

Annual Report 2022



Stichting
Forest Peoples
Programme



Acknowledgements

Stichting Forest Peoples Programme (Stichting FPP), working in collaboration with Forest Peoples Programme (UK), continues to support forest peoples in Africa, Asia, and South and Central America in their struggles for self-determination, and to secure land rights and control over their traditional territories and futures.

Stichting FPP, in collaboration with FPP UK, has continued to help to create spaces for forest peoples' voices to be heard across complex local, national, and global political and social landscapes. Stichting FPP would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have made our work in 2022 possible.

Stichting FPP acknowledges and expresses our grateful thanks to the following for their support:

European Commission
European Climate Fund
Forest Peoples Programme (UK)

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About us

Stichting Forest Peoples Programme is a human rights organisation that works in close collaboration with Forest Peoples Programme (UK). The two organisations work together with forest peoples to secure their rights to their lands and their livelihoods. Forest Peoples Programme (both organisations) works alongside more than 60 partner organisations representing indigenous peoples and forest communities from across the globe.

Nearly all forests around the world are inhabited

The peoples who live in these forests have customary rights over them and have developed ways of life and traditional knowledge that are attuned to their forest environments. Yet forests are commonly treated as empty lands controlled by the state and available for development, settlement, logging, plantations, dams, mines, oil wells, gas pipelines and agribusinesses. These encroachments often force peoples out of their forest homes, whilst many conservation schemes such as wilderness reserves and protected areas also deny forest peoples' rights.

Our Vision

Forests are owned and controlled by forest peoples in ways that ensure sustainable livelihoods, equity and well-being based on respect for their rights, knowledge, cultures, and identities.

Mission

Stichting Forest Peoples Programme supports the rights of peoples who live in forests and depend on them for their livelihoods. We work to create political space for forest peoples to secure their rights, control their lands and decide their own futures.

Strategic Approaches

Self-determination

Supporting and advancing the exercise of self-determination by indigenous and forest peoples by strengthening territorial governance, mobilisation and representation, and the creation and use of political spaces where indigenous and forest peoples' voices can be heard.

Access to Justice

Ensuring access to justice by developing and using accountability and redress mechanisms in both public and private institutions that are directly accessible to indigenous and forest peoples and their communities.

Legal and Policy Reform

Partnered advocacy towards legal and policy reform and the development of best practice and standards consistent with indigenous and forest peoples' rights in international law.

Building Solidarity

Networking, sharing information and building solidarity for coordinated action among a wide range of actors.

Our work in 2022

As explained in our 2021 Annual report, in mid-2021, Stichting FPP and FPP UK (together “FPP”) changed their organisational arrangements, to meet and anticipate changing regulatory requirements in the post-Brexit environment to ensure access to and future engagement with the European Union and involvement in the EU, although the two organisations continue to collaborate closely. In line with this, Stichting FPP focussed on two principal projects: the first, a European Commission-funded project in Cameroon (Project Keta) which concluded this year at the end of March 2022, and the second a project focussed on EU policy engagement funded by the European Climate Fund (ECF).

The Stichting’s work supports elements of all of the strategic approaches mentioned above, both directly and in collaboration with FPP UK. For further details on our joint work, see FPP UK’s annual report <https://www.forestpeoples.org/en/annual-report-2022>.

Participants at the Gbabandi youth general assembly, held in Abong Mbang in Feb-March 2022. Credit FPP



Our work in Cameroon

Our work in Cameroon came to a close in 2022 with the end of the EU-funded Project Keta (“Keta” means “dream” in Baka). Our work under the Keta project centred on supporting strengthened participation by indigenous Baka communities as well as indigenous civil society organisations in natural resource management, to enhance respect and protection for indigenous peoples’ human rights. Our work under this project included communities in the Ngoyla-Mintom forest block traversing the South and East regions of Cameroon, alongside our direct partner Association Okani. As part of the project, Stichting FPP also worked closely with Gbabandi (the forest indigenous peoples’ platform) and its constituent members (indigenous community-based organisations), which was a particular focus of the last phase of our work.

Some highlights of this work during 2022 include:

- Supporting the Baka communities of Se’eh and Assoumindélé to prepare, with the assistance of a technical consultant, a simple management plan for their community forest, and submit their request for a definitive management agreement to the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna (MINFOF).

“The project has greatly supported the two communities of Se’eh and Assoumindélé on aspects of awareness raising on the reserve and the Djoko community forest by reorganising the latter’s office in order to introduce the request for a definitive agreement, it has facilitated inventories carrying out environmental impact studies in order to draw up the simple management plan through the NGO PAPEL document which is currently at MINFOF for validation and a copy has been presented to them.”

