

Geophysical Research Abstracts,  
Vol. 10, EGU2008-A-03354, 2008  
SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU2008-A-03354  
EGU General Assembly 2008  
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## **The use of rights based advocacy and community based volunteers' approaches in managing and resolving water conflicts in Cameroon; 'the case of the North West Province'**

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Advocacy in support of indigenous water settlement rights and Volunteerism, in the community water conflict areas of Cameroon, is a major factor in CDVTA's community water management programme. This strategy constitutes a powerful force in contributing substantially to the effective management and resolving of water conflicts between tribes and village communities in the North West of Cameroon.

The use of rights based advocacy and community based volunteers' approaches in managing and resolving water conflicts, is an initiative that brings together, middle aged people, traditional rulers, opinion leaders, religious leaders, government departments, water related civil society organizations and human rights activists, with a strong desire to make a significant contribution to the management and resolution of water conflicts in their communities. These water conflict mediators are usually people who are open to learning, open minded, curious, willing to share their own experiences on water conflict resolution and mediation.

The presentation also addresses successful strategic rights based approaches, pays more attention to, successful volunteer motivation/management procedures as fol-

lows: i) recruitment & placement, ii) volunteer recognition iii) personal development. iv) Sense of duty v) orientation and training vi) creating action plans vii) progress reviews viii) communication management ix) social recognition etc.

In conclusion, the paper states, that together, the volunteers and the communities are using their own local ideas and initiatives, to become their own water conflict management viable programmes and projects. CDVTA has indeed; maximize opportunities, for community water management conflict change and transformation with more credibility and creativity, through exploiting the magic of difference in volunteers' true characters and rights based approaches, to work towards congruence, in resolving water conflicts in the communities. Volunteer and rights based strategic approaches to water conflict transformation is a means of facilitating volunteer/community participation, project ownership, capacity building, empowerment and learning of key role players in the transformation process.