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# OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON TO CAMEROON



**PRESS KIT**



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## CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

The President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, will pay an official visit to Cameroon from 25 to 27 July 2022. This is his first trip to Africa since his re-election for a second term at the Elysée Palace last April. The French President will begin his tour of sub-Saharan Africa in Cameroon, a country that maintains long-standing ties with France. This visit offers an opportunity for both Heads of State to reaffirm the strong ties binding Cameroon and France in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

President Macron's visit is taking place within a global context marked by the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the war between Russia and Ukraine. These situations are a source of great concern for all countries in the world, and for African countries in particular, who are facing a new economic recession and the threat to food insecurity. Terrorism is also a constant threat in many parts of the continent.

Although Cameroon is facing a crisis in the North-West and South-West regions, as well as sporadic incursions by the Boko Haram terrorist sect in some localities in the Far-North Region, the country is working on building and consolidating its development based on a new National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (NDS30). Politically, Cameroon is slowly but steadily progressing towards establishing a democratic society.

In October 2018, the Cameroonian people overwhelmingly re-elected President Paul BIYA to a new seven-year term. The Head of State launched the "Great Opportunities" programme which is a follow-up to the "Major Accomplishments" programme implemented during the 2011-2018 seven-year term and the "Greater Achievements" programme implemented during the 2004-2011 seven-year term.

The "Great Opportunities" programme seeks to improve the living conditions of the people, strengthen peace, national unity and territorial integrity, stimulate and transform the economy in order to achieve the country's emergence by 2035, strengthen innovation and combat all forms of exclusion.

Despite challenges and rising separatist sentiments in the North-West and South-

West regions, Cameroon has so far recorded many significant achievements. It has made significant progress in the domains of education, health, the social advancement women and young people, social infrastructure construction, and democratization, particularly through the consolidation of decentralization. It is relentlessly pursuing its efforts to reduce poverty and embrace modernity. The country successfully hosted the Africa Cup of Nations tournament in early 2022. On this occasion, the country constructed modern, high-quality infrastructure which is a source of pride for this great sporting nation.

France, like Cameroon, is concerned about persistent insecurity in the Lake Chad Basin and the Gulf of Guinea. France is firmly committed to assisting Cameroon in its fight against the Boko Haram jihadist group, terrorism in the North-West and South-West regions, and cross-border crime. Through President Macron's visit, our country hopes to gain support for plans to rebuild the crisis-affected regions (North-West, South-West and Extreme-North) and to strengthen the decentralization process.

France is the world's seventh largest economy. It is a founding member of the European Union, as well as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the G7, and many other State groups. France is Cameroon's traditional, but also strategic partner. Partnership between both countries covers many areas. Cameroon values France's assistance to its development efforts.

François Hollande was the last French Head of State to visit Cameroon on 3 July 2015. President Paul Biya's last official visit to France dates back to 24 July 2009. During Emmanuel Macron's presidency, President Paul Biya has been in France to attend international meetings such as the One Planet Summit held in Paris on 12 December 2017, the Paris Peace Forum in November 2019 and the Sixth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria which took place in Lyon from 9 to 10 October 2019.



## **BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON**

Emmanuel MACRON is the eighth President of the Fifth Republic of France.

He launched the movement « En Marche ! », founded on April, 6 2016, and was its leader until his victory in the presidential election on May, 7 2017.

On April 24, 2022, Emmanuel MACRON is re-elected President of the Republic.

Emmanuel MACRON was born in December 1977 in Amiens, in the Somme department. He studied philosophy, and later attended the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) where he graduated in 2004.

Emmanuel MACRON then joined the Inspectorate General of Finance where he worked for four years before entering the banking sector.

In 2012, he became Deputy General Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic. He left office in July 2014 and served as the Minister for Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs from August 2014 to August 2016.

## BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA

His Excellency Paul BIYA was born on 13 February 1933 at Mvomeka'a, Meyomessala Subdivision, Dja-et-Lobo Division, South Region.

H.E. Paul BIYA is Cameroon's second Head of State. He came to power on 6 November 1982 following the resignation of President Ahmadou AHIDJO on 4 November.

Education:

### Primary and Secondary Education:

- **June 1948:** C.E.P.E: Catholic School Nden;
- **1948-1950:** St. Tharcissius Pre-seminary, Edea;
- **1950-1954:** Minor Seminary, Akono ;
- **June 1953:** B.E.P.C;
- **1954-1956:** Lycée Général Leclerc;
- **June 1955:** Baccalauréat 1<sup>ère</sup> partie;
- **June 1956:** Baccalauréat 2<sup>ème</sup> partie (philosophy).

### Higher Education:

- Lycée Louis Le Grand, Paris;
- Université Paris Sorbonne (Faculty of Law);
- Institut d'Études Politiques, Paris;
- Institut des Hautes Études d'Outre Mer.

