

## Archaeology & Cultural Resources

The Project's archaeological team in Cameroon indicates that their investigations have reached a new and more interesting phase now that pipeline trenching and pipe laying has begun. In effect, the trench serves as an archaeological transect that will eventually cross hundreds of kilometers of Africa that have never been explored in detail by archaeological scholars. For example, trenching this quarter revealed two previously undiscovered trash pits belonging to settlements that apparently go back two to three thousand years. One pit is near Kribi at the coast of Cameroon, and the other is at Bissiang about half way between Kribi and Bipindi. Although such trash pits are not rare, the study of each new discovery contributes additional insight into the lifestyles of peoples who lived long ago. Results of the Project's archaeological investigations will be published, so other scientists will have the benefit of the new found knowledge about African culture.



This enormous rock outcropping adjacent to the pipeline right of way, shown here being investigated by the Project's archaeological team in Cameroon, apparently served as a shelter to humans for many centuries. Surface evidence piqued the interest of the scholars, who decided to excavate the site.



An excavation site first must be plotted in a grid so that the position and depth of any discovered artifacts can be precisely mapped. The position of an artifact in layers of built-up earth is one of the primary clues archaeologists collect so they can determine the age of an item.



Digging down through the layers the archaeologists found small iron tools near the surface and deeper down, they found some ancient large stone tools. Ultimately, the team of Cameroonian archaeologists, supported and mentored by a Belgian scholar brought in by the Project, determined that the site had been used by humans for approximately 15,000 years.

## **Annual Summary: Archaeology & Cultural Resources**

In addition to developments already described for the fourth quarter, highlights from the previous quarters in the year 2001 have been summarized below.

### **First Quarter 2001**

- Pre-construction archaeological studies and the identification of graves and other cultural resources had been nearly completed in both Chad and Cameroon for all Project facilities except along the pipeline right of way in Cameroon.

It should be noted that the archaeological surveys for the Chad portion of the pipeline right of way had been completed by the end of 2000 and that archaeological work on the pipeline right of way in Cameroon is an ongoing process in synchronization with construction.

### **Second Quarter 2001**

- The survey of the pipeline route was launched in the north of Cameroon, with a team of five archaeologists walking the right of way searching for surface evidence of ancient human habitation.

### **Third Quarter 2001**

- As the rainy season intensified in the northeastern part of Cameroon, grass rapidly sprang up, hampering ground visibility. The archaeological team was forced to halt its northern work after surveying 200 kilometers of the pipeline right of way survey.
- The Cameroonian archaeological team surveying the pipeline right of way moved to the south where early clearing of the route was improving ground visibility.
- Work in Chad focused on follow-up excavations at a few important ancient iron smelting sites.

## Worker Health

As expected, the three most commonly reported diseases in the Project's worker population this quarter continued to be malaria, food- and water-borne diseases, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

- An improvement in the rate of food- and water-borne diseases first registered in the third quarter of 2001 continued in the fourth quarter.

An ongoing program of helping contractors upgrade their compliance with EMP food sanitation requirements appears to be the source of this improvement.

- The normal seasonal decrease in total malaria cases occurred with the end of the rainy season and in synchronization with the decline of breeding sites for the mosquitoes that spread the disease.
- There has been a seasonal increase in respiratory diseases such as common colds and bronchitis.

The dust and arid conditions of the dry season in the Project area cause irritations of the mucous membranes in the respiratory tract. At the same time many Project workers are rotating in and out of cold weather climes such as Europe and North America where the common cold is common during the season. These two factors provide conditions that encourage respiratory infections.



Project health clinics like this one conducted over 14,000 consultations during the fourth quarter at camps and health centers throughout the Project area. These workers were lined up for morning office hours at the Komé Base Camp clinic of contractor TCC. Posters and signs educate workers about various health issues and promote good health practices, including the available of free condoms for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.



Patients receive complete care at the clinics, not only for any on-the-job injuries but for all types of illnesses. The TCC clinics, like many of the Project clinics, are operated under a subcontract with the global health provider SOS International, which also provides the Project with medevac services when life-threatening disease or injury emergencies require transporting a worker to another country.

Customs clearance issues continued to make it difficult this quarter to get medical equipment to a few Project work sites. Audits and inspections noted that some equipment and other treatment needs were lacking for this reason and non-compliance notices were issued. However, the situation will soon be rectified when logistics problems have been resolved.

