

THE ECONOMIC PROFILE OF CAMEROON



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Situated in Central Africa, Cameroon is endowed with immense natural and human resources and enjoying a strategic position in the Gulf of Guinea. It is considered a locomotive in its sub-region as it is a significant wealth production pole.

In line with the emergence 2035 vision of the President of the Republic, the country intends to achieve a two (2) figures sustained growth rate the current decade. In this regards, a National Development Strategy (NDS) was drawn up and adopted, having as main objective to promotion of local development at the local all over the national territory.

I. Strategic position

Geo-economic analysis has it that the country occupies a strategic Central Africa. Situated at the crossroads of two major geopolitical groupings (namely Central Africa and West Africa), Cameroon openness to the sea is an asset that position it as the only country in the CEMAC sub-region that borders all the others.

This natural advantage makes it a transit point for goods from the landlocked States of the sub-region such as Central African Republic and Chad.

II. Economic potentialities

Cameroon has significant deposits of raw materials. Being situated at the bottom of the Gulf of Guinea, an area renowned for



the good quality of its crude oil, partly contributes to make the country to be an "average" oil producer with this asset found in high sea and far from conflict zones.

Its large forest area makes it to be classified as the second largest forest in Africa. Moreover, it equally has the second hydroelectric potential of the continent.

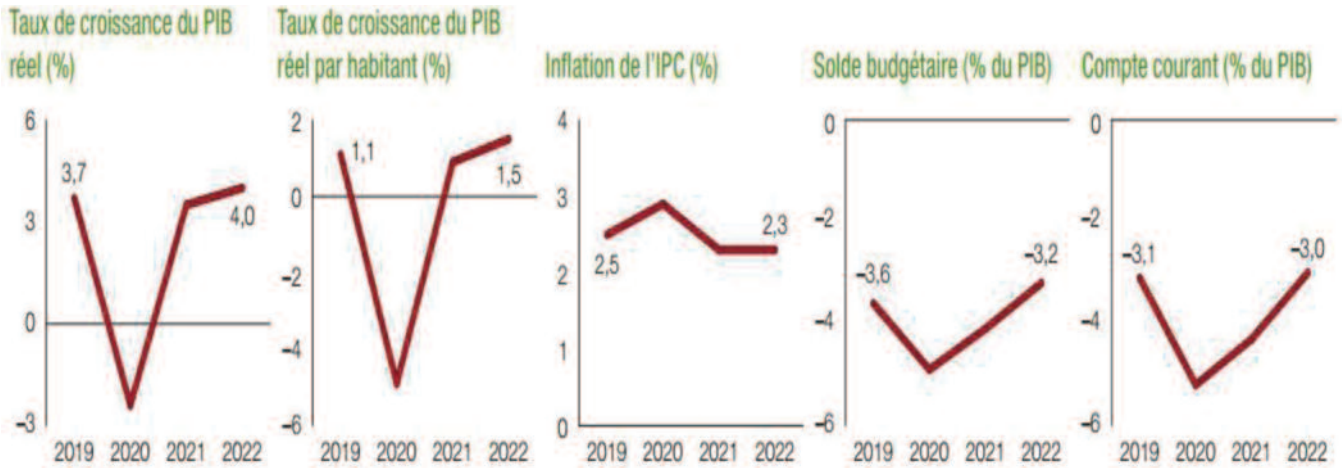
The ongoing development of this hydroelectric potential will enable it to meet not only its own electricity needs but also the needs of other countries in the sub region. In addition to these natural resources, Cameroon has a young dynamic population and is among the leading countries on the continent in terms of school enrolment, the number and density of professional school and universities. The availability of these factors of production is an important lever for business development in Cameroon.

III. Macroeconomic and financial data

Main economic indicators:

	2018	2019	2020 (e)	2021 (p)
GDP growth (%)	4,1	3,8	-3,0	3,0
Inflation (annual average %)	1,1	2,5	2,8	2,5
Government balance/ GDP (%)	-2,5	-3,3	-4,0	-3,5
Current account balance/GDP (%)	-3,6	-4,4	-5,5	-4,5
Public debt / GDP (%)	39,5	42,7	45,0	45,0

(e) : estimation ; (F) : forecasting



Source : Les données datent de décembre 2020 et proviennent des autorités nationales; données pour 2020 sont des estimations et données pour 2021 et 2022 sont des prévisions fondées sur les calculs des auteurs.

IV. Business climate

According to the classification made in 2017 by World Bank's Doing Business, an indicator of country having favorable business climate Cameroon improved by 10 position.

This performance is as a result of a good number of measures, aiming at rendering the business environment more attractive to investors. For instance, on the 9th March 2018, a dozens of resolutions were adopted as part of the 9th edition of the Cameroon Business Forum, which is a discussion platform between public authorities, private sector operators and Seven development partners.

This platform was initiated by the government. From this consultation, recommendations were made in pertaining to potential areas for business creation, payment of taxes, dispute settlement, cross-border trade, access to finance, access to loans, inspection and governance. These measures enabled to reinforce the already existing ones like the setup of business formalities and startup centres.

These institutions have made it possible to reduce administrative delays and the time taken to set up businesses to 72 hours, with a serious option of reducing them to 24 hours.

V. Why should you choose to invest in Cameroon?

The main assets of the Cameroonian economy are :

- A long period of political stability under the current regime;
- Cheap labour force;
- Abundant natural resources (agriculture, oil and mining);
- A diversified export-oriented economy (petroleum, mining and agriculture);
- Many ongoing infrastructure modernization projects enabled in particular by IMF loans;
- Monetary stability due to its membership of the CFA Franc zone;
- A lack of tax burden on the private sector;
- The decisive effects and impact of anti-corruption policy;
- The absence of risk of political tensions due to the resilience and stability of institutions;
- Freedom to open an establishment, since in Cameroon access to the profession of trader is free;
- The existence of a regulation concerning joint-ownership, which indicates that foreigners can be 100% owners of a company;
- existence of a sui generis structure for your investments represented by the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency in the country, which allows you to find out about the authorizations necessary for the implementation.

