



African Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP)

Cameroon National Desk Review

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAP	African Adaptation Programme
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CEAC	Education and Community Action Centres
COMIFAC	Central Africa Forests Commission
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immune-deficiency Virus
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINEP	Ministry of Environmental Protection
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NAP	National Agricultural Policy
NEMAP	National Environment Management Plan
ONACC	National Observatory on Climate Change
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Introduction

This paper sets out a conceptual framework for understanding the impacts of climate change on agriculture and the relation/connection between gender and agriculture. A situational analysis of Cameroon will be looked at with regard to the situation of women and men as smallholder farmers. This will be done at three levels: policy; institutional; and service levels. The paper will take into consideration the current agricultural policy document in Cameroon: The New Agricultural Policy (NAP) of Cameroon, 1999. The analysis made are directed towards understanding how agricultural policies in Cameroon are relevant to women and men as smallholder farmers with relevance to contemporary gender related issues and actions for solutions. The study is designed to determine if policies capture gender equalities in their objectives or if policies are simply gender blind. At the institutional and service levels, the paper will identify actors at the national level and examine their activities in terms of gender and agriculture. A gender analysis of the existing situation of women and men farmers will be made at the national level. Analysis made in this paper are based on categories defined as: profile of activities; profile of access to and control of resources and influencing factors to know the existing situation of women smallholder and men small holder farmers on the ground. Gender and climate adaptation strategies will be examined and efforts will be made to find out if climate adaptation strategies do exist in Cameroon and what strategies farmers are implementing to adapt to climate change. The paper also finds out if there are any lessons learnt from past adaptation experiences for future direction.

I. Background Situation

The Republic of Cameroon, located between latitudes 3°N & 13°N and longitudes 8°E and 16°E has a land area of 475,442 km²(about 44.4 % forest, 32.4 % high plateau and guinea savannah, 21.1 % Sudano-Sahelian Savannah). The census of 2007 puts the population at about 18,000,000 inhabitants with a density of 37,8 per km²(Report on HRD,2008/2009), and the growth rate is 2,7%. The human development index following UNDP report in 2009 is 0.535, ranking Cameroon as the 153rd out of 183 countries. The GDP per capita is \$ 2,037, while human development index is 0. 50, human poverty index36.9 and the national poverty line is 40.2 with urban and rural areas having 22.1 and 49.9 respectively. The current inflation rate is about 3% (WRI, 2005).

Cameroon has ratified a number of conventions that secure women's rights, particularly:

- Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- The Millennium Development Declaration (2000);
- Resolution 1325 of the United Nations on Women's Participation in Peace Management and Conflict Resolution;
- Declaration of the African Union Heads of State on Equality between men and women; and
- The platform of ECCAS on gender integration in policies and action of the community.
- Maputo protocol in 2009

In 1999, a national policy declaration for the integration of women in development was adopted with priority given to the following areas:

- Women and poverty;
- Women and the economy;
- Women and health, with an emphasis on the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- Education and training of women;
- Violence against women;
- Women and decision-making;
- The female child; and
- Implement the Beijing platform of action in political, social, economic and cultural fields.

Cameroon is also a party to major environmental and sustainable development related conventions such as the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention on Desertification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. Cameroon is currently developing her climate change adaptation strategies as well as the REDD process. The Government of

Cameroon has also drawn up an integrated strategy for rural development with special emphasis on gender-based and participatory approaches.

1.1 Economic Situation

The forestry sector contributes some 6% to GDP and generates about 45,000 jobs, the informal economy accounting for half of it (SOF, 2006). In 2003, exports of timber and derived products represented 16% of all exports (about \$ 380million), coming second to petroleum products.

The contribution of the agriculture sector to the GDP varied between 1,353.4 billion FCFA (20.5%) in 2000 to an estimated 1,652.1 billion FCFA (20.1%) in 2005 (MINADER, 2006). Agriculture contribution to GDP grew at 4.3% in 2000, and then reduced to 2.7% in 2002, rose to 5.9% in 2003 and settled at 4.1% in 2004 and 2005. During the periods 2000-2006 and 2003-2005 agriculture contribution to GDP got to an average of 3.8% and 33.7% respectively (World Bank, 2008b). The three components of the sector (crop, animal and forestry sub-sectors) contribute unequally to Agricultural GDP, employment, food and external trade. Between 2000 and 2005, crop production contributed 75.31% of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP) with 66.56% being from food crops to the detriment of industrial and export crops. The sub-sectors of animal production and fisheries (17.51%) and forestry (7.95%), contributed modestly to AGDP. Each of these sub-sectors contributed less food crops (such as plantains and cassava) to the AGDP.

The economic performance of Cameroon started improving at a steady rate from the year 1994, partly as a result of contributions made by the primary sector (agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing, and forestry sector). Primary sector GDP increased to 40% as compared to 22.55% during the period 1987-1993. Since 1995, the primary sector has been contributing to about half the real growth rate of the national economy and to 40% of total exportation (60% excluding petroleum products). After implementing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in 2006, Cameroon reached the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative permitting creditors of Cameroon to grant debt alleviations of USD 28,000 million. Unfortunately the rural area is losing its young labour force to urban areas. Rural exodus drains young labour force that eventually affects rural development negatively. Cameroon's population living in urban areas is about 60%. The rapid rate of urbanisation (37.8% in 1987 and 47.2% in 1997) can be attributed to the high levels of poverty and harsh living conditions in rural areas. Unemployment rate as strictly defined by the ILO¹ is estimated at 3.8% in 2010 while 48% of the population lives below the poverty line, with 82.3% people living below the poverty line in rural areas in 1996. The

¹According to the ILO, the unemployed population is made up of people who are available to, but did not, supply labour for the production of goods and services. They would have accepted a suitable job or started an enterprise during the reference period if the opportunity arose, and had actively looked for ways to obtain a job or start an enterprise in the near past.

number of youths underemployed in informal agriculture was at 82% while the number of youths underemployed in informal non-agricultural activities was at 60.5% in 2010. Less than 25% of houses in rural areas have latrines and pipe borne water and less than 10% of houses have electricity. People living in the rural areas of Cameroon are mostly occupied with activities related to informal agriculture, with women providing more labour and gaining less income. Employment by sector and location in 2010 was 75% for informal agriculture in rural areas and 20% in informal non-agricultural activities in rural areas. Informal agriculture employed 49% men and 59% women in 2010 while Informal non agriculture employed 39.5% men and Informal non agriculture employed 35% women.

1.2 Poverty Situation

The period between 2001 and 2007 was marked by a GDP average annual growth rate of between 3% and 3.4%, being per capita GDP average annual growth rates of 0.5% - 0.7% per annum; a very low rate unlikely to have any positive impact on the livelihood of households.

Thus, income poverty that witnessed a 13-point drop between 1996 and 2001 remained stable over the 2001-2007 periods. The incidence of poverty stood at 40.2% in 2001 and dropped to 39.9% in 2007. The immediate consequence of this stable poverty rate was an increase in the number of poor people, due to population growth (2.7 %), which has continued to be very high. As such, of a population estimated to be close to 15.5 million in 2001, 6.2 million people were considered poor. In 2007, the estimated population of the country was close to 17.9 million with 7.1 million poor people. In 2010, there were approximately 4,484,225.8 poor rural people, with 55% of rural people living below the poverty line as compared to 39% of people living below the poverty line at the national level in 2007. Unlike the case of many other countries, there is more poverty in households headed by men than in households headed by women. Men-headed households account for 41.6% of total households as compared to only 33.4% of households headed by women (IMF, 2010). In a recent observation, there has been an increase of female headed households in the rural areas of Cameroon to 22.9% as compared to 16.8% of rural female – headed-households in a previous observation (Marco international, 2010).

2. Climate Change in Cameroon

The earliest signs of Climate Change in Cameroon can be traced back to the period before 1990 when sharp variations in climatic conditions started affecting activities directly and indirectly in almost every sector of the economy, including agriculture (MINEF, 2001). During this period, rainfall had decreased by over 2% per decade since 1960. The irregular rainfall patterns caused a drop in the quality of yields in cash crop production such as cocoa (Molua and Lambi, 2006). Because agricultural activities are exclusively rain fed in Cameroon- by 90%, the distorted rainfall patterns have represented a considerable loss to agricultural production in Cameroon (Molua, 2008).

Moreover, documented facts found in Cameroon's Environment Report to the Rio Summit in 1992 and Cameroon's National Report on the First initial communication to Climate Change submitted to the UNFCCC in 2001, confirmed the occurrence of climatic irregularities and physical phenomenon that have been attributed to global warming-coastal erosions and landslides as a result of rising sea levels, a disruption of fauna, flora and ecosystems. In the coastal region, CC change has caused rising sea levels, erosion, flooding and landslides while in the savannah region, erosion, droughts, desertification and deforestation have intensified.

Climate Change shall also affect forest vegetation by shifting the geographic distribution of tree species, thereby causing variability in tree production (Melillo et al, 1993). It is important to mention that, forest areas in Cameroon cover 47% of the national territory- a significant reservoir of food and livelihood for forest communities. Timber exploitation, an activity mostly governed by men, accounts for 12% of Cameroon's export in wood products (WB Cameroon, 2012), 20% of export revenue, 6.7% contribution to Gross National Product (GNP), employing about 33,000 people- based on 1995/1996 statistics (Atyi, 1998). Women in forest areas collect Non-Timber Forest Product that are sold either transformed or in their harvested state as a steady source of livelihood (MINFOF, 2005). More so, the Southern part of Cameroon is located partly in the Congo Basin forest area that is one of the lungs of our planet Earth and a major carbon sink after the Amazon Basin forest and the Borneo Mekong forest basin that is less massive in size. One of the main threats that expose these vestiges of wildlife and plant diversity to the Climate Change and its devastating effects is deforestation. Deforestation accounts for 25% - 30% of the greenhouse gases released into our atmosphere each year equivalent to 1.6 billion tonnes (FAO, 2006). In Cameroon, the rate of deforestation between 1990 and 2010 was 0.9% per year. Cameroon has so far lost between 1990 and 2010 18.1% of its forest cover equivalent to 4,400,000 ha (FAO, 2010).

As indicated by the IPCC report, countries that have coastal sea line, such as Cameroon, are vulnerable to substantial loss in lives and property in urban and rural coastal communities. The government of Cameroon has estimated the loss of human lives and property as a result of landslides, sea level increase and flooding in 38 villages on the coastal area of Cameroon (MINEF, 2001). The town of Douala in Cameroon is susceptible to lose significant infrastructure as Climate Change events intensify. In 1995, the Bessengué Bridge had already collapsed as a result of river flooding. Deido, Bonamoussadi, Youpwé, the Bonaberi industrial area and the Douala International Airport are vulnerable areas that can be hit by significant floods and storms as a result of CC (MINEF, 2001). Studies carried out by Ellison, (1992) on the coastal zone of Cameroon confirmed that farming and fishing activities shall be affected by a retreating mangrove population, that can possibly get to the point of extinction, in the coastal zone of Cameroon as a result of erosion and rising sea levels caused by CC.

Faced with convincing evidence on the reality of CC in Cameroon and its devastating effects on the environment, national economy and livelihood of the average Cameroonian, the government of Cameroon has taken measures at the institutional and policy level to address environmental degradation and Climate Change.

