# Cameroon's Agricultural Policy in the Face of Resistance to the Deforestation of Tropical Rainforests

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Abstract: The Congo Basin is the second largest forest reserve in the world after the Amazon rainforest. It covers an area of 16,876,143 hectares (consolidation of data and vegetation produced by UCL, JRC and SDSU). This area includes dense lowland forests, swamp forests, montane forests and others. Resistance to the deforestation process is essentially linked to agricultural and fuelwood exploitation in rural areas. Both small-scale and large-scale farming practices are contributing to the gradual destruction of forest cover in the Congo Basin. From pre-colonial times to the present day, agriculture has played a central role in Cameroon's economic development. Indeed, its evolution is linked to major events in its socio-economic life, such as the economic crisis, the devaluation of the CFA franc and structural adjustment program.

Keywords: Agriculture, Deforestation, Environmental Protection, Cognitive Approach

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

The forest is a biotope that is home to a variety of ecosystems and a diversity of living species. In ecology, it is a 'biodiversity hotspot'. Species interact with each other without dominating, which contributes to the balance of ecosystems. Human agricultural and extractive activities contribute to the destruction of their living environment, with major consequences for their future. REDD is emerging as a solution to the problem of increased deforestation of tropical rainforests. It offers a stimulating economic framework for developing countries, making it possible to limit the deforestation and degradation of this crucial forest. This initiative was launched at the Conference of the Parties and places a financial value on stored carbon, which is then traded on the international carbon market. REDD+ has broader objectives, such as sustainable management, but it is really an evolution of the previous system, reinforcing the principle of the carbon tax. It emphasizes the allocation of carbon credits to local communities, encouraging agricultural activities to enhance forest areas, infrastructure development and the reforestation of damaged areas through agroforestry. It aims to increase the productivity of cultivated land in order to combat deforestation. The active participation of the global community underlines the urgency of reassessing our management of forest ecosystems. Agriculture is the main cause of tropical deforestation. Indeed, second-generation rainforest agriculture, which underpins extensive and intensive farming in Cameroon, is one of the main drivers.

The international context of deforestation and the development of a new agricultural policy in Cameroon are now established. This allows us to discuss the existing literature on the links between agriculture and deforestation. This discussion is based on an initial econometric perspective using the Borlaug<sup>1</sup> hypothesis. For Patrick Baheke<sup>2</sup>, increasing agricultural yields reduces the rate of deforestation and is an important means of solving the problem of deforestation in the Congo Basin through large-scale food production. The aim is to remedy low agricultural productivity, which is the main challenge facing developing countries, according to Barbier and Hochard<sup>3</sup>. In fact, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2012, food insecurity affects around 870 million people worldwide, or 12% of the world's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Considéré sous l'angle de l'économie, l'hypothèse de borlaug peut donc être formulé comme suit : l'augmentation des rendements, et par la suite de la production à l'hectare, conduit à une baisse du prix des denrées agricoles en raison du surcroit d'offre relativement à la demande, donc de la rentabilité à l'hectare, et enfin conduit à un ajustement de l'offre par une moindre croissance des surfaces. « Feeding a hungry world » 19 octobre 2007, p 359

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Novice Patrick Bakehe « productivité agricole et déforestation dans le bassin du Congo » dans économie rurale 2018/4 (N° 366), p5-19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Barbier, E. B., & Hochard, J. P. (2018). Land degradation and poverty. *Nature Sustainability*, *1*(11), 623-631.

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population, 27% of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the UN, the world's population is set to grow rapidly, reaching around 40% by 2050. This implies an increase in agricultural production and productivity of around 70%, and 100% in developing economies. The impact on tropical rainforests will be considerable. However, another approach focuses on agroforestry to combat increasing deforestation. Consequently, combating deforestation is tantamount to promoting agroforestry. For Camille Reyniers<sup>4</sup>, understanding the factors influencing the adoption of agroforestry practices in the Democratic Republic of Congo is very important. He highlights the importance of limited forest resources, dependence on agriculture, land tenure instability and the role of agriculture in the sustainable protection of forests. How can we make sense of farming methods and tropical rainforest protection?