VI. Priority measures put in place by the government to facilitate foreign investment

The Cameroonian government has targeted certain sectors as priorities for investment:

transport, agro-industry, tourism and rural development. In order to attract more investors, large-scale programs are being implemented by the public authorities, with the support of donors, to improve justice's administration, increase the supply of energy, strengthen economic information, simplify procedures, support businesses, ensure the protection of the economic space against illicit threats.

Cameroon also has free zones in which all export-oriented enterprises can set up, i.e. producing goods and services intended exclusively for export. The benefits are many for the company:

exemption from any license, authorization or limitation of quotas for both exports and imports, possibility to open accounts in foreign currency, no restrictions on sales transactions, purchase of foreign currency, right to transfer profits abroad (however 25 per cent must be reinvested in Cameroon), exemption from taxes and duties over a period of 10 years from the start of activities, tax at an overall rate of 15 per cent on profits from the 11th year.

VII. Entrepreneurship

In Cameroon, young people aged 15 to 34 represent more than 1/3 of the residents and are sometimes more affected by unemployment, that's why Entrepreneurship in Cameroon appears to be a sector with high potential to be developed.

The Consumer Market Outlook is on the rise. Real GDP contracted by 2.4 per cent in 2020, while growth was 3.7 per cent in 2019 due to the COVID19 health crisis. That same year 14,229 new business start-ups have been created for a total of 209,482 companies in 2019. While 10 years ago the total was 93969.

Incentives measures:

- The government through MINPMEESA and organizations such as the CED (Cameroon Enterprises Development) has set itself the ambition to allow young people to see entrepreneurship as a voluntary and viable approach;
- Support the State through the granting of bank credits to companies in difficulty;
- Development of an entrepreneurial culture from secondary school in order to consider this alternative as a solution to the unemployment 'problems';
- Construction of business start-up centres to facilitate the process;
- Technical and financial support for SMEs by the State Cf: MINPMEESA's advocacy the days after the cooperation and partnership's days.

THE I.C.T SECTOR

(Information and Communication Technologies)

I. CONTEXT

Information and Communication Technologies is a fast growing sector in Cameroon. Which is perceived by Public Authorities as a strategic sector that offers a niche of opportunities for every investor. From the look of things, there is a profusion of initiatives across the country, with the challenge in this area dwelling on the establishment of an ecosystem favourable to the development of this sector.

Following the Silicon Valley model, to foster the development of digital start-ups across all sectors of activity, the country intends to set-up a Silicon Mountain in its western part.

II. SECTOR'S PROFILE

- The penetration rate is 34 per cent with 9.1 million Users having a digital opportunity index of 0.16 with a data transfer rate of 3800mb/s (4million on Facebook, 600000 on Instagram and 200000 on Twitter);
- 80 per cent of the penetration rate schedule for 2029;
- 5.7 per cent in the growth of the GDP;
- 6725 direct job for operators of the telecommunication sector;
- 300000 active indirect jobs have been estimated;
- 39 enterprises of the telecommunication sector and related services.

III. POTENTIALITIES OF THE SECTOR

Currently, the telecommunication and digital sector in Cameroon has many key assets and opportunities according to sectors. Notably:



1. Telecommunication Sector

- A skilled and available labour combined with a young "connected" population.
- A rapid growth of mobile phone subscribers
- A rapid development of added value services such as financial messaging services.
- The opportunity to develop manufacturing activities of coins and assembly of digital devices.

2. Digital sector

- High capacity of the bandwidth of the optic fibre through regional network through an optic fibre (about 12000km in the 10 regions; 90 per cent in Divisions and a hundred Sub-Divisions;
- Require the set-up of a digital infrastructure assets company
- The set-up of parks and digital technopoles to: (i) enhance digital content production; (ii) increase and diversify the digital uses and services;
- Foster electronic trade;
- The development of electronic service through computerized administrative procedures.

IV. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

- In legal term, a good number of texts frame the activity and fight against cyber-crime to enable a secure return on investment;
- At a social level reduce the digital gap;
- At the institutional level, the country has a Ministry of Post and Telecommunication ensuring with the Telecommunication Regulatory Board (ART) and a National Agency for

Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC) under its supervision;

- An association that is the Network for Professionals from the Telecommunication, ICT and Digital Sector;
- The creation of a business formalization centre;
- The downward revision in the enrolment rate during property transfer;
- Granting of some incentives to firms located in deprived areas.

THE TOURISM SECTOR

I. CONTEXT

Tourism and Leisure in Cameroon, is governed by law No. 2016/006 of 18 April 2016. The country has an enviable geographical position at the centre of Africa. Ranked as the 25th tourist destination in Africa and the 128th in the world with an index of 2.9 according to the 2019 Index from Travel and Tourism Competitiveness that annually grades the best tourist destination, warmth and hospitality from the people, touristic heritage sites (acquired from the settlement of the Portuguese, the Germans, the English and French), the relative success of prominent figure in various domains has enabled the country to receive some international attention, its mosaic cultures et traditions, the beauty of its wide beaches, the richness of its fauna and flora are considerable assets that can be promoted to lift in a sustainable manner the tourism in Cameroon.

II. SECTOR'S PROFILE

1. Types of Tourism

The different types of tourism practice in Cameroon include: Seaside tourism, cultural tourism, safari and sport hunting, Eco-tourism, congress and business tourism. Numerous parks and natural reserves, safari convenient savannah and mountain

peaks popular for trekking, furthermore it has a sea opening on the Atlantic Ocean, with white sand beaches.

2. Tourism potentialities

In 2018, 812 000 international tourists visited Cameroon compared to 1.1 million in 2019 with a growth rate of about 2.6 per cent. Although slowed down by the Coronavirus pandemic, the sector is nevertheless getting back on track. It has 900 recorded tourist sites, 400 Kilometres of Atlantic coast, 500 identified cultural sites in 7 regions, more than 980 species of birds, 400 cultural festivals, 1003 hotels with 19 currently under construction, 494 restaurants, 300 touristic agencies, 1745 tourist institutions and guides have been approved and



more than 250 leisure amenity. There equally exist important tourism sites in every region such as the beaches of Yoyo, Campo, Kribi, and Galets, the majestic waterfalls of Lobe (South Cameroon), Tello (Adamawa), the beautiful gorge of Kol (North), great traditional architecture (the musgum mud hut, the big huts in the West, the Mongulu and thatch roof huts of the pygmies, the Fouban Palace and Museum with its archaeological remains for instance the Mayo Rey still having apparent fossilized footprints of dinosaurs), 7 national parks with two designated as cultural and humanitarian heritage by UNESCO.

High standard ecological accommodations can equally be found in each regions enabling visitors to have a good stay. They include : Bangofit Sun City in Abong Mbang (East region), the Dschang Climate Centre (West), Col of Kolza (Far North), Aquarium Marina 2000 Complexe in Youpwe (Littoral), the Ebogo touristic site (Centre), Eco-park in Yaounde (Centre), Elongo Garden in Kumba (South West), Faro Boukarou in Maroua (Far North), Gascha Foundation in Bangoulap (West), Haras of Balachi in Bamboutos (West), Phare Hotel of Kribi (South), the Vallé of Bana Hotel (West), the Bayama in Obala (Centre), the Mangroves restaurant (Littoral), Minkan Peace Resort in Odza (Centre), the touristic centre of Nkolandom (South), the Oveng Lodge in Nkolmetet (Centre), the Palétuvier of Matanda in Bonabéri (Littoral), Petpenoun in Foubot (West), Ranch of Baledjam (Adamawa), the Ndawara Ranch in Boyo (Adamawa), Relais de la Porte de Mayo in Maroua (Far North), Saddle Hill Ranch in Bafut (North West), the Sanaga Beach Lodge in Nkoteng (Centre), Seme Beach in Limbe (South-West), the Kleber Cholier mansion or the Luciole mansion of Melong (Littoral), Zwinkels Mountain Lodge (North West), Buffle Noir camp in Garoua (North), Miramare

Ocean Resort in Limbe (South West), Iya Restaurant in Buea (South West), Nonena Mountain Ranch in Fotouni (West), Tagidor garden hotel in Bangou (West) et Rock farm in Ndonkol (South).

Despite these existing potential, it is still necessary to put in more efforts to stimulate the growth of this industry to its optimal level. The goal being to have 3, 500, 000 tourists per year, by diversifying the touristic offer and promoting luxury tourism with high standard infrastructures de haut standing capable of hosting national and international events.

III. POTENTIALITIES OF THE SECTOR

- Building of accommodation and leisure infrastructure near the Ekom Waterfall in the Ekom-Nkam village in the Moungo Division in Cameroon;
- The promotion of steering touristic Councils;
- The digitalization of the tourist sector;
- Setting-up municipal tourist office,
- Creating regional museum;
- Rehabilitating cultural legacy;
- Developing accommodation and leisure infrastructures near the Lokebe Park in the East region for safaris and fair and ecotourism;
- Organizing regional business festivals;
- Touristic discovery programs of regions using bicycles.



IV. GOVERNMENT POLICIES IN THE SECTOR OF TOURISM

The National Development Strategy (2020-2030) outline several goals to achieve in the tourism sector such as:

- Strengthening the tourism offer
- Gradually withdraw from the management of hotels and implementing incentive measures for the development of public-private partnership in the tourist, craft and cultural service.

There are three main government programs, namely:

- A program to promote tourism;
- The “infrastructures development” program;
- “The institutional framework reinforcement and human resources capacity building” program.

Furthermore, there equally exist a strategy to promote ecotourism and produce a national tourist map.

THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

CONTEXT

The rural sector remains the first sector of the national economy due to its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The agricultural GDP is evaluated at 1 185 billion FCFA either after 1/3 of GDP with 62 per cent of active population. It is the first employer and currency provider with 55 per cent of total exportation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) is in charge of the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of policy government in the domain of agriculture and rural development. In effect, the country has 7.2 million arable land, of which only 1.8 million are exploited. Therefore, to boost the agricultural production in the country, forty projects and programs are being implemented.

I. SECTOR'S PROFILE

1. Cash crops

- Cocoa

Cocoa is considered as the third largest producer in Africa with 8,882,375 tons. The country distinctively known for its qualitative cocoa production and it is characterized by multiple excellence centres for post-harvest cocoa processing.



- Coffee

In line with the economic plan, coffee is one of the main sources of foreign currency. There exist two varieties of coffee products in Cameroon which include; Robusta and Arabica. The Arabica, represent an average of 10 per cent commercialized product against 90 per cent Robusta for annual tonnage.

- Cotton

Cotton is one of the biggest important sectors in Cameroon and more particularly in the Northern regions, Extreme North and Adamawa. It represents 1.5 per cent of GDP, 5 per cent of agricultural GDP and 15 per cent from the north. According to the Ministry of Economy Planning and Rural Development (MINEPAT), the sector represents the national economy of about 160.000 producers with an annual production which is close to 330,000 tons for a turnover of 151,000 billion average. SO-DECOTON is the principal actor in this sector, alongside other informal actors.

- **Banana**

Cameroon was considered as the first banana producer in Africa-Caribbean-Pacific in 2015 with a production record of 278450 tons. About 50 per cent of this product is commercialized and the rest is made for self-consumption.

- **Rubber**

Areas with rubber in Cameroon is considered approximately 41,000 hectares planted that is, 3200 village plantation in the South West region and South of the country at about 50 000 tons products per year.