From which he obtained the following;

### Academic Qualifications:

- 1960 :** Licence en Droit Public;
- 1961 :** Diplôme de l'Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris;
- 1962 :** Diplôme de l'Institut des Hautes Études d'Outre Mer ( HEOM);
- 1963 :** Diplôme d'Études Supérieures en Droit Public.

### Decorations:

- Grand Master of National Orders;
- Commander of National Order, exceptional class (Federal Republic of Germany);
- Commander of National Order (Tunisia);
- Grand Cross of the Senegalese National Order of Merit;
- Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour (France);
- Great Commander of the Medal of St-George (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- Grand Collar of the Ouissam Mohammadi Order (Kingdom of Morocco);
- Grand Commander of the Order of Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria);
- Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Maryland (USA);
- Honorary Professor of the University of Beijing (People's Republic of China);
- Holder of several decorations from various other countries.

### Career:

- **October 1962**

Mr. Paul BIYA was appointed Chargé de Mission at the Presidency of the Republic upon his return from Paris.



• **January 1964**

Director of Cabinet of the Minister of National Education, Youth Affairs and Culture;

• **July 1965**

Secretary-General of the Ministry of National Education, Youth Affairs and Culture;

• **December 1967**

Director of the Civil Cabinet of the President of the Republic;

• **January 1968**

While still serving as Director of the Civil Cabinet, Mr. BIYA was appointed Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic.

• **August 1968**

Minister, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic;

• **June 1970**

Minister of State, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic;

• **June 1975**

Prime Minister of the United Republic of Cameroon;

• **June 1979**

By virtue of Law No.79/2 of 29 June 1979, the Prime Minister became the Constitutional successor to the President of the Republic;

• **6 November 1982**

Mr. Paul BIYA was sworn in as President of the United Republic of Cameroon, the second President in the history of the country. The ceremony took place at the National Assembly building, before of the people's elected representatives, following the resignation of President Ahmadou AHIDJO on 4 November 1982.

At the time of his accession to power, Mr. Paul BIYA was 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Central Committee of the Cameroon National Union (CNU) and Member of the Political Bureau of the Party.

- Elected President of the Republic on 14 January 1984, re-elected on 24 April 1988, 11 October 1992 (first presidential election in Cameroon by direct universal suffrage with multiple candidates), 11 October 1997, 10 October 2004, 9 October 2011 and 7 October 2018;

- Elected President of the Cameroon National Union on 14 September 1983;

- Elected President of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement following the transformation of the CNU into CPDM on 24 March 1985 in Bamenda.

By enacting the law on associations and political parties on 19 December 1990, Mr. Paul BIYA restored multiparty politics in Cameroon (since 1 September 1966, the country had been going through an era of de facto one-party politics).

To date, more than 329 (MINAT - July 2022) political parties have been legalised. The CPDM obtained absolute majority in the March 1997, June 2002, July 2007, September 2013, February 2020 legislative elections. Despite these victories, the President of the Republic has always chosen to form inclusive governments.

Five parties are represented in Government: the CPDM, NUDP, NADP, FNSC and PADDEC.

**Publications**

Mr. Paul BIYA is author of a political essay, Communal Liberalism, published by Editions Marcel Fabre, Lausanne 1987.

The book has been translated into English, German and Hebrew.

In the book, the Head of State announced the advent of the multiparty system (which became effective in 1990) after the interim period of the one-party system. He explained his option for economic liberalism and private initiative while advocating national solidarity, equitable sharing of the fruits of economic growth, social justice, the emergence of a culture based on creativity and the peaceful coexistence of values specific to the various communities that make up the Nation.

Lastly, he reaffirmed the need to modernize the State and maintain cooperation ties with other countries of the world.

**Marital Life:**

His Excellency Paul BIYA is married to Chantal Pulchérie BIYA.

He is father of three children: Franck Emmanuel BIYA, Paul BIYA Junior and Anastasie Brenda BIYA EYENGA.



## **PRESENTATION OF FRANCE**

France is a country in Western Europe. She shares territorial boundaries with the North Sea and the English Channel (northwest), the Atlantic Ocean (west), Spain (southwest), the Mediterranean (south), Italy (south east), Switzerland (east), and Germany Luxembourg and Belgium (north-east).

The country is made up of the Metropolitan France (mainland France and Corsica), five Overseas Departments (Guyana, Martinique, Reunion, Guadeloupe, Saint Pierre and Miquelon), and four Overseas Territories with special status (Mayotte, Wallis and Futuna, New Caledonia, French Polynesia).

**National Motto:** "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity".

**National Anthem:** "La Marseillaise".

### **Administration**

- **Type of State:** Republic;
- **Head of State:** Emmanuel MACRON;
- **Official language:** French;
- **Capital:** Paris.

### **Geography**

- **Total area:** 551,602 km<sup>2</sup> (Metropolitan France) ;
- **Main cities:** Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Bordeaux, Lille, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Nantes, Montpellier.

