

NDC AND UNFSS PATHWAY ANALYSES – HIGHLIGHTING SYNERGIES & ACCELERATING DIALOGUE

CAMEROON

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1. INTRODUCTION

The agrifood sector plays a dual role in the climate change narrative, serving both as a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions and as one of the sectors most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Therefore, aligning the transformation of agrifood systems with climate action is vital to advancing progress on these interconnected challenges. Achieving this requires a comprehensive integration of agrifood systems, agriculture, nutrition, and climate initiatives across global, continental, and, crucially, national levels.

Key frameworks guiding this alignment include Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Pathways, and country-specific implementation strategies under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The Center for Development Research (ZEF) conducted a rapid country-level analysis to further support this integration by evaluating how effectively NDCs and UNFSS Pathways are aligned in select countries. The aim was to identify potential synergies between these frameworks, fostering coherence and mutual reinforcement in efforts to build climate-resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

This analysis is particularly timely given recent and upcoming international conferences and initiatives between 2023 and 2025, including the UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment and UNFCCC COP28 in 2023; the SB60 meetings in Bonn in 2024 with a breakthrough on the Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security; the 2024 Summit of the Future; the 2025 renewal of NDCs under the Paris

Agreement, and the adoption of the post-Malabo Agenda by African nations in 2025. Collectively, these milestones offer critical opportunities for countries to harmonize and converge their policy frameworks, ensuring that agrifood systems and climate action are mutually supportive and reinforcing.

2. OVERVIEW

An analysis of Cameroon's NDC and UNFSS national pathway was conducted to better assess the alignment and convergence of food systems transformation ambitions and climate change-related policies. Both documents were examined regarding possible synergies and cross-cutting themes. Concrete political targets and strategies were identified in both documents across several thematic categories.

2.1. CAMEROON'S NDC

Cameroon's share of global GHGs is estimated at 0.27%¹; it is thus ranked the 16th most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change globally.²

Cameroon updated its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on 11 October 2021, including an unconditional greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target of 12% (self-funded) and a conditional reduction target of up to 35% of the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario by 2030.

In a BAU scenario, Cameroon's emissions are predicted to increase by 71% and reach 119,1 Mg Eq CO₂ compared to 2010 (reference year), when emissions stood at around 34,9 Mt CO₂ eq.³

¹ UN Development Programme, Global Climate Promise: Cameroon, <https://climatepromise.undp.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/cameroon> (accessed 10/05/2024)

² International Monetary Fund, 2024, Climate Change in Cameroon: Key Challenges and Reform

Priorities, Vol. 2024: Issue 052, <https://doi.org/10.5089/9798400268243.002> (accessed 10/05/2024)

³ Cameroon's revised NDC, 2021, <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/cmr218101.pdf> (accessed 10/05/2024)

The conditional reduction target of 35% would reduce Cameroon's GHG emissions by more than 42 MtCO₂eq to 77 MtCO₂eq (against the reference year).⁴ Additional mitigation measures could also limit the increase in emissions to 55% (against the reference year).

Regarding adaptation and resilience-enhancing areas, Cameroon's NDC specifically comprises the **AFOLU, Energy, Waste, and Industry** sectors.

According to the NDC, 45% of the targeted savings (over 19 MtCO₂eq) would be reached in the **forestry and land use** sector, nearly 32% in the **energy** sector, 16% in **agriculture**, and over 6% in the **waste** sector. Contributions in the agricultural and forestry sectors shall be made through land rehabilitation and reforestation; limiting methane emission from rice cultivation; fat supplementation in ruminant feed; and using nitrification inhibitors in crop production. In the waste sector, the NDC highlights the role of recycling and reusing agricultural waste and wastewater and capturing 70% of methane through landfills.

The submission's content is based on an analysis of Cameroon's first NDC's achievements and aligns with the "Stratégie Nationale de Développement 2020-2030" (SND30). A core priority anchored in the SND30 Strategy is to "Strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and environmental management to ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth and social development" and tied linked to the country's ambitions for economic transformation and growth.

The government intends to double economic growth between 2020 and 2030 through far-reaching structural transformation, **focusing**

on strengthening the processing of natural products and reducing imports in favor of exporting manufactured or semi-processed goods and products. If not managed carefully and supported through nimble green growth policies and regulations, this could increase the pressure on natural resources and result in unintended consequences jeopardizing the NDC targets.

