

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF  
THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE PROTECTION AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CAMEROON  
(MINEPDED)



6th edition of the international seminar of the Secretariat for the  
Environmental Assessment in Central Africa (SEEAC)

Co-organized with

Cameroon Association for Environmental Assessment  
(ACAMEE)



THEME

"Environmental Assessment: An Integrator of emerging challenges into sustainable development  
process: Climate Change, Land use Conflicts, Green Economy, Gender Equality and the Fight against  
HIV AIDS"

Mountain Hotel Buea Cameroon, 13th to 14th November 2014

Preceded by

A TRAINING WORKSHOP OF UNESCO UNDER THE THEME

« Integration of Challenges related to the green economy into Environmental Assessment:  
methodology, tools, indicators and practical guide »

Preliminary Announcement and Call for Papers

Official Partner



With the technical support of



The Netherlands Commission for  
Environmental Assessment

Other Partners



Secretary for Environmental Assessment in Central Africa

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## 1. Introduction

The Secretariat for Environmental Assessment in Central Africa (SEEAC), a grouping of national associations for environmental assessment of central African countries invites you to take part in the sixth edition of its annual international seminar under the theme " Environmental Assessment: Integrator of emerging challenges into sustainable development process: Climate Change, Landuse Conflicts, Green Economy, Gender Equality and the Fight against HIV AIDS ". The Seminar shall hold from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Buea, Southwest - Cameroon.

Through the organization of its international seminars, which typically bring together approximately one hundred participants, the SEEAC is willing to contribute in discussions on the progress of the Environmental Assessment in Central Africa and to optimize its potential as a privileged tool for the implementation of sustainable development policies.

This year's seminar benefits from the partnership of the following organizations: the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa, the Conference on Dense and Humid Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa (CEFDHAC) and the Cameroon Association for Environmental Assessment (ACAMEE).

It is worth noting that this 2014 international seminar of SEEAC shall be preceded by a two-day training organized by UNESCO Sub-regional Office for Central Africa under the theme " Integration of challenges related to green economy into Environmental Assessment: methodology, tools, indicators and practical guide ".

Participants in this training session will have the occasion to exchange with those of the international experts for a better consolidation of learning outcomes.

Interested partners are invited to contact SEEAC for necessary conditions of participation.

## 2. Problematic of the international seminar

Sustainable development requires the consideration of environmental, sociocultural and economic dimensions in the decision making processes of development. Thus, it is important to have mechanisms to assist stakeholders to get there. By definition, an environmental assessment is one of the preferred ways to achieve this integration;

Environmental Assessment (EA) refers to all approaches aiming at considering the biophysical and socio-economic aspects in decision-making at all levels, from the national policies and strategies, plans and programs, to projects. Its participatory, dynamic proactive and preventive nature enables it to reconcile environmental and social considerations in the development process, thereby contributing to sustainable development. The best known form of environmental assessment in Central Africa is the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) which applies to the projects still under investigation. As days unfolds, the use of environmental and social audits concerning projects under implementation and the so called Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SEA) covering policies, plans or programs is increasing.

Unquestionably, environmental assessment is a major practical lever available to different stakeholders in Central Africa to promote the integration of emerging challenges like climate change/REDD+, land use conflicts, the green economy, gender equality and the fight against HIV AIDS in the process of sustainable development. In fact, environmental assessment is:

- explicitly recognized and recommended by several United Nations conventions and multilateral agreements (eg the Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change recognizes it as a reference tool whose implementation contributes to mitigating the effects of climate change);
- internalized and prescribed by the legal framework of all countries of Central Africa and by the procedures of their development partners; and
- the subject of institutional arrangements that allow the involvement of all stakeholders, including communities and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in decision-making, thereby promoting transparency and good governance.

It must however be noted that the potential of the environmental assessment is probably little known or at least largely untapped.

It is in this context that this international seminar is holding, to help publicize, facilitate and make more effective use of environmental assessment as an integrator of environmental and social issues in the development process in Central Africa.