- **Palm Oil**

Palm oil occupies the first place in internal availability of vegetable oil (84 per cent) and which has equally been utilized for household consumption (69.5 per cent). The data issued by MINADER posits that, palm oil sector is evolving in Cameroon. In effect, local oil supply increased from 343 000 tons in 2014 to 413 000 tons in 2018 and was projected to 450 000 tones in 2020.

- **Cashew Tree**

The cashew tree represents a great opportunity for Africa through the exportation of its fruits and the cashew nuts. Despite the enormous potential for financial income from the scale of cashew nuts worldwide. In Cameroon cashew production rate is weak. In effect, the country has approximately 650 hectares of cashew trees for an annual production capacity of raw nuts currently estimated at about 108 tons (commercialized quality)

- **Gum Arabic**

Gum Arabic is mainly produced in the Northern region of Cameroon; Acacia Senegal is better known under the name of <Gum Arabic >. It is a food thickener used in the manufacture of high added value products.

Which make it possible to produce wine in particular pastis. On the industrial plan, it is used to manufacture products for water proofing buildings, including glues, paints and lime wash. In the food industry, it is used to manufacture chewing gum. From the clothing point of view, it is used as a solidifying and shining agent for basins.

- **Tea**

Cameroon is classified as the 9th producer of tea in Africa and 24th worldwide. Despite the low quality production valued at 5 898 tons per year, it is important to note that the country possesses an ideal climate for the cultivation of tea in the South West regions, notably especially in Mount Cameroon. More than 90 per cent of tea produced in Cameroon is exported yet barely 10 percent of this product is consumed locally.

- **White Pepper**

White Pepper from Penja is exported since 1958; today it is considered as a worldwide gastronomic of renowned success. This spice is grown on volcanic soil that awakens the buds of gourmet around the world. It is cultivated in the locality of Penja in Mounngo situated in the littoral region. White pepper is the third consumed pepper in the world. In 2013, it became the first Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) on the African continent. Thanks to this international recognition, production reached its peak in 2015 with 300 tons of white pepper produced. 60 to 70 per cent of this harvest is sold in local markets and 30 per cent abroad.



- Pineapple

Cameroon is renowned for its climate, geographical and ecological diversity. This gives it the capacity to accommodate a very large number of crops for exports. In particular, organic fruits the most popular of which is pineapple. The country produces an average of 1,500 tons of pineapples per year in the Littoral, South, Center, West and the South West region with an estimated growth rate of 5 per cent in 2012. Internationally, there are great opportunities for natural ripened organic pineapples. According to Food Agriculture and Organization (FAO) four out of ten pineapples in the world were exported, 68 per cent of which were fresh pineapples. In the European Union (EU), organic fruit accounts for 2.5 to 3 per cent of overall fruit sales. This growing demand is a source of opportunities for organic pineapple production sector in the international market.

2. Food Crops

Cameroon offers a wide variety of food crops which include:

- Maize constitute 1,218,000 tons, this crop contributes in the supply of cereals to Cameroonians;
- A domestic production of cereals of 339,000 tons;
- Roots and tubers, domestic availability which is estimated at 8,166,000 tons;
- Sugar crops and sweeteners whose domestic production is estimated at 1,506,000 tons;
- Dried legumes and shelled fruits, with an annual production of about 879,000 tons;
- Oilseeds and nuts, the domestic availability which is estimated at 865,000 tons;
- Vegetable oils produced up to 270,000 tons per year.



BREEDING SECTOR

I. CONTEXT

Breeding in Cameroon is currently a valuable asset of its economy. This sector accounts for approximately 165 billion Francs CFA of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and generate revenues to nearly 30 per cent of the rural population (with about 30 per cent in Cameroon make up the labour force and this sector appears as a focal area for local development). Based on the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2020-2030, the annual average of the production rate of this sub-sector is expected to an increase to 5.5 percent. Steered by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal industries, it includes various domains such as fishing and aquaculture as well as traditional stock-breeding.

II. SECTOR'S PROFILE

Most of the production activities are made up of cattle, sheep, goat, swine and poultry.

- The cattle herd: 83 per cent of the cattle herd in Cameroon is done in the North, Far-North and the Adamawa regions. The remaining 17 per cent is done in the West, North West, South West and East regions. The main animals bred in the country are the zebu (*Bos indicus*), while the cattle (*Bos taurus*) only represent 2 per cent of the total cattle population.

- Sheep flock: small ruminants are bred throughout the national territory with a significant difference based on the region. About 3/4 of the country's livestock is found in the North and Far-North regions.

- Pig livestock: pig farming is mainly carry out in the West, North West, South West, Littoral, Centre, South, Adamawa and Far-North regions. The main breeds here are made up of local and crossbreds (local breed x large white/ land race);



- Poultry: breeding respecting the traditions and exploiting the local strains is practice throughout the country, while modern breeding using exotic strains is mostly done in metropolitan city in regions such as the West, Littoral and Centre;

According to the Ministry of Livestock, Fishing and Animal Industries, this sector produced about 335,000 tons of fish in 2019, for an annual fish demand of 500,000 tons per year.

III. POTENTIALITIES OF THE SECTOR

The country has a significant fishery potential with its 400Km of coastline and its abundant lakes rich of fish. Although Douala is the most attractive industrial fishing port with an average of 1000 tons of products, there equally exist other sites such as Limbe, Kribi, Mabeta, Manoka, Youpwe, Lagdo, Maga. In addition, there exist numerous fish ponds dissimulated across the country and the presence of many aquaculture favourable sites among which can be cited:

- The Dimbamba, Nyong (Mbalmayo) and the Sanaga (Monatéfé) rivers;

- The seaboard between Kribi and Campo as well as Limbe and Idenau.

