

# **Examination of Mountain Tourism and Conservation: the Case of Cameroon**

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## **ABSTRACT**

With regard to tourism, communities possess a vital role focusing on the creation of destinations. Growth and maturity has been seen in the tourism industry and as a result novel approaches are frequently debated in making tourism sector a community development projects and as an aider of social and economic progression in lacking communities. Cameroon has natural resources, touristic potentials which are not utilized. Whereas other countries like South Africa, morocco, Botswana, Kenya and Senegal where tourism is flourishing and growing but that of Cameroon is hindered because of the underutilization of the resources.

All other tourism activities such as culture, wildlife, etc. are developed to a certain level in the country except mountain tourism and its conservation which is being threatened by bush fires and deforestation. This study focuses on the examination of Mountain Tourism and how it has been conserved over the past years in Cameroon.

This study focuses on the examination of Mountain Tourism and how it has been conserved over the past years in Cameroon. To also examined economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of mountain tourism and conservation in Cameroon. Further to analyze these impacts and the intension to support mountain tourism in Cameroon. To outline the various touristic potentials present in Cameroon for example Mountain Tourism and how it has boost Cameroon's economy.

In other to develop a detail understanding of mountain tourism and conservation in Cameroon, a quantitative approach was used. Data was collected using

questionnaires with 150 people who were easily accessible and knowledgeable with MCE activities in Cameroon.

Social exchange theory (SET) is the theory applied in this study. It has sociological and psychological views which describe social exchange and stability as a method arranged exchanged between people in a given society.

According to Correlation results, economic impacts is significantly correlated to environmental impact ( $r=.39$ ,  $P<.01$ ) and intention to support MCE ( $r=.25$ ,  $P<.01$ ). There is no significant correlation between economic impact and socio-cultural impact. Results revealed that environmental impacts is significant and positively correlated with socio-cultural impacts ( $r=.31$ ,  $P<.01$ ) and intention to support MCE ( $r=.53$ ,  $P<.01$ ).

**Keywords:** Mountain Tourism, Conservation, Cameroon, communities.

## ÖZ

Turizm açısından bakıldığında, toplumlar hedeflerin oluşturulmasına odaklanan hayati bir role sahiptir. Son yıllarda Turizm sektöründe meydana gelen büyüme ve gelişmeler sonrasında turizm sektöründe yapılan toplumsal kalkınma projeleri toplumdaki eksikliği giderdiği ve sosyal, ekonomik ilerlemeye yardımcı olduğuna dair yeni yaklaşımlar sıklıkla tartışılmaya başlanmıştır. Kamerun, doğal kaynaklar açısından oldukça büyük bir turistik potansiyele sahip olmasına rağmen bunlar kullanılmamaktadır.

Güney Afrika, Fas, Botswana, Kenya ve Senegal gibi ülkeler turizm açısından gelişip büyürken, Kamerun ülkede ki kaynakların yetersiz kullanılması nedeniyle bir türlü gelişmemiştir. Dağ turizmi ise orman yangınları ve ormansızlaşma tehdidi, kültür ve vahşi yaşamı koruma gibi benzeri sebebler olmasına rağmen diğer tüm turizm faaliyetleri ülkede belli bir seviyeye kadar geliştirilmiştir.

Bu çalışma, Kamerun’ da ki, Dağ Turizmi son yıllarda nasıl korunulduğu incelemekte ve bu konu üzerine yoğunlaşmaktadır. Ayrıca, Kamerun'da ki, dağ turizminin ve korunmasının ekonomik, çevresel ve sosyo-kültürel etkilerini de incelemek ve bu etkilerin dağ turizmini desteklenmesindeki niyetini analiz etmektir. Kamerun'da mevcut olan çeşitli turistik potansiyelleri (örneğin Dağ Turizmi) Kamerun ekonomisini nasıl etilediğini ve nasıl artırdığını ispatlamaktır. Kamerun'da dağ turizmi, kültür,vahşi yaşam ve doğal hayatı korumanın detaylı bir anlayışını geliştirmek için nicel bir yaklaşım kullanıldı. Çalışma da kullanılan verileri

Kamerun'daki MCE faaliyetlerinde bulunan kolay erişilebilir ve bilgili olan 150 kişiye anket dağıtılarak toplanmıştır.

Bu çalışmada, sosyal değişim teorisi (SET) kullanılmıştır. Sosyal değişim, sosyalleşme sürecinde edinilmiş olan inanç, değer, sosyal kural ve normların dönüşümünü içermekte olup dolayısıyla bunların benimsenmesiyle ilgilidir.

Çalışmada ki, Korelasyon sonuçlarına bakıldığında, ekonomik etkilerin çevresel etkilerle ( $r = .39$ ,  $P < .01$ ) ve MCE'yi destekleme niyetiyle ( $r = .25$ ,  $P < .01$ ) anlamlı derecede ilişkili olduğu görülmüş olup, Öte yandan bakıldığında, Ekonomik etki ve sosyo-kültürel etki arasında anlamlı bir korelasyon bulunmamıştır. Ayrıca, çevresel etkilerin sosyo-kültürel etkilerle ( $r = .31$ ,  $P < .01$ ) ve MCE'yi destekleme niyetiyle anlamlı ve pozitif yönde bir korelasyona sahip olduğunu ortaya koymuştur ( $r = .53$ ,  $P < .01$ ).

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Dağ Turizmi, Koruma, Kamerun, topluluklar.

