



National Implementation Plan Update of the Stockholm Convention on POPs in Cameroon

LESSONS LEARNED

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Venue :

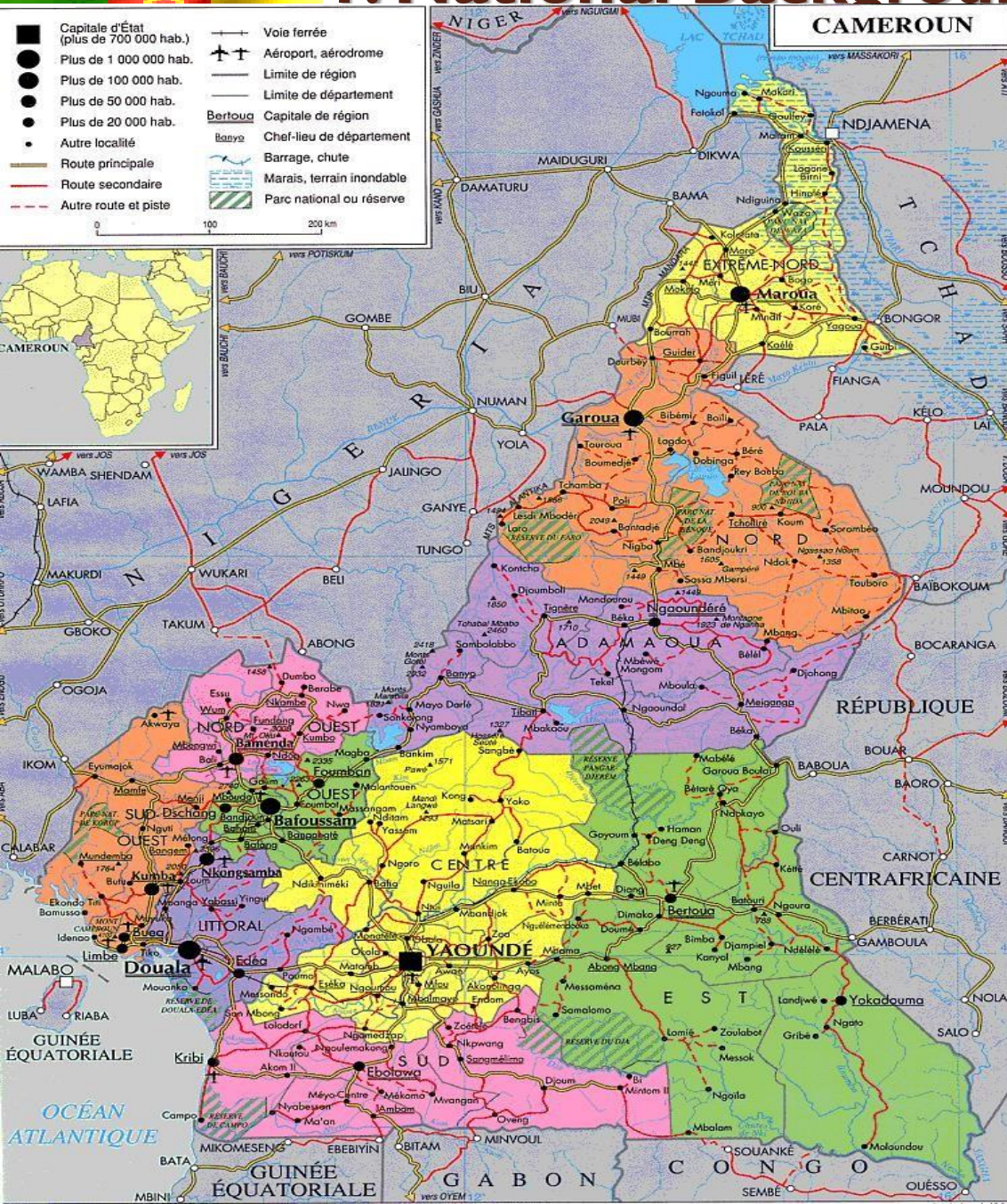
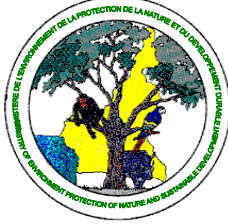
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- 2. Context**
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I. National Background Information

