

**THE CAMEROON WE WANT FOR THE NEXT 7 YEARS
ELECTORAL DEMANDS IN CAMEROON
BY THE MOVEMENT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE IN CAMEROON**



Introduction

The Congo Basin, the world's second-largest tropical rainforest after the Amazon, is a carbon reservoir of immense global and regional importance for climate regulation. It provides food, fresh water, shelter, and medicine to millions of people, and is home to countless wildlife species, including many that are endangered.

Yet, it faces growing threats linked to a colonial model of resource exploitation, which results in poor recognition of Indigenous and community heritage areas and no substantial improvement in the living conditions of local and Indigenous communities. Weak monitoring of resource-extraction activities, expanding illegality, corruption, and inequitable distribution of generated revenues negatively impact local and Indigenous communities, the climate, and the ecosystems they depend on.

Cameroon, one of the six countries of the Congo Basin, is also confronted with these challenges. In response, **Greenpeace Africa** launched the **Climate Justice Movement (CJM)** in Cameroon — a coalition that brings together civil society, local and Indigenous communities, and young people around a shared vision of environmental justice and sustainable governance of natural resources.

The Movement currently counts forty active members across the ten regions of Cameroon and focuses on four key areas of intervention: **climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate justice, collaboration and partnerships, and education and advocacy.**

On the eve of the presidential election, Cameroon stands at a decisive crossroads. The choices made today will shape the future of our environment, our communities, and our national development for generations to come.

It is time to embrace bold and visionary leadership — leadership that delivers concrete solutions to the urgent challenges facing our country. Now more than ever, Cameroon needs courageous and meaningful action to address its most pressing climate issues.

We, the Climate Justice Movement and the communities we represent, are not asking for promises but for concrete commitments. We do not call for speeches, but for bold, inclusive, and equitable policies. Climate change is not a secondary issue — it lies at the heart of our shared future.

We call on every presidential candidate to actively integrate **climate and environmental priorities** into their national programs. In particular, we urge the **next elected president** to adopt the following vital measures for Cameroon's future:

1. PROTECT AND PRESERVE CAMEROON'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

Cameroon's terrestrial (forests and savannas) and aquatic ecosystems (seas, rivers, and lakes) are invaluable for the nation and the planet, yet they remain constantly under threat. We need strong leadership committed to:

Increase conservation and ecosystem restoration.

- Strengthen the protection of existing natural ecosystems, especially high-conservation-value areas, as well as seagrass beds, coral reefs, and mangroves — all vital marine and coastal biodiversity habitats.
- Launch restoration programs for degraded ecosystems to rehabilitate lands and forests (both terrestrial and aquatic) affected by human activities.
- Strengthen transboundary resource management and monitoring mechanisms.

- Support and scale up reforestation and afforestation programs to restore degraded lands and expand forest and savanna cover.

Combat illegal resource exploitation.

- Adopt and implement a national action plan to end deforestation and forest conversion by 2030.
- Enforce the implementing decrees of the 2024 Forestry Law and Fisheries Law.
- End the financing of large-scale investments that cause environmental pollution, ecosystem destruction, and land degradation by 2030.
- Legally regulate and support independent monitoring activities to strengthen ecosystem oversight.
- Fight corruption and enhance transparency and accountability in projects impacting forests, seas, and rivers.
- Establish a specific mechanism to protect environmental defenders.

Promote a sustainable green and blue economy.

- Invest in environmentally friendly forest industries such as **non-timber forest products (NTFPs)** and promote ecotourism to reduce pressure on forests while generating sustainable income.
- Promote **agroecological practices** among local and Indigenous communities.
- Increase local value addition for forest and fisheries products through local processing.

Strengthen research and climate resilience.

- Support and promote scientific and academic research on ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate change adaptation.
- Ensure that environmental policies and projects prioritize the needs and interests of populations, particularly Indigenous peoples and local communities, as rights holders and key contributors to climate solutions.
- Guarantee that these communities directly benefit from development activities conducted on their lands.

2. RECOGNIZE, PROTECT, AND RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CAMEROON

These are fundamental rights essential to their dignity, survival, and self-determination:

Legal recognition and land tenure security.

