



CAMEROON

EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

In Cameroon, large land areas are under agribusiness and logging concessions. While private sector investments hold out promises for reducing poverty, the country faces key governance challenges. Mining, forestry and agribusiness concessions overlap with one another and with protected areas and community lands, driving tenure insecurity and sometimes conflict. This also makes the cohabitation of written and customary law; and the regulation of rural land markets to benefit vulnerable groups more difficult.

In 2008, the government launched a process to update land, forest, mining and environmental laws. These reforms will have far-reaching implications for the country and generate a more cohesive framework and better technical capacities for effective governance of Cameroon's land and natural resources. However, effective coordination is needed to ensure the rights of all stakeholders during the reform process, and to ensure that all stakeholders are well informed about the reality on the ground and good practices needed to secure rights and improve governance.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation (EULGP CI) is to promote effective, inclusive and transparent governance of tenure regimes for the mutual benefit and the peaceful coexistence of different right-holders claiming access to land and natural resources in Cameroon, with a specific focus on forestry areas of the country.

Name of the EULGP CI*	LandCam: Securing land and resource rights and improving governance in Cameroon
Implementer	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
Implementer partners	Centre for Environnement and Développement (CED) Réseau de Lutte contre la Faim (RELUFA) International Land Coalition (ILC) Réseau des Parlementaires pour la gestion durable des écosystème forestiers d'Afrique Centrale (REPAR) Réseau des Chefs Traditionnels pour la gestion durable des écosystèmes en Afrique Centrale (RECTRAD) Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT)
Political entities involved	Réseau des Parlementaires pour la gestion durable des écosystème forestiers d'Afrique Centrale (REPAR) Réseau des Chefs Traditionnels pour la gestion durable des écosystèmes en Afrique Centrale (RECTRAD)
Budget	4 000 000 Euro
Length of the EULGP CI	February 2017 – December 2021

*EULGP CI (European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation)

STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The project seeks to:

- Support key stakeholders in recognizing claims and rights to land access and dealing with the land governance process and its challenges.
- Establish legitimate and sustainable mechanisms for multi-stakeholder consultation and decision-making. This will support the revision of legal frameworks, policy strategies and administrative regulations which influence the use and rights of access to land and natural resources for rural actors.
- Monitor changes on the ground, track legal reforms and share lessons learned nationally and internationally.

LandCam will concentrate its efforts at the grassroots level. Working directly with local Civil Society Organizations and community groups. LandCam is launching a series of bottom-up interventions to clarify legitimate land tenure rights in three different districts and through a Small Grants Scheme.

TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

By means of a Transversal Project, co-funded by the EU and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coordinates, supports and consolidates the implementation of the EU Land Governance Programme. The European Union Land Governance Programme funds 18 individual country-level projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, all of which address tenure issues, and are implemented alongside various partners, among which are government agencies, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations and private contractors. All project activities are carried out within the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and, in the African context, the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa (AU Declaration) and its Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G).

Other activities include:

- Supporting permanent dialogue and joint actions at different government levels (local and national) with other stakeholders.
- A dedicated set of activities for the private sector to pilot company-community dialogue in one concession area, with the aim to build the capacity of all stakeholders and break the impasse in communications between some actors and the private sector.
- Field testing approaches to secure rights based on rigorous diagnostics to link local-level work to national reform debates, by feeding lessons into national dialogue and by engaging with the government.
- Ongoing high-level dialogue bringing together key stakeholders to debate the main findings and proposals for reforms.
- Establishing a project team with long-standing experience of cooperation, that has credibility with key stakeholders in Cameroon and strong links with international policy processes on land and resource governance.

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OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The first activities and outcomes of the EULGP CI are:

- Parliamentarians have increased capacities regarding land governance through an exchange forum about experiences on land management in Africa. The final outcomes have been published. Journalists have improved their ability to analyze land issues and to use more appropriate and specialized land-related terminology in articles and reports.
- Different national stakeholders, including 15 members of Civil Society Organizations (CSO), ten ministers in charge of land, mining, agriculture, food and land use planning and several journalists have increased their knowledge and now exchange information about land investment leases.
- Capacity development through participation in the national workshop “Issues and Challenges for Inclusive Governance of Lands and Resources” mean that national stakeholders can now deal with gender and land issues.
- Two documents on past experiences in securing community land rights were produced to support the strategy for the EULGP CI activities.

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