Using the cognitive approach<sup>5</sup> to public policy analysis, this article aims to highlight the relationship of influence between agricultural practices, deforestation and the process of climate change. It aims to highlight the causal link between these three phenomena. This intrinsic link highlights a 'normative action'<sup>6</sup> dimension of environmental protection from the colonial to the post-colonial period. Examine the evolution of rhetoric in Cameroon following the introduction of cash crops and the establishment of a regulatory framework for environmental protection. The international context for environmental protection and mitigation of deforestation reflects a desire for 'global justice'7 through participatory greenhouse gas management and regulation of logging on a global scale. In this article, we examine how cash crops were introduced into Cameroon, drawing on the various colonial administrative experiences it has undergone (1). We will highlight the influence of practices on the deforestation process, while studying the agricultural evolution and modernization that the country has undergone thanks to its second-generation agricultural policy. This policy involves the massive use of forest cover, the mechanization of farming techniques, and the use of chemical fertilizers and other agricultural products that affect soil fertility by impoverishing it. Persistent deforestation for agricultural reasons has harmful consequences for the environment and contributes to global warming (2).

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#### II. AGRICULTURAL POLICY AS A BENCHMARK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CAMEROON

The implantation of the Germans, followed by that of the administrations under the mandate of the League of Nations and under the supervision of the United Nations, had profound effects on the Cameroonian landscape. Colonial settlement can be seen as triggering a process of deforestation, the effects of which are already being felt through climate change. The introduction of agricultural practices encouraged the promotion of cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, plantain bananas, rubber trees and oil palms. It also changed the Cameroonian people's relationship with nature (1.1). Colonial settlement had an impact on the forest, even if its effects were not yet felt. In addition, there are still relatively few mechanisms in place to supervise and raise awareness of forest protection (1.2).

### > Promoting Cash Crop Farming

The crisis of the nineteenth century in Germany had repercussions on its foreign policy. In this respect, the acquisition of new territories represented a golden opportunity to solve the agricultural problems facing Germany. Settling in Africa, particularly Cameroon, proved to be an opportunity for the Germans. German agricultural policy in Cameroon was based on finding outlets for the country's overproduction. In addition, the German Parliament's hostility to imperialism forced the German administration in Cameroon to look for local sources of supply. To achieve this, it set up a system of exploitation through its expansionist economic policy. This system had repercussions on its relations with the indigenous populations. In fact, the farming methods used by coastal communities bear witness to the richness of Cameroon's land. The abundant presence of different plant species, spices, latex, palm nuts and other agricultural products demonstrates Cameroon's vast agrarian potential. With land management on the coast the responsibility of local chiefs, Woerman began to infiltrate the forest in search of land. This was how the colony's first major plantation came into being, following the acquisition of vast concessions in the Edéa area. The discovery by Westerners of a different way of life in Africa reinforced their feeling of superiority towards Africans, perceiving them as barbaric and uncivilized, possessing natural riches that they were unable to fully appreciate. Some people think that most people on the African coast are savages or barbarians. They are devoid of industry and art, and they possess an abundance of precious metals that they get directly from nature. This shows the level of consideration, even disdain, that even the most intellectual Westerners have for the African peoples. The driving force behind their activities in Africa is their desire to exploit the agricultural base and their desire to dominate in order to ensure the supremacy of the white race.

In 1884<sup>8</sup>, German trading companies established trade relations with the people of the coast thanks to the signing of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Reyniers, C. (2021). Reducing deforestation and forest degradation in Democratic Republic of Congo: marketbased conservation in a context of limited statehood. *Review* of African Political Economy, 48(170), 509-528

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Muller, P. (2000). L'analyse cognitive des politiques publiques : vers une sociologie politique de l'action publique. *Revue française de science politique*, 189-207

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Muller p. et Y. Surel, 1998, l'analyse des politiques publiques, paris, Montchrestien, collection clefs, 153p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Renaut A, encyclopédie de la culture politique contemporaine, paris Hermann 2008 éditeurs des sciences et des arts p 711-715

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Rodrigue Ngando Sandjè, «Le traité germano-douala du 12 juillet 1884 : Étude contemporaine sur la formation des

