Community-driven forest monitoring platforms: *an emerging resource, a need for feedback*
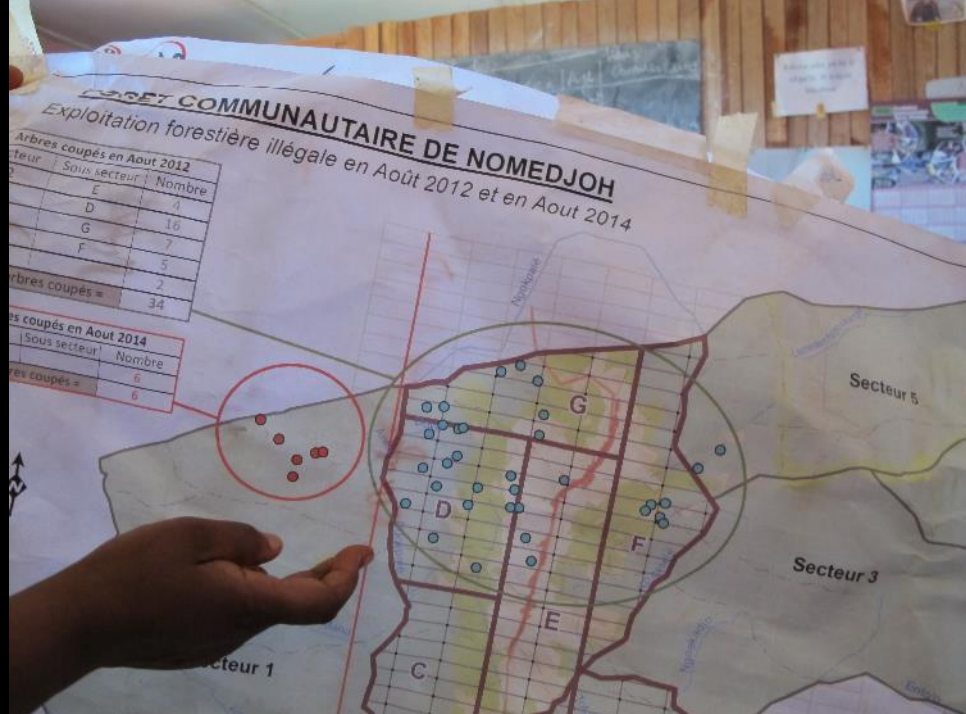
Andrea E. Johnson

Consultant / EIA

7 April 2016

FORÊT COMMUNAUTAIRE DE NOMEDJOH
Exploitation forestière illégale en Août 2012 et en Aout 2014

Arbres coupés en Aout 2012

Secteur	Sous secteur	Nombre
	E	4
	D	16
	G	7
	F	5
		2

Arbres coupés = 34

Arbres coupés en Aout 2014

Secteur	Sous secteur	Nombre
		6

Arbres coupés = 6

Secteur 5

Secteur 3

Secteur 1

G

D

F

E

C

This presentation: key points

- Increase in quantity and quality of information being generated by community-driven forest monitoring (CDFM)

- Emerging efforts to organize and collate information, but there remains a disconnect with "target audiences" in compliance and enforcement communities

- Local CSOs seek greater understanding from audiences like you re: your information gaps, how to communicate

- Mainstreaming use of CDFM information into due diligence practices is necessary in order to achieve the objectives of the EUTR, Lacey and ILPA

Community-Driven Forest Monitoring is proliferating

To be clear: communities have always done monitoring! Here we refer to systems that have been somehow formalized and usually incorporate technologies

- Increased political relevance
  - Consumer country policies, voluntary corporate commitments, new threats and trends
  - Frustration with formal "IFM" and lack of government response

