



REDD+ Country Profile

CAMEROON

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CONTACT

Dr. Kalame Fobissie
WWF-Central Africa, Forest
and Climate Coordinator
bfobissie@wwfcarpo.org

INTRODUCTION

Forests cover about 42 per cent (20 million hectares) of Cameroon's land area. Northern Cameroon contains vast savannahs whereas southern Cameroon has dense tropical forests. As of 2010, 46 per cent of Cameroon's forests were protected.¹ Cameroon is rich in biodiversity. In Africa, it ranks fourth in floral richness and fifth in faunal diversity and includes among its key fauna two subspecies of the western gorilla and the forest elephant.

Estimates on the rates of deforestation vary, largely due to poor data availability. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimated the rate of deforestation between 0.9 per cent and 1 per cent from 1990 to 2000.² But other studies have suggested a much lower average net annual deforestation rate, closer to 0.14 per cent for the period 1990-2000, with a gross average deforestation rate of 0.2 per cent.³

The direct causes of deforestation and degradation are the expansion of non-sustainable farming practices, the use of wood as a source of energy, logging operations and the development of infrastructures and activities linked with mining operations. Indirect causes of deforestation are demographic and economic pressures, including poverty and poverty reduction strategy, land tenure, forest policies and weak governance.

Nearly 20 million people live in Cameroon, with about half of them living in rural areas. Indigenous or forest-dependent people number 60,000.⁴ Monetary poverty in Cameroon is around 40 per cent, and 80-90 per cent of jobs are in the informal sector, accounting for 75 per cent of the workforce.

SNAPSHOT OF REDD+ PROGRESS IN CAMEROON

Governance

Setting the goals for REDD+, building the legal institutional arrangements to undertake it, and ensuring that all major REDD+ stakeholders can participate in its governance.

Goals

Has the country set ambitious and time-bound REDD+ goals and spelled out REDD+ guiding principles?

Accomplishments	In February 2013, a Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) REDD+ readiness of US\$3.6 million was approved enabling Cameroon to begin moving forward in its REDD+ preparations.
Ongoing	(None, or no information at this time)
Planned	REDD+ is a development tool to help achieve the sustainable development objective of the government, manifested in its Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE) and Cameroon Vision 2035.
Gaps/Next steps	When developing the national REDD+ strategy, identify targets, indicators and activities for REDD+ that allow for integration and contribution to the Cameroon Vision 2035.

Institutional arrangements

Are institutions in place to manage and coordinate REDD+ (e.g. inter-ministerial coordination, participation of all stakeholders secured)?

Accomplishments	The Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) oversees UNFCCC-related activities, whereas the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) administers the management of protected areas. Cameroon created a National REDD+ Steering Committee (SC) and its Technical Secretariat (TS) in June 2012 by law. The SC operates cross-sectoral in defining the REDD+ strategy and (project/programmes) implementation process. It consists of 19 members from ten government ministries, national assembly, civil society, indigenous peoples, the private sector, industrial syndicates and communes. The TS is the operational body of REDD+ in Cameroon. It coordinates the activities of the REDD+ process.
Ongoing	Both bodies are being operationalized. The first meeting of the SC took place in October 2012.
Planned	(None, or no information at this time)
Gaps/Next steps	Cameroon needs to strengthen the coordination of the inter-ministerial agencies in charge of forests, the environment and REDD+ activities. Roles and responsibilities between the MINEPDED and the MINFOF as well as other key ministries need to be clearly defined and articulated. It requires a credible stakeholder participation plan that reaches out to women and its indigenous communities.

Legal

Does the country have a legal framework that supports the implementation of REDD+ (e.g. special focus on land rights/tenure rights, carbon rights assigned)?

Accomplishments	<p>The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility approved Cameroon's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in February 2013. A national strategy is planned to be in place by 2015.</p> <p>Forest management and environmental management in Cameroon are governed, respectively, by the 1994 Forestry Law and the 1996 Framework Law relating to environmental management. These laws meet the needs of the stakeholders but have not, up until now, been able to achieve the hoped-for results.</p>
Ongoing	<p>The 1994 Forestry Law is currently under review in order to provide "adequate responses" to issues such as the integrated management of resources, the equitable use of forest tax revenues, participation of vulnerable groups in the management of forest areas and other forest products, access to forest products to reduce poverty in forest areas, the rights and needs of indigenous communities, and valorization of REDD+ opportunities.⁵</p>
Planned	<p>To date, Cameroon does not have a specific regulatory framework on REDD+. Regulations on REDD+ will be implemented during the design phase of the strategy in Cameroon.</p> <p>Legislation will cover the following aspects, among others: management entities for the process; participation procedure to the programmes; official REDD+ project/programme homologation/approval process; carbon rights (rights and obligations); revenue distribution; management of REDD+ revenues; conflict management; and monitoring (REDD+ registry).</p> <p>A revision process for the 1996 Framework Law on Environmental Management is under way.</p>
Gaps/Next steps	<p>Poor governance and weak law enforcement paired with a lack of human and financial capacity are the main barriers. Local communities have tenure rights limited to community forestry. Cameroon should improve and complete its reviews of forest (tenure) law and clarify the issue of forest carbon ownership. Furthermore, it needs to improve coordination between different land-use policies and practices.</p>

Tracking REDD+ Progress

Successful REDD+ implementation will depend on the country's ability to track and report on the state of the forests and REDD+ progress against a reference level.

