

# **Cameroon training needs analysis for the COAST program**

(English version)

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### Acronyms used

CBT	Community-based Tourism
CRESA	Centre Régional d'Enseignement Spécialisé en Agriculture
COOPPEL	Coopérative des Pêcheurs de Longji
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HYSACAM	Hygiène et Salubrité du CAMeroun
KUP	Kribi Urbanism Plan
MINEP	Ministry of Environment and Preservation of Nature
MINTOUR	Ministry of Tourism
MPD	Marine Public Domain
MtCEO	Mount Cameroon Ecotourism Organisation
DSH	Deep Sea Harbor
RECO SAF	Réseau des compétences sans frontières pour la promotion du tourisme responsable, le commerce équitable et le développement durable
SNV	Dutch Cooperation Agency
SPIHT	Syndicat Patronal des Industries de l'Hotellerie et du Tourisme
ST-EP	Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organisation

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This report has been read and commented when necessary by the Focal Points and the Demo Site Coordinator.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### *1.1. Background and status*

With its 360 Km of coastal line, the country shows a wide range of coastal ecosystems, ranging from mangroves near the Nigerian boarder to the surprising beaches with brown sand at the foot of Mount Cameroon and further south. Surprisingly, this huge potential is yet to be tapped as tourism development is suffering several issues.

Among them, lack of physical planning, poor infrastructure, lack of coordinating mechanisms are the more crucial. The country suffers also from poor marketing of the destination, high international travel cost, and high entry fees. As a result of the above, even though some beaches are still pristine, in other places there are problems of; access, human pollution, illegal settlements (Londji beach), and mangrove degradation (Yoyo beach). Everywhere, occupation of the sea front by private investors seems to accelerate natural erosion (Kribi, Limbe).

### *1.2. Key tourism issues for the project*

Selected by UNIDO, the Kribi Pilot Demonstration area comprises three scenic spots: The Grand Batanga beach cook initiative sector, the Lobe Falls tourism zone and the Kribi/Londji beach development zone.

As presented in the demonstration project background document, the key issues in the Kribi Pilot Demonstration area are:

- Lack of physical planning,
- Illegal settlements and poor sited facilities,
- Human pollution,
- Mangrove destruction,
- Privatization of land and related land conflicts,
- Threats by serious petroleum oil pollution,
- Threats of pollutants from agro industries localized nearby the 2 main rivers leading to the Sea (SOCOPALM and HEVECAM),
- Biodiversity loss particularly pressure on shrimps and fish,
- Poor coordinating mechanisms among stakeholders,
- Increase marginalisation of minorities (Pygmies),
- Lack of awareness and basic skills by key stakeholders in eco- tourism,
- Lack of appropriate infrastructure and facilities to handle solid and liquid waste,
- Absence of adequate response to combat increase coastal erosion.

Physical planning and zoning is obviously the major key issue for tourism development in the area. The KUP (Kribi Urban Planning) should be decided before 2011, and the following development projects should occur within the next 4years:

- Construction of a DSH in Grand Batanga (Limbé); the EIA is undertaken,
- Construction of a Gaz power plant, north of Londji,
- Construction of a fertilizers' factory nearby the harbor,
- Implementation of an iron quarry near Ebodje (coupled with a train line bringing the iron to the harbour),

The pressure is very strong on these sites and local authorities and population still don't know where exactly these projects will take place; is the tourism development in the zone compatible with industrial one? Most of the actors met during this mission are sceptic.

More specifically for each zone, the situation is as follow:

#### **The Grand Batanga beach Cook initiative sector**

- As Lobe Falls, the Grand Batanga beach has been identified by UNWTO to be part of a ST-EP project;
- The long beach is divided into plots which are managed by local families. These families rent, through young villagers associations, very small and basic camps to welcome day tourists. There is no hotel infrastructure but a possibility to plant a tent;
- The local population is conscious that their activity (tourist camps) is depending on the quality of the beaches and their cleanliness and, aware about its environment, local leaders start to sensitize the population to waste management.



