



CAMEROON BIOSECURITY PROJECT

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

NATIONAL BIOSECURITY POLICY

This policy document has been produced with the support of UNEP/ GEF and the Government of Cameroon via the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development.

Under the Supervision of:

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&

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BAHA	Belize Agricultural Health Authority
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CNB	Comité National de Biosécurité
CNCOSAC	Comité national du Codex Alimentarius et de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments au Cameroun
CNP	Conseil National Phytosanitaire
EEE	Espèces Exotiques Envahissantes
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FASA	Faculté d'Agriculture et des Sciences Agronomiques
FDB	Food and Drug Board
FDL	Food and Drug Law
GESP	Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
GSB	Ghana Standards Board
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IRAD	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
IRD	Institut de Recherches en Développement
ISO	Organisation Internationale de Normalisation
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LMO	Living Modified Organisms
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINATD	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization
MINCOMMERCE	Ministry of Trade
MINEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINFI	Ministry of Finance
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINIMIDT	Ministry of Industry, Mines and Technological Development
MINSANTE	Ministry of Public Health
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NBAC	National Biosecurity Advisory Committee
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
NEA	National Executing Agency
NIMP	Normes Internationales pour les Mesures Phytosanitaires
NPPO	National Plant Protection organisation
NSA	National Standards Authority
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
OIE	Organisation Internationale des Epizooties
WTO	World Trade Organization
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PMD	Pesticides Mangement Division
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PPRS	Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate

RGDIP	Revue Générale de Droit et de Jurisprudence
SFDI	Société Française pour le Droit International
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TACAH	Technical Advisory Committee for Animal Health
TACB	Technical Advisory Committee for Biosafety
TACFS	Technical Advisory Committee for Food Safety
TACPHQ	Technical Advisory Committee for Plant Health and Quarantine
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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DISCLAIMER

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Executive Summary

The Cameroon Biosecurity Project comprises of several components and activities. The present report is on Component 1 Activity 1.1.2 which is the development of a national biosecurity policy for Cameroon.

This project is being funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with bilateral funding from the Government of Cameroon through the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED).

The project implementation, supervision and deliverables are being monitored by a Task Force, Project Technical Advisers and the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) set up in MINEPDED to facilitate execution of the activities being undertaken by the consultants and provide all necessary requirements.

The current activity was set up with the objectives of carrying out a review of the existing framework, legal policies and structures responsible for biosecurity activities for Cameroon, and also to identify the institutions, ministries involved, their control, mandates, legal instruments binding the responsibility and execution of each biosecurity sector; and, to suggest a policy that may be implemented in Cameroon with reference to biosecurity policies and strategies in practice in other countries.

It was observed that there is no existing synthesized and harmonized document dedicated for biosecurity policy for Cameroon, nor any other official documents regarding biosecurity policy in the Ministry in charge of Environment (MINEPDED)

The only document which resembled a policy with some elements was found in the strategic goals and targets developed in the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP II), especially Target 7 which calls for the sustainable management of threatened endemic species (MINEPDED, 2012).

The present study aims at providing options for a biosecurity policy for Cameroon. With increasing world trade and movement of both people and goods, introductions, incursions and their impacts have become apparent, so the establishment of a harmonized biosecurity system and policy for Cameroon has become urgent and essential. The importance of developing this policy is already envisaged in the Cameroon 2035 Vision for Growth and Development and its priority orientations as defined within the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP). This document provides development options to boost key production sectors that are largely dependent on biodiversity. The advent of the national strategy document, in combination with other factors triggered the revision of the NBSAP. Therefore, the development of a national biosecurity policy document becomes essential. This policy document must comprise of ethical principles and legal obligations in conformity with national and international standards.

During the consultations, although there was no harmonized policy document binding all the biosecurity sectors, it was observed that there existed individual specified policies binding each sector placed under the different executing institutions.

Another important observation made was the overlapping policies and repetition of the same activities being executed in different institutions with the same mandate and authority. The absence of institutional collaboration, general public awareness among stakeholders and lack of communication, kept implementing agencies ignorant on the role played by other interested institutions and ministries.

Some other gaps identified were the uncoordinated activities executed by the different sectorial biosecurity control strategies employed by the individual agencies

The main strengths observed were the existence of experts and some sectoral policies; although these were repeated in more than one ministry, the mandates and responsibilities were carried out effectively.

Having also identified the weaknesses and gaps in the legislative and institutional frameworks, the next step adopted in this consultancy was to provide possible policy options that could be integrated to establish an effective and global biosecurity framework.

Also, since the consultation cannot dictate on the type of biosecurity system to be adopted by Cameroon, the consultation, hereby provides some control strategies in use in other countries as mentioned below which could be useful examples for Cameroon to adopt or adapt.

The options selected by the consultation are both at the institutional level and legislative level:

- At the institutional level, three options may be explored namely
 - Option 1: Place biosecurity under the technical supervision of a sector ministry.
 - Option 2: the creation of a Ministry responsible for biosecurity issues.
 - Option 3: the creation of an Agency or an Authority or Body responsible for biosecurity issues.
- At the legislative level, the Government equally has two options:
 - Option 1: adopt a text that captures a holistic vision and handles biosecurity in an integrated manner in all its ramifications or aspects.
 - Option 2: review sector legislations in order to give greater considerations to biosecurity concerns.

Finally, the pulling out and the harmonizing of all the sectorial control policies embedded in different institutions and upgraded legal policy on biosecurity framework, and strategies which includes food safety, plant and animal health, invasive alien species, environmental protection and GMOs will surely provide Cameroon with a tool needed to comply with all international trade and food exchange obligations.