### **3. Objective of the international seminar**

The aim of this international seminar is to discuss opportunities, methods and tools to publicize, facilitate and render more effective the recourse to environmental assessment as a tool for integrating environmental and social challenges in the development process of Central Africa.

### **4. Scientific significance of the seminar**

In line with the recommendations of the 5th International Seminar of SEEAC, conceptual, legal and regulatory aspects, methods, tools and indicators for the integration into development processes via environmental assessment, considerations related to the following four challenges will be considered:

- Climate change: vulnerability, adaptation, mitigation, reduction of emissions by reducing deforestation and degradation (REDD +), etc.;
- Land use conflicts: planning, overlay of titles and permits of land use, priorities in the allocation of land use, etc.;
- Green economy: economic value of ecosystem services, economics and the fight against poverty, food security, carbon market, etc.;
- Gender equality and the fight against HIV AIDS: access to productive resources, participation in decision making, data integration and considerations related to HIV AIDS, etc.

### **5. Seminar organisational format**

The seminar will take place from November 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Buea in Cameroon. To allow a balanced treatment of the various issues, deliberations up to approximately three hours will be dedicated to each of the issues in the form of micro workshops. Within each

deliberation, communications and exchanges in plenary will be provided around the key issues selected. At the end of the seminar, a summary of the workshop discussions is intended to capitalize on the results of the exchanges and explore the forms and modalities of possible actions.

## **6. Audience**

This seminar targets stakeholders of the environmental assessment process: administrations in charge of the management of the Environmental Assessment process, sectoral administrations, the private sector, consultants and consulting firms, universities and other training institutions, research institutions, the civil society and other relevant national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and structures.

## **7. Brief Background of the venue, Buea**

Buea (Legendary hospitality) is the capital of the Southwest region of Cameroon. Its cool climate led the Germans to make it the capital of the former West Cameroon. The German Governor Jesko von Puttkamer built a palatial residence there, a real huge castle whose Bavarian architecture appears rather absurd in this tropical setting. The "Governor's Palace" as it is called, is one of the real attractions of this city with British appearances.

Apart from the Governor's Palace, the city of Buea has a particular touristic interest. It lies at the foot of Mount Cameroon, "chariot of the gods", which is the highest mountain in Central and West Africa. This huge volcanic massif of 4095 m covers an area of about 2500 km<sup>2</sup>, of which some 750 km<sup>2</sup> are under forest cover that hosts a unique wildlife. It is subject to an annual athletic race called "Mount Cameroon Race of Hope" which is attended by athletes from different parts of the world. One of the slopes of Mount Cameroon is overlooking the sea, which is a major touristic attraction in Cameroon. Limbe Sea reveals indeed a natural sandy beach, with soft gray sand that attracts tourists from far and near especially during weekends.

The city of Buea is host to one of the nations Anglo-Saxon University, the formal site of the nations Advanced School of Interpretation and Translation. It has a number of hotels of national and international standards, restaurants, nightclubs and international institutions such as the Pan African Institute for Development, West Africa (PAIDWA). On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the reunification of Cameroon in February 2014, Buea has been given a new facelift transforming the town to a cradle of natural coexistence. The monument of the fiftieth anniversary adds to the long list of touristic attractions of the town.

The "Tour Operator"- the International Travel Agency (ITA), partner of the event will offer participants several options to enjoy the touristic opportunities of the South West Cameroon.

## **8. Expectations of the Seminar**

The anticipated benefits of this international seminar for the countries concerned and the sub-region are manifold since it intends to contribute to promoting the inclusion of key environmental and social issues in the development, implementation and monitoring strategies and interventions in the short and medium term.

For professionals and stakeholders in the sub-region it will provide an opportunity for a larger number to take part in international debates related to emerging and re-emerging issues and to strengthen their capacities in the field of environmental assessment.

Recommendations, scientific and technical contributions, as well as the discussions will be published as proceedings of the seminar which will be widely disseminated.

**Secretary for Environmental Assessment in Central Africa**

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## 9. Registration

Registration for the seminar is 100,000 CFA francs (approximately 250 \$) per participant. This fee covers the participant's kit, lunches and coffee breaks during the seminar. Those wishing to register should kindly use the form dedicated to this purpose.