2.2. CAMEROON'S UNFSS NATIONAL PATHWAY

The national-level preparation process for the September 2021 UNFSS was initiated by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on 11 May 2021 as a decentralized series of consultative workshops.⁵ An information and sensitization phase for stakeholders was held throughout May, followed by consultations across the country's ten regions, each mobilizing around 50 participants representing different sectors.

Currently, 11 percent of Cameroon's population faces acute food insecurity (March 2023).⁶ Cameroon's national pathway - "Cameroon's roadmap for sustainable food systems" - was developed by the government with support from FAO and WFP and presents a diagnosis of its food systems status, sets out a proposed set of activities, and a provisional implementation schedule. The proposed activities are structured around four key areas:

- 1) Sustainably increase [agricultural] production;
- 2) Improve infrastructure and facilitate easier access to factors of production and markets;
- 3) Strengthen the resilience of production systems, sustainable management of natural resources, and

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ UN Food and Agriculture Organization Cameroon, First world summit on Food Systems: Cameroon is up and running! <https://www.fao.org/cameroun/actualites/detail-events/en/c/1403042/> (Accessed 13/05/2024)

⁶ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Cameroon Situation Report, <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/cameroon/card/6uLXJidzIO/> (accessed 28/05/2024)

- food and nutritional security of populations vulnerable to climate change and other shocks;
- 4) Improve the governance of food systems.

The national pathway serves as the foundation for the pathway's operationalization by 2030. The four core activity sectors are split up into more concrete steps, which in turn are allocated to the three execution periods "short term: 2022-2024", "medium term: 2024-2028", and "long term: 2028-2030". The implementation process of the food systems roadmap will be monitored in line with the SND30 monitoring and evaluation system by the National Food Systems Coordinator (in the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub listed as National Convenor), who is equally the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

3. CONVERGING THEMATIC AREAS AND SYNERGIES

The updated NDC aligns with several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); in addition to SDG #13 on climate change, it aligns in particular with goals #2 "Zero Hunger" and #7 "Affordable and Clean Energy". This suggests large converging contents in the NDC and global development agendas, including the UNFSS. In the NDC, the contributions are made through increasing agricultural productivity, supporting small-scale producers, and introducing climate-smart and sustainable agriculture techniques and methods.⁷

The **NDC** highlights the importance of partnerships and collaboration to improve soil productivity, implement agricultural innovations, and apply sustainable agriculture practices. It suggests the use of cropping calendars and improving production techniques for more resource and input efficiency. Moreover, it focuses on

reforestation and land rehabilitation, and the need to create carbon sinks and reduce the agriculture sector's contributions to GHG emissions. However, the NDC remains fairly unspecific and does not provide a great level of detail.

In contrast, the **UNFSS pathway** derives precise actions to improve the sustainability of food systems across the four aforementioned sectors.

Both, the UNFSS pathway and the updated NDC highlight the necessity of **improving green infrastructure**. The UNFSS pathway highlights the necessity to improve the collective infrastructural environment, to open up production basins due to better infrastructure of municipal roads, and to rehabilitate community infrastructure, more precisely. The NDC includes the aim of a smart grid and integrated transport system.

Both documents cover the topic of **agricultural inputs and technologies**. The UNFSS pathway proposes subsidizing agricultural inputs, whereas the NDC suggests using nitrification inhibitors. Moreover, an emerging topic in the UNFSS pathway is the **distribution system of seeds and breeds**, suggesting funding R&D and distributing species and varieties on the production site, and creating a framework for the private sector.

Both, the NDC and the UNFSS pathway emphasize the expanded use of **renewable energy**. The NDC highlights the necessity of developing a **circular bioeconomy model in resource management**, generating energy from agricultural waste and wastewater, and composting agricultural waste. Equally, the UNFSS pathway highlights the necessity to build the capacities of producers on agroecological practices and sustainable management of soil and water.

Social compatibility in the agricultural sector is included in the UNFSS pathway but not in the

⁷ German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), NDC-SDG Connections:

Cameroon, <https://klimalog.idos-research.de/ndc-sdg/country/CMR> (accessed 10/05/2024)

country's NDC. The UNFSS pathway includes the importance of strengthening vulnerable populations, involving them in decision-making processes, strengthening initiatives for young people into food value chains, providing multi-sector assistance to people affected by conflict, and taking into account refugees and internally displaced people.