*Camping site infrastructures in Grand Batanga*

### **The Lobe Falls tourism zone**

- Three ethnic groups share the site: Mabi, Pygmies and Batanga;
- SOCAPALM (palm oil production) is growing towards the coastline;
- A UNESCO classification is in progress (2006) and a private building project right on the beach has been cancelled (the destroyed concrete structure remains);
- So far, tourism is at its basic: the Association of young locals propose tours nearby the falls and on the river to visit a Pygmies village (on paddle canoes) and then cook river shrimps for lunch.

### **The Kribi/Londji beach development zone**

Very important ground use conflicts: many Nigerians fishermen are settled here for more than 40 years but they are illegal; the Chief of the village, in order to build a wooden lodge and restaurant on the site wishes to relocate them on a desert northern beach, which they refuse.

#### ***1.3. Specific field methods used in the training needs analysis***

Meetings were held at the Ministry of Environment with representatives of Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Urban Development and Habitat, Ministry of Domain and Land affairs, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Technological Development, Ministry of Breeding, Fisheries and Animal Industries, SNV.

A field visit was made to Kribi between 3 and 6 May 2010 and a workshop was organised with some major stakeholders of the area.



*Workshops au Ministère de l'Environnement et à Kribi, avec les acteurs locaux*

## **2. ECOTOURISM AND POVERTY REDUCTION**

Today, tourists can roughly be divided within nationals visiting family members, business/administration participating in seminars and expatriates from Yaounde and Douala, using Kribi as a week-end destination. International tourism is so far very few.

In this very special context, ecotourism should focus on the sustainability of projects benefiting host communities, and propose an alternative to the strong industrial development prevalent on the coast. It includes small business development, ecological experiences, sensitive construction of small scale accommodation, fostering businesses and initiatives which are compatible with sustainable and responsible tourism.

### ***2.1. Training Needs***

***Current status of training re this issue (key areas such as ecotourism planning, development, conservation activities, community benefits). Who is currently already trained in the country?***

- The only trainings that occurred re environment and conservation occurred in National Park of Campo (under supervision of WWF) and in Ebodje, for an ecotourism project linked to a turtle preservation project from SNV, started in 1999.
- There is no specific program or policy aimed at ecotourism, only local initiatives (Dja National Park, Bafoussam, Mount Cameroon);
- The only national successful ecotourism project seems to be the one set up in Rumsiki (Mount Cameroon), employing locals from the Kaysiki tribe.

***Who needs training on this issue? (Specifics, numbers where possible – note different levels of training from officials to operators to guides, industry managers, workers local wardens etc)***

- Officials – both in national ministries (MINDEV, MINTOUR, MINEF) and locally – on the concept and value of sustainable tourism, how to manage coastal tourism, environmental issues associated with tourism development in coasts and mangroves.
- A tourism delegation exists in Kribi but a Tourism Office is going to be set up in 2011; the managers should be trained to efficient structures and activities management, communication;
- Local authorities on proper waste management, in collaboration with HYSACAM (collection, reuse, recycling, disposal) and on communal infrastructures management (building and maintenance of toilets, wells, information and indication signs);
- Training of ecoguides among young locals associations, involved in selling tourism related products to visitors and guiding tourists;



*Local guides in La Lobe*



*The only one available toilet for tourists in Lobe Falls*



- Local agriculturalists in how to produce food for sale to hotels and restaurants;
- Community leaders and school teachers, about general awareness of tourism and the environment, sustainable tourism, visitor management, how tourism can benefit the community. Sensitization about culinary changes: sharkfins, turtle and turtle's eggs...
- Community members, Similar to the above for leaders, but more focused on the Do's and Dont's, especially re sand extraction, mangrove cutting, wastewater management.

***What extra training is needed? What are the priorities?***



- Ecotourism management for small business (creation of tourism linked businesses and supply chain management, benefits for local community...)
- Training on how to produce and transform food (local fishing and agriculture) and local materials and handicraft (e.g. with palm fibers);
- Restaurants, about the valorisation of local vegetable and fish recipes;
- Training of ecoguards, in charge of the safety and security of the beaches;
- The hotels managers in Kribi area should be part of the EMS trainings (at least be represented by SPIHT, who would then train them).

