



**Green  
Development  
Advocates**

*For a Green Congo Basin*

**2018**

# ANNUAL REPORT



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GDA in 2018 consolidated and particularly intensified its activities on the field with local and indigenous communities who are its priority targets.

Globally, our activities revolved around the development / livelihoods enhancement of local and indigenous communities; the promotion of sustainable forest management and the fight against climate change;

advocacy for the respect of the rights of indigenous and local communities to their lands and forests as well as the promotion of the community forestry as a tool for securing customary/ancestral lands.

However, our efforts aimed at securing ancestral lands through the promotion of community forestry initially engaged in the South-West region have been wavering owing to the socio-political crisis that is shaking this area. This situation led us to carry out a great reflection that ushered the reorientation of this activity to the Njombe-Penja area, to support the excellent work being carried out by Syndicat National des Paysans et Riverains du Cameroun (SYNAPARCAM) in the latter.

We express deep gratitude to all our technical and financial partners whose contributions / support have contributed to the success of our efforts, which further strengthens and challenges us to work even harder for environmental protection and the improvement of the lives of local and indigenous peoples. This gratitude is also expressed to the people with whom we work for allowing us to share their daily lives.

# ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Green Development Advocates (GDA) is a civil society organization (CSO) under Cameroonian law, created in 2009 by a multidisciplinary group of former NGO executives working in the same sector of activity. It was legalized on June 30, 2011 and strives for development that is respectful of social and environmental requirements.

