

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF  
THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON



7<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Seminar of the Secretariat for Environmental  
Assessment in Central Africa

THEME

**"Environmental Assessment and Governance of Natural Resources in  
Central Africa"**

Nkolandom-Ebolowa, Cameroon, **November 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Preceded by  
**A UNESCO-SEEAC TRAINING SEMINAR – WORKSHOP**  
On the theme

**"Monitoring and Follow up of Environmental Assessment: Approach for  
better management of natural resources in Central Africa»**

Nkolandom-Ebolowa, Cameroon, **November 09<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

## Announcement and Call for Papers

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## 1. Introduction

The Secretariat for Environmental Assessment in Central Africa (SEEAC), a group of national associations for environmental assessment of Central Africa countries invites you to take part in the 7th edition of the annual international seminar under the theme " Environmental Assessment and Governance of Natural Resources in Central Africa " from **November 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015** in Ebolowa, Cameroon.

Environmental Assessment refers to all the steps aimed at considering the biophysical and socio - economic environments in decision-making at all levels, from national strategies and policies, plans and programs, to projects. The best-known form of environmental assessment in Central Africa is the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) which applies to envisaged projects. More and more, environmental and social audits concerns projects in implementation and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SEA) is used for policies, plans or programs.

Through the organization of international seminars, which typically brings together over one hundred participants, the SEEAC is willing to contribute to discussions on the progress of the environmental assessment in Central Africa and to optimize Environmental Assessment's potential as a tool for the implementation of sustainable development policies .

The seminar this year is being organized in partnership with the following structures: the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa, the Conference on Dense and Humid Forests Ecosystems of Central Africa (CEFDHAC) and the Cameroon Association for Environmental Assessment (ACAMEE).

It is important to emphasize that, as was the case in 2014, the SEEAC 2015 International Seminar will be preceded by a two-day training co-organized by UNESCO Regional Office in Central Africa under the theme 'Monitoring and Follow up of environmental assessment': approach for the better management of natural resources in Central Africa " to be held in Ebolowa, Cameroon from **November 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

Other potential partners willing to join this event for the promotion of environmental and social assessment are requested to approach the SEEAC for modalities of their involvement

## 2. Concerns of the 7th International Seminar SEEAC

The question of why central Africa deemed rich in natural resources remains generally poor is a major concern. According to literature, the response to the question is not simple, since it is the result of several more or less complex factors. Still, the aspects of gaps in governance of these resources, understood as the way in which power is exercised in their management for sustainable development is the basis for such a situation. This results in the establishment of inefficient management practices, little transparency, participation and little responsibility.

The assumption made is that the Environmental Evaluation (EE), well done could prove to be an effective tool for integrating the principles of good governance in natural resources in Central Africa and contribute to improve the living conditions of the population and sustainable development of States and the sub-region. Indeed, Environmental Assessment by its proactive, preventive, participatory and dynamic nature is an excellent tool for the promotion of transparency and good governance.

This is why at the time when Central African countries rely on their natural resources to support their efforts and ambitions of emergence, the SEEAC international seminar intends to question the ability of EA to accompany this ambition.

### **3. Objective of the international seminar**

The objective of this international seminar is to discuss the ability of the EA to contribute to the integration of good governance in the management of natural resources in Central Africa to support strategies of the countries concerned and the subregion in proposing solutions for improvement accordingly.

### **4. Scientific content of the international seminar**

The capacity of the EA to contribute to the integration of good governance in the management of natural resources in Central Africa will be questioned in the light of:

- The nature of the environmental assessments prescribed, actors capacity, public participation, etc.;
- The nature of the relevant natural resources with a special focus on spatial planning, the potential energy, minerals and forest resources.
- Case studies reflecting the good and bad examples of integration of aspects of good governance in the management of natural resources through environmental assessment.

### **5. Seminar organizational format**

The seminar will take place from **November 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015** in Ebolowa, Cameroon. It will basically take the form of communications and exchanges in plenary. Three hours will be devoted to micro seminar workshops concentrating on four aspects (land use, potential energy, mineral resources and forestry resources). At the end of the seminar, a discussion is proposed to summarize the results of exchanges and explore the forms and modalities of possible actions.

