IMPACTS OF BIODIVERSITY EROSION AND CLIMATE CHANGES ON THE BOTANICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF ECOSYSTEAMS IN CAMEROON

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Abstract: In Cameroon, life is based on all the ecosystems encountered in Africa. Indeed, the Cameroon’s territory stretches from equatorial humid rain forests to the steppes of Sahelian region. The Cameroon ecosystems contain approximately 10,000 species of plants and diverse species of mammals, birds, fishes, amphibians, reptiles and insects. Ecosystems provide services that include provisioning of food, fiber and water; regulating services such as air, water and climate regulation, pollination and pest control; and providing resilience against natural disasters and hazards. A good rate of these important resources has a real or a potential value for the world. The emergence of the impacts of the mankind activities, has displayed an ongoing biodiversity and ecosystems reduction. But, this rich and useful biodiversity is suffering from biodiversity erosion and climate changes responsible of emergence and reemergence of diseases. This study was carried out to bring out the ecosystems and the biodiversity’s loss and their conservancy strategies. To achieve our goal we evaluate the impacts of biodiversity erosion and climate changes on the botanical and zoological potential of ecosystems, during 12 field trips supported by national and international NGOs specialized on the Environmental Impact and Social Assessment. The agriculture remains the largest driver of genetic erosion, species loss and conversion of natural habitats in Cameroon. Globally, over 1,000 (87%) of a total of 1,226 threatened bird species and 4,000 assessed plant and animal species are threatened by agricultural intensification. Over fishing, destructive fishing archaic methods and eutrophication caused by high nutrient are among the major threats to inland and marine fisheries. To conserve the biodiversity, we recommend these strategies including support biological agriculture by purchasing organic foods; finding alternatives to the use of biodiversity; revegetating areas with native and understored plants; recycling of waste for feed and fuel; reducing the use of croplands to preserve biodiversity, soils and water, and the human communities and their cultures. Ecosystems especially forests must be preserved, because nowadays 75% of globally usable freshwater supplies comes from forested catchments. These ecosystems also help buffer global climate change.

Key words: Ecosystems and Biodiversity erosion, climate change, loss of species, reduction of ecosystems, conservancy strategies, Cameroon.