

Visit of the Mbalmayo School of forestry (Central Province, Cameroon)



On 14 January 2005, Dr. James Gasana (Intercooperation) visited the Mbalmayo School of Forestry to discuss with the School authority the progress made by the ITTO project PD 77/01 Rev. 2 (I) "Contribution to the development of skills and technical training structures at the Mbalmayo School of forestry", co-financed by the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs (**seco**).

The Mbalmayo Forestry School is located at Mbalmayo, Central Province, Cameroon. It was created in 1949 as a Center for apprenticeship in forestry. It evolved into a Technical Forestry School in 1952, and a Forestry School School in 1966. The missions of the School are as follows:

- Train the middle level personnel of the forestry administration, at sub-technical (Cycle C), technical (Cycle B1) and sub-professional (Cycle B2) levels.
- Conduct applied and experimental research.
- Organize continuous education modules.

The training offered by the School consists of courses in general science, forestry, social sciences and economics. The duration of training for any of the cycles of training is two years.

The objective of the ITTO project is to assist the Government of Cameroon in the restructuring of its forest sector so that it can increase its contribution to the national economy, poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. The project focuses on capacity strengthening and improvement of the training conditions of the Mbalmayo Forestry School. This includes upgrading existing school facilities such as the library, the arboretum and the wood workshop, establish new facilities such as an herbarium and a research unit on silviculture, wood technology and forest genetics, and

providing retraining abroad for the school teachers in wood technology, trade and marketing.

On his visit, Dr. Gasana visited the School's infrastructure and facilities, including the Main Building (3 levels), administration offices, classrooms, library, and laboratories. This visit coincided with a day on which examination juries were organized, which allowed him to interact with students and jury members. He noted a significant contribution of the project to the improvement of the teaching facilities. This includes computer acquisition and installation, Internet access and use, the upgraded library, the new machines in the wood workshop, the establishment of a herbarium.