

Supplementary material: interview guide

Rural community agency in Cameroon: Interactions with forest policies and the REDD+ climate change regime

The purpose of this study is to assess the relationship between institutional arrangements and the nature of forest rural community agency among various actors and the potential impacts on REDD+ implementation. During this interview we want you to remember that your responses will be kept confidential. There could be sensitive topics in this interview, but if there's anything you're not comfortable talking about, you don't have to talk about it. Please answer however you see fit and remember that we won't be judging your responses – we want to understand the perspectives of members of the community, whatever those perspectives are.

Interview # Date: Village:
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First, we would like to start with some questions about your personal demographics, and then move on to getting a description of [NAME OF COMMUNITY] from your perspective.

1. Individual Demographic Information

- a. How old are you?
- b. What languages do you speak?
- c. What religion are you?
- d. What is your ethnicity?
- e. What is your occupation
 - i. Could you describe what the main parts of your job are?
- f. Where in the village do you live?
 - i. Do you live somewhere else sometimes? (e.g., in a neighboring village or a city)
- g. Have you always lived in [NAME OF VILLAGE]?
- h. Has your family always lived in [NAME OF VILLAGE]?

Thank you, now we would like to ask you a little about the community here in [NAME OF VILLAGE]

2. Community Structure Information

- a. What was the last major event, like a celebration or ceremony that happened here that involved the whole community or most of it?
 - i. Can you describe for me what it was like? (The setting, types of people, what happened during the event, etc.?)
 - ii. Is this typical for [NAME OF EVENT]?

- b. What are the different types of people living here in [NAME OF VILLAGE]? (might use probes to get information relating especially to the following)
 - i. locations of origin (“indigenes” or “strangers” and where most of the “strangers” come from and how long they or their families have lived in the village)
 - ii. religions (and possibly religious societies or organizations)
 - iii. ethnicities
 - iv. age groups
 - v. levels of education
 - vi. major occupations in the village
 - vii. anything about gender: men and women, and particularly elite social societies (e.g., *Ekpe* or *Nyamkpe*; *Diyala*)
- c. What types of people here get along the best?
 - i. probe for what the type of relationships are between these people (social, professional, or kinship-based)
- d. What types of people here don’t really get along?
 - i. probe for what the sources of conflict are (ownership of or availability of resources, including forest resources, livelihood, land tenure; political or ideological differences of opinions; apparent prejudice or xenophobia)
- e. What types of people in [NAME OF VILLAGE] would you say are the most important when it comes to making decisions for the community?
- f. When was the last major [TYPE OF PLANNING MEETING OR SIMILAR OCCASION, e.g., community forest Executive Committee meeting]?
 - i. Can you describe for me what it was like? (the setting, types of people, what happened during the meeting, etc.)
 - ii. Is this typical for (a/an) [TYPE OF PLANNING MEETING]?

Okay, thank you. Now we would like to know a little about how your community has been affected by forest policies in the past, and how the community responded to these changes.

3. Historical and current interactions with forest policies.

- a. What has it been like so far in establishing your community forest? (probe for how long it has taken them; how much money it has cost them, and how they have financed the costs)
 - i. What benefits have you seen from having a community forest or starting the process of establishing one, if any?
- b. How has your community been impacted by the Korup Project? (probe especially for how they felt it worked out for their community)
 - i. Did members of the community talk with the government or park authorities to get benefits for the village, or otherwise negotiate with them during the Korup Project?

Okay, thank you very much. Now I'd like to ask you about the policy known as REDD+.

4. REDD+

a. First of all, are you familiar with it already?

i. (if so)

1. Where did you hear about the policy?
2. Can you give me a description of the policy in your own words?
3. What is your impression of REDD+? (probe for approval or disapproval, specifically)
 - a. How do they expect it to impact their community?
 - b. How do they expect it to impact the forest?
 - c. Do you think the people of [NAME OF VILLAGE] will be willing to use fewer forest resources, or to give up their farms or reduce the size of their farms in exchange for REDD+ benefits? (probe for why or why not)
4. Has your community had any direct participation in the program? (probe for information about any input into the rules for REDD+, consultations with the community, or negotiations for REDD+ benefits)

ii. (if not)

1. That's okay, no problem. It's a program that the Government of Cameroon is working on with international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank to get started in the country. The program is called REDD+ ("R.E.D.D. plus") and it stands for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Basically, it proposes to put a price on the amount of biomass in the forest (for example, the weight of the plants and trees there - but not removing them from the forest). Then the government receives money in exchange for how much there is. This money will come from trading the value of the biomass (the amount of plants and trees) on the international stock market. The government will then distribute the money to local communities.
2. What is your impression of this program? (probe for approval or disapproval, specifically)
 - a. How would you expect it to impact your community when it is implemented?
 - b. How would you expect it to impact the forest?
 - c. Do you think the people living in [NAME OF VILLAGE] will be willing to use fewer forest resources, or to give up their farms or reduce the size of their farms in exchange for REDD+ benefits? (Probe for why or why not).

