

Proposed Project on

**INVOLVING NSONGWA YOUTHS IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE
NSONGWA VILLAGE WATER CATCHMENT**

Submitted By

**International Centre for Conflict and Human Rights Analysis, Cameroon
ICCHRA-CAMEROON**

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PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Project Title:

Involving Nsongwa youths in the preservation of the Nsongwa village water catchment.

2. Project Goal:

The project aims at improving and ensuring the sustainability of potable water in Nsongwa village by designing and implementing interventions that will go a long way to address the issue of poor management and preservation of the Nsongwa community water catchment, while minimizing the effects of climate change, making use of the youth bulge in the community.

3. Project Focus:

Sensitize young people on the prevailing problems affecting the preservation of the Nsongwa Village water catchment and interventions required to redress the problems. Resources (technical, financial and material) will then be provided for utilization to the young people to implement the identified interventions aimed at ensuring the sustainable preservation of the catchment.

4. Name, address and status of the applying organisation

4.1 Name: International Centre for Conflict and Human Rights Analysis, Cameroon (ICCHRA-CAMEROON)

4.2 Address: P.O. BOX 670, Bamenda

Bamenda Central Sub Division, Mezam Division, North West Province, Cameroon

4.3 Location: Commercial Avenue, Bamenda.

4.4 Status: NGO

4.5 Contact person

Mr. CHI Primus CHE (Country Coordinator of ICCHRA-CAMEROON)

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Website: www.icchra.org

5. Project cost

Total project budget: [9,597,000FCFA \(14764.6EURO\)](#)

6. Number of members: 25

7. Duration of project: 9 months

8. Starting time: When ever finances are made available. ICCHRA-CAMEROON will use this time to mobilize all involved for the start of the project.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE APPLYING ORGANIZATION

1.PROJECT TITLE

Involving Nsongwa youths in the preservation of the Nsongwa village water catchment.

2.BRIEF INFORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

The International Centre for Conflict and Human Rights Analysis, Cameroon (ICCHRA-CAMEROON) is a non-discriminatory, non-profit making and non-governmental organization whose primary function is to serve the needs of youths, children and women at national and international levels. ICCHRA is a research, teaching and training program that critically examines the policies and actions of Governments, International Organizations and independent actors that affect the realization of human rights around the world.

ICCHRA- CAMEROON was established in Cameroon in January 2006, although it gained official recognition only on June 12, 2006 as per Acknowledgement Receipt N^o. **0045/E.29/1111/VOL.8/APPB**. The Country Head Office is located in Bamenda, the Capital of North West Province.

The mission of ICCHRA-CAMEROON is based on the belief that there is a new generation of potential leaders reaching adulthood who are internally prepared to depart from the leadership styles and consciousness of the past, to forge and implement a new paradigm in the world. Our intent is to support them in their development by providing a curriculum in peace building, conflict management, regional integration, security studies, human rights and consciousness designed to help them become consciously aware, high integrity and heart centered leaders in their communities and the world.

3. Activities of ICCHRA-CAMEROON

A/ Human Rights Education and Sensitisation;

B/ Advocacy and Lobbying;

C/ Human Rights Field Work Activities (Research);

D/ Counseling;

E/ Conflict Analysis/Resolution and Peace-Building;

G/ “Media Campaign on Young People and National Poverty Reduction Strategies” Program;

G/ Civic and Democracy Education.

B. TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

1. BRIEF STATEMENT OF PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED

The International Centre for Conflict and Human Rights Analysis, Cameroon (ICCHRA-CAMEROON) in collaboration with the Nsongwa Students Union (NSU) and Nsongwa Youth Association (NYA) is requesting for a grant to improve the availability and accessibility of potable water to the community of Nsongwa, through the effective preservation of the community water catchment.

For decades, the community of Nsongwa's main source of potable water has been local streams and springs, with no pipe borne water. With growing adverse anthropogenic activities these potable water sources were constantly polluted while others dwindled, resulting amongst others to: increasing prevalence of some water borne diseases within the community; increased rate of school late-coming and chronic school absenteeism; growing rural exodus etc. These problems were however addressed in the year 2005 following the realization of the first phase of the Nsongwa Community Water Project, involving the provision of community public taps to major quarters of the community. The second and third phases of the project involving the provision of more public taps to interior/ poorly accessible areas of the village and the distribution of pipe-borne water to individual homes respectively is on-going.

