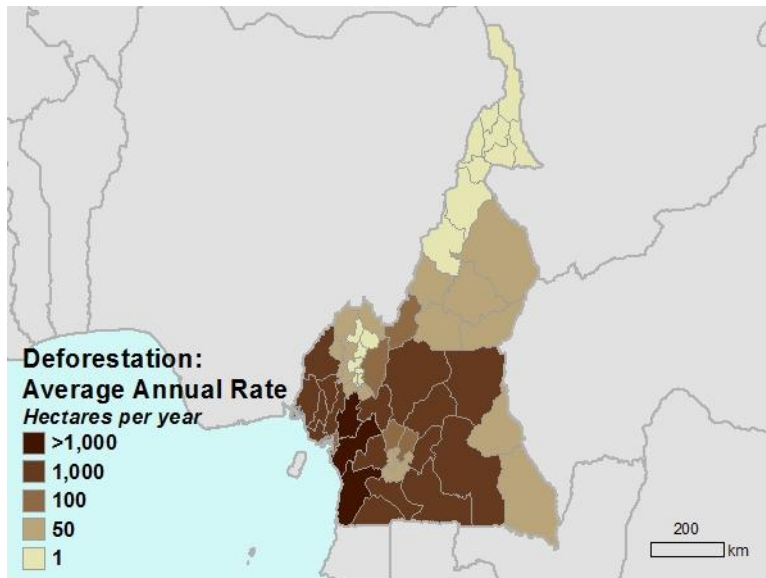


Cameroon



National deforestation estimates in percent per year and agricultural statistics are from FAO (2010). Percent tree-cover change product for 2000 to 2005 (Hansen, et al 2009). Mapped sub-national estimates of the Deforestation Indicator in hectares are indicative only, given the resolution of the data source, and are from CI (2011), derived from the MODIS.

Deforestation¹

Forest area (2010): **42%**
 1990-2000: **-0.94 %y⁻¹**
 2000-2005: **-1.02 %y⁻¹**
 2005-2010: **-1.07 %y⁻¹**

Agriculture²

Agriculture as % of GDP (2007): **19%**
 Agricultural land (2009): **19.8%**
 Top 3 commodities, by footprint (2010):
Maize: 750k ha
Sorghum: 700k ha
Cocoa Beans: 670k ha
 Employment in agriculture (2009): **n.d.**

*Rates at sub-national level are for indicative purposes only given use of relatively coarse MODIS data

Sub-national Region	Hectares per Year (indicative)
Sanaga-Maritime	1,724
Nkam	1,314
Océan	1,206
Moungo	881
Dja-et-Lobo	867

Context

Political Context

Cameroon's economy was once considered one of the strongest in Africa, but in late 1990s Cameroon experienced a recession as world prices in oil, cocoa and coffee dropped.³ In the face of a declining economy, the government implemented adjustment policies in the form of currency devaluations, trade liberalization and the promotion of foreign investment, which triggered large areas of forest loss.⁴ The Government's attempt to better organize the forestry sector and conserve relevant biodiversity areas through reforms of the 1994 Forest Law had an adverse effect as deforestation continues to occur at high rates across a large portion of the country.⁵

Socio-economic Context

Following the mid-century economic boom, Cameroon's population increased sharply and density reached 42 people/km².⁶ Cameroon is a linguistically and ethnically diverse country whose geography ranges from semi-desert in the north to rainforest in the south. Even though this diversity favors a variety of economic and agricultural activities, 70% of the population depends on agriculture and pastoral activities for their livelihoods.⁷

