

# Forests & Democratic Development in Cameroon

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Slide 1 of 12

# Outline

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- **Introduction**
- **Forest Sector Reforms**
- **Community involvement in forest management**
- **Forestry support to fiscal decentralisation.**
- **The Future?**
- **Conclusion**



Slide 2 of 12

# Some Key Statistics

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- **EXPORTS:**
  - **oil the leading export**
  - **timber second, likely to replace oil**
- **Football ranking - first in Africa**
- **Transparency International ranking -?**
- **16 million inhabitants**
- **More than 100 political parties**
- **More than 300 municipalities**



Slide 3 of 12

# Forest Sector Reforms

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- **New Forest Policy (1993)**
- **New Forest Law (1994)**
- **Decentralisation of forest management**
- **Decentralisation of forest taxation**
- **Increased transparency**



Slide 4 of 12

# Community involvement in forest management

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- **Community forests:**
  - **max. 5000 ha, managed with 25 years rotation**
- **1998-2002:**
  - **>150 applications,**
  - **25 management conventions signed**
- **Economics of CFM: the average CF gives:**
  - **5-10 m<sup>3</sup> cut per hectare**
  - **17,500 -35,000 m<sup>3</sup> round wood**
  - **Management plan costs £2-3,000**



Slide 5 of 12

# Potential Income

*(based on 3,500 ha.)*

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- **SCENARIO I**

- Lease out to a logging company
- 3,500 ha gives £175-350,000
- Annual (140ha) gives £7-14,000

- **SCENARIO II**

- Chainsaw lumber production by communities
- Annual revenue: £15-20,000



Slide 6 of 12

# How is forestry supporting fiscal decentralisation?

- **Provision for forest tax shares:**
  - National government - 50%
  - Municipality - 40%
  - Local communities - 10%
- **Total income, with fiscal reform**
  - 1995: £300,000
  - 2001: £10 million



Slide 7 of 12

# Lomié, Province de l'Est

## (12,500 inhabitants)

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- 1998:
  - **Municipal budget: £20,000**
  - **Share of logging taxes: £94,000**
- 2001:
  - **Municipal budget: £20,000**
  - **Share of logging taxes: £180,000**



Slide 8 of 12

# Published Revenues

	Type	Company	Revenue share - Commune	Revenue share - Community
<b>Commune Of AMBAM</b>	<b>VC</b> (2,500 ha)	<b>PK STF</b>	<b>£28,000</b>	<b>£7,000</b>
	<b>UFA</b> (Logging concession)	<b>CUF</b>	<b>£9,000</b>	<b>£2,250</b>



Slide 9 of 12

# The Future?

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- **Risks & Challenges:**
  - **Elite capture/individualism**
  - **Limited capacity to negotiate with industry**
  - **Internal social conflicts**
  - **Poor organisation**
  - **Access to local & international markets**
  - **Rent-seeking by state agents**



Slide 10 of 12

# Opportunities

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- **Forest & Environment Sector Programme (FESP):**
  - **Institutional reform (MINEF)**
  - **Capacity building (private sector & civil society)**
  - **Major component: community management of forest resources/revenues**
  - **Deconcentration of forest administration**
- **Poverty Reduction Strategy**
- **National Governance Programme**



Slide 11 of 12

# Conclusions:

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- **Democratisation: an irreversible trend in the forest sector**
- **Forest sector as an entry point for the national debate on governance reform**
- **Donor influence has been critical**
- **Civil society inputs needed to reinforce and advance the process**



Slide 12 of 12