In recent months (November 2007), the volume of water in the community's water storage and distribution tanks have significantly dropped, resulting in frequent potable water cuts. This prevailing situation has started reversing the gains that the community had made following the initial period of realization of the project. It was against this backdrop that the NSU and NYA contacted ICCHRA-CAMEROON to undertake a need-assessment survey of the entire project with the goal of diagnosing the cause(s) of the irregular potable water supply within the community. The diagnostic survey identified significant short-comings vis-à-vis the community water catchment: extensive farming, exposing the area to erosion; inadequate water-retaining tree species; presence of water-consuming/draining tree species; uncontrolled human and animal invasion into the area for hunting and pasturing respectively etc. The above conditions have a direct effect on the volume and quality of water from the catchment, consequently affecting the volume of water in the storage and distribution tanks. This progressive backdrop in the quantity and quality of water supply in Nsongwa village shows that prompt actions need to be taken to address the uprising danger or else the situation may soon attain a devastating point that will cost too much to address later.

2. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The sustainable provision of potable water to the community of Nsongwa will not only improve the health standards and development but equally guarantee sustainable peace and harmonious co-existence within the community. The project therefore seeks to design and implement interventions that will go a long way to address the issue of poor management and preservation of the Nsongwa community water catchment, while minimizing the effects of climate change, making use of the youth bulge in the community. Specifically we intend to attain the following outputs:

- Increase awareness of the population of Nsongwa, especially the youths on the conditions adversely affecting the sustainable availability of water from the catchment and highlight the interventions required to redress the current condition.
- Secure the material and technical support required by the community especially the youths to undertake the interventions.
- Ensure that the resources provided for the effective preservation of the water catchment by the youths are well managed.
- The capacity of the youths, especially the catchment management committee on the long-term preservation of water catchments is improved.

3. TARGET POPULATION

The target population is the community of Nsongwa, located in Mezam Division of the North-West Province of Cameroon. Its population is about 3000, with over 3/4 being young people below 35 years of age. Nsongwa village lies along the Bamenda – Bali road and is about 5km from the Bamenda town. It belongs to the Ngemba tribe. It is one of the seven villages which constitute the Bamenda central sub division.

The Nsongwa village has two Associations which handle its developmental issues viz the Nsongwa Development and Cultural Association (NDECA) and the Nsongwa Elites Association (NEA). Every Nsongwa indigene above the age of 21 years in principle pays a certain levy (not less than 2,000frs CFA; 4.5 US\$) towards the development of the village to the executive committee of NDECA for the realization of the community's projects and this amount depends on the individual's income. This minimum annual levy is hardly paid by most of the villagers, especially the youths because the unemployment rate is over 50%. More so, those who fail to contribute their levies are hardly sanctioned. As such, the levies usually collected are largely inadequate to realize the community's projects. The Indigenes who however feel that they can do

more towards the development of their village join NEA wherein they are called to contribute more in terms of ideas and finances towards this development. This elites' meeting holds once every year and is hosted by any elite who volunteers to do so.

Most of the economic activities of this village are carried out in the central town since it is too close. However, the village is blessed with some natural resources like sand and stones. Agriculturally, the area is rich. Food items like cassava, (garri) and cocoyams are produced in large quantities and marketed in the central town.

History of the Project

It was on the 31st of December 2002 during the Elites' meeting that the Nsongwa Water Project was conceived and launched. During this launching the sum of 350.000frs CFA was raised. This money was used to hire the services of a civil engineering technician who had to do the feasibility studies of the project. Owing to the undulating landscape of the village, no water source (spring) therein could conveniently supply all the quarters of the first part of the village. Such a spring was however identified in a neighbouring village called Akum which is situated at a higher altitude than Nsongwa and about 7km from it. The village head of Nsongwa (called the Fon) met that of Akum and obtained permission from him for the use of the water source. This was granted but the family that owns the piece of land where this spring is found had to be compensated after very high level negotiations they accepted the sum of 300.000frs CFA plus a standpipe which would cater for their own water needs. However, the piece of land around the catchment remains privately owned. As such the preservation of the catchment will involve first and foremost the official acquisition of the piece of land around the catchment

5. TIME FRAME

The time frame for this project will be 9 months as from the time funds are secured. However, the tree planting exercise is best carried out during the rainy reason (May-August).