To my Father and Mother:

Mr Michael Nkafu

Mrs Jacqueline Nkafu

And to my darling:

Prince Galabe Emile Muah

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CBT	Community Based Tourism
UNWTO	United Nation World Tourism Organization
TALC	Butler's Tourist Area Life Cycle
WTO	World Tourism Organization
SLHTP	Saint Lucia Heritage Tourism Program
CIDA	Canada International Development Agency
UNESCO	United Nations Economic Scientific and Cultural Organization
EU	European Union
WWFI	World Wildlife Fund International
CBEs	Community Based Enterprise

# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

According to the World Tourism Organization, tourism has become the most rapid growing industry in the world today (UNWTO, 2016). This growth isn't affected by the general worldwide economic slowdown. Economic and social welfare of numerous communities worldwide significantly rely on tourism today. Diverse opportunities are being enhanced by tourism. This grants policy makers the ability to possess knowledge and skills on building an efficient tourism developmental policies and strategies. This creates a destination of competition and sustainability while serving as benefits to the immediate communities. With regard to tourism, communities possess a vital role focusing on the creation of destinations.

Growth and maturity has been seen in the tourism industry and as a result novel approaches are frequently debated in making tourism sector a community development projects and as an aider of social and economic progression in lacking communities. Its two broad fields create a unique identity to tourism as reported by (Kim et al, 2012).

These diverse fields focus on uplifting communities' needs. Unfortunately, in Less Developed Countries "LDCs", tourism oriented towards business has failed to create any measurable change within the communities. Tourism serves as largest means of

foreign exchange. It produces for about 8.7% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (Üstün & Öztay, 2014). Ecotourism showed a triple growth over worldwide tourism in the year 2004 (Eshun G. & Darko E. T, 2015). In the tourism economy the fastest growing sector is nature based tourism which also includes ecotourism. In many parts of the world nature based tourism has proven to be a powerful motivation for conservation. With this uncontrolled mass tourism, it has contributed greatly and repeatedly degraded natural and cultural importance of tourism in many areas and also entails the loss of cultural and biological diversity (Urry, 2003). What is actually required is a sustainable tourism or a responsible environmental method of tourism. With respect to International Society for Ecotourism, "Ecotourism is creditworthy of travels to natural regions which preserves environments and augments the welfares of the local communities.

Creditworthy travels refer to journeying in a manner to minimize negative impacts on societies" (Tchouto et al., 2014). This definition explains that today's visitors should not negatively affect the enjoyment of the future generations. The commission report advances the idea of sustainable development by noting that economic growth and environmental conservation are not only compatible but they are necessary partners. One cannot exist without the other (Bhuiyan, 2012). Mountain is defined as "zones of similar altitude, slope and vegetation type which usually comprise of a montane, subalpine and alpine zone" (UNEP 2007). As far as mountain tourism is concerned about 24 percent of land surface of the world varies in every continent, ecosystem types, deserts and tropical areas to polar icecaps are covered by mountains. And they do have particular feature which is common that is, fast changes in climate, soil, altitude and vegetation within a short distance that will consequently lead to some differences in high levels of biodiversity and habitat.



Rainfall can change at any time so it varies same as mountain which cannot be predicted (UNEP, 2007). In the tourism economy mountain tourism is a faster growing sector and in the mountain areas and it makes a huge contribution to development, but if this mountain tourism is not controlled it can lead to the degradation of cultural and natural values in the mountain areas. “In an increasingly urbanized world, mountains are primary tourist destinations not only because of their beauty and their natural and cultural diversity, but also because they provide opportunities to escape from stress of modern life. But in the long term to protect the diversity and attractiveness of the mountains will depend on careful for-sighted and sustainable management of resources. Therefore, on the management of mountain areas, there must be a careful balance between the protection of natural resources, needs of local people, and the desire of tourists” (Funnel, D. A., 2015).

There are so many reasons why tourists are been attracted to mountain areas these are unique landscapes, history and heritage, scenic beauty, clean air, wild life, climate, local culture sports, nature related activities. With the help of modern means of transportation it has become easy for tourists and the locals to move to mountain areas without any difficulty. This has increased the number of visitors to mountain destinations (Funnel et al., 2003). The commission report advances the idea of sustainable development by noting that economic growth and environmental conservation are not only compatible but they are necessary partners. One cannot exist without the other (Harris et al., 2005). Cameroon is a blessed nation which has always been experiencing political and economic stability. It has a vast land of black sandy beaches such as Limbe and Kibri, cultural-rich majestic palaces in its northern region and the mount Cameroon in the South West region. Cameroon experiences an infancy state of tourism though it possesses numerous touristic potentials. On an

annual basis, Cameroon pulls in close to 500,000 visitors though not included by WTO as a major tourist destination (Cyprian B. N., 2012). The government of Cameroon had shown enormous interest on upgrading the tourism activities of the country recently. Cultural diversity of the country has shown a leading role in attracting tourists into the nation lately (Woodgate et al, 2011). Four hundred and fifty-one thousand visitors with respect to the country's Tourism Ministry (Lew, 2008). According to the tourism ministry, minister at that time Hamadou Baba, said four hundred and ninety six tourists visited Cameroon in 2009. They had national tourism board meeting held in Yaoundé the capital city on the 14th of February, as their 5th session. There it was also confirmed by the head of government, the Prime Minister (Cyprian B. N., 2012).