- Constantly improving hardware and software options
  - Cheaper and cheaper hand-held data collection, aggregation
  - Steadily improving cell and internet service in remote áreas
  - Open-source applications
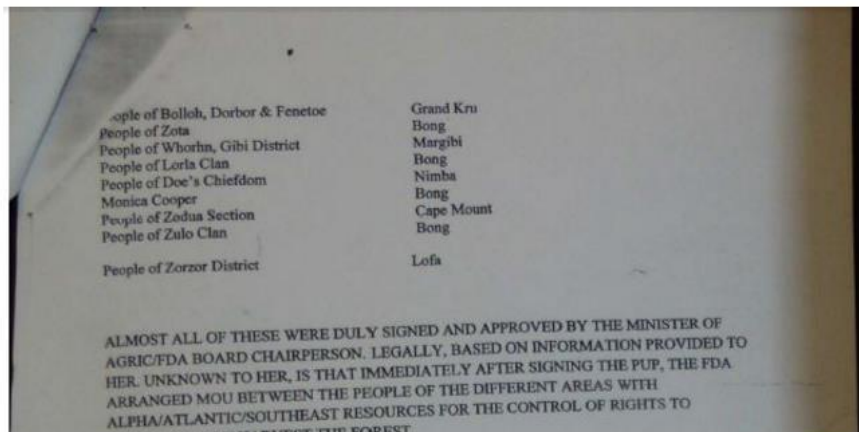 - Rise of crowdsourcing & social media

Finally Wogbeh and the FDA responded in early January 2012, admitting that the whistleblower was correct and that in total, 24 PUPs had been authorized by the FDA.

Primary Source

FDA WHISTLE BLOWER REPORT ON PUPS

1ST JANUARY, 2013

Attached is a whistle blower complaint about the PUP scandal involving the FDA's management. Also a list of all PUPs assigned to Atlantic Resources.

People of Bolloh, Dorbor & Fenetoe	Grand Kru
People of Zota	Bong
People of Whorhn, Gibi District	Margibi
People of Lorla Clan	Bong
People of Doe's Chiefdom	Nimba
Monica Cooper	Bong
People of Zodua Section	Cape Mount
People of Zulo Clan	Bong
People of Zorzor District	Lofa

ALMOST ALL OF THESE WERE DULY SIGNED AND APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF AGRIC/FDA BOARD CHAIRPERSON. LEGALLY, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED TO HER, UNKNOWN TO HER, IS THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGNING THE PUP, THE FDA ARRANGED MOU BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE DIFFERENT AREAS WITH ALPHA/ATLANTIC/SOUTHEAST RESOURCES FOR THE CONTROL OF RIGHTS TO ... HARVEST THE FOREST.

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https://investigations.sdiliberia.org/
Sustainable Development Institute, Liberia
Secure mobile data collection, aggregation, analysis and storytelling using TIMBY.org app

Veeduría Forestal Indígena (Indigenous Forest Observatory), AIDESEP, Perú
Mobile data collection to monitor logging contractors on community lands
In development with Digital Democracy – geospatial platform for info display

But local information is often under-utilized

- The logistics and capacity in remote forest communities (internet, etc)

- Lack of incentives for sharing information (either compensation or response from officials) and high risks

- Incomplete data (e.g. lack of supply chain linkages)

- Mismatches in information packaging / who is the target audience?

- Information overload among audience

- Inherent suspicions and doubts about information generated by civil society

- Lack of political will

Community-Driven Forest Monitoring is evolving

- Organization into national networks

- In Cameroon: *OIE-Cameroun now has 10 members covering the whole country, regular coordination meetings, trainings, and a common web platform*

- *Contact: Rodrigue Ngonzo, FODER*

Tableau de synthèse des activités d'OIE menées par les membres de la coordination de l'OIE en 2014