### **History**

- **National Day:** July 14 .

### **Demographics:**

- **Population:** 67.5 million inhabitants (2021);
- **Density:** 119 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>;
- **Population growth:** 0.2 (2021);
- **Life expectancy:** 82 years (2020);
- **Literacy rate:** 99%;
- **Religion (s):** Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism, Judaism, Buddhism;
- **Human Capital Index:** 0.8 (2020).

### **Economy**

- **Currency:** Euro;
- **GDP (in Euros):** 2,500.9 billion (2021);
- **GDP per capita:** 43,518.5 US\$ (2021);
- **GDP growth:** 6.8% (2021);
- **Inflation (consumer prices):** 1.6% (2021);
- **Public debt:** 114.5% of GDP in 2021;
- **Unemployment rate (total labour force):** 7.3% (2022 - ILO);
- **Public deficit:** 6.5% of GDP (2021);
- **Leading importers and suppliers:** Germany, China, Italy, Belgium, Spain, UK and Netherlands.

- France is the world's 7<sup>th</sup> largest economy by 2022 nominal figures and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest economy by PPP, constituting 3.3% of world GDP;

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in 2021, France was the world's 29<sup>th</sup> country by GDP per capita with \$44,995 per inhabitant;

- Major French corporations include: AXA, Air France, TotalEnergies SE, EDF, Carrefour, Michelin etc;

- France is the European Union's leading agricultural power and the world's second-largest agricultural exporter.

## PRESENTATION OF CAMEROUN

Cameroon is a country in Central and West Africa. She shares boundaries with Nigeria (west), the Atlantic Ocean (southwest), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo (south), the Central African Republic and Chad (east), Lake Chad (north). Situated at the heart of Africa, Cameroon has a diverse relief, climate and flora. It is for this reason that she is nicknamed "Africa in miniature".

**Motto:** "Peace, Work, Fatherland".

**National Anthem:** "O Cameroon, Thou Cradle of Our Fathers".

### Administration

- **Type of State:** Republic;
- **Head of State:** Paul Biya;
- **Official languages:** French, English;
- **Capital:** Yaounde.

### Geography

- **Total Area:** 475 442 km<sup>2</sup> ;
- **Top Cities:** Douala, Yaounde, Garoua, Bamenda, Maroua, Bafoussam, Mokolo, Ngaoundere, Bertoua, Buea ...

### History

- **Date of Independence** January 1, 1960 (Cameroon under French administration);
- **October 1, 1961** (Cameroon under British administration);
- **National Day:** May 20 .

### Demographics

- **Population:** 27.2 million inhabitants;
- **Density:** 56 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>;
- **Population growth:** 2.5% (2021);
- **Life expectancy:** 60 years (2021);
- **Literacy rate:** 77.1% (2018) ;
- **Religion (s):** Christianity, Islam, animism;
- **Human Capital Index:** 0.4 (2021).

### Economy (source : World Bank)

- **Currency:** CFA (XAF BEAC);
- **GDP 2021:** 45.24 billion US\$;
- **GDP per capita:** 1,661.7;
- **GDP growth rate:** 3.5%;
- **Inflation rate:** 2.3%;
- **Unemployment rate:** 3.9%;
- **Value-Added Tax:** 19.25%;
- **2020 Budget deficit (percentage of GDP):** 3.19%;
- **2021 Trade balance (percentage of GDP):** \$-0.84 B, 35.5% decline from 2020;
- **In 2020 Cameroon was the number 91 economy in the world in terms of GDP;**
- **Main customers in 2020:** China (18%), Netherlands (15.6%), United States (10.9%), India (8.53%), Italy (6.71%) and France (6.04%);
- **Main providers 2020:** China (\$2.02B), Nigeria (\$1.21B), France (\$580M), India (\$254M) and United Arab Emirates (\$229M);
- **Main exports (2020):** Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (39.6%), Cocoa (20.62%), Wood (16.06%), Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons (6.33%), Gold (4.83%), Aluminium (2.5%), Banana (2.46%) etc;
- **Crude Oil Production:** 61.00 (February 2022).



## ACTIVE DEMOCRACY

### Political Map

- **Political parties.**

The single party system was abolished in December 1990. There are currently more than 329 political parties (source : MINAT - July 2022). However, only eight have been able to obtain seats in the National Assembly (2020) and seven for the Senate (2018).

#### National Assembly :

1. **Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) – the party of the President of the Republic:** 152 Members of Parliament (MPs);
2. **National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP):** 7 MPs;
3. **Social Democratic Front (SDF):** 5 MPs;
4. **Cameroon Party for National Reconciliation (PCRN):** 5 MPs;
5. **Cameroon Democratic Union (CDU):** 4 MPs;
6. **National Salvation Front (FSNC):** 3 MPs;
7. **Movement for the Defence of the Republic (MDR):** 2 MPs;
8. **Union of Socialist Movements (UMS):** 2 MPs.

