



CAMEROON YOUTHS AND STUDENTS FORUM FOR PEACE CAMYOSFOP

REPORT OF REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON:
YOUTHS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, FOR YOUTHS OF THE NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST
REGIONS OF CAMEROON.



ORGANISED BY:
CAMEROON YOUTHS AND STUDENTS FORUM FOR PEACE (CAMYOSFOP).

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GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP, CAMEROON

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PART I: PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

1. Introduction:

The Regional workshop on climate change for the youths of the North West and South West Region of Cameroon organised by the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) with the financial support of the Green Grants Fund (GGF), and the technical assistance of the Cameroon Climate Change Adaptation Program and the Global Water Partnership, Cameroon took place on January 21, 2011 at the conference room of Holiday Inn Resort Limbe, in the South West Region of Cameroon. The workshop brought together 22 youth leaders from the two regions of North West and South west to brainstorm on climate change and its impact on Cameroonian youths.

The workshop had as its main goal the creation of a National Youth Network on Climate Change that will be able to take a lead in the climate change debate in Cameroon.

2. Opening Ceremony:

During the opening ceremony of the workshop, Mr. NGALIM Eugene Nyuydine, the Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP thank the participants for honouring CAMYOSFOP invitation to participate in the workshop. He highlighted on the important role youths have to play on issues of climate change, considering the fact that they constitute the greater proportion of Cameroon's population and are the future of Cameroon. He therefore laid emphasis on the necessity of the youths to take the lead in meaningful climate change discussions at every level of Cameroon's society. As such he invited participants to be open minded during the deliberations by sharing results, impact, and challenges that will pave the way for the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the communities to brainstorm.

Ngalim reminded the participants that the reason for limiting the workshop to youths of the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon was because of the limited financial constraints. Never-the-less, the relatively small number of participants does not undermine the magnitude or relevance of the workshop. It is intended that the outcome of the workshop shall be extended beyond the regions to cover the national territory.

Mr. Ngalim thanks the Global Grants Fund (GGF) for providing the necessary funds for the organisation of the workshop. He extent sincere gratitude to the Climate Change Adaptation Program of UNDP Cameroon and the Global Water Partnership, Cameroon for providing both material and technical support for the workshop. He wished these support is sustainable in order to permit CAMYOSFOP to organise a national forum that will officially launch the Cameroon Youth Network on Climate Change.

Earlier, Mr JABA Wose, Regional President of the Cameroon National Youth Council (CNYC) for South West Region, welcome participants to Limbe and to his region of jurisdiction. He thanks CAMYOSFOP for choosing his region to host this very important workshop. He ended by promising to make sure that the outcome of the workshop is disseminated to all the youths in the South West and administrative officials for action.

3. Brief presentations of the workshop:

3.1. The science of climate change

This presentation was done by Mr. Franklin Ewane, environmentalist and researcher explained in basic terms the notions of climate change, its causes, Green House Gases (GHG) and effects with some vivid illustrations.

According to Mr. Ewane, standard dictionaries define climate change as an abnormal variation of the Global climatic circle caused by unprecedented accumulation of certain gases in the atmosphere. These gases are called greenhouse gases (GHGs). In the earth's atmosphere there is a natural concentration of these so-called greenhouse gases of which the most important are carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O,) and methane (CH₄), working as a 'greenhouse' surrounding the earth. By preventing the heat produced from solar radiation to disappear directly back into space the natural greenhouse effect makes the earth inhabitable by increasing the average temperature of the earth by approximately 30°C. This leads to souring atmospheric conditions, universally known today as 'climate change' with dramatic influence on the climate elements like temperature, precipitation, wind, pressure, humidity and seasons. As such, this leads to consequences that are global in nature, but varying from one part of the globe to another. Glaring examples of the effects of climate change witnessed today including unprecedented change in rainfall patterns, droughts, sea level rise that is leading to floods. All of these affect the lives of human beings through disease proliferation, hunger, and poor harvest of agricultural products.

