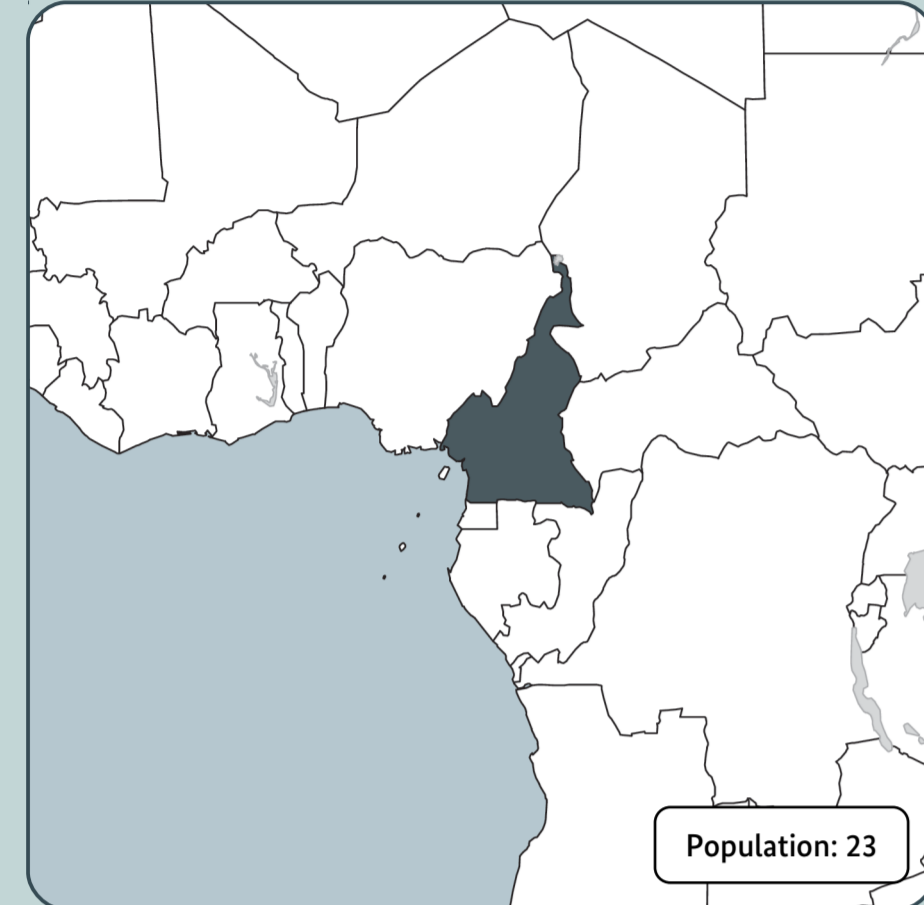


The Republic of Cameroon - Efforts towards conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing.



Cameroon is referred to as Africa in miniature due to its rich biodiversity which is a broad representative of Africa's ecosystems. Within the African continent, Cameroon ranks fourth in floral richness and fifth in faunal diversity and represents 92% of Africa's ecosystems. Cameroon's vision 2035 for growth and development alongside its main priority interventions defined in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP), recognizes the natural resource potential of the nation as a natural wealth for the country's socio-economic development.

However, of great concern is a regressive trend in these biological resources (a net annual deforestation rate of 0.14% the highest in the Congo basin) which is attributed to unsustainable practices. In the bid to address these challenges, Cameroon as a member State of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognized the strategic approach defined by the Strategic Plan of the CBD 2011-2020 and its Aichi objectives, as a reference framework for reviewing its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP II) in 2012.

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Acronyms

ABS	Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Access and Benefit-Sharing)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Cooperation)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEMP	National Environmental Management Plan
NIAP	National Ivory Action Plan
ONACC	National Climate Change Observatory
PIB	Public Investment Budget
REDD+	Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund for Nature
ZIC	Zone d'Intérêt Cynagétique (interest hunting zones)
ZICC	Zone d'Intérêt Cynagétique à Gestion Communautaire (interest hunting zones with community management)

C



Current state of protected areas' network and the development of wildlife resources

The network of protected areas in Cameroon is made up of areas classified under different statutes, corresponding to levels of varying protections.

There are 33 protected areas, 8 of which have management plans and 71 interest hunting zones.

In total about 15 protected areas have development plans and a dozen interest hunting zones have management plans.

These protected areas are full of various animal populations which are representative of Africa's wildlife. Major species include: elephants, lions, giraffes, leopards, hyenas, gorillas, wilderness, cheetahs, buffaloes, pangolins, hippopotamuses, great apes, grey red-tailed parrots, etc...

