

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



AJESH

Founded on June 4, 2006 by a group of development experts, AJESH is legalised under law No. 90/053 of 19/12/1990 relating to freedom of Associations as a Non-Profit, apolitical and non-religious Organisation in Cameroon.

VISION

An empowered, healthy and sustainable society that is free from poverty and injustice in harmony with its environment.

MISSION

To improve on the socio-economic conditions of communities, through the empowerment of community members to sustainably manage their natural resources.

GOAL

To empower communities towards the improvement of their socio-economic wellbeing through participatory management of their natural resources.

VALUES

Humanity: The Other, our focus of interest

Respect: We take into account the rights and values of each individual.

Integrity: We respect norms, standards and values.

Commitment: We put all our energy into our action

Excellence: The best of us for better performance

AJEMALEB



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A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT (CEO)

FOREWORD



HARRISON NNOKO NGAAJE

This report summarizes the activities we implemented during the period 2020-2021. This period was also a challenging one to AJESH, Cameroon and the world at large. The socio-political crisis in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon that brought a lot of insecurity since 2017 which grossly limited not only AJESH's activities in these areas but those of all other Civil Society Organizations, international NGOs, the private sector and even the government. In early 2020 while AJESH intensified extending activities to other parts of the country in order to stay afloat, then came the deadly global pandemic - COVID-19 which had a devastating effect on the general economy of nations worldwide. These challenges were significant; however, AJESH as usual in its astound manner surpassed them tactically.

Amidst these setbacks, we however continued with our community-centered approach to cultural biodiversity conservation, sustainable management of natural resources and the enhancement of community wellbeing through the promotion of agroecology and supporting communities to access markets through Value Chain Development with the promotion of Income Generating Activities (IGA) to these local communities. Added to ensuring community wellbeing, AJESH engaged in humanitarian and health care support in the affected armed conflict areas of the South West Region of Cameroon.

AJESH made important strides, daring into the Yabassi Key Biodiversity Area which includes the Ebo forest (part stretches to the Yingui council) and the gazetted Yabassi and Yingui council forests in the municipalities of Yabassi and Yingui.

Supporting 32 local communities document their land tenure systems through Participatory Mapping. Three (3) of these communities also were accompanied to plan their landscape, thus, they developed their Village Land Use Plans, here I am referring to Ndogmen Nord, Ndokam and Mosse. They have equally engaged in Assisted Natural Regeneration of degraded identified areas in their communities as a restoration approach in curbing the advancing degradation of their forest area.

In the same vein, AJESH continued its Real Time Monitoring of forest watch within the context of the Open Timber Portal for the promotion of legality within the Congo Basin.

We continued recruitment and trained 10 more mobilization/sensitization agents that assisted it carry out hygiene promotion using home visits, group outreach and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) approaches. The promotion was centered on COVID-19, Cholera and menstrual hygiene and was carried out in the Bole Bakundu, Buea, Tiko and Limbe municipalities. IDPs and other vulnerable persons benefitted from COVID-19 and Menstrual hygiene kits. This was done concurrently with the implementation of community health care activities on fighting Malaria, HIV/AIDs and Tuberculosis for Long-term Impact.

We would not have attained this level of achievement without the commitment and support from our staff, consultants and partners. We therefore extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following institutions that provided us with necessary technical and financial support: The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA), Ebo Forest Research Project (EFRP), Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Birdlife International, Global Green Grant Fund (GGF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Full Circle Foundation (FCF), Global Fund/MINSANTE with support from some sectoral Ministries.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION AREAS (2022-2027)

