

**“Engaging the African Diaspora in Africa’s Energy Development”
at Howard University, Washington, DC, USA,
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Introduction

Created in 1994 in response to the crisis management of forests, CED (Center for Environment and Development) has set a target of intervention contribute to strengthening the independence of communities by improving their economic situation through activities environmentally friendly and comply with their cultures and lifestyles. Access to energy is transverse to all the development process, CED, next to the theme of the REDD process, is also interested in the implementation of the energy policy in Cameroon, by supporting initiatives such as Ligth4All Cameroon and development projects of renewable energy (solar, biogas) in rural areas.

I. Energy Situation in Africa and Cameroon

Africa is a great paradox (10% of world's proven oil reserves and 7.9% of gas reserves, all of these renewable energies (solar, biomass and water resources) estimated at 1888 TWh per year). The potential energy is significant, but so far the energy consumption is very low. It is much higher in urban than in rural areas where people depend primarily on traditional sources of energy. (Around 69% in urban areas against 19% in rural areas). Cameroon, commonly known as Africa in miniature on the climate context is also on energy, with a rate of access to electricity in urban areas 90.4% against 23.4% in rural areas, about 14% of the 13,000 villages (over 7.4 million) which light the oil lamp. Cameroon spends in terms of oil consumption households 56.4 billion FCFA / year, 40 for the only rural area. The final energy consumption depends on 65% of traditional energy sources (wood, charcoal, etc...), which meet at least 98% of the needs for cooking poorest households, especially in rural areas.

II. State of play

A. The Government

Cameroon is currently working on several projects of hydropower and gas power plant which will be more oriented towards the industrial sector. The rural electrification program led by the Government of Cameroon through the AER¹ has not borne fruit (PDER² 2001, 2005 PANERP³). For several reasons, a fixation on network expansion, low exploration of renewable energy intervention uncoordinated and sometimes without compliance with standards of several government departments and agencies (MINEE⁴, ministries in charge of health and education and FEICOM⁵). This helps to discourage donors.

¹ Rural electrification agency

² Master plan for rural electrification

³ National action plan to reduce energy poverty

⁴ Ministry of water and energy

⁵ Fonds spéciale d'équipement et d'intervention intercommunale

B. Civil society

The side of civil society, pilot projects on the development of renewable energy in rural areas has borne fruit. This is the case of the energy component of DTCA, project organization and development of communities to manage to light more than 200 households in 18 communities in Central and Eastern Cameroon with solar fixtures or 107 and 475 lanterns and solar torches. PES project (environmental service payment) that allowed the village to the east Nomedjoh have drinking water thanks to a water supply with solar powered. Many other initiatives are eager to be supported as Light4All that Cameroon's ambition to promote solar lighting through Fund4Light in the municipalities and the creation of a production unit sunlamp (Light4All production).

II. Expectations

It must be recognized that efforts are being made to facilitate the development of the energy sector with the release of energy sales and the withdrawal of VAT on solar equipment. But we must multiply examples professionalize the sector of renewable energies, opening the modular equipment on site to make more affordable, multiply frameworks for discussion and exchange Africa. To show that we can make our contribution to the development of the energy sector.

Conclusion

Despite the paradox that life in Africa is a vast developing renewable energy. We far behind industrialization based on fossil fuels, but we can take the lead in developing us on the basis of renewable energies. By working together hand in hand, we can make a difference.
