

Corruption Investigation Unit – Forest Crime Project Proposal

General Information

Programme	
Project Title	Corruption Investigation Unit – Forest Crime
Country	Cameroon
Name of implementing organisation	Anti – Corruption Cameroon (AC Organization)
Thematic Area/s	The Fight Against Corruption, Forest Governance

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A: Project Information

Project Purpose	Achieving deterrence against grand corruption in the forest sector through legal prosecution of high officials
Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 investigation reports against high forest officials, containing sufficient proof for criminal prosecution, are published. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1- denunciation hotline operating 1.2- 14 investigations opened targeting specific officials. 1.3- desktop research is completed. 1.4- evidence is collected with the use of recorders and bailiff 1.5- Legal review of cases completed 1.6- Investigation carried to complete legal requirements 1.7- 3 reports selected by jurist and published. 2. Investigation reports publication resulted in 3 legal prosecutions. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1- 3 investigation reports containing sufficient proof for legal prosecutions are handed to the judiciary as a denunciation. 2.2- 3 investigation reports containing sufficient proof for legal prosecutions are handed to ANIF and CONAC for further investigation. 2.3- Concerned parties are advised of their right to seek civil claims in justice and initiate independent court cases against the officials.
Main Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publishing 3 investigation reports against high forest officials, containing sufficient proof for criminal prosecution. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1- Activating a forest corruption denunciation hotline and consulting with possible whistle blowers. 1.2- Compiling existing information and opening 14 investigations targeting specific officials. 1.3- Carrying desktop research on 14 cases and identifying directions for field investigations. 1.4- Carrying field investigations for 14 cases using hidden recorders and bailiffs. 1.5- Passing the 14 cases through a legal review by the jurist in order to identify gaps in establishing legal responsibility. 1.6- Carrying follow-up investigations to complete legal requirements. 1.7- Selecting and publishing 3 reports that are the most founded and solid.

	<p>2. Ensuring the investigation reports result in legal prosecutions.</p> <p>2.1- Transmitting 3 investigation reports containing sufficient proof for legal prosecutions to the judiciary as a denunciation.</p> <p>2.2- Transmitting 3 investigation reports containing sufficient proof for legal prosecutions to ANIF and CONAC for further investigation.</p> <p>2.3- Advising concerned parties of their right to seek civil claims in justice and initiate independent court cases against the officials.</p>
<p>Background</p>	<p>The fourth largest sector in Cameroon is the forestry sector, accounting for 10% of GDP. The sector pertains to the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife which deals with the coordination and oversight of the exploitation, conservation and promotion of forests. A number of initiatives and structures have been created with the purpose of combating mismanagement and corruption in the forestry sector. Yet, the sector continues to be hampered by corrupt practices and unsustainable logging.</p> <p>Although corrupt practices are well known, they are rarely perused in justice or at all investigated. While corruption is discussed in Cameroon, in the governance context as a failure of a system, , it is in fact an accumulation of various criminal acts carried by individuals. There is a paradox that lies between the recognition of the international community that the forest sector is plagued with corruption on one hand and on the other its reluctance to build any system of accountability breaking down bad governance to individual responsibility. This gap can be observed in EITI and the oil sector – while the auditor's report for Cameroon revealed large discrepancies in the published figures, no investigations of those involved in the management of oil revenues have been carried out.</p> <p>This project aims to establish accountability through creating deterrence for grand corruption in the forest sector. Prosecuting high officials for their corrupt practices is an essential aspect to any strategy to improve the governance in the forest sector.</p>

Longer Term Impact	Even a few cases in court can produce a larger impact on the system. The court action will create a deterrent and may influence the decision of the successor to the removed corrupt official.
Sustainability	Once the unit proves itself, more potential whistleblowers are likely to denounce corruption. The unit can train other groups that want to carry similar actions.

B: BUDGET INFORMATION

TOTAL COST			9,228,000 CFA
Proposed Start Date	September 2008	Proposed end date	May 2009
Co-funding			
Type (e.g. in kind/ cash)	Organisation	Amount	
cash	Donor's name	CFA	
Total Cost of Project		% from	
CFA 9,228,000		%	

C: M&E Plan

The lack of measurable standards is one of the main obstacles for the Fight Against Corruption. Increased donors budgets do not correlate with the stagnant state of lack of tangible results. It becomes increasingly important to divide effective Anti Corruption action from ineffective easy-to-justify projects that are not results oriented, as workshops and seminars that may have fueled corruption more than prevented it. To correct this, AC will continually monitor its activities and produce monthly progress reports.

- The program has built-in procedures for determining the success or failure of the model. AC's case follow-up reports allow direct auditing.
- Independent monitors are encouraged to verify reports in the field, and can do so without prior notification.
- AC's financial reports are transparent and detailed. AC will use a unique financial system, developed as a response to corruption within NGO projects in Cameroon.
- The results of the project will be published on the AC website on a monthly basis and will be opened for public evaluation and monitoring.

D. BUDGET**Budget - Corruption Investigation Unit - Forest Crime - AC Cameroon**

Original CFA Budget

item	Item Cost	Quantity	time	Annual cost
Management				0
Coordinator	22,000	1	12	264,000
Phone	5,000	30	12	1,800,000
local transport	2,000	25	12	600,000
photocopies	25	100	12	30,000
total 1				2,694,000
				0
Investigations				0
Forest Investigator	200,000	1	12	2,400,000
Phone	2,500	30	12	900,000
local transport	2,000	25	12	600,000
recorder	30,000	2	1	60,000
total 2				3,960,000
				0
Legal assistance				0
Legal adviser	200,000	1	12	2,400,000
Bailiff	20,000	6	1	120,000
Phone	2,500	1	12	30,000
Local transport	2,000	1	12	24,000
total 3				2,574,000
Total				9,228,000

E: INSTITUTIONS

Capacity of Implementing Organisation to implement project

Anti-Corruption Cameroon is an NGO registered in France in December 2005. The founder and director is Ofir Drori, the founder and Director of LAGA. Several members of the Cameroon board are key LAGA members.

Government support

The fight against corruption is a declared priority of the Government of Cameroon, that has created multiple structures within this framework. This project relies on strong support from the international community to be fully endorsed by government structures.