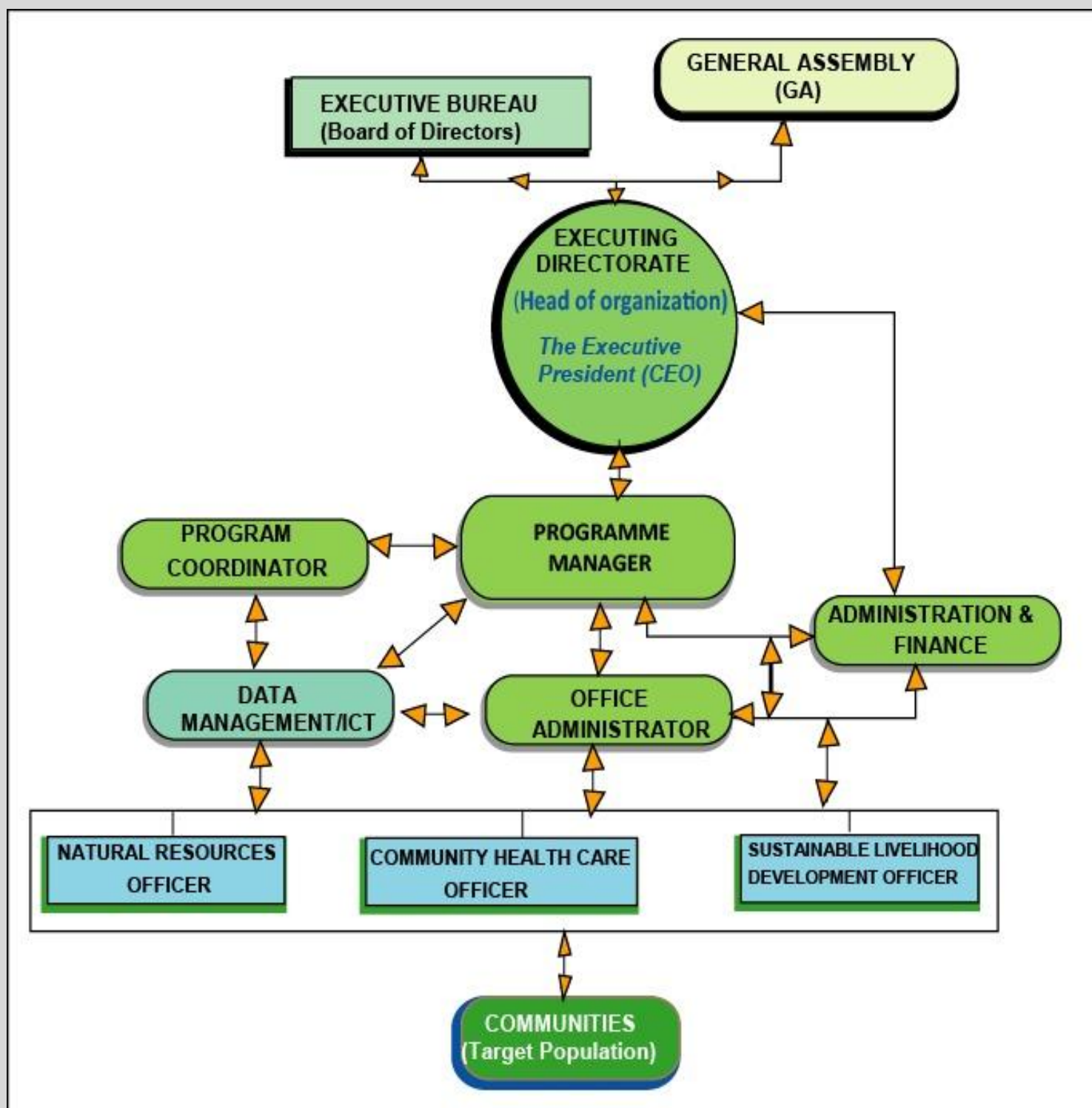
Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

- Forest governance
- Wildlife Conservation,
- Forest Restoration,
- Land tenure Governance,
- Biodiversity Conservation,
- Restoration, Watersheds management,
- Non Timber Forest Products (NTFs),
- Landscape Management,
- Ecotourism

Community Wellbeing:

- Developing Value Chain Approach (VCDA)
- Promoting Income Generation Activities (IGA) in Agric and Livestock products,
- Humanitarian support
- Reconstruction after crisis and pandemics
- Community and environmental Health Care

AJESH ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - 2022-2027



INTRODUCTION

All projects implemented by AJESH not only strictly comply with our vision, mission, objectives and values but also take into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - 2030 agenda, Cameroon government's vision 2035, the government's Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) which is a reference document for achieving emergence by 2035. AJESH's approach is community driven and its activities in 2020-2021 were concentrated in the South West and Littoral Regions of Cameroon. Though AJESH's projects are community driven, the organization also seeks "To end poverty in all forms everywhere (SDG1), "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" SDG2, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages", SDG3 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" (SDG13), "Conserve and use the oceans, seas and marine resources in a sustainable manner" (SDG14) and "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss" SDG15.

AJESH successfully coordinated its activities from its coordination office in Limbe where logistical, administrative and technical support to its various field operations is provided.

AJESH'S COLLABORATORS / NETWORKS

The high level of attainment of the organization's vision, mission, goal during the reporting period (2020-2021) was highly linked with the support from its numerous collaborators and networks, some of which have been with the organization for over 10 years.

National Networks

- ❖ Forest Monitoring Coordination (FGM)
- ❖ Forests Community Platform (FCP)
- ❖ National Engagement Strategy (NES)
- ❖ National Land Observatory
- ❖ Cameroon National Forest Forum (CNFF) under the auspices of COMIFAC
- ❖ National REDD+ platform
- ❖ Coalition of Natural Resources Management (CNRM)
- ❖ Dynamique Citoyene (NETWORK of civil society organisation members monitoring Public Investment Budgets)
- ❖ KAAC: Korean Alumina Association Cameroon
- ❖ National Network for the Defenders of the Rights of Environmental Defenders.
- ❖ Member of the SWECSON (South West Civil Society Organisations Network)

International Networks

- ❖ Having Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC
- ❖ Accredited to: UNFCCC, UNCCD
- ❖ Member of FSC
- ❖ UNCCD-UNEP African CSOs Platform
- ❖ Law for REDD+ platform

- ❖ FLEGT.org
- ❖ Registered member EC (PADOR)
- ❖ IFA (International Federation on Ageing) member
- ❖ Member of Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)

Partners

During the period 2020-2021, AJESH worked with several partners (both local and international) that greatly assisted in the attainment of its results..

Ministries:

MINFOF (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife): As a continuation of the C2D PFSE2 programme, AJESH continued to support Village Management Committees on forest governance practices. AJESH also, supported the sustainable management of protected areas.

MINADER (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development): Through the Agriculture Infrastructure and Value Chain Development Project, AJESH carried out a series of activities with farmers.

MINEPAT (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development): collaborated immensely in the development and testing of local level land use plans (councils).

MINSANTE (Ministry of Public Health): Jointly implemented the dual tract malaria project.

MINRESI (Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation) via IRAD (Institute for Agricultural Research for Development): Supporting AJESH with Office space in Kumba.

