

**Sustainable NRM through Community Forest.
Case study of the buffer zone of the Banyang-Mbo
Wildlife sanctuary, Cameroon**

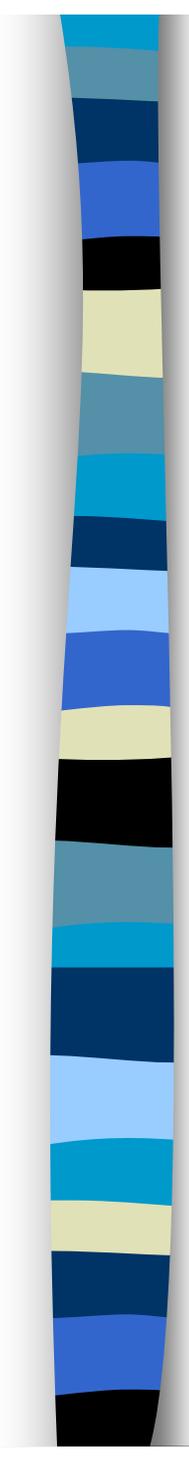
By Rachel Akum

**At Alcoa Foundation's Conservation and Sustainability Fellowship Program
Worldwide Convening, Belgium-Brussels
(29th Nov-3rd Dec 2006)**



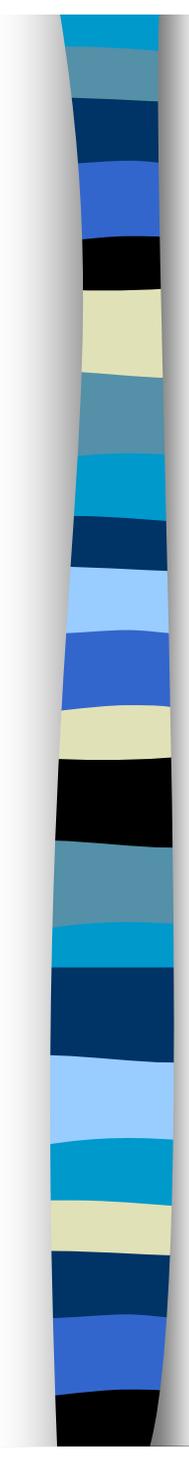
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Background & Problem Definition

- **Growth in population and human economy makes NRM more urgent (87million/yr).**
- **Forest degrades both in quality & quantity globally (14.6 million ha per year between 1990 & 2000) FAO 2001**
- **SNRM in Africa & Cameroon in particular is a matter of survival as majority of it people are poor and depend solely on the resource base.**
- **Cameroon is the second largest forest in Africa with large assets of biodiversity with Tali/Bara forest as one of it biodiversity hot spots (WWF 2003)**
- **Pressure on the forest to meet basic household needs & other exigencies have resulted to overall reductions in biological value & environmental hazards that impoverished local people.**
- **GoC reviewed it TFS in 1994, conversely the awkward protocols, lack of flexibility in its procedures, financial and technicalities to conduct surveys, insufficient MINFOF staff makes CF unlikely.**



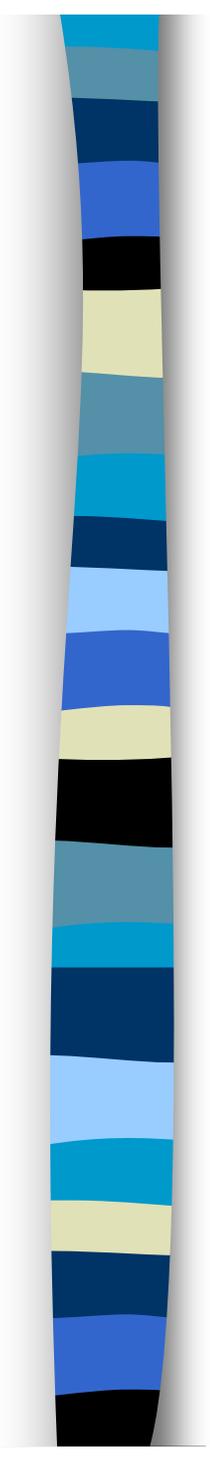
Objectives

General objective

- To ensure that the people of Tali & Bara communities manage their forest sustainably for their own benefits.