#### Senate :

1. RDPC (87);
2. SDF (07);
3. UNDP (02);
4. FSNC (01);
5. ANDP (01);
6. MDR (01);
7. UPC (01).

- **Electoral system.**

Mixed electoral system: majority list system with blocked lists, no mixture or preferential vote, and a touch of proportional representation. The electoral threshold is 5%.

- **Electoral constituencies.**

1. **Senate:** 10;
2. **Parliament:** 58;
3. **Regional Councils:** 10;
4. **Municipal councils:** 360.

- **Elections.**

Elections are held regularly with multiple candidates. There are five types of elections:

1. Presidential;
2. Senate;
3. Legislative;
4. Regional;
5. Municipal.

- **Duration of mandates.**

- 7 years for the President of the Republic;
- 5 years for Senators, MPs, Regional Councillors and Municipal Councillors.

## Political Freedoms in Cameroon

Civil liberties in Cameroon, like in all major liberal democracies, are governed by a legal framework, particularly the Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon (1996) and Law No. 90/53 of 19 December 1990 relating to freedom of association, as amended and supplemented by Law No. 2020/9 of 20 July 2020.

### • Public demonstrations

The peaceful democracy championed by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA, is frequently challenged by attempts by some socio-political actors to defy existing civil liberties laws, particularly those governing public demonstrations.

In this regard, since 2018, when the last presidential election was held, insurrectional or regionalist demonstrations have been held in public spaces led by political party militants with extremist ideologies. Given Cameroon's sociological and cultural diversity, such incidents can jeopardize the country's unity.

This constant violation of the regulatory framework governing civil liberties is likely to undermine the country's cohesion and stability, which are dear to the Head of State;

### • The role of cyberspace

The important role of the coming of cyberspace in informing citizens can not be over-emphasized. However, one of the challenges faced in consolidating Cameroon's democracy is the emergence of social networks characterized by the proliferation and spread of false information (fake news), especially a visceral tendency to distort all official information and systematically debase public action in order to turn public opinion against the authorities.

## Media space: a wide scope of freedom of expression

Cameroon has about 600 written press organs, more than 200 commercial and community radio stations, and about 40 private and public TV channels - a thriving media space with unparalleled editorial freedom.

Given the daily violent criticism of the Government and public authorities, Cameroon is undoubtedly one of the few countries in the world where journalists enjoy the legal freedoms guaranteed by the law.

Despite the facts on the ground, some NGOs, such as Reporters Without Borders, do not hesitate to portray Cameroon as a country where free press is stifled.

Furthermore, some foreign media often confuse reality with political propaganda against the Cameroonian Government.

Campaigns to sway public opinion against Cameroonian Defence and Security Forces engaged on multiple fronts, Boko Haram terrorists in the Far-North and secessionist terrorists in the North-West and South-West regions are thus fed by such media. This is unthinkable in Western democracies in a wartime situation.

## Cameroonian Army Fearless Against Boko Haram

The Defence and Security Forces have successfully hindered the Boko Haram terrorist group from setting up bases in Cameroon. In the Far North Region, the Government has persuaded the population to mount a stiff resistance to the terrorists.

In this wise, more than 10 000 people spontaneously joined the vigilante committees, whose work in support of the



Defence and Security Forces has been highly appreciated. These vigilante committees whose members serve as guides or scouts, also play an important role in providing intelligence information.

Thanks to the determination and bravery of the Cameroonian soldiers, Boko Haram has been reduced to their simplest expression. The members of the terrorist sect can only resort to sporadic incursions during which they steal cows and other food items and burn down houses. In short, it is more often acts of desperation by the terrorist group. However, the Cameroonian Army is always on the alert.

### **On the subject of secessionists in the North-West and South-West Regions.**

Cameroon, just like many other countries in the world, has the policy of zero tolerance towards movement that are clamouring for secession of the North-West and South-West Regions.

The State of Cameroon is actively searching for a return to normal life in the two regions which have been subjected to the terror imposed by the secessionists for the ^past five years.

A vast programme of reconstruction of these regions is ongoing, while at the institutional level, the two regions of the North-West and South-West have been given a special status, in accordance with the recommendations of the Major National Dialogue summoned by President Paul BIYA from 30 September to 4 October 2019.

## FRANCE-CAMEROON: A DYNAMIC, DIVERSIFIED AND CONSTANTLY EVOLVING PARTNERSHIP

Cameroon occupies a prominent position in relations between France and African States due, among other things, to its destiny, geographical and strategic location in the heart of Africa, natural, economic, cultural and sporting assets, and its rich and intelligent population.

### Strong Diplomatic and Political Ties

Cameroon and France established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level in 1960. Both countries have maintained mutually beneficial relations for more than six decades.

Cooperation between Yaounde and Paris is dynamic, as evidenced, among other things, by the presence of embassies in both capitals and significant diplomatic activity, primarily marked by regular and reciprocal visits by high-ranking State officials.

