

CENDEP Newsletter

Centre For Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP) Working to Become Centre For Nursery Development & Environmental Protection (CENDEP)

August 2012

Birth of the Cameroon Analog Forestry Network (CAFON)

From August 30 to 31st 2012, 10 NGOs and Community Based Organizations met at the CISTERCIAN ABBEY, MBWENGWI in the North West Region of Cameroon in a workshop to render the Cameroon Analog Forestry Network (CAFON) a recognized, vibrant and strong network that can influence the conservation agenda at national and international levels through information exchange, capacity-building for its members and various joint advocacy actions.



Founding Members at the CISTERCIAN ABBEY, MBWENGWI Constituent Meeting

The idea to create the Cameroon Analog Forestry Network came up in February 2012 at the end of a five day training workshop on analog forestry in Kumbo-Bui Division, North West Region Cameroon. At the end of the workshop participants unanimously agreed to create CAFON. Work on its role and on how this network would be organized continued by email correspondences with CENDEP acting as interim coordinator. In August 2012 the International Analog Forestry made a grant towards the holding of a workshop to finalize the email discussions. This newly created network has as mission to "contribute to biodiversity conservation and to influence the conservation agenda at national and international level through the promotion of analog forestry". Membership to the network is still confined to the two English speaking regions of Cameroon and shall spread to the French speaking region as new members are admitted from this region

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Domestication of *Gnetum* species in the Republic of Gabon

As the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations rounds off the execution of its sub regional project entitled "Enhancing food security in Central Africa through the sustainable management of non-wood forest products", the Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP) undertook a training workshop with some pilot communities in the Province of Estuaire in the Republic of Gabon.

The project was sponsored by the German Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and the training workshop took place in the village of Oyane 1 from August 10 to 15 2012. The workshop brought together 38 participants from across the Province of Estuaire in the Republic of Gabon with main objective to introduce the technology of *Gnetum spp.* domestication in the Republic of Gabon as was the case with the Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

During the workshop, the national coordinator of the project in the Republic of Gabon, Mr. Alain MAKAYA explained the increasing scarcity of wild stocks of the vegetable vine in the forests of Gabon as well as in the market. He further exhorted the participants to be assiduous and take advantage of the previous workshop on analysis of market development and use it in future practices resulting from this workshop. The divisional officer of Estuaire was represented by the traditional ruler of Oyane 3, Mr. Moundounga Philippe who in his opening speech thanked the FAO and the German government for choosing Oyane I to host the training workshop and urged the participants to use the knowledge acquired in order to contribute in the preservation of the forest ecosystems in Gabon as well as benefit financially from the practice of domestication of *Gnetum spp.*



National project coordinator and traditional ruler addressing participants during the workshop



A cross section of workshop participants

A detailed technical report (in french) of the workshop in the Republic of Gabon will soon be provided on both the CENDEP and FAO WebPages.