

# Overview of Cameroon

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- 2- Brief history
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# 1. General Presentation

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Fig1: Cameroon situated in the central Africa.

Fig2: Cameroon and neighborhood countries. (Source Google map)

Motto: Peace-Work-Fatherland

Area: 475,000 km<sup>2</sup> or 183,398.52 mi sq (California: 414,000 km<sup>2</sup>)

Population: 20,000,000 national census 2010.

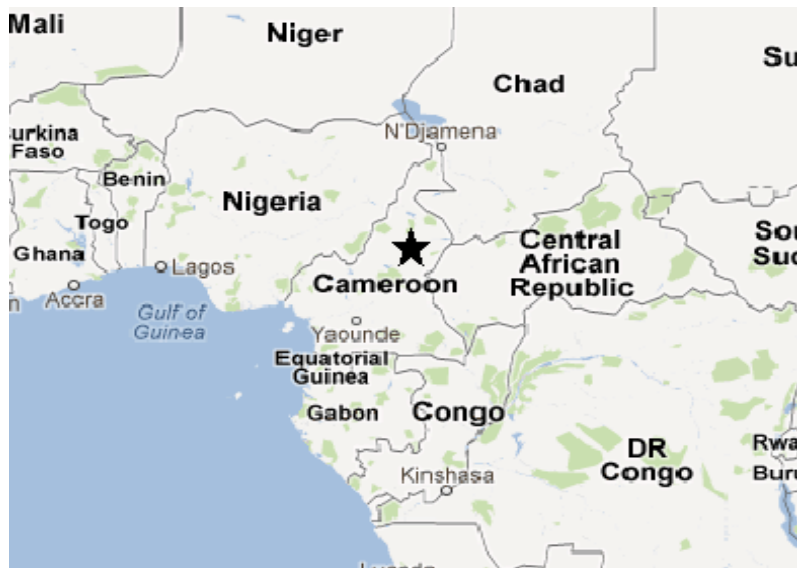
Currency: CFA Franc (XAF)

1\$=450 XAF

Official languages: English and French

Other languages: 250+

Independence: 1960



## 2. Brief history

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- Portuguese first arrived in 1472 named the country "*Rio dos Camarões*", due to the abundance of lobster in the Wouri river, followed by the European missionaries later
- 1884: Kamerun became a colony of the German empire.
- In 1919 After the World war 1, the country is divided between British and French
- In 1960 the French part became independent
- The question for the British part was whether to reunify to French Cameroon or join Nigeria.
- 1 October 1961 after a long and decisive pool, the British make his choice for the reunification of the 2 Cameroon

### 3. People and culture.

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Fig3: Peulh or Fulbe and Hausa from the North Cameroon



Fig4: typical Bantu from Cameroon.

- Culture in the North part is similar, but in the south part in mostly depends on the ethnics groups or tribe because we have 250 ethnics groups.
- The best of the culture from my side is the traditional dancing, painting, sculpture.



Fig4: Traditional dance and mask from the west

## 4. Social environment and global economy

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### 4.1. Politics.

Country	Cameroon	US
1	Ahmadou Ahidjo (1960)	John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)
2	Ahmadou Ahidjo	Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969)
3	Ahmadou Ahidjo	Richard Nixon (1969-1974)
4	Ahmadou Ahidjo	Gerald Ford (1974-1977)
5	Ahmadou Ahidjo (1982)	Jimmy Carter (1977-1981)
6	Paul Biya (1982)	Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)
7	Paul Biya	George Bush (1989-1993)
8	Paul Biya	Bill Clinton (1993-2001)
9	Paul Biya	George W. Bush (2001-2009)
10	Paul Biya	Barack Obama (2009-2012)
11	Paul Biya to date	???????????????? (2012-2016)

- Presidential political system, with parliament and senate (from the French political system). All the powers are centered at the same place in Yaounde.

## 4.2. Population. (20,000,000)

**Religions:** indigenous beliefs 40%, Christian 40%, Muslim 20%

**Gender representation:** 51.6% women and 48.4% men,  
Median age: 19.6 years.

**Population growth rate:**

2.082% (2012),

**Median age:**

19.6 years

**Population growth rate:**

2.02% (2012)

**Urbanization:**

Urban population: 58% of total population

Rate of urbanization: 3.3 % annual rate of change (2010-15 est)

**Life expectancy at birth:**

Total population: 54.71 years

Male: 53.82 years

Female 55.63 years.

**Children under the age of 5 years underweight:**

16.6% (2006)

Literacy:

**Define as people over 15 years who can read and write:**

Total population: 75.9%

Male: 84 %

Female: 67.8%

### **4.3. Economy**

The general incomes are based on oil resources, agriculture, mineral resources and minor exportations.

**Gross domestic product (GDP):** \$47.86 billion

**Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita:** \$2,300

**Growth rate:** 3%

**GDP- composition by sector:**

Agriculture: 19.5 %

Industry: 31%

Services : 49.5%

**Labor force - by occupation:**



agriculture: 70%

industry: 13%

services: 17% (2001 est.)

**Unemployment rate:** 30% (2001 est.)

**Population below poverty line:** 48% (2000 est.)

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):** 2.9 % (2011 est.)

### **Agriculture - products:**

coffee, cocoa, cotton, rubber, bananas, oilseed, grains, cassava (manioc); livestock; timber

### **Industries:**

petroleum production and refining, aluminum production, food processing, light consumer goods, textiles, lumber, ship repair

## **5. Energy**

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**Electricity - production:** 5.421 billion kWh (2008 est.)

Mainly for hydroelectric and gas central

**Electricity – Needed :** 11.000 billion KWh

## **Electricity - exports:**

0 kWh (2009 est.)

## **Electricity - imports:**

0 kWh (2009 est.)

Due to the deficit in energy, all the new sources of energy are welcome. Unfortunately, the new investments in the power sector are mostly for companies and factory, therefore people from the rural area can not benefit from the new installment.

I can say nearly 50 % of people are connected to the national grid. In the major cities like Yaoundé or Douala, everything is Ok, but in the second zones, they are regularly a shortage of power which can sometime last for weeks.

Investment in the new source such as solar panel, winding energy etc. are welcome, but they should be cost efficient otherwise they will benefit only for the wealthy people, who are connected to the national grid.

## 6. References

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- 1- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cm.html>
- 2- <https://maps.google.co.za/>
- 3- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon>