

**Community sensitization and awareness raising on migratory waterbirds and their habitats within and around the newly created Douala-Edea National Park, Cameroon**



Report by: CWCS  
**Coastal Forests & Mangrove Conservation Programme**  
**BP 54 Mouanko, Littoral Region, Cameroon.**

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## PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This six-month project realised through financial assistance from the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) has significantly supported awareness raising and sensitization of local communities and other stakeholders on migratory waterbirds, linked also to a research project supported by Wetlands International. The campaign focused on the importance, benefits and habitats of waterbirds and the need to minimise disturbance within and around the newly created Douala-Edea National Park as well as the integration of waterbirds in the future management plan of the park. Key achievements of the project include:

- Wide coverage of the national park villages about 70% with successful sensitisation campaigns
- Over 240 coloured posters of flagship migratory birds species were produced, distributed and pasted in village traditional head premises, nursery, primary and high schools, technical government services of agriculture, forestry, police and gendarmerie posts.
- High level awareness raised during the celebration of the World Migratory Birds Day bringing together administrative and municipal stakeholders who highlighted the need for future environmental impact assessment of development projects to consider migratory waterbirds.
- Student master theses defence sessions in the university on migratory water birds further beef up sensitization activities in higher educational circles.
- Policy actions (Cameroon Accession to AEWA approved by June-July parliamentary session promulgated by the President of the Republic). Prior to national assembly validation, the Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife held several consultations sessions with CWCS on migratory waterbirds.

In terms of future perspectives:

1. Awareness raising and education programs in schools and local communities should continue in order to fully educate and sensitize local people on the importance, values, and threats on waterbirds for their protection and of their habitats into the future.
2. Encourage better participation of women.
3. Local councils should support construction of toilets and drinking wells and train village health scouts for community health programs. The project will continue to explore funding opportunities to assist municipal administration and local health services in this domain.
4. CWCS will continue working with different stakeholders in the park including village communities, government and municipal administrations to sensitize them to protect migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Project rationale**

The Douala Edea National Park, which constitutes one of the most important biologically rich protected areas of the coastal and marine ecosystems in Central Africa, is in the littoral region of Cameroon (9°31' - 10°05'E, 3°14' - 3°53'N, see map - Annex 1). It covers an area of about 300,000 hectares wedged in its position both by man and nature by a large-scale palm oil plantation in the North East, a subsistent small agriculture and larger fishing population of over 20,000 people in more than 40 villages to the North West and the voluptuous Atlantic Ocean in the South. The national park consist of a former wildlife reserve of 160,000 ha with 54% new protected area and an extension of an additional 40,000 ha of forests harbouring important wildlife species such as elephants, chimpanzees and threatened black colobus monkeys (*Colobus santanas*). The marine ecosystem component of about 100,000 ha with 40,000 ha of pristine mangrove forests consists of assemblages of fisheries and threatened marine fauna including sea turtles and West African manatees. The national park with its dense hydrological network and extensive mud- and sand- flats is habitat and a visiting site for over 70 species of resident and migratory waterbirds.

Created in October 2018, Douala-Edea National Park habitats span terrestrial, marine, river and lake ecosystems creating a diverse site of both terrestrial and aquatic species. The wildlife populations including migratory waterbirds and other natural resources of the newly created national park are continuously threatened by hunting, the bush meat trade and habitat destruction as a result of increasing human population in the area.

Education, awareness and sensitization activities targeting local communities and other stakeholders were thus highly relevant for this project.

### **Project Goal:**

The goal was to educate and sensitize local communities and other stakeholders on migratory waterbirds, their flyways, their importance, benefits and their habitats minimising disturbance within and around the newly created Douala-Edea National Park and their integration in the future management plan of the park.

### **Project Outputs:**

1. Sensitization, awareness raising and community outreach activities on migratory waterbirds, their importance, benefits and their habitats as well as minimising disturbance and the flyway approach to conservation were implemented, targeting villages and other stakeholders in and around new Douala-Edea National Park.
2. Communication materials were developed to facilitate awareness and sensitization programs
3. Local communities and stakeholders were mobilised to actively engage with and inclusively participate in management of the new national park, including a World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) event.

4. A detailed report was produced at the end of the project providing recommendations for integration of waterbirds and management of their habitats in the future management plan.