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Cameroon has natural resources, touristic potentials which are not utilized. Whereas other countries like South Africa, morocco, Botswana, Kenya and Senegal where tourism is flourishing and growing but that of Cameroon is hindered because of the underutilization of resources. This is a problem to Cameroon and so Much work is required for this industry to achieve its touristic potentials and starts flourishing (Sumelong, 2012). Though with the natural resources in Cameroon and would have made Cameroon a very rich nation, it is been poorly managed and the country's international image is hidden as far as tourism is concerned. This calls for a huge sensitization in the minds of the general public and the international community at large via the creation of roads, communications, etc (Fonka & Mesape, 2010). Tourism sector of Cameroon can be improved with the creation of tour guides, renovation of airports, marketing campaigns both domestically and internationally, staffing, hospitality of employees and locals to tourists at the airports and hotels

(Cyprian B. N., 2012). These stand as a price for Cameroon to pay in order to boost its international image and national economy via tourism. This will augment the living standards of the community members, job opportunities and will also protect the natural resources that will crave Cameroon as a touristic destination.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

This study focuses on the examination of Mountain Tourism and how it has been conserved over the past years in Cameroon. To also examined economic, environmental and socio-cultural impacts of mountain tourism in Cameroon. Further to analyze these impacts and the intension to support mountain tourism in Cameroon. To outline the various touristic potentials present in Cameroon for example Mountain Tourism and how it has boost Cameroon's economy. Each aim outline, goes a long way to uncover a particular aspect of how tourism industry is been managed in Cameroon. These aims crave a deeper understanding to the readers by looking at the geography, history, ethnicity and mountainous nature of Cameroon. Generally, these aims will jointly give a view of understanding the impacts of mountain tourism in Cameroon. Furthermore, the following are the objectives of the study:

- ✚ To described the tourism industry of Cameroon and how it has been functioning for the past decades.
- ✚ Analyzing the role played by the private sector, the public sector and the local community with respect to mountain tourism and conservation.
- ✚ Identifying means through which mountain tourism and conservation can be made sustainable for the future.

## **1.4 Methodology**

This research tends to use a quantitative approach and therefore focused on primary data sources such as questionnaires. Answers to the above research questions were been obtained quantitatively and some community residents were given questionnaires which some were answered. These community members were available, easily accessible and knowledgeable with Mountain tourism activities in Cameroon. Through the use of convenience sampling techniques, 150 respondents were available and easily accessible and had knowledge about mountain tourism. This is a quantitative design case study research via which the researcher has chosen a particular place (e.g. Cameroon) to carry out the research. A research model was carried out to examine measurements. In addition to checking reliability, mean and standard deviation, the correlation was also deduced. Interpretations and results are provided.

Furthermore, this research makes good use of social exchange theory to better analyzed the psychological and sociological views of the community members. This theory is basically a give and take process which helps this study to better read the minds of the communities.

## **1.5 Organization of the Study**

Organization of the Study this work is composed of five main chapters. An introductory chapter (1) outlines the general concepts of tourism and focuses more on mountain tourism, conservation definitions and concepts. This chapter is preceded by a review of literature chapter 2 which englobes previous materials on tourism as a whole and what most researchers have said about tourism. The core issue as concerns Cameroon and tourism is being unveiled in chapter 3. This is done through historical,

political and geographical analyses of Cameroon as regards to its economy, resources, social and environmental context. It tries to outline the challenges and opportunities as community/government relationship is concern when it comes to tourism. The research methodology is examined in chapter 4 which also includes sampling and data collection, its analyses with respect to the study's aims and objectives. The conclusion of this study is also summed up in chapter 5 which looks at the conclusion and discussions drawn from the data collection and analyses, and research outcomes.

## **Chapter 2**

### **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT: AN OVERVIEW**

#### **2.1 Tourism**

In the second millennium, there have been a continuous growth on people's interest on how their leisure times are been spend. Many analysts came up with proposals as leisure time is part of life and non- work should be done at that time. This has become an international experience later known as tourism. It is a leisure time devoted to visit sites, places or destinations (Page, 2012). According to United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), tourism is defined as a movement of people from one place to the next for a particular purpose such as business or pleasure for less than a year or a year. (WTO,2010). With the boost of tourism on the economy of the world in general, it is seen as the fastest growing sector. In 2015, the international tourist arrivals increased by 4.4% with a total of 1,184 million.

About 50 million tourists traveled around the world to touristic destinations in 2015 as compared to 2014. This means the population traveling every day is increasing. This tremendous growth cannot function without communication and technology and not forgetting globalization which has boost people's morale to travel from one destination to the next without any difficulty as in the past (UNWTO, 2015). According to (Gunn & Var, 2002) tourism is said to have many owners like the non-profit organization, government and private sectors (organizations) all taking part in its management and control and obtain it many goals. Tourism today, by many

nations is been chosen as a way of life. It is adopted by cultures and plays a greater role on the economy. With the emergence of globalization, all the sectors of the world's economy are involved. It is the big countries and companies that gain more while the small ones are trying to manage to be at that ladder (Santana, 2001). Tourism is a sector that is made up of many foundations and programs that are physical and changes. These are caused by anthropogenic factors and natural factors (Gunn & Var, 2002).

## **2.2 Evolution of Tourism**

Considering westerners and their perceptions, tourism is a pleasurable travel. Tourism is active, modernized and international, fostered by globalization. It is one of the major push in global economy that is led by transportation system and telecommunication. A forecast of economic trends shows a positive tilt towards tourism. Middle ages were the birth era for travels during which travel purposes were mainly religious. Holy shrines and sanctified places had a greater pull on tourists (Schorner B., 2011). Traveling was based on different classes of religious people of the 18th and 19th centuries, mainly for rich aristocrats of Europe.

During that reign, average class people were unable to pay for luxurious pleasurable trips and this remained difficult to a huge number of populations. Industrial revolution brought a wide difference between the 19th century society and the one of today. Human priorities were greatly affected which gave a wider meaning or reason to live since sociocultural transformations arise as a result of a strong manifestations of political changes. Tourism as modern phenomenon has a greater link with these changes as to other departments (Cyprian B. N., 2012).