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the German-Douala treaty9. The signing of this treaty provided a legal basis for the establishment of German trading companies (woerman, jantzen und thoermalen) and concessionary companies (sudkamer gesellshaft, Nord-est kamerun gesellshaft). With the agreement of the colonial administration, the latter imposed their laws on land management, with the protection of the army and the agreement of the church. At this time, various German companies embarked on a vast land acquisition policy aimed at establishing vast agricultural plantations. Cocoa, coffee, bananas, rubber and oil palms were grown on the slopes of Mount Cameroon. To facilitate the transport of products, they began building roads, railway lines and ports for ships. To solve communication problems, the Germans built communication infrastructures such as telegraph, telephone and radio-telegraph lines. This process of modernising Cameroon began and was to have a significant impact on the Cameroonian environment, gradually changing the Cameroonian people's way of life and their relationship with the forest and their environment.

Be that as it may, German spatial expansion did not go smoothly. The natives resisted the plundering of their land and commercial zones, particularly on the banks of the Wouri, an area highly prized by the Germans. The local chief Lock Priso, who refused to sign the German-Douala treaties, was attacked by German warships (Bismarck and Olga)<sup>10</sup>. The Germans also encountered fierce resistance in Adamaoua, particularly from the Mandara kingdom. The Bamoum kingdom, for its part, avoided confrontation by negotiating with the Germans thanks to its leader, Ibrahim Njoya. He thus retained his power over his people. In addition, the German action was aided by certain chiefs, including Fon Galega I of Bali, the Bamoum sultan Ibrahim Njoya and Chief Charles Atangana, who would later be appointed 'Oberhaüptling' superior chief of Yaoundé by the Germans. The Germans then embarked on a long project of expansion and agricultural exploitation, which led to colonization by inhabitants who did not hesitate to destroy the forest, thus changing their relationship with the environment. This German agricultural expansionist policy came to an end when Germany lost the First World War and was replaced by France and Great Britain in 1914.

The German defeat dealt a blow to the agricultural policy established by the Germans in Cameroon. Indeed, in 1916, the German presence in Cameroon came to an end, and the French and British arrived on Cameroonian territory. The French therefore sought to follow Germany's lead by adopting its farming programme. Due to their reluctance to return pre-war assets to German companies, France reallocated some of these companies to French companies, making it the largest company under French mandate. It continued to intensify the use of agricultural resources, such as cocoa, coffee and palm oil, as well as exploiting the forest to provide metropolitan France with the raw materials it needed. French policy was based on the assimilation of indigenous peoples and the exploitation of their labour force through forced labour. It was also involved in building infrastructure, in particular bridges and airports, as well as completing the Douala-Yaoundé railway line, which had been started by Germany. Through its agricultural policy, France aimed to build a bourgeois class based on agriculture, a 'new indigenous class'<sup>11</sup>. The United Kingdom grouped the German companies in its territory into a single entity, like the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC), which covered around 100,000 ha and used only 22,102 ha in 1966<sup>12</sup>. The United Kingdom became involved in logging by financing the renovation of the river port of Mamfe through its brand new company. The colonial imprint has had an impact on the environment and the tropical rainforest. But what about colonial practices that contribute to the process of conservation and environmental protection?

#### > The Discursive Relativity of Farming Systems in the Deforestation Process

The Douala chiefs agreed to grant a protectorate to the German traders, but this was done reluctantly, as some of them had always wanted to be under the protection of the English. The Germans acquired territorial responsibility through their colonial ventures by practicing intensive agriculture that took no account of environmental impacts. At the time, environmental considerations took second place to maximizing profit and wealth production<sup>13</sup>. The German farm occupies a vast area, involving massive deforestation of the tropical rainforest and the destruction of several ecosystems. It stretches from the heights of Mount Cameroon to the mangrove swamps of the south, via the Mungo in the east and north. The German plantations are the

contrats dans l'ordre juridique intemporel», in Revue québécoise de droit international, no 29.1, 2016

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 'Several treaties were signed before this one: the Anglo-Douala contract of 10 June 1840, the Anglo-Douala treaty of 7 May 1841 and the Anglo-Douala treaty of 29 April 1852. These treaties provided for an end to the sale and transport of slaves. The Anglo-Douala agreement of 13 December 1861 prohibits responding to a murder with a similar act. The Akwa-Woermann agreement of 30 January 1883 relates to the protection of the property and agents of the Woerman firm in Akwa. (2021, février 05). Wikipédia, l'encyclopédie libre. Page consultée le 13 :10, janvier 12, 2021 à partir de http://fr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Trait%C3%A9\_ger mano-douala&oldid=178729180

