

Climate Change and CDM Activities

In 1984 Cameroon set up a National Committee on Mankind in the Biosphere, and established a Directorate of Town and Country Planning, the Environment and Forests. In 1992 this was expanded into a Ministry of the Environment and Forests. After the 1992 World Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Cameroon signed and in 1994 ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), thereby signifying its readiness to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

In implementing the Convention, Cameroon took part in a multinational pilot study on the impact of climate change and possible methods of alleviation. In preparation for the second conference, in Bonn, of the parties to the UNFCCC, an inventory study of emissions was carried out in the fields of energy, industry, agriculture, waste, and land use. Cameroon's first National Communication was completed in 2004 after several years of preparation.

In 2004 Cameroon ratified the Kyoto Protocol and started the procedures necessary for the setting up of a National CDM Authority. The framework law on the environment that was adopted in 1996 forms the basis for all environmental policies, including steps already taken towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, although many of these have been undertaken primarily to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the industries concerned. At the time of writing, no action taken in the energy and industrial sectors has been specifically directed towards the objectives of the Clean Development Mechanism.

Criteria for Sustainable Development

None specified in the report. Cameroon has not so far specified any criteria for sustainable development. In the meantime it is being guided by the UN Millennium Goals, the NEPAD objectives, the Strategy Document on the Reduction of Poverty, and the individual policies in the principal sectors of activity.

Constraints to CDM Adoption

- Weaknesses of the existing institutional structure
- Absence of an appropriate regulatory framework
- Problems of good governance
- Insufficient relevant expertise at the levels of government, the private sector and NGOs
- Complexity of the Clean Development Mechanism
- Lack of knowledge of the existing technologies on the part of industrialists, banks and potential CDM promoters
- Weak involvement by the private sector
- Weak involvement by the banks, and a lack of confidence in the CDM
- Risks associated with the market and possible failure of the project itself

National Stakeholders

The representatives of the public sector include the government ministries of the Environment, Energy, Industry, Transport, Agriculture, Economy and Finance, Planning, and Home Affairs in respect of decentralisation. The private sector is represented by the Cameroon Interprofessional Association (GICAM), the Cameroon Enterprise Movement (MECAM), the Cameroon Industrial Syndicate (SYNDUSTRICAM), the banks and other financial institutions. Others include the universities, the National Investment Society, research centres, NGOs and consumers' associations.

CDM Potential in the Industrial and Energy Sectors

- Decentralised electricity generation by photovoltaic means
- Rural solar electrification independent of the network
- Recovery of gas presently flared on petrochemical platforms
- Use of solid city waste as an energy carrier
- Recovery and use of agro-industrial waste
- Small hydro-electric schemes
- Improving the efficiency of cement factories

Conclusions and Recommendations

In order to obtain the benefits of the Clean Development Mechanism in Cameroon the following will be necessary:

- The establishment of a National CDM Authority to draw up guidelines for the approval of projects, and to contribute to the establishment of conditions favourable to the exploitation of the CDM in Cameroon, particularly through the compilation of a portfolio of suitable projects, while reinforcing North-South and South-South partnerships.
- Reinforcement of national capacities at public, private and NGO levels by stepping up the level of information and the number of workshops on the formation of clean development projects.
- Submission of proposals for pilot projects in the industrial sector as a means of motivating the more hesitant operators.
- Establishment of an effective communication strategy.