The population of Cameroon rely on Fishery (small-scale and modern fishing) as their primary source of animal protein. In general, fish serves as the main source of animal protein for the economically underprivileged part of the population. As a matter of fact, the annual consumption per habitant is estimated between 13.6 Kg and 19Kg, representing a contribution worth of 42.3 per cent of animal protein and covering 9.5 per cent of the total demand.

As the breeding industry offers a lot of opportunities for national and international investors. The exportation of this animal products to neighbouring country as giving a new development impetus to this sector through smart climate practises, constitute a significant niche of opportunities.

IV. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

In Cameroon, the economy is dominated by the primary sector in which agriculture and breeding employ 70 per cent of the workforce and represent 30 per cent of GDP. The incentives deployed by the government to render this business line attractive include:

- The measures undertaken by the government in furtherance of the aquaculture industry since 1960 covering three axes: the creation of fish culture stations, the mana-

gement of fish-farming and subsidy for rural equipment.

- To meet with this demand, the government has put in place a fish-farming promotion policy.

- A nationwide general census of the industry was carry out by the government.

- The law of Finance in force since 1st January 2017 grants a special treatment to enterprises undertaking activities in the domain of agriculture, breeding and fishing. Article 122 of Law No. 2016/018 of 14 December 2017 laying down the 2017 Law of Finance, stipulates that enterprise having as primary activity agriculture, breeding and fishing, benefit of the following tax incentives : exemption from tax and employer costs on the salaries paid to agricultural seasonal workers by individual operators; Valued Added Tax exemption duties on the purchase of pesticides, fertilizers and inputs used by producers as well as agricultural, breeding and fishing equipment and materials; enrolment duties exoneration for the change of lands allocated for agriculture, breeding and fishing, the exoneration of enrolment duties on credit agreements for the funding of agricultural activities, breeding and fishing, exemption from real estate tax belonging to farm businesses, breeding and fishing and dedicated to these activities, except constructions used as offices.



THE WATER AND ENERGY SECTOR

I. CONTEXT

The Ministry of Water and Energy is responsible for the development and implementation of government policy on production, transport as well as distribution of water and energy in Cameroon. In terms of access to energy, Cameroon is the second potential energy power in Africa, behind the Congo.

II. SECTOR'S PROFILE

1. Renewable energies: This remains a potential that must be exploited to provide electricity to populations living in rural areas in particular. To this end, the government has launched an emergency plan to strengthen Cameroon's energy system, with the aim of increasing renewable energy from 1 per cent of production to 25 per cent by 2030.

This energy will be divided into 11 per cent for hydroelectricity, 7 per cent for biomass, 6 per cent for solar photovoltaic energy and 1 per cent for wind energy. The State therefore needs investors to implement this emergency plan.

- **Hydroelectricity:** The potential of this sub-sector is estimated at 23000 Mega Watt. Hydroelectric infrastructure such as the Lagdo dam are being rehabilitated, new energy projects planned to be developed and put into operation, with an aim of increasing the installed capacity from 1,650 MW in 2019 to more than 5,000 MW by 2030.

- **Biomass:** Cameroon is the second largest biomass reserve in the world. A position which offers the country great opportunities in the production of electricity from this energy source.



- **Solar energy:** Solar energy plants are essential to meet the electrification of Cameroon. This source of energy is mainly provided in the Northern part of the Country. Despite an average insolation of 4.9 kilowatt hour per square meter per day (kWh/m²/day) for the whole country, the average insolation in this part of the country is 5.8 kWh/m²/day and 4 kWh/m²/day in its southern part, according to an assessment by Electricity Sector Regulatory Agency (ARSEL). The exploitation of this energy source remains low.

- **Wind energy:** it reaches favorable speeds of over 2m/s in the Far North region and 6.6m/s on Mount Bamboutos.

2. In terms of access to drinking water: The population is supplied through production facilities and distribution systems that can vary depending on the area covered. The proportion of the population with access to drinking water rose from 45.3 percent in 2007 to 61 percent in 2014; an improvement of 15.7 percent. The situation is more deplorable in rural areas, where less than half of rural households have access to drinking water, compared to more than 8 out of 10 households in urban areas.

III. POTENTIALITIES OF THE SECTOR

1. Water Sector

The urban and peri-urban environment is made up of 213 centers entrusted to CAMWATER by a contract binding it to the State of Cameroon. In 2021, it manages 116 equipped and operational centers, 98 treatment stations and 32 recovery stations. It has a capacity of 824,484 m³/day, a total storage capacity of 268,532 m³ and a production efficiency of 93.5 per cent. The length of the network is 7,372 km and the total number of subscribers is 476,181. The rural area represents the perimeter not conceded to CAMWATER. It is directly managed by the State and the Decentralized Territorial Communities. In this area, 57 per cent of households have access to an improved source of drinking water according to the criteria defined by the World Health Organization. This means that 43 per cent of households in rural areas have no choice but to drink from an unimproved water sources.

2. Electricity Sector

Although the objective was to reach 70 per cent in 2016, the rate of household access to electricity was able to reach 62.1 per cent.

In line with this, in 2017 an electrification project was carried out in 1,000 rural localities using the photovoltaic system. In the near future, 50 solar power plants will be developed in Yaounde. Also, it is reported that 148 sites representing a potential of 5KW to 500KW and 17 sites representing a potential of 10MW have been classified, showing the attracting this sector can be for investors.

IV. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

To ensure universal and equitable access to affordable drinking water and develop the current energy mix in Cameroon, the Government plans to:

- Monitoring service satisfaction and planning for the extension of the drinking water network according to demographic changes;
- Improve access to energy in rural areas through the promotion of renewable energy sources and develop technical capacities (especially for the realization of small drinking water networks); develop the significant national hydroelectric potential; develop alternative energies to better meet the specific needs of the populations; strengthen and optimize the use of biomass.

THE MINING SECTOR

I. CONTEXT

The Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) considers the mining sector as a pillar of the economy and as national priority. Cameroon has significant geological and mining potential (iron ore, bauxite, limestone, cobalt-nickel-manganese, gold and diamonds), which can generate and drive economic growth.