Ekanga Roger, Baka chief of Se’eh

“The keta project has conducted awareness-raising and training in many Baka communities, particularly in those of Se’eh and Assoumindélé, which encourages the preservation of a plot of land specific to them, which is the community forest. If ever awarded, it will be a great heritage given that this part of the country is very much in demand by large companies who want to destroy the entire forest for their purposes, meetings with the administration and NGOs and MINFOF were organized during this project.”

Mengwa Gaston, Baka Chief Assoumidélé

- Supporting a series of events from January to March to review, revitalise and strengthen the Gbabandi platform, including a review meeting of the steering committee (January) and of the Gbabandi women’s forum, the inaugural meeting of the Gbabandi youth forum, culminating in the annual general meeting held in March 2022. The annual general meeting built on the preparations of the previous events, allowing Gbabandi to renew its mandate and reconnect with Baka, Bagyeli, Bakola and Bedzang community members. 85 indigenous peoples attended the meeting, which was held at Bidjouka, near Bipindi.

“The member associations of Gbabandi should thus behave like the components of the termite mound. Each must work for the good of the communities at the local level, but also for the solidification of the Gbabandi platform. That each of the associations according to its capacities and skills plays its role for the good of the communities and Gbabandi.”

Venant MESSE, Coordinator of the Gbabandi Platform

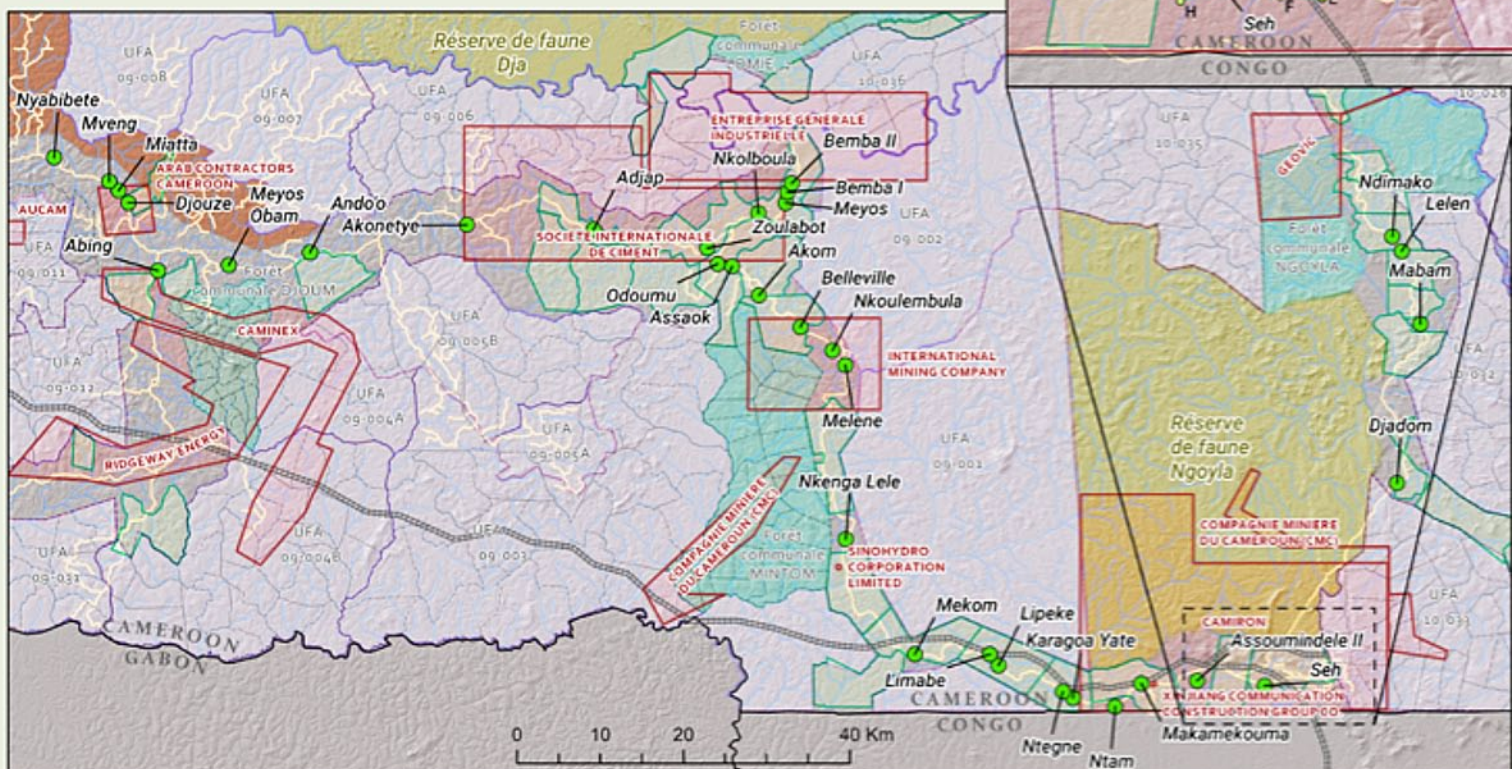
“This is a completely new experience for me, because I have never attended this type of meeting before. I have often heard of the Bagyéli and Bédzang who are brothers and sisters, but because of the distance we had never met. I think that this initiative to have an indigenous youth forum in Gbabandi must be our creed every day in order to strengthen our ties despite the language differences, but we have the same history and we fight for the same cause.”

