



CODESRIA

TITLE: Comparative Assessment of Forest Conservation Policies Effectiveness From Carbon dioxide Emission Trends around Protected Areas in the Anglophone (South Western) and Francophone (Littoral) Regions of Cameroon

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SUMMARY

Most deforestation studies in Cameroon have been very general without any quantitative attribution to different land uses (Cameroon RPP, 2013) with little done to estimate associated carbon emissions from degrading activities in the country especially in and around protected areas. This study seeks to contribute to addressing the gap by measuring changes in forest cover in protected areas to other land use types over the past 30 years, with subsequent conversion to CO₂ emission estimates to assess the effectiveness of forest policies implementation in the Anglophone South West and the Francophone Littoral Regions, to evaluate the influence of forest conservation policies on the perception of local communities and the role of anthropogenic influence (population, culture...) in the two regions.

Relevant data for the study will be collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data sets will be collected from the field with the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS). Ground control points will be collected from all the land use types around the Korup National Park and the Kupe Manenguba Reserve in Anglophone Cameroon and the Douala-Edea and Bois de Signe Reserves in Francophone Cameroon. Questionnaires will be administered, interviews conducted and focus group discussions held with all key stakeholders in charged with the management of forest resources to generate qualitative data. Secondary data will be collected from documented sources such as archives, journals, textbooks, reports and the internet to appraise the historical evolution of policies from the colonial era to date and to obtain LandSat or SPOT satellite imageries for the year 1978, 1990 and 2013.

Remote sensing and GIS techniques will be used in determining land cover change and the IPCC (2007) basic equation will be used to convert deforestation rates into CO₂ emission values. The SPSS statistical package will be used in questionnaire analysis for relevant descriptive and inferential statistical analysis.

Based on the findings, recommendations that will guide the formulation of policies to protect the forest and promote sustainable socio-economic development in the country and the region as a whole with mitigating impact on global climate will be made