◀ **Fourth Quarter 2001 Project Worker Health Data**

	<i>Number of Diagnoses</i>		
	<i>Chad</i>	<i>Cameroon</i>	<i>Total Project</i>
<b>Malaria</b>	289	132	421
<b>STDs</b>	10	182	192
<b>SSS* Events (excluding Malaria &amp; STDs)</b>	47	48	95
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	7	4	11
<b>Medevacs</b>	1	4	5

*\*SSS: Early warning system used to identify changes in disease rates. Some examples of diseases covered by the SSS include gastrointestinal, dermal and respiratory diseases.*

**Annual Summary: Worker Health**

The following table shows the seasonal increase in malaria cases associated with the rainy season due to the increase in breeding habitat for mosquitoes. It also shows the somewhat different seasonal increase in sentinal (SSS) events, which in this case mainly consists of an increase in respiratory infections related to the arrival of the dry season, as explained above.

It may also be worth noting that the number of cases of STDs has gone up over the course of the year but not nearly as fast as the increase in the total number of Project workers which went from roughly 1,700 on 1 January to about 9,800 on 31 December.

◀ **2001 Aggregate Worker Health Data (Country by Country)**

	<i>Number of Diagnoses</i>				
	<i>1st Qtr 2001</i>	<i>2nd Qtr 2001</i>	<i>3rd Qtr 2001</i>	<i>4th Qtr 2001</i>	<i>Cumulative Total 2001</i>
<b>Chad</b>					
Malaria	23	58	275	289	645
STDs	28	22	13	10	73
SSS* Events (excluding Malaria & STDs)	28	19	24	47	118
Hospitalizations	6	3	4	7	20
Medevacs	5	5	4	1	15

**Cameroon**

Malaria	56	76	244	132	508
STDs	73	75	217	182	547
SSS* Events (excluding Malaria & STDs)	29	29	37	48	143
Hospitalizations	3	8	10	4	25
Medevacs	4	0	4	4	12

*\*SSS: Early warning system used to identify changes in disease rates. Some examples of diseases covered by the SSS include gastrointestinal, dermal and respiratory diseases.*

## Community Health

Some of the Project's community health initiatives in the fourth quarter of 2001 include support for polio vaccinations, the beginning of a program of direct community diagnosis and treatment for curable sexually transmitted diseases, studies on sleeping sickness in the Project area, steps forward to further implement the Roll Back Malaria program, and NGO-based HIV / AIDS awareness programs.

### **Chad Roll Back Malaria Program**

The first shipment of 20,000 mosquito bed nets has arrived in Chad and contracts with the Chadian NGOs MASACOT and ACODE have been finalized as well. This means that field activation of the Roll Back Malaria program in Chad can begin in the first quarter of 2002 after many months of planning and preparation. The first activities will include the training of nurses and village health agents, presentation of education programs for the populace and the distribution of the bed nets. (Another 12,000 bed nets have also been ordered.)

### **Direct Community Diagnosis and Treatment of Curable STDs**

In the original planning for the Project, it had been thought that actual treatment for curable sexually transmitted diseases would be for Project workers only and that the community health aspect associated with STD prevention and treatment would be handled through government and NGO education and awareness programs. However, this quarter the Project sponsored a curable STD screening and treatment program in the Quartier Satan settlement just outside Komé Base Camp.

The entire population of the settlement was screened and treated for curable STDs. Reduction of the STD rate has a major potential positive effect on overall health status and on the transmission of HIV by reducing lesions that provide a pathway for the spread of the disease.



Screening for curable sexually transmitted diseases this quarter at Quartier Satan, across the road from Komé Base Camp, included on-the-spot testing, education, treatment for curable STDs, and the distribution of free condoms.

### **Sleeping Sickness**

Some 10,500 people in Project-area villages were screened for sleeping sickness (trypanosomiasis) this quarter by PNL, the Chadian national sleeping sickness program. The screening effort was supported by the Project's Community Health Outreach Program. Several hundred of the tests may be positive and are being followed up.

The survey will result in a map showing the distribution of sleeping sickness cases and, thus, will help pinpoint sites for the installation of tse-tse fly traps in the region. In addition a sleeping sickness unit will be created at Hôpital St. Joseph in Bébédjia.

