REPORTING GUIDE

SEPTEMBER, 2026

Improving Forest Governance in Cameroon

Through Strengthening Journalists' Understanding Of The Updated July, 2024 Framework Forestry and Wildlife Law.



Internews
Local voices. Global change.

AJESH
A.JEMALEBU Self Help
Secure the future

ari
AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

CODEC

Eco-OUTLOOK

THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION
(CODEC Cameroon).
Sharing Information, Lighting Communities
Reg No 193/G.41/67/NA/PS/2012
PO BOX 78,Menji,Fontem,Lebialem Division
Email: codeccameroomeroon@gmail.com
Tel: 670 48 28 48/651 50 57 28

Compiled by
The Community Initiative for Development Communication (CODEC Cameroon), within the framework of the Internews' Earth Journalism Network Forest Governance Media Initiative

Aminateh Nkemngu Fuanya
Founder/Executive Director
CODEC Cameroon

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS 3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 6

PART ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1: About the Forest Governance Media Initiative (FGMI) 7
1.2. About CODEC-Cameroon..... 10
1.3 A Cameroon Perspective; Improving Forest Governance in Cameroon Through Strengthening Journalists' Understanding of Cameroon's 2024 Framework and wildlife Law 12

PART TWO
Thematic Issues in Forest Governance in Cameroon

2.1. Forest Conversion for cocoa Plantations..... 17
2.2. Forest conversion for Oil Palm 18
2.3. Timber Trade and Illegal Logging..... 19
2.4. Mining 21
2.5 Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs).. 23
2.6. REDD+..... 25
2.7 Forest Law and Enforcement 26

PART THREE
PRESENTATIONS: WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING JOURNALISTS UNDERSTANDING CAMEROON'S 2024 FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE LAW

3.1 Forest Governance and Global Environmental Change . 29
3.2 Creating Media Content: From Idea to Pitching 35
3.3 Aligning OECMs to the Forestry and Wildlife Legislation in Cameroon 40

3.4 Methodology in Climate change reporting 49
3.5. Delegate's Speech 60
3.6 PICTURES 62

PART FOUR
FIELD INVESTIGATION TOPICS

4.1 How Cameroon's push for palm oil trade threatens locally restricted trees in Ebo Forest 64
4.2 Cameroon's forests now face a new driver of deforestation: booming cacao production to supply the European market..... 66
4.3. Revisiting the Gains and Losses in the Management of the Mount Cameroon National Park, 20 Years On..... 67
4.4. Indigenous peoples and Local Communities' Rights in the Bakossi -Banyang Mbo Forest Landscape 70
4.5. Mangrove Forest Regeneration along the Douala-Edea Corridor 72
4.6. Assessing 20 Years of the Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Natural Resources of the South West Region (PMSNR-SW)..... 75
4.7. The Tiko Bimbia REDD+ Pilot Project..... 77
4.8. Enforcement of the July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law 79
CONCLUSION 81
REFERENCES 82

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Reporting Guide is compiled with funding from Internews' Earth Journalism Network, within the framework of the Forest Governance Media Initiative. We also acknowledge non-financial partnership support from Ajemalebu Self Help (AJESH) NGO,Eco-Outlook Newspaper and African Resilience Institute.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within the framework of the **Internews'/Earth Journalism Network Forest Governance Media Initiative (FGMI), The Community Initiative for Development Communication (CODEC)** is strengthening the Capacity of Cameroon Journalists in Understanding the 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law and reporting on forest governance issues in Cameroon. Journalists and newsrooms in Cameroon remain under-resourced, yet the media must do more to boost public understanding, inform decisions and shape policy to support more sustainable and fair forest governance. Tropical forests cover about 40% of Cameroon and provide an estimated eight million rural people with traditional staples including food, medicines, fuel, and construction material. Cameroon contains some of the Congo Basin's most biologically diverse and most threatened forests. In recent decades, Cameroon's forests have undergone extensive conversion, with half of the historic forest cover cleared for farms and settlements. .This Reporting Guide is developed on the heels of a National Training workshop on the forestry law mentioned supra. The workshop held in Limbe on 18 July 2026.This Reporting Guide documents key thematic issues in forest governance in Cameroon, and establishes a road map for field investigations and media content creation on forest governance issues in the East ,Centre, South, Littoral and South West regions of Cameroon in the next several weeks.

PART ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1: About the Forest Governance Media Initiative (FGMI)

Forest governance is increasingly recognized as central to global efforts to address climate change and biodiversity loss as well as poverty and inequality, which disproportionately harm marginalized groups including women and Indigenous People and local communities (IPLCs).

Most countries have committed to reversing forest loss by 2030. Many are granting communities forest management rights. Additionally, new opportunities are arising for investment in forests—from trade in legal and sustainable forest products, to markets for carbon and nature credits.

Despite these developments, significant challenges remain, including rising violence against environmental defenders; poor rule of law and enforcement; a lack of transparency and accountability; inadequate stakeholder participation in decision-making about forests; and limited community capacity

to influence policymaking or engage in value chains for sustainable forest products, among others.

Journalists and newsrooms in these regions remain under-resourced, yet the media must do more to boost public understanding, inform decisions and shape policy to support more sustainable and fair forest governance. To meet this need, Internews' Earth Journalism Network (EJN) has launched this three-year project (Forest Governance Media Initiative) in Africa and Asia, with generous support from the Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) program of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

FGMI is supporting journalists, media and civil society from forest risk commodity (FRC) producer, processor and consumer countries to enhance media coverage of forest governance issues.

Over the next three years, EJN and its partners will lead the following activities, with a focus on these five target countries: **Indonesia, Vietnam, Cameroon, Ghana and Liberia**, which grapple with significant forest governance challenges:

The project is contributing toward improving forest governance through more fair and sustainable arrangements, including policies and regulatory frameworks, ensuring forests meet their potential to deliver benefits for people, climate and biodiversity. This project was funded with UK International Development from the UK government.

1.2. About CODEC-Cameroon

Our Driving Philosophy

The Community Initiative For Development Communication,(CODEC) was founded in 2012 by benevolent community volunteers in Fontem, Lebialem District , South West Region, Cameroon, themselves victims of the scourges of information poverty in health, basic formal literacy, poor environmental management and non -participatory community development planning with a vision of reaching community youth and women who do not have any individual means to become literate, due to them becoming too illiterate, too poor ,too old or too ill because of information and knowledge poverty.

CODEC is premised on the existential fact that information and knowledge are essential for people to successfully respond to the challenges of social, economic and technological changes. But to be useful, knowledge and information must be effectively communicated to people.

CODEC strives to promote the role of information in community development through the establishment of

innovative approaches in providing information and knowledge to local people and communities ,strengthen and empower them to be among national and global players in knowledge –based development.

General Objective

To assist local people and communities have access to adequate information and knowledge that can enable them drive and sustain their own development through education, training and advocacy to eliminate socially unjust practices that lead to poverty through;

- Increasing awareness and Knowledge in communities
- Improving and building new skills in communities
- Changing individual behaviours and collective practices
- Enhancing self-esteem and promoting self-efficacy among youth and women.
- Building consensus through raising public understanding and generating well-informed dialogue among community development stakeholders

CODEC is implementing the FGMI project in Cameroon.

1.3 A Cameroon Perspective; Improving Forest Governance in Cameroon Through Strengthening Journalists' Understanding of Cameroon's 2024 Framework and wildlife Law

Overview of Cameroon's Forests

Tropical forests cover about 40% of Cameroon and provide an estimated eight million rural people with traditional staples including food, medicines, fuel, and construction material. They are essential for the well-being of some of the most vulnerable indigenous people and local communities, whose livelihoods and cultural integrity are threatened by forest loss.

Forests also play an important role in supporting Cameroon's national economy, generating rainfall and regulating surface water flows important for agricultural production, hydroelectric power generation and municipal water supplies (World Bank, 2023).

Cameroon has the second largest forest area in the Congo Basin. Known as the "lungs of Africa", the Congo Basin is the largest carbon sink in the world, absorbing more carbon than the Amazon, with average emissions at around 500 million tons and average absorption of 1.1 billion tons of CO2.

However, two decades of data has revealed worrisome deforestation in the Congo Basin. In Cameroon, tree cover trends reveal a loss of roughly 1.53 million ha between 2001 and 2020, of which 47% was in primary forests. Preserving the Congo Basin forests is vital not just for the future of Africa, but for the world. Global efforts to tackle the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss will depend on preserving this rich ecosystem (Global Forest Watch,2024).

In recent years, Cameroon has seen an upward trend in deforestation and degradation. The rate of deforestation rose from 0.94% for the 1990–2000 period to 1.04% for the following decade. In 2021, Cameroon took seventh place on the list of the world's top deforesters (89,000 ha). This deforestation and degradation threatens the existence of the country's vast and extensive forests, and subsequently the survival of various natural ecosystems and the preservation of natural livelihoods.

Cameroon contains some of the Congo Basin's most biologically diverse and most threatened forests. In recent decades, Cameroon's forests have undergone extensive conversion, with half of the historic forest cover cleared for farms and settlements.

At least 20 percent of remaining forests are degraded or secondary forests.1 Agricultural clearing is the primary cause of deforestation; however, logging

development is rapidly opening up the major remaining tracts of primary forest, mostly located in the southeastern portion of the countries.

Cameroon's southern forest zone forms the northern edge of the massive Congo Basin rain forest, which is the second-largest tropical forest in the world. This region covers the South-West, Littoral, Centre, East, and South administrative regions, featuring high biodiversity, dense canopy layers, and critical economic and local value.

Project Objective

The general objective of the project is to equip journalists and other community forest governance stakeholders on the July 2024 Cameroon Law on Forest and Wildlife Governance, how it relates to forest governance and how partnership is important for sustainable management.

Forest governance, community rights and livelihoods, illegal logging, expansion of cocoa, rubber and palm oil plantations, mining activities are being addressed by this project

The 2024 Law on Forest Governance amongst other issues establishes community rights over forests. Local communities have territorial rights and must benefit from forest resources. It also puts in place Regional forests decentralizing forest management.

Project Scope of Work:

Improve Journalists knowledge of the 2024 Cameroon Forestry and wildlife law and strengthen their capacity to report on forest governance issues to enhance media coverage on forest governance

Activities

- A one day National Training Workshop on the 2024 Forestry and wildlife law is organized for 20 journalists drawn from Cameroon's tropical forest belt(South West, Littoral, Centre East and South Regions are trained.
- After the training workshop, journalists pretest knowledge on forest governance issues through pilot creation of media content.
- **A Reporting Guide for the FGMI Project in Cameroon** is produced. This Guide which will meet **EJN Reporting Criteria will** be used as a yardstick by journalists to pitch their Final reporting ideas on any of the above topical issues to the Project Management Committee.
- 8(Eight) in-depth investigative Newspaper Feature articles investigated and published.(Following FGMI Cameroon Project and EJN reporting guidelines).
- Five radio documentaries of 30 minutes each shall be produced and broadcast.

