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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Note by the Administrator

Programme period

1983-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986

\$27.5 million

* The notes by the Administrator concerning the previous country programmes for the United Republic of Cameroon were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/CMR/R.1/RECOMMENDATION and DP/GC/CMR/R.2/RECOMMENDATION.

I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The third country programme for the United Republic of Cameroon is the result of a long period of consultation between the local authorities and the UNDP field office in Yaoundé. The programming exercise began in January 1981 at a special meeting on programme preparation attended by representatives of the technical ministries, co-ordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning, and by representatives of United Nations executing agencies, led by the Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa. Programme preparation activities were intensified towards the end of 1981 with the approval of Cameroon's fifth five-year development Plan, covering the period 1981-1986.
2. The programme content has been determined on the basis of development options and prospects reflected in the five-year Plan, following regular consultations held under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning, in co-operation with the relevant services of the Office of the President of the United Republic of Cameroon.
3. The final version of the programme also takes account of comments received from United Nations agencies, whose representatives in the field were also associated with the preliminary consultations. Further, in an attempt to ensure that the programme is harmonized with and complements bilateral and multilateral assistance, the contribution made by the latter has been carefully examined.
4. UNDP's third programming cycle covers the period 1982-1986. With the decision to defer until June 1983 the submission to the Governing Council of the third country programme for the United Republic of Cameroon, the programme approved for the period 1977-1981 has had to be extended for a year by the Council. The country programme for the third cycle thus covers the period 1983-1986.

II. Relationship between the country programme and national development objectives

5. The 1981-1986 five-year Plan continues the work of the fourth development Plan. Analysis of the results obtained under earlier plans has allowed the Government to prepare the outlines of the current Plan and to formulate a medium- and long-term strategy. In accordance with the concepts of "planned liberalism" and "self-reliant development", development policy will continue to allow free-market forces to guide the country's production activities, within the framework of regulations drawn up by the Government.
6. The period covered by the third country programme (1983-1986) corresponds fairly closely to the 1981-1986 five-year development Plan of Cameroon, which ensures greater coherence between the two programmes with regard both to the reorientation of current activities and to the identification of new assistance proposals.
7. Among the key development sectors, agriculture and rural development remain the main concern and first priority in the five-year Plan. Intensification of

exploration for the exploitation of mineral and energy resources and reorientation of the industrialization policy through the development of local resources are a corollary of agricultural development. The other development areas receiving UNDP assistance are transport and communications, health, education, employment, training and planning and public administration.

III. Content and phasing of the programme

8. The illustrative indicative planning figure (IPF) for the period 1982-1986 is \$US 27.5 million, i.e. an increase of approximately 63 per cent over the IPF for the previous cycle (1977-1981), which was \$17.2 million. From that amount must be deducted the mandatory reserve of 20 per cent (\$5.5 million), the budget for the 1982 programme (\$4.2 million) and a reserve for specific activities to be formulated at a later date (\$8,523,750). The amount actually programmed is \$12,636,282, of which \$2,263,000 remains from the previous IPF and \$1,097,032 comes from cost-sharing. This is allocated as follows:

<u>Sector</u>	<u>\$</u>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	32.5
Natural resources	32.6
Transport and communications	13.5
Industry	12.0
Employment	4.2
Education	3.6
Health	1.4
General development	0.2

9. UNDP assistance in the field of rural development (agriculture, stock-raising, forestry) amounts to \$4,108,437. That allocation will allow initiatives undertaken in the farmers' guidance programme and support for national institutions to be continued: National co-operative education project; Assistance to the National Office for Participation in Development. Action has also been undertaken to improve the production and conservation of agricultural basic foodstuffs and to develop stock-raising and forestry: Assistance to the Cereals Agency; Assistance in implementing the national seeds plan; Soils Service; Deng-Deng forest and, finally, agrometeorology.

10. The natural resources sector is receiving \$4,096,000, largely in the form of direct support for ore prospecting activities. The project, Minerals exploration, will endeavour to continue the exploration already begun during the previous cycle with the aim of exploiting the more important deposits.

11. Projects relating to transport and communications absorb \$1,713,034 to support Government efforts in that field. UNDP activities relate to the strengthening of the institutions responsible for air and maritime transport and to telecommunications.

12. The industrial sector, whose impact on the economic development of the United Republic of Cameroon remains very limited, receives a UNDP contribution in the amount of \$1,513,803, and is concerned with assistance to small- and medium-size enterprises, preparatory assistance in the formulation of the master plan for industrialization, industrial training and sectoral missions.

13. Some \$541,900 in assistance has been reserved for employment and training. The projects planned are: Craft hostels, Hotel training, and Workers' education. These various activities are aimed at assisting the Cameroonian authorities in establishing a human resources planning policy and a suitable training/employment relationship. Specific training is given, with UNDP assistance, to certain categories of employees, such as young women, trade-unionists and hotel staff.

14. Education receives some \$462,438 in aid, largely devoted to strengthening existing technical and occupation training institutions and to the development of scientific research. Among the projects benefiting from UNDP support, reference should be made to Assistance to the Higher School for Training Technical Teachers and Assistance to the School for Training Technical Teachers.

15. Assistance to the health sector has been reorganized to comprise four projects: the University Centre for Health Sciences; Vaccine production; Laboratory equipment for the General Commission for Scientific and Technical Research; Assistance in the exploitation of medicinal plants. The budget allocated by UNDP to that sector is \$180,670.

Specific development problems and needs

16. Despite the constraints imposed by the world crisis, Cameroonian economic growth has been very satisfactory over the past five years. While continuing to accord overall priority to rural development and food self-reliance, the Government wishes to accelerate the country's industrial development and the exploitation of its mineral resources.

17. In order to attain accelerated and balanced development, the Cameroonian Government will formulate an overall policy in the field of human resources. It will pay particular attention to the relationship between training and employment and to educational reform.

18. In the long run, the growth prospects of the United Republic of Cameroon will depend on the extent to which the Government manages to increase its production capacity by exploiting its vast natural resources, particularly its agricultural, forestry, mineral and petroleum resources. Improvements of productivity will also require the concomitant development of human resources and a strengthening of institutions.