Municipal Councils:

Bangem, Kumba 1, Mbonge, Nguti, Tinto, Yabassi and Yingui councils

National and International NGOs/Programs

National:

IRESO	FODER	NRC
CED	PNDP	EFRP
CEFAID	FEICOM	FORUDEF
Plan Cameroon	AIVDP	ERUDEF
Rainbow Environment Consult	Reach Out	GDA
Ebo Forest Research Project (EFRP)		

International:

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

Birdlife International

Full Circle Foundation (FCF)

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA)

Global Green Grants Fund (GGF)

NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council)

LTS International UK

EFI (European Forest Institute)

Global Fund

Plan International

Rainforest Foundation UK/DFID

JAFTA (Japan Forest Technology Association)

Cluster Platforms

AJESH is a member of;
The WASH cluster
The health cluster
The COVID 19 communication platform

Research Collaborations

AJESH collaborated with the Ebo Forest Research Project (EFRP)
And also with CADASTRA



PROJECTS/PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED IN 2020-2021

During the period 2020-2021, AJESH continued implementing projects that included community mobilisation, awareness raising technical training or material/financial support. The projects implemented included aspects of; natural resource management/protection, community land rights, sustainable agricultural practices, capacity building for local communities, women empowerment, community healthcare and wellbeing. All these were in respect to AJESH's 3 core strategic intervention areas. Our success relied greatly on the adaptation and engagement of the participatory approach which puts the community people at the heart of what concerns them in harmony with their environment.

❖ SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NAURAL RESOURCES

Forests Governance

Community's involvement in decision making processes in relation to natural resource management for the protection of forests and wildlife, alleviate poverty and contribute to the development of these communities continued increasing as a result of AJESH's efforts. Transparent and sustainable forestry and wildlife management remained key approaches for the improvement of governance and livelihoods for forest communities.

Local communities were continuously supported to understand the forestry law as well as international conventions on forestry, wildlife and climate change ratified by the government of Cameroon for a better understanding of their property rights and benefits over the resources of their customary forests.

In 2020, AJESH:

- In partnership with FLAG, carried out an independent monitoring and documentation of illegal logging activities in and around logging concessions especially in Nsake village in Yabassi in the Littoral Region.
- In this same area, followed up social engagement agreements between companies and communities within the forestry sector, to identify non conformities such as the non-respect of clauses and any other irregularities.
- Researched on community's engagement in the management of Sales by Standing Volumes (SSVs) in logging concessions in the Littoral Region of Cameroon.

In 2021 AJESH

- carried out a study on bio-ecological potential of the Ebo Forest Area (EBA) in order to access the impact of logging operations on local community livelihoods and cultural values

- Mapped out the ecological governance systems and institutions in the EFA.
- Characterized the socio-economic level of the local population in the Yabassi KBA.



Indepentend monitoring of forest logging in Dibeng village

Conservation

During the period 2020-2021, biodiversity conservation remained a concern for AJESH and its collaborators. This is more so because species as well as habitat conservation remained a priority to the local community members, the Cameroon government and many international collaborators. In the Yabassi Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) AJESH intensified its community biodiversity conservation approach requiring the different communities in the forest areas to actively participate in the conservation process. Efforts in the reporting period were concentrated on community mobilization, sensitization, information, capacity building, conservation of wildlife species and ecosystem restoration activities.

AJESH therefore:

- Sensitised communities on first of all the importance of conserving their natural resources, the sustainable management of their land and the need for them to actively participate in the conservation activities. This was carried out within the littoral and southwest region in Cameroon precisely around the Korup National Park, Bakossi National Park, Takamanda National Park, the BanyangMbo Wildlife Sanctuary and the Yabassi KBA.
 - Mobilised communities, enhanced their knowledge and understanding of conservation and defined the roles of all actors and stakeholders in the conservation process in both the South West Region and the Yabassi KBA.
 - In a participatory manner, mapped land use and primate species trends and also documented demographic and socio-economic baseline data of 26 villages in the Yabassi KBA.
- Carried out ecosystem restoration activities within the Ebo Forest massif (periphery).
Identified and marked for protection 158 plant species in 3 communities in the Ebo Forest Area namely Ndockmem-nord, Ndoktoun and Mosse. The plant species were either found in farmlands or degraded zones.
Created GPS plots for the reforestation programme in the same 3 communities.



Wildlife trend mapping in Dogbous village



A view of Camvert Palm plantation in Dokbakang

Land Governance

As a growing nation, Cameroon just like many other countries in the Congo basin is involved with large-scale investments in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, extractive industries, industrialization that displace many people and deprive families from the land from which they obtain their livelihoods. Poor governance systems and corrupt practices in the country have given room for gross disrespect of national and international human right conventions and have led to large land areas allocated to agribusinesses and logging concessions leaving the local population, particularly women and youth with little or no land for their livelihood activities. Land rights can be improved using several approaches including the mobilization and sensitization of communities on their land rights, capacity building on land rights, mapping and land use planning etc. In 2020-2021, AJESH did much on land governance in both the South West and littoral Regions including:

- Identifying participatory land uses and land conflicts;
- Developed land use plans for 3 villages

- Held dialogue sessions with 26 communities, administrators and civil society members in the Yabassi KBA to better understand land and natural resource management practices in the Ebo Forest massif;
- Trained 60 community mappers(10 female and 50 males)
- Documented in a participatory manner the cultural values and land tenure situation of 10 villages (Dikous, Ibompoi, Iboti, Malo, Ndigbassogog, Bonepoupa 1, Ndocktoun, Ninga, Ndokmon-nord and Mamba) in the Yabassi KBA underpinning conservation potentials and cultural values.
- Sensitized and trained 22 community members (4 female, 18 males) from 16 villages in Yingui and Yabassi on the protection of cultural values and heritages (Land reforms, forest reforms, FPIC and advocacy).
- Mapped historical wildlife habitats and ranges for 26 villages in the forest areas of Yabassi and Yingui municipalities.



