

PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AFRICA

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CONTEXT

Before 1992

- Forest dwelling communities: no legally involved in the management of the forest resources and revenues
- 1992: World Conference on Environment and Development
 - participation of local people in natural resources management
 - equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from their exploitation
- After 1992, forest law revision in CA countries: promotion of decentralized forest management
 - increased role of local councils and local communities in the management of forest resources
 - Sharing of benefits in the forests tax system.



LEGAL AND EFFECTIVE LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN TWO COUNTRIES

Cameroon: Law n°94/01- 20th January 1994

- ✓ Community forests effective since 1997
- ✓ 395 conventions signed between state and communities for the management of 1.421.161 ha of forest land as community forests
- ✓ Usage rights for local communities on NTFP
- ✓ Community hunting area effective

Gabon : Law n° 016/01- 31st December

- ✓ Community forests effective since 2013
- ✓ 8 conventions signed between state and communities for the management of 39.191 ha of forest land as community forests
- ✓ Usage rights for local communities on NTFP



LEGAL PROVISION IN THREE COUNTRIES

Democratic republic of Congo: Law n° 011/2002 29th August 2002

- ✓ Implementation decree in 2014
- ✓ Forest concession for local communities not yet effective
- ✓ Usage rights for local communities on NTFP

Central Africa Republic : Law n° 08/022 17th October 2008

- ✓ Implementation decree available
- ✓ Usage rights for local communities on NTFP
- ✓ Community forests not yet effective

Equatorial Guinea : Law n° 1/1997

- ✓ Provisions for community forests
- ✓ No implementation decree



ISSUES FOR FULL PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN NRM AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Legal requirements
- Funding mechanism
- Production capacities
- Economic viability





DISCUSSION

