

PROJECT/PROGRAMME PRESENTATION SHEET:

Project/programme title: **Training, Production and Marketing of Handicraft Products in Handicraft Villages.**

Sector: **Handicraft.**



Scope of activities: Yaounde, Douala, Maroua, Garoua, Ngaoundere, Bertoua, Ebolowa, Bamenda, Limbe, Bafoussam, Foumban, Mbalmayo.

Starting date: 2013.

Nature of funding: Common Domestic Resources (RIO).

Main objective: Build, equip and operationalize handicraft villages all over the national territory in order to develop the sector and improve on life conditions of craftsmen. Specifically, the aim is to provide assistance to craftsmen and promoters of handicraft enterprises pursuant to the spirit of law *No Law N° 2007/004 of 03 July 2007 to regulate handicraft in Cameroon* and *Decree No 2010/2996/PM of 03 November 2010 to lay down its implementation provisions*.

Context and justification: Pursuant to the objectives set in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP), the Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicraft started the reforms that aim at organising and developing the handicraft sector in Cameroon. These reforms resulted in the drawing up by the Government, the adoption by Parliament and the promulgation by the Head of State, of *Law No 2007/004 of 03 July 2007 to regulate handicraft in Cameroon*. It was successively followed by *Decree No 2010/2996/PM of 03*

November 2010 to lay down its implementation provisions, Decree No 2013/0009/PM of 07 January 2013 to set up handicraft villages, Decision No 0077 /CAB/MINPMEESA of 11 July 2012 to publish the list (inventory) of handicraft trades, Decision No 0004 CAB/MINPMEESA of 25 January 2013 to specify registration modalities of craftsmen and handicraft enterprises in council registers. All these instruments contribute to the development of the handicraft sector in an environment marked by the government's will to create an added value to handicraft products in order to contribute to the creation of wealth and decent jobs. The implementation of handicraft villages across the national territory is one of the results of this policy. The Government intends to make reference and proximity places of these structures for handicraft activities.

Brief description: The setting up and functioning of handicraft villages comply with the provisions of Decree No 2013/0009/PM of 07 January 2013 to create handicraft villages. The latter are places for collective coaching of production, exhibition, marketing and animation activities earmarked for craftsmen and handicraft enterprises. They are placed under the supervision of the Ministry in charge of handicraft. Activities concerning production, exhibition, promotion and marketing and training can be carried out in these structures. Handicraft villages can be classified in three categories: *international handicraft villages, regional handicraft villages and special handicraft villages*. Each of these categories is operational: *the Yaounde International Handicraft Centre (CIAY), handicraft villages in all regions and Foumban and Mbalmayo special handicraft villages*. These structures harbour, without any discrimination, any craftsman that satisfies the conditions provided for by the regulation in force who has been registered in the council where he is located. It is managed by a committee chaired by the Regional Governor and made up of some officials that ensure a daily management of the structure in order to make it fulfil the purposes it was assigned. The management Committee of special villages is chaired by the Senior Divisional Officer.

Expected outputs: At the end of the realisation process, handicraft villages shall be built, equipped and functional in all regions of Cameroon and in Foumban and Mbalmayo cities to offer training and viable platform to craftsmen.

Observations: The Yaounde International Handicraft Center (CIAY) and the handicraft villages of Bamenda, Limbe, Maroua, Garoua, Douala, Bertoua and Ebolowa are already functional. The construction of Ngaoundere and Bafoussam handicraft villages are in their final phase and their inauguration shall take place in some months to come. The building of the Foumban and Mbalmayo special handicraft villages is underway.