Localité	Objet de l'OIE	Sociétés concernées	Coordonnées (UTM)		Photos	Difficultés rencontrées
			X:	Y:		
FODER						
Somalomo (2 missions d'OIE)	Documenter l'exploitation forestière dans l'UFA 10050	Ets NGBATOU, BASSAM	233537 238419 233240 234012 233400	391043 380113 384453 384523 390871	 *Parc à bois hors limite de la FC ZIOMAS*	-Certains membres des communautés locales refusaient de collaborer avec la mission afin de protéger l'exploitant forestier
-Lomié -Messok	Documenter l'exploitation forestière dans les UFA 10041 (Lomié), 10037, 10036 (Messok)	PALLISCO SIM	370233 363544 363505 363456 363473 370317	327917 326003 325741 327922 329274 32822	 *Bille d'alep abandonnée et située hors de l'UFA*	-La destruction du pont forestier sur le fleuve Dja par un grumier chargé a contraint la mission à arriver à Lomié à 22 heures. En effet, le véhicule a été coincé dans un bourbier situé dans cet endroit pendant une (01) heure pour trouver une voie de contournement. - Plusieurs membres des communautés,

JPIK (Indonesia): 64 organizations

Community-Driven Forest Management is evolving

- Development of protocols, harmonization of methodologies

- In Cameroon: *"The Standardized External Independent Monitoring System (SNOIE) is a grouping of civil society organizations conducting the external independent monitoring activities according to a set of requirements modeled on ISO 9001: 2008 standard."*

Réf. : 006/RM-OIE/EU-CFPR/FODER/022015

OBSERVATION INDEPENDANTE EXTERNE

RAPPORT DE MISSION

Effectuée dans le village Mapoubi, Arrondissement de Ngwei
(Département de la Sanaga Maritime, Région du Littoral – Cameroun)

Faits observés en Février 2015

Rapport révisé en Octobre 2015 ; après la deuxième session du CTE[1]

Forêts et Développement Rural

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Les informations contenues dans ce rapport relèvent exclusivement de la seule responsabilité de FODERet ne peuvent en aucun cas refléter l'opinion de l'Union Européenne, du DFID ou de l'Université de Wolverhampton
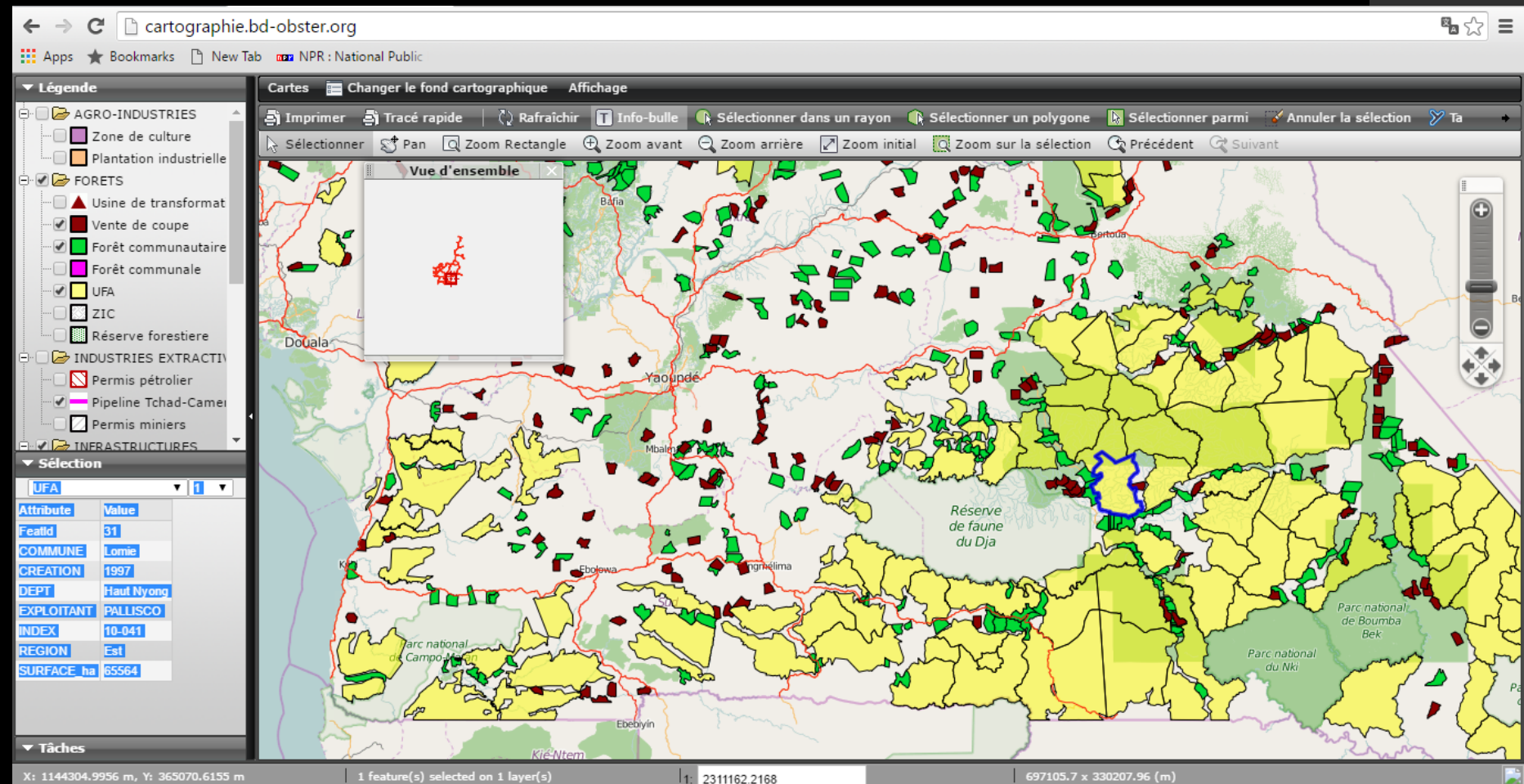
Provided with the support of the EU
Fourni avec le soutien de l'EU