- Two TV documentaries of 30 to 45 minutes produced .
- Short-form digital content, including, social media videos (1–3 minutes) Infographics and explainer visuals on the 2024 Forestry Law produced.

PART TWO

THEMATIC ISSUES IN FOREST GOVERNANCE IN CAMEROON

2.1. Forest Conversion for cocoa Plantations

Cameroon has lost nearly 783,000 hectares of forest since 2020, with a significant share of the losses occurring in cocoa-producing areas, according to a recent report by environmental group Mighty Earth.

Cameroon has set an aggressive national target to reach 640,000 tonnes of cocoa production by 2030. While agencies like FODECC insist this can be achieved without destroying standing forests, data shows that cocoa expansion remains a primary driver of forest conversion,

According to the report *Cameroon on the Brink: Cocoa's New Deforestation Frontier*, published by Mighty Earth in July 2025, RADD satellite alerts recorded 782,797 hectares of forest loss between 2020 and 2024. This represents about 4.2% of Cameroon's total forest cover. The report indicates that a substantial portion of these losses is concentrated in cocoa production zones, against a backdrop of land pressure and low farm incomes. Agriculture remains one of the drivers of land conversion, with cocoa frequently cited alongside oil palm, rubber, coffee, and cotton.

In the Ntui area of the Grand Mbam, the expansion of cocoa plantations is estimated to have led to the

conversion of about 4,600 hectares of forest over a decade, with 64% of that loss occurring in areas classified as primary forest. The data highlight growing tensions between agricultural expansion, land regulation, and conservation.

In response to these challenges, Cameroon adopted a roadmap for deforestation-free cocoa in January 2021, signed by the state, private sector actors, development partners, and civil society. Mapping initiatives and efforts to strengthen plantation traceability have also been launched, notably through sustainability programs supported by international partners.

2.2. Forest conversion for Oil Palm

WWF report(2024) estimates that palm oil supplies 35% of the world's vegetable oil on just 10% of the land. In Cameroon, oil palm exploitation is taking a global scale.

People are getting more involved in the activity because of its economic importance (money like cash crop at any time, cultural uses and benefit, etc.). Estimations on oil palm plantations reach 375 000 ha shared between agro-industries, elites and small farmers. Annual palm oil production increased from 270,000 tons in 2013 to 413,000 tons in 2018 against a demand that peaked at 1.179 million tons in 2018 [14].

Oil palm expansion in Cameroon has been driven by rising global demand for vegetable oils for consumption and cosmetics. While making a significant contribution to national economies, the expansion of oil palm plantations is a cause for environmental concerns.

Most plantations, as well as CPO productive basins, are located in the rainiest area of the country, being South West, Littoral and some part of the Centre and South regions. Between 2000 and 2020, more than 10,000 ha of oil palm plantations were established annually. Gradually, new lands available were allocated for industrial plantations while concerns on deforestation were raised up.

2.3. Timber Trade and Illegal Logging

llegal logging and forest conversion remain prevalent issues in Cameroon. Numerous reports have highlighted ongoing illegal activities, particularly involving high-value timber species. A recent 12-month investigation conducted by the Pulitzer Center and its partners further documented these illegal logging and associated trade practices.

Cameroon’s ports act as a central shipping hub for timber-producing countries across West and Central Africa, complicating supply chains and origin

labelling. The port of Douala has also been identified as a center for organized crime and illicit exports, including activities associated with the Russian Wagner Group, which is currently under U.S. sanctions.

Challenges in Cameroon's forestry sector have limited its production mainly to basic wood products like roundwood and sawn wood. Cameroon has increased log export taxes and is considering a full export ban. In the meantime, the country has already banned the

export of numerous species in log form, though the system is complicated by exceptions and quotas.

In 2021, 55% of Cameroon's forest products were exported to countries with regulations prohibiting the import of illegally sourced wood, an increase from 38% in 2019. Recent investigations have uncovered widespread illegalities in specific supply chains, particularly concerning timber trade flows between Cameroon and China, as well as Cameroon and Vietnam. However, there are ongoing concerns about illegal timber entering other international markets as well.

Significant efforts have been made to improve traceability and transparency in the forestry sector, but third-party legality verification systems have yet to achieve widespread adoption or scale.

Cameroon has a long tradition of commercial logging, with the forestry sector representing 12.2 percent of exports and contributing 3.8 percent of FDP in 2021. The forestry value chain is the third highest provider of export revenues in Cameroon after the cocoa and hydrocarbon sectors.

2.4. Mining

Cameroon has significant mineral deposits, with the East region holding a large share. A few years ago, the country considered making this sector a real development lever and integrating it into the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP). To improve the management of its mining sector, Cameroon, in addition to existing national standards, has adhered to several international policies for good governance. Cameroon has a legal instrument that specifies the conduct to follow in gold extraction. However, its mining sector is plagued by numerous environmental controversies. The development of the activity is based on profit-seeking by the stakeholders at the expense of the environment. Since the promulgation of its first mining code in 2001 and its revision in 2010, the influx of multinationals and internal migrants has increased, leading to a population boom. 2,500 mining operation permits were issued in the Lom and Djerem department, and 1,277 in the Kadey department, reflecting a high consumption of land. Practiced daily

as a source of income, the activity is not without consequences on the environment and the safety of individuals. Therefore, the objective is to focus our reflections on the environmental damages caused by this activity.

A number of practices in mining, such as the diversion and pollution of watercourses and vegetation, soil disruption, and the use of additives in mining, impair the soils and watercourses, making them no longer suitable for agriculture, with repercussions on health and food security. They lead to the destruction of fauna and flora, deforestation, and climate change, which causes the gradual loss of biodiversity.

The mining practices are responsible for significant deforestation, reducing the vegetation cover. The soils are disturbed without rehabilitation, the landscape is disfigured, watercourses are diverted, and climate warming is caused by vapors released from the subsoil. While the mining code in its article 55 stipulates: "Authorized and/or sworn agents, from the Ministry in charge of mines and other competent administrations or any duly mandated organization ensure the monitoring and control of mining activities within the limits of the powers granted to them in the regulatory texts," the mining code requires consultations before the commencement of work to highly consider the expectations of local communities. However, in

practice, administrations do not take into account the legal provisions of the Mining Code, mining conventions, and public policies to which the government has committed. There is a long way to go before achieving shared governance, which calls for the involvement of all social layers in decision-making.

The gradual loss of natural resources is estimated environmental degradation at 33%, forest cover regression between 2000 and 2015 at 1,336 hectares, or 27.44%; and between 2000 and 2020, 1,859 hectares or 43.66%. Concerning the shrub savannah, its regression between 2000 and 2015 was 376 hectares, or 6%; between 2000 and 2020, it was 550 hectares, or 13%. The green economy advocates for the rational use of the planet's resources because these resources are perishable and can lead to the destruction of the ecosystem.

2.5 Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)

Community land and forest tenure rights in Cameroon are deeply insecure for Indigenous People and local communities. The problem arises from Cameroon's colonial past. Colonists imposed their norms upon the traditional system of customary land rights, creating a hybrid system. Over time, indigenous and local communities have gone from having customary rights

to the land and resources they depend on to being squatters on their own land—or dispossessed. Cameroon recognizes customary land rights rights in its forest and mining laws, but land tenure and the limits of community lands remain unclear. Conflict is escalating, fuelled by investment in agricultural, forest and mining industries. The Government recognizes the high social cost of conflict and the risk insecure land tenure poses to peace and security, and says it wants to clarify and strengthen local land rights.

Greenpeace Africa (2026) has called on the Cameroonian government to strengthen forest protection mechanisms and guarantee the rights of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them. Specifically, the organization urges decision-makers to:

- **Recognize and secure the customary land rights** of indigenous peoples and local communities within the ongoing reforms;
- **Establish a moratorium** on new oil, gas, mining, and agro-industrial projects in areas of high ecological value;
- **Guarantee direct and equitable access** for communities to climate and biodiversity funding;

- **Promote community-led solutions**, such as agroecology and sustainable local economies developed within community forests

2.6. REDD+

Cameroon is committed in the process for reducing emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) as an instrument for fighting against climate change within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). REDD+ is a mechanism with a three-phase implementation. The first phase called "preparation phase" is a national process during which the country proposes a project document, the "Readiness Preparation Proposal" (R-PP), whose implementation leads to the development of a REDD+ national strategy document approved by Cameroon in June 2018. The second one is called "investment phase", during which the REDD+ projects are implemented. The third and last one, close to the second one, is the "performance-based payments" phase.

During this last phase, emissions reduction activities/projects receive financial compensations after an evaluation of the output of the efforts taken to reduce emissions or enhance carbon stocks, taking into

consideration a pre-set emission or absorption basics Scenario.

The REDD+ good governance is essential to its success, considering not only the number of development sectors involved and the reforms of the regulatory framework suggested by it, but also the numerous stakeholders to consider in the establishment of a strategic framework, as well as the implementation of REDD+ projects and initiatives at national and local levels.

The process includes a set of social, environmental and governance standards. Transparency is among these. The idea was to focus on the way transparency was included and implemented in the REDD+ preparation phase in Cameroon. Therefore, addressing the issue of transparency

at the current level of REDD+ development in Cameroon raises three questions: how was transparency included in the formulation process of the REDD+ national strategy? How is transparency considered in the REDD+ national strategy document? What are the implications for transparency in the REDD+ in Cameroon.

2.7 Forest Law and Enforcement

Cameroon's 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law represents a landmark reform in the country's

environmental governance, aimed at strengthening protected areas (PAs) management and enhancing climate resilience. Cameroon's 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law as a pivotal reform for strengthening protected areas (PAs) management and enhancing climate resilience. It traces the evolution from the 1994 law, highlighting the ecological, socio-economic, and climatic challenges that necessitated legislative change, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, and the escalating impacts of climate change. The law has key innovations, such as the formal integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives, provisions for expanding and connecting PAs, recognition of community rights and co-management systems, stricter enforcement measures, and the incorporation of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches.

The law aligns with national strategies like the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the National Development Strategy 2030, as well as regional and global commitments under COMIFAC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UNFCCC. Opportunities for financing PAs are assessed, including conservation trust funds, carbon markets, biodiversity offsets, and payment for ecosystem services (PES).

