



Réseau Camerounais pour la Conservation des Ecosystèmes de Mangrove (RCM) Cameroon Mangrove Conservation Network (CMN)

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Our Network

1. Mangroves

Mangrove forests found uniquely in sheltered inter-tidal areas within the tropical and subtropical areas of the world occupying about 200 000ha in Cameroon today in three major blocks Rio Del Rey (South West Region), Cameroon estuary (Littoral Region) and Ntem estuary (South Region) are extremely valuable, unique but fragile ecosystems that provide many critical ecosystem services, such as food and energy, carbon sequestration, coastal disaster protection, shoreline stabilization, waste processing, and recreation. Being at the interface of land and sea, they also play key roles in linking terrestrial, freshwater, and marine systems, thus keeping all three productive and healthy. As various natural disasters have demonstrated, mangroves can protect coastal communities and reduce death tolls in the event of major storms or tsunamis. Valued at as much as US \$37,000 per hectare annually for fisheries, mangroves serve as key fish nursery habitats for important commercial and subsistence fish species, such as groupers, snappers, mullets, and blue crabs. They are a main barrier to nutrient runoff causing harmful algal blooms. Mangroves are critical to maintaining the high biodiversity of tropical systems, and thus underpin valuable recreation and coastal economies.

Despite their high value and importance to human wellbeing, over 25% of Cameroon mangrove areas have already been lost between 1980-2006 according to UNEP (2007) with yet unknown estimate for degradation. The loss and degradation has continued unabated despite government efforts and non-governmental organisation through projects that have been isolated, with poor inter-sector coordination, conflicting roles and responsibilities, lack of access to and spread of lessons learnt to create the desired large socio-economic and ecological impact; the consequences have been rising sea surges with coastal erosion, sedimentation, inundations and altered temperatures and precipitation with diminishing fisheries stocks threatening the ecological and livelihood securities in the coastal areas.

Realising the pressing need to act solidly to save Cameroon mangroves from further destruction, to strengthen partnership and synergies among civil society within Cameroon and collectively work to bring the mangrove agenda to the fore in national, sub-regional and international arenas to influence policies, Cameroon Mangrove Network (CMN) was created in January 25, 2005 at Edea, Cameroon.

2. Our mission and objectives

Mission statement

The CMN's mission is to set up and run a **framework of exchange and joint action** with grassroots mangrove NGO and CBOs for sustainable management of mangrove forests within the context of integrated coastal area management.

Global objective

To conserve, manage and promote sustainable exploitation of mangrove and coastal resources in order to meet local and national needs of the present and future generations.

Specific objectives

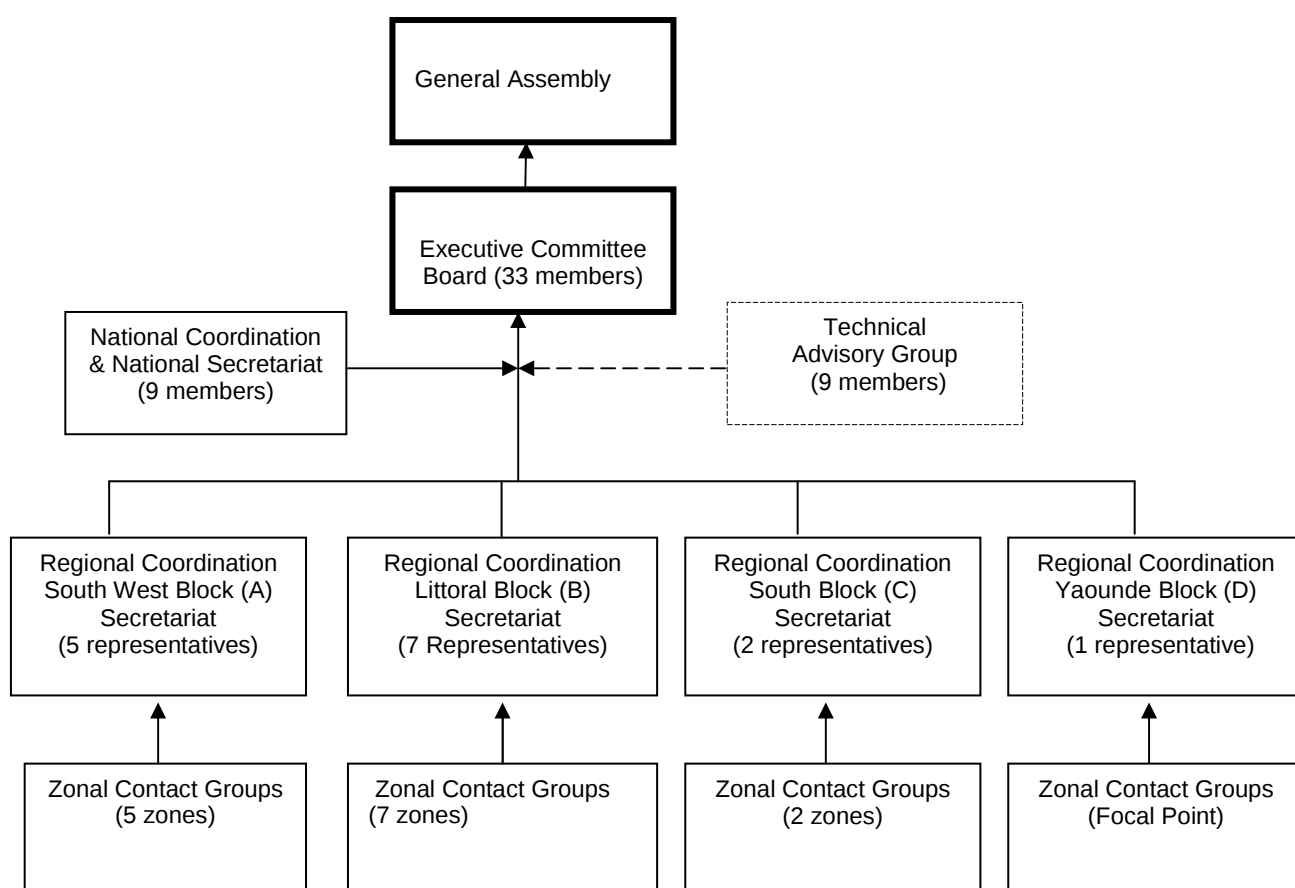
This includes to:

- Strengthen dialogue, cooperation and partnership between the different NGOs, Associations and CBOs involved in grassroots mangrove activities.
- Build institutional and operational capacities (material, organisational, technical and financial) of the NGOs and CBOs (CIGs, Associations, OBs) in the mangrove sector for the accomplishment of their activities in Cameroon.
- Sensitize and raise awareness of the populations of CMN members on all actions influencing mangroves.

- iv) Promote local, national regional and international networks on mangrove conservation.
- v) Strengthen the participation of local populations, groups and assemblies in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national programmes relative to the conservation and sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem.
- vi) Undertake active lobbying and advocacy for the signature of important conventions and the influence of national policy and legislation on mangrove ecosystems.
- vii) Integrate gender and the minority groups in all the processes of conservation and sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem.

3. How we are governed

CMN has a clearly defined constitution that draws heavily from that of the African Mangrove Network (AMN) consisting of The General Assembly (GA) as the highest decision making body comprising all members held every three years; A Thirty-three (33) Member Executive Committee (EC) headed by the National Coordinator comprising members if the National Coordination Executive (NCE) (9 members), Technical Advisory Group (9 members), Regional/Block and Zonal Coordinators (15 members) from within the mangrove and coastal regions of South-West, Littoral, South and Yaounde (Figure). The network Secretariat is based in Mouanko-Littoral region hosted by the NGO Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS) that manages the day-day activities of the network assisted by the Secretary-General from NGO Cameroon Ecology (CamEco), Edea, Treasurer from NGO Cercle de Promoteurs de Développement Durable (CPDD), Yaounde and Network Assistant; the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) gives technical advice and strategic guidance; and the Block Coordinators (BC) and Zonal Contact Groups (ZCG) within each Block coordinate the implementation of decisions among members and communities within the mangrove and coastal regions of South-West, Littoral, South and Yaounde National Capital.



Branche du Réseau Africain pour la Conservation de la Mangrove (RAM)/Chapter of the African Mangrove Network (AMN)

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Déclaration d'association N°61 RDA/C18/BAPP du 09/ 05/2005

4. Who is involved?

- a. Individual and organizations with professional interest/sympathy for mangrove forests
- b. We work with:
 - i. government services,
 - ii. local communities
 - iii. industry & private sector,
 - iv. research,
 - v. education and consulting
- c. And represent one of the largest and most professional voice on mangrove conservation issues in the nation.

5. What you give

- Your ideas, your time, your energy to:
- i. national conferences, committees,
 - ii. policy statements,
 - iii. technical and scientific presentations,
 - iv. field trips and workshops,
 - v. working groups,
 - vi. public speaking and tours,
 - vii. demonstration initiatives,
 - viii. and many other activities at local and national levels.

6. What you get

- a. Being part of the national and global change;
- b. National membership;
- c. Reinforced capacities
- d. Reduced rate for national meetings, conferences, forums and symposiums; and
- e. Access to and support of leading practitioners of mangrove and environmental conservation in the world.
- f. Improved chances for selection of your project proposal for donor support

7. Recent accomplishments and activities

- a. Growing membership more than 35 member organisations (20 NGOs, 7 Associations & 8 Common Initiative Groups-CIGs)
- b. Organization of coastal forum at the University of Buea in March 2010
- c. Organization of African symposium on mangrove and climate change in Africa-Douala in May 2010
- d. Participation in the ongoing revision of the national forests, fisheries and wildlife law
- e. Lobbying a parliamentary group for the development of national wetlands policy
- f. Involved in drafting, implementing and monitoring of national coastal action plan
- g. Ongoing implementation of community reforestation of degraded mangrove forests programme with approval of coastal councils
- h. Involved in drafting global call for mangrove protection in La Paz Mexico November 2010

The activities of the network are published in its six monthly bulletin of information *Matanda News*

8. We stand for:

A balanced, progressive outlook, intelligent planning, cooperation and collaboration for sustainable utilization, conservation and restoration of mangrove forests in Cameroon and beyond.

If you qualify, we invite you to join us and let your voice be heard

**National Executive and National Coordinator
Dr Gordon Ajonina**

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