



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Brief on a working session between VSO and Better World Cameroon (BWC) on 1st July, 2010

Object: *Discussions on constraints identified during the first phase of VSO-BWC Partnership framework and Assessment of BWC's capacity in providing access rights to Cameroonian citizens in decision making processes on Environmental conservation and the decentralization process underway.*

The meeting was organized at the request of VSO to review and update the Partnership development process between BWC and VSO.

Present from VSO: Ibrahim Peghouma, Eta Kelvin Ayuk and Achille Momo

From BWC: Joshua Konkankoh, Nembongwe Isaiah and Sonita Mbah

Gap Analysis

In preliminary presentations, both Ibrahim and Joshua admitted they had been gaps and limitations in the last VSO placement frame work (Ms Lyne Legault) which aborted prematurely after six months last year.

Ibrahim outlined the new dispensation at VSO meant to fill the gaps. In addition the new cohort of volunteers coming in September will go through a two week training and orientation in VSO Head Office in Yaoundé before taking up their placements. The out come of today's brainstorm session will also be shared with the new volunteer for BWC to prepare him/her for the envisaged change.

Update BWC

Joshua said the departure of Lyne last December might have put the Organizational Development Process on hold but BWC has continued to make great strides in the role it is playing in the Sustainable development sector. Relations have been consolidated with the key related Ministries: Agriculture and Rural development, Youth Affairs, Environment and Nature Protection.

Talking on international inter agency collaboration he cited a number of organizations which are building relations with BWC in view of partnering projects:

Joshua said one of the New Breed Volunteers was sponsored by friends of Ndanifor UK to be trained in the Fambidzanai Permaculture Training Centre in Zimbabwe and later certified as a trainer for West and Central Africa by the International Permaculture Convergence which took place in Malawi last November. A partnership project is being put in place called Plan Africa.

World Family UK and Permaculture Association of Britain is working with BWC to establish a platform for Permaculture and Food sovereignty in West and Central Africa.

Enabling Education Support Foundation (ExchangesConnect) USA is working with BWC on a Special Cross Culture Education Platform for Cameroon.

Open World Café Stockholm in Sweden is working with Protecterra Ecological Foundation in India and BWC in the creation of Open World Cafes in India and Cameroon to act as IT resources and hub that bridges outreach and engagement between schools and communities.

On the negative side, BWC suffered a great set back as its 5 acre Ndanifor Community Garden was flooded and is losing almost all its plants and its beauty and with it the only sure source of income. Unable to raise enough funds to rebuild the garden, BWC is now sifting its efforts to the Open World Café project as a potential source of income generation that will keep its operations going.

BWC's role as Secretary General in COWLA's Technical Committee is in the drawing up of the constitution and follows up of the legalization process, with the understanding that a restitution would be made to the general assembly for the problem of ownership and management mechanism to be resolved.

BWC's participation as member of NWADO (North West Associations of Development Organizations) in the National Forum of Cameroon's Civil Society Organizations (network of networks) last month, revealed that there are now support structures in Cameroon which can support and work alongside COWLA. I met with Christophe Courtin, chief of project of (PASOC) E U-Cameroon Support Programme for Structuring civil society and he said PASOC is ready to work with COWLA.

Update VSO

VSO has been working on improving its partnership development framework with partners. The new framework requires more close consultations with partners to identify themes and create common space for change, better profiling, adopting an outcome based approach and preparing partner's capacity to receive and manage Volunteers. In this light BWC Coordinator is invited to a meeting at VSO Head office Bastos in three weeks, planned for updating partners on this policy shift.

Kelvin is following up on matching process for selection of the most suitable volunteer who captures both BWC/VSO expectations following manifestation of interests for placements at Better World from Australia.

Expectations of VSO

- BWC working towards improvement of internal governance.
- More mobilization and advocacy to enable more income generation by volunteers for self sustenance.

Better World Cameroon Partnership framework for New VSO Volunteer Placement

BWC Expectations are based on the MDGs, Cross Cultural Education, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable agriculture aimed at reconciling the creative forces of young people with the needs of earth care responsibilities, urban and rural regeneration and the requirements of future generations.

- 1) Capacity Building to BWC Entrepreneurial Programme (creating direct interaction among young graduates to facilitate active participation in projects, policy design and Advocacy for sustainable development) preparing youth for the green job market.
- 2) Align BWC Linking and Partnership Programme with national civil society networks and global environmental development actions through support in merging ICTs with Agriculture and Environment.
- 3) Professional help in a draft mission document for a Green North West and Far North forestation/eco restoration to enhance Permaculture and Climate Change Action Plan for the next ten years.
- 4) Business Case study for Environmental Education Campaign in protecting Biodiversity based on Responsible Tourism and Agriculture.
- 5) Special mentoring for BWC National Coordinator and Coordination Team in understanding of NGO Management Principles , Human Resource Management, Monitoring and Reporting.

COWLA (Cameroon One World Linking Association)

Ibrahim: In my his capacity as Regional Facilitator for the setting up process for BUILD (Building Understanding through International Links for Development), I will hold discussions with Emmanuel Ngungoh of British Council Cameroon to see how the creation process of COWLA can be refocused on the original organizational principles agreed upon in the conference of parties in July 2008 in Yaoundé and the role BWC can play in it. I am happy with the process of legalization going on but my fear is the COWLA at hand's capacity of negotiation for the dedicated likeminded (members and range of civil actors who pledged support) to carry on COWLA in Cameroon in a manner that ensures maximum voice and support.

Mbah Sonita