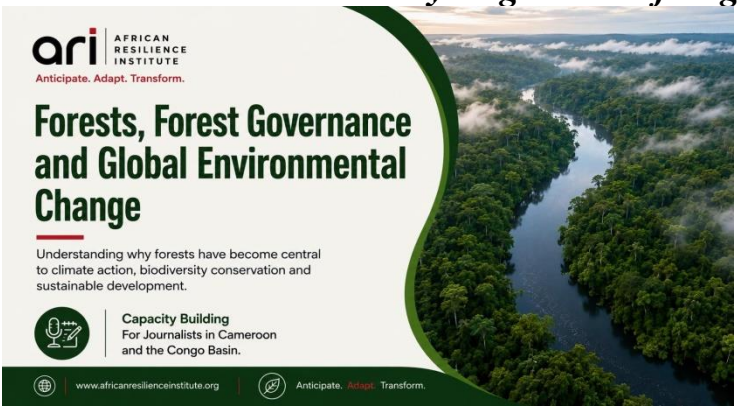
However, there are potential implementation barriers, such as limited institutional capacity, governance weaknesses, and coordination gaps. The new legal

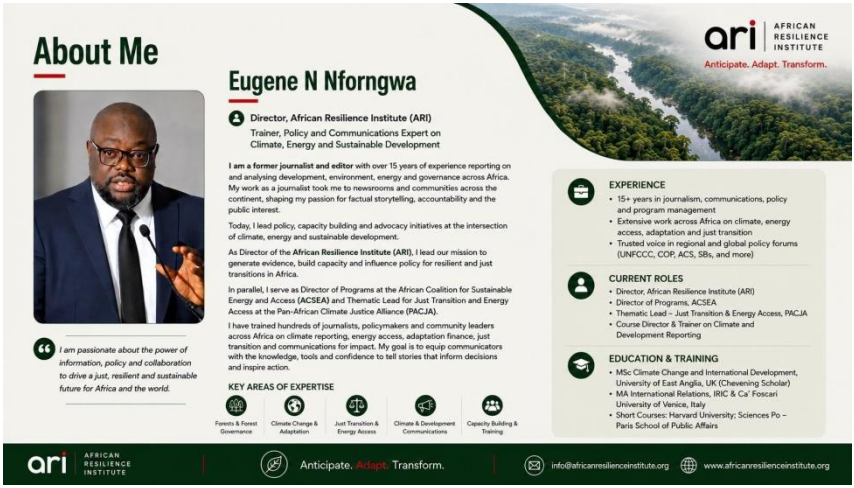
framework can operationalise integrated conservation and climate action, provided there is sustained political will, adequate funding, and active community participation.The 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law offers a robust legal foundation for embedding climate resilience into biodiversity conservation, positioning Cameroon as a model for adaptive and inclusive PA governance in the Congo Basin.

PART THREE
PRESENTATIONS: WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING JOURNALISTS UNDERSTANDING CAMEROON'S 2024 FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE LAW

3.1 Forest Governance and Global Environmental Change

By Eugene N. Nforngwa





LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.

This session will equip journalists with the knowledge, tools and perspectives to report on forest governance with accuracy, depth and impact.

Our goal:
Empower journalists to tell informed, solution-oriented stories that advance good forest governance, protect people and nature, and drive a more resilient future for Africa.

01 Understand the Big Picture

Explain why forests and forest governance are critical to climate stability, biodiversity, livelihoods and sustainable development.

- Recognize the global and African significance of forests.
- Understand how governance shapes outcomes for people, nature and the economy.

02 Identify Governance Issues

Identify key forest governance challenges, actors and dynamics.

- Recognize the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders.

03 Find and Verify the Facts

Find, verify and interpret data, sources and evidence related to forests and governance.

- Use credible data and tools to support reporting.
- Apply verification and fact-checking to environmental information.

04 Report with Impact and Integrity

Tell accurate, balanced and compelling stories that inform and inspire action.

- Apply ethical, solutions-oriented and conflict-sensitive reporting approaches.
- Communicate complex issues clearly to diverse audiences.

05 Center People and Justice

Highlight the voices, rights and knowledge of communities most affected by forest governance decisions.

- Ensure inclusive, fair and respectful storytelling.
- Amplify solutions led by communities and local actors.

06 Drive Solutions and Accountability

Use journalism to promote accountability, policy reform and sustainable solutions.

- Track commitments, policies and financing.
- Contribute to informed public dialogue and positive change.

You are a catalyst for change.
Your reporting can protect forests, uphold rights, hold power accountable and help build a just and resilient future for Africa.



ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE | Anticipate. Adapt. Transform. | www.africanresilienceinstitute.org

SECTION 1

The Planetary Crisis: Why Forests Matter More Than Ever

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

Humanity faces three interconnected environmental crises:

Climate Change
Rising temperatures, extreme weather, sea level rise

Biodiversity Loss
Species extinction, ecosystem collapse, loss of genetic diversity

Land Degradation & Pollution
Soil loss, desertification, pollution of air, land and water

Forests sit at the heart of the solution.

What system simultaneously regulates climate, conserves biodiversity, protects water resources, supports livelihoods and sustains economies?

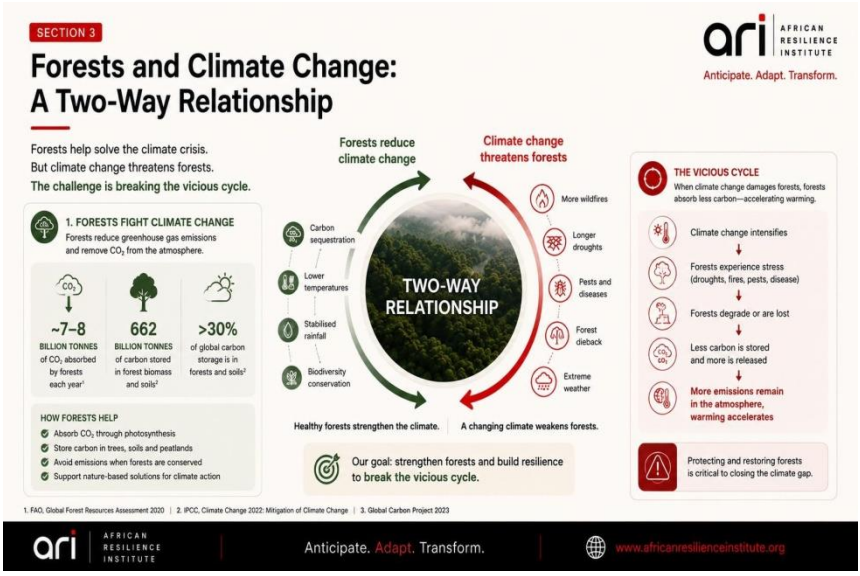
Forests.



Healthy forests are essential for a stable climate, a thriving planet and resilient societies.

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE | Research. Evidence. Solutions for Africa's Resilient Future. | www.ari-institute.org


SECTION 2
Forests in the Earth System
AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE
Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.
Forests are foundational to life on Earth.
They perform four critical global functions.
"Forests connect climate, water, biodiversity and people. When forests thrive, so does the planet."
1 Regulate the Global Climate
Forests are one of Earth's largest natural carbon sinks.
CO2 IN THE ATMOSPHERE
CO2 ABSORBED BY FORESTS
CARBON STORED IN BIOMASS AND SOILS
Forests cover ~31% of Earth's land area. ~31%
They store about 662 billion tonnes of carbon in biomass and soils. 662 BILLION TONNES
They absorb roughly 7–8 billion tonnes of CO2 annually. 7–8 BILLION TONNES/YEAR*
2 Regulate Water
Forests drive the water cycle and secure freshwater for millions.
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (moisture released into the atmosphere)
CLOUD FORMATION
RAINFALL
RIVER FLOW · GROUNDWATER RECHARGE · FLOOD REGULATION
Forests influence rainfall far beyond their borders through atmospheric moisture recycling.
They protect watersheds, maintain dry season flows, reduce floods and filter water.
Billions rely on forested landscapes for clean water and reliable supplies.
3 Regulate Biodiversity
Forests are the lungs of biodiversity on land.
Forests are home to about 80% of terrestrial biodiversity. 80%
They provide ecosystem services essential for agriculture, pollination, medicines and resilience.
Loss of forest means irreversible loss of species, genes and ecosystem services.
4 Support People
Forests sustain livelihoods, cultures and economies.
Nearly 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods, food, medicine or income. 1.6 BILLION PEOPLE
Forests provide food, fuel, fibres, timber and non-timber forest products.
Forestry contributes significantly to national economies and rural development.
Sources: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020; Global Carbon Project 2023
AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE
Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.
www.africanresilienceinstitute.org


SECTION 3
Forests and Climate Change: A Two-Way Relationship
AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE
Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.
Forests help solve the climate crisis.
But climate change threatens forests.
The challenge is breaking the vicious cycle.
1. FORESTS FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE
Forests reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remove CO2 from the atmosphere.
~7–8 BILLION TONNES of CO2 absorbed by forests each year[1]
662 BILLION TONNES of carbon stored in forest biomass and soils[2]
>30% of global carbon storage is in forests and soils[2]
HOW FORESTS HELP
Absorb CO2 through photosynthesis
Store carbon in trees, soils and peatlands
Avoid emissions when forests are conserved
Support nature-based solutions for climate action
Forests reduce climate change
Climate change threatens forests
Carbon sequestration
Lower temperatures
Stabilised rainfall
Biodiversity conservation
TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP
More wildfires
Longer droughts
Pests and diseases
Forest dieback
Extreme weather
Healthy forests strengthen the climate.
A changing climate weakens forests.
Our goal: strengthen forests and build resilience to break the vicious cycle.
THE VICIOUS CYCLE
When climate change damages forests, forests absorb less carbon—accelerating warming.
Climate change intensifies
Forests experience stress (droughts, fires, pests, disease)
Forests degrade or are lost
Less carbon is stored and more is released
More emissions remain in the atmosphere, warming accelerates
Protecting and restoring forests is critical to closing the climate gap.
1. FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 | 2. IPCC, Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change | 3. Global Carbon Project 2023
AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE
Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.
www.africanresilienceinstitute.org

SECTION 4

Why Forest Governance Matters

AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.

Forests are vital. Yet they continue to disappear.
The difference lies in governance.

Forest governance is the system of laws, institutions, policies, rights, incentives and processes that determine how forests are managed and who benefits.

Every year, the world loses **~10 million hectares** of forest—an area larger than Portugal.[1]

GOOD FOREST GOVERNANCE

- Clear land and resource rights → Security and reduced conflicts
- Effective laws and enforcement → Reduced illegal logging and forest crimes
- Community participation and inclusion → Better decisions and local stewardship
- Transparency and information access → Accountability and public trust
- Equitable benefit sharing → Improved livelihoods and social justice
- Sustainable management and restoration → Healthy forests, resilient communities, low emissions



POOR FOREST GOVERNANCE

- Unclear or contested tenure → Land conflicts and insecurity
- Weak laws and poor enforcement → Illegal logging and forest degradation
- Exclusion of local communities → Loss of trust and resistance
- Lack of transparency and accountability → Corruption and elite capture
- Unequal benefit distribution → Poverty and inequality
- Unsustainable use and conversion → Deforestation, emissions and loss of biodiversity

POOR GOVERNANCE DRIVES THE CRISIS

- Up to **90%** of deforestation is linked to agricultural expansion, logging, mining and infrastructure driven by weak governance.[2]
- Illegal logging costs **US$10–15 billion** annually in lost revenue globally.[3]
- Land-use change and deforestation account for **~10–11%** of global greenhouse gas emissions.[2]
- Strong governance is the most cost-effective path to climate action, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Good forest governance turns forests into a force for climate stability, biodiversity conservation and inclusive development.
Poor governance turns forests into a source of emissions, conflict and poverty.