On the French side, François Hollande was the last French Head of State to pay an official visit to Cameroon on 3 July 2015. Before him, Presidents Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, François MITTERRAND and Jacques CHIRAC visited Cameroon. President Emmanuel MACRON is the fifth French Head of State to pay an official visit to Cameroon.

For his part, the Head of State, Paul BIYA, has visited France on many occasions over the last four decades either on a State visit or an official visit. His most recent official visit to France was on 12 and 13 November 2019.

Concerning the representatives of both countries, H.E. Christophe GUILHOU is the Ambassador of France to Cameroon. He presented the working copy of his credentials on 1 August 2019 and his letters of credence to the Head of State, Paul BIYA, on 24 September 2019. H.E. André Magnus EKOUMOU is the Ambassador of Cameroon to France appointed by presidential decree on 30 June 2020.

### Historical References

France administered part of Cameroon under the League of Nations mandate, and subsequently under the United Nations.

After World War II, Cameroon was granted the status of an "associated territory" within the French Union, with access to the French Assemblies, where its representatives sat.

As a "trust territory", Cameroon faced challenges, surmounted and even defied political, diplomatic, cultural and ideological positions and barriers, some as difficult as they were incomprehensible, to emerge from tutelary (colonial) control and achieve independence.

Cameroon's independence, which was declared on 1 January 1960 for the country's eastern part, is one of the most significant and ground-breaking events in relations between Cameroon and France.

The evocation of these historical features does not obscure the psychological rapprochement and emotional dimension between Cameroon and France, between the Cameroonian and French peoples; quite the contrary.

The majority of the Cameroonian elite, especially the first post-independence leaders, was trained in France. In general, over the past decades, France has remained the preferred destination for Cameroonians for various reasons (higher education, research, commercial and economic activities, sports, culture, etc.).



According to official figures, there are about 60,000 Cameroonians with residence permits in France today, while there are more than 6,433 French nationals in Cameroon. More than 7,000 Cameroonian students are studying in France.

History has shown that leaders of both countries have shared a common view on issues of mutual interest, despite some setbacks related to the economic situation.

### **Bilateral Cooperation Covering a Wide Range of Fields**

Cooperation between France and Cameroon is intense, rich and diverse. It covers many areas and is governed by multifaceted and multi-sectoral agreements signed and renewed over the decades since Cameroon's independence.

### **Pillar of Friendship and Solidarity**

The friendship and solidarity between the two peoples is genuine. The long-standing and deep-rooted cooperation between Cameroon and France is based on a solid legal framework.

Since Cameroon's independence, many agreements have been signed to help the fledgling State to find its bearings in its quest for socio-economic development and to envisage its future.

With the advent of the National New Deal in 1982 under the leadership of its great promoter, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA, the partnership agreements focused not only on the overall development of Cameroon, but also on the establishment of a modern and democratic State.

From 2010 to 2020, for example, Cameroon relied on long-standing partners such as France to tackle the numerous security challenges faced.

The main concern here is to defeat the Boko Haram terrorist group in the Far-North Region of the country. Incidentally, President Paul BIYA officially declared war on the Boko Haram terrorist group during the Security Summit held on Nigeria, initiated in Paris by France on 17 May 2014. Security challenges also include piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and incursions by armed gangs from the Central African Republic.

### **Strengthening Partnership to Achieve Emergence**

Aside from the security challenges, Cameroon has strengthened its partnership with France so as to achieve emergence. In this context, the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, unveiled his approach on 3 July 2015, while playing host to former French President, François HOLLANDE, at Unity Palace in Yaounde. In this regard, his words during the toast were unequivocal when he said: "From history and from my experience of relations between men and between States, I have learnt that what matters most between friends is not the time spent together. I strongly believe that what matters most is the mutual respect friends have for each other, the quality, depth, sincerity and richness of the ties". He latter added that: "France supports our efforts to build a modern State. Hence, it is only normal for us to count on our ally of all times, both in our march towards emergence and in our crusade against corruption, terrorism and insecurity.

### **Debt Relief to Fight against COVID-19**

In the context of the fight against COVID-19, France's advocacy within the Paris Club and the G20 helped to secure a debt service moratorium for the poorest countries in 2020, resulting in a debt relief of 230 billion CFA francs for the Cameroonian economy, with France contributing 60 billion CFA francs. The related agreement was signed on 18 December 2020.

In addition, in 2020, the French Development Agency (AFD) provided multidimensional support to Cameroon through the launching of the "COVID-19-Health in Common" initiative for a total of 1.2 billion euros, of which 150 million euros in the form grants and 1 billion euros in loans to respond to the short-term challenges faced by countries or AFD's partner public development banks.

In total, the AFD provided 11.5 million euros to Cameroon in 2020, of which 10 million euros for emergency response in the form of budget support.

