

TFT-ALPI Partnership
For Responsible Forest Management & a Sustainable Timber Business
Highlights of work progress in Cameroon
April 2008

Since February 2007, Tropical Forest Trust (TFT) and ALPI have been working together in Cameroon to implement a strategy aimed at achieving excellence in sustainable forest management and timber production.

The cooperation started with an evaluation of the administrative procedures and the planning. We also evaluated the social and environmental gap between the company's practices and the requirements of the Cameroon forest sector laws and regulations, and responsible forest management principles such as those of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).



Based on the comprehensive evaluation of all forest operations and production sites, ALPI is now implementing an Action Plan focusing on:

- **Environment**
- **Forest Management**
- **Community Involvement**
- **Working conditions**

Substantial progress on the ground has been made by Alpi since the start of the co-operation with TFT, in particular with the TTAP programme (Timber Trade Action Plan) which is a European support programme of the FLEGT process.

This is an exciting and big step towards sustainable production, as Cameroonian laws and regulation don't only include administrative requirements but also a number of environmental and social aspects. Both Alpi's and TFT's efforts focused on:

Environment

Between September 2007 and April 2008, ALPI carried out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) in all its forest operations as part of realizing its forest management plans. The assessments have provided a useful information that shows the existence of significant biodiversity due to the presence in the ALPI concession area of rare species of mammals and birds, and various species of trees and herbs .

Forest Management

ALPI is focusing on:

- Updating the teams at all production sites on reduced impact logging techniques with the support of ONF-International (next session planned for November-December 2008).
- Formalization and harmonization of the reduced impact management (EFI) procedures at all sites.
- The materialization of the FMU's (Forest Management Unit) borders and the establishment of gates at the FMU's boundaries in order to monitor people and vehicles access to the FMU.

Community Involvement



Implementation of a participative mapping program in order to better involve the local communities in forest management decisions and to protect the indigenous people's customary uses and tenure rights. To do so, TFT is bringing its expertise by using an innovative mapping technology allowing non literate populations to map their key resources: hunting zones, sacred places or important trees are clearly identified and marked in order to help ALPI to incorporate this information in its management plans. These resources are consequently better preserved and protected.

At the Mindourou and Kika sites, work has already started with :

- The identification and training of 6 Pygmies and Bantus community facilitators at both sites; they will be trained to participative mapping techniques and will relay the information and help implementing the methodology among their communities.
- Establishment and animation of farmers-forest committees.



Working conditions:

- Staff health security and safety are taken in consideration as they are an essential part of implementing sustainable forest management.

Staff accommodation

- For the considered period, at the two sites of production (771 workers in total), 27 new houses have been built and a renovation programme of existing housing has been actively undertaken.

Staff safety and security

- Distribution of safety equipments, including anti-dust masks, leather gloves, new vests, protective boots, raincoats, helmets, protection glasses to the work teams in the forests and in the sawmills. More than 3800 items have been distributed during over the considered period.
- Installation of sign posts all along the roads used by the company vehicles, in the forest and at the production sites.

Staff health

- New boreholes with automatic systems making water suitable for drinking are planned to facilitate workers the access to clean water.
- AIDS is a critical health problem that particularly affects all highly densed areas and cities (and transit villages) with a higher rate of prevalence (contamination) than the national average. The Groupement de la Filiere Bois du Cameroun (GFBC) and the German Cooperation (GTZ) through its Sustainable Forest Management program (GTZ-PGDF) decided bring support to forest companies on this issue by implementing a program called 'MAINSTREAMING VIH-SIDA'. Through this

initiative, ALPICAM launched an awareness raising workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention with its entire field staff. The activities carried out since February included:

- Training of 20 peer educators working as training and information relays;
- HIV testing campaign of 85% of the staff at Kika and Bonabéri sites;
- HIV/AIDS awareness raising through the distribution of flyers to the workers and through discussions between the workers and the peer educators
- Throughout 2008, the awareness raising campaign will continue with the help of the existing peer educators and the recruitment of new educators. Also, ALPI will establish a program to assist the HIV positive personnel