Thank you for your time and willingness to participate in this interview. Your input is very important for this research and is sincerely appreciated.

Supplementary material: Survey instrument

Rural community agency in Cameroon: Interactions with forest policies and the REDD+ climate change regime

The purpose of this study is to assess the relationship between institutional arrangements and the nature of forest rural community agency among various actors and the potential impacts on REDD+ implementation. The answers you give in this survey will be kept confidential. The information will not include your name, and will only be used for scholarly purposes. You might feel that some of the questions are of a sensitive nature, so remember you can skip any questions you do not wish to answer. Your participation in this survey is appreciated, but completely voluntary, and no negative consequences will occur to you if you choose not to participate.

Survey # Date: Village:

1. Sex of the respondent:

☐ Female ☐ Male

2. How old are you? years old

3. What is your occupation?

4. What is your highest level of education?

5. What is your religion?

☐ Christian ☐ Muslim ☐ Traditional religion

6. Which of the following best describes your land ownership?

☐ Own a land title ☐ Own a land certificate ☐ Rent land ☐ No land ownership

7. Are you originally from this village? (If NO, continue to #8, If YES, skip to #9)

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Where are you originally from?

9. Where in this village do you live?
.....

10. What clan do you consider yourself?

11. **What languages do you speak?**

Thank you. Now I'd like to ask about how you and your community use the forest land and resources.

12. **In which of the following ways is the forest important to you, if any?** (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Cultural and religious practices ☐ Recreational activities ☐ Learning activities
☐ Resolving conflicts or improving friendships ☐ Beauty of the forest ☐ Food
☐ Other:

13. **In the past year, have you used plant or animal products from the forest?** (If YES, continue to #14. If NO, skip to #16)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. **What have you used these plant or animal products for?** (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Food or drink ☐ Medicine ☐ Construction materials ☐ Tools ☐ Fragrances ☐ Food for livestock
☐ Ornaments or decorations ☐ Fuel wood ☐ Other fuels ☐ Other:

15. **How have you used these plant or animal products for your livelihood?** (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Subsistence ☐ To trade ☐ To sell ☐ Other:

16. **In the last three years have you grown any crops in the forest?** (If YES, continue to #17. If NO, skip to #19)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. **In the last three years, what are the main crops you have grown in the forest?**

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.....

18. **How have you used these crops for your livelihood?** (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Subsistence ☐ To trade ☐ To sell ☐ Other:

19. **How does this village make decisions for how to use the forest?**

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.....

20. **In the last year, have you been involved in deciding how this village uses the forest?**

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

21. **Compared to the last year, has your role in decision making changed?**

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Now I'd like to ask you about a forest policy the Government of Cameroon is developing.

22. **Have you heard of the program called REDD, or REDD+?** (If Yes, continue to #23, if NO, skip to #24)

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

23. **Where do you get your information about REDD+?** (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ NGO workers ☐ Korup Park staff ☐ Other government staff ☐ Government publications
☐ Radio ☐ Television ☐ Internet ☐ Newspaper ☐ Books ☐ Word of mouth ☐ Community leaders
☐ Other sources:

The program called REDD+ ("R.E.D.D. plus") stands for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The Government of Cameroon is working on REDD+ with international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank. Basically, it proposes to put a price on the amount of biomass in the forest (for example, the weight of the plants and trees there - but not removing them from the forest). Then the government receives money in exchange for how much there is. This money will come from selling the value of the biomass (the weight of plants and trees left in the forest) to international buyers. The government will then distribute the money to local communities.

24. **How do you think REDD+ will impact your community?**

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25. **How do you think REDD+ will impact the forest?**

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(If answered YES to #16 continue to #26. If answered NO to #16, skip to #30.)

Some ways that are being considered to implement REDD+ are by providing benefits when farmers reduce the size of their farms in the forest. One way of providing these benefits is by giving money to the community for village improvements, and another is to give money directly to farmers who participate in the program. In the next few questions I'd like to ask what you think about these ideas.

26. **How likely would you be to reduce the area of your farm in the forest in exchange for community benefits like electricity, pipe-borne water, or hospitals?** (If NOT AT ALL LIKELY continue to #27. Otherwise skip to #28)

- ☐ Very likely ☐ Likely ☐ Somewhat likely ☐ Not at all likely

27. **What is the most important reason why you would not reduce the size of your farm in exchange for these community benefits?**

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.....

28. **How likely would you be to reduce the area of your farm in the forest in exchange for financial benefits directly to you?** (If NOT AT ALL LIKELY continue to #30. Otherwise skip to #31.)

- ☐ Very likely ☐ Likely ☐ Somewhat likely ☐ Not at all likely

29. **What is the most important reason why you would not reduce the size of your farm for financial benefits directly to you?**

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Is there anything else you would like to add about your experiences with forest conservation?

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Thank you for your time and willingness to participate in this survey. Your input is very important for this research and is sincerely appreciated.