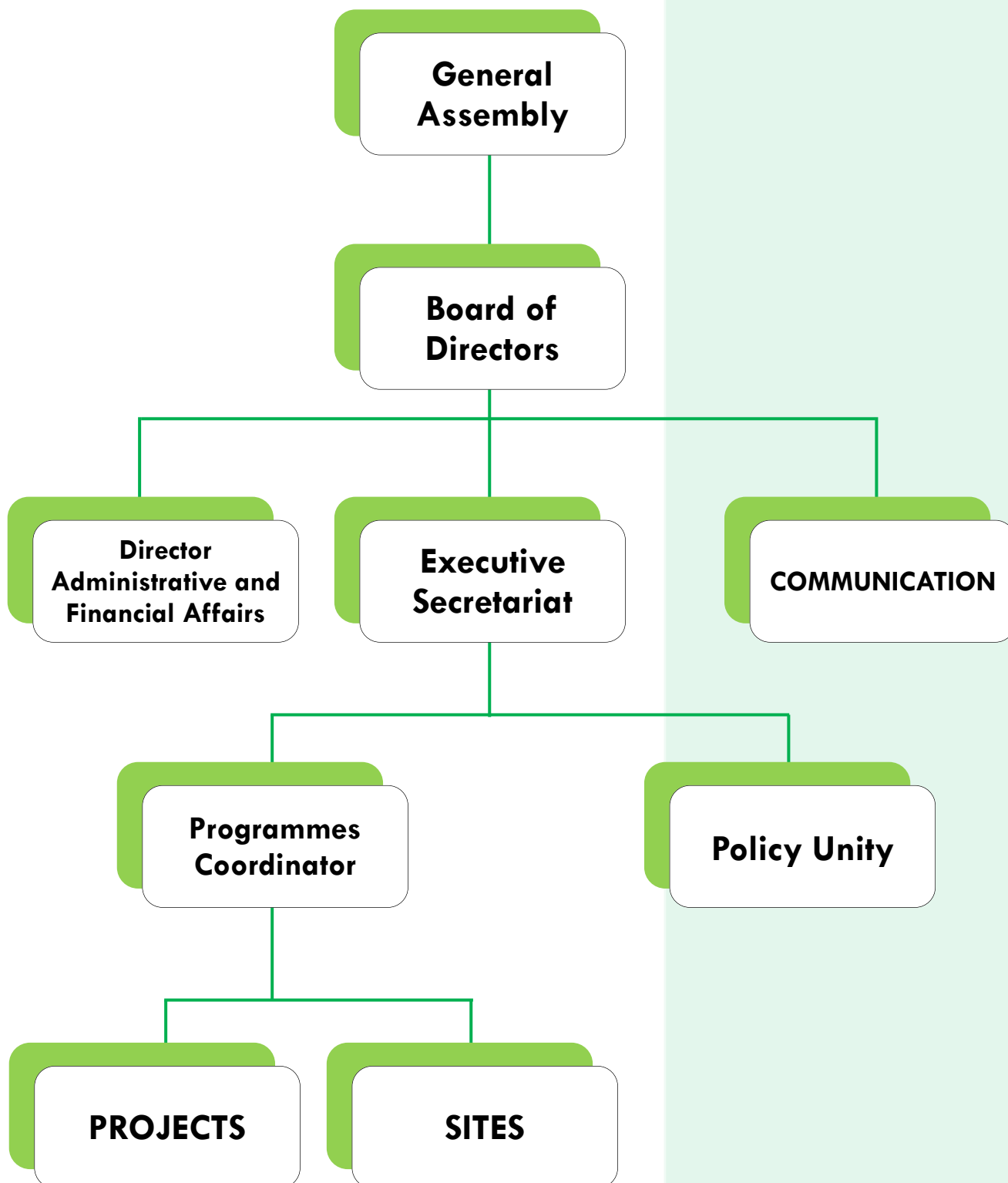
## OUR MISSION

Contribute to the sustainable development of African tropical forests in respect of the cultures, rights, interests and needs of African peoples with special attention for the forest indigenous peoples.



# STRUCTURE OF GDA

**GDA's organigramme is as follows:**





# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

## Implemented Projects

**Project title:** Supporting the Bagyelis of Lokoundje in becoming autonomous and resilient to climate change

**Partners:** Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Programme Cameroon  
Association Reveil des Femmes Autochtones

This project aims to contribute in securing traditional lands and empowering the Bagyeli communities of Bivouba, Mintende and Nkaguet in Lokoundjé. In more specific terms, it strives to strengthen recognition as a step towards securing the traditional / ancestral lands of the Bagyeli people of Bivouba, Mintende and Nkaguet communities for the preservation of biodiversity and their culture as well as contribute to mitigating the adverse effects of climate change through reforestation and strengthening the use of sustainable practices by these Bagyeli people.







## (Core results obtained are :

### 2480 hectares of Bagyeli territory covered

- 2.5 hectares of developed land
- 120 Bagyelis sensitized and trained in participatory mapping
- 12 Bagyelis trained on the use of the GPS
- 03 participatory maps produced
- Initiation of a multi-stakeholder dialogue for the recognition of Bagyeli customary lands

### Two guides for cocoa and banana-plantain cultivation for indigenous peoples produced

- Putting in place of 4 cocoa nurseries
- 71 Bagyelis trained in cocoa farming and banana-plantain multiplication techniques
- 30 Bagyeli women trained in vegetable cultivation
- 2500 cocoa plants planted
- 109 banana-plantain shoots planted

### 25 kg of groundnut and corn seeds distributed

- Small farm equipment distributed
- Distribution of vegetable seeds

**Project title: Support for the development and implementation of a specific action plan for Baka Indigenous Peoples in the Upper Nyong division, East region**

**Partner: Livestock Development Project (PRODEL)**



The objective of the plan in favour of indigenous peoples (PPA) is to enable Baka populations reap benefits from PRODEL in the same way as other members of the community by creating culturally and socially appropriate opportunities for indigenous peoples to be involved and benefit from activities related to the implementation of the project, as well as enable them to meet their aspirations for economic and social development.

In more specific terms, PRODEL's plan in favour of indigenous people aims to promote / reinforce the development of culturally and socially appropriate breeding activities in the Baka communities of the Upper Nyong division of the East region of Cameroon.

For the elaboration of this plan, **21 Baka communities in 10 sub-divisions** were consulted during the diagnostic phase for a total of **537 persons** comprising **268 men** and **269 women** belonging to the following major clans (Yé): Yé Djembè, Yé Ndongo, Yé Likemba, Yé Enboko, Yé Yandji, Yé Poko, Yé wala, Yé Kwotolo, Yé Donga, Yé Mombito, Yé Silo, Yé Mambè, Yé Ngotô, Yé Bosela...

The communities have expressed the wish to be accompanied in the following sectors:

- Poultry farming (traditional chickens)
- Small ruminants (goats and sheep)
- Pig rearing
- Bee farming

The reasons for their interest in animal rearing are diverse and include the profitability of the activity, it will pave the way for savings for health care and schooling of their children; more so, the animals can be offered as gifts.



