

# Roadmap for Cameroon's sustainable land management unveiled

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in Yaounde

The European Forestry Institute, the German Cooperation Mission, GIZ; Rainbow Environment Consultants, LTS International, AJESH Self Help, among others have unveiled a plan for Cameroon's sustainable and durable land use and management.

The unveiling was done yesterday July 2, by representatives of these institutions, during a workshop that held at the Mont Febe Hotel in Yaounde. They were in company of government partners, spear-headed by the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, MINEPAT.

Jean-Jacques Yepmo, the Director of land Use at MINEPAT, who stood in for Minister Alamine Ousman Mey, recalled that it was in 2013 that the Yaounde government solicited the assistance of these development partners for them to come up with a strategic plan for sustainable and durable land use for Cameroon in line with law number 2011/008 of May 6, 2011. The law also specified that partners recommend the best land use choice to be adopted not only by the government but other local stakeholders.

National land managers were to be guided on how to carry out economic activities, putting up national and communal infrastructure, use of equipment and rendering services.

To that effect, partners, but particularly the European Forestry Institute, in 2016 decided to finance the project in conjunction with the government of Cameroon through which a cartographic platform was put in place as well as a planned



*Participants after opening of workshop*

method of land use.

The platform was operationalised by a consortium made up of LTSI Rainbow Environment Consult and AJESH, with mandate from MINEPAT. Jean-Jacques Yepmo, the Director of Land Use at MINEPAT recalled how the first phase of the project was carried out.

He said it ran from 2014 to 2016, during which period key facts and statistics of appropriate land use were compiled and tried in the Nguti Rural Council, Kupe Muanenguba division of the South West region. The experiment gave rise to the compilation of a rural land use document to guide councils all over the country on land use matters.

Since the crisis in the Anglophone regions of the country could not allow the experiment in Nguti to progress, government decided to try it in another locality. This time, the project was taken to the Grand North where the German

Cooperation Mission had been carrying out similar experiments over a vast area in Ngong sub division, Benue division of the Adamawa region.

From these experiments, the programme for village land use, known in the French language as "Plans d'Amenagement du Terroir Villageois, PATV was born. This aims at encouraging council officials to look within their communities and see how they could train and encourage inhabitants to manage their land so as to increase production of agricultural, livestock, fisheries, forestry, non forestry and other products. All with the aim to create wealth for rural dwellers, increase household and investment incomes and improve overall living conditions of the people.

Apart from using these products to impact rural and thereby national development, council officials were also trained to look into how they could

improve on water management through optimal exploitation of watersheds. Here, councils in tropical rain forests zones were taught how to manage excess water during the rainy season so that floods and runoffs do not wash away top soils and cause depletion in soil fertility.

Those in arid zones were taught how to conserve water during heavy rains so that their farmers could use the excess to water and or irrigate their farms during dry seasons.

The experts disclosed that these activities were entering their second phase. This will require them to further enrich the cartographic plan and consolidate gains made during the implementation of the first phase. The second phase will see the government and partners experimenting what they tried in Nguti and Ngong in many more council areas across the country.

Prior to launching the second phase, they held workshops in some towns across the country. They started with Yaounde, where a workshop was held in November 2017; in June 2018 another was held in Buea; January 2019 in Garoua; and in May 2019 in Edea. "Deliberations that emanated from these workshops permitted actors to come up with a universally agreed roadmap for the durable land use development plan for councils known in the French language as, "Plans Locaux d'Amenagement et de Development Durable du Territoire, PLADDT.

Yesterday's workshop was to unveil this phase of the PLADDT and to streamline the various stages of its implementation.