Who are the stakeholders of the project?

In addition to the direct beneficiaries of the project who are the Mbororo cattle herders and crop farmers, other key stakeholders of the project will include:

- Local representatives of Government Technical Services (MINADER, MINEPIA, MINEE and MINEPDED);
- Regional and local administrative authorities (the Governor of the North West, the Senior Divisional Officers and the Divisional Officers);
- Municipal authorities (Mayors and councillors);
- Traditional Authorities (Ardos and Fons);
- Other NGOs working in the agro-pastoral and natural resource sectors.

How will the project be implemented?

The overall implementation approach of the project will be participatory considering the role of the various stakeholders vis-à-vis the persistent conflicts that characterize access to and management of natural resources in general and agro-pastoral resources in particular. MBOSCUDA and Village Aid UK will make combined efforts to bring on board all necessary stakeholders especially administrative authorities, local officials of relevant government technical services, local council officials, traditional authorities and above all, the main beneficiaries who are crop farmers and cattle herders. Also, gender-sensitive methods will be used to ensure that men, women persons with disabilities and youth participate in, and benefit from the project in a fair manner.

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Who are we?

MBOSCUDA is an association of the Mbomoro-Fulani people of the Republic of Cameroon. Its mission is to promote the economic, social and cultural development of its members in particular and the entire Mbomoro-Fulani communities of the country in general. Presently, MBOSCUDA has offices in seven out of the 10 regions of Cameroon. Since its creation in 1992, MBOSCUDA has implemented projects in several domains including education, human rights, agro-pastoral development, adult literacy, health and natural resource management.

What is “In Search of Common Ground”?

“In Search of Common Ground” (ISCG) is a 5-year project jointly developed by MBOSCUDA North West and a UK based NGO known as Village Aid. Its funding is provided by another UK based charity, the Big Lottery Fund. The main objective of the project is to alleviate poverty in the North West Region of Cameroon, by reducing conflict between indigenous crop farmers and semi-nomadic Mbomoro cattle herders. Conflict is the result of increasing competition over access to natural resources (land and water) that are central to the lives and livelihoods of both groups.

What does the project want to do?

The project will attain its objectives through the following activities:

1) Alternative conflict resolution:

The project will stimulate and promote dialogue among the many stakeholders of the persistent conflicts between indigenous crop farmers and cattle herders in identified conflict hotspots around the North West Region. This approach was piloted in 9 communities in Ngoketunjia, Donga Mantung and Menchum Divisions with remarkable results. The approach will be reinforced and extended to 14 other communities in Mezam, Mom, Boyo and Batika Division.

2) Capacity building in sustainable farming and grazing techniques:

The project will build the awareness and capacity of indigenous crop farmers and cattle herders on sustainable farming and grazing techniques. This will lead to better crop and livestock yields while protecting the natural resources of the region. To achieve this, the project will promote mutually beneficial alliances between crop farmers and cattle herders. Through these alliances, crop farmers will benefit from cattle manure to improve their yields and cattle herders will benefit from crop residues to feed their animals. Equally, biogas will be introduced as a sustainable and environmental friendly source of energy with a byproduct (slurry) which is a very effective manure for gardening. These activities will be carried out in collaboration with the local services of the ministries in charge of Agriculture and Livestock.

3) Improved Pasture:

This will involve introducing techniques for improving pasture so that it is more fertile and less prone to invasive species that degrade pasture resources. Improved pasture demonstration sites will be developed where Foliation (Dracharia, Guatemala and browse trees) will be planted.

iv) Improved access to clean and safe water:

This project will seek to improve access to clean and safe water for crop farmers and cattle herders in the project sites through the protection of water catchments that are of interest to these two categories of users. The project will also assist in the development of water sources to provide clean water to the communities concerned.

Where will the project work?

The activities of the project will be concentrated in 23 communities in the following Sub Divisions:

- Donga Mantung (Nd, Misage, Nkambe and Nwa Sub Divisions)
- Menchum (Wum Central, Menchum Valley and Pungom Sub Divisions)
- Ngoketunjia (Ndop Central, Babessi and Balai Kombat Sub Divisions)
- Mezam (Santa Sub Division)
- Boyo (Fundong Sub Division)
- Mom (Mbengwi and Batibo Sub Divisions)
- Bui (Jakiri, Mbwe and Noni Sub Divisions)