Sonia Eyenga, young indigenous woman

"We are gathered within our forum to be one and indivisible. We, the village leaders, will help ensure that young indigenous people are always involved in matters that affect our communities. The Chiefdom has taken on a very large dimension in the organization of Cameroonian society and I think that we have opportunities to seize through the Gbabandi and the youth forum which must be a secular arm of the great platform. As I feel, I see in us young people a new horizon and we are responsible for taking up this great challenge, which is to strengthen Gbabandi and participate in the efforts that have already been made, so that through our advocacy actions, indigenous communities can truly flourish."
 Ivérique Nkopani, young leader and 3rd degree traditional Chief

Situation des communautés baka dans le projet Keta au Cameroun

- Villages Baka
- Coordonnées des limites de la F.C. Djoko
- Réseau ferroviaire
- Autoroute
- Forêts communautaires
- Forêt communale
- Permis miniers
- Réserve de faune
- UFA
- Plantation à grand échelle



Our work in the EU

During 2022, Stichting FPP continued to strengthen its work on EU policy, with its Brussels-based staff supporting EU policy work for both the Stichting as well as the UK charity. Our work in the EU involves close collaboration with staff and partners of both organisations and aims to improve the respect for forest peoples' rights in key EU policies, including by supporting direct input by indigenous peoples and community representatives.

Building on our work in 2021, Stichting FPP continued to follow the EU's proposed deforestation regulation as well as its corporate sustainable governance proposal, as well as engaging with related processes such as the corporate sustainability reporting directive.

Much of 2022 was focussed on preparations for the trilogue negotiations for the deforestation regulation, which culminated in an agreement between the European Council, Parliament and Commission on 6 December. FPP worked closely with the Forest Coalition throughout this process. The final results agreed in December reflected a mixed success – there was serious engagement on human rights, and specifically forest peoples' rights, in the process, particularly by the Parliament. The European Parliament managed to negotiate further provisions requiring companies to assess and respect compliance with these rights as part of their due diligence processes, specifically where they form part of national law. The final regulation text however fell short of requiring companies to comply with all international human rights law requirements related to indigenous and forest peoples' rights, after pushback from a few key member states.

The much-awaited corporate sustainability due diligence proposal – the legislative proposal emerging from the corporate sustainability initiative - was also launched by the European Commission in February 2022. After facing multiple blockages in the pre-proposal stages, the proposal was a pared down version of what had originally been expected, losing initial proposals to include director accountability. Over the course of 2022, FPP together with its indigenous and forest peoples partners as well as European allies, assessed the proposal and began preparing for trilogue negotiations on this proposal, due in 2023. Among other improvements it is seeking, FPP will focus its efforts on rebuffing the attempt by the European Council to remove indigenous peoples' land rights from the list of primary rights that companies need to consider when doing due diligence, which emerged from the General Approach adopted by the Council in November 2022.

Publications

Community Conservation in Cameroon (En, Fr)
May 2022

This report, completed by consultant Michelle Sonkoue Watio, analyses the options and limitations for community conservation within the existing Cameroonian legal framework.

What will the European Commission's proposed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive mean for the human rights of indigenous peoples and of local communities? (En, Sp, Fr, Bahasa Indonesia)
September 2022

FPP's assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the EU's corporate sustainable due diligence proposal.

Ensuring Women's Participation in Community Forestry in Cameroon (Fr)
June 2022

This report looks at challenges and gains for women's participation in the Djoko community forest, shared by the Assoumindele and Se'eh Baka communities, in East Cameroon

In Cameroon, Indigenous women reveal their struggle (Fr)
April 2022

Video documentary co-produced with Gbabandi from the Gbabandi Women's Forum held in 2022.