6. ACTIVITIES

The proposed project activities include the following:

- Preparation and installation of Project Management Committee
- Sensitization of young people and population on project details
- Land Demarcations and ownership transfer
- Purchases (trees, barbed wires, cement, iron rods etc)

- Fencing and Planting of trees, shrubs, grass around the catmint etc.
- Training of Catchment Management Committee and young people on sustainable management of the catchments.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of the project
- Reports writing and dissemination.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We will measure the effectiveness of the project assessing the volume of water in the storage and distribution tanks and hence the frequency of tap water cuts in the community. The prevalence of water-borne diseases within the community will equally be assessed based on information from the community health centre before and after the project. Other pointers to be monitored include rate of primary school late-coming and absenteeism; rate of primary school enrolment for girls; rate of rural exodus etc. These indicators will need about 2 two years to be effectively evaluated owing to the fact the planted trees would have grown to a level to retain enough water to increase the volume of water in catmint areas.

Reporting will be done in two phases: a mid term and an end of project report.

8. KEY STAFF

ICCHRA-CAMEROON has a staff of 25; 15 full time and 10 part-time. They are mainly professionals including Rural/Community Development Worker, Youth Development/Social Workers, Customary Law Experts, Water Engineers etc. The staff of ICCHRA–CAMEROON, board members and many of our community residents provide voluntary services for our projects and community activities.

More so, ICCHRA–CAMEROON has built and maintained strong bonds and relationship with community based associations and groups of our city as well as the community's administration/hierarchy.

9. IMPLEMENTATION, MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

To address the short-comings identified during the catchment diagnostic survey, interventions have been developed to overcome the prevailing catchment situation; planting of more water-retaining tree species, felling down of water-draining tree species, restricted human and animal invasion etc. These interventions will be attained making use of the high youth bulge of the community.

The community will be involved in the realization of the project. The rules of collaboration between the community, youths and the implementing organization will be established before the project is carried out.

At the end of the project the community and the youths will be fully responsible for the management and maintenance of the project. There is an existing water management committee (WMC). On the spot training of the caretaker management committee (CMC) and local technicians will be done. The CMC will be selected from the WMC. The training will cover topics such as mobilization and management of resources, making of action plans, project monitoring, book-keeping, evaluation and reporting. Other topics include good governance and leadership, hygiene and sanitation, conflict management, effective communication skills, organization of community work and management of community property.

The project shall be implemented through the active participation of the youths and village community. The youths and the community are the project initiators and all activities shall be planned such that all parties understand and play their roles effectively.

It will be ensured that environmental protection constitutes a factor for consideration during the implementation of the project. The protection of the catchment and planting of trees will be done appropriately.

Supervision of the project will be done as appropriate by an expert rural engineer.

10. ACTIVITY PLAN

N ^o .	Activity	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9
1.	Preparation and installation of PMC	X								
2.	Sensitization of young people and population on project details	X	X							
3.	Land Demarcations and ownership transfer		X	X						
4.	Purchases (trees, barbed wires, cement, iron rods etc)			X						
5.	Fencing and Planting of trees, shrubs, grass etc.				X	X				
6.	Training of CMC and youths on sustainable management of the catchments							X	X	
7.	Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8.	Reports writing and dissemination				X					X
9.	Catch-up finishing						X			

Legend: M = month, PMC = Project management committee, CMC = Caretaker Management Committee