**Project title: Women setting the pace to abate plastic pollution in Cameroon**

**Partners: Global Greengrants Fund (GGF), Women-Oriented Actions for Change (WOAC)**



Waste management is a serious problem in Cameroon in general as households and businesses produce a lot of waste that is sometimes burned in public or thrown on roadsides and in streams. This causes floods and stagnation of water in bottles conducive for the proliferation of mosquitoes which transmit malaria, one of the leading causes of death in sub-Saharan Africa. These harmful effects of plastics on health and the environment are due to their persistence in the environment due to their non-biodegradability. In order to provide a sustainable solution for the use and management of plastics in Cameroon, GDA and WOAC have undertaken actions to help reduce plastic pollution while laying emphasis on the role of women in this respect. It also aimed to encourage political parties to include sustainable plastics management in their political agendas.

Thus, a study on the use and management of plastics in Cameroon was carried out and presented at a workshop on September 14, 2018 in the VIP Hall of Bois Sainte Anastasie in Yaoundé.

The study revealed the following:

- no emphasis of policies on plastic bottles which are increasingly polluting the environment;
- inefficient incentive schemes to encourage citizens to participate in the recollection of used plastic products by companies;
- presence of prohibited plastic packaging (less than or equal to 61 microns) on the market.
- poor coordination amongst state actors vis-à-vis the implementation of regulations on plastics and ineffective monitoring mechanisms;
- low level of awareness of the harmful effects of the use and management of plastics by Cameroonians;
- little or no consideration of issues on plastics in political speeches.





**Project title: Promotion of community entrepreneurship**

**Partners: Association des Femmes, Hommes et Amis de Nkolenyeng (AFHAN), Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)**

This project implemented since 2017 aims at awakening community entrepreneurship at the local level. In order to achieve this, GDA inspired by the experience of Muhammad YUNUS<sup>1</sup>, put in place a rotating fund to fund sustainable income-generating activities which will pave the way for the community to carry out micro-projects. The capacities of the community members were also built on micro-projects elaboration and basic principles of accounting.

Thanks to this project, about 120 inhabitants of Nkolenyeng in 15 'confidence groups' have been able to carry out activities like the restoration of oil palm farms, purchase of cocoa farming inputs, production and commercialization of local wine, petty trade and bread baking.



"The money from the fund enabled me to purchase March 8 fabrics in Douala, which I sold in the village. I also made tee-shirts for the village football tournament which I sold and the profits were used to pay for my children's schooling, buy a 32 inches plasma TV, a Canal+ decoder as well as a generator, Mrs ATEME ZOUA Blanche testifies.

Another beneficiary, Mr ATEME EMANE Matias use the fund for the purchase of palm wine distillation materials and the profits enabled him to build a two-bedroom house where he currently lives with his wife.

<sup>1</sup>. Muhammad Yunus is the founder of Grameen bank in 1976 which was the first micro-credit institution to lend money to rural farmers and the poor excluded from the classical banking system.

**Project title: Securing the rights of forest communities against land grabbing in the Ndian and Kupe Muanenguba divisions of the South-West region of Cameroon**

**Partners: Synchronicity Earth (SE), Ajemalebu Self Help (AJESH), Struggle to Economize Future Environments (SEFE)**

In order to contribute in securing community lands around the Nta-Ali, Bayang Mbo and Rumpi Hills reserves as well as the Bakossi National park in the South-West region against threats from the expansion of agro-industrial plantations, GDA intensified information campaigns as well as capacity building of forest communities in the Ndian and Kupe Muanenguba divisions. This was in a bid to promote legal land securing tools notably community forests as stipulated by the 1994 Forestry law and its texts of application, initiated in 2017.



This project directly covered five (05) villages; three (03) in the Ndian division namely: Ndiba in the Mundemba sub division, Bweme Ngolo and Meangwe in the Toko sub division; two (02) in the Kupe Muanenguba division namely: Talangaye and Osirayib in the Nguti sub division for an estimated population of 500 community members. The Talangaye community expressed the desire to be supported in the process of acquiring a community forest. Unfortunately,



the socio-political crisis plaguing the region has hampered the continuity of this activity.

A consensual decision was arrived at with our partners to redirect our efforts to secure community lands to the Njombe-Penja area in the Mungo division and work in collaboration with Syndicat National des Riverains et Paysans du Cameroun (SYNAPARCAM)-a Civil Society organization based in Njombe-Penja fighting for the rights of the local communities around the SOCAPALM concession area.