Area	Superficie (ha)	Superficie (km²)	Superficie (ha) de la réserve naturelle	Superficie (km²) de la réserve naturelle
01 Parc national	19	2,571,828	18,236	228
02 Réserve de faune	07	839,667	100	1,250
03 Réserve de faune	04	385,254	100	1,250
04 Jardin botanique	03	6,477	100	1,250
05 ZIC	46	4,128,797	100	1,250
06 ZIC (Zone d'Intérêt Cynagétique à Gestion Communautaire)	21	1,535,190	100	1,250
Total	103			

The expanse of protected areas in Cameroon

- Cameroon has set up an extensive network of protected areas with a total surface of 9,597,203, 57 ha (20.18% of the national territory) benefiting from the legal conservation status.
- Management Plans exist for major threatened wildlife (lions, elephants, Grey parrot, great apes) and flora species (Prunus africana, Pericopsis elata) as listed by CITES.
- No significant progress

A



Celebration of the International Day on Biological Diversity

For the 2016 edition of the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB), the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development devoted a week of activity for this celebration in the bid to sensitise the devoted stakeholders on the importance of biodiversity for human well-being.

With the support of various partners in development (GIZ, IUCN and WWF), several sensitisation and information activities were organized at the national and local level, widely disseminated by the media.

Concrete activities to illustrate the importance of biodiversity were marked by field visits to the Mount Cameroon National Park, the Dja Reserve and the far North Region.

More than 1000 'Environmental Clubs' have been created in secondary schools in the ten regions of Cameroon and are being followed up by MINEPDED.



Celebration of the International Day on Biodiversity (2016)

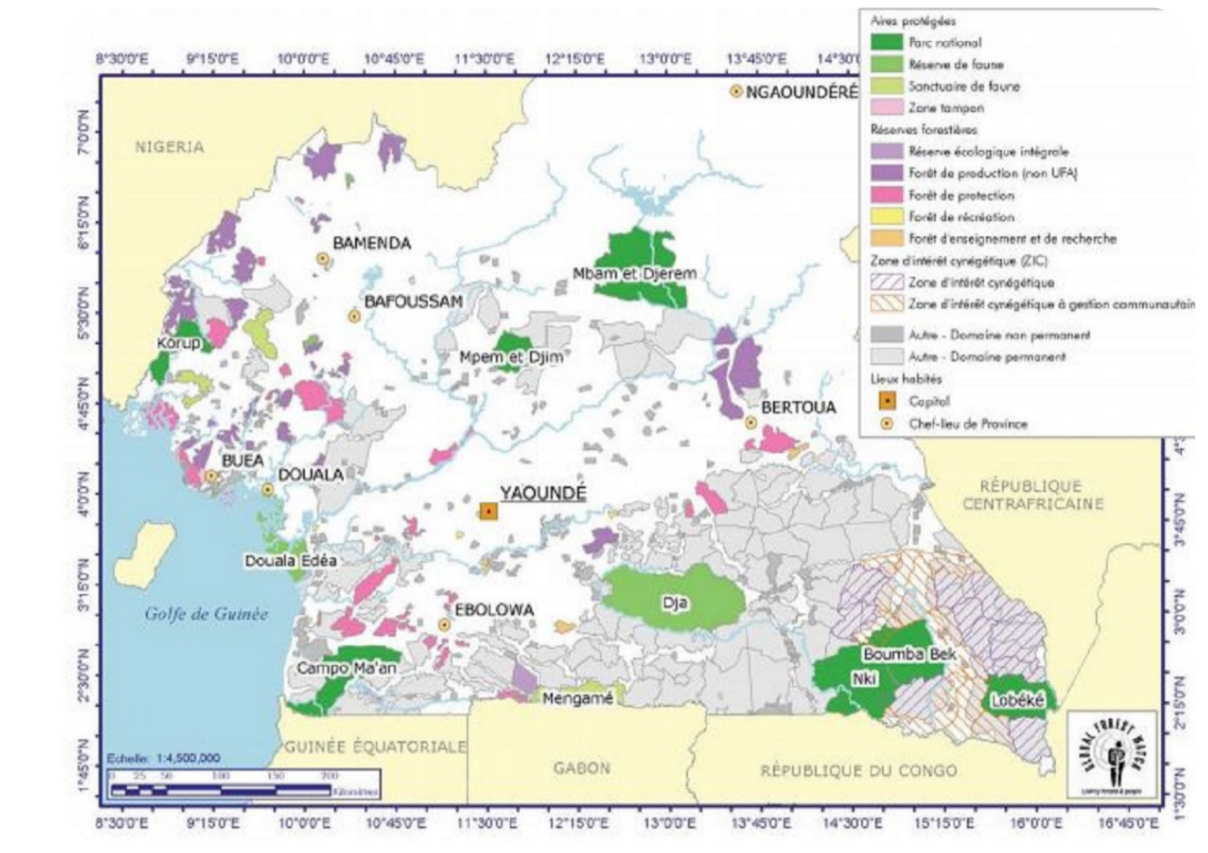
- Close to 11 million people - more than 50% of the population, particularly youth, have been sensitized through the yearly organisation (since 2010) of sensitization campaigns and workshops, via media (radio, television, journals) on the occasion of International Biodiversity Day Celebrations.
- The preservation of biodiversity (mainstreaming) in the productive sectors is a major axis of the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) which was developed in 2013. Cameroon has equally been in possession of a National Strategy for ABS since 2012.
- The Government has stopped the subsidy of pesticides through major sensitisation campaigns
- According to regulations in place, natural resources exploitation projects are subjected to the realisation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) and/or Sustainable Forest Development Plans.