II. SECTOR'S PROFILE

The potential in the mining sector is subdivided into two categories, namely:

- The solid mine which includes ores such as metals (gold, rutile, nickel and cobalt, etc.) and precious and semi-precious stones (diamond, sapphire, ruby, tourmaline and kyanite);
- Quarries which include sands, aggregates, pozzolans, mineral water sources and clays.

1) Solid mine

In terms of mining potential, Cameroon has reserves of:

- Iron located in Mbalam in the Eastern Region (40 million tons of iron could be produced annually), Kribi (4.17 million tons), Akom II (160 million tons) and Nkout (2.7 billion tons) in the Southern Region;
- Bauxite found in the Adamaoua Region (Minim-Martap, Ngaoundal and Makan; 120 million tons) and in the Western Region near the city of Dschang (Fongo Tongo);
- Cobalt-Nickel-Manganese found in the Eastern Region, at Nkamouna near the town of Lomié;
- Rutile in the localities of Akonolinga (300 million tons of ore), Nanga-Eboko, Otélé in the Central Region;
- Tin in Mayo-Darlé;
- Gold artisanal and semi-mechanized mines in the eastern regions (Bétaré-Oya, Ngoura / Colomine, Kambélé / Batouri, Ndélélé/Béké Bindiba/Garoua Boulai), Ada



- maoua (Meiganga, Légalgoro/Tignère, Fel), North (Mayo-Rey), Far North (Bibemi), South (Akom II, Mintom), Centre (Eséka);
- Diamant, which is concentrated mainly in the localities of Béké and Mobilong/Yokadouma);
- Sapphire is mined artisanally in Tignère in the Adamaoua Region, in Mamfé, Okoyong and Nsanarakati in the Southwest Region and in Bui and Misajé in the Northwest.

2. Quarry

Cameroon has an important potential in terms of quarrying. Cameroon has reserves of:

- Dimension stone which is located in Ngoulemakong, Akom II, Sangmelima and Mintom (in the Southern Region) and in Yaoundé, Monatele, Ngomedzap (in the Central Region);
- Pozzolan in Njombé-Penja (in the Littoral Region), Fombot and Balatchi (in the West);
- River sand in Mbalmayo, Nkolmetet, Ngomedzap, Ebebda, Ntui Monatélé, Akono (in the Central region); Kribi, Fifinda (in the South region); Edéa and Douala (in the Littoral region);
- Aggregate, whose deposits with a certain economic importance are located in Yaoundé, Mfou (in the Central region), Yabassi, and Logbadeck (in the Littoral region).

III. POTENTIALITIES OF THE SECTOR

1) In the solid mining sector

Recent work by the Mining Sector Capacity Building Project (PRECASEM) has highlighted the presence of unclassified minerals in the national database, particularly certain rare earths. The vast majority of these sites are located in the communes of the southern and eastern regions of the country.

2) In the quarry sector

With the decentralization code now gives the Regional and Local Authorities (RLA) responsibility for the management of quarry. The cities of Yaoundé and Douala have an ever increasing demand for aggregates.

The Council of Yaounde 7 has already invested in the establishment of an industrial quarry, but demand remains higher than supply. The cities of Yaounde and Douala have a high potential in rock deposits.

IV. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

This is a strategic sector under the supervision of the Presidency of the Republic, the Ministry in charge of Mines and some enterprises such as the National Hydrocarbons Company (SNH - for liquid mining except for mineral water and geothermal) and the National Mining Company (SONA-MINES - for solid mining and mineral water sources).

The Code on Decentralization gives the RLA the capacity to exploit and administer non-concessional substances.

THE WOOD SECTOR

I. CONTEXT

With about 22.5 million hectares, Cameroon stands as the second largest forest massif in Africa, nearly 1 million of this forest massif is used for exploitable purposes. In terms of biological diversity, the country occupies the 5th position in Africa. In addition to its extent, the national forest domain is characterized by its variety: 620 different species have been identified, 300 of which are marketable. The forest-wood sector thus occupies an important place in the social and economic development of the country. It contributes to 2.1 per cent of The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2019, it is one of the ten (10) most important branches of the Cameroonian economy and represented in 2019 the second export item (15.6 per cent) after oil, showing a growth rate of 2.9 per cent.

II. SECTOR'S PROFILE

- Its Permanent Forest Estate covers about 12.3 million hectares or 26 per cent of the national territory;
- It covers an area of 1,381,298.2 ha. For this purpose, the potential area of communal forests would be 20,600,707 ha;
- The domestic timber market is estimated at 860,000 m³ sold per year;
- The turnover from the sale of wooden furniture increased from 7.7 billion to about 16 billion, an annual increase of 20 per cent satisfied to about 40 per cent by the import of furniture.

III. POTENTIALITIES OF THE SECTOR

1. At the national level

The wood sector abounds of a huge potential notably with:

- The availability of an attractive and unique legal framework in Africa;



- Forest distribution between the State, municipalities and communities for good governance;
- A guideline for public procurement in terms of the supply of furniture to public services and the strengthening of standards for the use of wood in buildings;
- A vast market of nearly 300 million customers to cover (CEEAC, CEDEAO)

2. At the municipal level

- In councils the availability of nearly 50 per cent of communal forests;
- The possibility of creating an economic zone within the framework of the law setting the modalities of creation and management of the economic zones of Cameroon, in order to benefit from the tax and customs advantages;
- Councils now have the competence to create municipal enterprises or to participate in the share capital of companies up to 33 per cent;
- A diversity of management methods including concession, leasing, interested management, management and mixed economy companies.

In terms of human resources, the forest-wood sector has a sufficient and qualified workforce. This important human capital comes from training in wood trades from secondary education, a network of communal apprenticeship centres; a specialized school: IUT-Bois which offers training for senior technicians in three specialties in:

- Paper sciences and bioenergy;
- Wood chemistry;
- Wood construction.