The second part of his presentation focused on how youths could take action and live a climate-friendly life style. As such, the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC has particularly singled the role of three important human activities, namely energy consumption, land use patterns and production circuits. The impact of these is further exacerbated by human lifestyles. According to Mr. Ewane, we can innovate our production by enhancing the trio-concept of use circuits that is, use, reduce and recycle approach. More so, we can equally reduce personal carbon burden by building green life style. The following therefore determines such a green life style:

I. Transportation:

With the happening of climate change, everybody owning and using his car becomes unsustainable. Therefore it is a golden alternative to using public transport, especially as travelling becomes inevitable. Also it is important to learn more about sustainable energy sources as we must be confronted with diverse energy needs.

II. Agriculture:

Mr. Ewane stated that agriculture it is a major contributor to GHG emission from the degradation of tropical forests and in the Congo Basin it accounts to over 35% of the total GHG emission. Poor land-fills management account for about 7% of GHGs emitted in Cameroon. These aspects concern everyone directly or indirectly. It is therefore important

as concerned citizens of the planet to encourage sustainable agricultural practices. Also landfills are marred by the garbage all of us produce. It is therefore imperative that we check the quantity and types of garbage we produce. It is a complex issue, but we can all reduce the quantity of our garbage as the same way we can check our financial expenditure.

III. Industrialisation:

According to Mr Ewane, the trio of recycling, reusing and reducing can afford Carbon Emission Reduction (CER) credits while reducing carbon burden of a country. However, this will depend on the recycling techniques and processes. Never-the-less, in most cases, recycling has proven to be more energy efficient compared to the production of a new product. It equally helps to conserve the existing carbon stock in the transformed state than transforming more and adding to the transformed state.

IV. Finally, as individuals we may go “living green” by: Thinking and living in a sustainable manner; building a culture of planting and promoting tree planting; trying a living with less; reducing energy, water, chemicals, waste; and green alternatives.

3.2. International legal framework on climate change.

This presentation was handled by Mr. Durrel Halleson, an Independent Consultant and Legal Adviser to CAMYOSFOP. He began by giving background information on various international conferences that has taken place on environmental issues and has boosted the debate on climate change in the world. These conferences include; the 1954 International Convention for the Prevention of Sea Pollution by oil, held in London and the RAMSAR Convention of 1971 on Wetlands which was also on Marine Pollution. These conventions were based on first generation environmental problems. He further elaborated on the following:

The 1972 Stockholm conference which brought the majority of world leaders to brainstorm on environmental issues and drafted a Declaration that usher in a new era and reflections on the climate change debate. This eventually led to the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Summit that led to the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aimed at fighting global warming. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol and its main features includes: emission trading between countries; Developing countries and Joint implementation. He regretted the fact that some of the world major producers of greenhouse gases like the United States and China have not acceded to the Protocol.

After presenting the main tenets of the Kyoto Protocol, he then explained to the participants the preparations towards the succession of the Protocol in 2012. Discussions for the post – Kyoto era provides numerous challenges especially for developing countries, he highlighted. The failure of world leaders especially of Annex 1 countries to accept to make further commitments during the Copenhagen COP 15 conference in December 2009 placed future prospects for a post – Kyoto agreement in a stalemate. He highlighted in his presentation that the only concrete outcome from the Copenhagen conference was the

Copenhagen Accord which he said recognized the scientific case for keeping temperature rises below 2°C. Unfortunately, he regretted that the Accord does not contain any concrete commitments for reduced emissions that would be necessary to achieve that aim. In terms of financial commitments he said was the pledge by Annex B countries to devote USD 30 billion to developing countries for a period of 3 years and to rise that amount to USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to help poor countries adapt to climate change.

One of the key features of the Copenhagen Accord was the agreement to reduce deforestation by timber producing countries party to the KP in return for cash from developed countries. In pursue of the necessity for an acceptable post – Kyoto climate change regime he presented to participants some of the outcomes of the Cancun COP 16 December 2010 conference where at least there were some concrete engagements towards reducing emissions. This he said, include the call for developed countries to undertake ambitious emission reductions and to provide technology, capacity building and financial resources to developing countries in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UNFCCC. He reiterated that unlike the failed Copenhagen Conference where parties failed to come out with a concrete commitment, the Cancun Agreement provides for an opportunity for governments to engage a broad range of stakeholders at all levels. This he said include youths, persons with disability and the need to mainstream gender equality and promote the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples as to guarantee effective action on all aspects of climate change.