### **Polio Vaccination Support**

The Chadian national polio vaccination campaign moved into the Project area during the fourth quarter and the Doba health prefecture requested logistical support, which was provided via the Project's Community Health Outreach Program.



Project vehicles and drivers rolled out from the regional hospital to deliver oral polio vaccine for the Journée Nationale de Vaccination, Chad's national program of vaccination against polio.



The polio vaccination program was aimed at children under the age of five. This program is part of the global World Health Organization's campaign to eradicate polio.

**Cameroon Roll Back Malaria Program**

Bid requests have gone out for the purchase of mosquito bed nets to be distributed as part of the Project's Cameroonian Roll Back Malaria program. The order should be finalized in the first quarter of 2002.

A health sub-committee for the Project has been established to streamline the process of implementing this and other community health initiatives sponsored by the Project.

**Sleeping Sickness**

The Cameroonian national sleeping sickness campaign featured activities in the Bipindi region this quarter. The Project's medical staff supported this effort.

**NGO HIV/AIDS Awareness**

A new HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, combined with a traffic safety education effort, was launched this quarter by the Project in Cameroon. This initiative has been focusing on the villages along the newly-opened upgraded road route from Cameroon into southern Chad. The Project hired two NGOs based in northern Cameroon to deliver the awareness campaign.



The Cameroonian NGOs ADEES and Canal de Développement have been conducting village meetings related to HIV/AIDS awareness along the upgraded road route in northern Cameroon. For this area of the Project, the NGOs created modules to address HIV/AIDS education for both Christian and Muslim cultures.

## **Annual Summary: Community Health**

In addition to developments already described above for the fourth quarter, a brief summary is provided below of community health-related accomplishments in the first nine months of 2001.

### **First Quarter 2001**

- In both Chad and Cameroon, initial meetings were held to begin planning the Roll Back Malaria programs.
- The Project became a partner in the World Health Organization/UNICEF neonatal tetanus programs for Chad and Cameroon.
- The Project provided logistical support to local meningitis, tuberculosis and polio immunization programs in Chad.

### **Second Quarter 2001**

- The design of the Roll Back Malaria program for Chad was finalized in cooperation with the Chadian government and the World Health Organization.
- A contract was signed with the World Health Organization and Chad's Ministry of Health to fund scholarships for 30 nurse trainees at the Moundou nursing school.
- A mobile audio visual van purchased by the Project in support of the national HIV/AIDS program arrived in Chad and was delivered. The van will be used in southern Chad in the Project area.
- Community Health Outreach Program-sponsored initiatives were activated in Cameroon for the spontaneous settlement at Gbengboy near Dompta in northern Cameroon. Elements included an improved water distribution system and the building of latrines for every family. Medical care for some villagers was provided at the work camp clinic operated by the Sogea-Satom medical staff.

### **Third Quarter 2001**

- The formal program for Cameroon's Roll Back Malaria program was finalized. The program design includes the distribution of mosquito bed nets, educational brochures, cartoons and posters.
- The 32,000 mosquito bed nets required for the Chad Roll Back Malaria program were ordered.

- Funds were allocated to develop a proposal for a center for excellence in public health in Douala. One important focus of this center would be HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.
- The Community Health Outreach Program in Cameroon sponsored an HIV/AIDS education program in Domptá. The animated sessions included T-shirts, posters, role playing and the distribution of free condoms.

## Waste Management

Until the Project's dedicated permanent waste management facilities have been constructed, the Project will continue to face the challenge of storing a substantial quantity of waste that is being generated during the construction phase. In the meantime, steps have been taken to expand capabilities to appropriately recycle and dispose of non-hazardous waste where it is feasible. Fortunately, the waste lubricating oil recycling program activated last quarter in Cameroon has taken hold this quarter and has made headway against the backlog of this material that technically carries a hazardous waste classification.

### Domestic Garbage

At Komé two new (additional) incinerators will soon be commissioned to increase waste disposal capabilities in the oilfield area. With the Komé area camps operating near their limit, the volume of domestic garbage that is generated is significant, and this new incineration capacity will go a long way to help address disposal challenges that have existed over this waste stream over the past several months.

In the meantime, priorities have been adjusted to accelerate construction of the landfill units associated with the Komé Waste Management Facility and the installation of the hazardous waste-capable industrial incinerator.



Domestic garbage incinerators like this one at a Project construction camp near Bipindi, Cameroon, can burn non-hazardous domestic garbage in an efficient and environmentally acceptable manner.