### **Planned Activities**

1. Carry out stakeholder sensitization and outreach programs
2. Produce and distribute cartoons, posters and support materials for awareness raising
3. Engage primary and secondary schools through quizzes and other education programs.
4. Disseminate information materials in local languages, especially in areas frequently visited by waterbirds.
5. Produce a final report.

## **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Project implementation is divided into two main phases: Phase 1: Douala-Edea National Park Community Sensitisation & Awareness raising (January – June 2019) and Phase 2: Beyond Douala-Edea nationwide awareness raising & Reporting (July – November 2019).

Phase 1: Douala-Edea National Park Community Sensitisation & Awareness raising was entirely supported by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat with the activities carried out by CWCS working with different stakeholders of the park area. The project enjoyed the support of and collaboration with local communities, municipal councils and local administrative authorities. The following field activities were implemented during the adjusted project period from January to December 2019 (Table 1):

1. Carry out stakeholder sensitization and outreach programs targeting villages, fishing camps, extractive companies and other stakeholders on migratory waterbirds and their habitats and flyways, encouraging all stakeholders to minimise disturbance in and around the new national park.
2. Produce and distribute cartoons, posters and support materials for awareness raising.
3. Engage primary and secondary schools around the new national park in wildlife quizzes and other education programs targeting youth.
4. Produce a final report incorporating the results of attitude and perception surveys that will be conducted in target communities (15 village locations) to monitor behavioral changes over time. The report also gives an overview of all waterbirds and their migratory status and provide recommendations for integration of waterbirds and management of their habitats in the future management plan.

Table 1 shows timelines for the activities as well as milestones for completion of each activity.

**Table 1: Timelines for project implementation activities January –December 2019**

Activity	2019/Month											
	Phase 1: Douala-Edea National Park Community Sensitisation & Awareness raising						Phase 2: Beyond Douala-Edea nationwide awareness raising & Reporting					
	Jan	Feb	Mars	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1-Proposal preparation												
2-Signature of contract												
3-Project launching with local communities												
4-Design & produce sensitisation materials with Tim Dodman's inputs												
5- Conduct sensitisation meetings & distribute sensitisation materials												
6-Conduct perception & attitude surveys												
7-Celebration of World Migratory Birds Day												
8-Inputs to Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife Migratory Waterbirds bill to parliament												
9-Data analysis & scientific reporting												
10-Student thesis defence & sensitisation in universities												
11-Report preparation/ scientific publications												
12-Final Project Report												
13-Project Report submission to project donors												

## PROJECT RESULTS

The project results giving listed activities in the funding agreement are presented in Table 2.

Key achievements of the project are:

- Wide coverage of the national park villages at about 70% with successful sensitisation campaigns.
- Over 240 coloured posters of flagship migratory bird species were produced, distributed and pasted in village traditional head premises, nursery, primary and high schools, technical government services of agriculture, forestry, police and gendarmerie posts.

- High level awareness raised during the celebration of World Migratory Birds Day bringing together administrative and municipal stakeholders who highlighted the need for future environmental impact assessment of development projects to consider migratory waterbirds.
- Student master theses defence sessions in the university on migratory water birds further beef up sensitization activities in higher educational circles.
- Policy actions (Cameroon Accession to AEWA approved by June-July parliamentary session promulgated by the President of the Republic). Prior to national assembly validation the Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife held several consultations sessions with CWCS on migratory waterbirds.

