



# Bamboo Policy Integration Analysis, Cameroon

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## 1. Background

Forest resources and especially Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) have long contributed to the subsistence needs of the rural people in Cameroon through the provision of goods and services such as food, medicines, materials, tools, fodder, cosmetics, and cultural objects (Ngansop et al., 2019). Bamboo is an important NTFP catering to the diverse consumer demands for natural, environmentally friendly products, providing income and livelihoods in developing countries, contributing to reforestation and climate change mitigation (Perez et al., 2004). The bamboo sector has huge potentials to contribute to the development of Cameroon, as it is providing up to USD 3,625 per year to some harvesters (Ingram and Tieguhong, 2013). Bamboo is found across Cameroon's diverse ecosystems from dry to humid tropical and Afrotropical forests (Ingram and Tieguhong, 2013; Nfonkaha et al., 2020). In countries such as China and India where the bamboo sector is active and regulated by policies and programmes, the sector contributes significantly to economic growth. Thus, strong bamboo policies, strategies and programmes can enhance environmental and socio-economic resilience thus, foster the livelihood of local populations. In Cameroon, despite the socio-economic and ecological importance bamboo presents, policies directly regulating the bamboo sector remain absent or missing literature.

## 2. Objective

The main objective of this study was to analyse relevant complementary policies, strategies or programmes on thematic areas such as forestry and environment, landscape restoration, bio-energy and rural employment to ensure that newly drafted or existing bamboo policies/programmes are fully linked to national sustainable development planning to leverage increased investment in bamboo development in Cameroon.

## 3. Methodology

Two main methods of data collection were employed in this study. These were content analysis of various literature, policies, programme documents, plans and declarations of the government; and field survey. Information was collected from the field through interviews of key resource persons from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOP), the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts, development partners (FAO, IUCN, INBAR), technical support agencies (IRAD, ANAFOR, University Researchers), Civil Society (CSO) Organizations (FODER) and bamboo primary stakeholders such as harvesters, sellers, craftsmen. The data was then analyzed to understand the policy gaps as well as opportunities for bamboo policy integration in Cameroon.

## 4. Key Results

### 4. Bamboo Policy framework in Cameroon

#### 4.1.1. Bamboo relevant Policies, laws, legislations, or regulatory framework in Cameroon

The key policy that has linked up to bamboo is thus:

- Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 which lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fishery regulations in Cameroon (under review),
- Decree N° 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995 fixing the modalities for the application of the Forest Regime in article 5(1) authorises MINFOP to fix a list of special products.
- Decision No. 0209/D/MINFOP/CAB of 26 April 2019; classifies special forest products and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs),
- No. 0210/D/MINFOP/CAB of 26 April 2019, MINFOP lays down modalities of collection and transportation of NTFPs.
- Decision N° 0034/D/MINFOP/CAB of 05 February 2020, lay down conditions for transportation of NTFPs from plantations.

N/B: Bamboo is classified as NTFPs.

#### 4.1.2. Policies, laws, legislations, or regulatory framework indirectly related to bamboo in Cameroon

There are policies, laws, legislations or regulatory frames indirectly related to bamboo development thus:

- Law No. 96/12 of 5 August 1996, on environmental management, lays down the general legal framework for environmental management, and chapter 5, article 68 makes provisions for the protection of land against erosion and the prevention and fight against desertification;
- law N° 2019/024 of 24/Dec. 2019 on Bill to institute the general code of Regional and Local Authorities devolves power to local councils' authorities to manage the environment and natural resources, among which is bamboo;
- law N° 2011/015 of 15/Nov./2011 Bill N° 896/PJL/AN governing the electricity sector in Cameroon; makes provision in section 63, considering biomass energy as renewable; thus bamboo can be develop for biofuels.
- A companion law, Ordinance No. 74-2 of 6 July 1974, addresses the governance of state land. These laws create a tenure system based on land registration: all privately-owned land must be registered and titled to retain its character as private land.

#### 4.1.3. National Strategies, Action plans and Programmes relevant to the bamboo sector development in Cameroon

##### National Strategies:

- National Strategy for Bamboo Sector development in Cameroon.