**Waste Storage** Waste storage facilities are either under construction or completed at three locations. Construction began on a temporary waste storage facility near Komé Base in the fourth quarter, and temporary waste storage units were completed at Dompta and Bélabo.



Storage of waste does not mean simply piling it up. It must be properly prepared, sorted, and then containerized so it cannot adversely impact the environment. For example, these trained workers are preparing vehicle batteries for storage.

### **Annual Summary: Waste Management**

Until the Project's purpose-built permanent waste management facilities have been constructed, the Project will continue to store its non-recyclable hazardous waste materials in safe, leakproof containers. At the end of the fourth quarter of 2001, approximately 492,656 kilograms of hazardous waste was in storage. The bulk of these wastes include commonplace materials such as used lubricating oils, hydrocarbon-contaminated soil, lubricating oil filters from vehicles and construction equipment, and batteries. A variety of means are used to reuse, recycle and properly dispose of non-hazardous wastes, as is detailed in the following table.

**◀ Non-Hazardous Waste Tabulation (Kilograms)**

	<i>1st Qtr 2001</i>	<i>2nd Qtr 2001</i>	<i>3rd Qtr 2001</i>	<i>4th Qtr 2001</i>
Domestic Garbage Incinerated On Site	18,627	74,063	157,142	213,093
Innocuous Solid Waste Buried on Site	8,898	89,199	35,982	174,223
Recycled to Local Communities	5,110	432,328	78,996	372,900
Sent to Approved Third Party Facilities	45,600	125,751	59,260	25,475
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,235</b>	<b>721,341</b>	<b>331,380</b>	<b>785,691</b>

A summary of waste management-related items for the first three quarters of 2001 appears below.

**First Quarter  
2001**

- Design and engineering efforts related to the Project's solid waste landfills, high temperature incinerator, and waste storage facilities continued.
- Groundwater monitoring wells were installed at the landfill site associated with the Komé Waste Management Facility. Water levels were measured in each of these wells and water samples were obtained in order to establish baseline conditions.

**Second Quarter  
2001**

- A search was launched for a qualified company in Cameroon to process and recycle the Project's waste lubricating oils. Bid requests went out and responses were received.

**Third Quarter  
2001**

- A company was chosen to recycle waste lubricating oils generated in Cameroon and the process began of collecting and processing tens of thousands of liters of this material that had been in storage.

## Water Quality Monitoring

The Project's water monitoring specialists worked in both Chad and Cameroon during the fourth quarter of 2001 to continue the implementation of the water monitoring program and advance the skills of the National monitors and technicians who have ongoing responsibilities in the field for carrying out water monitoring activities.

The Project's water monitoring program includes a number of components.

- Monitoring for impacts where the Project withdraws groundwater and surface water for construction purposes.
- Regional groundwater monitoring in the oilfield area.
- Monitoring of local groundwater and surface water in the immediate vicinities of the Project's permanent facilities in Cameroon.
- Checks at permanent monitoring wells that have been installed at the Project's engineered solid waste landfill sites at Bélabo, Cameroon, and Komé, Chad.
- Monitoring of potable water obtained from wells installed by the Project to supply work camps and similar facilities.

**Chad** In addition to ongoing monitoring of water withdrawals related to construction activities, Project field environmental monitors measured water depths in the existing community wells that have been included in the Project's regional groundwater monitoring network in the oilfield area. Water level data from the October test program verified an expected post-rainy season rise in groundwater levels in the area. The data also will allow for further estimates of regional groundwater gradients. In addition, the findings will aid in the design and location of the dedicated groundwater monitoring well network to be put in place

in the oilfield development area (piezometers). Piezometer installation should start by mid-year 2002.

In December two water monitoring specialists arrived in Chad to provide additional training for Chadian EMP field monitors and obtain an assortment of required water samples for analyses.

### **Training**

The first of several Chadian EMP monitors was provided with additional specialized training regarding the proper measurement of water levels in community wells, the collection of surface and groundwater samples and their preservation for later laboratory testing, and the use of the Project's field water test kit. The training included hands on experience in the field overseen by the water monitoring experts.



This Chadian EMP monitor uses a water level meter to measure the height of water in a community well while one of the Project's water monitoring experts looks on.



As part of his training, this field monitor was taught how to preserve water samples so as to ensure the validity of laboratory analyses that will be performed later.