2.1 Institutional Framework on Environmental Protection in Cameroon

At the institutional level, the ministry in Cameroon that presently has the mandate to address issues related to the environment and eventually Climate Change is the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP). MINEP was created by presidential decree No. 2005/177 of 14 April 2005 with the following responsibilities:

- To coordinate national, regional and international institutions of cooperation that intervenes in the domain of the environment.
- To design measures on the sustainable management of natural resources, policies that take into considerations all sectors of the economy in collaboration with other Ministries, technical partners and scientific research centres.
- The negotiation, monitoring and implementation of international treaties and conventions.

In order to competently handle issues related to the climate change, MINEP has created a Climate Change Unit that coordinates and monitors multi institutional CC projects, a National Focal Point (UNFCCC, IPCC Focal Points) and respective focal points in the departments of various ministries.

However, with the complex nature of issues related to Climate Change that extends to different socio-economic and political domains, Climate Change today in Cameroon is tackled from multiple ends. The ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Tourism, Mines Water and Energy and today the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Family run special departments that address issues related to Climate Change, environmental protection and development.

Some important Units that make up MINEP

- Secretary General
- Division of cooperation and project programming
- Follow-up unit
- Communication Unit
- Legal Unit
- Computation unit
- Education unit
- Courier and liaison unit
- Documentation and achieve unit

- Decentralised servicer of the Ministry of Environment and the Forest
- Regional Delegations of Forest and Wildlife
- Follow-up and implement programs, budget, human resources and the

Departmental Delegations that are in charge of the organisation, coordination, animation and control of activities.

Ministerial units include:

- Forest and Hunting Control Stations
- Operational Technical Units
- Cooperation Unit

Extension services are administered through:

- General inspectors
- The director of Central Administration
- Technical counsellors
- Inspectors
- Head of divisions
- The sub-director of central administration

2.2 Environmental Policy in Cameroon

Between the years 1960 to 1992, forest conservation and wildlife protection had not yet gained importance in Cameroon. The forest was managed by the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI), and wildlife was managed by a special department in the Ministry of Tourism.

In 1987 under the Structural Adjustment Program, forestry was given more consideration as a priority area. The year 1992 marked a turning point in Environmental Policy in Cameroon after the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992. After the Rio conference, Cameroon created the Ministry of Environment and Forestry which became two separate ministerial departments in 2004: The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and the Ministry of Environment and the Protection of Nature. In 1993, a new Forest Policy was passed and in 1994, Cameroon adopted a new Forest Code and a law on forest, wildlife and fishery regulation. An Environmental Code was published in 1996 including an outline law voted on the political and strategic framework on the environment, conservation and sustainable development (Cameroon RIO+10 Assessment, 2002).

In 1999, Cameroon organised the first Central African Head of States Summit on the Sustainable Management of Dense and Humid Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa. Today the forestry sector in Cameroon has been restructured to include a regulatory board during the award of deeds, transparency through the introduction of three levels of independent

observers, the development of a zoning plan- the first case in the sub-region, progress towards forest certification, limitations to forest resources by neighbouring populations, community forest and hunting zones run by communities (MINEP, 2012).

Environmental policy in Cameroon has been accompanied by a corresponding institutional framework that changes with respect to internal and external activities which directly affects the environment of Cameroon and the wellbeing of our planet Earth.

See Annexe1for bilateral and multilateral environmental agreements that Cameroon has signed in order to fortify environmental policy and policy action towards Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.

2.3 Institutional Framework and Policy Action on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Cameroon

The general legal framework for environmental management in Cameroon and eventually Climate Change policy action on adaptation and mitigation is structured with respect to Law N° 96/12 of 05 August 1996.

The Law N° 96/12 of 05 August 1996 was voted and promulgated to provide concrete legal binding that had really not existed before, to the sustainable management of the environment in resource exploitation and industrial activities. More so, the Cameroon government was strongly committed to Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Summit on sustainable development that provided an opportunity to seek international recognition on sustainable development- development that proportionately addresses economic, social and cultural issues as well as environmental protection.

2.3.1 FCCC and the Initial Communication on Climate

Cameroon signed the FCCC in June 1992, and subsequently published and submitted its Initial Communication on Climate in June 2005. The Initial Communication on Climate contains information on mitigation actions, the national greenhouse gas inventory report, analysis on impacts and associated methodologies and assumptions, progress in implementation and information on domestic measurement, reporting and verification and support received. Cameroon is presently in the process of preparing its Second National Communication (SNC) that should provide an update on Cameroon`s situation in relation to the impact of CC, mitigate and adaptation with respect to the framework of the UNFCCC in Cameroon.

2.3.2 National Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

The National Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Committee was Created by Ministerial decision No.00003/MINEP/CAB/ of 16 January 2006. The CDM committee has within its structure a Designated National Authority (DNA) and an inter-ministerial and multi-sectorial

committee that assists the government of Cameroon in implementing mission and follow-up strategies in the use of clean technology. The DNA and related multi-sectorial committees also establish the regulations for the implementation of CDM projects. See Annexe2for CDM projects.

2.3.3 National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC)

The presidential decree No. 2009/410 of 10 December 2009 created the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC) - an independent body in charge of monitoring CC in Cameroon under the supervision of MINEP. The ONACC develops a national vision among stake holders that synchronises administrative stakeholder, research partners and scientific bodies currently working on CC related issues in Cameroon (MINFOF, 2010).

2.3.4 National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA)

Based on the provisions of Law N° 96/12 of 05 August 1996 a National Adaptation Plan of Action is in the process of being created. The National Adaptation Plan of Action shall take into consideration information on capacity building, technical assistance and collaboration on CC policy creation from bilateral partners such as World Bank, European Union, Japan, and Common Wealth countries. NAPA shall be designed to identify actors and actions that should be implicated in the country's CC adaptation process and eventually an appraisal of the resources and technical capacities of identified actors.

NAPA shall determine the needs and priorities of Cameroon to adapt to adverse effects of CC. Priority shall be given to urgent and immediate needs that are susceptible to increase vulnerability and implementation cost at a later stage if not addressed immediately.

NAPA shall carry out a participatory evaluation on the vulnerability of local communities in order to:

1. Determine precisely the perception of CC in the minds of the general public and more particularly the most vulnerable groups;
2. Evaluate the adverse effects of CC on populations, natural resources as well as on the socio-economic activities of the community;
3. Analyse the level of Vulnerability on the means and mode of existence due to climate variability and extreme meteorological phenomenon;
4. To list the measures of adaptation adopted by populations in different sectors of activities;
5. To take note of the adaptation needs as expressed in the Local Development Program of every locality;
6. To determine the important options that the populations need as urgent implementation;
7. To recognize the criteria proposed by populations for the selection of important options at both local and national levels.

2.3.5 African Adaptation Programme (AAP) / PACC project

Cameroon is one of the 20 African countries that benefits from the “Cool Earth Partnership” initiative launched by the Japanese government². The initiative for the most part is directed towards “Supporting Integrated and Comprehensive Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (AAP)”. Under the APP, recipient countries are supported to develop their capacities to finance and manage adaptation projects more effectively within a long-term planning framework. The program provides a regional platform called the Inter-Regional Technical Support Component (IRTSC).

IRTSC creates communication links between country projects to enable them create a network within which countries share a wider range of knowledge founded on best practices. IRTSC also works towards building resilience to CC on the African continent by reinforcing national adaptation strategies and plans at the institutional and individual levels to reduce pressure on the environment caused by human activities, economic activities and development related activities.

Specific objectives of the AAP are centred on the following aspects:

- Facilitate access to quality data and information available on variability and CC impact that supports the national pacification mechanisms and long term dynamic decisions;
- Identify best practices, experiences and technologies related to the implementation of policy and measures favourable to resilience that build Cameroon’s resilience to CC in priority sectors and facilitate exchanges between countries;
- Identify new financial options and facilitate the insertion of key partners at the national, regional and sub-regional levels;
- Establish knowledge based and learning mechanisms in order to sensitise and engage stakeholders, inform decision makers, and encourage exchanges and cooperation between countries;

Expected outcome from the AAP

- Setup long-term dynamic pacification mechanisms to cope with inherent uncertainties related to CC
- Enable countries concerned build leadership capacities and develop institutional frameworks to manage CC risks and opportunities in an integrated manner at local and national levels.
- To ensure that the country is implementing climate resilient policies and measures in priority sectors

² The Africa Adaptation Programme was launched in 2008 by UNDP, in partnership with UNIDO, UNICEF and WFP, and is financially supported by the Japanese Government with up to US \$92 100 000

- To be sure that financial options targeted towards adaptation cost are extensive at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- Generate knowledge on adjusting national development process to fully incorporate CC risks and opportunities and eventually share knowledge across all levels and sectors of the economy.

The APP in Cameroon is implemented and technically supported by UNDP's country office respective. In Cameroon, MINEP is in charge of the general supervision of the APP.

2.3.6 The REDD process in Cameroon

Cameroon is at Phase 1 of the REDD³ process (Development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity building). Activities that are in progress in Phase 1 include:

- Setting up an institutional framework comprising of MINEP, MINFOF, COMIFAC, including stakeholders and donors such as GIZ, KFW, MINEPAT, and the National REDD Steering Committee that consists of a platform of multilevel stakeholders
- Functioning of the REDD steering Committee
- The implementation of a REDD pilot project that is also a collaborative program between stakeholders
- The creation of a National REDD Coordination Committee
- The elaboration of the Country's R-PP that was launched in June.

2.3.7 The REDD Pilot Project in Cameroon

Cameroon submitted the R-PIN (Readiness Plan Idea Note) to the World Bank in 2007 that was approved under the framework of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Cameroon is supported today by the FCPF in the elaboration of the R-PP. Accordingly, a REDD pilot project was launched in 2007 that is supported by the European Space Agency, COMIFAC the German Development Bank and the GIZ.

The REDD pilot project in Cameroon is aimed strengthening the institutional capacities to support future REDD regime

So far, the following achievements have been registered by the Pilot project:

- The development of tools that account for national Deforestation and Degradation emissions including potential counter measures;
- Capacity Building and Transfer of Technology, through facilitating the regional and international exchange on learning experiences,

³ REDD is understood as REDD+, i.e., reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (e.g., through afforestation, reforestation and restoration)

- Identifying opportunities for national incentive schemes and strengthened forest governance,
- REDD awareness and sensitization through conferences held with the participation of indigenous people, and relevant stakeholders.

2.4. Action towards Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change in Cameroon

Adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change in Cameroon are concrete and consist of a couple of projects and programs that directly address issues related to CC in the different regions of the country.

2.4.1 Mitigation to Climate Change in Cameroon through Biodiversity Conservation

Mitigation through Biodiversity Conservation includes the management of the Congo Basin Forest in collaboration with COMIFAC. Based on statistics from MINEP, 20% of the national territory has been classified as protected areas. Out of the forested area in Cameroon, 60% represents production forest while 40% is forest and wildlife reserve:

PROTECTED AREAS	NUMBER
National Parks	17
Wildlife Reserves	06
Sanctuary Of Wildlife	01
Zoological Gardens	03
Hunting Grounds To Lease Out	46
Hunting Grounds For Community Management	22

Forest management programmes and strategies are implemented by the government in collaboration with the civil society and the private sector. These programs are directed towards compensating tree harvests from logging operations that intensify desertification and contribute considerable to CC.