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Publié dans la « illustrirte Zeitung » le 28 février 1885

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Ministry of Colonies stated in 1924: 'It is in our interest to create an agricultural bourgeoisie which will form the stabilising element of the population and will be a significant auxiliary for the local government. It will then be possible for us to create a balanced class in opposition to the elements that are too inclined towards speculative thinking and to extremist ideas...'.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> cf. S.F Bederman the cameroons development corporation, Partner in national growth, London, 1968, 79 p, 6 cartes. Et S. ardener, w. A. Wormington, plantations and villages in the cameroons, oxford, 1960, 450 p

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Du VERDIER, H. (1983). EN MARGE DU MARXISME : Plus-value, profit et rentabilité. *La Revue administrative*, *36*(213), 263-270.

largest in the region and the country, and the first in Cameroon. They mainly produce crops to meet Germany's needs, such as rubber, cocoa, banana and oil palm. As a result, the newly-acquired territory is being developed through agriculture, forestry and mining.

Products are transported over fairly long distances on human backs. For example, bags of rubber trees or bunches of bananas are transported from Kribi to Yaoundé or Lolodorf. It was because of these difficulties that the Germans built the Kribi-Lolodorf-Yaoundé Road in 1912. In 1911, they also built a rail network linking Mungo to Douala, then Douala to Nkongsamba. German traders were not concerned about environmental issues. Their lack of interest in environmental issues may be partly explained by the fact that the signatories to the treaty on the German side were representatives of the German merchant companies, which they made clear in the treaty. In Cameroon, the representatives are traditional chiefs, who are still endowed with a traditional rationality<sup>14</sup> and, consequently, do not have the assets to be able to contribute fully and effectively to the clauses of the treat $y^{15}$ .

Promoting discourse on environmental issues during the colonial era was not a priority for Westerners established in Cameroon. As a result, the agricultural practices of the forest peoples gradually evolved into a capitalist activity, with harmful consequences for the people and the environment. With this in mind, agriculture has been the foundation of the Cameroonian economy since independence.

#### III. THE NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND RESISTANCE TO DEFORESTATION

Resistance to the process of deforestation can be seen in colonial agricultural activity, which is in fact the element on which the newly independent state is based. For Cameroon, therefore, it was not a question of reinventing itself through its first government, but of promoting secondgeneration agriculture through the voice of the President of the Republic at the opening ceremony of the agro-pastoral fair in the South Cameroon region (2.1). However, the environmental impact of intensive agriculture can already be seen, for example, in climate change and the annual destruction of the ozone layer caused by agricultural deforestation (2.2).

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## Second-Generation Agriculture as the New Frame of Reference for Cameroon's Agricultural Policy

For a long time, agriculture was the main source of economic growth and income in Cameroon, until the start of oil exploitation in 1978. As a result, communities are turning to the production of food, fruit and cash crops. According to World Bank estimates, annual global production of plantains is around 4,9 million tonnes<sup>16</sup>, while that of cassava and maize is 3 and 1 million tonnes respectively<sup>17</sup>. Food crops include pineapple, melon, mango, mandarin orange, grapefruit and avocado. Cultivation of dry beans, onions, tomatoes and garlic is on the increase in CEMAC countries, according to World Bank data. The average annual growth rate is around 4% from 2008 to 2011. Agricultural production is making a significant contribution to this growth, after oil production. Cocoa production supports around 600,000 families. The collapse in world cocoa prices in 2017 has led to a drop in the prices paid to farmers. In addition, multinationals such as Cargill and Barry Callebaut, which own cocoa-processing plants in Douala, have a significant stake in the cocoa industry.