Validation of Participatory land use plan in Ndoktune



Identification of land use pattern with community planner in Ndokmem Nord

Supporting women rights to livelihood land

Land is a fundamental natural resource as most other natural resources are found either in it or on it. There is therefore very high pressure on accessing this resource. In most parts of Cameroon and especially where AJESH's activities are concentrated, the rights of women and girls to land are seriously compromised, especially when traditions and customs triumph over formal laws. The traditions and customs in most communities consider women and girls as belonging to another family as they will eventually get married and leave and so when it concerns inheritance of land and other property, it is this vulnerable group that is marginalized. Public laws and policies do not, however, discriminate on land rights. On the other hand, land is inevitable to women in Cameroon as they are the ones that produce at least 80% of food crops either for home consumption or sale for household income. Guaranteeing women's land rights (access to land) at all levels is inevitable.

In especially the Yabassi KBA, the current scramble for land for agro-industrial establishments, logging concessions and private ownership exert strong pressure on land and are a threat to women's land ownership rights.

AJESH and its partner Global Green Grants initiated and implemented activities geared towards supporting and empowering women on their rights to livelihood land within the littoral region starting from the village level.

The results obtained included;

- Women were mobilised and sensitised on the different land laws and advocacy mechanisms within Yabassi in Nkam Division
- Key women from Logutoka, Yabassi, Ndockban I, Banen, Ndogboa, Bodisman, Monkonto, Dibeng, Ndogfaya and Nsake villages within Nkam division had their capacities on land laws and advocacy strategies strengthened
- Elaborated and documented with the women their plights concerning land acquisition for their livelihood activities
- Collaborated with the Yabassi Council to ensure that the women's plights would be tabled to their various chiefs for change

Advocacy with chiefs to recognise women rights on land

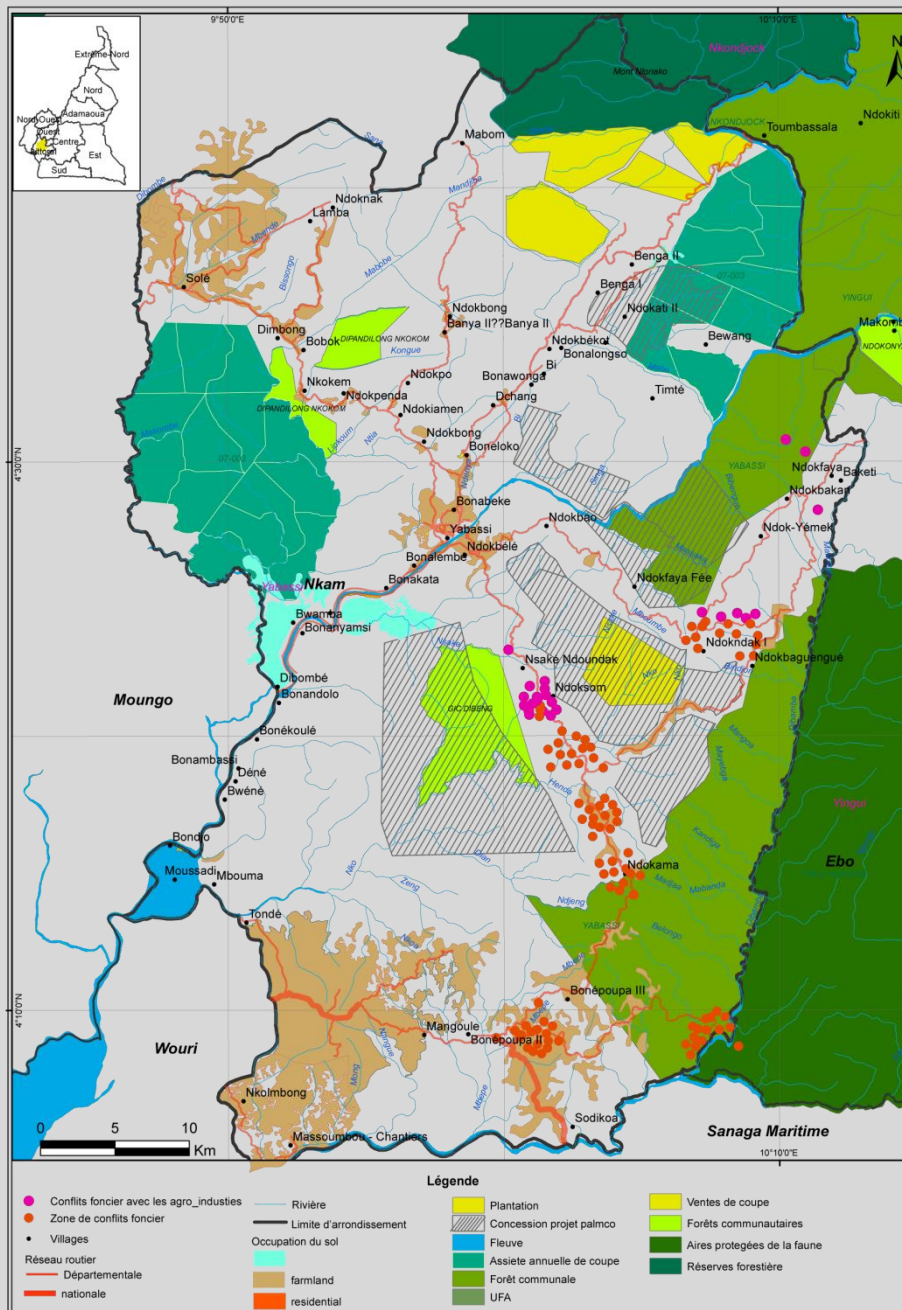
Chiefs have always considered women as subordinates of the man and have thus always regarded their rights to land insignificant. This has made them less concerned and bothered of the women's land rights and insecurities in land access and ownership within the community. They and the members of their traditional councils have supreme authority over land and are normally consulted for their approval before giving a land title to an individual within a community. Having documented the plight of women concerning their access to land in the Yabassi KBA, AJESH with funds from Global Green Grants, supported the women to approach their chiefs and advocate for a reconsideration of the woman's position on access to land for their livelihood activities. The following results were obtained;