### **Security, Defense and Humanitarian Assistance**

French assistance to Cameroon has traditionally been in three areas, namely: personnel support, training support and equipment support. Cameroon and France signed a Defence Agreement on 21 May 2009.

Lastly, France's contribution to humanitarian assistance in Cameroon in 2019 stood at 1.24 billion CFA francs, of which 400 million CFA francs for the fight against food and nutrition insecurity, 520 million CFA francs for emergency missions in the North-West, South-West and Far-North regions, as well as 320 million CFA francs for resilience projects as part of the stabilization mission. In 2020, this humanitarian financing was 2 billion CFA francs.



## **ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

Despite the inevitable changes that have occurred since independence, Cameroon and France have maintained the hitherto established system and the spirit of cooperation that prevailed during the signing of their initial agreements. Cameroon and France collaborate in the areas of technical assistance, development project financing, and structural adjustment assistance, confirming France's central role in Cameroon's economic life.

For example, in April 2002, France proposed to Cameroon a "Debt Reduction-Development Contract" within the framework of the HIPC initiative (C2D). This is a strategy for cancelling public development debt. This contract was expected to help to write off 65 billion CFA francs per year beginning in 2003 for a period of 10 years.

- The first C2D totalling 352 billion CFA francs was signed on 22 June 2006 for a five-year period. This financing focused on five sectors, namely basic education, health, agriculture and rural development, the environment, and urban and road infrastructure;
- The second C2D worth 214 billion CFA francs was signed on 1 July 2011 in Yaounde for a five-year period (2011-2016);
- The third C2D worth 401 billion CFA francs was signed on 30 June 2016 for an eight-year period. It was used to finance agriculture and development (119 billion CFA francs), as well as infrastructure construction and urban development (102 billion CFA francs).

The French Development Agency (AFD) also supports infrastructure development through the "Regional Capitals" programme, which helped to build 27 kilometres of road and 52 shops, and complete the extension of two town halls

in Bafoussam, Bertoua, Bamenda, Garoua and Maroua. Similarly, the AFD mobilized 90 billion CFA francs in Cameroon to implement projects and address rural development, health and governance issues.

Early this year, the Cameroon Government and the AFD signed loan agreements worth 201 billion CFA francs in order to support the State budget and develop the cities of Yaounde and Buea.

In addition, several French economic missions were fielded in Cameroon in 2021. These include the political and economic mission of the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region (28 October to 3 December 2021) and the business mission of the SMEs of AIX Marseille Provence (15 to 19 June 2021).

On 30 June 2022, the Embassy of Cameroon in France hosted an economic forum for the French business community and the Cameroonian Diaspora.

A delegation of Cameroonian business operators led by the Minister of Economy, Planification and Regional Development took part in the economic forums of the French Council of Investors in Africa (CIAN) on 23 June and the France-Central Africa Business Forum on 28 and 29 June 2022 in Paris.

French enterprises have a strong and diverse presence in the Cameroonian private sector. There are about 200 enterprises, subsidiaries of French conglomerates, or enterprises owned by French nationals.

French companies are mainly involved in the petroleum development, agro-industry, wood, cement, telecommunications, distribution, public works and civil engineering, supermarkets, and other sectors. Many French firms are also involved in large-scale projects in Cameroon.

Regarding trade, French exports to Cameroon increased in 2019 after several years of contraction. This rebound was driven by the increase in the sale of agricultural products (+119.9%), 95% of them cereals intended for flour production. Overall, the sale of agri-food products rose by 10.0%. Sales of computer, electronic and optical products and of electrical and household equipment are also experiencing a strong momentum, increasing respectively at 10.7% and 6.6% year-on-year.

French imports from Cameroon, which include cocoa butter, fats and oil, primary aluminium, sawn wood or lumber, cocoa paste and bananas, has increased by 3.6%.

Technical cooperation between Cameroon and France is no less important. It aims to improve the quality of life and promote technology transfer. In higher education, the number of young Cameroonians studying in France over the last three years is estimated at about 10,000. On 17 February 2020, France and Cameroon signed a five-year framework agreement for university cooperation in order to facilitate exchanges between Cameroonian and French public universities regarding university governance and research. This agreement focuses on academic training, digital technology and entrepreneurship, as well as various forms of support for development project implementation.

Other initiatives include assistance to local authorities to implement their development plans and the concerted management of rural spaces, the development of proximity social services such as primary education and health, and the strengthening of family farms. The aim is to modernize farming and management techniques through the training and integration of young farmers, counselling and financing.



## **SOME SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COOPERATION INDICATORS**

### **Financing of Research Economy**

A study on the research economy in Cameroon was carried out in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) within the framework of the Debt Reduction-Development Contract (C2D), a bilateral debt cancellation and conversion programme. Its overall objective is to contribute to optimize scientific research tools and actions for economic development.