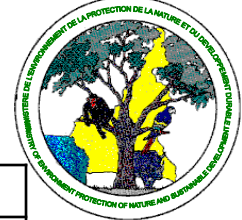


Cameroon is located between Latitude 2° to 13° N; Longitude 8° to 25° E and 16° to 20° W. It is found in Central Africa and opens to the Atlantic Ocean in the West with a total coastline of 402 km.

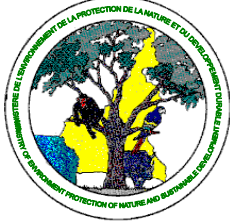
It is bounded to the west by Nigeria, north-east by Chad, south by Gabon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea and to the east by Central African Republic. From the Gulf of Guinea to Lake Chad, the country forms a triangle with a surface area of 475 650 km². (NIS 2012).



I. National Background Information



Surface area	475,650 Km ²
Population	23,000,000 inhabitants in 2015; 54% in urban areas; 2.8% growth rate (~26.5 million in 2020)
Administrative capital	Yaoundé
Official Languages	French and English
Bordering countries	Chad in the North East, Central Africa Republic in the East, Nigeria in the West, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea in the South
Relief	High lands (Mount Fako - 4095 meters above sea level) Plains (coastal littoral, part of North and Far North Regions)
Hydrography	Dense (2 nd in Africa). Sanaga is the longest river (920 km)
Vegetation	Varied (forest, savanna and steppe); 2nd largest forest in Africa.
Climate	Equatorial in the south and tropical in the north; Alternating dry season and rainy or wet season
Political organization	Unitary decentralized state
Administrative organization	10 Regions, 58 Divisions, 360 Sub-divisions, 374 urban/city Councils
Currency	CFAF (1Euro = 655,957 CFAF)
GDP	51.61 billion USD (2012)
Real average growth rate of GDP	4.1% between 2008 and 2014
Inflation rate	2.7% on average between 2008 and 2014
Mineral resources	oil, natural gas, iron, tin, bauxite, nepheline syenite, rutile, limestone, gold, diamond, cobalt and nickel
Literacy rate (2011)	75%
Population growth rate	2.8% per annum after 2012
Poverty rate	37.5% in 2014
Primary school attendance rate	87% in 2014
Life expectancy at birth	54.8 years in 2005

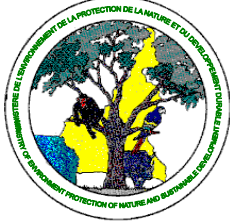


2. Context

Cameroon signed and ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on 19 May 2001 and 26 May 2005 respectively. The country submitted the instruments of ratification on 19 May 2009 and, in this regard, undertook to implement all the necessary means to ensure the respect and implementation of the provisions of this Convention.

Thus, Cameroon elaborated and validated its first National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the said Convention in December 2012.

In accordance with Article 6 of the said Convention, Cameroon has updated its plan to integrate the new POPs listed in the Appendices until 2013.



2. Context

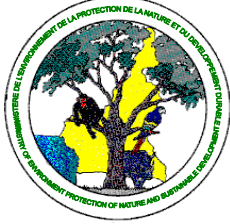
This first implementation plan covered initial POPs of the Convention.

In 2015, Cameroon update its implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention for two main reasons:

- Need to make inventories of new POPs not evaluated under the initial NIP including flame retardants (c-octabromobdiphenyl ether, c-Pentabromodiphenyl ether) and foaming agents (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride-PFOS)
- The need to update the inventory of releases and emissions of unintentional POPs due to the update of the quantification tool (2013 version of the Toolkit) and the change of production data.