- Women from Logutoka, Yabassi, Ndockban I, Banen, Ndogboa, Bodisman, Monkonto, Dibeng, Ndogfaya and Nsake villages within the Nkam division were supported to advocate for their rights to livelihood land ;
- Organized and facilitated an advocacy meeting between the chiefs of Logutoka, Yabassi, Ndockban I, Ndogboa, Bodisman, Dibeng, Ndogfaya and Nsake villages and the women of Logutoka, Yabassi, Ndockban I, Banen, Ndogboa, Bodisman, Monkonto, Dibeng, Ndogfaya and Nsake villages within the Nkam division respectively ;
- Together with the women succeeded to get the chiefs to reconsider women situation regarding access to land ;

- Documented the chiefs resolutions regarding women's rights to land and the men's perspective towards women regarding land access.



Workshop to facilitate land right for women with women and Chief for in Yabassi



Major women land conflict in Yabassi Road

Climate Change

Since its creation, AJESH's activities have always been geared towards the mitigation of climate change effects. This has been done through its two main programmes namely the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and its Sustainable Agriculture/Livelihood programme. Some achievements during the reporting period include:

- AJESH, other civil society stakeholders and the Cameroon Government partnered in the validation of the Redd+ strategies.
- Mobilised communities towards the acquisition of community forest in the Yabassi KBA. Continued to conduct Research on the BIOCHAR technology so as to significantly contribute in reducing global warming emissions and if possible remove existing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
- Together with some of our partners, participated and facilitated a BIOCHAR testing project in the Yabassi KBA. Continued to sensitize and train communities and other stakeholders on the plant and animal material turned into charcoal to store carbon. It is highly proposed as a climate change mitigation strategy.
- Continued capacity building of civil society actors and community members on climate change mitigation, adaption and resilience approaches. Over 60 community people and local CSOs were reached with messages on REDD+ in 2020.



Exchange of the use of Biochar in Ntui (Center Region)



training on the production of biochar in Ntui and Salakounou

COMMUNITY WELLBEING:SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE/LIVELIHOODS

Despite the fact that Cameroon aims at attaining its vision 2035 which is principally to reduce poverty to minimal levels, become a middle-income country, become a newly industrialised country and consolidate and enhance democracy and national unity, in 2020-2021, the country still relied greatly on its agric sector, exporting mainly primary agricultural products. The socio-political crises in the north (Boko Haram), east, south west and north west regions of the country (Anglophone crises) coupled with the challenges of a stagnating economy, rapid population growth and urbanisation and poor governance make the vision appear as an aberration.

Agriculture on the other hand was still viewed as a key driver of deforestation and degradation with accompanying climate change consequences.

AJESH therefore continued to contribute in ensuring that the ecosystems are protected by promoting agricultural practices and other income generating activities that are climate-friendly thereby reducing deforestation and forest degradation while ensuring that the livelihoods of the farmers are improved. Activities carried out included:



Agricultural material for people escape from CREFAT plantation site

DEVELOPING VALUE CHAINS OF SOME COMMODITIES

- We continued to build the capacities of some community members on zero deforestation agricultural practices and supported them to develop the value chains of cassava and cocoa in Meme and Nkam divisions in Cameroon.
- Agricultural Infrastructure and Value Value-Chain Development Project (AIVDP) is an Economic Development Project (EDP) of the South West Development Authority, an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon. This organization in collaboration with AJESH, Continued to facilitate the elaboration and documentation of the business plans of over 55 cooperatives within Meme, Fako and Lebiam divisions.



Area of sensitization of community on sustainable agriculture

PROMOTING INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES

- In 2021, AJESH continued to support some members of the communities of Ndokama and Dibeng in the littoral region who did not benefit in 2020 through the distribution of emergency farming assistance tools to secure and restore their livelihoods.
- From June 2021 to December 2021, AJESH created a poultry demonstration farm with 1000 broilers. A total of 60 poultry farmers were trained on modern poultry farming techniques from brooding (Day old) right up to mature broilers and were linked to buyers in target markets (Limbe).
- In 2021, AJESH continued to support the rehabilitation and livelihood restoration for 4 communities notably; Ndokama, Dibeng, Matamba and Jeng affected by illegal amass of land by exploitation companies in the littoral region of Cameroon.