### **Support to the Centre for Research on Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (CREMER/IMPM)**

The Support for the African Response against the COVID-19 Pandemic (ARIACOV) action research project funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) within the framework of the "COVID-19-Health in Common" Initiative aims to assist Cameroonian and other African governments in strengthening national response strategies.

### **Support to the Bio-geoscience Centre**

As part of the C2D-Research Support Programme (PAR), the National Research and Innovation System (SNRI) seeks to set up an Environmental Bio-geoscience Centre in order to mobilize efforts and create a national, regional and international momentum around research themes such as climatic and environmental issues.

### **Support for the Training of Cameroonian Researchers**

- The C2D has assisted the Centre Pasteur of Cameroon in decentralizing molecular diagnosis in 17 laboratories across the 9 regions that have successfully used the real-time PCR technique. The Afroscreen project, for its part, has strengthened the

transfer of technology in the sequencing of SARS-COV-2 from the selected laboratories. This support, which focused on technology transfer, has enabled other laboratories to receive support in terms of training, equipment and reagents;

- A "Hydro-bio geochemistry of the critical zone" team of the Toulouse Joint Geosciences Environment Research Unit (GET) is working on biogeochemical cycles and alteration in tropical forests or crop areas using chemical monitoring and balances as well as natural isotope tracers (uranium, silicon and strontium). Its main site in Cameroon is the M-TROPICS national observation service based in Nsimi, in Zoétélé Sub-division, South Region.

The mission also visited the Geochemical Water Analysis Laboratory (LAGE) of the Geological and Mining Research Institute (IRGM) in Yaounde, IRD's historical partner in hydro-geochemical research, and the Higher Teachers Training College of the University of Yaounde I to initiate collaboration with the Laboratory of Systematic Botany and Ecology (LaBoSystE).

- Through the CNRS, zoology, biochemistry and botany students in the University of Douala were able to receive lessons on theory, practice and methods ranging from the processing of biological samples for genomic analysis in the broadest sense to the extraction and characterization of DNA using specific amplification methods (PCR) and sequencing using the latest portable sequencers (MinION, Oxford Nanopore Technologies).

## **Improving the Quality of Life**

The Yaounde Urban Municipality requested a grant from the French Ministry of Economy and Finance to “develop tools to combat air pollution in Yaounde”. This initiative, which helped to map air pollution in the city, was carried out by AtmoTrack, a group of sustainable urban planning and mobility experts that supplies air quality monitoring systems and the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research.



## **KEY PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED OR ONGOING WITH FRENCH SUPPORT**

### **1. Second Bridge over the Wouri River**

The construction of the Second Bridge over the Wouri River has alleviated traffic congestion in the city of Douala. This bridge has helped to strengthen the role of Douala as the country's economic capital by promoting its balanced urban growth.

**13/7/2013:** Project start-up date.

**31/3/2017:** Project completion date.

**Period of financing:** 6 years.

**Amount of financing:** 150 000 000 euros.

#### **Description**

The second bridge over the Wouri River is about 850 metres long and is located downstream of the existing bridge (8 metres). This includes a little more than 2 kilometres of connecting roads to the existing Douala urban road network giving a total section (structure and connecting roads) of 3 kilometres. It is also compatible with inland water transport. The project is part of the Douala City Transport Plan which includes the future construction of a special mass transit site.

#### **Impacts**

- Smooth flow of traffic between the right and left banks;
- Opening up the right bank to improve access by the disadvantaged people living on the right bank to public services and employment centres on the left bank;
- Mixed use of both sides of the river;
- Development and diversification of the types of enterprises operating in the city;
- Improvement of sub-regional economic integration by facilitating transport on the main national and sub-regional corridors.

### **2. Lom Pangar Hydropower Project**

This is the largest power generation project in the country. The structure is a symbol of Cameroon's ambition to become an electrical power exporter in the region.

#### **Description**

The dam has created a 540 square kilometre reservoir and 6 billion cubic metres of water that has flooded part of the vast forest of Lom-et-Djérem Division. To mitigate the loss of habitat for gorillas and chimpanzees, the area has been designated a nature park, and hunting therein is prohibited. In addition, 1,500 local residents were relocated to nearby villages.

#### **Financing and Cost**

When completed, the Lom Pangar Dam will cost about 300 billion CFA francs (460 million euros), of which 50 billion CFA francs financed by the French Development Agency (AFD), Africa's development partner, with the support of other financial partners of Cameroon (the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Bank), as well as the Government of Cameroon, which has contributed 100 billion CFA francs to the project

#### **Impacts**

The purpose of the Lom Pangar Hydropower Dam is to address the power deficit by increasing Cameroon's hydroelectric power generation capacity and reducing seasonal fluctuations by regulating water flow in Sanaga River. It will store water during the rainy season and release it during the dry season in order to increase the hydropower capacity of the Sanaga River by about 40% per year.