B



Efforts towards the sustainable management of forest ecosystems

In December 1995, the zoning plan of Cameroon's southern forest was developed and promulgated by Decree; This zoning plan shares the forest territory into the permanent and non-permanent domains (fields) and imposes the sustainable management of forest ecosystems as a whole.



Biodiversity Protection and Wildlife Management (Global Forest Watch report)

- Cameroon presently has a zoning plan for the forestry sector
- The current regulations on fishing integrate measures for sustainable management (biological rest period, demarcation of fishing areas, acceptable fish size and control)
- A national master plan of land use planning is being elaborated.
- Legal texts on waste management, water treatment and fertilization control exist. The Department of Standards at MINEPDED equally ensures pollution control and the sound management of chemicals.
- A pilot project to combat the water hyacinth (invasive aquatic plant) is being implemented in Douala.
- Cameroon has developed and is implementing several strategic action plans in relation to terrestrial and coastal ecosystems.

D



Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Cameroon.

The following achievements have been made: Participatory development and validation, as well as the production and broadcast in 2 languages (French and English) of the National ABS Strategy, a memorandum of understanding and an order setting the terms and conditions of access to genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and of the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.

Mobilization and sensitisation of the traditional leaders of Cameroon.

Implementation of pilot projects for the valorising genetic material for Echinops giganteus and Mondia whitei.



The Echinops giganteus plant

- The number of forests attributed to communities for their economic development and restoration has grown from 76 (area of 241 466 ha) in 2004 to 560, (area of 1 743 594 ha) in 2014. In 2015, the total area replanted by communities and municipalities with the support of funding from the State within the framework of different programs ('Sahel Vert' etc.) is estimated at 48,000 hectares.
- Cameroon has signed, adhered and ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has set up the Observatory on climate change (ONACC). Cameroon is currently developing its strategic and institutional framework for the REDD+ initiative for the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation.
- Cameroon has ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing of Genetic Resources (ABS).

E



Sensitisation of parliamentarians on the economic value of biodiversity

The national Committee of the CBD functions as a platform for consultation and follows-up the implementation of the NBSAP

Parliamentarians through the Parliamentary Network for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPAR) were made aware of the importance and economic value of biodiversity finally to influence mainstreaming of biodiversity into the policy framework of the different sectors of production.

Since 2005, the realization of environmental and social impact studies incorporating aspects of biodiversity is mandatory and prerequisite to the realization of major projects.

Several protocols in collaboration with the technical and financial partners (GEF, GIZ, WWF, IUCN etc.) are engaged in carrying out actions in favour of biodiversity preservation.

The State allocates funds through the Public Investment Budget (PIB) for MINEPDED's biodiversity programme since 2014.



Sensitisation of parliamentarians on the economic value of biodiversity (2016)

- The development and adoption of the NBSAP (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan) by Cameroon in 2012.
- Cameroon developed and adopted the National Guidelines for obtaining the free prior and informed consent of communities in 2014 through the REDD+ process.
- Research laboratories in Cameroonian universities are currently working on various biological species in synergy with traditional users for the scientific establishment of the values of these species.
- The framework law on the environment provides for the establishment of Special Funds for the Environment.



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AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS

- Target "dashboard"**
- On track to exceed target (we expect to achieve the target before its deadline)
 - On track to achieve target (if we continue on our current trajectory we expect to achieve the target by 2020)
 - Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate (unless we increase our efforts the target will not be met by its deadline)
 - No significant overall progress (overall, we are neither moving towards the target nor moving away from it)
 - Moving away from target (things are getting worse rather than better)

A Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
- Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

E Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.