in eight (08) countries of Central Africa between late 2005 and early 2006, namely: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The purpose of EIA mapping, a tool developed specifically for the occasion by the Netherlands Commission for the Environmental Assessment (NCEA), was mainly to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of existing EIA systems in the countries concerned and to identify possible improvements as a basis for the development of areas of interventions relevant for PAANEEAC. EIA Mapping also provides a basis for assessing the evolution of a system or to compare systems of different countries (benchmarking). After six years of the implementation of PAANEEAC, it was interesting to make a new analysis of EIA systems of those countries to appreciate not only their evolution, but also to identify, if applicable, the impact of PAANEEAC in this evolution. The results of this analysis could be very useful to better refine the contours of possible interventions for capacity building in this field.

It is within this context that this fifth edition of the international seminar of SEEAC is holding, with focus the results and lessons learned from this trajectory.

3. Goal

The aim of this international seminar is to assess the evolution of national EIA systems in Central Africa countries over the last six years and where appropriate

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to assess the impact of PAANEEAC on this evolution, in order to make proposals to improve the capacity building interventions in this field.

4. Scientific content of the seminar

The seminar will focus, on the one hand, on exchanges around aspects related to the evolution of EIA systems in Central Africa, and on the other hand, on those related to its potential as well as opportunities for better capacity building. Therefore, as detailed in the preliminary program below, four main areas would be explored:

- The evolution of EIA systems in central Africa countries, including the discussion of results of different EIA mappings conducted in 2013 as compared to the result of the mapping conducted in 2006;
- EIA and governance to highlight key factors in the evolution of the EIA systems and governance;
- EIA and sustainable development to highlight the potential of the environmental assessment as a privileged instrument for the mainstreaming of sustainability aspects in the development processes;
- Experiences in capacity building in environmental assessment to give the opportunity to various stakeholders to share their experiences in environmental assessment capacity building.

5. Benefits of the seminar

The anticipated benefits of this international seminar for the countries concerned and the sub-region are manifold as it aims to provide them with elements that can serve as a basis for improving the management of environmental assessment systems.

For professionals in the sub-region in general and in particular those of the host country, it provides an opportunity to many to participate in an international seminar and thus strengthen their capacities.

The results, scientific and technical papers, as well as the discussions will be published in the proceedings of the seminar which will be widely disseminated.

6. Form of seminar

The seminar will be held from the 3rd to the 4th October, 2013 at the Sawa Hotel, Douala in Cameroon. It is expected to have some presentations followed by discussions and knowledge sharing. At the end of the seminar, it is proposed to have a synthesis of the results of exchanges and envisage the forms and modalities of possible future actions.

7. Audiences

This seminar is aimed at all the stakeholders of the environmental assessment process: administrations in charge of the management of the EIA process, sectoral administrations, other relevant national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and structures, the private sector, consultants and consulting firms, universities, research institutions and civil society.

8. Registration Fees

Registration for the seminar is 100,000 CFA francs (approximately 200 \$) per participant. This fee covers the participant's kit, lunches and coffee breaks during the seminar. Those wishing to register should kindly use the form dedicated to this purpose.

The organizing committee has very limited resources to support transport, accommodation and insurance costs of participants; they are therefore encouraged to secure themselves, the resources associated with their participation.

9. Submitting a communication proposal

Those wishing to submit a communication proposal should send to the Organizing Committee the following:

- the title of the communication
- details of the author or authors
- an abstract of 300 words (maximum) with a maximum of five (5) keywords.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is extended to 15th of August 2013. The email address to use is: seeac1998@yahoo.fr

10. Opportunities to be supported

The PAANEEAC has a small amount to subsidize the participation of one EIE practitioner per each of the following countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda.

Applications for support should include:

- A communication proposal relevant to one of the aspect to be discussed during the seminar;
- An updated curriculum vitae (maximum 3 pages);
- A motivation letter explaining your interest and potential contribution to the Seminar;

Application should reach the organizing committee at the following email address seeac1998@yahoo.fr no later than July 31, 2013

Successful candidates will be informed by August 15, 2013.

11. Preliminary programme

The preliminary program presented in the table below gives an indication of the topics to be addressed in order to facilitate the orientation of the contributions. A final program will be available in September 2013 taking into account the communication proposals selected.