Deforestation Drivers

Most of Cameroon's forests are situated in the southern part of the country and much of Cameroon's deforestation is occurring in the southwest,⁸ a biodiversity hotspot.⁹ Causes of deforestation in Cameroon are diverse, complex and have changed over time. Currently, the major drivers of deforestation in Cameroon are conversion to agricultural expansion and indirect general land use mismanagement.¹⁰ It is estimated that 85% of deforestation in Cameroon is due to small-scale farmers using extensive slash-and burn techniques.¹¹ Plantation agriculture, particularly cocoa and coffee, which covers extensive areas especially in the southern part of the country, plays a vital role in Cameroon's economy.¹² In the near future, increasing global demand for these cash crops may accelerate deforestation in Cameroon.¹³ Unsustainable logging is also a cause of forest degradation and deforestation. Due to weak logistical and human enforcement capacity and land mismanagement, significant and widespread irregularities are encountered in existing logging concessions and in the regulation enforcement system.¹⁴

References

- ¹ CI (2011) Global map of deforestation indicators derived from the MODIS percent tree-cover change product. Unpublished data set, Conservation International. Arlington, Virginia, USA.
- FAO (2010) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010
- Hansen, M., DeFries R.S., Townshend J.R.G., Carroll M., Dimiceli C., Sohlberg R.A. (2003) Global Percent Tree Cover at a Spatial Resolution of 500 Meters: First Results of the MODIS Vegetation Continuous Fields Algorithm. *Earth Interactions*, Vol 7, No 10, pp 1-15
- ² The World Bank: Agriculture, value added (% of GDP): World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.
- The World Bank: Agricultural land (% of land area): FAO
- The World Bank: Employment in agriculture (% of total employment): International Labour Organization, Key Indicators of the Labour Market database
- ³ Kaimowitz, D., et al. (1998). Considering the Impact of Structural Adjustment Policies on Forests in Bolivia, Cameroon and Indonesia. *Unasylva*, 194.
- ⁴ Kaimowitz, D., et al. (1998). Considering the Impact of Structural Adjustment Policies on Forests in Bolivia, Cameroon and Indonesia. *Unasylva*, 194.
- ⁵ Bamou, E. and W. A. Masters (2007) Distortions for Agricultural Incentives in Cameroon. No 48518. Agricultural Distortions Working Paper, World Bank. <http://EconPapers.repec.org/RePEc:ags:wbadwp:48518>.
- ⁶ Celine, Ernst, et al. (2013). "National Forest Cover Change in Congo Basin: Deforestation, reforestation, degradation and regeneration for the years 1990, 2000 and 2005." *Global Change Biology* 19: 1173-1187.
- ⁷ "Essama-Nssah, B., and B. Leandre (2010). *A Counterfactual Analysis of the Poverty Impact of Economic Growth in Cameroon*. World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/3736>
- ⁸ Celine, Ernst, et al. (2013). "National Forest Cover Change in Congo Basin: Deforestation, reforestation, degradation and regeneration for the years 1990, 2000 and 2005." *Global Change Biology* 19: 1173-1187.
- ⁹ Van Vliet, N. (2010). Participatory Vulnerability Assessment in the Context of Conservation and Development Projects: A Case Study of Local Communities in Southwest Cameroon.
- ¹⁰ Bellassen, V. and Gitz, V. (2007). Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Cameroon – Assessing Costs and Benefits. *Ecological Economics*, 68(1): 336-344.
- ¹¹ Molua, E.L. (2012). Discourse on Climate-Smart Agriculture for REDD+ Strategy in the Congo Basin. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 5(10).
- ¹² Epule, et al. (2012). Rainfall and Deforestation Dilemma for Cereal Production in the Sudano-Sahel of Cameroon. *Journal of Agricultural Science*, 4(2).
- ¹³ Celine, Ernst, et al. (2013). "National Forest Cover Change in Congo Basin: Deforestation, reforestation, degradation and regeneration for the years 1990, 2000 and 2005." *Global Change Biology* 19: 1173-1187.
- ¹⁴ Mbatu, R. (2010). Deforestation in the Bue-Limbe and Bertoua Regions in Southern Cameroon (1984-2000): modernization, world-systems, and neo-Malthusian outlook. *GeoJournal*, 75:443-458