Sources: 1. FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 2. IPCC, Climate Change 2022 3. World Bank, 2020

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE | Anticipate. Adapt. Transform. | www.africanresilienceinstitute.org

SECTION 5

The Congo Basin: A Global Climate and Biodiversity Powerhouse

AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.

The Congo Basin is the world's second largest tropical rainforest and a cornerstone of planetary stability. Its forests regulate the climate, sustain biodiversity and support the livelihoods of **over 75 million** people.

What happens in the Congo Basin affects us all.

THE CONGO BASIN AT A GLANCE

- **~1.8 million km²** of rainforest (the world's second largest tropical rainforest)[1]
- **~150 billion tonnes** of carbon stored in vegetation and soils[2]
- **75+ million** people depend on its forests for their livelihoods, culture and well-being[3]
- **10,000+** plant species, 400+ mammals, 1,000+ birds and countless endemic species[4]
- **Drives rainfall** across Africa, influencing agriculture, water security and hydropower far beyond its borders[5]

THE CONGO BASIN COUNTRIES



WHY THE CONGO BASIN MATTERS GLOBALLY

- **Climate regulation:** Absorbs carbon dioxide and helps keep global warming in check.
- **Rainfall generator:** Recycles moisture and sustains rainfall across Central and parts of West Africa.
- **Biodiversity hotspot:** One of the most biodiverse regions on Earth.
- **Livelihoods and culture:** Supports Indigenous Peoples and local communities with food, medicine, shelter and cultural identity.
- **Global public good:** Its protection delivers benefits to the world—today and for generations to come.

KEY PRESSURES ON THE CONGO BASIN

- **Deforestation:** Driven by agricultural expansion, infrastructure, mining and fuelwood.
- **Illegal logging and timber trade:** Cause revenue loss and degrade forests.
- **Mining and oil exploration:** Threaten ecosystems and communities.
- **Poaching and wildlife trade:** Endanger species and disrupt ecosystems.
- **Weak governance and corruption:** Undermine laws, accountability and sustainable management.
- **Climate change:** Intensifies droughts, floods and disturbances.

THE POWER OF GOOD FOREST GOVERNANCE

- **Protects forests and biodiversity** for current and future generations.
- **Secures rights and benefits** for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- **Drives sustainable economic growth** through legal timber, NTFPs, ecotourism and green investments.
- **Strengthens climate resilience** and supports global climate goals.
- **Promotes peace, stability and** regional cooperation.



Six countries. One forest. One future.
Healthy forests in the Congo Basin are vital for people, nature and the planet.

The future of the Congo Basin will shape the future of our planet.
Strong forest governance is the key to unlocking its benefits and securing a liveable future for all.



Sources: 1. EU JRC, The Congo Basin Forest Partnership 2020 2. Hubau et al., Nature, 2020 3. CIFOR, 2021 4. WWF, Living Forests Report, 2022 5. Regional Hydroclimate Studies, 2020

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE | Anticipate. Adapt. Transform. | www.africanresilienceinstitute.org

SECTION 6

Cameroon: Forest Wealth, Diversity and Governance at a Crossroads

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.

Cameroon is one of Africa's most forest-rich countries and a global biodiversity hotspot.
Its forests are a national asset—and a national responsibility.

CAMEROON'S FORESTS IN NUMBERS

18–20 million hectares
of forest cover (~40% of national land area).[1]

~3 billion tonnes
of carbon stored in biomass and soils.[2]

Millions of people
depend on forests for food, income, energy, medicine and cultural values.

Home to exceptional biodiversity
including many endemic and threatened species.

Significant timber sector
and timber-related exports support the national economy.

Active in REDD+ since 2008, with multiple initiatives and partnerships.

FOREST LANDSCAPES OF CAMEROON



KEY PRESSURES ON CAMEROON'S FORESTS

- Agricultural expansion including smallholder farming and large-scale plantations.
- Illegal logging and unsustainable timber trade.
- Mining and extractive activities in and around forest areas.
- Infrastructure development (roads, dams, urban expansion).
- Bushfires and charcoal production.
- Poaching and wildlife trade.
- Climate change leading to droughts, extreme events and forest stress.

BUILDING BETTER FOREST GOVERNANCE

- Strengthen land and resource tenure security, including community rights.
- Promote inclusive participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Improve transparency, data access and accountability.
- Enforce forest laws and combat illegal activities.
- Ensure equitable benefit sharing from forests.
- Promote sustainable forest management and restoration.



Cameroon's forests are a national treasure and a global public good.
The choices we make today on governance will determine the forests we leave tomorrow.

Climate Stability · Livelihoods and Well-being · Biodiversity Conservation · Economic Development · Water and Food Security

Sources: 1. MINFOF, State of the Forests in Cameroon, 2020 2. Global Forest Watch, 2023 3. CIFOR, Global Forest Carbon Data, 2022 4. FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE | Anticipate. Adapt. Transform. | www.africanresilienceinstitute.org

SECTION 7

Why Journalists Should Care About Forest Governance

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.

Forests are not just environmental stories.
They are human stories. Economic stories. Political stories. Stories of our future.

- **It's a Climate Story** — Forests are among the most powerful climate solutions we have.
- **It's a People Story** — Forests impact livelihoods, health, culture, and food security.
- **It's an Economic Story** — Forests drive jobs, trade, investment and sustainable growth.
- **It's a Justice Story** — Forest governance affects equity, rights and accountability.
- **It's a Security Story** — Poor governance fuels conflict, crime and instability.
- **It's a Future Story** — What we report on today shapes the choices of tomorrow.


Forests are central to the climate and nature agenda.


Strong governance protects people and communities.



Weak governance opens the door to exploitation and loss.


Better governance unlocks green growth and resilience.

"Good journalism doesn't just inform—it influences choices, holds power accountable and drives change."

WHAT JOURNALISTS CAN DO

- **Investigate** — Uncover the facts behind deforestation, illegal logging and land conflicts.
- **Explain** — Translate complex data and policy into clear, compelling narratives.
- **Amplify** — Give voice to communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth.
- **Hold Accountable** — Track commitments, funding and outcomes. Ask the hard questions.
- **Inspire Solutions** — Highlight innovations, good practices and pathways for change.

Journalists are essential partners in building informed societies, accountable leaders and resilient futures.
When you report on forests and governance, you're not just telling a story—you're part of the solution.



ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE | Anticipate. Adapt. Transform. | www.africanresilienceinstitute.org

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Why Forest Governance Reporting Matters

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE
Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.

Forests are at the heart of our climate, biodiversity, economies and communities.
Good governance is the key to protecting them—and **journalism is the key to making it happen.**

01 Forests are vital to life and livelihoods.
They regulate the climate, protect biodiversity, sustain water, support food security and provide millions of jobs.

02 Governance determines outcomes.
Strong governance protects people and nature. Weak governance drives deforestation, inequality and conflict.

03 Journalism brings transparency and truth.
Investigative, accurate and ethical reporting exposes problems, informs the public and holds power accountable.

04 People and justice must be at the center.
Forest stories are people stories—about rights, inclusion, livelihoods and the fight for a fair future.

05 Solutions exist and can be amplified.
From community leadership to innovative policies, African solutions demonstrate that a different, sustainable future is possible.

06 Your reporting can drive change.
Stories can influence policy, shift investments, empower communities and protect forests for generations to come.

07 The Congo Basin is a global responsibility.
Its future affects Africa and the world. Strong governance and informed reporting are essential to safeguarding it.

As journalists, you are more than storytellers—you are guardians of the public interest. Report with courage. Report with integrity. Report for people, for nature, for a sustainable future.



ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE | Anticipate. Adapt. Transform. | www.africanresilienceinstitute.org

Contact

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE
Anticipate. Adapt. Transform.

For questions, collaborations or training inquiries, **please reach out.**



Trainer:
Eugene N Nforngwa
info@africanresilienceinstitute.org
www.africanresilienceinstitute.org
African Resilience Institute (ARI)
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Working together for well-governed forests, resilient communities and a sustainable Africa.

People · Nature · Governance · Future

ari AFRICAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE | Anticipate. Adapt. Transform. | www.africanresilienceinstitute.org

3.2 Creating Media Content: From Idea to Pitching

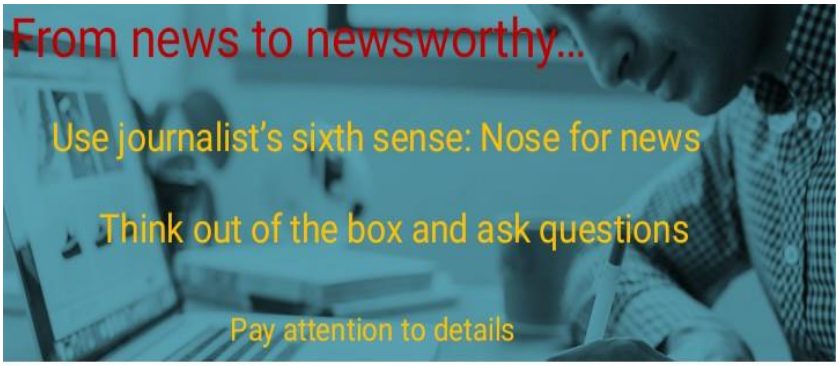
by Amindeh Blaise Atabong





What is a pitch?

A pitch is a brief description (usually less than 300 words or a few paragraphs) of a story intended to convince an editor or producer to commission the piece.



tip: How can I make a fifth place winner in a competition to be more newsworthy than a first place winner?

Tips on writing great pitches and points to note

- Keep pitch short (<300 words): Editors have tons of mails to read
- If pitching for the first time, tell the editor who you are and why you are best placed to write the story
- Include links to published work: Use Dropbox, Google Drive, etc if work not available online
- Focus on unreported or underreported stories
- Subject of e-mail: Let it be powerful to draw editor's attention
- Specify writing format: Feature, long-form, personal essay, interview, profile, commentary, etc

Tips on writing great pitches and points to note

- Suggest possible headline
- Provide a news hook
- Offer proposed delivery deadline if commissioned: This will make the editor know you are serious and results-driven
- Do proper research on the story
- Follow-up properly
- Avoid sending same pitch to multiple editors at same time: You may be in a fix if same angle is commissioned.
- Keep idea concise

Hello James,

I am following up to see if you are interested in the story I pitched last week on recent bombings in Buea. I know you are busy, so if I don't hear back from you within the next couple of days, I will assume it's not of interest at this time.