According to the World Bank, world coffee production has fallen. Arabica coffee production, which stood at 32 million tons in 1970, fell to just 6 million tons in 2005. Robusta coffee production fell drastically from 95 million tons in 1970 to 41 million tons in 2005 and 2006. At the same time, SOCAPALM, a subsidiary of the Bolloré group, is growing oil palm on 28,000 hectares of land, while CDC is growing it on 16,000 hectares, with cooperatives sharing the rest. Sugar is grown by SOSUCAM, a subsidiary of the French Vilgrain group, mainly for export. Rubber for export is produced by HEVECAM, a company owned by Singapore's GMG group, CDC and the Bolloré group's SAFACAM, from the extraction of latex from rubber trees. Bananas continue to play a key role in Cameroon's foreign exchange earnings. It is exploited by the Marseille fruit company, CDC, and the SPM group, which has recently set up in Cameroon and is expanding rapidly. The aim is to export to the euro zone. The involvement of various players in agricultural production has led to an increase in logging. However, oil exploitation has had a negative impact on the agricultural sector, as many farmers saw it as a new source of income to meet the needs of the population. However, the economic crisis and the devaluation of the CFA will contribute to the fall in GDP. That's why we need to get back to farming.

The Ebolawa agro-pastoral show was the first since 1981. It laid the foundations for second-generation agriculture, based on the use of modern machinery and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Passeron, J. C. (1994). La rationalité et les types de l'action sociale chez Max Weber. *Revue européenne des sciences sociales*, *32*(98), 5-44.

<sup>-</sup>Colliot-Thélène, C. (2011). Retour sur les rationalités chez Max Weber. *Les Champs de Mars*, 22(2), 13-30.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Cf. le traité germano douala de 1884 «We hereby relinquish all our rights of sovereignty, legislation and administration over our country in favour of Mr Eduard Schmidt, representing the company c. woermann, and Mr Johannes Voss, representing the company jantzen and thormalhen, both based in Hamburg and having traded on the river for a long time. We have ceded our rights of sovereignty, legislation and administration over our country to the above companies'.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> <u>Industrie camerounaise des fruits et légumes - Taille, part</u> <u>et analyse</u> consulté le 01-04-2025

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Bellotti, A., Herrera Campo, B. V., & Hyman, G. (2012). Cassava production and pest management: present and potential threats in a changing environment. *Tropical Plant Biology*, 5, 39-72.

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practices. The government was looking for ways to reduce the high unemployment rate among a population made up mainly of young people. Returning to the land represents a way of being self-sufficient and earning a living. As a result, there are a number of funding program for young people in the agricultural sector. One example is the PEA JEUNE program. In a way, the government is encouraging resilience to the deforestation process through its agricultural policy, which is based on second-generation agriculture. Agricultural activity is set to intensify, as the objectives are twofold: to serve Cameroon's towns and cities, but also the populations of towns and cities in neighboring countries.

However, extensive slash-and-burn agriculture hinders the fallowing of land, leading to its gradual degradation. Cameroon, which promotes intensive agriculture, is committed to combating deforestation by signing various environmental protection agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. The government of Cameroon, fearful of deforestation and its dangers, is trying as best it can to limit it through relatively strict measures. These include the creation of a Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). Alongside farmers and agro-industrial companies, the destruction of the forest is materialized by the presence of logging companies. These companies impose their laws in these remote areas. In fact, 10 companies account for 50%18 of the legal concessions in Cameroon. MINEPDED is putting in place measures to limit the abuses faced by forest populations, such as limiting tree felling, increasing taxes and creating nature reserves. However, these measures are not yet effective enough to combat corruption in this sector<sup>19</sup>. The benefits for local populations are not very significant. This intensive farming and the resilience to the process of deforestation have a significant impact on the environment and consequences for the global climate.

#### The Resilience of Deforestation Through Agricultural Practices and Their Environmental Implications

Considered to be the lungs of the world, tropical rainforests are the second largest after the Amazon rainforest and play an important role in the capture and storage of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Agricultural activity leads to a significant reduction in forest area, which in turn reduces the absorption of carbon dioxide, which accumulates in the atmosphere and gradually destroys the ozone layer, leading to annual global warming. In reality, the planet should be seen as a vast living organism that can be subject to malfunction. In this particular context, the problem stems from an internal cause: living beings. Humans are at the root of the gradual destruction of the Earth as we know it. Population growth is leading to increased demand for food, resulting in the destruction of millions of hectares of arable land to ensure food self-sufficiency and a certain level of comfort and well-being. Forests play a crucial role in the global ecosystem that is our Earth, as they are responsible for producing the oxygen that is essential to its survival and that of all the beings that live there. There is no doubt that the disappearance of forests is leading to a profound transformation of our planet, which ultimately threatens its survival.