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- To view the link between the socio-economic activities and forest degradation as well as the people's well-being.
- To examine the local people awareness about the issue of *ecological/environmental services*.
- To conduct a problem analysis with all interested stakeholders in the Tali-Bara forest



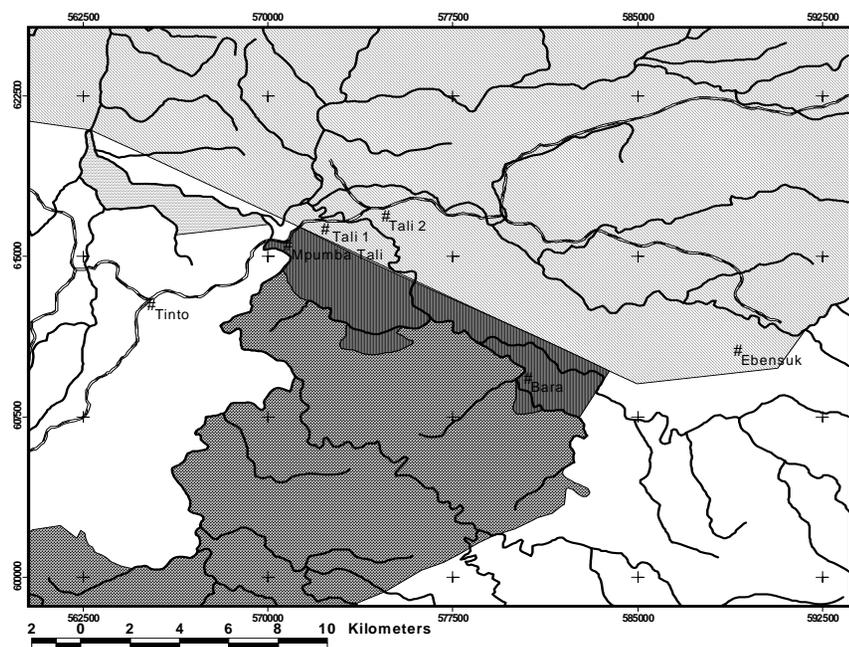
Questions to address in order to attain Sustainable Forest Management

- How can the owners and managers of forests be encouraged to accommodate and protect the various social and ecological roles of the forests?
- How can forest resources be used as a means to lift rural people out of poverty?
- How can the ‘safety net’ functions of forest be preserved so that rural people do not fall deeper into poverty?

Map 1: Location of project area in Cameroon



LEGEND



Methodologies Employed

- **Secondarily, relevant literatures (books, journals, other publications including internet sources) were reviewed.**
- **Primarily, both quantitative and qualitative methods were used.**
- **Some qualitative methods employed:**

