



## CONCEPT NOTE

### **Presentation on local agrarian community perspectives and contributions as co-creators of climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions in Cameroon.**

**Date:** 29 July 2016

**Venue:** Olive Garden, Bafut

Climate change is a defining issue of our era, with its impacts reaching global, regional and local scales. The current magnitude and variability have critical implications for agriculture, fisheries, forestry, life histories, community composition, and ecosystem function across most developing countries. Households and families in countries of the African continent are among the most vulnerable to climate variability and extremes, given that only 5% of their cultivated land is irrigated and food production is dependent mainly on rain-fed agriculture. New agricultural technologies and scientific practices have been introduced to improve the capacity to adapt to climate change. Policies have emerged at different levels (local, national and sub-regional) that encourage the adoption of such practices, and new tools and financing mechanisms are being introduced to shield farmers from the impacts of climatic risks. However some of these actions have sidelined Local Indigenous Knowledge and Practices (LIKPs) that are currently recognised as making significant contribution to community adaptation and changing circumstances at household and community level. These traditional practices and strategies that have been linked to the observations of changes in climate and long-term extreme weather conditions, transferred from one decade to another and from generation to generation through a process of mutual and collective learning passed on orally and practically, have been grossly neglected in policy research, discourse and implementation.

In line with its vision to becoming an emerging economy by 2035, Cameroon has embarked on a number of measures in various sectors including agriculture and forestry to reduce its contribution to the greenhouse emissions. Cameroon committed to reducing by 32 % its gas emissions by 2035 based on the reference date of 2010. Cameroon Parliament on 10 June 2016 decided that the Paris agreement on climate change adopted by the end of the COP21 and signed by Cameroon in April 2016 be ratified by the Head of State. In this national commitment, a multi-stakeholder engagement has been re-emphasised as crucial for success.

Against this backdrop, the Action Group on Governance and Environmental Management (AGGEM), in collaboration with its partners in Tanzania (Tanzania Meteorological Organisation) and Zambia (Zambia College of Agriculture) have been working with agrarian communities to get an understanding of their perspectives on climate change and to harness (quantify and qualify) these communities local indigenous knowledge and practices related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, finding opportunities to compare and disseminate evidence in appropriate forms to key audiences.

The project also sought to enhance the potential of local communities to see themselves not as victims as co-creators of knowledge and practices that cushions them against climate risks, while transforming their LIKPs into business and education opportunities for a wider audience.

**Objective of the public presentation:**

- Present findings on community perspectives on climate change and the local indigenous knowledge and practices they have used to cope with unavoidable long term weather (climate) changes).
- To create a space to develop and strengthen interactions and between local agrarian communities who are custodians of LIKPS and other climate change stakeholders for the building of synergies on use of diverse approaches and tools on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Key stakeholders:** government, national and international NGOs, private sector, traditional and religious authorities, research institutes, universities and farmers' associations.

## Programme

Time	Activity	Responsibility
9:00-10:00	Arrival and Registration of participants	Optimist Friends/Nathaniel
10:00-10:30	Arrival of Administrative authority (DO, Fon of Bafut), prayers, singing of National Anthem, official opening and group photos	Sergeot, DO
10:30-10:45	Presentation of AGGEM	AGGEM Board Chair/Eric Ngang
10:45-12:00	Presentation of research/project outcomes and discussions	Eric Ngang
12:00-13:00	Lunch (indigenous in-season foods, snacks and drinks)	Optimist Friends, Bafut
	Closing of general session	
13:00-14:00	Restricted stakeholders engagement meeting on reconciling LIKPS with scientific observations and data	MINADER, MINEPSUD, IRAD, UniBa etc EBAFOSA