In 2008, a goal of National Reforestation Programme to plant 1.2 million trees was launched in which 100 000 trees have to be planted in each province. The North and Far-North regions that are susceptible to droughts, high temperature and desertification as a result of CC are priority areas in the tree planting campaign.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) runs a couple of biodiversity conservation programmes that target the following ecosystems:

- Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Conservation Action
- Tropical Dense Forest Conservation Action

- Tropical Wooded Savannah Conservation Action
- Semi-Arid Ecosystem Conservation Action
- Montane Ecosystems Conservation Action

2.4.2 Green Sahel Project

Green Sahel project designed in 2008 by the Cameroon government through the MINEP to combat desertification and deforestation in the North and Far- North that is characterised by arid, semi-arid and sub humid vegetation and the rapid advancement of the Sahara desert. Activities in the Green Sahel project consist of the reforestation of grasslands with indigenous tree species(9000 hectares of acacia plant) adapted to the local climatic conditions and the introduction of improved stoves (42 000 improved kitchen)that used less wood to produce heat energy.

2.4.3 Restoration of the Lake Chad basin

The open waters of the Lake Chad Basin has reduced from approximately 25 000 km² in 1963, to less than 2 000 km² in the 1990s (FAO, 2009). The climatic conditions around the topographical area of the Lake Chad basin, attributed comparatively to CC, that have caused a steady reduction in water include: high temperatures throughout the year that causes a potential evapotranspiration of 2200mm/year enough to offset natural recharge by precipitation.

Measures undertaken by the Lake Chad Basin Commission, mostly made up of countries that share the topographical area of the Lake Chad Basin (Algeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan) include:

- Recharge and storage systems that include Chari-Longone water transfer project and the transfer of water from the Oubangui Basin to the Lake Chad Basin
- The application of climate adaptation systems and the improvement of predictability systems
- The appraisal and up-scaling of water conservation and small-scale agriculture technologies.
- Irrigation of livelihood activities in local communities
-

2.4.4 The Niger and Benue Basin Management

Cameroon is a partner to the Niger Basin Authority that includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. Major projects to address climate variability that affects the Niger Basin are implemented through the ministries of Environment, Agriculture and energy of various States.

The Management of the Benue Basin through tree planting on the river banks to reduce erosion that degrades the river basin.

2.4.5 Adaptation through MINADER projects in association with other ministries

- The implementation of water pools management project that entails the creation of water pools particularly in the Extreme North of Cameroon where the arid nature of the land is a great constraint to animal farming.
- Water Basin management, agricultural irrigation and soil conservation.
- Research on genetic engineering- improved animal productivity that reduce animal consumption and increase reproductive capacities in animals.
- Introduction of short cycled crop species in eight agricultural regions of Cameroon such as Bambara nut, groundnut, maize, sorghum, onion, and soybean.
- The introduction of crop species resistant to adverse climatic conditions caused by CC, insects and diseases. Advice given to farmers on how to change sowing dates in response to adverse climatic conditions, particularly rainfall.
- The introduction of improved animal breeds that are susceptible to adapt new methods of grazing and feeding that are adapted to CC
- Continues research on agriculture and CC adaptation in Cameroon by MINADER together with other scientific partners such as MINRESI (Ministry of Scientific Research).

2.4.6 Climate Change adaptation and mitigation through information divulgation

With respect to Article 6⁴ of the UNFCCC, Cameroon joins the international community in celebrating the World Environment Day, June 05 every year. In 2011, a budget of 100millionCFA was used in financing informative activities such as workshops directed towards pupils, students, farmers and indigenous people, local authorities and parliamentarians, the private sector and the media; presentation of posters; sporting activities and cultural activities.

Other days that are celebrated as an opportunity to sensitise public on issues related to CC are:

- International day for the Conservation Biodiversity
- International day for the Fight Against Desertification
- International day for Ozone protection

Divulgation of information on CC through the internet, in which the MINEP Web site: www.minep.gov, has a special page on CC.

MINEP has created a CC unit that organises conferences workshops and meetings on CC, in collaboration with development partners, ministries concerned, civil society and important stakeholders form UNFCCC, IPCC and NGOs.

⁴ Article 6 of the UNFCCC recommends that all parties shall:

- (a) Promote and facilitate at the national and, as appropriate, sub-regional and regional levels, and in accordance with national laws and regulations, and within their respective capacities:
- (b) Cooperate in and promote, at the international level, and, where appropriate, using existing bodies:

Agreements have been signed with 15 newspaper organs, 3 radio stations (CRTV, Radio Environment and Magic FM) and under the framework of governmental communication for the coverage and rebroadcast of important event that concern CC.

Climate Change sensitisation is also organised in partnership with International Organisations, NGOs and, Institutions such as the British High Commission (BHC) to Cameroon, the UNDP, UN Information Centre (UNIC), UNESCO, IUCN (Radio Environment). The BHC for example organised a “Climate Road Show” in 2009 that presented a series of drama based scenarios that described CC in remarkably vulnerable areas of the North and the Far North that suffer from high temperatures, droughts, desertification and deforestation, and tree planting as possible mitigation actions.

3. Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture in Cameroon

“Women are important actors whose reinforcement of the capability of their communities to face and adapt to Climate Change. They can be effective agents of change and are usually those to whom we turn to in times of need and those who can play an important role in situations of crisis.”

The secretariat of (CCNUCC)

Cameroon’s policy on adaptation and mitigation to Climate Change is gender neutral on paper though there exist current activities conceived and implemented by women that are effective measures towards CC adaptation and mitigation in the agro-alimentary sector in rural areas. In addition, recommendations made in the National Environment Management Plan (NEMAP) policy declaration in 1995 to create a policy on the Integration of Women in Development (IWD) and the incorporation of women in environmental programmes have not yet materialised.

Environmental and Land Laws that do not work for women

All societies in the world are gendered through processes that unequally favour either men or women in their social roles (Kevane, 2004). Laws could deliberately or involuntarily omit provisions on ownership, redistribution and equal access to resources and well-being between men and women. In most cases where the law does not provide any bias for either male or female gender, in several parts of Africa, women are often disadvantaged as compared to men. There is a high risk that gender neutral laws are outweighed by customary laws (still strongly enforced in most parts of Africa) that do not work in the favour of women. Glaring examples of how gender neutral laws can work to the detriment of women are illustrated below with regard to land ownership and women’s vulnerability to the impacts of Climate Change in Cameroon.

The law on land tenure in Cameroon being gender neutral does not provide any legal binding to equal land ownership between men and women. Customary law in Cameroon on

the other hand generally favours men and the male child by giving them the absolute right to land ownership while limiting women`s right exclusively to access rights (FAO, 1994), (Fon, 2011).

Similarly, the law that formed the basis for creating an environmental policy in Cameroon and eventually the national Climate Change mitigation and adaptation action policy does not distinguish between women and men in its different texts. Because the initial law on environmental protection in Cameroon is gender neutral, environmental policy in Cameroon today, logically, does not identify women as one of the most vulnerable groups that suffer most from the negative effects of CC in their agricultural activities. This argument can be extended to other domains such as limited access to agricultural input, of human and natural origin, such as arable land, regular and timely rains that have become unpredictable as a result of CC. Most Climate Change policy actions in Cameroon are general and specific only to geographical areas without real appraisals of how CC affects either men or women as individuals. Beyond these generalities (“local communities,” “everyone,” “entire population,” “everybody,” “common heritage,” “general interest”) in CC policy on Cameroon, there exist gender realities that expose the vulnerability of women to the impacts of CC.

Cases of gender neutral laws that eventually do not work in the favour of women:

Note: The gender neutrality of the law is expressed in the **bold and underlined** areas of the respective laws.

Case I

Ordinance No. 74—1 of 6 July 1974 To establish rules governing land tenure.

Part I: General Provisions, Article 1 (1) “The State guarantees to **all natural person** corporate bodies having landed property the right to freely enjoy and dispose of such lands.”

Case II

This case illustrates a situation where a state issued land certificate is gender biased as it directly attributes land ownership to men by using the personal pronoun “**he**” to designate the future land owner.

Deed of Allocation of National Lands, Mindful of Decree No. 76-166 of 27 April 1976.

Article 8 The grantee shall forfeit his right by an order of the competent authority one month after an obligation has not been honoured

1. “If **he** has not undertaken the required development before exploitation of the period of provisional allocation.”
2. “If **he** has not settled rents within one month from the date they are due

The cancellation shall be automatic if he sub-lets or assigns his provisional right without consent.”

Case III

Law No. 96/12 du 5 Août 1996 on Environnemental Management

Article 2. (1) The environment in the Republic of Cameroon is a **common heritage** of the nation. It is an integral part of the universal heritage.

- 2) Its protection and the rational management of the resources that it offers to **human life** are of **general interest**. This targets particularly the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, their material and non-material content as well as the social and cultural aspects it entails.
- 3) The President of the Republic defines the national environmental policy. Its implementation is incumbent to the Government that applies it, with the consent of decentralised territorial organisations, **local communities** and associations that defend the environment. Thus the Government elaborates strategies, plans and national programs that assure the conservation and sustainable use of environmental resources.

Article 4. Defines: Environmental audit, Waste, Sustainable development, Continental waters, Maritime waters, Ecology, Ecosystem, Effluents, Waste elimination, Environment and Ecological balance.

Chapter II: General Obligations

Article 5: Laws and regulations have to guarantee the right of **everyone** to a healthy and safe environment a harmonious balance within ecosystems and between urban areas and rural areas.

Article 6. (1) All public and private institutions are expected, in their area of competence, to sensibilise the **entire population** on problems related to the environment

Article 7. (1) **Everybody** has the right to be informed on the effects prejudicial to human health and the environment of destructive activities, as well as measures undertaken to inform or suppress these effects.

However in Cameroon there exist a couple of plans and reforms at the level of individual ministries that address the vulnerability of women to CC. These reforms have come as a result of binding policies to international scale campaigns that address issues related to marginalised groups such as women.

The National Environment Management Plan (NEMAP)

In relation to the elaboration of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) that includes clauses on female participation, and Post-Rio reforms instituted with the assistance of the Brettons Wood Institutions, Cameroon developed a National Environment Management Plan (NEMAP) in 1995.

The NEMP⁵ is a participative approach in natural resource management that takes into account the ecological realities of different regions of Cameroon. It defines policies, objectives and strategies for a more sustainable development in general and an ecologically sustainable industrial development in particular. The NEMP identifies in a global manner both the problems concerning the degradation of the environment and the objectives and strategies for the sustainable management of the environment for economic, social and cultural development.

Most importantly, the NEMAP highlights the need to create appropriate policy on the Integration of Women in Development (IWD), by incorporating women in environmental programmes as an indispensable measure in achieving the development of human capacities. The National Plan of Action on the Integration of Women in Development was drafted and approved in 1997. This policy declaration was adopted by the government of Cameroon in 1999.

The following recommendations are made in the NEMAP that should ease female participation in conservation and sustainable development (MINEF, 1996):

- Improvement of institutional structures and the reinforcement of multi-sectorial institutions that comprise of women in the pacification, follow-up and evaluation of environmental programs;
- The coordination of activities that place women in decision-making positions, in which they can decide on actions that address environmental problems in their ecological zones;
- The development of women's knowledge in understanding issues related to environmental protection in all sectors of activity;

⁵ Tenets of NEMP:

- The rational management of space, ecosystems and resources;
- The valorisation of primary products through industrial development and the improvement of infrastructure;
- The creation of favourable conditions for human capacity development;
- The improvement of living standards in urban areas.