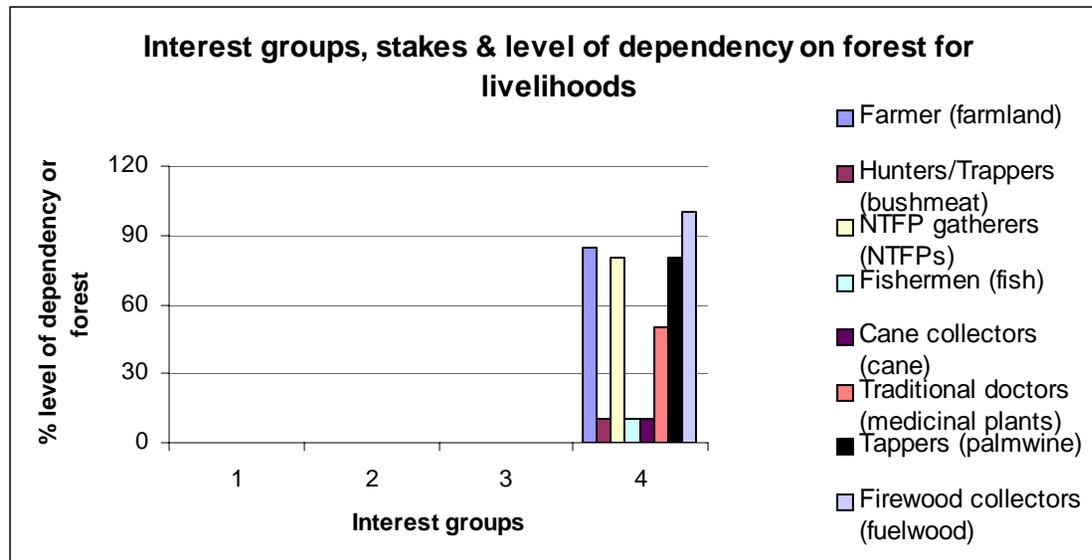
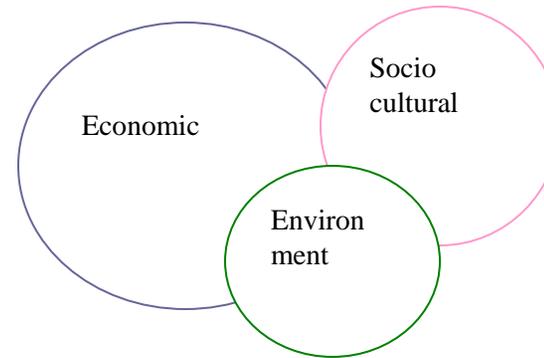
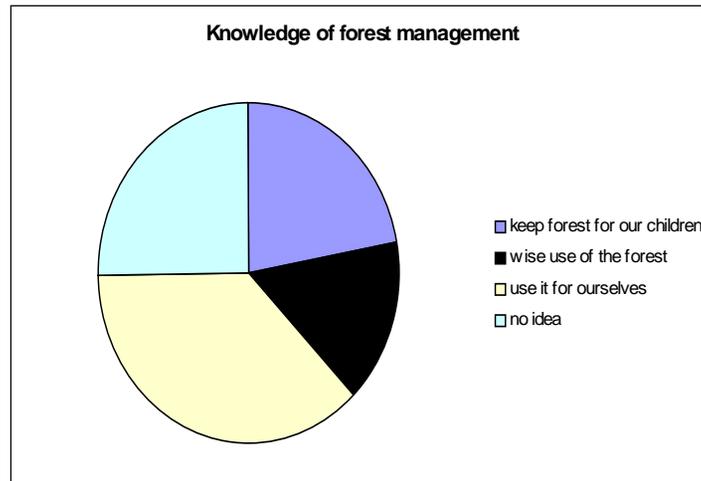


- **Quantitatively- Structured questionnaire**

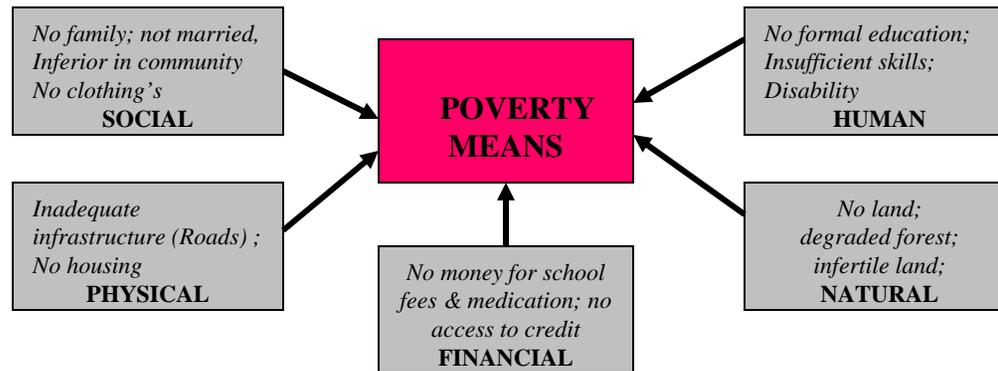
Methods of Data Analysis

- **Descriptive statistical tools (Frequencies)**
- **Binary logistic regression model**
- **Chi-square tests**