Like the proliferation of HERAKLES FARMS in the South West region, a good number of palm plantations are found in the Njombe-Penja area in the Littoral region of Cameroon. In the course of the years, large expanses of land have been ceded to SOCAPALM and SYNAPARCAM defends the rights of local communities whose lands have been seized, abandoned, ceded or exploited without their consent. GDA therefore aims to work in collaboration

# OTHER INTERVENTIONS

## Lobbying and Advocacy activities

In the course of the year 2018, GDA's participation in meetings/workshops of networks and platforms in which it is a member and others organized by partner organizations was outstanding.

### Organisation of the 59th General Assembly of the Concerted Pygmy Action Research

#### Network (RACOPY) on June 28 and 29 in Kribi



#### Family photo-59th RACOPY General Assembly



## Integration of the Cameroon Estuary Dialogue Platform-Decentralized Participatory Development (PLADEC-DDP)

This platform which brings together local and international organizations, administrative, municipal and private units has as goal to facilitate effective and participatory dialogue between partners, CSOs, the government and the private sector along the Cameroon estuary.

### **Exchange and brainstorming workshop on the synergies of the forest and climate processes in Cameroon**

Organized by Forêt et Développement Rural (FODER) from 12 to 14 June 2018 at Nkolandom-Ebolowa within the framework of the Citizen's Voice for Change (CV4C): forest observation in the Congo basin project.

### **Workshop on community forestry within the framework of the CoNGOS project on the 6th and 7th of July 2018, organized by FERN and Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED) in Yaounde.**

This workshop aimed at facilitating a coalition of CSOs active in community forestry to develop an effective and up-to-date advocacy strategy, in a bid to promote sustainable and equitable community forestry.

### **Community and Forest Platform (CFP) meeting from August 29 to 31 2018 in Yaounde**

This meeting had as objective the evaluation of the platform's activities for the past four years and the elaboration of an operational framework for the coming years.



## **Training workshop on: “*the role and preoccupations of forest indigenous peoples in the elaboration and implementation of climate policies in Cameroon*”**

This workshop was organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation Cameroon/Central Africa on November 13 and 14, 2018 in Yaounde.

### **Forum on Mining governance**

Organized by Forêt et Développement Rural (FODER) on October 10 and 11 2018 in Yaounde, this forum had as objective to determine the status quo vis-à-vis the transparency and surveillance of the mining sector in Cameroon.

### **Monitoring of the FLEGT-VPA process**

- Participation in the 11th Joint Monitoring Committee session of the FLEGT-VPA implementation on May 17, 2018 in Yaounde.
- Joint review meeting on the participatory development of the Terms of Reference of FLEGT-VPA in Cameroon with the participation of the Civil Society, the private sector, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the European Union on September 12, 2018 in Yaounde.
- Participation at the presentation workshop of the **Support to the reinforced participation of major stakeholders in the Congo basin VPA process** project organized by Well Grounded on November 19, 20 and 21 in Yaounde.



# Capacity Building Process

## Organizational Development

GDA has been engaged in an organizational development process since October 2017 with support from Well Grounded. The overall goal of this process is to improve upon the governance system, communication as well as build the capacity of the organization's team in a bid to increase the effectiveness of its actions and attain its objectives. It is in this light that action plans were developed on governance, communication as well as on strengthening social ties within the organization which are being implemented.





## Creative Collaboration and Creative Systems

From May 14 to 18 2018, GDA's team took part in the training course on Creative collaboration and Creative systems organized by Creative Action Institute (CAI) USA in Limbe, Cameroon.





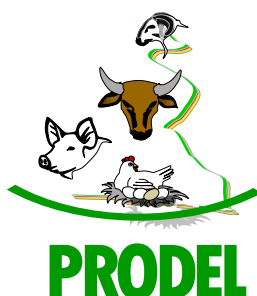
## OUR TEAM

These achievements have been possible thanks to GDA's devoted team.

NAMES	POSITION WITHIN ORGANIZATION
<b>CHACGOM Aristide</b>	Jurist, Programmes Coordinator
<b>ASSEMBE Anne-Marie</b>	Administrative and Finance Officer
<b>NDAMEU Benoît</b>	Technical Adviser/Fundraising
<b>EKANE NKWELLE</b>	Project Assistant
<b>APOH Melvis</b>	Project Assistant
<b>TSOGO AWONA Jean Henri</b>	Project Assistant
<b>NYAKO Zacharia</b>	Driver

## They trusted us!

To all our partners, thanks for trusting us and for supporting GDA's vision technically and financially.



*Au service  
des peuples  
et des nations*





## OUR CONTACTS

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