

**A REPORT PRESENTED BY GLOBAL VILLAGE CAMEROON (GVC)  
MARKING THE CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION  
AGAINST DAMS, FOR RIVERS, WATER AND LIFE ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH  
2007**

GVC on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 celebrated the International Day of Action Against Dams, For Rivers, Water And Life with a roundtable discussion that brought together civil society organisations, the private sector and the government officials that operate in the energy sector. The theme of the roundtable discussion was “Dams and Development: What Perspective For The Energy Sector Development In Cameroon”. In a participatory manner, there was a diagnosis of the energy sector crisis that looked at the following issues:

- the optimisation and evaluation of existing dams,
- the contribution of dams and hydropower in micro- and macro- economic development in Cameroon,
- the alternative energy sources to hydropower that could facilitate Cameroon to meet the Millennium Development Goals,
- the role of the recommendations of World Commission on Dams (WCD) in promoting sustainable energy development in Cameroon.



For close to four hours participants exchanged ideas in the roundtable discussion after presentations on ‘Energy Sector Development in Cameroon’ and ‘The Role Of WCD Report In Promoting Sustainable Development In Cameroon’ made by Durrel N. Halleson and Terri Hathaway respectively. French Development Agency (AFD) intervened at the level of the private sector, at the level of the government a representative from the Ministry of Energy and Water (MIMEE) updated the participants on what the government was doing as concerns energy and renewable energy development. The Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection shed more light on public consultations and audiences that she always organise during Environmental impact Assessment EIA studies of development projects and how view points of affected communities and other stakeholders are incorporated in the EIA studies. During the discussion the civil society asked the government to release relevant documents in the energy sector to the public. This was the case of the Energy Action Plan for Cameroon “HORIZON 2030” which MIMEE said has been completed and that the public will soon have access to it. It was also an opportunity for dialogue between the government and civil society to push the government to release necessary documents in a timely manner with adequate time allocation for the public to make their comments.



Other participants included journalists from various media and press, IUCN and University students. The discussion came to a conclusion that hydropower needed for the development of industries, companies and urban areas must address social and

environmental impacts that they cause and that renewable energy must be a complementary energy source for decentralisation from the grid network system.



It should also be noted that on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of march 2007 GVC was in the radio to talk about the importance of the International day of Action Against Dams, For Rivers, Water And Life. We also informed the public about the roundtable discussion GVC was to have to mark this day. This took thirty minutes and during this time we also sensitised the public on the need to protect rivers and the problems that Cameroon's existing dams are facing in relation to their social and environmental impacts.

This event created an impact and we hope to continue in this spirit in the coming years.

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