Results

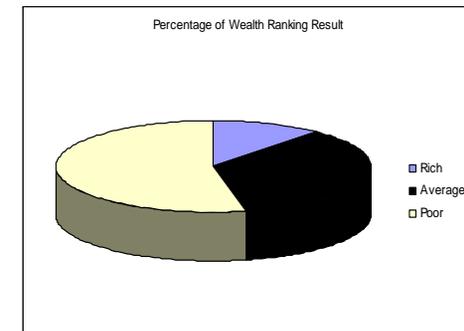


Link between socio-economic activities & forest degradation and well being of the people

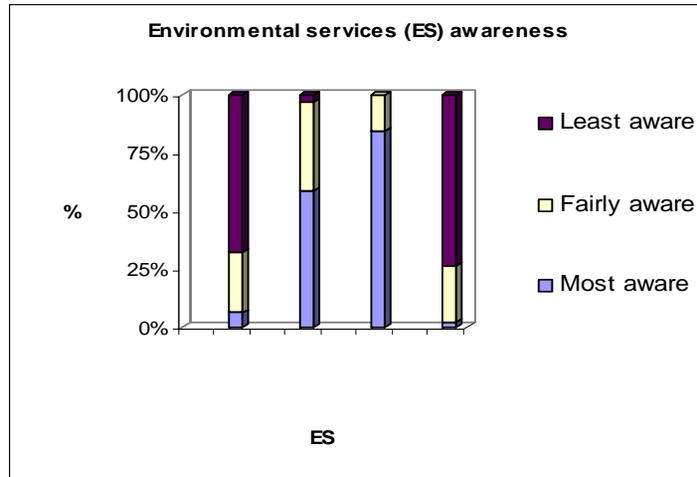


Classification of poverty definitions in the Tali-Bara area into the five capital resources

- People are poor even by their own standards, dwindling livelihood (71.6%) and fast degrading forest (92.7%).
- The culture of the people (2.335) has to be maintained if the forest needs to be managed sustainably. Also forest visit per week (1.264) do also play a significant role
- Knowledge on SFM and the occupation of the people are crucial on improving the state of well being. Farming is seen as the foremost cause of forest degradation, which in turn results to loss of soil fertility thereby making the people unable to reap fruitful harvest.



Level of awareness on *ecological/environmental services*



•Level of awareness of the four categories of ES: *Carbon storage & sequestration, Biodiversity protection, Watershed protection and Landscape beauty respectively.*

•Low level of awareness for carbon sequestration & storage and landscape beauty.

- Significant relationship between Gender, Age, and Educational status with Landscape beauty.
- Men were noted to be more aware than women.
- Also observed a significant relationship between carbon storage and sequestration with Age and Education.
- Age group of 41-60 years recorded highest percentage of no awareness.

Problem analysis

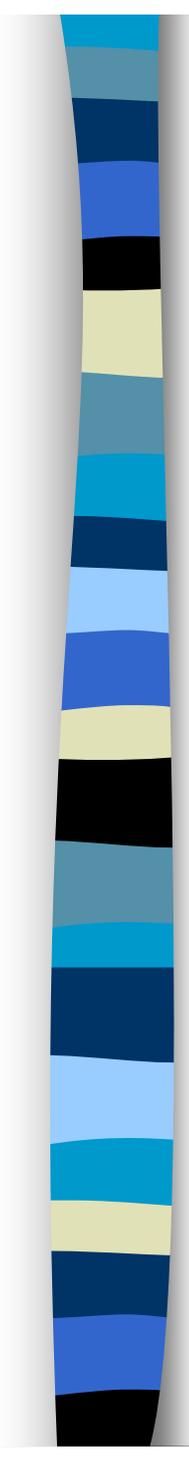
Root causes of forest degradation in the Tali-Bara area