Value change on NTFP

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

The Anglophone crisis that began in 2016 continued in 2020 and 2021 with many more Internally Displaced Persons (women, children, youths and even some men), refugees and host community members – vulnerable groups of people. In December 2020, the crisis was worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic that had a devastating impact not only in Cameroon as a whole but the world at large. The vulnerable groups of persons became even more exposed. In 2019, AJESH signed a collaboration agreement with the Norwegian Refugee Council to provide humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable groups of persons. This culminated in a series of trainings for AJESH staff organised by NRC and sometimes facilitated by INSO from 2019 to 2021. Training modules included:

- Humanitarian Negotiations (towards enhanced humanitarian access and protection);
- Basic access negotiations;
- Security briefings;
- Vulnerability and vulnerability criteria;
- Good governance (Anti-corruption measures, Humanitarian Principles, Protection against sexual abuse/harassment)
- Use of data collection tools (Profiling tools; data entry and distribution, hygiene promotion/challenges/lessons learned/recommendations).
- M&E matrix; (Project log frame and reporting mechanisms)
- Financial procedures;

- Logistics procedures and managing the procedures with partners
- Briefing on cholera and COVID-19;
- Use of COVID-19 and cholera data collection sheets

Between 2020 and 2021, AJESH recruited profiling/hygiene promotion/data collection/distribution agents and trained them on the above-mention modules. They were to assist AJESH implement 2 projects in the South West Region of Cameroon.

The title of the project in 2020 was, “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Promotion interventions in the South West Region of Cameroon (Buea, Tiko and Limbe)” while that in 2021 was “Emergency assistance and NFI support for vulnerable communities affected by conflict and displacement in the South-West and North-West regions of Cameroon”.

For the realisation of the action in 2020,, the following were achieved

- 15 community mobilisation/sensitization agents wererecruited and trainedwith 5 eachfromTiko (New and oldPungo), Buea (Tole) and Limbe (Moliwe) in Fako division
- Community mobilisation, sensitization and information on hygiene promotion wassuccessfully carried out in Tiko (New and oldPungo), Buea (Tole) and Limbe (Moliwe). This wasdonemainlythrough home visits and group outreach and alsousing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) toolsprovided by NRC.
- Data collection on COVID-19, state of cholera and hygiene situation in the 3 project areas ;
- Data processed and submitted to NRC ;
- Assessed the population needs for COVID-19 kits through the administration of a structured questionnaire ;
- Profiled COVID-19 beneficiaries in Tole and old and New Pungo
- Profiled women and girls of child bearing age (15-49yrs) in Moliwe ;
- Distributed 500 COVID 19 kits with; 250 each in Tole and Pungo
- Distributed 250 menstrual hygiene kits in Moliwe (packs of sanitary towels, buckets, soap, camel water etc) to women and girls in Moliwe, Limbe.
- Posters on the symptoms and preventivemeasuresagainst COVID-19 werepasted at public places.
- A total of over 3,800 personswerereachedwith the hygiene promotion messages.
- Monitored the distribution process to track progress and delivery of the COVID 19 kits;

In 2021, the profiling/hygiene promotion/data collection/distribution agents assisted AJESH in:

- Carrying out community mobilisation, sensitization and information on hygiene promotion in Bole in the Mbonge Sub Division, Meme Division of the South West Region of Cameroon;
- Profiling potential beneficiaries;
- Distributing and pasting posters on hygiene promotion;
- Distributing 253 NFI kits in Bole, Meme division, South West region, Cameroon. Each of the 253 households that benefited went home with both menstrual hygiene and shelter kits.

❖ COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

Preventing Malaria, HIV/AIDs, etc. in Communities

In partnership with the ministry of Public health under the Global Fund Funding Mechanism in Cameroon, AJESH continued to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; ensuring consistent integration of community activities of the three Programs namely National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), National AIDS Control Committee (NACC), and the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP). AJESH in fidelity advanced with the implementation of “**Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to fight Malaria for Long-term Impact**” abbreviated **AMCUID** that ended in December 2020 and was again fortunate to continue with the new phase of the project titled “**Up Scaling Malaria Control for High Impact- Global Fund NFM3 CDI (2021-2023)**”.

In 2020, AJESH worked in collaboration with MINSANTE, Plan Cameroon and IRESCO while in 2021, AJESH worked exclusively with MINSANTE and Reach Out. While AJESH continued to work in the 4 out of the 7 districts that the project covered in 2020, the number of district covered by AJESH reduced to 2 (Tombel and Mbonge) in 2021 due to a review of internal policies governing the management of the project.

In 2020, AJESH:

- Continued facilitating the implementation of Community Based Interventions in the districts which involves overseeing the day to day activities of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in their respective communities.
- Continued training over 250 CHWs in Konye, Ekondo Titi, Nguti and Tombel Health districts on the context of the project < Achieve and maintain universal coverage of interventions for the fight against malaria for long term impact.