### 3. Nachtigal Hydroelectric Dam (a model of hydroelectric power generation in Africa)

The project, which is located on the Sanaga River at the Nachtigal Falls Upstream, 65 kilometres north-east of Yaounde, will eventually have an installed capacity of 420 MW and an annual generation of 2970 GWH, or about 30% of Cameroon's electricity consumption. It will be optimized to between 85% and 90% by 2023 and 2024 for the benefit of the Northern and Southern interconnected networks.

The AFD granted a 150 million euro loan to Nachtigal Hydro Power Company (NHPC) to finance the design, construction, operation and maintenance of a 420 MW run-of-river hydroelectric power plant at the Nachtigal site.

This power plant will eventually generate about 30% of the country's electricity. The project site, which has an unparalleled socio-economic scope, will eventually generate 420 megawatts of electricity to supply Cameroonian towns via seven 60-megawatt turbines, each of which will address the problem of lack of access to electricity by some localities.

#### - Start-up of works, 1 February 2019

The status of execution of works is estimated at about 60%.

- Civil Engineering Lot: 62.7%;
- Electromechanical Lot: 57%;
- Transport Line Lot: 100%;
- Operation City Lot: 97.67%.

The first Nachtigal turbines, which will be the largest power generation infrastructure in Cameroon, are scheduled to be commissioned in mid-2023. The facility will be fully operationalized in mid-2024.

The project is being implemented in Cameroon by the Nachtigal Hydro Power Company (NHPC), Électricité de France (EDF), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The latter is coordinating the 1.2 billion euro project financed by some fifteen lenders (commercial banks and institutions). The project is expected to cover 30% of the country's energy needs, generate 1,500 direct jobs, and allow for the construction of a 50 kilometre transmission line to Nyom.

The Nachtigal power plant will ensure stable and reliable power generation thanks to the regulation of the flow of the Sanaga River through upstream reservoirs in Mbakaou and Lom Pangar, co-financed by AFD, thus ensuring sufficient water flow even during the dry season.

The total project cost is estimated at 1.26 billion euros. It is 24% financed through equity capital and 76% through senior debt. The latter is 15% financed by loans granted by local banks guaranteed by the World Bank and 61% by loans from development finance institutions, including AFD (90 million euros) and Proparco, AFD's subsidiary devoted to the private sector (60 million euros). Proparco spearheaded negotiations for the operation on behalf of AFD, DEG (35 million euros) and the FMO (30 million euros) within the framework of their co-financing facility.

### 4. Nlongkak Yaounde Crossover and Roundabout

- Project Owner: Yaounde Urban Community;
- Project Supervisor: Razel Cameroon;
- Start-up of works: official launching - 11 April 2008;
- Completion of works: Avril 2010;
- Project cost: 11 billion CFA francs.



## Financing

- 4 billion francs from the Debt Reduction-Development Contract (C2D) programme;
- 7 billion francs from the State of Cameroon derived from the HIPC resources included in the public investment budget of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing;
- Main project components:
  - Creation of a 100 diameter roundabout;
  - Construction of a four-lane underground crossing;
  - Construction of a 6 500 square metre garden and parking area.

## 5. Batchenga-Ntui Road

The construction of this road 21,312 kilometre long road section (Batchenga-Ntui), which was launched in February 2017, was jointly financed by the Government of Cameroon and the AFD for a total amount of 34.522 billion. This is a high value-added structuring project that is part of a larger programme to develop the 380.1 kilometre long Batchenga-Ntui-Léna-Tibati corridor. It is jointly financed to the tune of 34,522,816,532 CFA francs (including taxes) by the Government of Cameroon, the French Development Agency (AFD), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Additional social facilities are being constructed by the RAZEL BEC/RAZEL Cameroon consortium for a total of CFAF 754 million to improve the quality of life of local residents. In addition, 11 kilometres of roads will be constructed and upgraded in Batchenga and Ntui.

The project will directly benefit the 4,400,000 inhabitants of the Centre and Adamawa regions of Cameroon and indirectly benefit the inhabitants of the regions located in the western part of Chad considering the regional scope of the project.

## 6. The Bridge over the Sanaga River (Nachtigal)

The bridge, which was opened to traffic in November 2019, is part of Lot 1 of the project to tar the 386-kilometre long Batchenga-Yoko-Tibati corridor. Given its economic potential, the Cameroonian government, with the support of its historical partner, the French Development Agency (AFD), financed the construction of this first section spanning 21.3 kilometres and the bridge over the Sanaga River, out of the six lots of this ongoing corridor project totalling about 360 billion francs.

The bridge over the Sanaga River, built by RAZEL in February 2017, is 400 metres long and 11.96 metres wide. It has two traffic lanes and 1.25-metre-wide pavements on both sides. Its construction costs 12.3 billion CFA francs. The project was co-funded by the AFD and the Government of Cameroon.



**OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT  
EMMANUEL MACRON  
TO CAMEROON**