Concluding his presentation, Mr Halleson told participants that the new global dispensation on discussions on climate change have opened an opportunity for effective youth participation and that the participants should take this unique opportunity. He told the youth leaders that youth would even have a major role to play especially with huge financial flows expected to fund adaptation and mitigation measures in developing countries and Cameroon in particular. He also advised participants that the Durban COP 17 Meeting scheduled for December 2011 could be an opportunity for them together with the millions of African youth to have issues of concern crucial to the continent to be included in the Conference agenda.

3.3. Mainstreaming youth participation in the REDD processes.

This presentation was done by Mr. Manfred Mesumbe, an Independent Consultant on Climate Change issues. He started by explaining the meaning of REDD broken down as follow:

R-Reducing

E-Emission of carbon dioxide sent to the atmosphere

D- Deforestation; complete cutting down of the forest

D- Degradation; cutting down of selected trees in the forest.

In basic terms, REDD relate to the conservation of forest, sustainable management and enhancing forest carbon stock.

He further highlighted the aims of REDD tracing back to the Rio de Janeiro Summit of 1992 that recommended that industrialized nations pay developing countries for forest conservation, the buying and selling of forest as well as the measurement of the carbon content of every standing tree. He also reiterated on the mechanisms of payment-market fund and hybrid of the two. The rights of the population are supposed to be considered including consultation information ahead of time, clarification and freedom of choice.

According to Mr. Manfred, the challenges involved in the REDD program affects mostly the youths who are vulnerable but little attention is given to them. They are potential actual farmers who need land, fuel, wood collectors, land rights. As such, they need to be involved in every process on decision making and planning. There is no assurance that youths and girls in particular will receive equal benefits and participate in REDD if youths and policy makers don't take action.

The opportunities offered by REDD he said includes the hope of rewarding the managers of forest, reducing vulnerability of women, renewed focus, increased visibility of youth concerns and their inclusion in the negotiation national policies.

3.3.1. Opportunities of REDD

Through REDD managers of forest are rewarded for their effort to protect nature and re-habitation of the forest. REDD in Cameroon has brought forth the creation of the world Bank program on Climate Change. There is also the creation and establishment of forest carbon partnership facilities (FCPF) to enhance on its existence and continuation.

Cameroon's position in the current REDD discussions, involve a Forest partnership facility with Gabon, known as the Readiness Preparatory Information Note (R-PIN), where both countries are stocked with the discussion of finalising the document. There is also the Readiness Preparatory Proposal (R-PP) to improve on the partnership agreement. Mr Manfred underscore the fact that the complete proposals must include details of use and payment mechanisms, communication, consultation and development of strategies on how to use the money for example in afforestation and reforestation.

3.3.2. Risk of REDD

Little attention has been paid to the vulnerability of youth to its negative consequences. Also, youth as farmers saw their activities highly impacted by climate change. More so, youth who used to act as fuel wood collectors, the coming of conservative measures bared their entrance into forest protected parts of a REDD program.

4. Group Work / Recommendations

Immediately after the presentations, participants were divided into two groups deliberate on the following issues:

Group I. Opportunities and challenges for youth involvement in the climate change debate.

Group II. Impact of climate change on Cameroonian youths (socioeconomic, political and environmental impact).

At the end of the group discussions the following recommendation were considered by the participants of the workshop.

1. Creation of a youth network titled, "Cameroon Youth Network on Climate Change."
2. The establishment of a newsletter to be published with contributions from the members of the Cameroon Youth Network on Climate Change.
3. The creation of a yahoo group for information sharing by the members of the network.
4. Creating awareness through clubs in secondary schools on environmental issues and climate change in particular.
5. Engaging the Global Green Grant Fund, the Cameroon Climate Change Adaptation program and other programmes on climate change to support the newly created network in organising a General Assembly to officially launch the network.
6. Members of the network should consider including the network in their programs for the purpose of vulgarising the network.

