



**Green
Development
Advocates**

For a Green Congo Basin

The Green Development Newsletter

SECOND ISSUE

JULY 2026



Dear readers,

We are happy to present the second edition of our newsletter for the year covering significant activities carried out by GDA during the past three months.

The presentation is a chronological recount of events beginning with the launching of the African Women Climate Day; the World Biodiversity Day, and to culminate in the IFI Monitoring Group statement and the GDA Mid-Year Evaluation conclave.

We are also happy to provide a resume of the 2025 GDA Annual Report in our Publication column.

We hope the articles would help to enlighten you on GDA's activities that move along our fundamental vision of engaged advocacy to ensure a permanent Green Congo Basin.

We thank you for the interest shown in our newsletter and wish you a good reading.



WOMIN AFRICAN WOMEN CLIMATE JUSTICE DAY LAUNCH

17 April



Women call for gender inclusion in environmental adaptation decision-making

The Green Development Advocates was one of the venues of the Women initiated African Women Climate Change Day organized Wednesday April 15 2026 across the entire continent.

It was a day to relay the worries of the Womenfolk in Africa against the exploitation

of the natural resources of the continent by multinational companies, funded largely by international financial institutions like the World Bank and the African Development bank.

Women has for three years now led a campaign inviting civil society organizations to join in the advocacy for the

denunciation of initiatives by governments to entertain development projects that are focused mostly in generating more profits for project management than for the interests of the people to whom these projects are intended.

The African Women Climate Change Day comes in to reinforce the campaign denouncing the seizure, expropriation, exploitation and wanton depletion of African lands for foreign interests while the people wallow in continuous poverty. GDA hosted the event through a workshop intended to enlighten local community women associations on the Cameroon National Adaptation Plan on Climate Change about to be revised. This falls in line with the

African Women Climate Justice Day's call for women inclusion into all the policy decisions relating to climate change. That call was re-echoed in the workshop by the women participants from the affected regions of large-scale extractive projects in the Cameroon forest regions who called for environmental justice to be practiced first within the continent with the respective governments promoting gender inclusion in decision-making on environmental adaptation plans as well as ensuring that Free Prior and Informed Consent is respected in the elaboration of environmental resilience policies.

Acting locally for global impact

23 May



GDA builds capacity of AVEFDRIP women impacted by the Nachtigal dam project on reforestation

On the occasion of the 2026 World Biodiversity Day, the need to promote local initiatives for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems is seen by the Green Development Advocates as a major priority in the face of growing environmental challenges.

Land degradation, the gradual

disappearance of certain useful plant species, the effects of climate change and food insecurity are having a severe impact on rural and urban communities, particularly women who depend directly on natural resources for their livelihood. The World Biodiversity Day, provided a framework for raising awareness on the importance of preserving biological resources and promoting sustainable practices that foster the

resilience of communities within the Batchenga village communities. In this context, the involvement of women in reforestation, agroforestry and sustainable production represents a key driver for environmental protection and local socio-economic development.

Since 2023, GDA has been supporting local women affected by the construction of the Nachtigal dam, who are members of the local community women association, AVEFDRIP, in setting up income-generating activities through numerous training sessions and the distribution of seeds.

It is within this framework that GDA took upon the initiative to support and train women in the establishment of a nursery for avocado, safou and moringa trees. These species were chosen by the women due to their multiple economic, nutritional, medicinal and ecological benefits.

The creation of community plant nurseries not only promotes the restoration of vegetation cover and the conservation of local biodiversity, but also helps to strengthen women's technical and entrepreneurial capacities in terms of seedling production, sustainable management of natural resources and income-generating activities.

The Mebassa commemoration of World Biodiversity Day helped to mobilise and train women in the fight against malnutrition and poverty as well as preserving the environment. The Day did as well, initiate them on the notion of sustainable agroecological practices in order to contribute to the protection of biodiversity, the improvement of their living conditions and strengthening them in the pending battle for climate resilience.

< Stop looting timber in Classified National Domains !!!>

04 July



GDA joins IFI Monitoring and RACOPY to condemn illegal logging in Ngoyla and Djoko Forests

The IFI Monitoring Group composed of some civil society organizations including the Green Development Advocates (GDA) and the Réseau d'Appui aux Communautés des Peuples Pygmées (RACOPY) is worried about the trespassing of logging companies into the national classified lands belonging to the state. In a statement released July 3 2026, the civil society organizations

are calling on all parties involved in the looting of timber in the Ngoyla National Reserve and the Djoko Community Forest in the East region to respect national and international legislation governing the rights of Indigenous People and local communities (IPLCs).