Cheers,
Folegwe

Hi James,

I guess you are too busy to respond to e-mails. keep up! Pretty much ensure I will never open any from you or the company you work for.

Best wishes,
Folegwe

What can cause a pitch to be declined?

- **Missing out on what your story is about**: You must master the central theme of your story and present it in a succinct manner
- **Didn't disclose conflict of interest:** Check publication's code of ethics/guidelines on conflict of interest disclosure
- **Pitching an already published story or similar:** Check publication's archives
- **Publication is low on budget to commission stories:** Move to the next publication or wait as advised by editor
- **Time wasn't right:** Keep an eye on the story
- **Story idea too narrow:** Think scope, reach and impact
- **Too aggressive with follow-up:** Give editors some breathing and 'boozing/smoking' space

QUESTIONS Q&A ANSWERS

15 mins



Thanks for your attention!

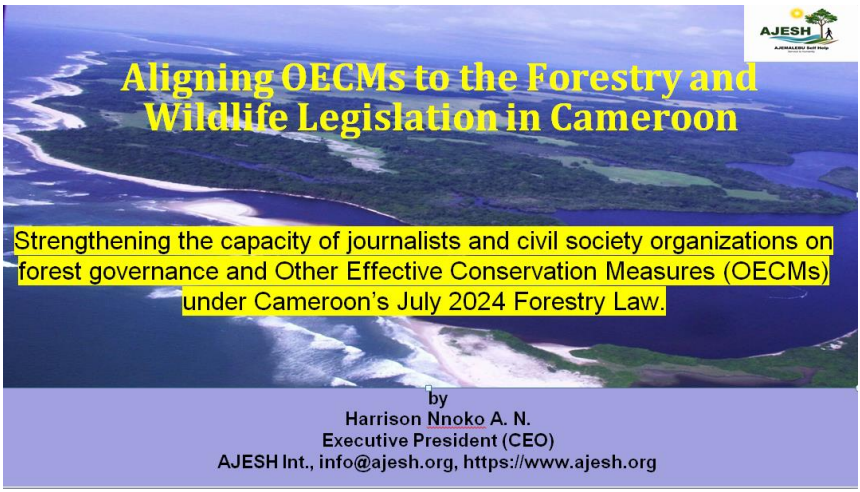
Tel: 6 74 87 59 87

Email:

aamindehblaise@yahoo.com

3.3 Aligning OECMs to the Forestry and Wildlife Legislation in Cameroon

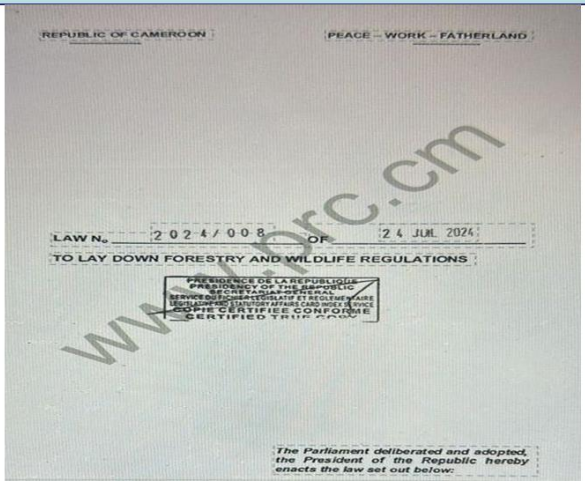
by Harrison Nnoko A. N.
Executive President (CEO) AJESH Int.,
info@ajesh.org, https://www.ajesh.org





- ☐ Intro to the Forestry and Wildlife Legislation
- ☐OECMs Conceptual Framework
- ☐OECMs Alignment to the forestry Law and Convention
- ☐ Wayforward

The July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON PEACE – WORK – FATHERLAND

LAW No. 2024/008 OF 24 JUL 2024

TO LAY DOWN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE REGULATIONS

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL
SERVICE DES AFFAIRES LEGISLATIVES ET REGLEMENTAIRES
LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
COPIE CERTIFIEE CONFORME
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

The Parliament deliberated and adopted, the President of the Republic hereby enacts the law set out below:

www.prc.cm

The July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law

- **LAW N0 2020/008 OF 24 JULY 2024_ TO LAY DOWN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE REGULATIONS**
- **Purpose and Scope:** This law lays down forestry and wildlife regulations with a view to achieving forestry and wildlife policy objectives.
- **Definitions (77):** Marine Protected Area, Protected area, Community protected area, Permanent forest management, Aquacultural, Aquatic, Biodiversity/biological diversity, Biosphere, Local community, CITES Convention, Concession or management agreement, Customary Law, Rights of Use, Ecosystem, National Park, Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), etc.
- **Participatory forest and wildlife Resources Management:** Effective participation of all stakeholders in the management of forest and wildlife resources. precisions on Section: 4, 5, 6, & 7.
- **Protection of the Forestry and Wildlife Heritage:** Interest is on sections: 18 & 19.

The July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law

FOREST REGIME:

- The national forest estate shall comprise permanent and non-permanent forest estates.

- **Permanent:** comprise forest lands used exclusively for the protection and sustainable management of forests and wildlife. Section: 28-34 **(State forests, Production forests, Protected areas, Forest reserves, Council forests, etc.)**

- **Non-permanent forest estates:** portions of national land likely to be used for purposes other than forestry. Section 35-39 **(NPFE encompasses communal forests, community forests, privately owned forests, and other areas that may be converted to non-forest uses)**

SECTION 23: Permanent forests shall caver at least 30% (thirty percent) of the total area of the national territory and reflect the country's ecological diversity.

- **Forest Management:** Forest management shall comprise of the following operations:

- socio-economic surveys; inventories; sustained forest exploitation; natural or artificial regeneration; reforestation; participatory and integrated management; infrastructure development; implementation of the environmental management plan.

The July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law

WILDLIFE REGIME

- **Management of Protected Areas**: The management of protected areas shall include the following operations: animal population inventories; environmental mapping and zoning; surveillance and protection; planning and construction of infastructures; ecological research and monitoring; valorization and ecotourism; eco-development.
- **Other activities liable to be carriedout as part of PA development**: anti-poaching actîvities; taking account of cross-border aspects; research in ethology and the habituation of great apes; epidemiological surveillance of wildlife; recreation and reintroduction; implementation of the environmental management plan.
- **Section 107**: (1) The State shall draw up a protected areas management plan, which shall be reviewed periodically.
- **Wildlife Protection**: Wild animal species living on the national territory shall be classified into three protection classes A, B and C, according to conditions laid down by regulation.

The July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law

Class	Protection level	Hunting status	Examples
Class A	Fully protected	Hunting, killing, or capturing is prohibited except under very limited legal exceptions	Gorillas, chimpanzees, elephants, lions, leopards, cheetahs, rhinoceroses, giraffes
Class B	Partially protected	Hunting is allowed only with the appropriate hunting permit and under strict regulations	Buffalo, eland, roan antelope, waterbuck, some duiker species, hyenas
Class C	Least protected (common species)	Hunting is regulated to maintain healthy populations	Porcupines, cane rats (grasscutters), many common small mammals, reptiles, and birds not listed in Classes A or B

The July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law

- **Protection of People and Property Against Wild Aninmals**: Section 114: Where some animais constitute a danger to people and/or their property, or are likely to cause damage to them, the wildlife authority may expel them and exceptionally slaughter them in a controlled manner, under conditions laid down by regulation. Details section: 115-117.
- **Valorization of Wildlife Resources:** Section 118: A wildlife exploitation certificate shall be an authorization to hunt or collect research data or quantities of animal products, in accordance with the development plan or the management plan, as the case may be, and under conditions laid down by regulation.

FINANCIAL AND FISCAL PROVISIONS.

- General Provisions: Section141: The State shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the financial resources generated by activities relating to the exploitation of the resources of the national forest and wildlife heritage cover the needs inherent in the renewal of such heritage and contribute towards financing the development projects of the State, Regional and Local Authorities, and the populations. More read: Section 142 - 154

PENAL PROVISIONS AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFENCES

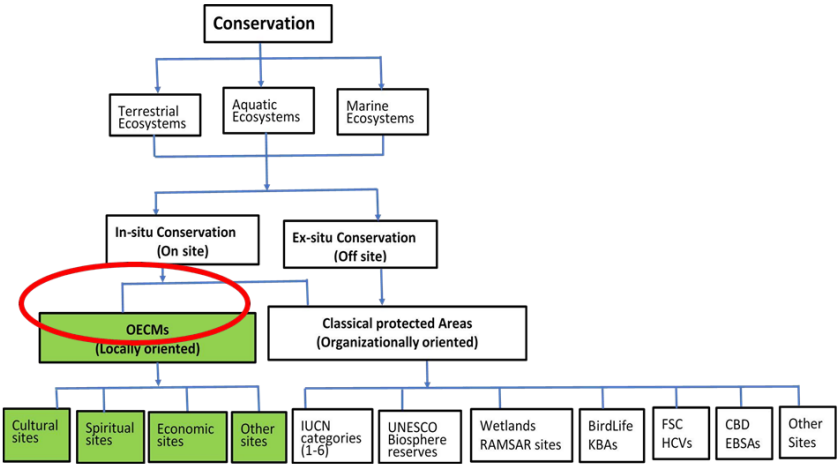
- Special Jurisdiction Criminal Investigation Officer: Section 154: (1) Sworn officers of the ministry in charge of forestry or wildlife, as the case may be, shall be, special jurisdiction criminal investigation officers. More read: Section 155 - 181

TRANSITIONAL. MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 182: (1) Valid exploitation permits issued prior to the date of enactment of this law that are active and in good standing regarding the financial obligations associated with said permits, shall remain valid until they expire..

More read: Section 183 - 191

OECMs CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Criteria to identify & recognize OECMs

- **Defined boundaries –** you can point to it on a map
- OECMs should only be recognized in areas where there is significant biodiversity, and which meet the CBD criteria
- **Presence of land – water based activities** (agriculture, forestry, petroleum exploitation, Mining, cultural…..)
- **Governing authorities** are able to control activities within the boundaries
- **Governing authorities have the obligation to perform activities that lead to conservation** in the area and restrict activities that are incompatible with conservation
- **Conservation is year round and will be maintained in the long term**
- **Site goals will lead to conservation and biodiversity**
- **Conservation objectives are not threatened by other site objectives**
- **Governing authorities follow the** management plan creating positive biodiversity outcomes, and no governing authorities threaten on-site conservation



OECMs Alignment to Conventions and Legal Framwork

OECMs	International Convention	National Legislation
	The Kunming-Montreal - Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)	July 2024 forestry and wildlife Regulation
	Target 3	Permanent and Non-permanent forest estates
	Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas	**Participatory forest and wildlife Resources Management:** Effective participation of all stakeholders in the management of forest and wildife resources. precisions on Section: 4, 5, 6, & 7.
		Permanent Forest. Section: 22 - 27 **Regional Forest:** Section: 30 **Council Forest:** Secion 32
		Community Protected Area, Section: 33

- Elaboration and Validation of the national strategy and Guidelines for the management of mapping of and management of OECMs in Cameroon.
- Map and degsinate more OECMs in the different Agro-Ecological Zones in Cameroon
- Mobilise resources and capacities to strengthen OECMs in Cameroon.
- Set up National OECM communication strategy.
- Councils and Regional houses should be encouraged in integrating OECMs in their planning.
- Support the setting up and operationalization National Multi-Sector OECM specialist/think-tank working group.