***What are the specific subject areas (curriculum modules) where training is required?***

- Effective planning of coastal development for national and local authorities (CZM, planning, enforcement of EIA, setbacks, design and waste systems);
- Awareness on tourism and environment for leaders and associations of Young locals and Women;
- Awareness on tourism and environment for pupils and students;
- Training of ecoguides: creation of tours (and enhancement of the existing ones), safety, hygiene, languages - English and French -, local culture, local biodiversity...
- Solid waste management.

***2.2. Training Capacity***

***Current capacity to provide this training – or similar (e.g. institutions, local trainers)***

- CRESA: specialized in Environment and EIA, they give training in forestry certification and could set up short training modules;
- The University of Yaounde can work closely with CRESA to give training and sensitization to national and local leaders;
- The SPIHT should be part of the trainers as well (his President is a tourism consultant), after taking part in the trainings with the authorities.

***Training modules already available? (local, in region)***

- Specific ecotourism training module might be available in the Campo ecolodge;
- The University of Yaounde 1 (section Tourism) has provided some advice for specific projects but has no training in these areas;
- MtCEO and Ebodje Ecotourism Project should have ecotourism modules available.

***What training modules are still needed (key gaps)?***

- Small ecotourism business management for current and potential entrepreneurs.

***BAP/BAT – examples or potential on-site training and mentoring?***

- The only one hotel in Lobe using solar PV, canadian well and dry toilets (Les Gîtes de Kribi, Route des Chutes de la Lobé, [www.kribiholidays.com](http://www.kribiholidays.com));
- BAP could be collected from the Campo ecolodge, the MtCEO projects in Mount Cameroon and in Bafossam from the association RECO SAF (Mr Emmanuel Tchassa, working on ecotourism development).

***2.3. Specifics for Priority Training Areas***

***How much time would the training require? (days, weeks, months)***

- For officials and local NGOs:
  - awareness modules on ecotourism and sustainability : 2 days.
  - modules on CZM : 8 days.
  - Modules on evaluation and EIA : 3 days.
- For the Project Management Team (Focal Points and Demo Site Coordinator and the 2 technicians), regarding global management of an ecotourism project (definition, market and actors, ROI, community-based projects development, ecotourism planning, quality implementation...): 6 days.
- For locals, awareness should consist of short sessions : 3 sessions of 2 days on the 3 sites, 18 days in total.
- For small tourism business training : 2 times one day session.
- For ecoguides : 2 weeks training in Kribi and on the sites, gathering 15 local guides from the 3 sites.

***What budget and resources are needed? What co-financing do you have? What do you want to spend your co-financing on (ie. priorities)***

- Awareness training can be done on site, in local facilities such as schools or municipal buildings;
- For the University training modules, the cost would be between 50 000 - 70 000 CFA/day;
- CZM trainings will need a foreign expertise as no one is available in the country;
- No co-financing has been identified yet; however, UNWTO is planning a ST-EP project in Grand Batanga - Lobe Falls zone, following similar objectives.

***2.4. Actions and Recommendations***

***Proposed actions and strategy – which approaches, events, modules, where and when?***

- The Government should clearly understand that tourism development (especially ecotourism or even nature-based tourism) will be quite difficult in this area if all the industrial projects effectively occur. After the KUP is designed, the zoning of industrial projects and tourism zones has to be very clear for the population and stakeholders.
- There is as well an important need to take into account the EIA that have been realised for the area;
- Guide training should be coordinated with WWF and SNV, active in these fields and working in the area;
- As in Senegal, UNWTO is active on the same areas as the COAST project, or is willing to be: it seems a good opportunity for UN as a whole to work closely on these projects;
- There are around 400 classified hotels in the country (from 1 to 5 stars) but very few have adopted an EMS. Although EMS is not part of the project in coastal Cameroon at this stage, it could be relevant to train some of the Kribi hotels on this topic as the existing service is very basic, except for few private projects. 80% of the hotels' guests are officials participating in seminars and expats living in Yaounde or Douala (more sensitized to this matter).