Further, the UNFSS pathway recommends the development and strengthening of **early warning systems** on agro-meteorological risks and risk and disaster management mechanisms. It also includes reference to adhering to minimum **food standards**.

The documents reference weaknesses in the **institutional and policy framework** for climate change. Mobilizing **climate finance** remains a serious challenge for the authorities.⁸ Those

weaknesses are sufficiently addressed in the UNFSS pathway, indicating concrete actions to improve governance in food systems.

4. GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR

In 2024, agriculture is estimated to account for 69% of the country's total GHG emissions (75 MtCO₂eq, including land use change), followed by energy (13%) and industry (12%, including waste) (figure 1). A marginal share of GHGs to the national total is contributed by transport (4%) and building (3%). Land use change constitutes a significant share of GHGs in the agriculture sector at 57%. The calculations for 2024 are based on a BAU scenario, estimated by the World Emissions Clock by the World Data Lab.

⁸ International Monetary Fund, 2024, Climate Change in Cameroon: Key Challenges and Reform Priorities, Vol. 2024: Issue 052,

<https://doi.org/10.5089/9798400268243.002>
(accessed 10/05/2024)

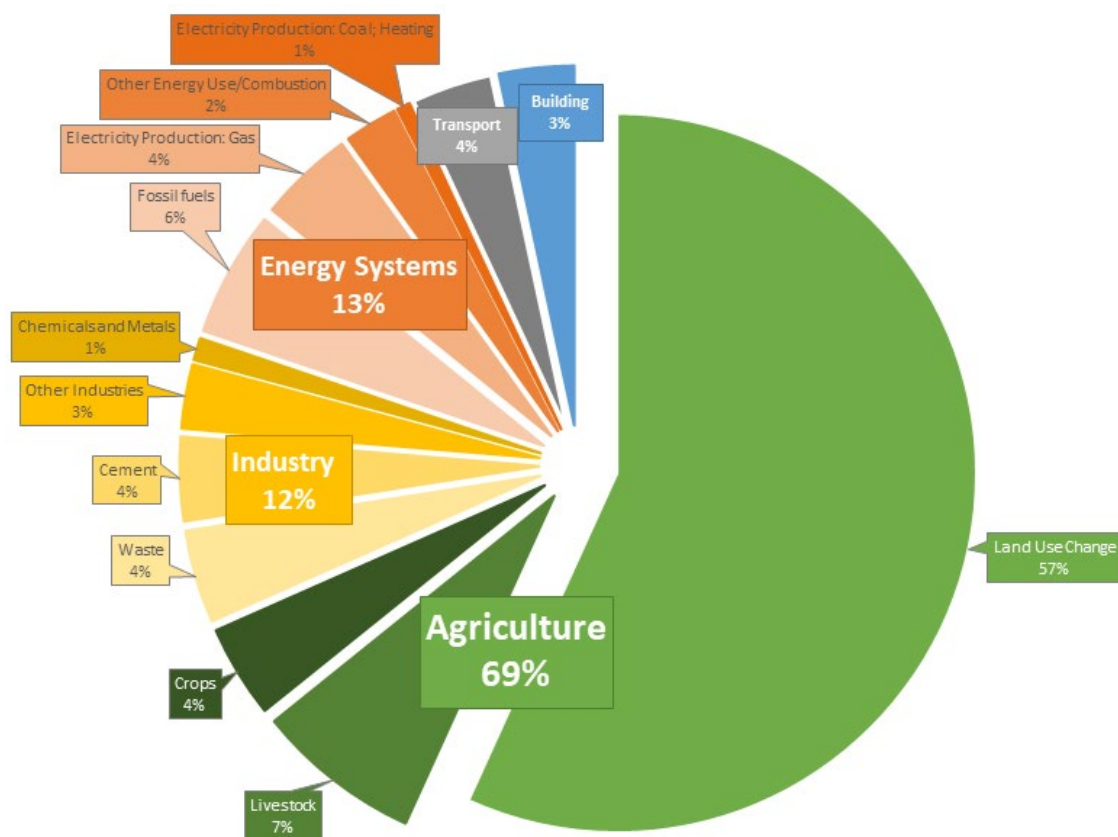


Figure 1: Estimated GHG emissions in Cameroon by sector in percent (%) (2024). Rounded figures.⁹