### 2.2.1 Trends in Tourism

Tourism, as a result of its dynamic globalized position, it has become complex englobing all the branches of social sciences. Tourism history has received a new era from analyses of geography, anthropology and sociology. Historical perspectives gives a broad reason concerning tourism history. Historians and their zeal in the tourism history have brought forward the long-established historical-travel journals to light, which dealt with tourism and travel (Walton, 2005). This historical research and great interest in tourism has brought forth an academic journal labeled ‘The Journal of Tourism History’, with its first issue published in 2009 (Walton, 2009). Rayner (2016) listed top 6 Tourism Trends for 2016 based on the travel tips categorization are the following:

- 1) **Smart travel:** The approach of wearable tech is introducing another period of travel and tourism, as indicated by some industry reports. While applications have given some customization and audits from individual explorers have offered visitors more data about the best places to see, eat and rest, applications like TripAdvisor for the Apple Watch can send push warnings to clients, with data about adjacent attractions, profoundly appraised eateries in the client's region and that's just the beginning. Google Now likewise offers recommendations, utilizing geo-confinement to keep its proposals important to the client, while additionally observing the client's past conduct. The outcome will be an expansion in customization that makes fly out suited to your individual inclinations—which, in principle, ought to make your treks all the more pleasant.



- 2) **Growing the Sharing Economy in China:** Sharing-economy organizations like Uber and Airbnb have turned out to be prevalent with explorers in the West. In China, there's additionally developing enthusiasm for the sharing economy styled by such Western organizations, in spite of the fact that there's a positive inclination for the home-grown; 2014 saw an ascent in the quantity of Chinese organizations taking after the sharing-economy show, a pattern that proceeded in 2015. Neighborhood media destinations like Weibo and WeChat are utilized for surveys, while Tujia offers transient rentals of extravagance flats. Ride-sharing and private rental organizations are likewise on the ascent in the nation. So, these new companies have confronted challenges and a precarious begin, however it appears just as 2016 will be a year of exponential development for the sharing economy. Explorers to China can hope to discover a greater amount of these administrations and to hear more about them too.
- 3) **Iran Opens Up:** Since the upheaval in the late 1970s, Iran has been genuinely shut to whatever remains of the world. The nation has been particularly threatening toward the West, implying that tourism has been constrained for almost 40 years. Worldwide relations with Iran have been enhancing over the recent years, to some extent because of a call for expanded collaboration among Middle Eastern nations. Despite the fact that Iran gets a large number of guests every year, remote travel organizations are presently prepared to enter the market, in this manner opening it up to expanding outer tourism and conceivably making the nation one of the must-see areas for 2016. With 19 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, there's a lot of purpose behind travelers to make a beeline for Iran, the seat of the previous Persian Empire. Different attractions incorporate over twelve ski resorts and critical journey destinations for Muslims.

**4) Solo Travel:** Voyaging alone is just the same old thing new. What's new is that more individuals are occupied with voyaging alone—and that the general population most inspired by going solo are millennials. A MMGY Global Survey of American grown-ups found that 37% of millennial respondents wanted to go without anyone else in July 2015, an expansion of 5% from 2014. Some recommend that millennials travel more than their folks and grandparents, just in light of the fact that travel is more moderate and open than it was before. While it's absolutely genuine that travel is just about a lifestyle among more youthful eras, incompletely in view of moderateness and get to, that doesn't clarify why such a variety of go only it. The main purpose behind solo travel is that it's basically less demanding to arrange a trek for 1 than for at least 2.

**5) Americans Take More Time Off:** Numerous U.S. partnerships have long held working harder is something worth being thankful for. Developing confirmation, be that as it may, recommends that not just are excursions vital for laborers, they're additionally advantageous for organizations from a monetary point of view. Unused get-away days make a money related weight ought to a worker (or a bundle of representatives) all of a sudden choose to "money" in on their paid days off. Many organizations are likewise finding that specialists who have paid time off are more inspired and faithful—which implies better efficiency and inventiveness while they are in the workplace. The outcome is that more organizations are urging their representatives to guarantee they take the majority of their get-away days, and to require some investment off with some consistency. A few organizations, as Netflix and Virgin Group, even offer boundless paid occasions to their representatives.

6) **Hipster Holidays:** While a few of us may be tainted by fashionable person culture, the tourism business is taking a gander at an expansion in the quantity of alleged trendy person occasions. Today's voyagers are becoming progressively tired of the generally marketed and over-frequented focuses in Europe's real urban areas. Guests to Berlin and Budapest, for instance, are currently looking past the conventional visitor zones, asking more about nearby hotspots where will probably have the capacity to associate with local people, appreciate customary nourishment and discover neighborhood painstaking work. Explorers are likewise looking past the urban areas that are typically viewed as must-sees on an European visit and are making a beeline for focuses like Riga, the capital of Latvia. The fashionable person occasion is about getting out of the way, accomplishing something else and finding validness—something numerous vacationers feel is lost amid excursions to London, Paris and Rome.

### **2.3 Mass Tourism**

The birth of this type of tourism known as Mass Tourism was in the 19th century. Mass tourism first originated within the working class employees of an industry. The birth of the concept of mass tourism was to illustrate the huge tourists' inflow within a particular destination and how their holidays are been spent. Mass tourism is a large number of visitors who are in a group for holidays which involve travelling and accommodations (Urry, 2003). Mass tourism emerged and became the significant benefits of leisure tours. Around 1960s tourism facilities multiply at a rapid rate throughout the world following the demand and supply economic systems. Mass tourism had its beneficial rise from increase number of package holidays and huge dramatic effects from large individuals (Mowforth & Munt, 2008). Mass tourism is a piece of a historical development. It has developed on the day after the Second

World War with supported financial development gave by Western nations. The financial insistence of recently industrialized nations affirms this wonder. Mass tourism coordinates the rise of the working class and the democratization of tourism in the rich nations. It is focused on some rumored universal goals. There are monetary, social, social and natural results brought about by this enormous grouping of guests. While the general volume of tourism incomes is fascinating (as far as employments and financial development), there are likewise issues locally (income spillage, circulation). This is the setting in which reflections on option tourism approaches has created. It is about growing new types of manageable tourism that coordinate nearby populaces and both normal and human situations of host nations. Eco tourism, group tourism, and so forth bolster an alternate rationality of tourism.