***Key challenges (Learning and sharing issues Information capture and processing issues, others)***

- Due to the industrial projects, there is a lot of speculation on available lands in the area and new buildings are created, careless of environmental concern; the Marine Public Domain is not respected and hotels want to be "feet in the water".
- It is difficult to find technical experts locally, especially regarding ecotourism, community-based tourism implementation and guide training.
- The real threat is coming from the actual and coming industrial settlements (oil transportation and spills, chemical rejects in the rivers, fertilizers, iron mines, industrial smokes, harbour traffic...). Without a real conscious and relevant zoning, tourism won't be able to develop on this area.

***Logistics and Governance issues (level of support for priority areas, assumptions regarding host country inputs.***

- Levels of support are not yet clear as project is very new.
- The Chief of the Village of Londji is very active and dedicated but it could take time before an agreement is found between the authorities and the Nigerian fishermen.

***Who are the potential partners, and what are their roles and responsibilities?***

- Ecole Polytechnique and Ecole des Travaux Publics : partners in CZM and in wastewater treatment and management;
- HYSACAM could get involved and give short modules to villagers on solid waste management;
- CRESA and University of Yaounde 1 (section Tourism) for modules on tourism, tourism product management and environmental sustainability;
- SPIHT for on site guide training (after a train the trainers session);
- MtCEO for participation in ecotourism modules implementation;
- WWF for modules on biodiversity;
- 18 NGOs exist in Kribi area (various themes covered); it is important to imply them from the beginning of the development of the modules and keep CRESA as a back-up;
- The World Bank (Ms Guillemette Jaffrin), working on tourism projects development in Cameroon;

<b>Table 1: Roles and responsibilities in Ecotourism</b>
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Stakeholders	Roles	Responsibilities
<b>Government</b> MINEP MINTOUR	Management and Preservation of the Environment Tourism development	Work in close collaboration on this project Get trained on CZM and zoning
<b>Local authorities</b> Local administrations and Village Chiefs Délégation Provinciale du Tourisme du Sud		Get trained on CZM and zoning Finding a responsible issue to Londji Beach conflict
<b>Private sector</b> HYSACAM  Les Gîtes de Kribi		Collaborate in developing locally relevant waste management modules Collaborate in being a demo site for renewable energies implementation
<b>Universities</b> CRESA  Université de Yaoundé 1	EIA and forestry certification Tourism management	Collaborate for tourism an environment modules
<b>Communities</b> Young people association (GIE) and Women association (GIE)	Camping sites management (Grand Batanga) and tourism activities (Lobe Falls)	Should be trained on ecotourism and spread the BAP to the villages
<b>Focal point and Demo site coordinator</b>		Coordinate actions between all the stakeholders

### 3. COUNTRY SUMMARY

Ecotourism and poverty reduction	
<b>Training capacity</b>	
<b>People with training</b>	Mr Oumar Ndoumbe (Tourism consultant)
<b>Institutions that can give training</b>	CRESA, Université de Yaoundé 1, SPIHT (after training), HYSACAM, Ecole Polytechnique and Ecole des Travaux Publics, MtCEO
<b>Materials available</b>	Tourism training courses, EIA methodology, vocational skills training, ecotourism
<b>Training needs</b>	
<b>Which training for whom?</b>	<p><b>Sustainable tourism, Environment management, Ecotourism, CBT</b> Officials – both in national ministries (MINDEV, MINTOUR, MINEF) and locally (Kribi Tourism Delegation)</p> <p><b>CZM and waste management</b> Local authorities, NGOs and Villages chiefs</p> <p><b>Guide training</b> 15 from local Young local Associations (in the 3 sites)</p> <p><b>Tourism sensitization for population</b></p>

	<p>How to benefit from tourism (e.g. supplying goods and services)  Vocational skills training (e.g. food production and processing, handicraft)  Beach and villages management (waste)  International BAP in ecotourism</p> <p><b>Tourism sensitization</b> for community leaders, NGOs, school teachers and local Young local Associations (in the 3 sites)</p> <p><b>EMS</b> for the hotels managers in Kribi</p>
<b>Gaps in materials</b>	<p>Undergraduate and vocational courses  Books and training materials  Generic materials adapted for local conditions</p>

### Annex 1: Interviews held

Person	Institution	Contact details
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*The Lobe Falls*