##### Action plans:

- National Development Plan for NTFPs;
- National Plan for Bamboo Development in Cameroon (2018)

##### Programmes:

- Inter Africa Bamboo small holder farmer programme implemented in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Ghana
- The Restoration Initiative (TRI): Bamboo for restoration of degraded Forest landscape
- The IFAD-China South South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC): for knowledge sharing and networking for bamboo standard development

### 4.2. Key sectors to invest in the bamboo development in Cameroon

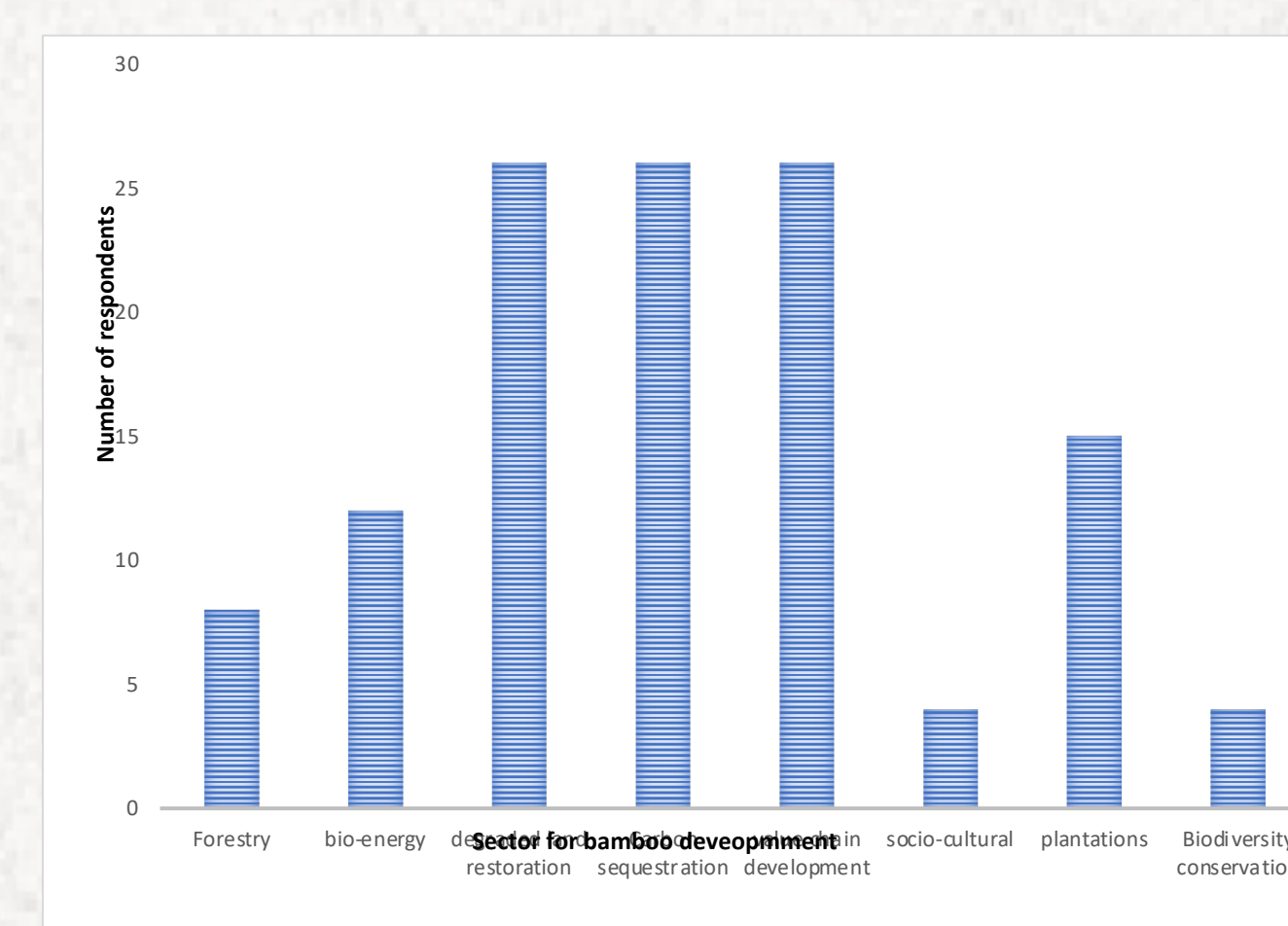


Figure 1: different sectors for bamboo investment

### 4.3. Key bamboo stakeholders in the bamboo sector development

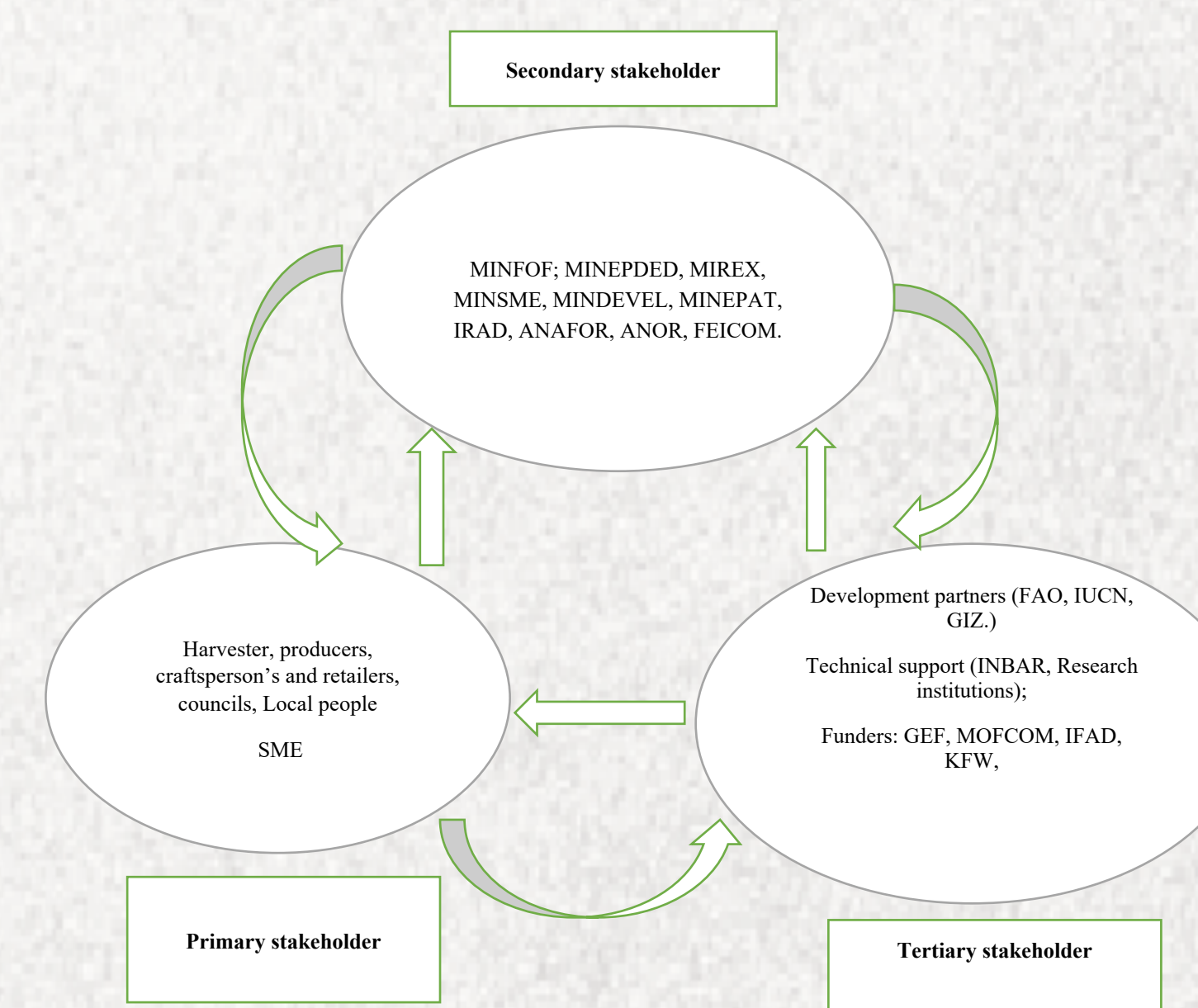


Figure 2 Bamboo stakeholder in Cameroon

## 5. Conclusions

The Forestry law in Cameroon do not lay any particular attention on Bamboo, thus contributes to the invisibility of this product in the Forestry policy, The Ministry in charge of Forestry has elaborated the national strategy for bamboo and action plans towards the development of the bamboo sector, and relevant sectors were identified suitable for bamboo investment and Finally, Bamboo sector development stakeholders were identified, with enthusiasm to work together for the benefit of the sector,

## Perspectives

A bamboo policy need assessment is needed to ascertain whether the sector need an independent policy for bamboo,

## Recommendations

Review the 1994 forestry and 1974 land tenure laws to integrate bamboo development, land ownership and users' right, to make provision for incentives that will attract investments in the bamboo sector;