- Conversion to agriculture and settlement
- Law Enforcement
- Exploitation of forest resources - legal or illegal
- Poverty
- Awareness level
- Decision-making - lack of community involvement

Defined Conservation Objectives

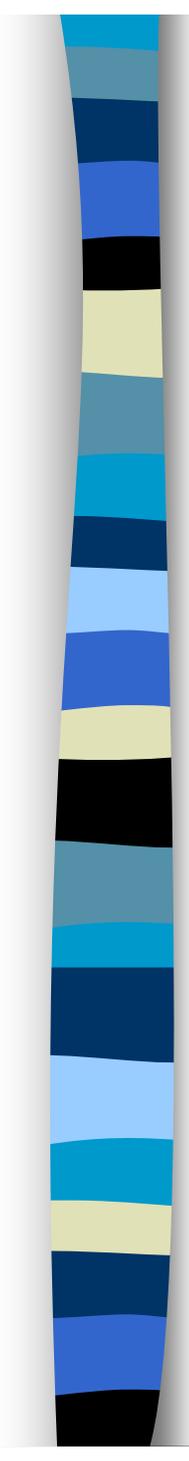
- To guarantee an incessant Livelihood Base
- To uphold the cultural heritage
- To attain full tenure right over the forest resources
- To serve as a potential for benefits





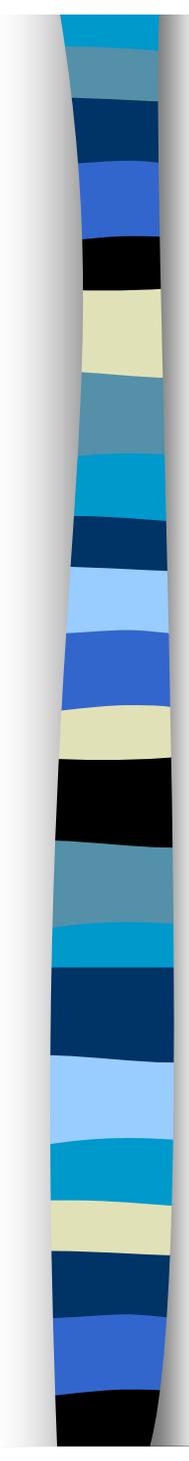
Lessons Learned

- Sustainability of livelihood is the core issue of Community Forest (CF).
- Varied interests & priorities of multiple SH's demands a responsive institutions to promote collective actions to advance the CF objectives.
- Strong social capital and local organisational capacity are needed to enable local communities to mobilize resources & negotiate better benefits.
- Capacity building should not be limited to local communities but should also include efforts to enhance the capacity of all those concern.
- Sustainable development is built on sustainable livelihoods. To yield lasting benefits, means of making a living that does not lead to degradation of the environment, spread of poverty or weakening of institutions on which human security depends.



Conclusion

- It is apparent that forest management and livelihoods are interwoven in the Tali-Bara communities.
- An approach that takes into consideration the welfare of the people such as protecting their culture, offering them with income generating activities that are forest friendly are needed to ensure SFM.
- Community Forest is a sine qua non for managing the forest sustainably and also improving on the dwindling state of well being



Way Forward

- Develop guidelines that emphasizes collaboration with research fellows, thus building & sustaining productive working relationship.
- Collaboration of researchers with sustainability institutes to leverage resources, avoid duplications of efforts, & enhance effectiveness and opportunities to excel.
- Develop of a journal for the program where practitioners have opportunities of expressing their results.
- Periodic evaluation of program objectives, data outcomes to ensure fair & equitable research & the needs, concerns, or specific factors affecting low income population are not overlooked.

Thanks for your audience