- Recruited and trained new CHWs agents for Konye, EkondoTiti, Nguti and Tombel health Districts to replace the inactive ones.
- Continued revision with CHWs on the process on BCC, Advocacy, Counselling, home visit, diagnosis of uncomplicated malaria, educational talks, refer cases of early malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and pregnant women to the hospital (for ANC) etc. These CHWs worked directly with the community people counselling them in their homes, groups, during clinical sessions, and during public gathering such as national days, cultural festivals, etc. on malaria control and prevention, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.
- Distributed CHW working materials in all the health districts and put at their disposal first aid drugs for the treatment of minor cases of malaria.
- Carried out monthly and quarterly supervision of all trained CHWs in the four health districts covered by AJESH.
- Did administration of medication to uncomplicated malaria patients within communities with no functional health facility.
- Carried out bi-monthly home visits and onsite data verification in all the Health Areas within health districts covered by AJESH, and encouraged household members on the use of their mosquito nets, diagnosed cases of complicated and uncomplicated malaria and reported to the nearest health facilities for follow up of patients.
- Carried out advocacy action on Behavioural Change on health related matters. Contributed to the follow-up on the use of mosquito nets.

COVID 19 Awareness promotion

- Sensitised the communities within AJESH's 4 health districts on COVID 19 and its symptoms. This was done during home visits by CHW's
- Educated and promoted the prevention methods from contracting COVID 19
- Followed up and documented suspected cases of COVID 19

In 2021, AJESH:

- Collected statistical data on:
 - Percentage of pregnant women who had not started ANC- referred and received at the health facility;
 - Percentage of children born in the community, referred and received in the health facility;
 - Percentage of pregnant women absent from the ANC appointment, (2, 3 or 4), 7 days after the scheduled date, referred and received at the health facility;

- Number of children absent from the 8-week postnatal consultation, referred and received in the Health Facility;
 - Percentage of tuberculosis cases (all forms combined) declared by healthcare providers outside the national disease control program - referred by the community;
 - Proportion of community health workers who received at least one supportive supervision during the reporting period;
 - Completion of monthly reports from Community Health Workers during the reporting period;
 - Percentage of trained CHWs who are operational during the reporting period;
 - Proportion of CHWs having inputs during the reporting period
-
- **Held 2** District Task Force Coordination Meetings in the Tombel Health District with the participation of all twelve members including the AJESH coordinator for the area.
 - Supervised 41 CHWs during the 3rd quarter and 42 in the 4th quarters and not 45 per quarter as planned. Some were unavoidably absent.
 - Collected and validated a total of 220 CHW reports during the period July – December 2021. A minimum of 294 reports were expected from the 42 active CHWs.
 - Organised and held 11 taskforce meetings during the period July – December 2021 instead of 14 as planned.

RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Human Resources

The Board of Directors (BoD)

The Board of Directors of AJESH is the Administrative Decision making organ of the organization. It establishes policies for the organization and its members define the action plans, the budget and the annual accounts of the organisation. Composed of the founding members and some new members elected by the General Assembly. Some other members are appointed or invited by the Board of Directors.

As of 1st January 2020, AJESH's Board of Directors membership stood at ten (10) disaggregated as follows: 6 women and 4 men.

The Board meets at least once annually to permit them plan the next year. As at ending 2021, the composition of the BoDs was as follows:

NAME	POSITION	PROFESSION	Location	SEX
Marie Louis Kelle	Chairman of the Board	IT Technician	USA	F
Andrew Enongene Kang	Financial Secretary	Health Specialist	Cameroon	M
Kelly Herber Dunning	International Adviser / Representative	Prof. Auburn University USA	USA	F
Serah Malike Ngogé	Member	Nurse	Cameroon	F
Christina Fonbah	Member	Agronomist	Cameroon	F
John Ewane Nnoko	Adviser	Social Scientist	Cameroon	M
Emmanuel Edie Etoke	Member	Agronomist	Cameroon	F
Catherine Meye	Adviser	Sociologist	Cameroon	F
Harold Ngole	Legal Adviser	Lawyer	Cameroon	M
Ajebe Ngaaje	Member	Forester	Cameroon	M

Staff strength

AJESH is committed to respecting the environmental, social and regulatory standards of the state in putting into practice its key values in harmony with a good working environment.

By this reporting period, AJESH's staff strength stood at 16 (5 female and 11 male) direct contracted staff and 139 community workers.

For the security and safety of personnel and for the smooth functioning of the organization, AJESH has put in place a series of policies and regulatory documents to uphold social and moral conduct of both the staff and the target audience.