11. BUDGET IN LOCAL CURRENCY (Frs CFA)

S/N	Activities	Resources Needed	Quantity Required	Unit Cost/FCFA	Total Cost/FCFA
1	Preparation and installation of PMC	-Communication(phone calls, radio announcements etc)	Lump sum	Lump sum	100,000
		-Transportation	25	2,000	50,000
		-Hiring of venue	1	25,000	25,000
		-Public address system	1	30,000	30,000
		-Secretariat services/documentation	Lump sum	Lump sum	100,000
		-Basic entertainment	200	500	100,000
	-Visit by PMC to catchment area	15	2000	30,000	
	Sub-Total				435,000
2	Sensitization of young people and population on project details	-Communication(phone calls, radio announcements, traditional town crier etc)	Lump sum	Lump sum	100,000
		- Hiring of venue	1	25,000	25,000
		- Public address system	1		30,000
		-Facilitation materials/Professional inputs	Lump sum	Lump sum	200,000
		-Documentation	Lump sum	Lump sum	100,000
		Sub-Total			
3	Land Demarcations and ownership transfer	-Visit of PMC to catchment area	20	5,000	100,000
		-Expert's services to undertake land demarcation	2	100,000	200,000
		-Cost of demarcated land	Lump sum	Lump sum	2,000,000
		-Provisions for official hand over of demarcated land to the Nsongwa community	Lump sum	Lump sum	200,000
		-Entertainment	200	1,000	200,000
		Sub-Total			
4	Purchases (trees, barbed wires, cement, iron rods etc)	-Cost of purchasing 4 species of water-retaining trees	4 X 250	1500	1,500,000
		-Cost of purchasing shrubs and grasses	2 X 200	1250	500,000
		-Cost of cement	80	7,000	560,000
		-Cost of iron rods, pillars and barb wire	Lump sum	Lump sum	1,000,000
		-Transportation of materials to catchment area.	Lump sum	Lump sum	200,000
		Sub-Total			
5	Fencing and Planting of trees, shrubs, grass	-Transportation of community young people/	200	3000	600,000

	etc	volunteers to the catchment -Hiring of technical expertise -Entertainment/subsistence for young people/volunteers	10 150	50,000 2,000	500,000 300,000 1,400,000
	Sub-Total				
6	Training of CMC and young people on sustainable management of the catchments	-Communication/Secretarial services -Hiring of venue -Facilitation materials -Transport for participants -Technical/professional inputs -Board (2 coffee breaks and lunch)	Lump sum 1 Lump sum 30 3 30	Lump sum 25,000 Lump sum 1000 25,000 5000	150,000 25,000 100,000 30,000 75,000 150,000 530,000
	Sub-Total				
7	Monitoring and Evaluation	-Communication/Documentation services -Visits to catchment area, storage and distribution tanks, and community members -Professional inputs	Lump sum 20 X 5 3	Lump sum 6,000 300,000	200,000 600,000 900,000 1700,000
	Sub-Total				
8	Reports writing and disseminations	-ICCHRA project coordinator -Secretarial services/documentation -Disseminations	1 X 10 Lump sum Lump sum	100,000 Lump sum Lump sum	1,000,000 200,000 200,000 1,400,000
	Sub-Total				
9	Contingencies				371,400
	GRAND TOTAL				12,751,400 frs CFA 19,617.5 €

Exchange rate used: 1 € = 650 frs CFA

Non-budgeted expenses (community contribution to the project)

Three trips of stones amounting to 150,000FCFA

Three trips of sand amounting to 90,000FCFA

Digging of holes for planting of trees and shrubs amounting to 100,000FCFA

Planting of trees, shrubs, grass and pillars amounting to 200,000FCFA

Project coordination office for 10 months amounting to 150,000FCFA

Working tools

Total of 690,000FCFA = 1061.5 €

12. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ICCHRA-CAMEROON's achievements since its inception have been largely funded on the voluntary commitment of its members, often with the aid of national volunteers.

ICCHRA-CAMEROON continues its work on very little resources, occasionally receiving small donations from board members for some community-based projects. No member of ICCHRA-CAMEROON receives an income for their work - members generally support themselves hand-to-mouth through part-time work elsewhere. The minimal economic activity in Cameroon and the lack of employment opportunities here mean that this situation is not uncommon.

ICCHRA-CAMEROON does not receive any financial assistance from the Cameroon government, although, when appropriate, it informs government agencies of relevant projects. The Cameroon government provides virtually no financial assistance to aid organizations on the ground, and has never financed ICCHRA-CAMEROON in the past. ICCHRA-CAMEROON is committed to move ahead with her objectives and projects by partnering with other civil society organizations, CSOs within or out of Cameroon who share a common vision.