5. KEY POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND INSTITUTIONS UNDERPINNING THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF KENYA'S NDC AND UNFSS NATIONAL PATHWAY

In a final step, research was conducted to generate an overview of the policy frameworks and institutional arrangements pertaining to climate change and agrifood systems transformation in Cameroon that form the basis/complement the country's NDC and UNFSS national pathway.¹⁰

⁹ Source: authors calculations based on World Emissions Clock <https://worldemissions.io/>, accessed 26 April 2024

¹⁰ An overview of important strategies and policies can be found at: Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, Climate Policy Radar, <https://climate-laws.org/search?r=sub-saharan-africa&l=cameroon&sf=date&so=asc>

Table 1: Cameroon's institutional and policy frameworks guiding climate policy and agrifood systems transformation¹¹

| Policies, strategies, and political frameworks | |
|--|---|
| CLIMATE CHANGE | FOOD SYSTEMS |
| <p>Cameroon Vision 2035 (2009) https://www.cameroon-embassy.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Cameroon_VISION_2035_English_Version.pdf The document presents Cameroon's policy direction to aim for development. The general objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing poverty to minimal levels • Becoming a middle income country • Becoming a newly industrialized country • Consolidating democracy and enhancing national unity <p>It was created by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT). Climate change is one of the major challenges. The document calls for the reduction of GHGs to tackle CC.</p> <p>It derives concrete actions to be considered, e.g. to ensure sustainable management of forest ecosystems and to develop the renewable energy sector.</p> | |
| <p>Presidential Decree No. 2009/410 establishing the creation, organization, and functions of the National Observatory on Climate Change (2009)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Decree established the National Climate Change Observatory (ONACC) as a national legal body of climate change policies • The Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) is responsible for the supervision of the ONACC • Supervised by the Ministry of Finance for financial matters. | <p>Rural Sector Development Strategy (SDSR 2010-2020; 2020-2030)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted to promote modern, sustainable and competitive agriculture based on small family farms |
| <p>Decree N0 2011/2582/PM setting out how to protect the atmosphere (2011)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decree establishes the modality of how Cameroon protects the atmosphere for a list of air pollutants (carbon dioxide, methane, and CFCs) • Establishment of air quality measurement and control stations | <p>National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA 2010-2020; 2020-2030)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its implementation operationalized the SDR • Serves as the national planning framework for domestic and external funding for the development of the agricultural sector. It includes four priority lines of action: (i) development of production chains and improvement of food and nutrition security; (ii) modernization of rural infrastructure and improved access to financing; (iii) sustainable natural resource management and an increase in the |

