

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

April 2009

The Alpi Group is collaborating with TFT, following internationally recognised criteria such as FSC standards with objectives towards sustainable economic, social and environmental principles.

Here is an update of their social programme. The main activities of 2008 are described with future developments for Alpicam and TFT, based on an audit by VERITAS of the Alpicam forest company for Timber Origin and Legality. The assessment highlighted a number of Corrective Action Requests (CARs). These CARs are forming the basis for TFT's social program with focus on prevention and conflicts resolution between Alpicam and local communities (*Bantu* and *Baka*) and the organization and functioning of a consultation platform.



Other aspects of work concern the continual improvement in work and living conditions for employees and continued communication between the company and local populations. Specific activities include improvements for household waste disposal at the workers camp and the development of the company shop. The water supply also needs to be further improved, work is already well underway.

Development of the Consultation Platform



The details of the platform were clarified with partners (WWF and other NGOs) and the administrative authorities. **The first draft of a common procedure for the two sites is ready**; it was inspired by documents on the existing Mindourou platform.

TFT had productive meeting and obtained the support towards the establishment of the farmer-forest committees and the platform of the new Principal Civil Administrator, Sub-prefect of Moloundou District, M. KUITCHENG. He signed in Moloundou on 30th October

2008 **decision N° 0011/D/B12.01/SP** listing the distribution of the five farmer-forest committees neighbouring Alpicam concessions of Alpicam Kika in Moloundou district.

The role of the Farmer-Forest Committee (FFC) is not clear for the populations. TFT met village heads of two villages. They reported that the notion of FFC is not yet understood. It will be necessary to continue information efforts. In addition the composition of the committees is not representative of the village populations. The NGO in charge CEFAID will take actions to ensure villagers are adequately represented in the committees.



Conflict resolution procedure



A first draft on the procedure has been written and will be offered for consultation to relevant stakeholders. The procedure is hierarchical. Individuals refer their grievance or request to the village head, he transmits to the head of the farmer-forest committee. The head of the FFC then transmits the request to the social department at Alpicam, or to the consultation platform coordinator, or to the Head of the forestry post. If the grievance or request cannot be settled at this level, the Sub-prefect of Moloundou is approached. In last resort, the matter is dealt by the state formal justice system. Decisions are then fed back to the applicant.

Improved communication and cooperation with local partner NGOs

Discussions with representatives from NGOs CEFAID and CIFED have indicated difficulties in the field with members of certain NGOs. To prevent complications, TFT advises that an assistant from Alpicam social department collaborate with contracted NGOs in the field. In addition TFT is developing the Centre of Social Excellence (CSE) in Brazzaville. Students trained to facilitate social relations could assist Alpi and other forestry companies in the Congo Basin.