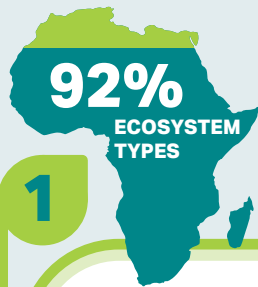
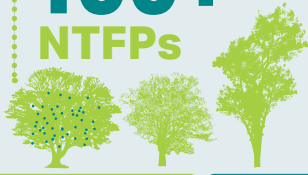


CAMEROON'S NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT



100+
NTFPs



1

Cameroon has 92% of the ecosystem types in Africa, including the dense humid forest ecosystem. The country's population relies on the more than one hundred Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) - such as Ebony, Prunus, Gnetum and Irvingia- for food and health security. More than half of Cameroonians are engaged in the harvesting of NTFPs. These make a considerable contribution to rural economies and are the second largest source of income after agriculture.

2000

31,500,000
HECTARES

2020

201,000
HECTARES
LESS

2

In 2000, Cameroon had an estimated forest cover of 31.5 million hectares. However, there is a growing trend in the loss of the country's vegetation. Consequently, the goods and services derived from it are declining. In 2020 alone, the loss of forest cover was estimated at 201,000 ha. Subsistence or shifting agriculture, agro-industries and population growth are among the main drivers behind this change. The loss of forests is further exacerbated by the effects of climate change and natural hazards such as floods, droughts, and bush fires.

- conservation measures
- sustainable production & consumption
- sustainable spatial planning



3

Despite a predicted decrease of Cameroon's biodiversity, sustainable spatial planning of development initiatives, sustainable production and consumption of food and energy, and effective implementation of environmental safeguards and conservation measures are three options that could reconcile the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services with the country's development needs and increase their contribution to human well-being by 2030. Protected areas are predicted to be the strongholds of biodiversity preservation in the national territory, but their biological connectivity is crucial to ensure long-term biodiversity conservation and enhance sustainable development.

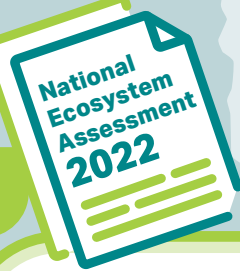
4

In this context, the operationalization of biodiversity governance tools remains a challenge. Legal and regulatory provisions governing other sectors with impacts on biodiversity do not sufficiently take this element into account, and biodiversity financing remains weak and dependent on external contributions. Social justice, gender mainstreaming and gender parity issues - although slowly - are becoming part of the governance principles.

5

Aware of the potential future risks, Cameroon has proactively identified various opportunities to reverse the observed trends of biodiversity loss. The assessment highlights the potential for integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into sectoral policy and decision-making processes - particularly in its National Development Strategy up to 2030, NBSAP and ongoing decentralization process - and the importance of positioning it at the centre of the country's public agenda for the coming decade.

**NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY
2030**



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