¹¹ Working list, not yet exhaustive

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>value added to those resources; and (iv) governance and institutional development. Priority No. 3 of the PNIA is based on the <i>National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change</i>, which designates all agro- ecological zones in Cameroon, notably the Sahelian and coastal regions, as vulnerable areas</p> |
| <p>Prime Ministerial Decree No.103/CAB/PM regarding the creation, organization, and operation of the Steering Committee for activities to reduce emissions from deforestation, degradation, sustainable management and conservation of forests, REDD+ (2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Decree established the Steering Committee for REDD+. • The Committee is headed by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). • The Committee is responsible for formulating proposals for REDD+ strategy options, developing selection criteria for REDD+ projects, etc. • The Technical Secretary is chaired by MINEPDED and assisted by the Minister of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF). | <p>Commodity Value Chain Development Support Project (PADFA-2010-2018) https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/-/project/1100001439</p> <p>The project aims to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the rice and onion value chains. Aspirations are added on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value Chain Enhancement • Farmer Support • Infrastructure Development • Market Access • Sustainability and Impact |
| <p>Second National Communication on Climate Change (September 2015) https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cmrnc2.pdf?download (English)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document submitted by the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development | <p>Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) (2010-2020) https://s3.amazonaws.com/rgi-documents/997c33d0d45e9087acc5296d20e085f9d33d25a0.pdf</p> <p>The Paper is part of the country's long development vision (2025) which aims to make Cameroon an emerging economy by the year 2035. Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth • Job Creation • Poverty reduction • Infrastructure Development • Human Capital Development • Governance Reforms |
| <p>National Adaptation Plan (submitted 26 October 2015)</p> | <p>Emergency Project to Combat the Food Crisis in Cameroon (PULCCA Agreement) (2022) The implementing Agency is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents%20NAP/National%20Reports/Cameroun%20NAP_French.pdf French</p> <p>Responsible Department: Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Key vulnerabilities addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature rise • Heat waves • Drought • Floods • Sea level rise • Landslides <p>Priority actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve knowledge of CC • Public information, education, and mobilization to adapt to CC • Reduce major sectors and agro-ecological areas vulnerability to CC • Integrate major sectors and agro-ecological areas vulnerable to CC | <p>The project will provide support through four key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting food and nutrition stabilization of rapid response for early recovery and resilience-building • Strengthening smallholder production capacities through crop and livestock support for climate and nutrition resilience • Through support for community preparedness and early warning systems <p>Through project management, monitoring, and evaluation.¹²</p> |
| <p>Decree No. 079/CAB/PM (2017)</p> <p>According to Cameroun's second NDC, art. 2 of this document states that the mission of the interministerial committee is to "coordinate and monitor sectoral diligence relating to the implementation of the recommendations of the Paris Agreement on global warming"</p> | |
| <p>National Development Strategy (SND30) (2020-2030) for structural transformation and inclusive development</p> <p>Cameroon's National Development Strategy (SND30) is a compilation of all national sectoral strategies and constitutes the heart of national priorities. It sets out how the country is to meet the SDGs by 2030.</p> <p>The four overall objectives are:¹³</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To establish favorable conditions for economic growth and the accumulation of national wealth and to ensure that the structural changes essential for the industrialization of the country are obtained 2) To improve the living conditions of the populations and their access to basic social services by ensuring a significant reduction in poverty and underemployment 3) To strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and environmental management to ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth and social development 4) to improve governance to strengthen the performance of public action to achieve development objectives. | |

¹² <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/in-cameroon--fao-supports-world-bank-funded-project-targeting-nutrition--early-warning-systems--resilience-and-capacity-building-for-small-scale-farmers/en> (accessed 13/05/2024)

¹³ Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, Climate Policy Radar, https://climate-laws.org/document/national-development-strategy-2020-2030-for-structural-transformation-and-inclusive-development_3d95 (accessed 13/05/2024)

Institutions and coordination mechanisms on climate change and agrifood systems

The **National Food Systems Coordinator** team, made up of a National Coordinator and Regional Coordinators, forming the SND30 monitoring and evaluation system:

- The National Committee in charge of Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (CNSE/SND30) chaired by the Minister in charge of Planning
- Members: The Secretaries General, the representatives of the CTDs, the private sector, and the Civil society.
- It ensures the monitoring and technical and operational supervision of all work relating to the implementation of SND30.

Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MINEE)

<https://minee.cm/en/>

The Ministry of Water and Energy is responsible for developing and implementing Government policy on the production, transport, and distribution of water and energy.

Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)

<https://minepded.gov.cm/en/>

Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)

<https://www.minfof.cm/en/index.php>

Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)¹⁴

<https://minepat.gov.cm/en/>

The ministry is responsible for public investments, land use planning at the national level, and the control and evaluation of development programs. The ministry has a strong mandate and can carry out activities that require inter-ministerial collaboration.

Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA)

<https://www.minepia.cm/>

The ministry is responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of state policy on livestock, fisheries, and the harmonious development of animal industries.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)

<https://www.minader.cm/>

The ministry is responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of government policy in the fields of agriculture and rural development.

Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development (MINDDEVEL)

<https://www.minddevel.gov.cm/home/>

Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE)

<https://www.minsante.cm/site/?q=en>

Agricultural Research Institute for Development of Cameroon (IRAD)

Is a government institution focused on agricultural research and development. It aims to improve food security, increase agricultural yields, and promote sustainable farming practices in Cameroon.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Specialized agency of the United Nations

¹⁴ Ministry of the Economy, Planning, and Regional Development, <https://minepat.gov.cm/en/home-2-5/> (accessed 13/05/2024)

6. CONCLUSION AND OPTIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

The analysis shows that there are several converging thematic areas in Cameroon's current NDC and in its UNFSS national pathway, including **green infrastructure, agricultural inputs, and renewable energy,**

demonstrating that the government recognizes the importance of the agricultural sector in climate policy-making and vice versa. These synergies also present an opportunity and entry-points for dialogue and exchange between line ministries, across sectors, and between stakeholders.

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