### **6. Target audience**

This seminar targets all stakeholders in the environmental assessment process : authorities responsible for managing the environmental assessment process and other sectorial administrations, sub-regional organizations and structures, relevant regional and international private sector, consultants, universities and other training institutions, research institutions and the civil society.

### **7. Benefits of the seminar**

Anticipated benefits of this international seminar for the countries concerned and the sub-region are diverse. For professionals and stakeholders in the sub- region, it offers an opportunity for many to participate in discussions at the international level and to reinforce their capacity in monitoring and follow up in relation to the sustainable management of natural resources. The scientific and technical communications, as well as the debates will be published as proceedings of the seminar which will be widely disseminated. Authors of

relevant communications will be encouraged and accompanied to publish in the African Journal of Environmental Management and Assessment (RAGEE) being revitalized.

## 8. Registration fee

Registration for the seminar is 100,000<sup>1</sup> (one hundred thousand) CFA approximately 250 (two hundred fifty) US dollars per participant. This fee covers the participant kit, lunch and coffee breaks for the duration of the seminar. Those wishing to register will use the form indicated to this purpose.

## 9. Submission of a communication

Those wishing to submit a paper should send to the organizing committee the following:

- The title of the paper;
- If applicable the indication of the point of concentration involved (land use, potential energy, mineral resources and forestry resources) ;
- Contact information for the author or authors;
- A summary of 300 words (maximum);
- Five (5) keywords maximum.

The elements to complete the communication form must be sent no later than **October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015** by email to the following addresses: [infoseeac@seeaconline.org](mailto:infoseeac@seeaconline.org) or [seeac@seeaconline.org](mailto:seeac@seeaconline.org)

## 10. Financial Support

The organizing committee has no resources to support registration, transport, accommodation and insurance; participants are encouraged to secure for themselves the resources related to their participation.

## 11. Tentative Program

The tentative program presented in the table below gives an indication of the topics to be addressed in order to facilitate the orientation of contributions. A final program will be available by **October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015** taking into account the selected communication projects.

TIME	CONTENT
<b>DAY 1</b>	
8h00 - 9h00	Welcome- Installation of participants
9h00 - 10h00	<b>Session 0 : Opening ceremony</b>
	This session will be mainly devoted to occasional words of some officials present and especially to the opening address of the Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development ( MINEPDED ) or representative

<sup>1</sup> The costs of the international seminar fees are independent of regional training (Kindly consider the announcement relating thereto for the costs of training)

10h00 - 10h30	FAMILY PHOTO AND COFFEE BREAK
10h30 - 13h00	<b>Session 1: Environmental Assessment and Land Use Planning</b> This session will be an opportunity to discuss the conceptual, legal and regulatory, methods, tools, indicators and practice relating to the environmental assessment and land use planning.
13h00 - 14h00	<b>LUNCH</b>
14h00-15h30	<b>Session 2: Environmental assessment and mineral resource governance</b> This session will be an opportunity to discuss the conceptual, legal, and regulatory, method, tools and indicators and practice relating to environmental assessment and governance of mineral resources.
15h30 - 16h00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
16h00 - 17h00	<b>Session 2: Environmental assessment and governance of mineral resources (Continues)</b>
17h00	<b>END OF DAY 1</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>	
08h30 - 09h00	<b>Summary of Day 1</b>
09h00-10h30	<b>Session 3 : Environmental assessment and governance of forest resources</b> This session will be an opportunity to discuss the conceptual, legal and regulatory, methods, tools, indicators and practice relating to the environmental assessment and governance of forest resources.
10h30 - 11h00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11h00 – 12h30	<b>Session 3 :Environmental evaluation and governance of forest resources (end)</b>
12h30 - 13h30	<b>LUNCH</b>
13h30-15h30	<b>Session 4: Environmental Assessment and Governance of Energy Potential</b> This session will be an opportunity to discuss the conceptual, legal, and regulatory, methods, tools and indicators and practice relating to the environmental assessment and governance of the energy potential.
15h30 - 16h00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
16h00-17h00	<b>Session 5: Synthesis Discussions</b> This session will be reserved for discussions that will make a synthesis of key findings, suggestions, recommendations and guidance from the seminar.
17h00-17h30	<b>Session 0: Closing Ceremony</b> This session mainly include reading the final communiqué, the occasional words of some officials present and especially the closing remarks of the Minister of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development or his representative.