### **Sampling Groundwater**

A total of 17 existing community wells previously tested and selected for inclusion in the regional groundwater monitoring network were revisited in December. The sampling team recorded water levels and collected samples for field lab test kit analyses such as pH, conductivity, turbidity, and iron.

Community wells in two additional villages (Kairati and Maikeri) were sampled as well. These two (incremental) villages were selected because of their locations in relation to the Miandoum oil field. The obtained samples were subjected to field test kit analyses as well as more detailed and sophisticated analyses conducted in a remote laboratory. Laboratory data for these two wells will augment the baseline data obtained during the Project's November 2000 groundwater survey in the oilfield development area.

**Sampling Surface Water**

Samples were obtained at several surface water locations previously selected for ongoing surface water quality monitoring. The post rainy season visits found that two of the originally selected locations were already dry. Samples from the remaining eight locations were collected for test kit-type and limited remote laboratory analyses. Satellite-based readings (GPS) of the co-ordinates of the monitoring locations were also recorded.

**Sampling Potable Water**

The water monitoring team also collected samples of treated water from the taps at five of the Project's construction camps in Chad. Test kit and remote laboratory analyses were performed on potable water samples from the Pride Forasol, Esso, and TCC camps in the oilfield area as well as the David Terrassement camps at Bam and Mbéré.

**Cameroon** Two of the Project's water monitoring specialists travelled to Cameroon in November to provide additional training to field EMP monitors and to conduct a number of water monitoring-related activities.

**Training**

Two Cameroonian field EMP monitors received training in the use of the Project's water monitoring database. Similar training will be provided to personnel in Chad in 2002.

All available Cameroonian field EMP monitors received classroom-based training regarding water sampling methods and protocols. The curriculum's topics included the nature of subsurface aquifers, mechanisms of species transport, and commonly monitored chemical parameters. Basic water sampling procedures and quality protocols were also demonstrated.

One Cameroonian field EMP Monitor received advanced field training. The training focused on measuring water levels in community wells and piezometers, surface water and groundwater sample collection and preservation procedures, and the use of field test equipment for analyzing water samples. The training featured hands on work in the field as guided by a water monitoring expert.

**Fixed Facility Baseline Water Survey**

The monitoring team conducted baseline surveys of the groundwater and surface water resources in the immediate vicinities of the Project's permanent facilities at Dompta (Pump Station 2) and Bélabo (Pump

Station 3). Samples were subjected to test kit-type analyses for parameters such as temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and iron. In addition, samples were obtained for more detailed analyses in a remote laboratory. Water level data were also recorded for a number of community wells located near the facilities.

- At Dompta (Pump Station 2) the team identified and obtained samples at five surface water monitoring locations within a one kilometer radius of the pump station site. One additional previously identified surface water monitoring point was found to be dry. One community well was identified within the one kilometer survey radius. The water level was measured in this well and samples were obtained for field test kit-type and remote laboratory analyses.
- At Bélabo (Pump Station 3) the team identified three surface water sampling points within a one kilometer radius of the pump station site. Two existing community wells were identified within three kilometers of the site and the team measured the water levels in these wells and obtained samples for field test kit-type and remote laboratory analyses.

#### **Dedicated Monitoring Wells at the Bélabo Landfill Site**

Four dedicated groundwater monitoring wells were previously installed at the Bélabo landfill site. For each of these wells, water levels were recorded and samples were obtained for field test kit-type and remote laboratory analyses.

#### **Sampling Potable Water**

Samples of the potable water from the TCC construction base camp at Bélabo were obtained for field test kit-type and remote laboratory analyses.



This EMP monitor for Pride Forasol, the Project's drilling contractor, checks for the proper level of residual chlorine in the output of the treatment plant supplying potable water to Komé Base Camp.

### **Annual Summary: Water Quality Monitoring**

The Project-wide program for monitoring water quality matured in 2001 to the point that outside consultants have started transferring duties to personnel stationed in the host countries.

- Much of the Project-wide water quality monitoring network has been identified, with dozens of water sampling points of various types established at strategic locations near the Project's permanent facilities in Cameroon and in the oilfield development area in Chad.
- Baseline conditions have been established for most of the monitoring points in the network.
- Environmental monitors have been trained in the use of the Project's custom field laboratory water test kits and specific individuals have been assigned the responsibility for making sure that the network of water quality monitoring locations are properly monitored.



