



CAMEROON BIOSECURITY PROJECT

Development and Institution of a National Monitoring and Control System (Framework) for Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

REPORT ON CONTINGENCY PLANS (CP) WITH EMERGENCY RESPONSE (ER) EXERCISES FOR BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS IN CAMEROON

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Under the Supervision of:

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&

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF TABLES.....	ix
PREFERRED WAY TO CITE THIS PUBLICATION	x
CONTACT DETAILS OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED	xi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xiii
DISCLAIMER.....	xiv
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Definitions.....	5
1.2 Background	7
2 METHODS	10
3 RESULTS: MANUAL FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SCENARIOS	13
3.1 Findings on the state and management of Biological Invaders in Cameroon	13
3.1.1 The Invasive Alien Species “Black list”	13
3.1.2 Introduction Pathways.....	13
3.1.3 Initiatives towards the prevention and early detection of biological invasions in Cameroon	15
3.1.4 Cameroonian “Doorknockers”: the species of biological concern.....	18
3.1.5 Control Strategies.....	18
3.1.5.1 Eradication.....	19
3.1.5.2 Containment and Exclusion.....	19
3.1.5.3 Suppression.....	20

3.1.5.4 Learning to live with Invasive Species we cannot control.....	21
3.2 Generic National Contingency Plan	22
3.2.1 What is a Contingency Plan	22
3.2.2 Benefits of a Contingency Plan	23
3.2.3 Principal outcome of the Contingency Plan	24
3.2.4 Who to notify.....	24
3.2.5 Steps needed to formulate Contingency Plan in the relevant sectors:	24
3.2.6 Technical Contingency Plans	24
3.2.7 Specific Disease Contingency Plans	25
3.2.8 Standard operating procedures.....	26
3.2.9 Enterprise manuals	27
3.2.10 Support plans.....	28
3.2.11 Simulation Exercises.....	30
3.2.12 Training	30
3.2.13 The need for regular updating of Contingency Plans.....	30
4 GENERIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SIMULATION EXERCISES).....	32
4.1 Guide to the Emergency Response Plan	32
4.2 PART A: Management Aspects.....	34
4.2.1 Outline of Responsibilities for Each Management Position	35
4.3 PART B: Technical Advice and Actions.....	48
4.3.1 INITIAL RESPONSE.....	48
4.3.2 Emergency Response Action.....	58
5 DISCUSSION AND EXPECTATIONS	71
REFERENCES	76

ANNEXES	81
ANNEX 1: Terms Of References (TOR)	81
ANNEX 2: Letter of introduction from MINEPDED for the acquisition of information by the International Consultant.....	86
ANNEX 3: Persons visited during the study and their contact details.....	87
ANNEX 4: Project Questionnaire.....	88
ANNEX 5: Black list of Vertebrates and Plants for Cameroon (MINEPDED, 2014b)	91
ANNEX 6: Experiences In Contingency Plan Measures	96
ANNEX 7: Sampling and shipment for identification.....	167
ANNEX 8: International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (IPSM)	174

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Full Name
ACEO	Assistant Chief Executive Officer
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International
CARBAP	African Research Centre on Bananas and Plantains
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CP	Contingency Plan
CPB	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
CPC	Centre Pasteur of Cameroon
DRCQ	Department of Regulation and Quality Control of Inputs and Agricultural products
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ER	Emergency Response
ERMC	Emergency Response Management Committee
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GM	Genetically Modified
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organism(s)
GVC	Global Viral Cameroon
HPI	Heifer Project International
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRAD	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LANAVET	National Veterinary Laboratory

LMO	Living Modified Organism
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINATD	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
MINEPDED (MINEP)	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINRESI	Ministry of the Scientific Research and Innovation
MINSANTE	Ministry of Public Health
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCA	National Competent Authority
NDMC	National Disaster Management Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCC	Operational Control Centre
OIE	International Office of Epizootics
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PTA	Project Technical Advisor
SE	Experimental Sites
SODECOTON	Cotton Development Company
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
TOR	Terms Of References
TT	Task Team
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
W&CA	West and Central Africa

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Phytosanitary control posts. Points of entry of IAS and LMOs within and across Cameroon's national borders (Ndikontar, 2009).	17
Figure 2: Schematic representation of an Emergency Response Plan. The process involves two distinct phases, an initial response as initial step and an Emergency Response as second step to follow.	33
Figure 3: Management Structure for an ER for an emergency pest response.	34
Figure 4: Initial Emergency Response scheme	47
Figure 5: Ebola virus disease ecology cycle.	97
Figure 6: The three species of fruit bats implicated as reservoirs of the virus in Central Africa.....	99
Figure 7: Museum set specimen of adult <i>B. papayae</i> [copyright Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) Bioscience].	115
Figure 8: GM cotton is genetically engineered to produce an insecticide against a caterpillar pest Image credit: Wikimedia Commons.	127
Figure 9: Evolution of GM Cotton surfaces, producing and 1994-2011 performance. Source SODECOTON.	129
Figure 10: Map of the GM Cotton zone. Source SODECOTON	131
Figure 11: Changes in total pesticide consumption versus total pesticide consumption (MT) in cotton. Source: (Gupta, 2004).	132
Figure 12: Map of the selected GM Cotton experimental sites (SE) in the North of Cameroon.....	133
Figure 13: Isolation of the selected GM Cotton experimental sites (SE).....	134

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Management responsibilities. Scheme of rules and responsibilities of the institutions (stakeholders) involved in an Emergency Response (ER) process.37

Table 2: Proposed activities to be undertaken for the development of a contingency planning process and formulation of emergency response exercises for biological invasions in Cameroon (*this table is indicative*).83

Table 3: Biosafety considerations for commercial release.142

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Biological invasions are recognised as a problem in Cameroon and managing this constitutes an identified priority for intervention in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (Government of Cameroon, NBSAP II, 2013). It is apparent that many aggressive biological invaders not yet established in Cameroon can and will, if introduced, exploit and modify habitats and affect human development sectors. There is an urgent need therefore to anticipate biological invaders likely to cause future problems in order to undertake preventative action and provide prompt responses.

