

SUDCAM SUPPORT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NEIGHBOURING BAKA INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

As part of the implementation of SUDCAM's social action plan for the benefit of Local and Indigenous Baka Riparian Communities validated by Corrie MacColl in February 2021, developed freely and objectively by said communities at the end of a joint SUDCAM – APIFED mission, several achievements have been actioned to date, namely:

1) Funding

- Financial support for the official recognition of the first Baka chief of third degree in the South Cameroon Region during the official and traditional installation ceremonies in Assok, site of the Baka Living Museum and the 60,000 hectares of forests and new resources for the benefit of all Baka in Cameroon and elsewhere;
- Donation of 05 (five) brick presses to Baka communities
- Support for the improvement of living environment on sites associated with the Baka by the Cameroonian administration



2) Agriculture: Support for maize seeds, phytosanitary treatment products and equipment to be used jointly with the Bantu people.

3) Education

- Coverage of all supplies, tuition fees and exams for all Baka children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, primary and secondary schools for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years
- Food support throughout the 2020 – 2021 school year for Baka children enrolled in secondary school in Djoum
- Minimum package donation for all schools supervising Baka children



4) Health

- Full care of the health care of Mr. NKOLLO Tadhée, Baka leader of the community of Nyabibete by Djoum - ranging from first aid to surgery and chemotherapy to his total recovery



- Care of a Baka patriarch up to surgery
- Support for the organization of the funeral of a Baka patriarch who died at the Sangmélima Reference Hospital at the beginning of surgery
- Total health care of a Baka matriarch in Edjom Baka by Meyomessala on two occasions

- 5) **Access to drinking water:** Drilling construction underway in two Baka communities for ten Sudcam streams



6) **Support for the valorization and promotion of Baka culture:**

- Financial support for the organization of the 4th edition of the Baka Dream Days Cultural and Tourist Festival in Assok
- Financial support for the organization of activities marking the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, 2021
- Financial support for the production of the first album of a Baka musician of Edjom / Meyomessala

IN PERSPECTIVE:

1) **Support for income-generating activities:**

- Processing of Non-Timber Forest Products: financing of a processing unit for NWFP and other agricultural products following training already started by APIFED
- Agriculture: Strengthening agricultural production
- Fish farming: support for the development of NWFP processing units and agricultural products

2) **Land tenure security:**

- Financial support for the protection of the 60,000 hectares of forest for the benefit of the Baka in Assok / Mintom, and improvement of the habitat as a means of securing the areas recognized to the Baka;
- Support for housing construction in the ten riparian communities

3) **Support for the recognition and promotion of Baka culture**

- Support for the organization of the Baka Initiation Days in December 2021 where everyone is invited to experience and hear the stories of the Baka
- Support for the organization of the Baka CAN in Assok / Mintom in conjunction with the 5th edition of the Baka Dream Days festival
- Support for the establishment of the Baka Cultural Centre in Assok

- 4) **Ecotourism:** development of ecotourism with indigenous riparian communities in the 25,000 hectares of the SUDCAM concession

5) **Access to drinking water**

Completion of the two boreholes, and construction of new boreholes in the remaining eight (08) riparian Baka communities

6) Health

- Organization of medical campaigns in the three districts of Meyomessala, Meyomessi and Djoum
- Support with medicine and medical facilities for local health facilities

7) **Employment:** Recruitment of 05 (five) Baka youth in progress

KEY MESSAGE

It is clear that significant progress is being made on the ground for the benefit of the Baka Indigenous Communities on the basis of their priority needs, and satisfaction is clearly visible on the ground, although much remains to be done.

We invite all interested organizations and individuals to seize the following appropriate opportunities for any testimony, verification, exchanges, documents etc.: there are Baka initiation days from 15 to 17 December 2021 and in the Baka CAN village from 9 January to 7 February 2022, organized by the associations Baka ABEDEME (Association of Baka Committed for Development of Meyomessala and Surroundings) and AKOK-BAC (Association of Kobo / Patriarchs and Traditional Baka Chiefs of Cameroon) accompanied by APIFED and with the support of SUDCAM.