Custom field water testing kits have been built for the Project. The kits include tools to measure pH, conductivity, turbidity, incubate samples to test for bacterial contamination, and run spectrophotometric analyses for certain chemical constituents.

By mid-year over 40 surface and groundwater withdrawal points had been designated for surveillance. Baselines had been established at all major fixed facility work sites so that changes in water quality or availability could be detected.

## The Bagyeli/Bakola

The most important development in the fourth quarter regarding the Project's interaction with the Bagyeli/Bakola people was the finalization of the official legal status of the Environmental Foundation. (The Bagyeli/Bakola people inhabit land in the coastal region of southern Cameroon that is traversed by the pipeline easement in the vicinity of the Kribi-Lolodorf road. They are considered to be an indigeneous people according to World Bank Group criteria. The Bagyeli/Bakola have been and in some instances continue to be referred to as "Pygmies".) One thrust of the Foundation's work will be the implementation of the Project's Indigenous Peoples Program.

With the final legal steps accomplished, the Foundation's Management Board this quarter initiated a search for contract staff, including a Community Development Facilitator who will assist the Bagyeli/Bakola in identifying and selecting programs for funding consideration by the Foundation. (For more information see the section on *Environmental Foundation*.)

Construction of the pipeline began in Kribi and has been moving north along the pipeline route through the Bagyeli/Bakola-inhabited area. The pipeline work in that specific area should be completed well before the end of the second quarter of 2002, with the trench filled in, the land reclaimed, and subsequently made available for the resumption of traditional uses by the Bagyeli/Bakola and others.



To ensure good communications with the Bagyeli/Bakola during the pipeline construction period, the Project has assigned a specialist to the approximately 20 settlements within two kilometers of the pipeline right of way. Francis Nkoumbele shows pictures of the steps involved in pipeline construction to members of the Bagyeli/Bakola settlement of Guiangou.



Bagyeli/Bakola have been gaining employment with the Project. This man, Mr. Loule, has an assignment as a welder's aide. Members of Bagyeli/Bakola settlements follow the same process for local hiring that other Cameroonians must adhere to.

The fourth quarter also saw the completion of the Project's 2001 interim agricultural and educational development program for the Bagyeli/Bakola. The distribution of farming implements had been completed in a previous quarter and final distribution of educational supplies took place this quarter to nine schools attended by Bagyeli/Bakola students. More than 250 Bagyeli/Bakola students attend these schools and will benefit from the donated books and educational supplies. Building supplies have also been provided to support renovation projects at two boarding schools in Kribi and Bipindi that serve Bagyeli/Bakola students.



A Project team member hands out school supplies at a school serving Bagyeli/Bakola students.

## Annual Summary: The Bagyeli/Bakola

In addition to developments already described for this quarter, a summary of initiatives related to the Bagyeli/Bakola that took place in 2001 appears below.

### First Quarter 2001

- The Project funded and launched an interim agricultural and educational development program for the Bagyeli/Bakola. The program was a response to consultations with the population in which they expressed concern about when the Indigenous Peoples Program would begin.

### Second Quarter 2001

- The Environmental Foundation's Management Board visited some Bagyeli/Bakola communities in the Indigenous Peoples Plan implementation area. One result for these visits was a request by the Board for additional consultation with the Bagyeli/Bakola to ensure that their voices will be taken into account in Board deliberations.

### Third Quarter 2001

- As requested by the Environmental Foundation's Management Board, a supplemental round of consultation sessions was held by the Project with the Bagyeli/Bakola. The goal of this consultation effort was to check their priorities related to the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Program, comparing the new results with results from previous consultations.

Results from the new consultation effort verified that the Bagyeli/Bakola still have the same top four priority areas for the Indigenous Peoples Program: housing, education, agriculture, and health.

## Environmental Foundation

The Foundation for Environment and Development in Cameroon (FEDEC) officially went into action this quarter. The final legal preparatory step was taken on 16 November with the issuance of Republic of Cameroon Presidential Decree 2001/363 conferring Public Utility status upon FEDEC, thereby making the Foundation and its activities tax exempt in Cameroon.

