



Integration of Biodiversity in Cameroon

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1. Introduction

Cameroon reported¹ that in Cameroon, Biodiversity conservation is integrated into eleven sectors and their relationship is summarised in Table 1 below:

Operators in each sector have been sensitized on the need to sustain the services in each domain by:-

- Operating in a manner to conserve or assist in sustaining the resource base.
- Use the resource in a manner beneficial to the community

Table 1. Biodiversity Conservation Integration into other Sectors

Sector	Integrated Activity Of Biodiversity	Form ofIntegration
Agriculture	Cameroon has five agro-ecological zones (Fig 11) Plantation agriculture in coastal marine ecosystems-rubber, banana, oil palm, - Peasant farming – Cocoa, coffee, food crops, vegetables in all ecosystems - Agricultural research- Five research stations - Microbial species and soil fertility- <i>Mycorrhiza</i> , <i>Rhizobium</i> species	Use of environmentally sound technologies
Health	Ethno-botanical studies - Korup, Bali Ngemba, Kupe Mwanenguba, Bakossi Pharmacopea Cameroon. Microbial species. Traditional medicine - used mostly in rural communities	Use of hygienic and safe health practices
Rural Development	- Rural economy from sales of biodiversity products: fish, food, wood and medicine - Royalties from logging communities: benefits from community forestry - Housing and furniture manufacture, infrastructure from forest materials, mat, grass for - roofing.	Use of environmentally sound technologies
Forestry	- Logging in the marine coastal, tropical dense humid forest ecosystems - Firewood and NTFPs - Conservation through regeneration and creation of PAs - Sustainable use through forest management	Use of sustainable forest resource management methods
Fisheries	- Industrial activities in the marine coastal, fresh water ecosystems – Conservation - through application of UNCLOS and FAO Code of conduct for responsible fisheries - Destruction of Mangrove vegetation of Douala Estuary and Rio del Ray by drying fish, - Construction and drying.	Use of sustainable fishery resource management practices
Mining	- Destruction of biodiversity of the coastal and marine biodiversity - Destruction of vegetation along the 1500km Cameroon Chadian Pipeline - EIA programme before mining operations - Pollution in the coastal marine ecosystem	Use of land restoration mining practices

¹ Cameroon (2009). Fourth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 95 pp.

Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity attractions-Wildlife in parks, beaches, landscape, botanic gardens, - Ecotourism in all the ecosystems - Endemic and newly discovered species. - Safari hunting in the Woodland Savannah Ecosystem 	Development and maintenance of touristic sites for continues and sustainable exploitation
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic finances into biodiversity activities - Agriculture, forestry, fisheries livestock. - Finance in biodiversity related projects by foreign NGOs in Cameroon, WWF, GTZ, SNV, CARPE - Banks- ADB, Islamic Bank, WB processing and commercialising biodiversity - Products-cash crops, timber. 	Financial investments towards environmental conservation projects
Trade & Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home-based industries on agriculture forests commodities - Wood industries, Agro-industries 	Respect of environmental legislations in internal and external trade
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research in agronomy - IITA - Veterinary research – IRZV - Forest research, Research in biotechnology – University of Yaounde, University of Buea 	Research programmes aimed at sustainable use of environmental resources e.g. biodiversity research
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional schools on biodiversity related courses - University of Yaounde, University of Dschang, University of Buea; - School of Agriculture, Bambui; - Schools of Agriculture and Forestry, Mbalmayo, School of Wildlife Garoua - School of Agriculture, School of Veterinary 	Inclusion of biodiversity in curricular
Non conventional animal breeding	The ministry of livestock now has a programme of non conventional animal breeding involving breeding of snails, frogs, guinea pigs, rabbits, cane-rats.	Increased sensitization towards environmental conservation during the practice of this kind of breeding

Integrating into other strategies and programmes

Considerable efforts have been made to integrate biodiversity into other national plans and strategies.

2. Poverty Reduction Plan

Concrete measures have been taken in the Poverty Reduction Plan on the following:-

Efforts at National Level:

- Promotion and strengthening of cooperative organisations – formed PNVRA, PNDP. 644 fishermen and 2826 fish- farmers
- PNDP manages programme the capital on natural resources (minerals, biodiversity) and they are financed by the world bank.
- Professional training in the fields of agric, livestock, fisheries, with assistance of French Cooperation.