AJESH
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

3.4 Methodology in Climate change reporting

by Ntungwe Ngalame Elias,
Publisher, Eco-Outlook Newspaper
/(ecooutlooknews.com)

Introduction

Climate change issues are not going away. They will get worse before they get better. For Cameroonians to seize the opportunities and reduce the risks, everyone will need to know more about climate change.

The way the news media report about this will affect how well communities deal with the problems. As these environmental issues take hold, audiences will demand information about what is happening and what they can do about them.

Environment journalists will see an opportunity to better serve these audiences with the right information.

Three of the media's traditional roles — informing audiences, acting as watchdogs and campaigning on social issues — are especially relevant.

But communicating climate change messages in a concise and understandable way remains a major challenge for media professionals.

IDENTIFYING NEWS SOURCES

Tips on identifying Climate change stories and sources (News peg)

*** Research Methodology**

- **Field visits:** This entails physical presence and getting firsthand information in the field(Events, conferences, visiting affected or vulnerable communities, consulting with experts) etc
- **Literature review (Sourcing** information (secondary source) on what has been written on the subject by other news platforms or institutions, searching for information via google or libraries etc.)
- **USE of Data (** Consult environment related institutions like the National Climate Obsevatory, weather stations for up to date data)

****World Environment Day:*** World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated on the 5th of June every year, and is the United Nation's principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment. This day provides an ideal opportunity for reporters to share information about climate change with the general public. There are many possible story angles to mark the Day:

- You may decide to write editorials on what is climate change and what should be done to stop its devastating consequences.
- You may do a vox-pop on what people know about climate change and how they are fighting against the phenomenon.
- You may cover events marking the WED especially activities related to climate change.
- To create awareness, you may organise contests, awards on climate change and announce the winners on this day on your programmes.

**Bring the story home*: Every day scientists publish new research, policymakers make new announcements and environmental activists issue new demands. These are great sources of stories. Even if these things happen far away, smart journalists can work out ways of relating these stories to their own local circumstances and audiences. For example, during the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, climate change and sustainable transport researchers said emissions from the transportation sector comprise about a quarter of all emissions and are of particular concern in places like Asia, where the use of personal vehicles has grown significantly in recent years. This research permits you to report on climate change and the

transportation sector in your country. Is what is going on in Asia also possible in Cameroon? What is being done in Cameroon that is different? What measures have been taken to prevent emissions from transportation sector?

Read from colleagues: Keep on top of the climate change stories by reading the work of other journalists who are covering it well. For example, EnviroNews Nigeria reports that renewable energy has significantly improved the lives of villages in Delta state. This is a good news peg for you to report on how renewable energy is helping people in Cameroonian villages.

Make use of social media: Use social media such as Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to find out what people are saying about climate change and to share your own stories. Discussions in social media could serve as great sources of stories but they must be fact-checked.

Get connected: Build large contact lists of sources from a broad variety of different sectors especially rural councils, common initiative groups and environmental NGOs, both within and outside of your communities. Call them from time to time to find out if they are organising any events related to biodiversity.

***Create feature stories:** In the absence of news stories, you can do features that explain the human side of climate change and show this is a 'development' and 'people' issue, stories that explain what climate change is all about.

Now that you have identified stories and news sources, how do you GATHER the information and improve on the stories?

***Humans First:** Whether it is a story about animals, forests or soil, remember you are telling the story to human beings. So it is essential to relate in the story how this will affect them: their health, their wealth etc. Humanise stories as much as possible.

***Know your audience:** When you sit down to write a story there is only one person that matters: not you, not your editor and not the person you just interviewed. It is the listener – someone who you are unlikely to ever meet. Be familiar with your audience's level of knowledge about biodiversity climate change and about the things they care most about.

***Zero jargons:** As much as possible avoid using technical terms/words that rather confuse your listeners. KISS (keep it short and simple) your reports. If your interviewees use jargon, be ready to

ask them to simplify their language. You can always ask "can you explain further, what do you mean, please I don't understand, please simplify that"?

Get varied opinions: Your interviewees can be wrong; they can be biased. They can have vested interests. So it is important to interview as many people as possible to get a balanced view of the topic.

****Speeches are often boring***. Get reactions. The poorest communities are most at risk yet their views generally go unreported. Quoting members of at-risk communities is a great way to add human characters to complex scientific topics but remember that it is important to check their facts as well by reviewing research reports and data about your topic.

Now that you have what you want how do you DELIVER the information?

Different formats used on Radio, TV, Print and Online news media

Programmes on Radio, TV, Print and Online news media can be enhanced using a variety of formats, including panel discussions, one-on-one interviews, phone-in programmes, field interviews and despatches and packages. Each of these formats has its strengths and weaknesses as discussed below.

1. PHONE-IN PROGRAMMES

This type is suitable for radio and online news media that are multimedia. Also sometimes (rarely) suitable for TV. It enables listeners to call and participate in programmes

Strengths:

- Grants easy access to the radio and TV for the public.
- Many people can participate and this gives variety in contributions.
- Information is instantaneously conveyed. This could be an advantage as well as a disadvantage.
- The listener has the satisfaction that his voice is being listened to. His worries are replied to immediately.
- Anonymity is relatively preserved (because they do not come to the radio and TV physically) and so participants can easily and freely volunteer information.
- Take for example, the recent events in the NW/SW.

Weaknesses:

- Abusive denunciations are likely to occur
- People might lie or give inaccurate information about their situation.
- Calling has a cost and not everyone who has the means and wants to call, may know how to go about it.

Opportunities:

- For this format to work well, it must be monitored. Calls have to be checked to avoid abuses if possible.
- Over time, it would be necessary to create a "listeners' club" in what is called community management based on regularity.

2. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

A **panel discussion** is a specific format used on radio, TV and online news media that are multimedia. It is a live or recorded **discussion** about a specific climate change topic amongst a selected group of panellists who share differing perspectives.

Advantages:

- Many people are intervening
- Listeners and viewers are glad to have many voices in their community participating
- The possibility of systematic contradictions is removed
- The panellists complement each other.
- If the panellists are knowledgeable enough, they can be very effective in communicating information about climate change.

Disadvantages:

- If not properly moderated, it could turn rowdy and stray out of hand.
- Finding the resource persons and bringing them

to the studio is sometimes a difficult task. Many people who hold strong views in their community do not necessarily have the courage to speak on radio and TV to a wider audience.

- Someone who has the most insight into a topic may be overshadowed by another who is a humorous and a better speaker, even if the panel member has questionable views.

Opportunities:

- The casting should strive to represent a cross section of the community. Get a panel that represents the various shades of opinion in the community on conservation/biodiversity.

3. ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS AND FIELD INTERVIEWS

These two have been combined because they are similar though not necessarily related. They are suitable for TV, Radio, Print and Online news media.

Advantages:

- It saves the reporter the trouble of having to look for many guests.
- For the case of field interviews of say, chiefs and administrative authorities, the reporter may easily move to meet them instead of getting them to come to the studio.

Disadvantages:

- Having a single resource person may easily turn into a lecture. Listeners at that level do not

necessarily need people to come and lecture them.

- If the resource person such as a chief is well respected, it may be an advantage but if he commands no respect among the people his message will likely not sink. This format needs credibility of the resource person.

4. DESPATCHES AND PACKAGES (SHORT AND LONG FORM REPORT). SUITABLE FOR TV, RADIO, PRINT AND ONLINE NEWS MEDIA

Advantages

- The reporter obtains the information first-hand
- Creates diversity by allowing for natural sound, interviews and reporter's voice.
- There is more credibility because reporters are on the spot of the event

Disadvantages

- Unlike live phone-in or interviews, there is no direct contact with listeners

KEEP IN MIND:

Vocal delivery: For audio-visual media, the intonation and the excitement in your voice is absolutely important to convey the message.

Follow-up with Audiences: Most climate change educators quickly discover that once people are introduced to the topic, their interest grows; they want to know more and to take action of some kind. So, the

greater the number of people who learn about climate change the easier the marketing becomes. Come back to some of the themes you have discussed before. Repetition is the secret of pedagogy.

Establish a Climate change Award: Honour a person or organization in your community engaged in the effort to fight climate change whether locally or internationally.

3.5. Delegate's Speech

A SPEECH BY Mr CHRISTIAN MANGA BELL EPIE, SOUTH WEST REGIONAL DELEGATE OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE ON THE OCCASION OF A TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS ON UNDERSTANDING THE UPDATED CAMEROON'S JULY 2024 FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE LAW LIMBE, 18 JULY 2026

All protocol duly respected,

Dear Media Men and women,

It is with immense pleasure and profound sense of duty that I stand here to welcome you to this one day workshop happening under the theme"***Improving Journalists' Understanding of the Updated Cameroon July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law."***

This workshop is happening at a very critical moment when there is a lot of debate on forest governance in Cameroon, beginning with the law we are here to reflect on and its implication on participatory governance from now moving forward.

Forest governance across Africa is gaining recognition as a cornerstone of continental action on climate change, biodiversity conservation and the fight against poverty and inequality. A number of African governments are

now transferring forest management rights to local communities, ensuring that the perspectives of historically marginalized groups—especially women and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)—are heard and included. At the same time, fresh opportunities are emerging for responsible investment in Africa's forests, ranging from trade in verified legal and sustainable timber and non-timber products to growing markets for carbon credits and nature-based solutions.

Strengthening journalists capacities in understanding these issues is very important.

The government of Cameroon ,through the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife continues to work to also strengthen forest governance through this law.

We want to thank **Internews, Codec Cameroon, AJESH International, ECO OUTLOOK Newspaper and African Resilience Institute for this initiative.**

The doors of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife remain open to collaboration and partnership with the media.

That said, I OFFICIALLY **DECLARE OPEN THIS WORKSHOP.**

Long Live the Media,

Long Live the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

Long Live the Republic of Cameroon and its Illustrious Head of State, President Paul Biya.