5. DISCUSSION ON CAMEROON YOUTH NETWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Discussion on the creation of the Cameroon Youth Network on Climate Change (CYNC) was led by Mr. Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine, the Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP. He highlighted that from the discussions and the recommendations demanding the coordination of actions by interested youth working on climate change there was a need for the setting up of a Youth Network on Climate Change. He wished that an effective network be created to propagate the ideas discussed and make an impact at different levels. According to him, it will better for the network to be informal, for most formal networks have hardly been functional. The commitment of members and activities of the network will popularise it and thus assist members in attaining set goals.

He underscored that once created the network should go beyond the NW and SW regions and assume a national character, thus a National Youth Network on Climate Change was proposed or suggested to be given a name as desired by participants. The rest of the participants for the workshop further supported the ideas raised on the network and its informal but functional status alongside a yahoo group which was unanimously accepted by participants. Cameroon Youth Network on Climate Change was thus born with a thunderous applause.

Mr. Ngalim promised that his organisation was ready to fund the publication a few editions of network newsletter on issues of climate change from different parts of the country. This was also received with great delight by participants

6. CONCLUSION

According to an analysis of the evaluation, the workshop was quite successful because the objectives were attained. As participants departed, they committed themselves to be very active in their various communities as true Ambassadors on campaign on climate change.

In his concluding remarks, Ngalim once more thank the Global Green Grants Fund, the Cameroon Climate Change Adaptation Program and the Global Water Partnership, Cameroon for their support that led to the successful holding of the workshop. He reiterated that CAMYOSFOP will continue to count on them for the operationalization of the Cameroon Youth Network on Climate Change. He ended by wishing all, a safe trip back to their various destinations.

SOME SELECTED PICTURES OF THE WORKSHOP



Opening ceremony : L – R : JABA Wose, President CNYC, NGALIM Eugene N, Executive Director, CAMYOSFOP, Durrel Halleson, Legal Adviser, CAMYOSFOP



NGALIM during his introductory remarks



Durrel presenting the raison d'être for the workshop



JABA Wose presenting his word of welcome to the participants to Limbe



EWANE Frankline, Expert presenting the science of Climate change



MESUMBE Manfred, Expert presenting REDD process



DURREL, Expert, presenting legal & political context of climate change



A view of the participants.



Participants during group work



Participants during group work



FANSO Bari, Co-Rapporteur for the workshop



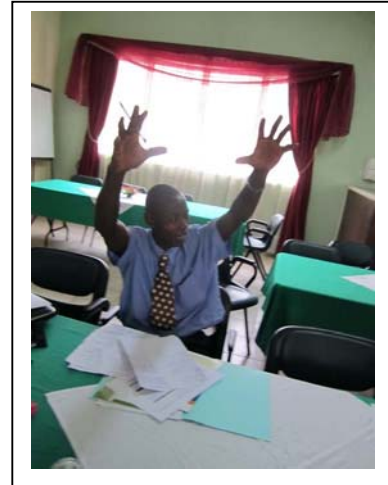
KIAWUNI Leonard, Co-Rapporteur for the workshop



***NTANI Melvis, ENS Bambili,
during participants
presentation***



***Prince AJONG Chris Fotabong, GNGG,
during the plenary***



***NGULEBAH DOE Ngoe, CNCD,
during the plenary***



Durrel interviewed by Journalists



NGALIM interviewed by Journalists



Participants during lunch



Participants during coffee break

Workshop Program on Engaging Youths on Climate Change in Cameroon for Youths of the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon, January 21, 2011