Efforts at the Regional Level:

- Building reference laboratories to analyse the quality of pesticides and pesticides residues to products in the sub-region. MINPLAN 2006,

- Project on the Sustainable Management of Non-Timber forest products in Forest concession in Central Africa (with the technical and financial assistance of FAO)
- Centre Africain des Recherches sur Bananiers et Plantains (CARBAP) regrouping 5 Central African Countries,
- Commission des Basin du Lac Chad
- Central African Botanic Garden and Arboreta Network (CABGAN), where Limbe Botanic Garden is a member
- African Botanic Garden Network (ABGN)
- Cameroon Bio-sciences Society
- Réseau des Aires Protégé de l'Afrique Centrale (RAPAC)
- The Access Initiative (TAI)
- African Network for Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute (CIAT)
- Réseau Bioveg , Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie

3. National Plan for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals:

This is the decision on the global efforts to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. It encourages the development of activities in a way consistent with achieving the objectives of the CBD and "The 2010 Target". What is the specific national plan on the MGD? Table 45 summarises all national actions taking place towards achieving the **Millennium Development Goals** in Cameroon.

4. The Millennium Development Goals Achievement

A summary of achievements of the Millennium Goals in Cameroon is summarizes in Table 2

Table 2: Summary of Millennium Development Goals Achievement.

Prin. Goal	Government Action	Period
Hunger Food & Nutrition	Developed National Plan for Food Security National policy for nutrition and the action plans were validated in 2005	1995-2005
Poverty	Strategy and Action Plan on Poverty Reduction by: Stabilising the macro-economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activating the private sector - Developing the infrastructure - Regional integration - Improving human resources - Improving institutional setting and providing "Good Governance" 	2003
Disease	The Cameroon health strategy was adopted in October 2001 and was aimed at : - Fighting against Malaria in 2006, against HIV, <i>Tuberculosis & Onchocero</i>	2001
Illiteracy	Strategy on education was adopted with focus on the unprivileged, the girl child and the handicapped. - Programmes for basic, secondary and higher education.	2006

Environmental degradation	<p>Developed two action plans and National programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environnemental Management Actions Plan (PNGE) - National plan to fight against desertification <p>To cover the environmental and sustainable development sector, Cameroon has created three structures:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Consultative Commission for the Environment and Sustainable Development and (CNCDD) - Inter Ministerial Committees for the Environment (CIE) - Plan d'Action d'Urgence (PAU) from the 'Yaoundé Declaration' 	<p>1992-1995</p> <p>1999</p>
Discrimination against Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi- sectoral plan of action on the judicial status of the women and girl child and fight against violence and discrimination practice. - Sub- regional plan of action against trafficking on women and girls - Action Plan Against Genital Mutilation - Policy to fight the regional inequality and obstacles against educating the girl child. MAEPAT 2004 	<p>1999</p> <p>1998</p>
Policy on Gender Mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law on welfare, equality. Anti-poverty, the efficiency and the empowerment approaches, (VABI . 2001) 	
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Forestry Action Plan containing 82 projects to last for 10 years, a Programme of Action, projects on Forest Management, Remote Sensing, Rural Forestry, Industrial Development, Wildlife, Development of NTFPs, etc. - Programme of forest management and conservation of biodiversity - Creation of the sectoral forest wildlife policy including the DSRP and PPTE programmes and using the lessons gained from PNGE of PAFN and PAU 	1995
Rural Development	<p>Government development strategy document for the rural development, aimed at improving rural development and improving production it focuses on 5 areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local development, improved production, strengthen institutions, management of natural resources, developing financial mechanisms for the rural sector 	
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaboration of the Tourism Policy - Creation of a National Tourism Council presided by the Prime Minister; - An engagement by the State to ensure the security of tourists - Opening of tourist information offices all over the world - Authorisation of chartered flights from all foreign destinations - Encouragement of eco-tourism by identifying/improving tourist sites nationwide 	
Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mining code developed - Creation of Ministry of Mines, Water and Energy. Then separated to Ministry of Mines in order to focus on mineral wealth - So as to focus more on the mineral wealth. - Identified sites with mining potentials of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class A minerals: Nickel, Cobalt, Rutile - Class B - Iron - Class C - Wolframite, Uranium - Extensive exploitation of certain mineral resources - Hydrocarbons, Gold, Diamonds 	
Fishing	<p>There is a policy on Marine Coastal Ecosystems and biodiversity conservation. There are fishery regulations in the law.</p> <p>Many Cameroonians earn their livelihoods on fishing and fish-farming</p> <p>80 % of 100 000 tons / year are artisans while 20 % is individual fishing . provides 240 000 jobs</p>	