- Legally recognize the status of Indigenous peoples by ratifying **ILO Convention No. 169** or by adopting a specific national law protecting their rights.
- Recognize and secure collective land rights over **Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs)** managed by local and Indigenous communities.
- Establish transparent systems for recording cultural sites, securing collective land rights, and preventing land grabbing.

Stronger participation in natural resource governance.

- Institutionalize **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)** as a legal requirement before any resource exploitation on community territories.
- Ensure meaningful representation of Indigenous and local communities in all decision-making bodies related to natural resource management, at every level of governance, by enforcing representative quotas.
- Create community-managed marine protected areas and expand the maximum size of community forest concessions.
- Simplify and expedite procedures for obtaining community titles to manage natural resources on their territories.

Economic empowerment.

- Fund community-led initiatives in forestry, fisheries, and wildlife conservation that contribute to sustainable resource management.
- Guarantee direct access to climate funds and technical support for Indigenous and local communities by 2030 to protect and restore their territories.
- Facilitate access to markets for community products and services, such as ecotourism and agroforestry.
- Institutionalize community forestry successes as national case studies to attract donor funding and inform forest policy reforms.

Environmental justice and cultural protection.

- Address historical and ongoing environmental injustices and human rights violations through reparative and fair compensation policies.
- Give special attention to Indigenous peoples and marginalized groups most affected by environmental injustices.
- Protect sacred sites, cultural landscapes, and traditional practices related to natural resources.

3. ACT FOR A GREEN AND JUST FUTURE: CLIMATE JUSTICE

In the face of ecological urgency and widening inequalities, building a green and just future means placing climate justice at the heart of political, economic, and social decisions. To achieve this, Cameroon must:

Accelerate the energy transition.

- Expand access to clean and renewable energy sources — solar, hydro, and wind — especially in rural and underserved areas.
- Gradually reduce dependence on fossil fuels by promoting green technologies and modernizing the national energy grid.

Promote climate justice and equity.

- Require climate impact assessments for large-scale projects affecting ecosystems and contributing to climate change.
- Ensure that climate policies prioritize vulnerable communities — including women, youth, and Indigenous peoples.
- Integrate climate resilience into national development plans, with fair compensation for populations affected by climate-related disasters.

Combat plastic pollution.

- Strictly enforce the ban on single-use plastics and promote biodegradable alternatives.
- Support circular economy models through recycling infrastructure, waste-to-energy projects, and community clean-up initiatives.

Education, innovation, and green jobs.

- Invest in environmental education, vocational training, and research to create a skilled green workforce.
- Encourage and support eco-entrepreneurship and innovation hubs focused on sustainable energy and waste management.

Strengthen international partnerships and climate finance.

- Mobilize greater climate finance through global platforms.
- Position Cameroon as a regional leader in climate diplomacy and sustainable development by honoring its international commitments, including the **Paris Agreement**.

Conclusion

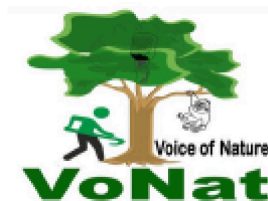
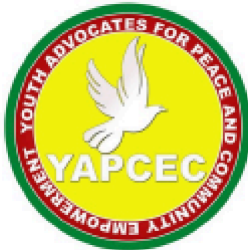
In the face of the climate emergency and its already visible impacts on Cameroonian communities — floods, droughts, food insecurity, and forced displacement — the

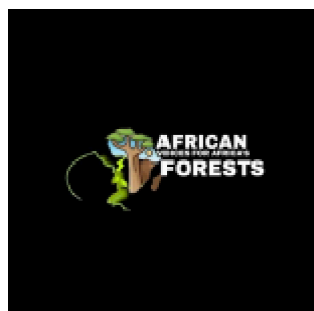
Cameroon Climate Justice Movement issues a solemn call to the country's future political leaders.

Cameroon has a historic opportunity to become an African leader in climate justice. This call is an invitation to build together a future where the environment, human dignity, and solidarity guide every political decision.

It is time to act — **for the climate, for the people, for life.**







Africans Rising
For Unity, Justice, Peace & Dignity