Read statement on this link:
<https://gdacameroon.org/images/DJOKO/Statement.pdf>



Journeying together as a team with efficiency and professionalism

Six months after the launching of her new Strategic MasterPlan, the Green Development Advocates retreated in the seaside resort of Kribi, Cameroon, July 7 – 11, to revisit the 2026 / 2030 plan of action in view of integrating the new developments that have had to emerge recently. With partners demonstrating

renewed confidence in the organization's drive to intensify environmental sanity in the Congo Basin, so also is renewed emphasis by the team in promoting forest conservation by assisting indigenous peoples and local communities to assert themselves in self reliance initiatives geared towards

improving their well being and forestalling attempts by corporate bodies and other capitalist groups to freely plunder the natural resources within their communities.

Staff members reviewed their annual plans endorsing the activities already carried out in the domains of forest conservation, forest conversion, climate resilience, communication, and capacity building.

The emphasis was laid and agreed by the entire group for the need to journey together as a team with efficiency and professionalism.

The Kribi retreat was holding within a backdrop of intense advocacy initiatives engage on by the consortium of civil societies, IFI Monitoring Group engaged in the defence of IPLC rights in Cameroon.

The Group had just released a statement condemning the illegal exploitation of timber

in the classified domains of the state: the Ngoyla Forest Reserve and the Djoku Community Forest reserved for the spiritual and cultural use of the Baka indigenous people.

The release would serve as an opportunity for GDA to reiterate its commitment to intensify her advocacy for the protection of the rights of indigenous People and local communities to enjoy and live peacefully in their ancestral lands like any other citizens of the state.

Getting a first hand look at GDA's work on the field



A team from the Forest People and Climate (FPC) and the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA) was in the centre and south region from July 20 to 24 to have a first hand knowledge of the environmental and social challenges faced by Indigenous and Local communities in the area.

This was a visit facilitated by the Green Development Advocates which has been preoccupied across the years to ensure the respect of their rights and support them in improving their living conditions in the face of the changing environmental conditions and increasing exploitation and depletion of their natural resources.

The team was able to travel to the AFHAN Community Forest in Nkolenyeng (Djoum), visit the Baka Communities of Se'eh, Assoumdele and Bemba II bordering the Dja Wildlife Reserve. They also seized the opportunity to get a better view of the Mballam Iron Ore Mining Project.

To the team, this visit provided a better picture of the areas visited and also an opportunity to discuss with the communities on the opportunities and challenges they were face in the domain of natural resource management.

GDA 2025 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SHELVES

04 May 2026



Rounding off a decade and more of activities advocating forest protection in the Congo Basin

It is the sixth in the series of reports highlighting the avowed objectives of the Green Development Advocates' advocacy drive to appeal for responsible engagement by all stakeholders in the Congo Basin to protect the forests of that regional

watershed.

Though the second largest forest mass in the world, the Congo Basin is the most vulnerable of the forest regions targeted by multinational companies in the extraction of the natural resources both above and below its soils.

It is about a decade and more that the GDA has employed its human and material resource potentials to clamour for the respect of the rights of the traditional custodians of these forests who are the indigenous peoples and local communities living within, across the centuries.

The GDA Annual Report is a recount of the activities engaged in through advocacy, capacity building and material support to the IPLCs known to be the soft spots through which multinational companies and their acolytes penetrate in the exploitation of the resources within, resulting in forest degradation and its attendant effects: loss of forest cover, degrading soils, pollution, loss of biodiversity and much more as could be subsumed in the general notion of environmental degradation.

<https://gdacameroon.org/index.php/en/blog-2/news/gda-2025-annual-report-on-the-shelves>

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Worthy to remind our readers that GDA is a non-profit-making civil society organization focused on forest conservation and advocating for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) living in the Congo Basin.

It is funded by humanitarian and philanthropic organizations concerned with the environmental challenges of the times and willing to promote environmental resilience through, amongst other strategies, the resort to, and encouragement of erstwhile traditional methods of soil and plant conservation and management observed in indigenous and local communities.

Join in this partnership if environmental issues may be of concern to you also.

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