**Table 2: Results achieved**

Activity	Comments & perspectives
1. Stakeholder sensitization and outreach programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several sensitization campaigns were carried out covering the 15 village locations making up the park with each 15 village locations covering a cluster of 4-6 villages located within the coastal, inland and riverine areas of the park.</li> <li>• Over 240 coloured posters were produced (see below) to support the sensitization programs.</li> <li>• Community discussions and focused group sessions including presentations and feedback through questions characterized the sensitization campaigns.</li> <li>• A round table conference was organized to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day (11 May) with sport marches in Mouanko town (park headquarters).</li> </ul>
2. Awareness materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 240 coloured posters of flagship migratory birds species were produced, distributed and pasted in village traditional head premises, technical government services of agriculture, forestry, police and gendarmerie posts, some universities (see Annex 3 for sample of posters).</li> </ul>
3. Engage primary and secondary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quizzes and other education and sensitization programs were administered to primary and secondary schools around the park including gauging their perception and attitudes towards migratory waterbirds. Most of these analyses can be found as part of the thesis work of students (see Annex 5).</li> </ul>
4. Produce a final report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final reports produced with knowledge products annexed as follows:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sensitisation posters</li> <li>2. Report of Celebration of World Migratory Bird Day</li> <li>3. Student thesis that captures and analyses results of attitude and perception surveys in targeted communities and schools; migratory bird checklist to the park in French and English.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Funding received from the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat was €4,000.00 (four thousand Euros) which was equivalent to CFA 2,620,000 (two million six hundred and twenty thousand francs) in local currency. The expenditures following the approved budget items are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 presents a financial statement for funds received strictly from the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat and spent on approved project activities implemented between March and June 2019. Activities such as data processing, sensitisation of other stakeholders, scientific reporting and final report production were covered by CWCS.

**Table 3: Financial statements**

I-INCOME	DATE RECEIVED	EUROS(€) RECEIVED	LOCAL CURRENCY RECEIVED
Grant received from Common Wadden Sea Secretariat	<b>10/03/2019</b>	4 000.00	2 620 000
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED:</b>		<b>4 000.00</b>	<b>2 620 000</b>

### II-EXPENDITURE

Code	Budget Item	Total Budget	Total Budget	March	April	May	June
		(local currency (XAF))	Euros (€)	Euros (€)	Euros (€)	Euros (€)	Euros (€)
<b>1.0.</b>	<b>Personnel</b>						
1.1	DSA (feeding, lodging) for (project coordinator, 1 animator, boat/car driver & 1 guide interpreter	1 200 000	1 829.27		609.76	609.76	609.76
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 200 000</b>	<b>1 829</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>610</b>
<b>2.0.</b>	<b>Community sensitisation materials &amp; meetings</b>	-	-				
2.1	Production of community sensitisation materials	600 000	914.63	914.63			
2.2	Community sensitisation meetings (refreshments, etc)	757 500	1 154.73		384.91	384.91	384.91
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 357 500</b>	<b>2 069</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>385</b>
<b>3.0.</b>	<b>Transportation &amp; logistics</b>	-	-				
3.1	Water transport boat fuel (petrol & engine oil)	560 000	854		285	285	285
3.2	Land transport boat fuel (gazoil)	163 750	249.62		83.21	83.21	83.21
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>723 750</b>	<b>1 103</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>368</b>
	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3 281 250</b>	<b>5 002</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1 362</b>	<b>1 362</b>	<b>1 362</b>

### III-BALANCE

	<b>Balance (to be sent to CWCS)</b>	<b>- 661 250</b>	<b>- 1 000</b>				
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## **CONSTRAINTS AND PERSPECTIVES**

Financial assistance from Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative significantly contributed to project results particularly on awareness raising within local communities on the importance, values and threats on waterbirds in order to establish strategies for their protection and their habitats. However there were some constraints such as:

- ❖ Despite the massive participation of the population in the awareness campaigns in the villages most did not move to attend the round table in Mouanko due to a lack of logistical means.
- ❖ The delay in the execution of the conference given the overburdened program of the administrative authorities.

In terms of future perspectives:

1. Awareness raising and education programs in schools and local communities should continue in order to fully educate and sensitize the people on the importance, values, and threats to waterbirds for their protection and of their habitats into the future.
2. Encourage better participation of women.
3. Local councils should support construction of toilets and drinking wells and train village health scouts for community health programs. The project will continue to explore funding opportunities to assist municipal administration and local health services in this domain.
4. CWCS will continue working with different stakeholders in the park including village communities, government and municipal administrations to sensitize them to protect migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