- The valorisation of agricultural production, in association with women, through new agricultural technics that can bring about environmental protection;
- Encouraging women to practise water and energy resource management, to use improved stoves that save energy and alternative sources of energy, and to integrate the management committees of community resource management;
- Reduce illiteracy and eventually the weight of traditional laws that prevent women from effectively taking part in environmental conservation activities;
- Provide easy access to land ownership by women as a catalyst to environmental awareness and conservation that shall be more intensive if women participate as landowners.

National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA)

The document that should directly address issues related to Climate Change and gender in Cameroon is the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA). The NAPA in Cameroon is still in the process of making and pilot projects have been launched around the different regions of the national territory. Pilot projects under the NAPA have been designed to collect vital information on CC and women that shall then be used in creating a Climate Change adaptation and mitigation policy for women in Cameroon. Data on capacity building, technical collaboration, and Climate Change governance mainstreamed through CC adaptation and mitigation projects run by women in bilateral CC partnerships programs with the World Bank, European Union, Japan, and the Common Wealth are underlining facts to be considered in the National Adaptation Plan of Action (PACC MINEPDED, 2012). On-going pilot project include a Water harvesting in the Far-North region by women.

Community Forests and female participation

With the concept of community forests introduced in 1994 by Cameroon, the first in Central Africa to introduce community forestry, local communities have been attributed exclusive rights to sustainably exploit their forested areas. Through the 1994 forest law⁶, Cameroon expressed its desire to improve the level of participation of local communities in the

⁶ Classification of forests in Cameroon made by Brown, (1999)

The 1994 Law classifies forests in Cameroon into two main categories:

A. The permanent forest estate (forêts permanentes), also known as ‘classified forest’ (forêts classées), which can only be used for forestry or as wildlife habitats. The law specifies that at least 30% of the national territory should be classed as permanent forest. This can be of two types:

i) State forests (forêts domaniales) – comprising protected areas (national parks, wildlife reserves) and production forest reserves;

ii) Council forests (forêts communales) – managed in a decentralised manner by elected local councils on the basis of management plans approved by MINEF.

B. The non-permanent forest estate (forêts non permanentes), consisting of forested land which can be converted to non-forest uses. This includes:

i) Private forests (forêts privées) belonging to individuals;

ii) Communal forest (forêts du domaine nationale), a residual class including all forests not included in categories A or B (i) above.

The different types of logging rights (all controlled by MINEF) available in the various forest types

management and conservation of forests, including female participation. Out of 404 demands for community forest submitted to the MINFOF, 336 reservations were made of which 178 have been attributed simple management plans. A total of 147 conventions have been signed for a surface area of 636.752 ha (MINFOF, 2011). Forest royalties paid in by forest exploitation companies, which are the only source of revenue for communities in this process, is distributed as follows: 50% goes to the state, 40% to decentralised structures and 10% to communities. In 2008, about 7 billion FCFA was attributed to decentralised structures and communities. Thus a total of more than 60 billion FCFA has been disbursed annually to local councils and forest communities as forest royalties since 2000.

Unfortunately, one of the main obstacles encountered by communities to the development of community forests is the absence of young people and the limited participation of women in the internal organisation of communities and village groups (CFDP, 2000).

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the MDGs in Cameroon

PRSPs were introduced in 1999 by the Breton Woods Institution (BWI) in order to allow aid-receiving countries develop their own growth and poverty reduction programs in accordance with desired macroeconomic, structural, and social policies (WB-IMF, 2005). Accordingly, the government of Cameroon committed its social and economic policies to accelerating growth and reducing poverty with respect to gender balance and participation. Through an outlined participatory approach, 30 to 40% women in Cameroon got involved in the PRSP process⁷. The following aspects on the improvement of women's conditions were also taken into consideration in the PRSPs:

- Enhancement of women's economic power, with particular emphasis on rural women
- Elimination of gender disparities in girls' schooling;
- Facilitation of access to reproductive health and information on services for women of childbearing age and adolescent girls;
- Promotion of appropriate technologies for easing women's work;
- Improvement of women's access to credit and to production factors;
- Encouragement of women's entrepreneurship.

Education was also regarded as priority area that shall raise the standards of the young girl and woman.

⁷ Major concerns on the capacity of PRSPs to actually reduce poverty emanated from degree of representativeness and participation of the poor in the elaboration process.

The Catholic Relief Services, (2001) argues that the , the Catholic Church in Cameroon that has been very instrumental in developing health and education infrastructure was by-passed by the government of Cameroon after a handpicking process that determined CSOs to be represented in the PRS consultation process.

The Millennium Development Goals

During the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, 189 Heads of State agreed on the commitment to take major steps towards meeting development targets that could be measured. Accordingly, the MDGs were set up as targets to be achieved by 2015, based on the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000 (UN 2000). Cameroon has so far demonstrated commitment towards meeting the MDGs, particularly Element number 6 of the MDG: “strengthening of human resources, the social sector and the integration of disadvantaged groups in the economic circuit” that concerns issues related to gender equality and equity - female empowerment.

With respect to Goal 2 primary education has been declared free by presidential decree. This move by the government of Cameroon is going to lift up the educational level of the girl child that has always been very low as compares to the boy child, especially in rural areas.

3.1 Contemporary problems in the agricultural sector of Cameroon

Today, the agricultural sector in Cameroon experiences the following problems that affect both men and women as published in The Agenda of the President of the Republic of Cameroon, (2011):

- Lack of financial facilities and access to finance in both private and public investments;
- Lack of improved animal and vegetal input;
- Land tenure problems that reduce considerable access to land;
- Poor assistance and follow-up to users of the sector;
- Mediocre and poor soils;
- Post-harvest crop management problems;
- Isolated farmlands and the absence or poor state of farm to market roads;
- Poor business strategies and low returns , long waiting period for the payment of farm returns;
- Incongruity between market systems and agricultural production cycles;
- Lack of appropriate technologies in the agricultural sector;
- The consequences of Climate Change and biological invasions

3.1.1 Role of women in crop production.

Agriculture plays a key role in the nation’s economy. It contributes 20% to the Gross Domestic Product. This sub-sector employs 70% of the Cameroonian labour force, which is also the population group most exposed to poverty. In fact, the incidence of rural poverty is the most striking with 80% of the poor forming approximately 55.0% of the population, predominantly female. The agricultural sector encompasses two groups of activity, food crop and cash crop cultivation. Food crops (maize, cassava, millet, sorghum, banana, groundnuts, rice, tubers, etc...) are grown mostly by women. However, many men do grow

crops such as sorghum and millet in the Far North. As for cash crops (cocoa, coffee, cotton, etc...) which for many years were very profitable and grown mostly by men, they are now also grown by women.

In accordance with the implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action and the Government's poverty reduction policy, the following areas have been identified as being of high priority: agriculture, stockbreeding and fishing, forestry, environment, trade, industry, arts and crafts, tourism and employment. Women are more involved in growing, processing and marketing food crops. This has attracted men in recent years because of the falling prices of some cash crops. Women are equally engaged in a number of promising agricultural development schemes such as pepper and watermelon growing, horticulture and biological agriculture.

In the cash crop sector, women tend to face enormous difficulties, including access to land and land ownership, agricultural inputs, financial resources (credit, subsidies, grants, etc.) and modern agricultural techniques.

3.1.2 Role of Women in Livestock and Fisheries

Stockbreeding is a major activity. One household out of every three carries out that activity which is more developed in rural (48.7%) than in urban areas (9.1%). This involves mainly cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, donkeys, camels, poultry farms as well as unconventional breeding (cane rats, quails, snails, guinea pigs, rabbits, frogs etc...)

Women invest in small scale farms (poultry, sheep and goats, etc...), while cattle breeding is carried out mostly by men. This sub-sector is hence deeply influenced by the patriarchal organization marked by control of inputs (land, pasture resources) by the men.

As regards fisheries, this includes: inland, marine and industrial fishing, inland small scale fishing and aquaculture. While inland, marine and industrial fisheries are the prerogative of men who use modern efficient and expensive equipment; small scale fishing is restricted to women who use traps, canoes and other basic equipment. Women process, preserve and market fishery products, but the proceeds of the sales often slip out of their hands. With regard to aquaculture, it is a new activity, still at an emerging stage, handled mostly by men because this requires huge investments. Regarding fish farming, this is becoming more popular especially in wetlands. It is done by creating and managing individual and collective fish ponds run by women and/or men.

3.1.3 The workload of women in the rural areas of Cameroon

In the rural areas of Cameroon, women consecrate about 60%-80% of their time to agricultural activities. Female labour input varies with regions and the nature of agricultural activities involved. In the Centre-South region women spend 58% of their time on agricultural activities while in Yassa of Campo of the Southwest Region women spend 68% of their time on agricultural activities and in Mvae of Campo, Southwest region women

spend 78% of their time on agricultural activities. Accordingly, women spend 348 minutes a day on the production of food crops while men spend 270 minutes a day on food and export crop production, thus an average total of 16 days per month and 5.8 hours per day for women and 15 days per month and 4.5 hours per day for men (Pasquet and Koppert, 1993 and 1996). These statistics have been used and confirmed in recent studies by the FOA in 2011. Farming activities include tilling with tools such as hoes and pickaxe, weeding, mulching, harvesting and transporting food preferably on the head or back basket when there is no wheel transport.

Women`s household chores in the rural areas include taking care of the children, cleaning, feeding the home and fetching water. Based on a survey conducted on time used among men and women in Yassa of Campo in 1984, women spend 29%-34% of their time in domestic work and care as compared to 3%-4% for men activities (Pasquet and Koppert, 1993 and 1996). The task of collecting water is particularly delegated to the girl child, mostly under 15, in more than 10 per cent of rural households in Cameroon. In Sub-Saharan Africa statistics show that in rural areas it is most likely that girls fetch water in 7% of households as compared to 3% for boys. In the rural areas of Cameroon, 33% of households are located 15 minutes away from a source of drinking water while the average time needed to collect water in most households is 30 minutes per trip. Comparatively, 48% of households in which women are assigned to collect water do not have water on premises as compared to 18% of households in which men fetch water. Most of the cooking is done by women, under very harsh conditions that expose them to respiratory illnesses and other health complications. Households using solid fuels like firewood on open fire or stove with no chimney or hood represent 94% of households in rural areas (Macro International and UNICEF, 2009). Women, based on their gender roles, bear most of the work burden in the rural areas of Cameroon.

4. Some Policies and Strategic Framework on Small Holder Farmer Agriculture in Cameroon

This section reviews the institutional context in terms of national policies and strategies in general and agriculture, gender and climate change policies in particular.

4.1 The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

Cameroon launched the CAADP on 12 July 2012, making it the 8th country in Central Africa out of 10 embrace the process. The CAADP process in Cameroon will not only help in increasing production and guaranteeing food security, but it will also solve the coordination problems that the country generally faces in agricultural development. This will be an opportunity to make heard the voices of women small holder farmers, especially if they also have a seat at the table as one of the key objectives of CAADP. As part of CAADP`s vision, African leaders hope to see by 2015 “A more equitable distribution of wealth for rural populations - in terms of higher real incomes and relative wealth. Rural populations will

have more equitable access to land, physical and financial resources, and knowledge, information and technology for sustainable development” (CAADP, 2012)

Presently Cameroon is heading towards the end of the pre-pact phase. However numerous and complex the CAADP stages may be, the engagement and optimism of the country team members, coupled with support from the PTF, Cameroon is ready to achieve the CAADP objectives successfully (NFP CAADP MINADER, 2010).