CERD Parallel report on the Republic of Cameroon
(En, Fr)
March 2022

Submitted jointly by Association Okani and FPP. Okani also delivered a live intervention to CERD's 106th session, highlighting key recommendations of the parallel report.

Preventing human rights violations associated with deforestation: why reliance on local laws is not enough (En)
April 2022

Briefing explaining why laws on deforestation in supply chains need to protect human rights under international law, not rely only on protections at national level.

Certification blog series: Views from the ground (En)
August 2022

First of a planned series of blog pieces highlighting community perspectives on certification processes

- Norman Jiwan **Certification is just the beginning** (En, Fr, Sp, Bahasa Indonesia)

The true meaning of free, prior and informed consent: a response to the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation (En, Fr, Sp)
December 2022

Blog piece explaining the legal basis for the right to free, prior and informed consent, in response to a Swedish government paper seeking to limit its application.

France: the last barrier to forest peoples' protection in EU law (En, Fr)
December 2022

Blog piece explaining the background and history of France's opposition to the recognition and protection of forest peoples' rights, and collective rights in general.

Financial summary

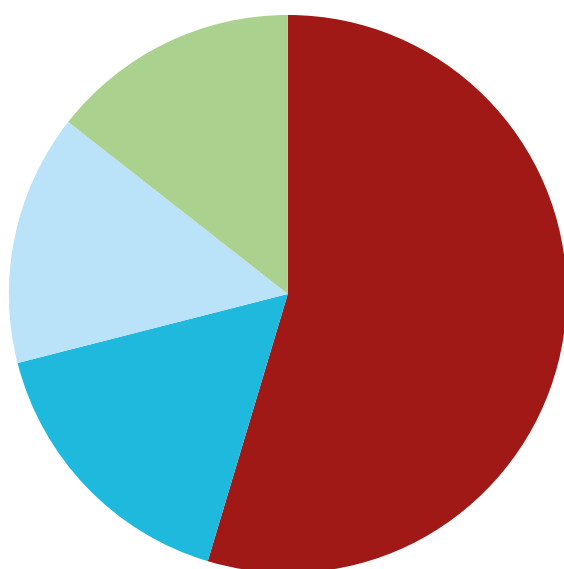
Stichting FPP

Stichting FPP is very grateful to the donors who have supported its work in 2022, specifically the European Union and the European Climate Foundation. Stichting FPP's work has also been made possible through donations from Forest Peoples Programme UK

Stichting FPP's annual income for January-December 2022 amounted to €191,376, and the Stichting is in a stable financial position for continuing its work, in collaboration with Forest Peoples Programme UK, and other partners, in 2023.

Our financial reports can be found online at <https://www.forestpeoples.org/en/annual-report/stichting-fpp-annual-report-2022>

Stichting Forest Peoples Programme expenditure 2022



■ Direct project costs	55%
■ Partner work in the field	16%
■ Project operational costs	15%
■ Administration and overheads	14%

Board of Trustees and Staff

Board of trustees FPP NL

Tamara Mohr: (Chair)

Janneke Bruil: (Secretary)

Richard Williams: (Treasurer)

Staff

Anouska Perram: Senior Counsel, FPP NL Co-ordinator [until April 2023]

Antoine Gibert: EU Policy and Advocacy officer

Michèle Batende: Gender and Safeguarding Officer, Cameroon (until March 2022)

Catherine Clarke: Country Lead, Cameroon (until March 2022)

Stephen Nounah: Lawyer, Cameroon (until March 2022)

Macnight Nsioh: Project Officer, Cameroon (until March 2022)

Agata Pilarz: Project Manager (until March 2022)

Brian Rault: Institutional and Grants Finance manager [FPP NL Co-ordinator from April 2023]

Tom Rowley: Mapping & Monitoring Officer (until March 2022)

*Most of the above staff worked only part-time for the Stichting

Associates

In 2022, our group of Associates acted as advisors to the Boards and Staff of both FPP UK and Stichting FPP. Associates are experts in their field, and are invited, known and trusted allies of our work. We thank:

Helen Newing

Jérémie Gilbert

Norman Jiwan

Conrad Feather

Catherine Clarke

Forest floor, Cameroon
Credit: Tom Rowley, FPP



FPP Netherlands (FPP NL/Stichting Forest Peoples Programme) is a non-profit Stichting (foundation) in the Netherlands (RSIN 805925673) registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (KVK number: 41265889), with the registered office address below.

FPP holds Special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC and has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

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