Commissioned under the GEF/UNEP, with the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) as the National Executing Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) as Head of Component Task 2, the main objective of this study is to produce a manual detailing recommended contingency planning process for new introduced species incursions that could affect Cameroon over the next ten years, generic Emergency Response exercises for a range of high risk organism types and a PowerPoint presentation on the manual. The thrust of the study is to strengthen the overall efforts of Cameroon in biosecurity border controls to surveillance capability, and the ability to prevent and respond quickly in effectively eradicating incoming invaders.

With regard to the methodology, the study used the results of the review of the current biosecurity profile of Cameroon (Activity 2.3.2.), to determine the risk profile for new invasions – high risk locations and organisms and information collected from literature review, direct interviews of responsible officers in targeted departments and agencies, reports and websites to investigate some suspected risk organisms that pose emerging threats to people, environment and/or economic values and to determine the current preparedness and management profile. This was further relevant to determine the roles, responsibilities and policies for a biosecurity response. The report containing the manual was finalised through an iterative and interactive process with the incorporation of TT feedback, which included an examination and validation during a project partner workshop on the 17th of December 2014.

As a major finding, the profile and management of biological invaders in Cameroon highlights pathways for introductions of biological invaders and Cameroonian doorknockers of great concern. A great deal of information on biological invasions has been gathered in producing the

“Black lists” of priority invasive species and the formulation of management approaches and this constitutes a major practical tool for the management of proposed species introductions. The risk pathways and vectors for the introduction of potential biological invaders are varied with plant and animal materials, timber and timber products and the exchange of ballast water and hull fouling are likely to become increasingly important with rising levels of trade, transport, travel and tourism. Furthermore, Cameroon has borders with six neighbouring countries with leaky land borders and all cross-border movements of commodities and persons pose species invasion risks.

Management responses to biological invasions in Cameroon have often been less than optimal due to the following interacting barriers:

- Ineffective policy, regulatory and institutional framework for the effective prevention and control of the introduction, establishment and spread of biological invaders;
- Inadequate implementation of cost-effective risk-based biosecurity measures;
- Insufficient capacity for a risk-based approach to biosecurity management; and
- Lack of information to inform management and low levels of awareness among key stakeholder groups.

Based on this knowledge, the arrival of three potential doorknockers in the country within the next 10 year is imminent and of great concern and call for planning to ensure effective responses in eradication, containment and suppression in the event of its introduction. These include the Papaya Fruit fly (*Bactrocera papayae*); Ebola Virus Disease (EVD); and LMO Cotton.

The Manual, as the major deliverable of this work, proposes a Generic National Contingency Plan and a Generic Emergency Response Exercise or Simulation prepared to assist personnel to deal with unpredictable events.

The Generic Contingency Plan provides guidance on key issues to be given a focused attention and these include the following: Identifying the parties to be notified or informed in the event of an incident, generic steps to be used for sector specific CPs; developing technical contingency plans with complementary documents for specific potential doorknockers, standard operating procedures, enterprise manuals with simple job description for officers and other resource

plans; training of staff; the regular review and updating of the plan in order to preserve accuracy of the data and the information that it contains.

Simulation exercises are extremely useful for testing and refining contingency plans in advance of any disease emergency. They are also a valuable means of building teams for emergency disease responses. The Generic Emergency Response Scenario has been designed as a guide to help identify the key component of an initial response to a suspected biological invasion and the Emergency Response upon an identified introduction. It seeks to provide guidance to the technical services and experts to carry out effective emergency responses as it outlines the management structures and operational steps needed.

The management structure proposed by the Manual supports the successful implementation of prevention, eradication or control programmes and provides a hierarchical structure with roles and responsibilities for a full range of technical and operational steps needed within key government institutions with mandates.

The management of biological invasions in Cameroon faces challenges from the numerous invasion pathways and vectors of spread, insufficient funding, collaboration and capacity, and the general lack of knowledge. Overcoming these key challenges is crucial for the successful implementation of this manual and ensuring the reduced threat this has on key development sectors and the society in general.

To move forward in realising the goal of this work in the effective implementation of the proposed Generic Contingency Plan and Emergency Response, a set of policy and practical options below are recommended:

1. Develop the Specific Contingency Plans and Emergency Response Plans based on the guidance of the manual;
2. Strengthen the existing Institutional Framework and institutionalize the coordination and collaboration framework for all biological invaders;
3. Timely, transparent and information-based response decision-making;
4. Response programmes meet defined objectives and performance measures;
5. Effective management of response programmes;

6. Stakeholders have confidence in the response system, make useful contributions and support the system; and
7. The response system is enhanced over time.

In conclusion, the expectation here is that the coordination institutions of MINEPDED and MINADER, and other key stakeholders in a highly proactive and collaborative manner will ensure the implementation of the proposed priority actions.