MMRV

Advances in putting in place a measuring, monitoring, reporting and verification system for REDD+.

<p>Accomplishments</p>	<p>No MRV system is in place yet. In 2009 the Climate Change Observatory (ONACC) was created by law. Its mission is to monitor and evaluate the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the measures to prevent, mitigate and/or adapt to the harmful effects and risks tied to climate change.</p> <p>Cameroon gained useful experiences from past (REDD+ pilot) projects and has a considerable amount of data on its forests and forest carbon stocks.</p>
<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>WWF and other NGOs have been building the wildlife monitoring capacity within local communities. Different initiatives have begun to implement pilot projects with regard to forest monitoring/carbon mapping, including the provision and free access of new and archival satellite images.⁶ For example, the regional FAO-COMIFAC-CBFF MRV project intends to support the Congo Basin countries in developing national forest-monitoring systems and standardized approaches to estimate carbon stocks, in consistency with the IPCC guidelines. This implies reviewing existing data and methods, identifying gaps, and building capacities to develop protocols and allometric equations adapted to the Congo Basin.</p>
<p>Planned</p>	<p>Cameroon plans to develop an MRV registry to track projects and monitor carbon transactions.</p> <p>The reference scenario and MRV unit within the Technical Secretariat will be responsible for constructing the national reference scenario and the MRV system and for managing the register that will be the carbon stocks management tool. The TS will work in collaboration with the ONACC; ONACC will participate in monitoring the carbon stock and will play a role in the management of the register and the approval of REDD+ projects and programmes.⁷</p>
<p>Gaps/Next steps</p>	<p>ONACC needs to be operationalized, and one of its potential roles may be to monitor forest carbon. In this case, the roles of the TS and ONACC will need further clarification. Cameroon should launch additional MRV projects to further inform the development of a national MRV and forest-monitoring system. Capacity building is urgently needed to strengthen MRV technical staff of REDD+ TS to develop sound reference scenarios to monitor and track carbon emissions from deforestation based on best available data and methods that ensure climate integrity. The forest and land-use change data must be upgraded, organized, managed and transparent. Consistent methodologies must be identified to measure carbon stocks while tracking real and additional emissions reductions through REDD+ activities.</p>

Reference levels

Has the country developed on national or subnational reference levels? What approach was adopted (e.g. historical, historical adjusted)?

Accomplishments	(None, or no information at this time)
Ongoing	Different forest (carbon) mapping and monitoring initiatives are ongoing. See above.
Planned	Cameroon is developing its reference emissions level, which will be based on historical levels with adjustment factors and national and subnational implementation. Subnational reference scenarios related to the five agro-ecological zones will be established so that the expected national results take into account their specific dynamics.
Gaps/Next steps	The MRV cell of the TS needs to be established and operationalized. Cameroon must analyze its forest coverage, quantify past emissions using estimates of biomass from forest inventories and develop paths for emissions/sequestration based on modelling.

Getting REDD+ Done

Achieving REDD+ that is (a) undertaking intervention strategies that address the country drivers of deforestation and (b) mobilizing the financial resources to pay for it.

Addressing drivers of deforestation

What are the main strategies and programmes to reduce deforestation (e.g. increase protected areas, support shift to sustainable agricultural practices, increase law enforcement)?

Accomplishments	Cameroon's forest law stipulates that 30 per cent of the national territory be designated Permanent Forest Estate (DFP).
Ongoing	Studies to examine drivers of deforestation and degradation.
Planned	Cameroon aims to address direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and degradation through a two-pronged approach, namely investment in sectoral activities (agriculture and livestock, energy, forestry) and enabling activities (land-use planning, land ownership, governance). All activities will take into account the targets Cameroon has set for itself under the DSCE and the different characteristics of the five agro-ecological zones.
Gaps/Next steps	Cameroon's development strategy is at odds with REDD+: (1) Forestlands will continue to be converted to farmland to meet cropping area targets of 25 per cent by 2015; (2) Many mines are located in the forest regions of southern and eastern Cameroon, and the 2001 mining law puts mining ahead of other land uses; (3) Infrastructure development plans overlap with southern Cameroon's forest zoning plan; (4) Oil palm production is projected to increase from 40,000ha to 110,000ha over 10 years. A sound zoning and participatory land-use plan needs to map and officially approve niches for different sectoral programmes in order to avoid overlap and conflict with REDD+. An assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation needs to be carried out.