## **ANNEXES**

Annex 1. Map of Douala-Edea National Park

Annex 2: Some field sensitization photos

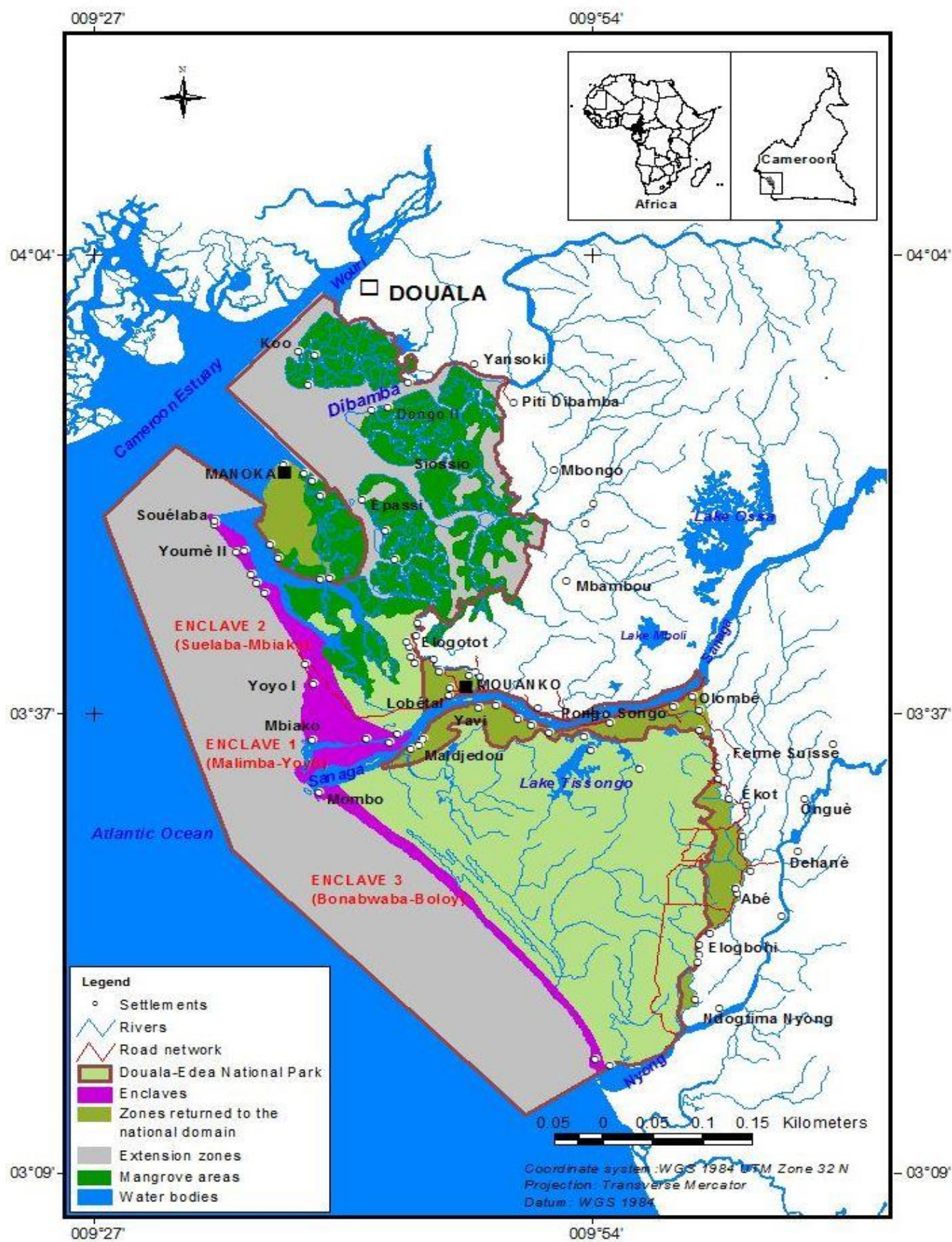
Annex 3: Sensitization posters

Annex 4: Report of the celebration of World Migratory Bird Day (11 May 2019)

Annex 5: Student thesis & publication

Annex 6: Policy actions (Cameroon Accession to AEWA approved by June-July parliamentary session promulgated by the President of the Republic).

## Annex 1. Map of Douala-Edea National Park





**Annex 2: Some field sensitization photos**





**Annex 6:** Policy actions (Cameroon Accession to AEWA approved by June-July parliamentary session promulgated by the President of the Republic).

## Newspaper articles

**10** Cameroon Tribune  
Lundi, 24 juin 2019

**Hémicycle**

**Senate**

# Wildlife Heritage Bill Tabled

■ It strives to protect migratory waterbirds which are increasingly becoming scarce and endangered and Cameroon's biodiversity in general.