#### **2.4 Alternatives and Contemporary Tourism (Sustainable Tourism)**

One of the most social and economic development which is significant in the twentieth century is considered as tourism. It was an activity “enjoyed by only a small group of relatively well-off people” during the post-world war 2 periods precisely in the 1970s and became a mass phenomenon. With this larger number of people been increased throughout the world it became a paramount issue of global integration (UN, 2001a).

Butler & Hinch, (2007) defined sustainable tourism as “tourism which is in a form that can maintain its viability in an area for an indefinite period of time”. Sustainability is one of the safest ways to the future (WTO, 2014).

To make sure that tourism industries (sector) in different destinations continue to be at the top ladder, there should be an investment in sustainability. The most accepted

used definition defined by Butler is “tourism which is developed and maintained in an area (community, environment) in such a manner and at such scale that it remains viable over an infinite period and does not degrade or alter the environment (human and physical) in which it exists to such a degree that it prohibits the successful development and wellbeing of other activities and processes” (Butler 1993, p. 29). Furthermore, according to Lui et al., (2013), providing reliable experiences for tourists and maintaining traditional values which preserve cultural heritage are the main issues of sustainable tourism.

With respect to Lui et al., (2013), social progress, cultural evolution and modern values are promoted by tourism, social and cultural changes in the community by tourism development it beneficial and so should be welcomed. The primitive or adventure of many tourists destination is the main attractions to tourists. It could be seen from the unstained environment, traditional crafts and culture or how they live. Lui et al., (2013), Based on the available resources today communities need to support themselves, and so, sustainable tourism is a paramount factor. Resources are limited and the population is increasing and must live through on this limited resources.

Social, economic, environmental and cultural aspects has been embraced and blended by place based on communities, which has become the center to the entire concept of sustainability. In the societies and communities which depend on sustainability and exploit it, the natural environment must be preserved (MINEPAT, 2013). The World Environment and Sustainable Development Commission on (WCED (World Commissions on Environments and Developments)) sees developmental sustainability as one which attends the immediate needs without

flexing the abilities to meet their own needs with future generations (Sackmen, 2003). Global sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), aims to “develop, promote, and encourage the implementation of credible standards and best practices will remain, ensuring that tourism continues to be leading economic engine in harmony with communities and the environment” (WTO, 2014).

## **2.5 Focus on Ecotourism as an Alternative**

The mid-sixties was the first time the term ecotourism was used according to some well-known authors. Four main principles of ecotourism were mentioned. These are; “reducing environmental impact and protecting host culture,

- ✚ Maximizing the benefit of local peoples
- ✚ Maximizing tourists satisfaction” (Weaver 2001).

The birth of ecotourism was promoted by increase discontent induced by mass tourism when it comes to the point of maximizing the gains of local peoples. In less developed countries (LDCs), what is important for the demand of ecotourism is the manner of obtaining foreign exchange and also standing for the less destruction of the use of resources. With the huge natural destruction created by mass tourism, in order to discourage this, ecotourism provided good opportunities for less developed countries to concentrate on the promotion of tourism and environmental conservation respectively (Weaver 2001).

The second largest source of foreign exchange after oil is tourism (IMF, 2013). To achieve the dual aim of conservation and development, many countries search for the potentials of ecotourism (Honey, 2008). Unique tourism resources are been assessed by nation states by attempting to develop resources in to competitive attractions

(Rogerson & Visser, 2004). Ecotourism foreign exchange revenue gotten, exceeded that of coffee which is a traditional cash crop in Kenya and Tanzania (Honey, 2008). Also since 2001 ecotourism in Nigaragua outdistance meat, coffee and other traditional exports (Zapata et al., 2011). In Weaver & Lawton, (2007) the interest of ecotourism is based largely on sustainable development. The international Ecotourism Society defined ecotourism as ‘responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people’ Ecotourism is concerned with the term “sustainable” or “responsible” to originally defined ecotourism concept and a major issue of ecotourism products as well (Fennell, 2015).

Ecotourism in developing countries refers to a situation where the basic idea of ecotourism is not mostly promoted by reality. Products of Nature based tourism in developing nations are not regarded as ecotourism. This is as a result of not being able to augment the welfare of local people. (Patterson 2004). It seems from this phrase that not all tourism “eco” that arrogates to be is inevitably an ecotourism. Ecotourism has to follow some rules and promote certain features in order to attend the maximal quantity of protection and conservation. There are many features that have defined the assessment of ecotourism and no overall rules governing it.

With respect to Patterson (2004), Ecotourism business features are made up of:

- ✚ “Applies low impacts and recreational techniques.
- ✚ Creates visitation limitations to areas, by inhibiting group sizes or by limiting the number of participatory groups in a season to an area.
- ✚ Promotes the duty of conservational groups towards the preservation of natural areas with respect to experience.

- ✚ Orientates customers on the regions visited.
- ✚ Employs local peoples and purchase local supplies if possible. Realizes nature as the core element in tourists' experiences.
- ✚ Employs technicians trained in interpretations of natural and scientific histories.
- ✚ Make sure wildlife is not tampered with.
- ✚ Respect the privacies and cultures of local peoples.”