Finance

What resources is the country counting on to pay for REDD+ implementation (e.g. multilateral, bilateral, own country resources, voluntary and offset carbon markets)? How much has been committed, transferred and disbursed?

Accomplishments	According to the REDD+ database, Cameroon has US\$48 million in incoming funding (as reported by others). The majority of REDD+ financing has come through bilateral and multilateral channels for the support of specific projects, including the GEF, FCPC, EC, France, Canada, Japan, Denmark, UK, Norway and Germany. It's not clear which resources have been committed, transferred or disbursed.
Ongoing	An FCPF REDD+ readiness grant of US\$3.6 million was approved in February 2013.
Planned	Cameroon supports carbon markets and funds as sources for REDD+ finance. Required funding as identified in the FCPF Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) is as follows: US\$28.911 million for developing a national REDD+ strategy and US\$60 million for pilot projects, of which around US\$5.4 million is anticipated so far through different donors (FCPF, government funds, private sector, WWF and IUCN).
Gaps/Next steps	Funding needs to be accelerated to give REDD+ precedence over agro-business, logging and mining. Cameroon needs greater capacity to manage large flows of funding. No payments have been made for carbon yet.

REDD+ for People and Nature

Ensuring that the country REDD+ strategy (a) has in place adequate safeguards to protect vulnerable social groups and preserve tropical forest environments and that (b) beyond doing no harm, they also offer new income and livelihood opportunities to indigenous peoples, local communities and the rural poor.

Social and environmental safeguard

What safeguards is the country applying to/implementing (FCPF, UN-REDD, REDD, SES)? Are there safeguard information systems in place?

Accomplishments	The government is incorporating project-level safeguard activities into its national readiness process.
Ongoing	(None, or no information at this time)
Planned	A Strategic Environmental and Social Evaluation (SESA) will be prepared by 2015. This SESA will allow environmental and social considerations to be taken into account in the course of the preparatory and implementation phases of the REDD+.
Gaps/Next steps	In order to establish a safeguard information system, technical support is needed to assist the TS in conducting the SESA and identifying and developing monitorable indicators that are already being applied by frameworks such as FSC, FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) and other conservation programmes. In the establishment of a social and environmental safeguards framework with a preceding risk assessment, existing and acknowledged international agreements and guidance (FCPF, UN-REDD, UNFCCC, REDD, SES) should be followed and implemented where appropriate from the very beginning of the planning.

Benefit sharing

Is there a finance mechanism in place that secures fair distribution of benefits to indigenous peoples, local communities and the rural poor?

Accomplishments	No national or subnational fund and/or benefit-sharing mechanism for REDD+ is in place yet. One pilot payment for environmental services (PES) project has been implemented by CED, and lessons on benefit sharing are being learned and communicated.
Ongoing	A second community pilot PES mechanism for REDD+ is being implemented by WWF.
Planned	An analysis of existing rights to natural and forest resources and their potential impacts on a mechanism for equitable benefit sharing will be conducted. In addition, existing mechanisms with options for benefit sharing, such as the Annual Forest Fee or FEICOM, an inter-municipality Intervention fund, are being considered for their appropriateness as related to REDD+.
Gaps/Next steps	The forest tax system could inform benefit distribution. Cameroon should launch more projects demonstrating benefit sharing so that it can work toward developing an outline for a benefit-sharing plan. No comprehensive laws or policies address the rights of indigenous peoples.

WWF (PLANNED) ACTIVITIES UNTIL 2015 & PARTNERS

WWF contributed to the development of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Readiness Project Idea Note and the drafting of the Readiness Preparation Proposal.

WWF is a partner in the Ngoyla-Mintom project (2011-2016) in southeast Cameroon, working with local communities, the government and Wildlife Works Carbon. The project aims to improve forest management practices and reduce community dependence on the forest, develop benefit-sharing mechanisms and capacity building, and provide technical support activities on MRV.

Future planned activities include providing support to readiness activities and action plan in Cameroon, including FPIC, SESA, MRV, benefit-sharing mechanisms, trainings and capacity building.

In terms of partners, WWF works principally with COMIFAC, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Global Environment Facility/World Bank, Centre for Environment and Development, IUCN, FAO, CIFOR, ICRAF, Civil Society and CBOs.

100%
RECYCLED**OUR VISION**

WWF's global Forest and Climate Initiative is working to ensure that REDD+ significantly contributes to the conservation of tropical forest and thereby to the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation for the benefit of people and nature.

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Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.
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END NOTES

1. FAO, 2010. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010.
2. REDD Desk Country Profile, Cameroon; FAO 2006.
3. See Cameroon's RPP as of January 2013.
4. IUCN's pro-poor REDD+ project in Cameroon.
5. See R-PP as of January 2013, page 45.
6. GIZ, GAF, AFD-ASTRIUM, FAO, GEF, JICA.
7. See Cameroon's R-PP as of January 2013.