

Responsible Land Policy in Cameroon

Context

Reliable access to land plays a central role in food security and poverty reduction as well as for the sustainable use of natural resources. In contrast, poorly defined land use rights encourage conflicts between different population and land user groups and prevent investment in the conservation and restoration of biodiverse landscapes.

In Cameroon, the outdated legislation in need of reform does not allow adequate and affordable recognition of land use rights. Especially in rural areas, land use is mainly governed by customary regimes which are not systematically documented or legally recognized. Traditional land management is often based on collective rather than individual ownership. Women, young people and marginalised groups are especially disadvantaged in accessing land.

Approach

The project "Responsible Land Policy" (ProPFR) in Cameroon contributes to strengthening land use rights in the Centre Region, safeguarding the livelihoods of the rural population and at the same time promoting the protection and restoration of forest-rich landscapes. It supports sustainable access to land, particularly for women, young people and marginalised groups (e.g., Mbororo pastoralists and internally displaced persons), as well as in resolving land conflicts, especially of an agropastoral nature.

The project's systematic approach aims to improve the documentation of individual and collective tenure and land use rights to forest, agricultural as well as pasture land, and their recognition by national, regional and local as well as traditional authorities. Furthermore, civil society and private sector actors are involved and strengthened in the implementation of responsible land policies.

Project objective

The access to land as an essential prerequisite for restoring and preserving forest landscapes and combating poverty and hunger in rural areas has improved for specific population groups, particularly women and marginalised groups, in the Centre Region of Cameroon.

The project aims to

- improve the institutional framework and procedures for securing the rights of the rural population to use forests, agricultural and pasture land,
- promoting the participation of civil society in formulating and implementing a responsible land policy,
- improve the framework conditions for responsible private investment in the agroforestry and especially cocoa sector.



Focus group discussion of village chiefs on responsible land policy

Budget and duration

5 million EUR / January 2023 till May 2026

Lead executing agency and implementing partners

Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure (MINDCAF)

Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Sustainable development



More information

www.giz.de/responsiblelandpolicy and [Land Portal](#)