3.6 PICTURES




Improving
Forest
Governance in
Cameroon
Through
Strengthening
Journalists'
Understanding
Of The Updated
July 2024
Framework
Forestry and
Wildlife Law.
Internews
ari
Eco-OUTLOOK
CODEC


GLOBAL FOREST WATCH
Renforcement de Capacité à la documentation et l'analyse des alertes de déforestation dans les départements du Nkam et du Moungo


Improving
Forest
Governance in
Cameroon
Through
Strengthening
Journalists'
Understanding
Of The Updated
July 2024
Framework
Forestry and
Wildlife Law.


5.0 Strengths and Weaknesses of the 2024 Forestry Law
Strengths
✓ Modernisation of forest and wildlife governance
✓ Stronger community rights and participation
✓ Ban on log exports, promotion of local processing
✓ Enhanced conservation and restoration provisions
✓ Tougher penalties for illegal activities
✓ Recognition of human-wildlife conflict
✓ Support for traceability and legality
Weaknesses
! Incomplete definitions (e.g., indigenous peoples)
! Diluted participation, lack of co-management
! Relaxed declassification procedures
! Weak, uncodified benefit-sharing mechanisms
! Insufficient transparency and open-data obligations
! Gender and vulnerable groups under-addressed
! Capacity and funding gaps for implementation






Improving
Forest
Governance in
Cameroon
Through
Strengthening
Journalists'
Understanding
Of The Updated
July 2024
Framework
Forestry and
Wildlife Law.
Cameroon's 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law and Thematic Issues
Internews
ari
Eco-OUTLOOK
CODEC


Improving
Forest
Governance in
Cameroon
Through
Strengthening
Journalists'
Understanding
Of The Updated
July 2024
Framework
Forestry and
Wildlife Law.
Internews
ari


GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH
2023-2024
Renforcement de Capacité
à la documentation et l'analyse
des alertes de déforestation
dans les départements
du Nkam et du Moungo
FOREST
WATCH




Improving
Forest
Governance in
Cameroon
Through
Strengthening
Journalists'
Understanding
Of The Updated
July 2024
Framework
Forestry and
Wildlife Law.
Internews
ari
Eco-OUTLOOK

PART FOUR
FIELD INVESTIGATION TOPICS

4.1 How Cameroon's push for palm oil trade threatens locally restricted trees in Ebo Forest

Stretching over 2,000 kilometers in the heart of Cameroon, the Ebo forest has some very important tree species and most diversed populations of primates in the world including endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee the Cross River gorilla.

Over 75 threatened plant species have been recorded in the area and at least 12 plant species found there are entirely new to science, making the forest a vital global biodiversity hotspot.

A recent report by The Kew Gardens highlights the extreme vulnerability of these locally restricted trees to logging and land conversion.

The drill is a rare ape and 80 percent of the world's remaining population is in Cameroon.

The reserve has managed to hold its own against illegal loggers and poachers and the revised 2024 forestry law in Cameroon hits hard on these defaulters.

But a new threat is emerging that could put the entire forest at risk – the country's push into the palm oil

trade. As part of the government plans to become a palm oil exporter, one company has proposed tearing down forest on the edge of Ebo for a huge plantation. The move is part of a wider push across Africa to embrace palm oil – the seed of which comes from Africa – as companies run out of land and up against increase scrutiny in Southeast Asia which produces 85 percent of it.

Setting up huge plantations to supply the West with the oil used in everything from baked good to beauty products is surging in May African countries, a move that has alarmed environmentalists like Green Peace.

In Cameroon, Environnement NGOs like AJESH have been very concerned about multiple threats in the Ebo Forest and measures to douse increasing conflict

This investigation will examine this trend and the potential threat to this rich Forest ecosystem

Plan of Work

- Explain the Forest threats situation on the ground including a visit to Ebo forest communities like the Yabassi-Littoral bio-diversity hot spot.
- Look at the overall trend, interviews with the different Stakeholders, palm oil companies, traditional authorities, conservationists, activists

and government officials. This will involve field visits in Yabassi-Littoral.

4.2 Cameroon's forests now face a new driver of deforestation: booming cacao production to supply the European market

In the South region one of the cocoa production hot spot, the new cocoa boom is curiously driven by the region's élite who ironically play key roles in shaping government policy including implementing Forest Governance

Deforestation in Cameroon has accelerated, with the country losing around 782,000 hectares (1.9 million acres), or 4.2% of its forest cover, in just five years since 2020, reports Green Peace.

However the cocoa plantation expansion zeal faces multiple challenges reports say.

Europe is Cameroon's biggest buyer of cocoa, the processed form of the cacao bean, so the recent deforestation for cacao cultivation puts many farmers on a collision course with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). The critical legislation that took effect at the end of 2025, requires importers to ensure their products aren't sourced from forests cleared after Dec. 31, 2020.

Another challenge in geographic Landscape.

Unlike Ivory Coast with more level land that favors plantation expansion, Cameroon's Center and South region forest landscapes are much more mountainous, and so the access for creating large plantations is much more difficult, reports say.

I will be doing a field report in Meyomessala and Sangmelima in the South where cocoa plantations are developing to investigate the level of deforestation and its potential impact, who are the key drivers of the cocoa production schemes, challenges faced and what could bé the solution.

Plan of Work

- Visits to the cacao plantation sites in Meyomessala and Sangmelima
- Interview with local cocoa farmers
- Traditional rulers
- Conservationist
- Govt officials
- Interviews with cacao trading companies.

4.3. Revisiting the Gains and Losses in the Management of the Mount Cameroon National Park, 20 Years On

Mount Cameroon is the highest mountain in West and Central Africa with a unique unbroken altitudinal vegetation gradient from evergreen lowland rainforest

at sea level through sub montane and montane forest to alpine grassland near its summit at about 4100 m above sea level. It is a biodiversity hotspot with many endemic flora and fauna species. Efforts to conserve this unique and rich ecosystem started in the 1930s. The Mount Cameroon National Park (MCNP) was created in 2009 and covers a surface area of 58,178 ha in the five districts of Buea,Limbe, Muyuka, Idenau and Mbonge, according to Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.

The region is characterized by a high proportion of tropical rainforest, due to high annual rainfall reaching over 10,000 mm at the coast.

Wildlife surveys carried out in the area reveal the presence of endangered and threatened primates species such as drill (Papio leucophaeus), chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes), putty-nosed monkey (Cercopithecus nictitans), mona monkey (Cercopithecus mona), red-eared monkey (Cercopithecus erythrotis), red-cap mangabey (Cercocebos torquatus), Preuss‟ guenon (Cercopithecus preussii) and crowned guenon monkey (Cercopithecus pogonias). It has also shown that the population of drills and chimps is fast dwindling.

Multi-faceted Threats

There is a high population pressure with around 100,000 inhabitants living in 41 villages located at the

vicinity of the park. Since the area holds one of the most fertile soils, it attracts a constant flow of migrants which are engaged in agriculture and leads to uncontrolled land acquisition and deforestation.

The presence of large agro-industrial plantations along the west coast has led to even more land scarcity and the need for coordinated land use planning. several forest reserves have been converted to farmland and to commercial oil palm and rubber plantations for the Cameroon Development Corporation, CDC, Pamol Plantations Ltd and several small holder farmers. Extensive new oil palm developments are also underway around the Mount Cameroon National Park

Forests within the range of different species of great apes continues to be lost, fragmented, and degraded; converted through agriculture, logging, grazing and fire

Plan of Work

- Investigate the successes in the conservation of the Mount Cameroon National Park.
- Document emerging anthropogenic threats to t the management(Forest land conversion for agriculture, urban expansion, etc)
- Investigate the state of biodiversity in the Mount Cameroon National park
- Interview stakeholders around the park (residents of the 41 peripheral villages, park officials ,environmental NGOs, government officials etc.

4.4. Indigenous peoples and Local Communities' Rights in the Bakossi -Banyang Mbo Forest Landscape

The Bakossi-Banyang Mbo Forest landscape harbours two protected areas - the Bakossi National Park (29,320 hectares) and the Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary (66,200 hectares).

Located between two units,– Kupe Manenguba and Manyu – in the South West Region, the Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary (BMWS) was created on 12 March 1996 by Prime Ministerial Decree and covers a surface area of 64,220 ha.

The management objective for the creation is to conserve the biodiversity of the area and develop and promote eco-tourism. The Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary is a biological hotspot of conservation significance and an important site for primate conservation. It is a habitat of flagship species, including the forest elephant, with its famous 'elephant market' (a salt lick situated in the Sanctuary where elephants visit), Nigerian-Cameroon Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes vellerosus*), Drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), and seven known Guenons.

The sanctuary is also home to over 322 species of avifauna, 71 species of reptiles, 2 species of tortoise; 23 species of lizards, and 46 species of snakes. The sanctuary has mainly sub-montane vegetation and its landscape is characterized by rugged and hilly topography. Across Cameroon, BMWS is seen as a wonderful destination for school and corporate field trips, nature lovers and researchers of all ages.

This Bakossi Forest Reserve is within a chain of mountains that include Kupe-Muanenguba and Mungo Divisions of Southwest and Littoral regions of Cameroon, and encompasses the largest cloud forest in Western-Central Africa. Covered in dense tropical rainforest, the Forest Reserve is sufficiently rich in plant and animal diversity to be considered a 'key' site for biodiversity within the Bakossi Mountains. Of particular interest are the many primates, birds and plant species of the area, most of which are endemic to Mount Kupe. To date 2,412 plant species have been described from the Forest Reserve of which 82 are endemic and 232 of these plant species are listed in the Red Data List as threatened with extinction. There are also more than 329 bird species within the Mount Kupe area of the Forest Reserve .The Bakossi Forest Reserve is a Strict Nature Reserve, the life of local communities was inexplicitly intertwined with the forest which provided the local people with the

resources for their livelihood (e.g., farming, fishing, hunting, collection of medical plants, firewood, timber, non-timber products) with these two protected areas requiring an actionable demand-driven community-based sustainable tourism strategy and plan for the Bakossi-Banyang Mbo landscape, based on an in-depth understanding of the natural and cultural attributes, values and complexities of the areas and the communities that inhabit them, this report will investigate issues of rights over forests in the two landscapes.

Plan of work

- Field visits to both landscapes.
- Interviews with community people and other stakeholders.