4.2 CAADP`s progress in Cameroon

In 2003, a convention was signed between MINAGRI and the FAO that prepared the PNIMT and the PPIB to implement in the CAADP/NEPAD.

In November 2004, 1 PNIMT and 3 PPIB were prepared with the assistance of FAO in the form of support project in the production of corn; palm oil development project and support project in the production of cattle/beef. The PPIB have been integrated into the sectorial investment program of Cameroon.

In august 2007, the CAADP/MINADER Focal Point was designated.

In February 2011, a decision was made by the VPM/MINADER to create, organise and enforce the country team in charge of managing the CAADP in Cameroon.

In October 2011, a letter of engagement by the government to implement the CAADP was signed by the Prime Minister.

In February 2011, a decree authorising the creation, organisation and enactment of the country team in charge of managing the CAADP in Cameroon was made by the Prime Minister.

In June 2012 a decision to recognise the members of the country team was made by MINADER.

In July 2012, the CAADP process was officially launched and the country team installed. So far, Cameroon has taken part in different meetings and forums organised at the regional and continental level in relation with the CAADP.

In November 2009, Cameroon jointly hosted and organised the first ever meeting to implement Pillar IV of the CAADP in Central Africa with CEEAC and FARA.

In March 2011, the 7th platform meeting of CAADP partners was organised in Cameroon.

The roadmap to the pre-pact phase has been defined as follows:

- Designation of team members
- Creation and adoption of ToR that
 - i) Synthesise policy and strategies

- ii) Analyse and create models
- iii) Preparation of documents for a round table (briefings, brochures and pact documents)
- Recruitment of national consultants that
 - i) Synthesise policy and strategies
 - ii) Analyse and create models
 - iii) Preparation of documents for a round table (briefings, brochures and pact documents)
- Preparation of a workshop that shall pre examine the documents of the round table.
- Preparation of the CAADP round table
- Organisation of the round table, signing the pact and the adopting a Post-Pact roadmap for PNIASA Cameroon.

4.3 The New Agricultural Policy of Cameroon

In order to revamp the agricultural sector, the government of Cameroon adopted in 1990, a New Agricultural Policy (NAP), in line with the first structural adjustment program, supported by the Breton Woods Institution and other major donors with the following outlines:

- Progressive privatisation of development activities;
- Empowerment of farmers;
- Agricultural diversification.

After 1990 the NAP was reoriented to target the following objectives, which are also part of the current NAP adopted in 1999:

- Consider the agaric sector as the driving force to social and economic development in Cameroon
- Promote professional and inter-professional organisation of different investors that are part the main actors in agricultural development
- Improve food security by increasing production and revenue

The development of the agricultural sector is also important in strengthening Cameroon's economic and political position in Central Africa. In order to meet the demands of the agricultural sector in the Cameroon economy, a 4% average annual growth of production volume is required during a period of 10 years. The average increase of food crops should be around 3.3% per year with the following objectives:

- Follow the natural increase of internal demand, 2.8% per year;
- Contribute in stabilising the prices of basic food stuff
- Improve on people's diet
- Reduce food importation

- Develop exportation networks towards sub-regional markets and supply local industry.

The NAP has been designed to maximise existing commercialisation and production potential to cover five big objectives:

1. Modernise the various means of production
 - Improve farms
 - Agronomic research
 - Farm mechanisation
 - Access to financial support
 - Extension of agricultural research
 - Liberalisation of cooperative movements and the professionalization of agriculture
2. Invest in food security
 - Availability, stability, access and utilization of food for all
3. Promote and diversify exports
 - Try new export products as a means of staying on the world market admit fluctuation of regular export products
4. Develop the transformation of agricultural products
 - The creation and use of small transformation units that results in the provision of new products and services on the food market
5. Create a balance between different sectors of production
 - Price liberalisation
 - Create a management unit for different products
 - Measures to revive cocoa/coffee production

4.4 Institutional Frameworks for Agriculture in Cameroon

About 10 ministries are involved in the development/implementation of policies, rules, procedures and processes related to agriculture. A mix of parastatal and private companies also support agricultural production, marketing, storage and manufacturing. The smallholder has no real access to credit. Systems of input are in place for seed, fertilizers, veterinary drugs/vaccines and livestock feeds. Arrangements for external marketing of cash crops are liberalized and managed by boards while arrangements for internal marketing of crops involve depots managed by “gross” purchasers who retail. Informal marketing of food crops is very present. The Institute of Agricultural Research for Development has established frameworks/organizations allowing for interaction among researchers, user ministries and farmers. It has scientific and funding partners.

IRAD (Institute of Agricultural Research for Development) plays a major role in agricultural research, training and extension. Over a 10 year period IRAD has produced 769 articles, book chapters, books, etc., 5 compilations of extension bulletins and a journal. The quality of the

work is reflected by both the publications in international journals and the appropriateness of the technologies born of the “bottom-up” agro-ecological zone approach. At graduate level, national agricultural training suffers from near total absence of funding for thesis research. The interaction arrangement mentioned above needs reinforcement. IRAD Consulting and Services handles the intellectual property aspects of technology generation (UNECA, 2010).

The tables below show some of the institutions and structures that intervene in the area of agriculture in Cameroon:

Actors	Level of Action
Ministry of Agriculture and rural development (MINADER)	National level
African Development Bank (ADB)	International
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	International
BID	International
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	International
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	International

Administrative services MINADER 2009

Built Infrastructure, Administrative Structures To Promote Rural Development On The National Territory	Quantity
Provincial delegate of agriculture and rural development	6
Departmental delegate of agriculture and rural development	39
District delegate of agriculture and rural development	165
Agricultural Offices	300
Education and community action centres (CEAC)	39
Agricultural schools run by MINADER	19
Phytosanitary Farm input control offices(fertilizers ,herbicides)	15

Project offices	14
Community Huts	31
Multiplication animal Farms	8
Other research centres (CFR)	6

5. Gender Barriers to Small-Scale Farming Schemes in Cameroon

The Cameroon government recognizes the dynamism of rural women and the important role they play in agricultural production in rural areas and food security in general. Women represent 52% of the population of Cameroon and contribute to 75% of agricultural work and produce 80% of food. In as much as there is enough land for agricultural activities in the rural areas of Cameroon, women and young people do not always have enough access and control over existing land. In response to land issues that affect agricultural production, rural development and food security in particular, the management of existing lands has become one of the major priorities of the New Agricultural Policy in Cameroon. In terms of policy creation and implementation, Cameroon had taken major steps at the international and national levels to totally integrate women into the development plan of the country. However, taboos that discriminate against women in rural areas, the inability for women to own land particularly, are largely generated by traditional customs. Women in Cameroon provide more than 75% of agricultural labour yet they own only 10% of land (Mason and Carlsson, 2004). Because of male dominance and control over resources, women benefit only 5% of total agricultural inputs in the rural areas of Cameroon (WURN, 2012). It is with respect to these facts that the minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family, while addressing the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, 2010, told the commission in her statement that "The weight of tradition and culture is still very strong in our society" (Pr. Marie-Therese AbenaOndoa, 2010).

Moreover, Cameroon actively participated in Beijing in 1995 and since then there has been a remarkable and steady increase in the attention given to women in terms of policy creation and implementation, even in the rural areas. In 1975, the Ministry of Social Affairs through the service of Women's Education was created followed by the Ministry of Women's Affaires through the Department for the advancement of Women in 1984, followed by the Ministry of Social and Women's Affaires through the Department of the Promotion of Women's Right, followed by the present Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family through the Department of Women's Social Empowerment, Sub-Department for the Promotion of Women's Right and Gender created in 2004.

In order to acknowledge the vital role women play in agricultural production and rural development, the International Rural Women's Day, is celebrated on October 15th every year. In 2011, the celebrating theme was "Rural women claim your rights to land ownership and inheritance" (WURN, 2012).

The agricultural sector in Cameroon is presently going through a reformation process that shall give women greater role to play in wealth creation and management of major resources that shape the rural landscape in terms of sustainable agricultural production. Women have been put at the forefront of development programs that are implemented in rural areas. Programs and projects are directed towards informing and training women on how to stimulate production activities, processing, storage and commercialisation of farm output. Development programs that target different sectors of production entail a harmonised land use plan adopted by the government's natural resource plan. The government has emphasised on the fact that women have to be better represented in rural structures as well as in inter-professional and professional structures that account for the major sectors of production.

Reforms that mainstream a gender perspective in agricultural production have to be implemented, particularly, the reinforcement of the role woman play in rural economies through targeted programs. Programs and solutions implemented must be preceded by a participative approach in problem analysis and identification that affect both men and women in rural areas. Present appeals by the government through actions have to secure the right to land exploitation of all its citizens without exception. Present actions undertaken by government to provide land for greater agricultural and pastoral use have to be broad enough to include individual and collective land issues, taking into account the needs of women and youths in particular (MINAGRI, 1994).

As part of a nationwide effort to mainstream a gender sensitive approach to rural activities that can withstand the weight of tradition over the rights of women, seminars have been held with a view to raising awareness on CEDAW among social actors. Accordingly, CEDAW has been translated into local languages so that the message it carries can be passed on to social partners such as traditional rulers, religious authorities, community leaders and the wider civil society.

Otherwise, grass-root organisations and programs have been created to strengthen female participation in rural areas. Women have equally been organised into associations and networks throughout Cameroon. Some of these organisations include:

- The Global Programme for the advancement of Women and Gender equality that contributed to the financing and monitoring of 240 projects by women in the Adamawa, Littoral, West and North West Regions;

- The programme for the improvement of Rural Family Income (PARFAR) that enabled the construction of twelve (12) Women Empowerment Centres in the Northern Regions;
- The Poverty Reduction Project and Actions in favour of Women in the Far North Region (PREPAFEN) that granted loans amounting to 785 million francs CFA, 76% of which beneficiaries were women;
- The programme for the improvement of Rural Family Income (PARFAR) that enabled the construction of twelve (12) Women Empowerment Centres in the Northern Regions,
- Thanks to the debt relieve funds of HIPIC initiatives, the government of Cameroon developed a certain number of projects including the project to set up a Support Mechanism for underprivileged Women in Women' Empowerment Centres, aimed at granting micro credits to individual women and groups. This project is operational in 57 centres and the number of women and associations having benefited from this support stands at 2430 for a total amount of 693 million francs CFA.

As part of the NAP and in recognition to the important role women play in food security in Cameroon, the government of Cameroon has launched special programs that support female agricultural production processes. An example is on cassava production and local transformation of cassava into highly commercialised basic food stuff (e.g.garriand fufu). There is also a special unit that deals with the prevention and reduction of post-harvest losses in collaboration with specialised NGOs. Other international organisations that work in collaboration with MINADER are: The African Development Bank (ADB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), BID, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

5.1 Facts on rural woman and access to land in Africa and Cameroon: Civil Law versus Customary Law

In Cameroon, the civil law does not prohibit women from owning land, as much as men, since laws provide equitable chances of access and control over land for both men and women in rural areas. However, in practice and following customary laws, cultural and traditional practices, men are often if not always custodians of land. Based on a report from the Women in Action against Gender Violence in Cameroon, women in Cameroon produce 80% of food in rural communities yet own only 2% of land (WURN, 2012). Women are equally not always aware of their rights and obligation, most particularly, their right to own land in rural areas (FAO, 1998). Land distribution mechanism in Cameroon such as inheritance, purchase and distribution by the state do not currently work to the benefit of women (WURN, 2012). Actual female control and ownership of large expanse of land rarely occurs in the rural areas of Cameroon. Accordingly, women-headed homes possess smaller landholdings as compared to male-headed homes (Saito et al., 1994). The gender barriers to small-scale farming schemes in the rural areas of Cameroon are specific to the socio-cultural

and administrative settings that have been shaped by pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial circumstances.