**Eulalia AMABO**

**A** bill defining immediate measures to be implemented to stop the decline of migratory waterbird species and their habitat in the geographical area of the African-Eurasian waterbird migration system has been tabled before the Senate on June 21, 2019 during a plenary sitting of the House chaired by its President, Marcel Niat Njifenji in the presence of the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Relations with the Assemblies, Bouvine Wakala. The Bill No 126/PL/SEM/CL seeks to authorise the President of the Republic to proceed with Cameroon's accession to the Agreement on the Conservation of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) signed on August 15, 1996 at the Hague, the Netherlands. Migratory waterbirds constitute an important part of Cameroon's biological diversity and should be conserved for the benefit of the present and future generations in accordance with the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Agreement comprising 16 articles precede by a preamble, calls on parties to take coordinated measures within the limits of their national jurisdiction to maintain migratory waterbird species in a favourable conservation status or to restore them to such a status by giving special attention to endangered species as well as those with an unfavourable conservation status.

Cameroon's accession to the Agreement, going by explanatory notes, will enable it to safeguard a significant part of its rich wildlife heritage through benefits from research and continuous monitoring projects, as part of the

*Senate President (middle) chaired the plenary sitting.*

fight against highly pathogenic bird diseases. Specific actions required of signatory parties in line with the general conservation of migratory waterbirds such as species conservation, habitat conservation, management of human activities, research and continuous monitoring, education and information are clearly outlined in Article four of the Agreement.

The government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has been designated as the Depositary of the Agreement and contribution to the budget of the Agreement will be in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment, according to Article 5(2) of the Agreement.

Summarily, the tabled bill targets the protection of migratory waterbirds in the geographical area of the African-Eurasian waterbird migration systems which are increasingly becoming scarce, endangered and vulnerable because they migrate over long distances and dependent on networks of wetlands that are decreasing in extent and becoming degraded through unsustainable and irrational human activities. Harmful effects of industrial and agricultural pollutants that constitute others risks to waterbirds are some other aspects the bill seeks to address for the protection of the birds.

Document de la Formation Professionnelle

**Espace parlementaire**

**Hémicycle**

## Un texte sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau

■ Le projet de loi sur l'adhésion du Cameroun à cet accord a été déposé vendredi dernier, lors d'une séance plénière présidée par le Très honorable Guyoué Yégué Djiptil.

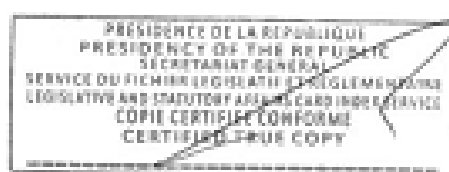
**Alexandra TSHUEN N.**

**L**es oiseaux d'eau migrateurs sont des espèces vivant essentiellement en zones humides. Le Cameroun, est un de leur territoire. Or, leur survie est menacée, lorsque certains ne sont pas en voie d'extinction. Du fait des pratiques de chasse et de pêche, des captures accidentelles dans les pêcheries qui prélèvent des milliers d'animaux, la menace vient également de la destruction des zones humides des forêts et

## Cameroon adhesion to AEWA

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

PAIX – TRAVAIL – PATRIE



LOI N° 2019/013 DU 19 JUIL 2019

AUTORISANT LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE À PROCÉDER À  
L'ADHÉSION DU CAMEROUN À L'ACCORD SUR LA CONSERVATION  
DES OISEAUX D'EAU MIGRATEURS D'AFRIQUE-EURASIE (AEWA),  
SIGNÉ LE 15 AOÛT 1996 À LA HAYE, AUX PAYS-BAS

*Le Parlement a délibéré et adopté, le  
Président de la République promulgue la  
loi dont la teneur suit :*

**ARTICLE 1<sup>er</sup>.**- Le Président de la République est autorisé à procéder à l'adhésion du Cameroun à l'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (AEWA), signé le 15 août 1996 à la Haye, aux Pays-Bas.

**ARTICLE 2.**- La présente loi sera enregistrée, publiée suivant la procédure d'urgence, puis insérée au Journal Officiel en français et en anglais./-

YAOUNDE, le 19 JUIL 1991

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE



PAUL BIYA