Community-Driven Forest Monitoring is evolving

Use of mobile data collection and geospatial tools

In Cameroon: *CED platform for crowd-sourced reports on conversión and logging, subsequently verified by CED field team*

But is it reaching target audiences?

"Sometimes it's easier to gather information than to know how to use it."

- If the objective is to generate consequences and remedies to violations of laws or rights, there are various possible audiences.

- Law enforcement:
  - In-country – easier to reach but often ineffective
  - Consumer country – boomerang effect

- Private sector – due diligence / due care

- Certification systems (FSC, PEFC)

- Media (traditional and social) – attention, market pressure, social accountability

How do you (in this room) obtain and use information?

- People are over-burdened with tasks and emails
- ~~Long documents, technical terms, foreign languages~~
- Personal relationships are very important
- Websites: are they actually used? Which are useful?
- How is credibility established and maintained?
- Filtering and packaging are necessary
- Specificity about type of violation, type of evidence, connection to EU or US market
- Difference between info for cases versus due diligence?

The message from Cameroon

- Local CSOs in Cameroon expressed strong desire to communicate the CDFM information they collect to Competent Authorities and other relevant enforcement officials and VPA actors.

- They seek two-way communication:
  - How can their information be useful for building cases of illegal trade?
  - How can it be most useful for due diligence?
  - These may be questions of substance, of format, and of delivery

A collaboration to facilitate flow of CDFM information

- EIA conducting scoping with monitors, NGOs, agents, companies, consultants, techies

- Proposal: a platform / service to collect, digest, and disseminate local information to strategic audiences
  - Global scope, piloting in Cameroon (then Peru, Indonesia)
  - Some degree of standardization
  - Data security and non-public info options
  - registered users, not full crowd-sourcing
  - Added supply chain data analysis (as possible)
  - *Based on the realities of how people obtain and use information*

Shifting the norms for good due diligence

- There will always be limits to local information

- But as CDFM improves and expands and becomes more accessible, it must be taken seriously

- Otherwise a real risk of simply supporting "illegal logging with papers"

Brigitte Anziome, Director, ASTRADHE, Lomie, Cameroon

Thank you.
Feedback, please?