Staff training in the office

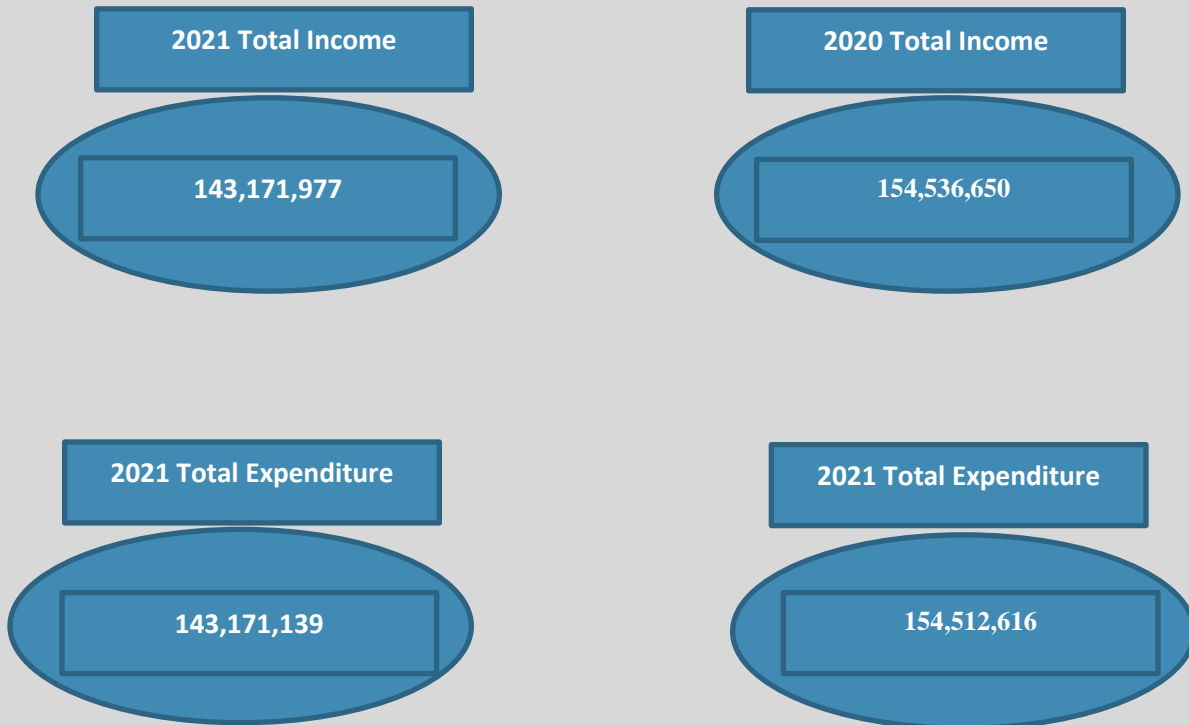
WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

To further enhance staff capacity they participated in workshops, conferences and trainings both nationally and internationally as follows;

- ❖ Two staff benefited from an international masters scholarship on community development and smart agricultural engineering funded by Korean International Cooperation Agency (KIOCA)
- ❖ In March 2021, one staff was trained by the NRC, facilitated by INSO on Humanitarian Negotiations (Towards Enhanced Humanitarian Access and Protection).
- ❖ In June 2021, a staff was trained by NRC to implement the NMFA project titled « Emergence Assistance and NFI Support for Vulnerable Communities affected by Conflict and Displacement in the South West and North West Regions of Cameroon ».
- ❖ In October/November 2021, 3 staff attended the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, the United Kingdom (UK).
- ❖ In February 2020, a staff participated in an experience sharing workshop on community land rights and land governance organised by Both Ends Netherlands in Zambia
- ❖ In February and March 2020, a staff participated in the 6th African regional session on the realisation of SDGs in Zimbabwe organised by the United Nation Economic Commission for Africa (ARFSD)
- ❖ 4 staff participated in the training on independent observation of illegalities performed by logging companies. The training was organised by Field Legality Advocacy Group (FLAG)
- ❖ 4 staff participated in a training on project implementation and management organised by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- ❖ In September 2020, a staff was trained on peace building, mediation and community mobilisation organised by Global Forum for the Defence of the Less Privileged (GFDLP)
- ❖ A staff participated in an information and sensitisation workshop on the 2020 finance law and citizen based budgeting organised by Reach out in July 2020
- ❖ Still in July 2020, a staff participated in a peace keeping workshop organised by the Cameroon association for inter-religious dialogue (ACADIR)
- ❖ In August 2020, a staff attended a Health Platform meeting in the Ministry of Communication, Buea on strategies to fight the CORONA-19 virus pandemic in the region.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

AJESH operated in 2020/2021 with a budget estimated at approximately FCFA 597 708 627 valued for both assets and physical cash.



GOOD GOVERNANCE

True to the policy of good governance, AJESH fixed and institutionalized the principle of management by focusing on result. This is how each staff is evaluated annually in relation to his/her performance with regard to the expected results. This assessment which is looked at side-by-side the respect of the staff code of conduct, allows for the personnel to improve on his/her weaknesses and to maintain its good points. In the same vein, AJESH is subject to regular internal and external evaluation as well as the certification of the annual financial statements by an independent auditor. Another good practice is in the strict application of the established and ratified policies.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- Dwindling funding opportunities to achieve planned activities.
- Heightening of the socio-political crisis in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon. The guns are loud, road blocks, kidnapping, rampant killing, etc.
- Gross social insecurity and looming political unrest with increasing climate change impacts on farmers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

For all the actions carried out throughout the year 2020/2021, AJESH presents its sincere thanks to donors, the Government of Cameroon, technical and financial partners, the international and related non-governmental organizations, sister associations and national non-governmental organizations. AJESH team wishes to express their sincere gratitude to all the representatives of the Ministries, Councils, and local community representatives who gave their time, ideas and contributed positively during the implementation of our projects during this period.

In particular, the AJESH team appreciates the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) and the country project (Ebo Forest Research Project – EFRP), the Full Circle Foundation, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Birdlife International, the Japanese Government, and PNDP for providing the necessary financial and material backing that contributed to the realisation and attainment of recorded achievements. Special thanks go to the following:

The government of the Republic of Cameroon through:

The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), AJESH has a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ministry.

Ministry of Economic, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), AJESH collaborates with MINEPAT in developing a Concept for developing a multi-partner programme, common methods and mapping platform for sustainable Land Use Planning (PLADDT) in Cameroon.

Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEPDED), worked together on climate change related issues.

Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE), AJESH has a long standing partnership since 2009, working on malaria, Cholera, HIV/Aids, and community follow up of community health related programmes.



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