The updated NIP was validated, endorsed and sent to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) by the country at 2016.

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon



Lessons learned at the national level and best practices include the following:

1. project management and organization of operations
2. Guidelines available
3. mechanisms of coordination, participation, commitment and responsibilities of stakeholders
4. legislation and regulation, monitoring and evaluation
5. POP inventories and national capacity assessment
6. definition of national priorities on POPs to link it with national development priorities and action plans

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)



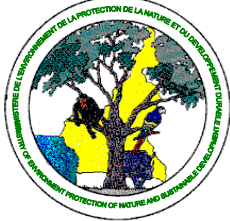
1. project management and organization of operations

1.1 The guidelines are a useful starting point but must always be adapted to local conditions and experiences. The available regional guidance documents have an advantage for countries.

1.2 There are guidelines for pesticide inventories that are persistent organic pollutants but they are not easily accessible.

1.3 There are guidelines for inventories of PCBs but they need to be improved and include information on trademarks and products not listed in the original document but found in many countries .

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)



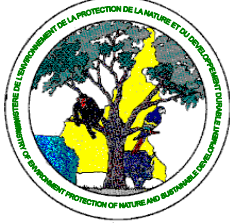
1.4 The toolkit 2013 used for the D & F inventory has proved useful for the preliminary assessment of dioxins and furans, but it needs to be updated and adapted to the national context of sources of emissions from the informal sector and include guidelines for the evaluation of hexa chlorobenzene (HCB) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) resulting from unintentional production

1.5 Missing appropriate guidelines for environmental analysis and risk communication Country needs guidance on resource mobilization and to understand available funding mechanisms to support actions on POPs

1.6 Country needs guidelines for co-financing projects



3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)



2. Guidelines available

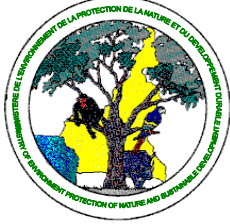
The available guidelines facilitate the implementation of projects like UNEP guidelines of new POPs and the toolkit 2013.

3. mechanisms of coordination, participation, commitment and responsibilities of stakeholders

3.1 Develop a sense of government responsibility, support from ministries, commitment and support from stakeholders; National Coordinating Committees, training and ongoing support throughout the process of developing national implementation plans



3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)

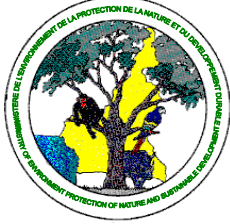


3.2 Sharing of information and knowledge with stakeholders

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Elaboration of a plural and diversified communication strategy keeping in mind national realities and needs
- ✓ Creation of a functional website on POPs, with financial resources to allow frequent updates
- ✓ Involve civil society in disseminating information on POPs to better reach the target

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)

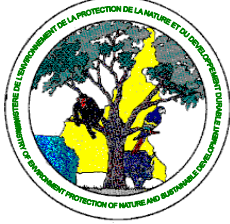


3.3 Exchange of information at national and regional level

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Issues relating to national implementation plans submitted to regional institutions
- ✓ Exchange of information and sharing of expertise between the national coordination of the project and the members of the coordinating committee

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)

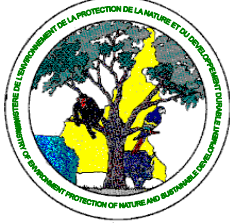


3.4 Involvement of non-governmental organizations

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Strengthen the capacity of NGOs to participate in the development of national implementation plans
- ✓ Engage NGOs for specific tasks, including involving public interest NGOs in consultations, awareness campaigns Identify common problems and find acceptable solutions for all
- ✓ Involve the private sector in tasks such as reporting, inventories and action planning, including costing
- ✓ Involve academic circles in specific tasks such as compilation and provision of existing data, design and implementation of training activities

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)