It is considered that ecotourism is an option to mass tourism. The experiences gotten from ecotourism is different from the experiences gained from Mass Tourism. The believe that the “disillusionment with mass tourism have activated the birth of ecotourism” (Weaver 2001). Ecotourism can cause adverse ecological effects especially if the tourists' numbers involved is more than the capacity the local destination can carry or not managed with care (Wunder S., 2000).

## **2.6 Mountain Tourism as sub-sector of alternative Tourism**

Twelve percent of earth's population inhabits around the mountainous areas and fourteen percent are closed settlers to mountainous resources. These inhabitants are mostly around the world renowned mountains. Northern globe has very sparse inhabitants and most of them are rural and live in poverty. Such rural communities depend on agricultural and barter trade economies. The livelihood of these communities is being held by the mountain via economic, environmental, social and cultural factors of mountain ecosystem. Due to their direct contact with the land, they have gained skills, knowledge and build up cultural identities. Mountainous areas or habitats see tourism as a pathway for the creation of economic benefits resulting from the transformation of wilderness, difficult access, subsistence lifestyles, insular cultures, etc. which are developmental constraints.. Tourism brings in tangible



benefits and requires a low investment capital for its start. So many environments have witnessed poverty reduction, awareness to climate changes, etc. resulting from a well-developed, planned, pro-poor and sustainable way of Mountain tourism (Drs. Ester Kruk, 2010). Alternative tourism and its equivalent word sustainable tourism have turned into an elegant term recently. This course researches the improvement of ideas, the definitions and the utilization of alternative tourism as for commonsense applications and operation. In spite of the fact that sustainability is a key term for the advancement of alternative tourism there is still a ton of disarray identifying with the importance of sustainability in the tourism industry.

## **2.7 Issues of Conservation**

The preservation and protection of natural parks, protected areas and national parks always have the prime responsibility of enhancing the community's tourism, economic wealth, recreation and education. According to Wade et al., (2001), a well-planned and managed tourism provides significant rewards to the closest communities. These rewards are naturally seen in communities of less developed countries. These communities solely rely on natural resources (Tosun, 2000). Sustainable tourism is being characterized by many traditions and definitions (UNEP and UNWTO, 2005). Using environmental resources sustainably for tourism is call for concern when protections are mostly done on tourists' destinations. E.g. with rest to novel guidelines from UNEP, important ecological processes should be maintained by sustainable tourism. Assist in conserving biodiversity and natural heritages. All stakeholders should obtain a socioeconomic reward. Authenticity of the socio-cultural characteristics of the host community should be respected (UNEP 2007).

In Finland, tourism, nature conservation and traditional livelihoods have partly shared historical values. Conflicts in traditional land forms, tourism and nature conservation e.g., reindeer herding have been revived with increasing number of tourists arrivals (Mustonen T & Jones G, 2015). Considerations based on conservation development are the ideas of local. Research has focused on opinions about tourism, tourism and local resident's interactions. Few studies have embarked on investigating the local residents' opinions regarding to both tourism development and nature conservation. The greatest part of this study has been carried out in less developing countries (Tosun, 2006).

Developed world citizens have played a lot more role in conserving natural environments and turning them into nature-based tourism and tourists destinations. This is contrary to citizens of the less developed countries. This particular issue has seen no research papers on it. During the 1970, park managements welcomed a new approach with the dawn of monitoring programs and ecological research within reserves and parks (Eagles et al., 2002). Scientists showed that natural processes carried out in the ecosystem can fluctuates the number of wildlife population (WHO, 2003). This therefore requires a sound management team which needs an understanding of parks' ecology and of the trends and status of plants and animals (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2003).

Socio-cultural elements are the most widely defined environmental effects resulting from Conservation (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2003). Overdevelopment and overcrowded areas are relatively fragile environments. Visitors usually outnumbered resident populations during peak periods. Hosts communities, tourism firms and the government are usually aware of the huge

unintentional damage caused on ecosystems, paints and monuments. Huge numbers increases the need for water, energy and secondary resources, which may be limited in some destinations. Loss of fauna and flora comes into play due to the expansion of tourism. Tourists' influx with non-indigenous services, large financial Resources, and different life-styles can not only alter economic life but can also destroy cultural values (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2003).

## **2.8 History of Conservation**

The birth of conservation history in Africa is linked to the European Big Game Hunters (EBGH). These hunters visited relatively pristine large areas to seek for large mammal trophies (Neumann, 2004). These sportsmen needed to preserve populations of herbivores and carnivores for their children', future hunting trips and other hunters. Games reserves were created by colonial masters before African nations Independence (Shillington, K. 2005). Subsequently, some of these reserves were turned into national parks which presently network of Africans protected areas. Specific species of eschewed and mammal were targeted by Big game hunters (Caro T., 2010), but their best preference was the "Big Five", specifically six diverse species: leopard *Panthera pardus*, lion *Panthera leo*, black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis*, buffalo *Syncerus caffer*, elephant *Loxodonta Africana* and white rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* (Williams et al., 2000).

Some have been classified into more subspecies and species. Continental populations of the "Big Five" are dwindling, while some alarming (Craigie et al., 2010). Tourism destination sellers are being employed for fund raising by bodies which safeguard Conservation. It is necessary to zoological organizations for attracting visitors (Di Minin et al., 2013). Cameroon has one of the main surviving units of tropical rain

forests in the universe. It is an efforts platform for conservation of rain-forest via NGOs and Western financialized agencies (Di Minin et al., 2013).

