



# The Community-based Forest Enterprises Project;





# Main points to be covered

- Overview of the project
- Objectives and expected results
- Main components
- Funding and timing
- Key issues
- Accomplishments
- The International Meeting in Bolivia
- Future prospects





# WORLD Political Map





# Overview of the project

**The Community-Based Forest Enterprises project aims at strengthening forest-based operations run by indigenous and rural communities in four locations within WWF priority ecoregions:**

- **Bolivia**
  - **Cameroon**
  - **Panama**
  - **Papua New Guinea**
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- **Funded by the European Commission, 3-year period**
  - **Started officially on 01-01-2007; operations began in mid-2007**





# Objectives and expected results

- **General objectives:**
  - Increase incomes and welfare
  - Strengthen forest management capacities
  - Generate models for CFEs to manage forests for increased income
- **Specific objective:**

Improved capacity of CFEs to access and manage forests for income, employment and investments







# Objectives and expected results (Cont.)

- **Expected Results:**

- ER1: CFEs manage forest resources equitably and transparently**
- ER2: Institutional frameworks increase ability of CFEs to access & manage forest resources**
- ER3: Generate revenues, employment and investments leading to poverty reduction**
- ER4: Tools and lessons learned adapted and disseminated**
- ER5: Policy changes to support CFEs**
- ER6: Efficient and effective project management**





# Main components

- **Bolivia**
  - Five main operations
  - 21 communities
- **Cameroon**
  - Two main operations
  - 22 communities
- **Panama**
  - Two main operations
  - Six communities
- **PNG**
  - Special case, roughly communities







# Key issues



- Initially, not enough emphasis on the concept of enterprise
- Forest management concepts and technical skills are learned fast; business and commercial skills learned slowly
- Constraining regulatory frameworks: Panama, Cameroon
- Some questions about sustainable forest management
- Illegal actions in all countries







# Accomplishments

- **Startup affecting over 50 communities**
- **Forest management plans being applied and followed everywhere**
- **Legal structures of rights and obligations established for all communities**
- **Forest management, wood measurement and harvesting skills imparted in all field components**
- **Business skills training underway in all four countries**
- **Forest products sales occurring in all operations**





## Accomplishments (Cont)

- **Business plans and community development plans in all components**
- **Policy issues identified and policy dialogue underway in all countries**
- **Lessons of experience assembled and discussed in encounter in Bolivia**
- **Despite difficulties, the CBFE project approach is popular: requests for replication in all countries & international credibility because of business focus**
- **WWF seen as a credible organization in CFE field**







# The moral of the story

- You don't fight poverty without creating wealth
- You don't create wealth without commerce
- You don't have commerce without enterprises
- Prosperous and independent enterprises require favorable institutions and knowledge of forest management & business
- Participation of communities in conservation depends on their view of the forest as an economic asset