IV. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

To encourage local industry, the government through the Ministry of Finance is planning three tax easing measures for the forest sector in 2021. These include:

1. At the national level

- "The reduction from 4 per cent to 3 per cent of the rate of the logging tax" that will benefit forestry enterprises having a certificate of conformity in sustainable forest management;
- The monthly payment of the Annual Forest Fee (RFA), in order to develop the cash flow of enterprises;
- The submission of excise duty at a general rate of 25 per cent for imported wooden furniture and articles, toothpicks, natural and artificial flowers;
- Customs exemptions for the import of machinery from the European Union, thanks to the signing of the Economic Partnership Agreements between Cameroon and the European Union;

- The existence of an Investment Promotion Agency that facilitates the reception and assistance of foreign investors in the stages of setting up investment projects and the simplification of administrative procedures;
- The availability of a new port in Kribi which is now positioned as the industrial and logistics platform for forest-wood in the sub-region.

2. At the municipal level

- The Councils' managerial and organizational proximity, that facilitates transparency, profitability and allows good forest governance;
- land tenure security thanks to the competence devolved to the municipalities to carry out Land Use Plans (POS);
- The absence of administrative burdens as councils enjoy administrative autonomy and municipal public action is deliberative;
- An attractive local taxation by the competence devolved to the councils to operate in the setting of taxes in their localities, in compliance with the ranges set by the law;
- Incentives measures to develop public-private partnership (according to the provisions of the General Code of DTCs, the latter may, where necessary, join forces in contractual form for the achievement of common objectives or projects).

THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN CAMEROUN

I. CONTEXT

The building and public works sector plays a predominant role in Cameroon's economy. It is made up of:

- Construction of buildings for residential use;
- Construction of buildings for industrial, commercial or public buildings use;
- Construction of roads, ports, airports, railways, waterworks (public works).

In the first phase of the Vision 2035 marked by the Strategic Document for Growth and Employment Paper, the construction and public works sector included the largest structuring projects with most of them being completed. The second phase dwells on the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (NDS30) whereby the construction sector is totally revitalised by the launching of several other large-scale projects.

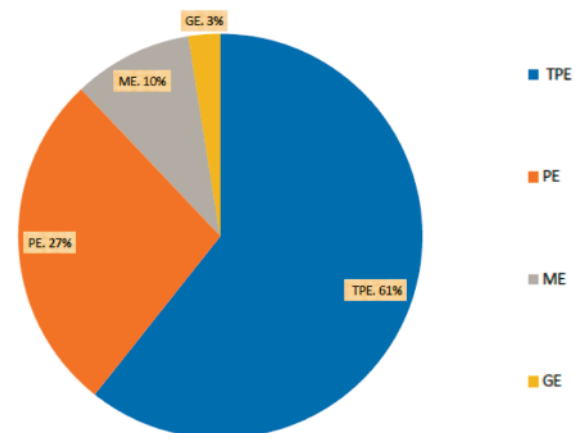
II. SECTOR'S PROFILE

Indeed, this sector is not only among those that create the most wealth but also employs a significant part of the population of Cameroon. The dynamism observed in the building sector in Cameroon is not new. A compilation of data shows that the activity in this field is constantly increasing. That is more than 32345 companies and institutions have invested in construction industry in Cameroon, and 1,099 companies representing 3.4 per cent of companies in the secondary sector invested in building and public works. 36 per cent of construction companies and institutions are located in the city of Yaoundé, 33 per cent are located in Douala.

This boom caused by the proliferation of infrastructural projects in anticipation of the organisation of the African Nations Championship 2020 and the African Cup of Nations (AFCON 2021) organised in Cameroon, and some real estate investments such as the Douala Grand Mall built by the British investment fund Actis.



Size of Construction companies in Cameroon



This equally concerns projects such as the ongoing construction of the Radisson Blue hotel in Douala, or public and private buildings, of whose construction sites abound in Yaounde and Douala.

According to official forecasting, the construction and public works sector in Cameroon will experience average annual growth of 7.4 per cent until 2028 (8.4 per cent in 2019 alone).

This improvement makes Cameroon the most dynamic market in the building sector in Central and West Africa.

This thanks to by the 1000 major modernisation projects that the President of the Republic, Paul BIYA, intends to carry out during his current mandate.

III. POTENTIALITIES OF THE SECTOR

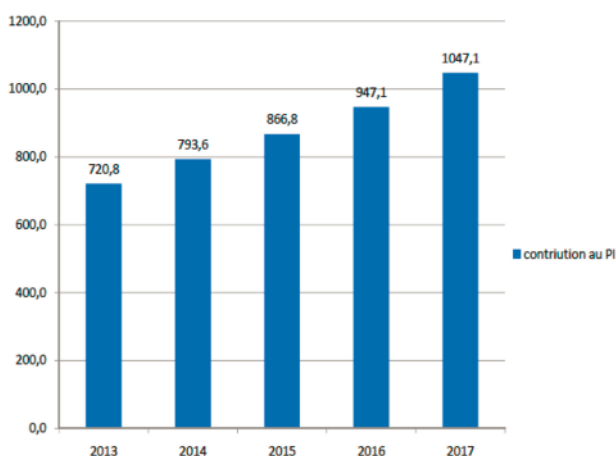
There is a strong local demand for the internal production of these materials to support and develop the sector. This is therefore a great opportunity for companies or future companies wanting to work in the building sector in Cameroon. Numerous public projects for the construction or rehabilitation of roads or civil engineering works and buildings have been planned for the next ten years, to which must be added private initiatives by companies and individuals. These unprecedented prospects offer immense opportunities for building companies on the Cameroonian market.

Cameroon is rich in natural resources, both mineral (oil 50 per cent of export earnings, natural gas, bauxite, iron, cobalt, nickel) and agriculture (banana, cocoa, coffee, cotton and wood).