South West Region of Cameroon is a site of three main bilaterally financed conservation projects. ITTO is a forest regeneration program and some two other projects backed by RSPB which are; WWF and Birdlife International. Conservation is explicitly addressed by long-term future. This is obtained through activities of particular projects which are mostly narrowly instrumental (Junker J. et al., 2015).

## **2.9 Conservation of Resources**

The rate of possible exhaustion and depletion of important productive resources remain core economic problem. With respect to the inducement of resource conservation, issues have been looked into as concerns consequences of the role of market cost and prices, technical development and growth. Opportunity cost has played a great role in decision making since 1970s (Jaffe 2000). River Sanaga and Cross River which include places like Equatorial Guinea, Bioko Island and Cameroon high lands are all concentrated around the West African rainforest zone. These zones have been known for its distinctive biological and ecological diversity (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/x6543e/x6543e01.htm>). The huge variety of habitats emerging from its large highland areas are the main factors fundamentally behind the diversity patterns of the region.

Isolates peaks on the island of Bioko such as Pico Basilé (3011 m), Equatorial Guinea' largest insular portions and Mount Cameroon (4095 m) in southwest Cameroon as well as Bamenda Highlands are all interconnected plateaus included in the region. At both continental and global scale the region has been considered as a

pivot for biodiversity by the Biafran forests and highlands (BFH) Bergl et al. (2007). West African biodiversity hotspot is made up of BFH. This forms a part and comprises of three eco regions such as Cross-Sanaga-Bioko coastal forests, the Mount Cameroon-Bioko mountainous forests and the Cameroon Highlands. In the BFH across many taxa, there are high levels of endemism and species richness. This includes vascular plants, amphibians, primates and birds. According to (Oates et al., 2004), BFH diversity is not distributed uniformly from geographical point of view. Reason being that, with highlands zones inhabiting the highest species concentrations and endemic forms appear to follow gradient of elevational. The BFH biological richness is presently under continues threat from human activities. In the BFH there are no constant human settlements around the highest elevated areas. This is due to the many mountainous endemic species in the BFH. This is mostly supported by the highlands zones has no proper protection (Bergl et al., 2007). Moreover, highest density of human populations of tropical Africa, are surrounded by highland areas (Albrechtsen et al., 2006).

The forest land regions are what the population rely on for their livelihood and health. This is done through services provided for them by the ecosystem indirectly or for their subsistence directly (SWPDFW et al., 2005). High rate of population growth and population density has resulted to an increase of exploitation of forest and ever growing footprints” (Sanderson et al., 2002). It resulted to indignity and displacement of many remaining portions of the forest and the loss of much of the aboriginal lowlands forest cover (Bergl et al., 2007). According to (Struhsaker et al., 2005), the alternative land uses as compared to Existing protected areas have not done much good at preserving the inhabitants more excellently. In addition (Wittemyer et al., 2008) stipulated that their relatively isolated and unreachability.

This is due to their environmental loss of fringes and with respect to (Abernethy et al., 2013), hunting within conserved environment are elaborate. It is clear that situation protection need an enlargement of the protected area. (Figure 1) below indicated the significant and the rise in the efficacy in the implementation of current legislation and the institutions of protected zones in regions.