5. National Sustainable Development Plan

- Creation of CNCDD and placed under the Prime Minister's authority;
- Expected to follow up the implementation of recommendations of Agenda 21
- Prepare Government's constitution towards the U.N.O's Commission for Sustainable Development.

- The Inter-ministerial Committee on the Environment (CIE) exists and coordinates the role of the PNGE on all environmental studies and decisions.

6. National Action Programme to Combat Desertification

- Sensitization, training
- Preparation and attendance of Conference of Parties meetings
- Follow up and practicing the resolution
- Acting on the programme of “Green Belts”
- Follow up and putting in action the National Observatory on Desertification.

7. National Plan for Good Governance Based on NEPAD Partnership Principles

The National Good Governance Programme was structured to consist :-

A steering committee, a national coordination, the agency for its working and sectoral consultative committees. Main objectives are :

- Bringing administration closer to the people,
- Consolidating the state of law
- Clean financial management and accountability, fight against corruption
- Decentralise administration to allow participation in management

Already 360 local councils have been created in Cameroon as a major step towards decentralisation.

8. Financial Adjustment Programme

Undertaken in 1995/1996 to:

Consolidate economic growth, reduce inflation rate, stabilize public finances, improve on external adjustment initiative. Reacted on trade restrictions by abolishing quantitative import restrictions, suspend administrative bottlenecks; got rid of imbalances caused by preferential tax regimes, introduction of VAT in 1999, introduced forest revenue securitization programme.

9. National Plan for Food Security (NPFS)

The new agricultural policy, the new Food and Nutritional Action Plan aims at:

- Reduction of pre and post harvest losses and improvement in food conservation;
- Improvement of food production through increase of animal and crops products;
- Improvement of marketing and processing of food products;
- Improvement of the infrastructure to ease the commercialisation of food products;
- Improve the food security of urban and rural dwellers.

Other convention processes

Internationally, Cameroon has ratified over 39 biodiversity related conventions and put in considerable effort in implementing them. The following are among the list: CITES, OMS, RAMSAR, World Heritage Convention, Rio Convention, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Information on the conventions and implementation processes are contained in Table 3.

At national level, Government has transformed policies and international Conventions into 13 appropriate biodiversity related legislations, most of them with their accompanied text of application. Institutionally, Cameroon has created appropriate institutional structures – Ministerial and private sectoral organisations for the safe management of its biological resources. Reference is made to the creation of Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature 2005, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Industries, Ministry of Scientific Innovations, Ministry of Tourism.

In the private sector, there are national and international institutions which play an important role in the management of the countries biodiversity. There are over 20 of such institutions.

Table 3: Information on Convention Processes in Cameroon

Convention	Ratification Date	Focal Point Institution
Convention on biological Diversity (CBD)	19 : 10 : 94	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature
Convention on International Trade on endangered species(CITES)	05 : 6 : 81	Ministry of Forest and Wildlife
Ramsar Convention	? : ? : 2005	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature
World Heritage Convention	07 : 12 : 82	Ministry of Culture
Convention on the Fight Against Desertification	25 : 05 : 97	Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
Convention on Climate Change	29 : 05 : 97	Convention on Climate Change
Convention on the Conservation f Migratory Species	07 : 09 : 81	Ministry of Forest and Wildlife
The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	19 : 11 : 85	Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Industries
African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.	29 : 09 : 78	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature
Kano Convention on African Migratory Locusts	27 : 07 : 64	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Convention for cooperation in Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems	?	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature
The International Tropical Timber Agreement	19 : 11 : 85	Ministry of Forest and Wildlife
UNESCO Convention on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)	?	Ministry of higher Education
Montreal Protection on Substances that deplete the ozone layer	30 : 08 : 89	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature