

Community mapping for rights in Cameroon

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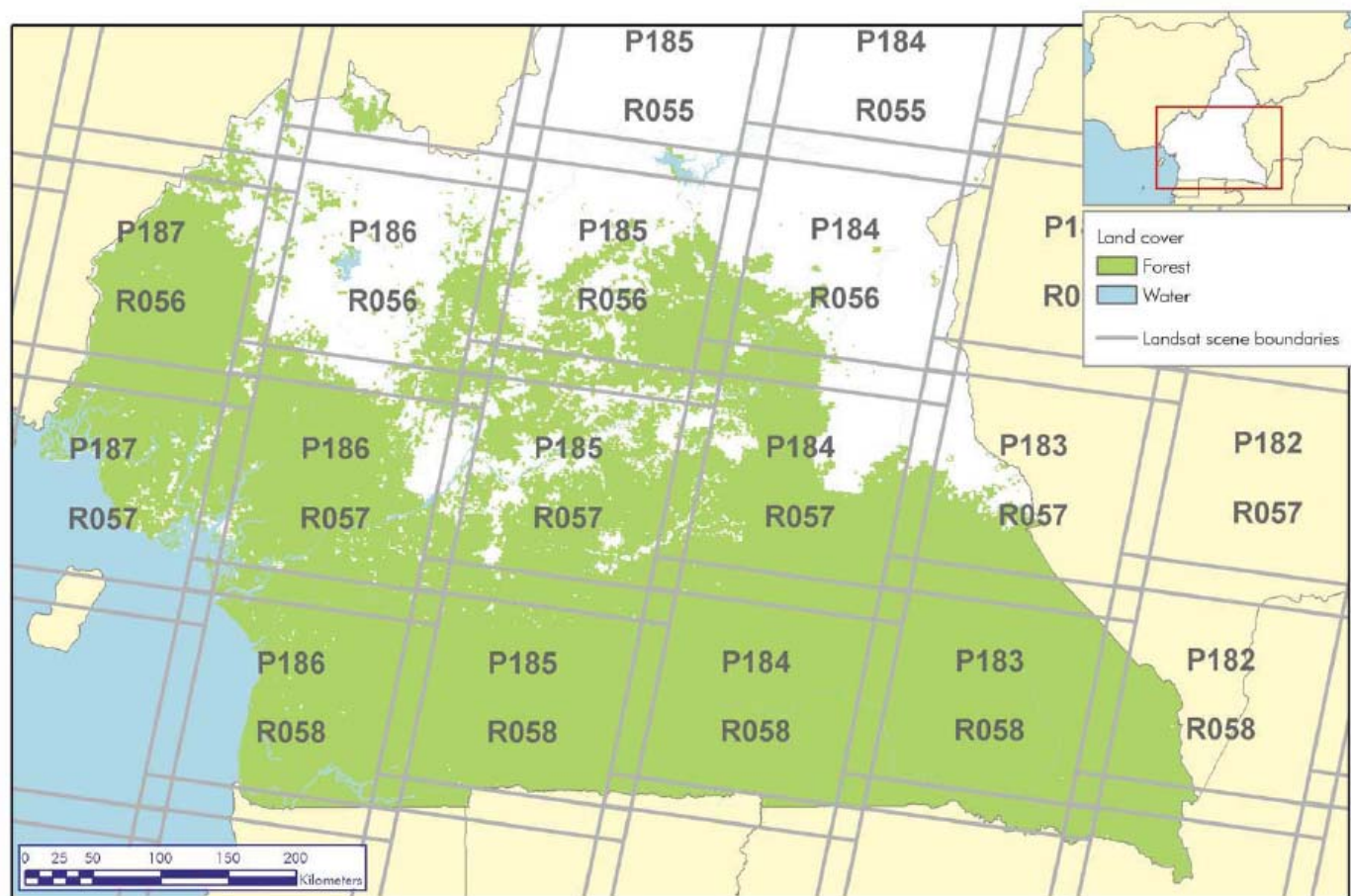
Introduction

- Population: 16.3 millions
- Population growth: 1.8%
- Surface area: 475.4 thousands sq. km
- High social and cultural diversity
- High biological diversity