HOUR	CONTENT
DAY 1	
8h00 - 9h00	WELCOME – INSTALLING PARTICIPANTS
9h00 - 10h00	Session 0 : Opening ceremony
	This session will mainly be devoted to the words of circumstances by some officials present and especially to the opening speech of the Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)
10h00 - 10h30	FAMILY PHOTO AND COFFEE BREAK
10h30 - 12h30	Session 1 : Evolution of Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) systems of central Africa countries
	This session will provide an opportunity for the presentation and discussion of the evolution of national EIA systems on the basis of a comparative analysis of the results of EIA mappings carried out in some central Africa countries in 2006 and 2013.
12h30 - 13h30	LUNCH AND DEDICATION OF THE BOOK ON THE EVOLUTION OF EIA SYSTEMS EIA IN CENTRAL AFRICA: THE ROLE PAANEEAC
13h30-15h00	Session 2: Governance and EIA
	Based on the EIA mappings results, this session aims to highlight a few key factors in the evolution of the EIA systems and governance. It is expected to have some presentations that will be followed by a discussion on the governance in the EIA process. Presentations may cover, but are not limited to the following topics: The funding of government tasks in the EIA process, the tasks of follow-through, monitoring, inspection and enforcement of environmental sanctions, public participation in the EIE decision-making, environmental assessment and decentralization, ethics and professional conduct, the role of media and justice etc.
15h00 - 15h15	COFFEE BREAK
15h15 - 17h00	Session 3: Sustainable Development and Environmental Assessment
	This session is primarily intended to highlight the potential of the environmental assessment as a privileged instrument for the implementation of sustainable development mainly through the mainstreaming of sustainability aspects in the development processes. It is expected to have presentations that will be followed by a discussion on the theme Sustainable Development and Environmental Assessment. Presentations may cover, but are not limited to the following topics: Environmental Assessment and Climate Change, environmental assessment and sustainable management of oil and mining resources Environmental Assessment and Management of gender, Environmental Assessment and Public Health, Environmental Assessment and risk or conflicts management, environmental Assessment and other tools for sustainable development, the practice of environmental economics for proper costing of impacts, environmental Assessment and sub-regional integration (the RAACEEAC example)
17h00	END OF THE DAY
DAY 2	
08h30 - 09h00	SUMMARY DAY 1
09h00-10h30	Session 3 (continues): Sustainable Development and Environmental Assessment This session is primarily intended to highlight the potential of the environmental assessment as a

	<p>privileged instrument for the implementation of sustainable development including through the integration of sustainability aspects in the development process. It is expected to have presentations that will be followed by a discussion on the theme Sustainable Development and Environmental Assessment. Presentations may cover, but are not limited to the following topics: Environmental Assessment and Climate Change, environmental assessment and sustainable management of oil and mining resources Environmental Assessment and Management of gender, Environmental Assessment and Public Health, Environmental Assessment and risk or conflicts management, environmental Assessment and other tools for sustainable development, the practice of environmental economics for proper costing of impacts, environmental Assessment and sub-regional integration (the RAACEEAC example)</p>
10h30 - 10h45	COFFEE BREAK
10h45 – 10h00	<p>Session 4: Experiences in capacity building in environmental assessment</p> <p>This session is devoted to sharing of experiences in capacity building environmental assessment, of various stakeholders ((governments, private sector, civil society organizations, training and research, technical and financial partners) in order to help refine a perspective on the subject for The central Africa. It is expected to have presentations on relevant experiences that will be followed by a session of synthesis of the various lessons learned.</p>
10h00 - 10h15	COFFEE BREAK
11h45-13h00	<p>Session 4 (continues) : Experiences in capacity building in environmental assessment</p> <p>This session is devoted to sharing of experiences in capacity building environmental assessment, of various stakeholders ((governments, private sector, civil society organizations, training and research, technical and financial partners) in order to help refine a perspective on the subject for The central Africa. It is expected to have presentations on relevant experiences that will be followed by a session of synthesis of the various lessons learned .</p>
13h00 - 14h00	LUNCH
14h00 - 15h30	<p>Session 5: Discussion and synthesis</p> <p>This session is for discussions that will make a synthesis of the main results, suggestions, recommendations and general guidance from the seminar.</p>
15h30- 16h30	COFFEE BREAK
16h30-17h00	<p>Session 0: Closing ceremony</p> <p>This session will mainly include the reading of the final release, the words of circumstances of some officials present and especially the closing remarks of the Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development.</p>