4.5. Mangrove Forest Regeneration along the Douala-Edea Corridor

Estimates reveal that mature mangrove areas along the Douala -Edea corridor experienced continuous loss in surface area over a 50 year period.. This could be associated with excessive wood harvesting for fuel wood and construction. Douala's urban sprawl, high annual mangrove cover loss (estimated around 6% per year in parts of Douala), harvesting of mangrove wood for smoking fish, and the spread of invasive species. This result is what disappearance of mangroves in

Manoka island, where 267 ha of mangrove was lost over 32 years (1986–2018) .Approximately 989 ha of mangrove forest cover was lost to forest clearing and settlement relocation for over 43 years in Cap Cameroon. In response to the sea's increasing encroachment and the yearly intensification of seasonal surges linked to coastal flooding, the inland retreat has made it necessary to clear mangroves to make room for relocation. The harvesting of logs for fuel wood and poles for construction props are the primary causes of mangrove forest degradation in the Douala-Edéa National Park in general, and particularly in the fishing camps of Yoyo 1, Yoyo 2, Youme 1, Youme 2, and Mbiako. Fuel wood is the main source of energy used by the island's inhabitants to cook and smoke fish, particularly the red mangroves (Rhizophora species). It is exploited illegally, as poles mainly by women fish smokers and logs by illegal chainsaw operators, to meet demands in the city of Douala. The selective harvest of young Rhizophora stems greatly affects natural regeneration and recruitment into larger size classes; thus, reducing the ability to renew degraded spaces. Efforts made by civil society organisations to use improved ovens for smoking fish in a bid to reduce pressure on mangroves have not yielded the desired goals. Fish smokers continue to cut considerable quantities of wood stocked and piled at several large storage depots in the fishing settlements. The demand

for fuel wood is high in these fishing camps, resulting in over-exploitation, a significant factor contributing to deforestation and degradation of mangroves and other associated forests

Mangrove forest regeneration along the Douala-Edéa corridor in Cameroon focuses on restoring vital coastal ecosystems within the Douala-Edea area, and surrounding Wouri estuary, where decades of urban expansion, firewood logging, fish smoking, and sand extraction have driven severe habitat

This investigation shall look at a large-scale initiative aims to restore 3,000 hectares of mangroves over a 40-year period under Verra VCS-VM0033 certification, targeting the sequestration of 2,500,000 tonnes of CO_2e while engaging local communities

Also,the Cameroonian association *Appui aux Initiatives de Développement (AIDE)* leads projects in the Douala Edea National Park (covering 262,935 hectares) focusing on environmental education, building local organization capacity, revitalizing degraded mangrove patches, and supporting low-impact green economies amongst other projects

Plan of work

Produce a TV documentary on Mangrove regeneration along the Douala -Edea corridor.

4.6. Assessing 20 Years of the Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Natural Resources of the South West Region (PMSNR-SW)

The Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West Region (PSMNR-SWR) is a long-running bilateral cooperation project between the Government of Cameroon (led by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife - MINFOF) and the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW Development Bank.

Launched around 2006 and currently operating into Phase VI (officially launched in Buea in July 2025), the initiative aims to protect high-value biodiversity hotspots while improving the living conditions and socio-economic resilience of forest-dependent local communities.

PSMNR-SWR focuses on the management of Protected Areas, sustainable forest manage-ment and mediating land use conflicts in the South West Region of Cameroon. Through the support of PSMNR-SWR, MINFOF is enhancing its activities regarding the protection of approximately 318,000 hectares of high-value ecosystems.

It works to preserve the unique biodiversity of the South West Region while enhancing the livelihoods of local communities. The programme works

collaboratively with local communities, government agencies, and international partners to promote sustainable forest and wildlife management practices.

PSMNR-SWR is a comprehensive initiative aimed at protecting high-value ecosystems in the South West Region, which is recognized as one of the eight biodiversity hotspots in Africa. Its efforts are focused on five protected areas: Mount Cameroon National Park, Korup National Park, Takamanda National Park, Bakossi National Park, and the Banyang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary.

It aims to improve the livelihoods of surrounding communities through collaborative management and sustainable development practices, promote sustainable forest and wildlife management and preserve high-value ecosystems and biodiversity. Its core objectives are to protect endangered species (such as Cross River gorillas, forest elephants, and chimpanzees) and rare tropical rainforest habitats, partner with over 90–100 buffer-zone and collaborating villages through Village Forest Management Committees, cluster platforms, and Conservation Development Agreements, support sustainable management of council forests, community forests, forest reserves, and forest landscape restoration, deploy monitoring tools and support anti-poaching operations (including Conservation Task Forces and develop long-term funding mechanisms,

ecotourism initiatives, and alternative income-generating activities
The program focuses on major ecological sites and national parks in the South West Region and surrounding areas:

Within the framework of the FGMI project, we shall investigate their grounds covered by the PSMNR-SW in 20 years of existence.

Plan of work

Collaborate with PSMNR staff and local communities to produce a TV documentary.

4.7. The Tiko Bimbia REDD+ Pilot Project

Cameroon's adherence to the REDD+ process in 2008 sparked off its involvement with the elaboration of the Readiness Plan Idea Note and later on the validation, in 2013 of its Readiness Preparation Plan by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility .Through its Ministry of the Environment and Nature Protection Cameroon has since then developed a Country REDD+ Country Climate Change National Strategy which was adopted in 2018.

REDD+ Pilot Projects are part of preliminary requirements for a country's effective participation in the mechanism. With financing from the C2D fund of the French Cooperation, the National Community

Driven Development Programme, PNDP is engaged in a REDD+ Pilot Projects Component aimed at contributing to the up of the REDD+ mechanism in Cameroon.

The Tiko/Bimbia Municipalities REDD+ Pillot Project is aimed at effectively curbing the pressures of deforestation and forest degradation, securing the carbon sequestration potential of the mangrove and associated coastal forest ecosystem and boosting local development through sustainable activities in production, integrated sustainable coastal forest management, natural resources conservation and eventually valorizing the carbon stock gains in the carbon market.

The interrelation and interdependence between mangrove and coastal forests and socio-economic interactions with stakeholders, especially local communities requires the adoption of an intergraded holistic approach in the implementation of sustainable management of the project using major stakeholder participatory approaches -that will involve government, local communities, the private sector, civil society, including local and national partners and donors.

The challenges to be addressed by the Tiko-Bimbia REDD+ project include energy needs where measures of reducing over dependence on wood sources for cooking, fish smoking roasting etc like producing and

vulgarising wood energy saving devices and reduce the heavy cost of electricity and gas while introducing alternative sources such as biogas and solar energy .Forest land conversion into agriculture and urban development are also some of the issues.

The FGMI project will carry out an investigation on the Tiko -Bimbia REDD+Pilot Project.

Plan of Work

Field visits interactions and interviews with stakeholders.

4.8. Enforcement of the July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law

The revised Forestry and Wildlife law modernises Cameroon's legal framework for combating wildlife crime through stronger penalties and updated enforcement provisions. Effective implementation of this law requires continued awareness-raising, dialogue among stakeholders and consistent respect for human rights principles. The importance of continued stakeholder engagement, community awareness of the revised law, and the integration of human rights principles into protected area management is also urgent.

Cameroon's new forestry law marks an important step forward in the fight to protect the nation's rich biodiversity. The new law, passed by parliament at the end of July 2024, represents a major revision of

legislation originally established in 1994. It considerably strengthens the framework for protecting the nation's forests and wildlife while preserving the customary rights of local communities.

After many years of consultation between stakeholders, the law introduces new measures to regulate the use of wildlife resources and protect natural habitats, provides a legal framework for sustainable forest management, and introduces tougher penalties for crime.

"Above all, it addresses emerging issues relating to the renewal of natural resources, climate change, and the fight against poaching and wildlife crime.

As part of the fight against climate change, the law extends its scope to new challenges, including the restoration of landscapes, and the fight against deforestation and degradation," he added.

Plan of work

Within the scope of the FGMI, extensive interviews on knowledge of the July 2024 forestry and wildlife law shall be conducted with key stakeholders in the East, Centre, South, Littoral and South west Region to ascertain the extent to which communities appropriate, this law, key elements and changes from the 1994 law and how it is being enforced in local forest communities.

CONCLUSION

This Reporting Guide constitutes all the key forest governance issues that can be the basis of journalistic investigations in Cameroon. In the weeks ahead, selected journalists will be commissioned to carry out succinct investigations on these key issues in the East, Centre, South, Littoral and South West Regions.

These investigations will be in print, broadcast and online categories. After publication of the investigations, the content created will be added to this Reporting Guide for future learning purposes

REFERENCES

Atabong B.A,(2026)"*Creating Media Content; From Ideation to Pitching*" Seminar paper

Awazi,PN(2026) *"Cameroon's 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law: A Key Pillar in Fostering Protected Areas Management and Climate Resilience in Cameroon"*University of Bamenda.

Burgin,S,Zama FE,(2014)"*Community-Based Tourism - Option for Forest-DependentCommunities in 1A IUCN Protected Areas? Cameroon Case Study;EDP Sciences.*

Community Action for Development,(2020),"*Promoting Community Based Sustainable Tourism in Cameroon"*

Enow.Egute T.O,Albrecht E(2021" *Forest tenure and rights: a constraint to community forest management in Cameroon and the REDD+ initiative*: Internantional Journal of Forestry ,Ecology and the Environment.

Epie,M.C"*Introducing the July 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law*" Seminar presentation.

FODER,(2018)"*Evaluation Report On Transparency In REDD+ In Cameroon"*

Mahonghol,Ngeh P,Chen K.H,(*2017)" Cameroon Timber Trade:Legality Training Manual"*

Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection(2018*)"National Strategy Document*REDD+ *(Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) and Ameliorating Carbon Stocks".*

Nforngwa,NE (2026)"*Forests,Forest Governance And Global Environmental Change:Understanding why Forests Have Become Central To Climate Action,Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development".*

Ngalame N.E(2026)"*Methodology in Climate change reporting"* Seminar Paper.

Nnoko,AN ,(2026)"*Aligning OECMs To The Forestry and Wildlife Legislation in Cameroon: Strenghtening the capacity of journalists and civil society organisations on forest governance and other Effective Conservation Measures Under Cameroon's Jully 2024 Forestry and Wildlife Law*" Seminar Paper.

Presidency of the Republic,(2024) "*Law No. 2024/008 of 24 July 2024 to lay down forestry and wildlife regulations"* PRC.cm.

PSMNR-SWR,(2026)"20 Years Of Protecting Biodiviersity And Empowering Coommunities" https://psmnrswr.org/.

WildAid,(2024)"*Cameroon's New Forestry and Wildlife Law Marks Historic Step Forward"*

CODEC CAMEROON

SHARING • INFORMATION, LIGHTING COMMUNITIES

This Report Writing Manual provides practical guidance for researchers, practitioners, civil society actors and forest stakeholders on how to generate, structure and communicate high-quality reports that support better forest governance in Cameroon. It offers clear steps, tools and examples to help users document evidence, analyse issues and recommend effective solutions for sustainable forest management and accountable governance.

KEY FOCUS AREAS INCLUDE:

- Forest governance and policy context
- Research and data collection
- Report structure and writing techniques
- Evidence-based analysis
- Actionable recommendations

Better reports. Stronger governance. Sustainable forests for Cameroon.

CODEC Cameroon
Menji, Southwest Region, Cameroon