Cameroon forest cover

Map A. Landsat Images Available for the Forest Zone of Cameroon



Forest resources management

Background

- Precolonial period
 - Forest controlled by local communities and indigenous people and managed according to customary and traditional laws
 - Subsistence farming
 - Hunting and gathering
- Colonial period
 - The land and resources are taken from people by colonial masters (*terres vacantes et sans maitre*)
 - Resettlement policy of hunters-gatherers



Background cont

- Post colonial period
 - 1960 – 1981
 - 1981- 1994
 - Since 1994
 - Structural adjustment
 - Democratisation process
 - Forest reform
 - Zoning of the forest
 - Intensification of logging
 - Introduction of participation in forest resources management
 - Development of participatory approaches in PA management

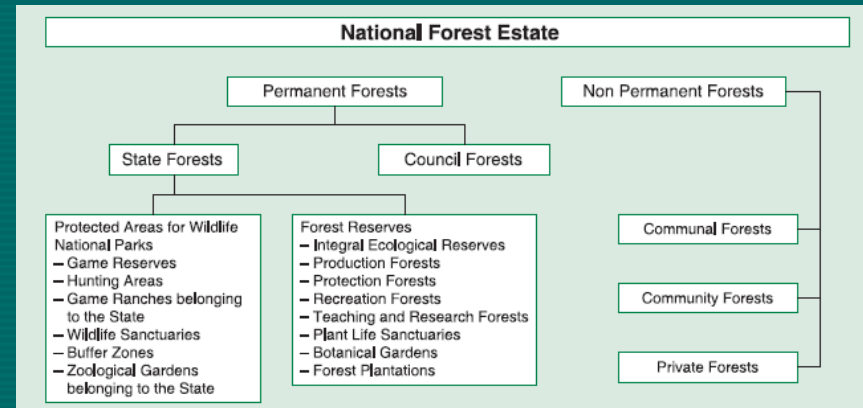


Table 3. Summary of Forest Management Zones (2004)

Domain	Category	Number	Area (ha) ⁽¹⁾
Permanent	Forest Resources		
	• Allocated FMU	72	4,946,900
	• Unallocated FMU	24	1,147,800
	• FMU for Conservation	9	867,000
	• Other Production Forest (not FMU)	30	632,400
	• Other Forest Reserves ⁽²⁾	57	920,000
	Protected Areas – Wildlife ⁽³⁾		
	• National Parks	17	2,910,382
	• Wildlife Reserves	6	738,995
	• Wildlife Sanctuaries	4	246,368
	• Zoological Gardens	3	6.7
	• Hunting zones	57	⁽⁴⁾
	• Other Protected Area		⁽⁵⁾
	Council Forest	13	325,500
	Total ⁽⁶⁾		12,735,400
Non Permanent	Communal Forest (SSV etc.)	132	345,300
	Community Forest ⁽⁷⁾	67	241,466
	Private Forest		⁽⁸⁾

⁽¹⁾ Unless otherwise indicated, surface areas were rounded to the nearest 100 ha.

⁽²⁾ Integral Ecological Reserves, Protection Forest, Recreation Forest, Teaching and Research Forest, Plant Life Sanctuaries, Botanical Gardens and Forest Plantations.

⁽³⁾ These data are from DFAP (2004).

⁽⁴⁾ Some ZIC/ZICG zones overlap with other management zones, thus giving statistics for their area may be misleading.

⁽⁵⁾ "Other protected areas" include State owned game-ranches and buffer zones; however surface area statistics were not available.

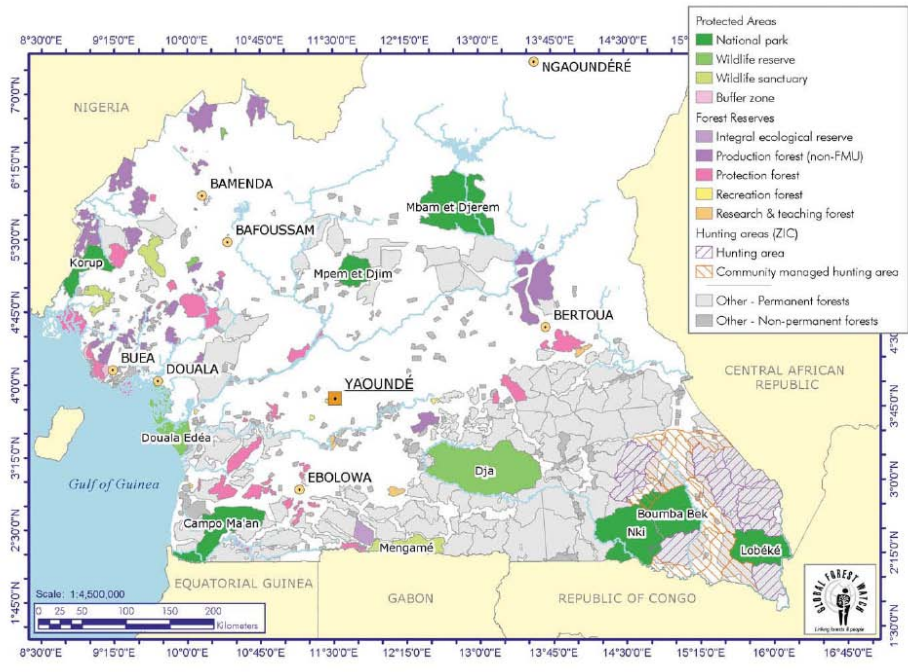
⁽⁶⁾ The total Permanent Forest Domain surface area presented here is a combination of GIS data from the atlas and other MINEF data and therefore should only be considered as an estimate based on the best available data.

⁽⁷⁾ These data are from the Community Forestry Unit (CFC).

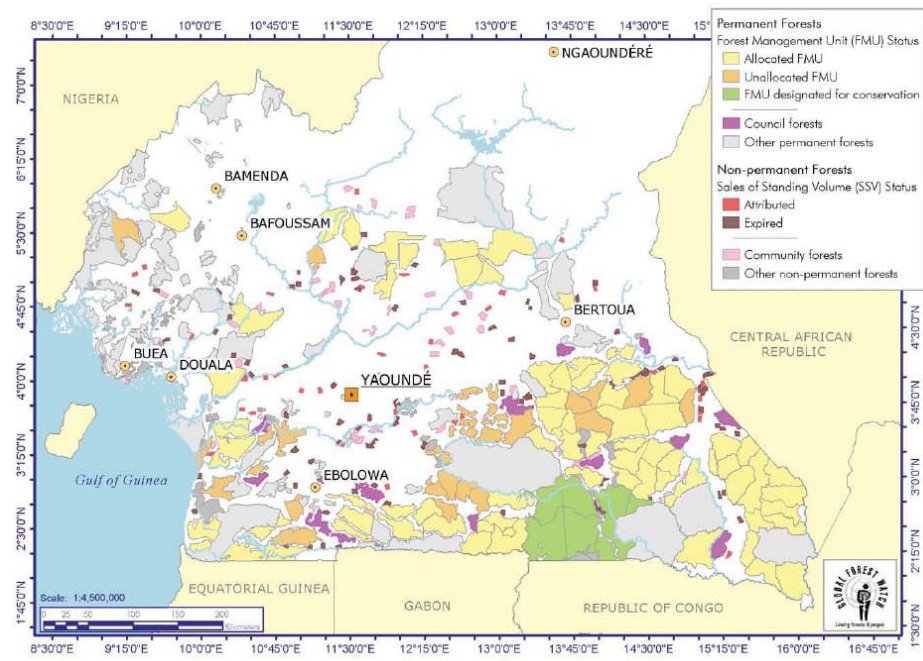
⁽⁸⁾ No data were available.