- The Foundation's Management Board quickly gathered for its fourth official meeting (10-11 December) and took action on a number of items required to make FEDEC fully operational by the end of the first quarter of 2002. The Board:
- Officially acclaimed Dr. Paulette Bisseck as the Foundation's first president.
- Set in motion procedures to establish bank accounts for the Foundation and designated required signatories on all financial transaction documents.
- Initiated the solicitation of qualified applicants for contract positions associated with the Foundation. Advertisements for the available contract positions were placed in a range of Cameroonian newspapers and a selection of international publications.

The open contract positions associated with the Foundation include the Foundation Administrator, the Community Development Facilitator, the Fund Investment Manager, and the Implementation Organizations.

- Defined a shortlisting and selection process to fill the Foundation's contract positions.
- Drafted an initial administrative budget for 2002.

- Initiated official publicity about the Foundation and its mandate by issuing a press release and activating its web site ([www.fedec.org](http://www.fedec.org)).
- Reviewed Indigenous Peoples Program implementation-related information and data recently collected by COTCO.
- Agreed to establish the Foundation’s office in Yaoundé in space provided by COTCO.



This photo shows the members of FEDEC’s Management Board during their field trip to the Campo-Ma’an National Park in June 2001. From left to right they are:

- Prof. François Tchala-Abina, representative designated by the Republic of Cameroon.
- Mr. Ed Caldwell, representative designated by COTCO.
- Dr. Paulette Bisseck, the “well known, highly regarded citizen of the Republic of Cameroon.”
- Dr. John Mope Simo, the “highly regarded, internationally recognized socioeconomic/indigenous peoples specialist.”
- Dr. Thomas Smith, the “highly regarded, internationally recognized biological/ecological specialist.”

## **Annual Summary: Environmental Foundation**

In addition to the fourth quarter events already described in this section, a quarter-by-quarter summary of the Foundation's work in the first year of its existence is presented below.

### **First Quarter 2001**

- The Management Board was fully constituted in January.
- A Management Board induction meeting was held in Douala 22-23 February and a number of key topics were discussed.
  - Basic information about trust funds/foundations.
  - Background information about the Chad Export Project, especially regarding the Offsite Environmental Enhancement Program and the Indigenous Peoples Program.
  - Review of the key features of FEDEC, especially regarding duties and responsibilities of Management Board members.
  - Revised and approved the Foundation's Articles of Association.
  - Brought forward and approved a resolution to formally found FEDEC in the Netherlands.
- The Foundation was officially registered as a Charity Foundation in the Netherlands on 29 March 2001.

### **Second Quarter 2001**

- The first official Management Board meeting was held 4-6 April. At the meeting the Board:
  - Brought forward and approved a resolution to formally found FEDEC in Cameroon.
  - Revised and approved the Foundation's By-Laws.
  - Selected a President-Elect (Dr. Paulette Bisseck).
  - Reviewed initial drafts of several Procedures Manuals.
  - Prepared a dossier for submission to Cameroonian government officials requesting official recognition and registration of FEDEC as a foreign organization as well as Public Utility (i.e., tax-exempt) status.

The dossier included official submission letters, final texts of the Foundation's Articles of Association and By-Laws, a draft near-term work plan, key information about the Management Board members, and minutes from the first two meetings of the (provisional) Management Board

- The second official Management Board meeting took place 11-16 June in Kribi. During this meeting the Board:
  - Held a discussion with TROPENBOS, an international NGO currently active in the Campo-Ma'an UTO.
  - Toured a portion of the Campo-Ma'an National Park.
  - Visited some Bagyeli/Bakola communities along the Kribi-Lolodorf road in the vicinity of the pipeline easement.
  - Reviewed preliminary budget and financial data.
  - Debated the overall mandate of the Foundation in view of the size of its initial endowment.
  - Drafted a letter to the sponsors of the Chad Export Project requesting clarification regarding the Foundation's mandate.
- COTCO deposited \$US 3.5 million into FEDEC's escrow account on 7 September.
- The third official Management Board meeting was held 12 October in Yaoundé. The Board:
  - Reviewed responses submitted by the sponsors of the Chad Export Project clarifying the Foundation's overall mandate.
  - Devised a go-forward near-term activity plan for the Foundation and its Management Board, including a strategy for soliciting preliminary proposals from identified international NGOs to undertake initial ecological investigations and conservation activities in the Mbam and Djerem and Campo-Ma'an National Parks.
- FEDEC was officially recognized and registered as a foreign organization by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs near the end of the third quarter.

**Third Quarter  
2001**