5.1.1 Socio-Cultural Economic and Administrative factors that limit woman`s access to land rural areas

Problems that hinder female land ownership in Cameroon remain socio-cultural, economic and administrative. For the most part, customary land right does not allow women to securely access and control land. Agreements that may transfer land to female access and control are very fragile and subject to termination by strong socio-cultural, economic and administrative processes.

5.1.2. Socio-Cultural and Economic factors

Civil law rightfully and overtly allows women to access and control land as citizens while customary and traditional practices limit women`s land rights as well as other aspects such as marital rights. More so, the position of the rural woman in Africa and her social status goes beyond the issue of land ownership and control and extends to every aspect of social interaction. The balance of power with regard to property ownership and fundamental conjugal decision is predominantly in the hands of men. In purely patriarchal rural settings, african men have no legal obligations to support their wife or wives and children. They have the flexibility and freedom to remarry and marry more wives when they want (Guery and Daphne, 2006). In fact, in the landmark family case of KumbongsiVsKumbongsi, Justice Nganji defined marriage in the Cameroon context to mean “a union between one man and one or more women”⁸. Taking the case of the North West Region of Cameroon, women have access to arable small-scale land but no power of control over these lands⁹. In addition, married women generally obtain land rights through their husbands as long as the marriage endures. Unmarried women have limited access to arable small-scale land through gifts, renting or the community. There is also a probability that widows may lose a major portion of their deceased husband`s land to their brothers- in-law or other relatives (Fon, 2011). More so, women can be left landless and destitute through instances of divorce, widowhood and permanent migration of her husband (FAO, 1998).

⁸ This case implies that customary or traditional marriage in Cameroon is presumed to be a polygamous regime unless it is clearly stated in the certificate that it a monogamous regime.

⁹In her study based on the North West Region of Cameroon, Dorothy Fon describes access to land as either the right or opportunity for someone to loan and use a piece of farmland for diverse agricultural purposes, and return it later to the owner, either after harvest or at the conclusion of contractual obligations. Land control is defined as the right over the management of a piece of farmland that includes the capacity to make concrete decisions on land use activities such as the type of crop to plant, cropping system and investment.

“Battling with Traditional Values, Prejudices”

In a special edition of Cameroon Tribune (State run News Paper) that analysed the changes that have occurred in the position of the Cameroonian women in society for the past forty years, one of the topics addressed was “Battling with Traditional Values, Prejudices.” The reporter outlined the following cultural realities as being the main setbacks to female access to and ownership of land in rural areas:

Married women are often regarded as family belongings, especially in cases where a bride price is paid. The bride price, in some cases, can give the married woman`s host family enough leverage to deprive her from owning land. Accordingly, when women get married they lose their right to property in general and their right to own land in particular within their family (at birth) and their host family (husband`s family). The great assumption has always been that married women will take wealth out of one family into another by owning land or property that originally belonged either to her family at birth or her host family during matrimony.

Furthermore, in the rural areas of some regions of Cameroon, women are simply not allowed to take part in discussions that are classified as pertinent and of masculine concern such as land inheritance.

5.1.2. Administrative Factors

Some administrative procedures presently used in Cameroon were structured following colonial administrative systems that were generally gender-blind and particularly favourable to men. Land issues related to the disenfranchisement of women gained administrative importance during the period of the colonial rule in Africa. Three aspects of development worked to the detriment of women`s rights to land under colonial rule:

- The introduction of private ownership of land;
- The introduction of new legal systems that tended to undermine women`s traditional land rights;
- The patriarchal nature of the colonial regime that worked to the disadvantage of all peasant farmers, but particularly women (Saito et al., 1994).

Similarly in land compensation programs, land is often redistributed to “the head of the family,” a term which in most African countries has always referred to the male. Accordingly, in most cases of land redistribution schemes, excluding programs that directly

target women, women by law are automatically excluded as beneficiaries (FAO, 1994). The law in Cameroon designates the father as the head of the family with the powers to decide on the family's home (Women In Research and Action et al, 2008). Land distribution officials and land consultative boards in Cameroon are habitually constituted mainly of men who in most cases follow patrilineal mechanisms in land distribution (WURN, 2012). Widowed women have virtually no tenure inheritance rights with which to ensure food security for themselves or their children. Tenure rights can only be obtained through their male children or male relatives from their husband's lineage (Guery and Daphne, 2006), (World Bank, 2000).

As compared to pre-colonial and colonial Africa, post-independence land policies have been gender-neutral. The particularity of these policies is that they do not actively discriminate against women. However, they have not been able to guarantee equal access to land between men and women (Saito et al., 1994:45-46). Most African governments, including the government of Cameroon, are looking for solutions through policy and land tenure reforms that shall give women more access to land as a means of improving agricultural and eventually food security.

Other problems related to gender and development in Cameroon that inevitably extend to the inability of women to control land in rural areas, as identified by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family in Cameroon, include:

- Traditions and customs that do not work for women
- The high illiteracy rate among women and young girls
- The existence of discriminatory legal provision
- The existence of a predominantly patriarchal society
- The weak economic power of women
- The unequal power relations between men and women
- The non-respect of 30% quota of women's representation in all decision-making positions.
- The brain drain of skilled personnel including women

However, the number of women at the National Assembly increased from 10 to 19 in 2002 and 2002. After the legislative elections of July 22, 2007, there were 23 women in the National Assembly and the number of women in government has increased to 6 since June 30, 2009.

The Code of the Person and the Family in Cameroon is presently in the process of being validated prior to being submitted to the National Assembly. It incorporates provisions favourable to the advancement of the women's rights against harmful and derogatory practices (on marriageable age, matrimonial regimes, inheritance, gender based violence etc.).

Amongst other issues, the government shows no intention of removing polygamy that is presently legal in Cameroon from the proposed Code of the Family and the Person (UNHRC, 2009). Gender based violence in the form of wife-beating in Cameroon can be attributed to the following reasons, as justified by women: 19% burning food; 21 % refusing to have sex; 27% arguing ; 34% going out without telling husband; and 45% neglecting children (Macro International, 2009).

5.2 Access to Credits

Access to credits is a major problem facing women small holder farmers in Cameroon. Despite the presence of many banks (13) and microfinance institutions (more than 400), the smallholder has no real access to credit (Numbem, 2008). Hence, there is contemplation of creating a bank just for that. In the governance of the accredited 426 microfinance institutions, women are said to form only 11.5% whereas they make up the bulk of members in all customer categories counted. They play important roles as shareholders or members, or even customers of local credit unions. Approved micro-finance institutions owned and managed exclusively by women form only 1.4% of the total. However, they make up the bulk of owners of informal savings and credit unions operating outside regulation. The conditions for granting loans especially to women are not always favourable. Interest rates in this respect range between 1% and 5% monthly. That is, 12% and 60% per annum in accredited institutions. In the informal micro finance sector which is largely dominated by women, the interest rates recorded are said to vary between 1% and 7.5% monthly, i.e. 12% and 90% per annum. These rates are very high if one refers to the internal output from the activities performed by women. Such practices, noticeable in urban and rural areas, are encouraged by the liberalization of interest rates with the induced effect which is the absence of a ceiling interest rate in this sector. Furthermore, there is the increasing demand for tangible guarantees where the required loan is considered high or too risky. In addition, the repayment terms which are binding and, particularly, the lack of grace period, while the reimbursement of initial funds invested is well beyond the first deadlines. As a consequence, some women and organizations are compelled to resort to other means to cope with the debt burden, exposing them in most cases to loss.

5.3 Access to Markets

The Republic of Cameroon has 50,000 km of road network (1 km/340 inhabitants) of which only 10% (i.e. 5,000 km) are paved (2,000 – 2005 period). Only twenty per cent (20%) of the rural population has access to all season roads (1993-2004 periods). There are 1,016 km of railways (1 km/16732 inhabitants) (2000-6 periods). There are 6 ports (4 maritime: Limbe, Douala, Kribi, Tiko and 2 river/inland: Garoua and Mamfe) while there are 7 airports (3 international: Douala, Yaoundé, Garoua and 4 national: Ngaoundere, Maroua, Bertoua, Bamenda). With these assets in place, the rural woman still finds it difficult to get their produce to the local markets. Because of lack of storage facilities in their localities and post-

harvest loss, the women are obliged to sell their produce at giveaway prices at very little profit.

6. Rural Agriculture Services, Gender Issues and CC in Cameroon

The mandate of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family created by Presidential Decree in 2004 is basically a continuation of the directives setup by its predecessor, The Ministry of Women's Affairs that was responsibility of "drafting and implementing measures relating to respect of women's rights and strengthening guarantees of gender equality in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres" Article 5, subparagraph 8 of Decree No. 97/205 of December 1997.

The former The Ministry of Women's Affairs was in charge of implementing the Beijing platform of Action and achieving of the MGDs through an organised administrative structure and technical board¹⁰ that commanded the following resources:

- External services in the provinces (now regions), departments and districts, which ensure extensive coverage of the national territory by the Ministry's activities;
- Rural group leaders, whose role is to provide leadership and guidance to grass-roots women's groups in their various activities;
- Women's Advancement Centres, neighbourhood structures that provide leadership and training in simple trades and dispense informal education to women and girls;
- An Appropriate Technology Centre, which sets out to reduce the hardship of women's work and to popularize appropriate technologies;
- A National Women's Observatory, established by Decree No. 97/068 of 4 May 1998 setting up the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which is responsible for monitoring the development of the situation of women in Cameroon.
- Focal points for the representation of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in certain other Ministries in line with the across-the-board approach.

Accordingly, within the context of National Decentralization and Inter-Ministerial Committee for local services, that includes the networking on gender mainstreaming, DECREE No. 26/0241/PM OF 6 FEB 2010 was passed "to lay down conditions for the exercise of some powers transferred by the State to councils relating to the maintenance and management of Centres for Women's Empowerment and the Family" (DECREE No. 26/0241/PM, 2010)

The decree transfers powers to councils that have to manage Centres for Women's Empowerment and the Family with the following responsibilities:

¹⁰ The Ministry of Women's Affairs also worked in association with Certain NGOs that assisted in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Beijing Platform. A good example is the Association Fighting Violence against Women (ALVF) that conducted awareness-raising campaigns and activities with other associations and NGOs.

- The designing and implementation of national policies on Women’s Empowerment and the protection of the Family;
- The formulation of global objectives and orientations of national teaching and training programmes that facilitate the insertion of women in the administration, agriculture, trade and industry;
- The determination of conditions for the creation, opening, functioning and control of Centres for Women’s Empowerment and the Family;
- The recruitment and transfer of teaching personnel in charge of theoretical and practical training Centres for Women’s Empowerment and the Family and ;
- The definition and control of standards for the construction, equipment and maintenance of Centres for Women’s Empowerment and the Family

The Inter-Ministerial Committee for local services and networking on gender mainstreaming extends to the creation and implementation of programs and projects that cover issues related climate change mitigation and adaptation. This initiative includes a set of inter-ministerial programs and projects that offer targeted extension services in agriculture for rural women.