Forest management regime

Map 7. Biodiversity Protection and Wildlife Management



Map 2. Status of Logging Concessions



Protected areas management regime

- Two assumptions:
 - Wilderness
 - Local people threaten the biological diversity
- Restriction and limitation of access and use rights of local communities



Protected area management regime

- The instrument classifying a state forest shall take into account the social circumstances of the local population, who shall retain their customary rights. However, such rights might be limited if they are contrary to the given objectives of the forest. In such case, the local population is entitled to compensation according to conditions laid down by decree (Forest Act)
 - This provision does not take into consideration the rights of indigenous peoples who are hunters-gatherers



Community mapping

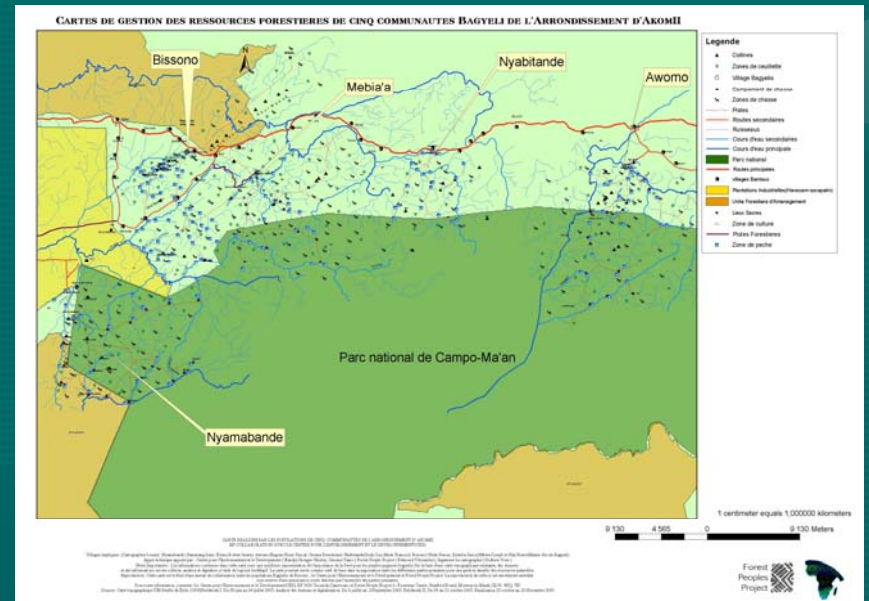
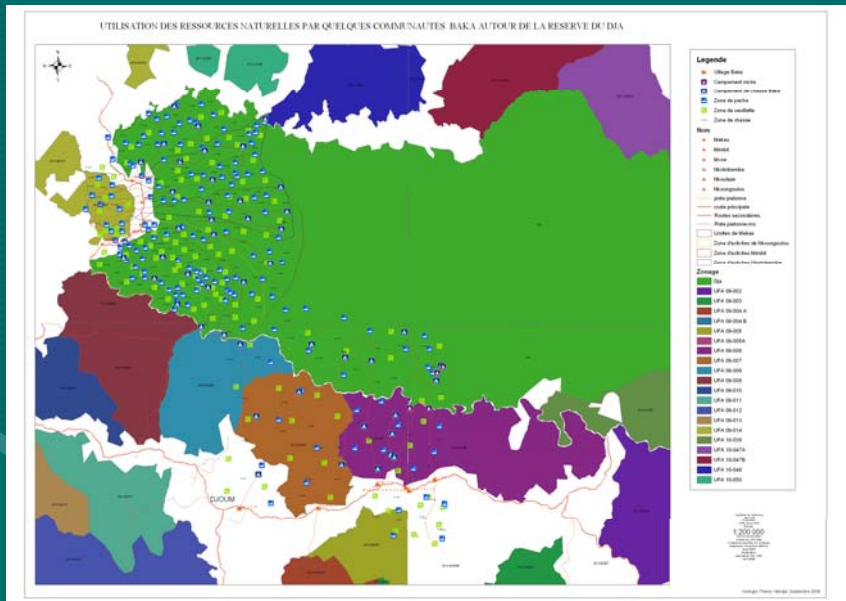
- Objectives:
 - To challenging the assumptions of conservationists
 - To demonstrate the extent of which the land is used
 - To claim land and resource access rights

Mapping process

- Community meeting
- Social mapping
- Training
- Field work
- GIS technologies
- Validation
- Presentation to government authorities
- negotiations



Community mapping



Impacts of mapping in the participating communities

- Capacity building
- Self-esteem and self-confidence
- Networking
- Documentation of customary use and traditional knowledge
- Transfer of knowledge between generations
- Protection of sacred sites
- Might be used against communities

Thank you very much

