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**PRIORITY A.2.3.: Managing Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems**



**National Policies and Strategies on Bioenergy in Africa**

**Case Study: Cameroon**

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**COMPETE**

**Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry  
Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems - Africa**

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The Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems – Africa (COMPETE) will establish a **platform for policy dialogue and capacity building** and identify **pathways for the sustainable provision of bioenergy**

- to improve the quality of life and create alternative means of income for the rural population in Africa
- to aid the preservation of intact ecosystems in arid and semi-arid regions in Africa
- to enhance the equitable exchange of knowledge between EU and developing countries

The current document has been elaborated within Work Package 6 on Policy Development of the COMPETE project by the consortium partner WIP Renewable Energies.

The objective of COMPETE Work Package 6 is to coordinate policy research activities in African countries aimed at facilitating the efficient implementation of improved energy crop and agroforestry systems in order to enhance economic productivity and sustain rural and peri-urban livelihoods. It is also aimed at avoiding adverse environmental and social degradation that could arise from faulty policy development and implementation.

Within the context of the COMPETE Work Package 6 current national and international policies and strategies (including national legal and institutional frameworks) are identified addressing the implementation of improved energy crop and agroforestry systems.

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## National Policies and Strategies on Bioenergy in Cameroon

Government: Republic  
President: Paul Biya (since 1982)  
Primer Minister: Ephraim Inoni (since 2004)  
Capital: Yaoundé  
Area: 475.442km<sup>2</sup>  
Population: 17.340.702 (estimate July 2005)  
GDP (PPP) 2005 estimate  
- Total: \$43.196 billion (84th)  
- Per capita: \$2,421 (130th)

### 1.0 Introduction

Cameroon has the third largest biomass potential in Sub Saharan Africa. The unsustainable use of this resource has led to significant deforestation throughout the country. Energy from biomass (wood and charcoal) is used as domestic fuel in most African countries.

Most rural areas in Cameroon do not have access to electricity, and this problem will not be solved in the near future. Biofuels present an opportunity for those living in rural areas to produce their own fuel for electricity production using diesel generators.

### 2.0 Bio-Energy Policies, Projects and Initiatives

The Republic of Cameroon is lacking specific policies on biomass, but the process to create laws to regulate biomass production and use is ongoing.

Even though the energy sector is liberalized, there is still insufficient awareness and understanding of energy policies both at local and national level.

The major obstacle for the development of renewable energies in Cameroon is the relatively higher initial investment capital required. Local financial institutions often lack the capacities to appraise renewable energy projects, hence are very reluctant to provide the necessary financing and moreover their interest rates are very high.

The government of Cameroon has demonstrated a development policy shift towards sustainable development by setting up a National Commission on Sustainable Development (NCSD) and by establishing a National Environment Management Plan (NEMP) through a participatory process.

Moreover, the government of Ghana supports projects to produce biofuels from Jatropha seeds.

## 2.1 Project for the Production of Jatropha oil

The project “Jatropha for Poverty Reduction” is implemented in the Babungo and Ntem village located in the Northwest of Cameroon. The Dutch organisation MIVA (Mission International Vehicle Association) recently approved the grant for the purchase of a Toyota truck to assist in transporting of raw materials from rural areas with poor road networks.

Jatropha presents an opportunity for supplemental income for farmers using a crop widely available but with no current commercial use in Cameroon. Since 2006 there are two nurseries in Bamenda and Ntem, with 40 hectares of land in Babungo, and 100 hectares in Ntem.

This project establishes a new rural enterprise based on Jatropha Curcas plantations. About 5000 women will benefit from a new source of income, selling the seeds to AIF-CIG for oil, soap and biodiesel production. The seed cake residue is an excellent source of high-grade organic fertilizer that can be used as a substitute for imported expensive chemical fertilizers.

The Company AIF-CIG will provide 5000 households with free Jatropha seedlings to plant as fences on their lands. Thus, it is possible to reduce the cost of buying land and paying workers. The farmers have the responsibility to maintain their plants, as there is a reliable market and profit for their seeds. Providing the free seedlings to farmers will ensure the permanent supply of Jatropha feedstock. The project will lead to direct income generation for farmers and thus to poverty reduction in rural areas.

For example, young people are contracted during the planting season to transport Jatropha cuttings on bicycles to areas unreachable by vehicles to distribute to farmers.

The project will provide villagers with a new, cheaper, renewable and locally produced fuel to substitute kerosene and diesel fuel.

## 2.2 Initiative for the Promotion of Renewable Energies

The “Action pour Développement Equitable, Intégré et Durable” (ADEIDD) is leading a project on the promotion of renewable energies supported by several Ministries, local authorities, local trades people, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

This project covers Cameroon and the CAEMC (Central African Economic and Monetary Community ) region to assist local authorities to develop energy strategies with the objective to improve the access of poor communities to rural electrification.

This initiative on renewable energies in Cameroon will promote the following energy sources and technologies:

- Biomass (e.g. installation of gasifiers)
- Biogas
- Solar energy (photovoltaic and thermal energy)
- Hydroelectricity (small hydropower stations)

This project is scheduled for 5 years and has a budget of around EUR 3,500,000.

### **3.0 Areas of Legislation and Regulation relevant to Bio Energy**

#### **3.1 National Energy Policies**

The national energy policy of Cameroun has the following main objectives:

- To preserve the independence of national energy supply
- To simplify energy access for all citizens through competitive prices
- To control demand and supply of energy
- To preserve the environment
- To promote security in the energy sector
- To use energy for economic development and employment generation

Within this policy the specific objectives are access to energy supply for all citizens, the production and distribution of energy compliant with basic principles of sustainable development, and the utilization of technologies for energy production with low environmental impact.

#### **3.1 National Environment Policies**

The following legislation is concerned with environmental protection in Cameroon:

- 1991: Convention on the prohibition of the import of toxic waste in Africa.
- 1994: Signature of the United Nations Convention of Climate Changes.
- 1994: Creation of the National Consulting Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.
- 1995: National Forestry Action Plan (Plan d'Action Forestier National, PAFN)
- 1996: National Plan for the Environment (Plan de Gestion de l'Environnement, PNGE)

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