This diversity of resources has enabled it, since 1995, to reap the benefits of the devaluation of the CFA franc by returning to economic growth (+3 per cent on average per year for 12 years).

The 2009 Law of Finance defined a budget of CFAF 2,301 billion, of which 10 per cent was allocated to public works and urban development, a significant increase compared to 2008.

Contribution of the value added of the construction/building sector to the GDP of Cameroon



IV. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Aware of the economic and social stakes, in the 2020-2030 National Development Strategy, the government intends to provide the economic fabric with quality physical supports to ensure its development, strengthen the country's attractiveness, support national integration and promote the outsourcing of national companies in the sub-region. However, the overall performance of local Small and medium size enterprises (SME) remains weak due to major technical, financial and human disparities. Based on the Road Connectivity Programme and the Consensus Transport Master Plan for Central Africa, the national strategy emphasises on the rehabilitation and maintenance of the network, the protection of the heritage and all the infrastructures in Cameroon.

To this end, the Government declares its expectations from the private sector, particularly its mobilisation to

- Make available inputs and stabilisers for innovative solutions,
- Ensure the training of personnel and the acquisition of appropriate equipment
- Set up a plastic waste recycling and plastic asphalt production plant
- Support Laboratories in conducting applied research
- Deploy two pilot projects to serve as a testing ground for innovative solutions
- Popularise these innovative techniques
- Implement mobile crushers for aggregate production

To promote the involvement of the private sector, the Government is willing to provide guarantees, including

- Its political commitment and stability of programmes and priorities
- The existence of a market
- Free access to public procurement
- The legal framework for private sector partnerships

The scale of the credits allocated or to be allocated by the State, the Infrastructure Fund, highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) funds, debt and development contract (C2D) and other development partners, as well as by the private sector, calls for the implementation of strategies by established

companies, and especially locally-owned companies, to prepare them to take advantage of the windfall. To do this, they must gradually adapt their production tools, strengthen their know-how, professionalise their teams and modernise their management methods.

HEALTH SECTOR

I. CONTEXT

During the first phase of the 2035 Vision marked by the Growth and Employment Strategic paper, the government undertook to guarantee in a sustainable manner, access to quality universal health services by improving its services and funding appropriately the health demand. Actions that were undertaken by public authorities.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the country's economy put up stiff resilience and it augur activities in most of the production sectors with some positive economic outcomes. The presentation of the "Macroeconomic context and the State's budget guidelines for the 2022-2024 period" on the 2nd August 2021 by the government dwelling on an upward trend during the period under examination.

II. SECTOR'S PROFILE

- The improving the infrastructural offer (The country's health card in 2018 indicated the presence of 201 Health districts). A Centre is allocated for an average population of 5,650 inhabitants.

The public sector was made-up of 2387 health facilities including: Seven 1st category general hospitals; eight second category central hospitals; fourteen 3rd category regional hospital; one hundred and nine 4th category district hospitals; two hundred and thirty-four 5th category district medical centre and one thousand, nine hundred and eighty-one 6th category health centres.)

- Increasing skilled labour force;
- Facilitating access to drugs;



- Improving prevention mechanism of transmissible diseases and the patient care;
- Improving vaccination coverage of the target population against endemic diseases
- Increase live expectancy that left from 51 years in 2000 to 58 years old in 2018;
- Decreasing in the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate to 2.7 percent in 2018;
- Decreasing the number infantino-juvenile death from 122 deaths in 2011 to 79 cases in 2018 against 1000 living new born;
- Increasing the number of children between 12-23 months completely vaccinated from 48.2 per cent in 2004 to 75.3 per cent in 2014.

III. POTENTIALITIES OF THE SECTOR

1. Availability of infrastructures

Due to the unavailability of an infrastructural development plan during the implementation of the former strategy, it was impossible to guarantee the scrupulous respect of the health card requirements as well as the technological development during the construction of infrastructures. Thus, leading to the existence of some disparities in the health coverage of regions and districts.

2. Drugs

- The supply of drugs in public sectors is still low and subsidised by cooperation organizations who supply drugs in public health institutions.

- As for the private sector, there exist wholesale importers that supply to pharmacies and private health institutions. Pharmacy dispensaries are highly present in the big metropolis of the country. Pharmacists are paid based on margin set by the State through the price of drugs.

IV. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

1. At the level of the Central State

- The 2016-2017 sectoral health strategy was approved and implemented;
- Building of nearby health facilities, particularly in referral hospitals in all regions;
- The existence of standards for equipment;
- The availability of technical files for the rehabilitation of health facilities enabling to portray the sequential possibilities of the implementation of the work carried out (architectural development plan and District hospitals technics on internal funding);
- The availability of technicians capable of drafting architectural plans as well as development plans according to standards;
- The existence of a partnership strategy to reinforce the involvement of the private sector in the service offer;
- The existence of a dense network of training institutions;

- Subsidy by the State for private health facilities and institution, as well as for the training of medical personnel;
- The availability of data on the human resources needs;
- Improving the health card;
- Homogenizing the prices of essential drugs in the public sector;
- The entry into the determinant phase of the universal health.

2. At the level of the Councils

Despite the competences transfer by the 2004 Law, the new General Code of Regional and Local Authorities in the field of health, authorize councils to recruit and manage the medical staffs of Integrated Health and District Medical centre.

Moreover, the 2011/0004/PM degree of 13 June 2011 laying down the procedure for the exercise of some competences transfer by the State to Councils regarding the building, equipment and management of district medical centres, constitute an important asset that can render investment in this field attractive.

A methodological guide for the exercise of competence transfer by the State to Councils have been approved by the Special Council's Support Fund for Mutual Assistance (FEICOM). Furthermore, in the National Development Strategy 2020-2030, the government intends to improve the effectiveness of the health system through the implementation of decentralization.