As far as Cameroon is concerned, the environmental impact of deforestation affects various ecosystems. Cultivable land is made up of particles that are essential for plant growth. The practice of 'slash and burn', which consists of clearing land by burning it and leaving it fallow, is an activity that has increased as a result of extensive farming. Fallow periods are no longer respected, leading to land impoverishment. The example of the Lekié region in the center of the country shows the gradual transformation of a tropical rainforest into open forest<sup>20</sup>. The destruction of the forest has consequences for arable land, as the absence of trees increases rainwater run-off, which impoverishes the soil. In addition, human activity has an impact on desertification and ocean acidification. Tropical rainforests return of rainwater to the atmosphere through the process of evaporation. This mechanism is disrupted by deforestation, leading to a drop in the rainfall needed for optimum agricultural production. Maintaining adequate forest cover limits soil erosion and helps to maintain the soil thanks to the deep roots of the trees, which reduces the risk of landslides.

Deforestation has an impact on biodiversity: tropical rainforests are home to around 300 species of tree<sup>21</sup>. These vast tracts of forest are a rich national and world heritage. It is a national heritage in the sense that it is a place rich in medicinal essences, contributing to the survival of the forest peoples, since it is in this environment that they obtain the elements, they need to treat their illnesses, both physical and spiritual<sup>22</sup>. Their roots lie in the forest, which is threatened with destruction for agriculture or timber exploitation. This practice has a negative impact on groups such as the Pygmies, who are suffering the ravages of capitalism and constitute the proletarian class in Marx's sense. The profits

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> J. Oum Eloma; A. Thonon et P. Chevalier promoteur (2003) « analyse économique comparée de la gestion forestière publique des différentes stratégies de production ligneuse au Cameroun ». Thèse du département de biologie appliquée et des productions agricoles, UCL AGRO/BAPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> R. Ngoufo et M. Tsalefac (2016), « logiques d'acteur et échelle de risque dans l'exploitation forestière au Cameroun », les cahiers d'outre-mer, volume 233 P. 115-132.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>. Duterme, L. Delcourt, Y. de Wilde et C. Douxchamps (2008) « déforestation, causes, acteurs et enjeux » paris, édition syllepse, alternative sud.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Fomekong, A. B. T., Momo, M. C. S., Mendi, G. A., Feukeng, S. S. K., Wouokoue, J. B. T., Kenfack, S. S. F., ... & Kengne, O. C. (2023). Diversité ligneuse et stock de carbone des systèmes agroforestiers à base de cacaoyers de localité de Makénéné, Région du Centre la Cameroun. Cameroon Journal *Experimental* of Biology, 17(2), 32-39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Zébazé, D., Gorel, A., Gillet, J. F., Houngbégnon, F., Barbier, N., Ligot, G., ... & Doucet, J. L. (2023). Natural regeneration in tropical forests along a disturbance gradient in South-East Cameroon. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 547, 121402.

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from this agricultural or forestry exploitation contribute to the well-being of a pseudo-bourgeoisie. The forest is also a reserve of natural treasures for pharmaceutical research and drug development. The brutal destruction of this resource is hampering the discovery of cures for many infectious diseases. What's more, human contact with unexplored forests exposes us to new pathogens, the existence of which we know little about. This is how, over time, it has come to cope with yellow fever, malaria, Ebola and recently the coronavirus. Its destruction exposes mankind to far more disastrous events. This clearly shows the importance of preserving forests today. Forests are much more than just carriers of pathogens. It contributes to the balance and survival of living beings.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Forests and agriculture have a unique relationship that highlights the importance for humans of implementing policies to manage and protect tropical rainforests. Indeed, population growth is having a major impact on the expansion of agriculture. The latter is becoming inevitable, as it has to meet a much greater demand for food by 2050. The urgent need for the ruling elite is to put in place an integrated approach to conserving the rainforest as far as possible, while ensuring food security for all. The stakes for this century are essentially environmental, because the world as we know it could become a sad memory in a few years' time. Cameroon, which is at the heart of this analysis, must have the capacity to put in place appropriate policy measures to meet the nutritional and environmental needs of its population.

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