

Environmental Foundation

The Management Board of FEDEC, the Foundation for Environment and Development in Cameroon, met for the ninth time this quarter. A main purpose of the session was to receive progress reports on the organization's biodiversity programs being undertaken by two international conservation NGOs in two new national parks in Cameroon.

Biodiversity Programs **Mbam and Djérem National Park**

The Wildlife Conservation Society, the Implementing Organization for the Foundation's activities in the Mbam and Djérem National Park, reported to the FEDEC Board that:

- Nearly all the required steps have been initiated to put in place a staff of Eco-guards. These steps include the interviewing and testing of candidates, development of a training curriculum, and the establishment of a base camp on the edge of the park where the training can take place.
- The location of the Wildlife Conservation Society's field office at Mbakaou village has proved to be a good choice. It offers direct access to the Djérem River, allowing ready access by boat to much of the park to support anti-poaching patrols. The village also is near a reservoir and thus has a good electricity supply that supports 24-hour radio contact with headquarters and guard posts.
- Surveys have begun of socioeconomic conditions in park-area villages, and nearly all villages in the vicinity of the northern border of the Park have been visited at least once.
- Bushmeat and hunting surveys have also been initiated to evaluate the significance of these activities to the economy and food supplies of the region.

Campo-Ma'an National Park

The World Wildlife Fund is the Implementing Organization for the Foundation's activities in the Campo-Ma'an National Park. A representative for the organization presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding outlining the framework for collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The collaboration framework has great importance since the park was created in an area of forest adjacent to several pre-existing timber harvesting concessions. For that reason, the Ministry already has a management plan in place for the region that will be coordinated with the plan for the national park that is being developed by the World Wildlife Fund.

Indigenous Peoples Program

FEDEC has collaborated with COTCO to help improve housing conditions for the Bagyeli/Bakola people.

- Under the auspices of the Indigenous Peoples Program, the Foundation is working in close support of the Project's regional and community compensation program where it is being implemented in Bagyeli/Bakola settlements along the Kribi-Lolodorf Road in the vicinity of the pipeline.
- As part of the effort, the Foundation's Community Development Facilitator is lending his expertise to enhance the implementation of the house building program.
- The Facilitator also plans to develop a training program to help instruct the Bagyeli/Bakola in the construction of improved dwellings. The training program will be built around the house construction projects undertaken by COTCO.