6.1 Female Professional Training and Education as part of the NAP in Cameroon

One of the approaches enumerated in the National Agricultural Policy on land use management is to intensify technical assistance that is adapted to different agro-ecological regions that shall guarantee sustainable development. In accordance with the NAP and past agricultural policies at the national level, the government of Cameroon has opened a couple of state-run schools that train both male and female students who eventually work in the rural areas on agricultural programs and projects. Some of these specialised schools include: the Rural Development Specialist Training Schools (EFSEAR: Ecole de Formation des spécialistes en AménagementsRuraux), Community Development Specialist Training Schools (EFSDC : Ecole de Formation des spécialistes en DéveloppementCommunautaire), Specialist in Cooperation Training (EFSC : Ecole de Formation des spécialistes en Coopération) Agricultural Technical School (ETA : Ecole Technique d’Agriculture), Regional Agricultural College (CRA : CollègeRégionald’Agriculture). Between the periods 2008 to 2009, a total number of 1027 students were trained at public agricultural schools of which 778 were male students while 249 were female students.

There has been a net increase in the number of female agricultural specialists trained at state-run agricultural training centres. Similarly, the disparity between educated women and men in rural areas is narrowing down, however with the exception of the rural areas of the North, Far-North and Adamawa regions that still register a remarkable discrepancy between educated rural women and young girls on one hand and rural men and boys on the other hand. The net school attendance for rural boys in 2010 was 79.5% while for rural girls school attendance was at 66% (INS, EESI 2010). Survival rates to last grade of primary school in 2007 were 58% for girls and 60% for boys (UNESCO, 2009). Primary school completion

rates in the Northern regions were as follows: Adamawa 6%; North and Far 3%North (INS, EESI 2010). Based on data from Cameroonian authorities and staff calculations, literacy rates in rural areas by gender, 2005 was 41% for boys and 18% for girls in the North; 40% for boys and 19% for girls in the Far-North; and 41% for boys and 28% for girls in the Adamawa. Literacy rates in rural areas for women are low due to cultural practices that prevent the female child from getting equal chances to education as the male child. Rural literacy rates for populations aged 15 – 34 in rural areas in 2005 was 68% for rural men and 51% for rural women. Accordingly, the initiative to train female agricultural specialist is also an opportunity to demonstrate that women can as well cover technical functions. Moreover, the special needs of women should be considered in the liberalization of agriculture in Cameroon and the new extension system. There is a need to adopt training programs that take into account in the following points:

- Professionalization in order to acquire skills that adapted to the realities of agricultural development in Cameroon;
- Training and employment that adapt to different types of jobs offered by the agricultural sector (private service that prove technical support to farmers and investors, agents and directors of professional organisations);
- Regionalisation that takes into accounts the ecological and socio-economic diversity of agriculture in Cameroon and constitutes regional poles of multidisciplinary training;
- Generalisation of continuous training, that takes into consideration all development actors, on demand, by recommendation or the provision of training modules;
- Adapted training sessions that upholds sustainability standards in agricultural activity production;
- Stabilise basic technical education so as to attract more young people to the different activities of the agricultural sector.

6.2 Women, Health and Agriculture in the Rural Areas of Cameroon

The NAP gender sensitive approach to rural development extends to education on important health campaigns that take into consideration female health issues. The ministry of agriculture and rural development has thus created the Education and Community Action Centres (CEAC) and Community Huts that represent a strong platform for education and effective participation in the promotion of rural development processes in communities. CEACs also assist communities in setting-up development plans, the reinforcement of the capacities of local leaders and serve as a forum for the emancipation of women through trainings and workshops. Within the context of CEACs measures are implemented that raise awareness on HIV/AIDS among women and girls, develop strategies for the encouragement of girl-schooling, and develop strategies for the improvement of the economic status of women.

Cameroon is found in a sub-region that has the highest number of people living with the HIV, 68%. The HIV adult prevalence in Cameroon is 5.3%, the highest in the CEMAC sub-region (GIZ, 2012). The average prevalence in urban areas in 2004 was 6.7% as compared to 4.8 % in rural areas (NACC, 2007). The disparity between male and female HIV-positive persons is found both in the urban and rural areas. The infection rate amongst females aged 15 – 49 is 6.8%, while infection rates amongst male aged 15-49 is 4.1%. For every 100 HIV-Positive males, there are 170 HIV-Positive females, giving a ratio of 1:1.7(NACC, 2004). Since women form the most vulnerable social groups, a health strategy document was adopted in October 2001 that give priority to women in programmes that combat sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

MINADER works in collaboration with The National Committee of the Fight against HIV/AIDS, a multi-sectorial initiative that was set up to fight against HIV/AIDS and formulated for the third time in January 2000. In 2009, MINADER had already organised 1, 2088 activities that promote the socio-economic development of the rural woman through education on HIV/AIDS, STDs (Sexually Transmittable Diseases) and family planning. A total of 176 anti-HIV/AIDS plans were undertaken in the rural areas of the 10 regions of Cameroon. Technical assistance was also provided for the creation of 3980 Female family agro pastoral schemes and a total of 28 community huts were constructed in 2009 by MINADER.

Measures have also been undertaken by the Cameroon government to curb malaria infections and malaria related deaths in rural and urban areas. There is a high probability that malaria infections and death shall increase as a result of climatic variability caused by CC (UN Chronicle, 2010)¹¹. Half the world's population is at risk of malaria. In 2010, out of 216 million malaria cases registered, there was an estimated 655, 000 malaria deaths, mostly among African children (WHO, 2012).Between the years 2006-2010, only 4% of households in Cameroon owned at least one ITN (Insecticide-Treated Net) while 13% of children under 5 were sleeping under ITNs and 58% of children under 5 with malaria related fever were receiving anti-malarial drugs (UNICEF, 2012). The government of Cameroon has adopted the “Roll Back Malaria” programme, as part of a global campaign to combat malaria by halving malaria morbidity and mortality by 2010- the program is still running. The program mostly targets children below 5 years of age and pregnant women that represent the most vulnerable populations. Insecticide-Treated Nets are presently being distributed mostly to pregnant women and in homes that have children. Encouragingly, malaria mortality rates have reduced by 25% globally since 2000 and by 33% in the WHO African Region (WHO, 2012). In Cameroon, the Education and Community Action Centres (CEAC) and Community Huts run by MINADER are usually a meeting point for malaria sensitization and the distribution of Insecticide-Treated Nets to women mostly in rural communities.

¹¹ As a result of climate variability caused by Climate Change, mosquito-borne diseases shall widen in geographical cover. The Malaria parasite shall develop faster in lower altitudes as heavy rainfall and droughts alter landscape and create good breeding ground for the mosquitos (UN Chronicle, 2010).

6.3 Gender mainstreaming projects extension services in Cameroon

As earlier mentioned there are more projects and programs, though without explicit policy, on gender mainstreaming in Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture in the rural areas of Cameroon. Special projects exist for women with regards to their productivity in agriculture in rural areas. The eminence of Climate Change and its devastating effects projected on agriculture endorses the serenity of these projects.

The government of Cameroon through MINEP, MINADER, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, inter-ministerial services that network gender mainstreaming run a couple of projects that offer local services in agriculture for rural women.

Under the former Ministry of Women's Affairs, the following services were available:

- External services in the provinces (now regions), departments and districts that ensure extensive coverage of the national territory by the Ministry's activities
- Rural group leaders, whose role is to provide leadership and guidance to grass-roots women's groups in their various activities;
- Women's Advancement Centres, neighbourhood structures that provide leadership and training in simple trades and dispense informal education to women and girls;
- An Appropriate Technology Centre, which sets out to reduce the hardship of women's work and to popularize appropriate technologies;
- A National Women's Observatory, established by Decree No. 97/068 of 4 May 1998 setting up the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which is responsible for monitoring the development of the situation of women in Cameroon.
- Focal points for the representation of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in certain other Ministries in line with the across-the-board approach.

The following programmes have been set up with a view to promoting local development and strengthening the capacity of communities, especially women in communities, to enable grass-roots actors to participate more actively in the development of their locality: National Participatory Development Programme (PNDP), National Programme of Support to Community Development (PADC).

- The National Micro-Financing Programme sets out to improve the access of rural dwellers to micro- financing institutions and to strengthen the capacities of micro-financing institutions.
- The Agricultural and Community Micro-Projects Investment Fund (FIMAC) forms part of the effort to achieve greater food security. Its goal is to increase the purchasing power of beneficiary groups and to encourage self-advancement among the rural population.

- The National Agricultural Extension and Research Programme (PNVRA) aims at raising farmers' productivity by improving their technical competence. The Decentralised Rural Credit Fund supports rural dwellers' economic initiatives.

Some services offered by MINADER

Gender sensitive technical assistance by MINADER 2009

Groups supported	Number
Female family agro-pastoral schemes	3,980
Total number of family agro-pastoral schemes	8,732
Trained counsellors in professional agricultural organisation	27
Support to professional agricultural organisation at a higher level- financial support	40
Capacity reinforcement	186,951,000
Development of youth training at the post-primary level and farmers	231 020 000
Development of youth training freshly from secondary education	136, 300, 000

Legal Support by MINADER 2009

Type of support	Quantity
Regulating texts setup	01
Technical inquiry carried out in seed production centres	04
Seed nursery inspected and controlled	448
Nurseries rejected (underclass)	11
Seedlings confiscated	06
Fertilizer management certificates issued on the national territory	30326
Supervision missions carried out by the food inspectors in the region	40

Extension services

Activity	Quantity
Trainings on village organisation, the management of micro projects and conflicts, fundraising and application	16
Functional alphabetisation	50
Exchange visits	07
Introduction of community leaders	17 403
Support the creation of bank accounts for local organisations	40
Train leaders in village organisation and project management	70
Support the management and maintenance of micro-structures	04
Training of local elites	80
Workshops on the reinforcement of the capacities of community leaders	370
Reinforce material skills of farmer leaders	47
Revitalise CIG through CEACs	1120
Promote the socio-economic development of the rural woman: Educate the rural woman on HIV/AIDS, TSDs and family planning	12 088
Promote female enterprise	15
Grants to CEACs field motor-cycles	30
Construction of CEACs	17
Information collected on existing local initiatives and their training needs	81
Construction of wells equipped with manual pumps	03
Maintenance of springs	07
Bore wells	03
Research in rural areas	19
Production of banana suckers	34000 plants
Hedgehog breeders	71
corn seedlings	49,2 Tones
Potato seedlings	31,7 Tones
Soya bean seedlings	6,34
Vegetable seedlings	100kg
Rice seedlings	50T
Shed trees	3000 trees
One day chicks	65 000
Insemination of animals	60
Coffee plant production	195 500 plants
Cocoa plant production	105 000plants
Beans seedlings	01 ha
Cassava stems	389 500
Piglet production	225

Snails	148 250
Line plants	148 250
Construction of Abattoirs	05
Organisation of fairs	04