Venue: Holiday Inn Resort – Limbe

Time	Theme	Facilitator	Notes
8.00 – 9.00 a.m	Arrival and Registration of Participants	Workshop Secretariat	
9.00 – 9.05	Word of welcome by the South West Region President of the National Youth Council	Jaba Wose	
9.05 – 9.15 a.m	Introductory remarks by the Executive Director of CAMYOSOP and introduction of workshop Moderator	Eugene Ngalm	Situate the necessity of youths to get involved in discussions on climate change and the objectives of the workshop
9.15 – 9.30 a.m	Self introduction of participants	Moderator	Participants express their expectations, knowledge about climate change, etc
9.30 – 10.15am	The Science of Climate Change.	Ewane Frankline (Geography Lecturer, CCAST Kumba)	What is climate change? What are the greenhouse gases (GHGs)? Greenhouse effects? How are human activities involved? What are the potential impacts? How can we take action and live a more climate-friendly lifestyle.
10.15 – 10.30 a.m	Discussions/questions and answers	Moderator	
10.30 – 11:00 a.m	Coffee Tea break		
11:00 – 11.45 am	The Legal and Political Context of Climate change negotiations at the international and regional levels	Durrel Halleson (Independent Consultant / Legal Adviser, CAMYOSOP)	What have been the different international conferences on climate change, the outcomes, implementation and challenges with emphasis on Cameroon and Africa's position
11.45 – 12:00 p.m	Discussions/questions and answers	Moderator	
12:00 – 12.45 p.m	Climate Change and the MDGs	Cameroon Climate Change Adaptation Program Representative	Implications of climate change on the attainment of the MDGs by 2015 and how this relates to youths aspirations of access to water, food, sanitation and security. Indeed, if we don't
12.45 – 13:00 p.m	Discussions	Moderator	
13:00 – 14:00 p.m	Lunch		
14:00 – 14.30 p.m	Climate Change mitigation: From CDM to REDD –	Manfred Mesumbe (Independent	What is REDD? An overview the different potential approaches

	opportunities and challenges	<i>Consultant on Climate Change)</i>	and positive incentives for REDD in the post-Kyoto climate change protocol. Cameroon's position in the current REDD discussions
14.30 – 14.45pm	Discussions	Moderator	
14.45 – 15:45pm	Group work		
15:45 – 16.45 p.m	Restitution in plenary	Moderator	
16.45 – 17:00 p.m	Developing a Cameroon Youth Network on Climate Change	Eugene Ngalim	Perspectives of the network, its membership and how such a network could play a vital role in contributing to Cameroon's position on climate change
17:00 – 17.30 p.m	Evaluation and closing remarks	Moderator/Eugene Ngalim	Participants rate the workshop in terms of the content of the presentations, logistics and the attainment of their expectations.
17.30 p.m	Departure of Participants		

List of Participants for the workshop

No.	Name of Participant	Organization	Town	Status
01	Eugene Ngalim	CAMYOSFOP	Yaoundé	Executive Director and Facilitator
02	Durrel Halleson	Independent Expert	Yaoundé	Resource Person
03	Manfred Mesumbe	Indepent Expert	Yaounde	Resource Person
04	Ayunifor Maximiland	CAMYOSFOP	Yaoundé	Logistics
05	Bari Fanzo P	CAMYOSFOP	Yaoundé	Reporting.
06	OLIVIA MUKAM	Harambee Cameroon	Yaoundé	Participant
07	Prince Ngwieh	North West Region President, National Youth Council	Bamenda	Participant
08	Ntani Melvis (ENS)	Higher Teachers Training College (ENS)	Bambili	Participant
09	Marine Mbafor Ngwenyi	NW Association of Development Organizations	Bamenda	Participant
10	Ewane Franklin	Young Cameroon for Forest	Kumba	Resource Person
11	Kiawuni Leonard Lukong	Teacher/Researcher	Mbonge	Participant
12	Ngulebah Doe Ngoe	Centre for Nature Conservation and Development	Kumba	Participant
13	Jaba Wose	South West Region President, National Youth Council	Buea	Participant
14	Ako Osang Emmanuel	International Governance Institute (IGI)	Buea	Participant
15	Chiabi Ghislain	CAJAD	Limbe	Participant
16	Asong Hilary	Noble Friends	Limbe	Participant
17	Tamfu Roland	HEDAHUM, Cameroon	Limbe	Participant
18	Tenda Connel	JOTEN	Limbe	Participant
19	Melvin Wajiri	Peer Education Program (PEP), Cameroon.	Limbe	Participant
20	Prince Ajong Chris Fotabong	Global Network for Good Governance (GNGG)	Limbe	Participant
21	Brice Martial	(CAJAD)	Limbe	Participant
22	Maximiland Fotabe	President, Fako 1 National Youth Council	Limbe	Participant
23	John Acha T	Cameroon Society for Sustainable Dev'nt of Natural Resources	Limbe	Participant

Media Participation

1. STV
2. CRTV Buea
3. Ocean Radio
4. Eden Newspaper
5. The Post Newspaper