

POSSIBILITIES FOR THE REALISATION OF ECOLOGICAL  
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONCEPTS IN PROTECTED  
AREAS IN CAMEROON



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## **Possibilities for the realisation of ecological sustainable tourism concepts in protected areas in Cameroon.**

### **Abstract**

Ecotourism had been proposed as a tool of sustainable management of protected areas since it is considered to be an environmental and social form of land use, which may ensure the long-term conservation of natural and socio-cultural resources; contribute to the local development; and provide an equitable satisfaction to all stakeholders (YABLOKOV and OSTROUMOV 1991, SADORGE 1993, CEBALLOS-LASCURÁIN 1996, ELLENBERG 1997 and MÜLLER 1998). However, this concept is relatively new in many countries including Cameroon and its definition and implementation principles are still under consideration. Accordingly, it is still open the question on how tourism can be realised in a protected area in conformity with the requirements of sustainable development of the Rio conference. This question is the main concern of the present study, which aims to analyse the possibilities for the realisation of ecologically sustainable tourism concepts in protected areas in Cameroon. Four protected areas were selected for the case study: Waza National Park, Benoue National Park, Korup National Park and Campo-Ma'an National Park.

The study highlights that the preliminary conditions for tourism development exist in the case study areas. Actually for example, tourism can be legally developed in some protected areas including national parks and the government want to promote ecotourism as a tool of sustainable management. There is a rich potential of natural and cultural attractions whose quality varies generally with the areas. Although tourism has potential for creating jobs and constitutes an important source of revenue, some constraints and risks (can) hinder the sustainability of its development, for example: Inadequacy of some law provisions; non active involvement of all stakeholders; small number of visitors; lack of marketing; and inequitable sharing of benefits and bearing of costs.

The study findings lead to the suggestion of strategies and indicators for the successful realisation of the ecologically sustainable tourism concepts in the protected area. These strategies are important for the development and revision of the tourism and management policy, especially for the protected areas management plan. Additionally, this study constitutes a basis for further investigations in the field of 'tourism and nature protection', especially in the central Africa sub-region.

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Georg-August-University Göttingen-Germany, April 2003

**Key words:** Ecotourism development; Nature conservation; Protected area management; National parks; Sustainable tourism; Cameroon.

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AFD: Agence Française de Développement  
AGCD: Administration Générale de la Coopération au Développement (Belgique)  
ATEF: Agent Technique des Eaux et Forêts  
CACID/WAZA Logone: Cellule d'Appui à la Conservation et aux Initiatives de Développement durable dans la région Waza Logone  
CAMPFIRE: Communal Areas Management Plan for Indigenous Resources (Zimbabwe)  
CARFAD: Centre Africain de Recherches Forestières Appliquées et de Développement  
CEDC: Centre d'Etude de l'Environnement et du Développement au Cameroun  
CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency  
CML: Centre of Environment Science (Leiden University)  
COFA: Compagnie Forestière Assan  
CPDM (RDPC): Cameroon People Democratic Movement  
CSE: Committee of Statistical Experts  
DIFID: Department for International Development (British)  
DGIS: Directorate General for International Cooperation (Netherlands)  
DPEF: Délégation Provinciale de l'Environnement et des Forêts  
DPTS: Delegation of Tourism of Southern Province  
Ebo-EI: Comité d'Electricité de Ebodjé  
Ebo-Tour: Comité Ecotourisme de Ebodjé  
ECOFAC: Ecosystèmes Forestiers de l'Afrique Centrale  
ETS: Ecotourism Society  
EU: European Union  
FAC: Fond d'Aide à la Coopération Française  
FAO: Food and Agricultural Organisation  
FCFA: Francs CFA  
FR: Forest Reserve  
GEF: Global Environment Facility  
GOI: Governmental Organisations and Institutions  
GTZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit  
HEVECAM: Hévéa du Cameroun  
HFC: Société Forestière de Campo  
IIED: International Institute for Environment and Development  
IEF: Ingénieur des Eaux et Forêts  
IRA: Institut de Recherches Agronomiques  
IRAD: Institute of Agronomic Research and Development  
IUCN: World Conservation (formal Union International Union for Nature Conservation)

IUOTO: International Union of Official Travel Organizations  
KNP: Korup National Park  
MINAGRI: Ministry of Agriculture  
MINAT: Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale  
MINE: Ministry of Mine and Energy  
MINEF: Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
MINEPIA: Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries  
MINESUP: Ministry of Higher School  
MINJUS: Ministère de la Justice et Garde des Seaux  
MINPAT: Ministère du Plan et de l'Aménagement du Territoire  
MINREST: Ministry of Scientific and Technical Research  
MINTOUR: Ministère de Tourisme  
MINTP: Ministry of Public Works  
MINUH: Ministry of Town Planning and Housing  
MST: Maladies sexuellement transmissibles (sexual transmissible diseases)  
NGO: Non Governmental Organisations  
NGOI: Non Governmental Organisations and Institutions  
NORAD: Norwegian Agency of Development  
NP: National Park  
NTFPs: Non-timber forest products  
OECD: Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation  
(Organisation Mondiale pour le Développement et la Coopération Economique)  
ONADEF: Office National de Développement des Forêts  
PA: Protected Areas  
PACBCM: Projet d'Aménagement et de Conservation de la Biodiversité de Campo-  
Ma'an known as "*Projet Campo-Ma'an*"  
PWL: Projet Waza-Logone  
RDPC: Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple Camerounais  
Rf: Forest Reserve  
SDF: Social Democratic Front  
SNV: Organisation Néerlandaise de Développement  
SOCAPALM: Société Camerounaise de Palmeraies  
SONEL: Société Nationale d'Electricité  
TCSP: Tourism Council of the South Pacific  
TIAC: The Tourism Industry Association of Canada  
TIES: The International Ecotourism Society  
UN: United Nations  
UFA: Unité Forestière d'Aménagement (*Management Forest Unit*)

UNCITT: United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism

UNDP\*: Union Nationale pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (political party)

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

UNEP: United Nations Environment Program

UTO: Unité Technique Opérationnelle (*Operational Technical Unit*)

UTO-CM: Unité Technique Opérationnelle de Campo-Ma'an

WB: World Bank

WCED: World Commission on Environment and Development

WCMC: World Conservation Monitoring Centre

WTO: World Tourism Organisation

WTTC: World Travel and Tourism Council

WWF: World Wildlife Funds for Nature

