Keys to to Success and Scale: Removing Barriers and Innovative Strategies to Enable and Promote Community Forest Enterprises

Dryad Initiative in Cameroon: main lessons learnt

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Content

• Short presentation of Dryad initiative
• Process
• Where we are
• What the keys to success in promoting CFEs?
• Conclusion and perspectives
What is Dryad?

• DRYAD is a system to provide financial support, training and technical assistance to sustainable Community Forestry Enterprises (CFEs) via a network of locally based Implementing Organizations (IOs) that include Non-governmental organizations and research institutions.

• DRYAD does not make investments like a bank or private asset manager, but the system nevertheless seeks a “return” on its commitment of public capital.

• This “return” is not measured in money, but rather, by indicators showing the fulfillment of important social, commercial and environmental objectives.
Partners

• The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF):
  – Lead coordinating institution
  – Lead the action research within the project

• TMP systems:
  – Creators of the DRYAD concept
  – Facilitate the technical aspects of the project

• Implementing Organizations (IOs) : 4 organizations
  – Cameroon Ecology
  – CAFT
  – CAFER
  – ERUDEF

• Community Forest Enterprises (CFEs): 20 CFEs identified so far
Expected impact

• Creating a community of practice around forest enterprise could help generate employment, build knowledge and skills and help improve living standard and reduce poverty.

• Communities that are empowered economically, socially and environmentally will contribute to Cameroon’s overall progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets.

• The project will contribute towards forest conservation and sustainable forest management efforts in the country with benefits for emission reductions through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and adaptation to climate change.
The process
Process (2)

Pré-sélection
1. Tri
2. Manifestation d'intérêt
3. Evaluation d'aptitude

Analyse
1. Memorandum d'investissement
2. Modèle financier
3. Décision d'investissement

Audit préalable
1. Sélection des indicateurs
2. Calendrier de reporting
3. Système de Suivi Terrain
Contrat
1. Montant de financement
2. Cahier des charges

Planification
1. Plan opérationnel
2. Calendrier de financement
3. Plan de formation

Reporting
1. Sélection des indicateurs
2. Calendrier de reporting
3. Système de Suivi Terrain
Where are we?

Some statistics (July 2017)

• **28** business proposals received
  – 12 community forests
  – 13 types of business

• **19** financial models analysed
  – 2 investment agreements signed off (women business)
  – 4 further investments approved subject to due diligence
  – 13 proposals in pipeline

• **6** proposals rejected
Where are we (2)

• Variety of models
  – Timber: harvesting, waste wood processing
  – NTFPs: njansang, bush mango, honey, herbal tisanes, rattan products
  – Agriculture: manioc, plantain, livestock

• 6 approved models project significant economic and social benefit
  – 210 waged jobs
  – XAF 688 million projected profit
Keys to success in promoting CFEs

1) Political will:

- In 2014, CFs state in MINFOF:
  - 265 Agreements signed
  - 70 Provisional Agreements
  - Total area: 544,807 ha

- In 2016:
  - 284 Agreements signed
  - 162 Provisional Agreements
  - Total area: 988,518 ha
2) Engagement and commitment to invest on CFEs
   ▪ Need many Dryad ...

3) Engaging communities and providing adequate support
   ▪ Technical, financial, organizational, institutional ..

4) Facilitating access to forest for communities including women
   ▪ Tenure security
   ▪ Community forestry schemes

5) Enabling environment:
   ▪ Laws, regulations

6) Engaging the Private sector
Conclusion

• The future of Forests is with community forestry, forest small holders and women producers:
  – Sustainable management of forests
  – Fight against climate change
  – Poverty reduction
  – Food security and nutrition, etc...

• We need a global and collective commitment to invest on CF schemes:
  • Adequate financial resources for CFEs
  • Empowerment of local communities, women, youth and IP’s!

• We need political will to create enabling environment!!
Thank you!