PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AFRICA

CFM 2015, September 8th 2015

Nadège NZOYEM
Before 1992

- Forest dwelling communities: no legally involved in the management of the forest resources and revenues

- 1992: World Conference on Environment and Development
  - participation of local people in natural resources management
  - equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from their exploitation

- After 1992, forest law revision in CA countries: promotion of decentralized forest management
  - increased role of local councils and local communities in the management of forest resources
  - Sharing of benefits in the forests tax system.
LEGAL AND EFFECTIVE LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN TWO COUNTRIES

Cameroon: Law n°94/01- 20th January 1994
✓ Community forests effective since 1997
✓ 395 conventions signed between state and communities for the management of 1,421,161 ha of forest land as community forests
✓ Usage rights for local communities on NTFP
✓ Community hunting area effective

Gabon: Law n° 016/01- 31st December
✓ Community forests effective since 2013
✓ 8 conventions signed between state and communities for the management of 39,191 ha of forest land as community forests
✓ Usage rights for local communities on NTFP
LEGAL PROVISION IN THREE COUNTRIES

Democratic republic of Congo: Law n° 011/2002 29th August 2002
✓ Implementation decree in 2014
✓ Forest concession for local communities not yet effective
✓ Usage rights for local communities on NTFP

Central Africa Republic: Law n° 08/022 17th October 2008
✓ Implementation decree available
✓ Usage rights for local communities on NTFP
✓ Community forests not yet effective

Equatorial Guinea: Law n° 1/1997
✓ Provisions for community forests
✓ No implementation decree
ISSUES FOR FULL PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN NRM AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Legal requirements
- Funding mechanism
- Production capacities
- Economic viability
DISCUSSION ....