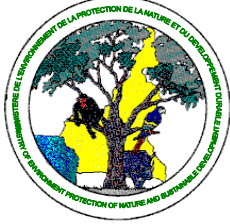


3.5 Develop actions beyond the "concerned" ministry

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Shared responsibilities for specific tasks between different ministries during the planning process and development of national implementation plans
- ✓ Definition of specific roles and responsibilities of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and its members

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)

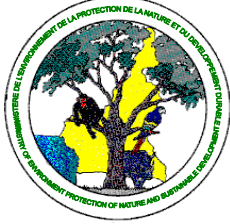


3.6 Obtain approval of national implementation plans and action plans and their acceptance by stakeholders

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Stakeholder participation in the development of national implementation plans from the beginning facilitates the smooth operation of the approval process and enhances enforcement capacity
- ✓ Awareness raising activities at a high level

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)



4. legislation and regulation, monitoring and evaluation

4.1 Legislation & regulations consistent with the obligations of the Convention

The above involves the following best practices:

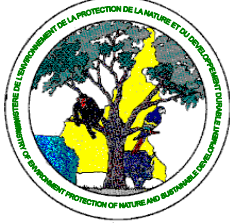
- ✓ Developing or updating a national chemicals management profile at the beginning of the process helps to understand the regulatory framework and identify unclear responsibilities, gaps and overlaps
- ✓ Use of a consulting lawyer who will work with the technical experts to review the legal framework
- ✓ Cost analysis provides a solid foundation for establishing good legislation

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)



- ✓ POPs-specific legislation, incorporating the requirements of the Stockholm Convention, is a useful complement to legislation applicable to other sectors
- ✓ It is useful, in order to meet all the obligations under the Convention, to amend the existing regulatory framework to cover the entire life cycle of chemicals.

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)

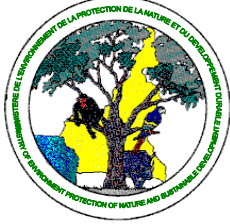


4.2 Control and prohibition of POPs and elimination of illegal trade in substances and chemicals that are persistent organic pollutants

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Raise public awareness and encourage the use of substitutes and environmentally sound methods to reduce the demand for banned substances and chemicals
- ✓ Cooperate at the regional level to introduce specific customs codes for chemicals, products and wastes that are POPs

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)



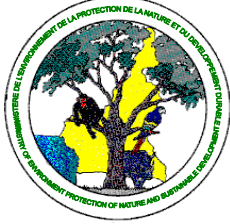
5. POP inventories and national capacity assessment

5.1 Acquiring information for POPs inventories through stakeholder assistance

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Involve provincial inspection centers in collecting data Undertaking outreach activities (questionnaires, phone calls, face-to-face interviews) to obtain information for initial inventories
- ✓ Adopt an integrated approach to inventory development¹;
- ✓ Define the scope and status of inventories as a starting point for establishing the methodology
- ✓ Consider inventories as evolutionary documents
- ✓ Link PCB inventories to labeling systems as part of a PCB register to ensure sustainability

3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)



5.2 Presentation and validation of inventory information

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Establish a common database or data management system for storing, processing, sharing and presenting information
- ✓ Follow the field investigators for a better result

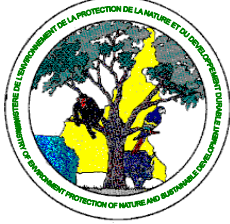
5.3 Definition of other work required to prepare more complete and detailed inventories

The above involves the following best practice:

- ✓ The creation of a specific unit for POPs is a valid approach to support the efforts



3. Lessons learned and best practices used in Cameroon (continued)



6. definition of national priorities on POPs to link it with national development priorities and action plans

The above involves the following best practices:

- ✓ Facilitate cooperation among ministries and coordinating bodies for POPs / chemicals to strengthen linkages between POPs and other policies. A first practical step is to establish links between strategies at a technical level rather than at higher levels
- ✓ Develop action plans that are compatible with the national regulatory framework and take into account local capacities and conditions
- ✓ Engage stakeholders to participate actively in selecting the most appropriate options and developing action plans



Thank you for listening!