Technical assistance and activities that support farmers by MINADER 2009

Activity	Quantity
Seminars organised	105
Technical support missions	02
Trainings with Peasant Organisations	03
Framers trained	1,408
Review of database on seed and plant producers	01
Physical evaluation of animal farms with the PNDRT	01
Meetings organised	04
	3,287
Centralise the availability of seeds (tones)	372,828
Direct support to seedling producers	24
Regional workshops organised	04
Well trained distributors with good knowledge of the fertiliser market	100
Workshop on the reinforcement of capacities on fertiliser distribution and the facilitation of contacts between partners	03
New networks created in the distribution and retailers of fertilizers in the east, South-west and south	03

Technical results on MINADER projects/program 2008

Project/program	Technical achievements	figures	Achievements in %	
Community development support projects	Manual pumps equipment			
	Validation of PDV in 2007	24	100	
	Village development plan setup	19	100	
	Setup of alphabetisation convention	1	100	
	Implementation of alphabetisation convention	20	40	
	Organisation of inter-village exchanges	1	25	
	Management support and the maintenance of micro infrastructures	42	84	
	Training of CDV	70	70	
	Training of local leaders	8	48	
	Follow-up mission on pacification with decentralised services	71	110	
	Setup monthly reports by relay farmers in villages	316	69	
	Divulgateion of the methodological guide on village planning	100	100	
	Micro-projects financed	30	60	
	Exchange visits for associate farmers	1	25	
	maintenance	bore wells	12	100
		springs	11	
	Construction	Community houses	02	100
		Storage stores	01	
		Market ware houses	04	
		Furnish classrooms	18	
		Latrines in schools	82	
		Latrines in health centres	01	
		Solar plates	2	
		Health centres	02	
		Ouvrage de franchissement (KM)		
		Maintenance of rural roads	156	
Caution transferred to EMF in FCFA	7500 000	100		

7. Conclusions

Cameroon is yet to create appropriate policy on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation that takes into consideration gender variances on the impact of Climate Change. Most particularly, rural women as one of the most vulnerable groups have to be assisted in adaptation and mitigation processes. Policy action should target rural women by protecting agricultural activities that represents the sole source of livelihood for most rural women. In the meantime, there are projects and programs that indirectly mainstream gender sensitive Climate Change mitigation and adaptation activities in rural agriculture.

In as much as the government of Cameroon is putting in a lot of efforts to direct policy and action towards land redistribution programs that shall favour rural women, customary laws and traditional practices are strong enough to represent a barrier that hardly wears out. However, there is a gradual change in mentality towards rural women and the possibility for them to own land. Today, the modern educated and working-class woman can buy land and invest on it freely. A position that the rural woman has not yet attained because of her financial situation that does not provide enough leverage require for her to reverse the present state of affairs. Most women in the rural areas of Cameroon today do not have the finances required to buy and control land.

The provision of extension services in agriculture that should assist rural farmers in their adaptation process to Climate Change is strongly biased to the favour of men. In the rural sector, women still face many obstacles including: socio-cultural bias, the gender division of labour, illiteracy, lack of facilitation mechanisms for women's access to funding, the absence of agricultural banks, high interest rates in commercial banks, an unsuitable system for the mobilization of women's savings, the timid development of decentralized rural credit, ignorance of credit and negotiation schemes for successful partnerships at national and international level, absence of alternative energy sources, etc.

If the government of Cameroon has to achieve its objective of attaining food security and also becoming an emerging country by 2035, appropriate policy that address gender realities in Climate Change mitigation and adaptation have to be created. Far-reaching and targeted measures on land reforms that rethink the position of rural women vis-à-vis land ownership have to be undertaken. Policy action must be strong enough to discourage unpopular anti-progressive traditional practices and customary laws that impede development in general and rural development in particular. Imperatively, the government of Cameroon must determine how adaptation and mitigation can become more effective to the favour of women as a vulnerable and marginalised group.

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Annexes

Annexes 1. Major Multilateral Environmental Agreements signed by Cameroon			
No.	Convention	Date of signature	Date of Ratification
1.	1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetland	1975	20/07/2006
2.	Montreal Protocol	-	30/08/1989
3.	1973 Pollution Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78)	18/09/2009	18/12/2009
4.	1979 Convention on Migratory Species	1/11/1983(MOU)	
5.	1979 Convention on Trade in Endangered Species	05/6/1981	03/09/1981
6.	1982 Convention on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks	-	19 /11/ 1985
7.	1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea	10/12/1882	19/11/1995
8.	1983 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	-	16/09/ 2009
9.	1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	-	30/08/1989
10.	1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,	16/06/1992	19/10/1994
11.	1992 Basel Convention on Hazardous Wastes	-	02/09/2001
12.	1993 Biological Diversity Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	14/071992	19/09/1994
13.	1994 Convention to Combat Desertification	10/14/ 1994	29/05/1997
14.	1997 Kyoto Protocol	-	28 /08/ 2002
15.	1997Amendment to the Montreal Protocol	-	21/08/ 2009

16.	2000 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,	02/20 /2001	11/10/ 2003
17.	2001 Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	05/10/2001	19/05/2009
18.	2006 International accord on Tropical Forest Wood	-	21/08/ 2009
19.	FCCC Framework Convention on Climate Change	16 th of June 1992	19 th October 1994

Regional agreements between countries in the Sub-Saharan region and the Congo Basin Eco region

- The Commission for the Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC)
- The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)
- The Lake Chad Basin Commission (CBLT)
- The Conservation and Rational use of Central Africa Forest Ecosystems (ECOFAC)
- The Niger Basin Authority (ABN).

Bilateral arrangements with developed countries collaboration on technical assistance and strategy elaboration and implementation that help in pushing policy, conservation, Climate Change adaptation and mitigation such as REDD and National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA).

Agreements also exist with The World Bank, European Union, Japan, and the Common Wealth etc, International organizations like GIZ, UICN, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the African Timber Organization (ATO), the African Development Bank (ADB), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Annex 2. List of CDM projects registered in Cameroon and their CO2 reduction capacities.

	Economic Sector	Short Description	Project Promoter	Running period in years	GHG Emission Reduction Capacity (ton CO2)
1.	Municipal Solid Waste	The landfills located at Nkolfoulou (Yaounde) and Ngombé (Douala). The power plant capacities are respectively 3 MW for Yaoundé and 4 MW for Douala.	HYSACAM	7	919 620 CO2e in Yaounde 887 866 CO2e in Douala during the credit periods
2.	Forestry	Alternative au déclin des vieilles cacaoyères mixte d'essences à moyennes révolution (cacao /arbre fruitier) dans la région de Bokito	ANAFOR	30	2042tCO2e per year Totale : 61 270t CO2e
3.	Renewable energy for Rural Electrification	The production of improved ovens from mangrove trees in Douala- Edéa reserve. used to smoke fish	CWCS	7	Totale: 102 468.66tCO2e
4.	Renewable energy for Rural Electrification	Biogas Production	MAISCAM	7	Totale: 26435,50tCO2e
5.	Forestry	Community Reforestation in the savanna in the Adamaoua region	Mairie de Meiganga	30	2046 t CO2e per year Totale : 61 380 t CO2e
6.	Forestry	Community Reforestation in the savanna of the East region of Cameroun	Ville de Paris	30	Totale : 120 000t CO2e
7.	Forestry	Community Reforestation in the savanna of the West	Ville de	30	Totale :

		region of Cameroun	Paris		120 000t CO2e
8.	Forestry	Reforestation with acacia tree species, to reduce forest and soil degradation for poverty reduction in the North	GIC GOMMAB	3	Totale : 350 000tCO2e
9.	Renewable energy for Rural Electrification	The sawdust is converted to synthesis gas for electricity and heat production in Lomé, Ngoro, Libongo, Nsimalen	GIC FAUCA	14	49700t CO2e per year Total : 695 800 t CO2e
10	Renewable energy for Rural Electrification	The production of improved kitchen stoves for more ecological and sustainable development in the Extreme North	APELD	10	745 t CO2e per year Total : 7450t CO2e
11	Renewable energy for Rural Electrification	The production of Electricity and heat from waste wood	GIC SAPROX		Total : 265 956tCO2e
12	Forestry	Reforestation in the Kadey Division	ALPICAM	30	Totale : 99 193 355 tCO2e
13	Renewable energy for Rural Electrification	cogeneration using solid waste, biomass gasification for electricity generation, and waste heat recovery in Mbang, South East region	SFID	7	Totale : 49 000 tCO20e
14	Renewable energy for Rural Electrification	Building micro and small hydro plants for electricity supply in rural area in Douala and Yaounde. The total hydro capacity identified in this portfolio is 27 MW	Rural Community of Ngoyla	-	150 000 tCO2e per year for Yaounde and 280 000 tCO2 for Douala

Annex 3. National Governance programs that take into account women's poverty in connection with aspects of economic governance

- The National Agricultural Extension and Research Programme Project (NAERP), which provides locally-based agricultural extension services to rural women.
- The Global Programme for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality financed by UNDP, which grants micro-credits to women in the Adamawa, Coastal, North-Western and Western pilot provinces. Two hundred forty women's micro-projects have been financed under this programme.
- The Family Incomes Improvement Programme in the Northern Provinces, which receives financial assistance from the African Development Bank. A large section of this programme is devoted to support of women's economic activities.
- The "Productive micro-projects for Cameroon's women" that receives financial assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Three savings and credit cooperatives have been set up under this project that shall enable women engage in income-generating activities. Since 1998, nearly 8 000 women have received loans worth five billion CFAF.
- The "Support to women's integration in micro-enterprises" project that provides equipment and materials to needy women organized in associations and Joint Initiative Groups (JIG). Project under this initiative are directed towards agriculture, stockbreeding, food processing, handicrafts, etc.
- The gender equality and equity project that trains leaders of women's associations in poor rural areas to run group activities provide training in responsible parenthood, and the management of community development activities.
- The Poverty Reduction and Action in Support of Women in the Far North Province (PREPAFEN) financed by the African Development Bank and UNDP. PREPAFEN has granted micro-credits worth 600 million CFAF to needy populations and provided community micro- infrastructures with the aim of improving living and working conditions of rural communities. Women received 70% of total micro-credits grants. Women in rural areas have also received training in that improves their food processing and agricultural skills, poultry management and breeding of small ruminants/rodents.
- Training programs on income- generating activities, micro-project management and taxation regulation have been organised for female petty traders in the markets of Yaoundé, Mbalmayo and Kumbe representing the informal sector "Bayamsellam."
- The tele-centres that had been earlier developers by the Ministry of Women's Affaires can be redirected to provide CC adaptation information to rural communities. The tele-centres project exposes rural dwellers, including women, to integrated development initiatives that facilitate their access to information on new technologies, communication services, income-generating activities and employment that act as a check to rural exodus, and a means of providing weather updates on climatic conditions, including rainfall, winds and humidity that fluctuate as a result of CC.
- Activities have been organized to assist businesswomen in investing in new export opportunities provided by the American Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).
- The government of Cameroon has integrated the use of numerous sex-disaggregated databases at national level that monitor and evaluate the evolution of policy with regards to

gender issues and other aspects of the society. Some of analytical and measurement databases include:

- The multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS 2000);
- The “social logbook” (TBS 99) on the situation of women and children in Cameroon in 1999;
- The household surveys (ECAM I and II) conducted in 1996 and 1999, respectively
- The statistical yearbooks, that contains data on surveys and other data collection exercises conducted with public and semi-public administrations involving the private sector.
- The United Nations Population Fund also supports the Government of Cameroon in establishing a socio-demographic database that includes over 200 sex-disaggregated variables.