## 10. Submitting communication proposal / Call for paper

Those wishing to submit a communication proposal should send to the Organizing Committee the following:

- the title of the communication
- details of the author or authors
- an abstract of 300 words (maximum) with a maximum of five (5) keywords.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is extended to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2014. The email address to use is: [seeac@seeaonline.org](mailto:seeac@seeaonline.org)

## 11. Financial support

The organizing committee has no resources to support transport, accommodation and insurance costs of participants; they are therefore encouraged to secure themselves the resources associated with their participation.

## 12. Tentative program

The tentative program presented in the table below gives an indication of the topics to be addressed in order to facilitate the orientation of the contributions. A final program will be available by September 2014 taking into account the communication proposals that will be selected.

HOURS	CONTENT
<b>DAY 1</b>	
8h00 - 9h00	Welcome – Installation of participants
9h00 - 10h00	Session 0 : Opening Ceremony
	This session will be devoted mainly to the key note speeches from some officials, and especially to the opening remarks of the Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) or his representative
10h00 - 10h30	<b>FAMILY PHOTO AND COFFEE BREAK</b>
10h30 - 13h00	<b>Session 1 : Environmental assessment and Climate Change/REDD+</b> This session will provide an opportunity to discuss the conceptual, legal and regulatory aspects, methods, tools and indicators for integration into the development process, through the environmental assessment considerations related to climate change: vulnerability , adaptation, mitigation, reduction of emissions by reducing deforestation and degradation (REDD +), etc..
13h00 - 14h00	<b>LUNCH</b>
14h00-15h30	Session 2 : Environmental assessment and green economy This session will provide an opportunity to discuss the conceptual, legal and regulatory aspects, methods, tools and indicators for integration into the development process, through the environmental assessment considerations related to the Green Economy: economic value of ecosystem services, economics and the fight against poverty, food security, carbon market, etc..
15h30 - 16h00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
16h00 - 17h00	Session 2 : Environmental assessment and green economy ( <b>continues and end</b> )
17h00	<b>END OF DAY 1</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>	

<b>08h30 - 09h00</b>	<b>Récapitulatif jour 1</b>
<b>09h00-10h30</b>	<p>Session 3 : Environmental assessment, gender equality and the fight against HIV AIDS:</p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity to discuss the conceptual, legal and regulatory aspects, methods, tools and indicators for integration into the development process, through the environmental assessment considerations related to gender equality and the fight against HIV AIDS: access to productive resources, participation in decision making, data integration and considerations related to HIV AIDS, etc..</p>
<b>10h30 - 11h00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
<b>11h00 – 12h30</b>	<p>Session 3 : Environmental assessment, gender equality and the fight against HIV AIDS:</p> <p>(continues and end)</p>
<b>12h30 - 13h30</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>13h30-15h30</b>	<p>Session 4: Environmental assessment and conflicts of interest:</p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity to discuss the conceptual, legal and regulatory aspects, methods, tools and indicators for integration into the development process, through the environmental assessment considerations related to conflicts of resource use: land use, overlay titles and licenses/permits for use of space, priorities in the allocation of land use, etc...</p>
<b>15h30 - 16h00</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
<b>16h00-17h00</b>	<p>Session 5 : Discussions/Synthesis</p> <p>This session will be dedicated to discussions that will make a summary of the main results, suggestions, recommendations and general guidelines from the seminar.</p>
<b>17h00-17h30</b>	<p>Session 0 : Closing Ceremony</p> <p>This session will mainly include the reading of the final communiqué, the words of some officials present and especially the closing remarks of the Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) or his representative</p>
<b>DAY 3</b>	
<p>Tourism and Leisure</p> <p>Choice: Visit to Mount Cameroon, swimming on the beaches of Limbe, former slave trade markets and routes, botanical and geological gardens, historic sites and monuments like the Reunification Monument, etc. For information and booking, please get in touch with ITA.</p>	