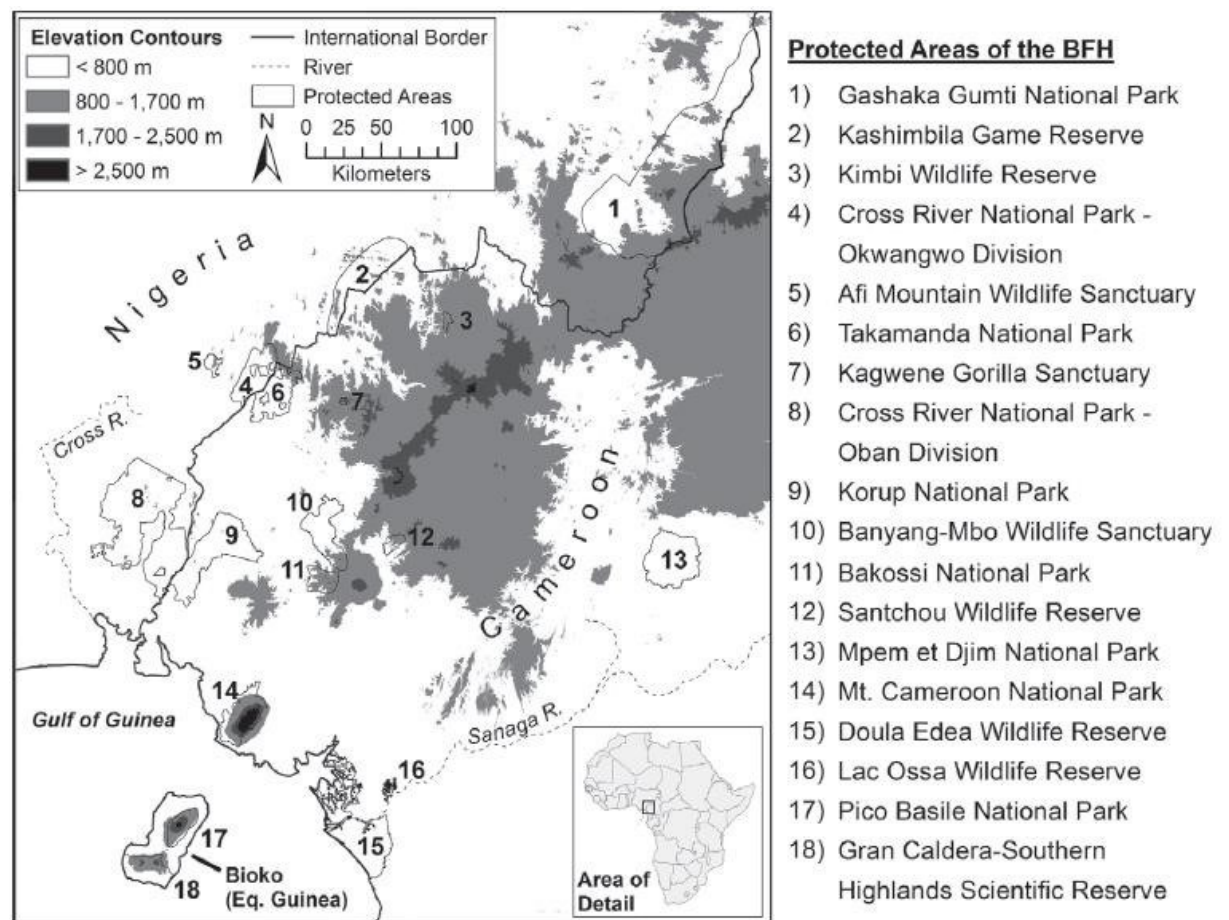


FIGURE 1. Protected areas in the Biafran forests and highlands (BFH). Topography information from the Shuttle-Radar Topography Mission (SRTM; available from U.S. Geological Survey). Protected area boundaries from IUCN and UNEP (2010).

Figure 1: Biafran Forest and Highland (BFH) Protected areas.  
Source: IUCN and UNEP, 2010

Due to stress on unique mountain ecosystem of the zone, there are threats though conservation progresses are seen in BFH. The point of interest is based at the “twin peaks” of Mount Cameroon and Bioko Island. Base on the author’s skills and the peaks at high elevations (UNEP, 2010). According to (Onana and Cheek, 2011),

modern shared biogeographic histories are relative isolated from other highland areas in the BFH. The analysis of the existing protected area is examined. In addition with the main policies put in place to take care of the rise in threat and conserve biodiversity. The methods in which conserving biodiversity could be in developed in future is recommended.

### **2.9.1 Protected Areas**

The BFH table above is made up of 18 rigorous shielded zones, composed of 3 IUCN (International Unions for Conservation of Nature) types (National Park; IV, Sanctuary of Wild-life), which cover a total area of over 17,500 km<sup>2</sup>. In Nigeria the Gashaka Gumti National Park contains a greater number of fifty-five percent of the entire shielded highland zones; nevertheless, the parks are situated out of the moist forests niches of the Guineo-Congolian zones (UNEP, 2010). According to (Bergl et al., 2007), there are minute spots of mountainous forests and narrow habitats for prevalent mountain species. Moreover is generally approximated that six percent of ultimately sixty-five thousands km<sup>2</sup> of highlands ecosystem beyond eight hundred meters in the zones have official shielding (Bergl et al., 2007). It is unusual to find Real conservation within established protected areas.

### **2.9.2 Human Population**

Densely inhabited zones on the continental sphere is been supported by BFH. Cameroon is not densely populated. For example the most distinctive organization in the CVL (Cameroon Volcanic Line) which is mount Cameroon is calculated to support a population of 300,000 (<http://www.volcanolive.com/mtcameroon.html>). The high density urban areas and the smaller villages are made up of human settlement and remains of forest cover of 1500m in place around its base (SWPDFW et al., 2005).

### **2.9.3 Threats to conservation**

Comparing sub Saharan Africa to West Africa, biological diversity threat is higher than the places in sub Saharan Africa. Reason being that the population density is high, high rate of habitats loss and growth rate (Wittemyer et al., 2008). It was proposed that protected areas where human settlements are become strong predictors of species extinction, fire frequency, illegal hunting and illegal timber and mineral extraction (Wittemyer et al., 2008). To aggravate circumstance Human settlement is been attracted by protected areas where the population growth rate of that protected areas doubles that of mean rate of rural growth (Wittemyer et al., 2008). Due to the gain rate of anthropogenic activity such as hunting of animals and deforestation, it has led to the damages of fragile ecosystem and biodiversity in the region of BFH (Oates et al., 2004).

### **2.9.4 Deforestation**

In BFH there is a big degradation and deforestation which is related to the expansion and development of subsistence activities for example timber, agriculture energy such as fuel wood (Megevand et al., 2013). In Cameroon deforestation was estimated to be roughly eight hundred to one thousand kilometer per year (Wolfe et al., 2005), while the most intensive exploitation it has suffered from the coastal region (de Wasseige et al., 2012). The most prominent percentages of average forest loss the years 2000 to 2005 which was valued at 2.40% is Bioko mountainous forests and mount Cameroon when compared to 20 ecoregions (Buchanan et al., 2011). With the high rate of continues movement of people in to the area it has resulted to the demolition of natural vegetation of agricultural use, commercial and subsistence use whereas, the larger portion of the lowlands has been clear-cut for industrial plantation for example palm oil (*Elaeis guineensis*) (Linder, 2013).



### **2.9.5 Hunting of Animals (Bushmeat)**

Hunting of animals (bushmeat) immeasurable and not sustainable in the whole of BFH (Cronin et al., 2013), bullying all living things both plants and animals to extinction specifically primates (IUCN, 2013). ‘Bushmeat’ hunting is a highly commercialized activity. It is fueled by human population growth and increased per capita wealth in urban centers. Modernized hunting techniques and increased accessibility to remote areas of forest. From 1997 to 2010 197,000 carcasses were recorded (Albrechtsen et al., 2007). The densities and diversities of large vertebrates result to unfavorable impacts on the function of eco system when hunting takes place (Abernethy et al., 2013).

### **2.9.6 Climate Change**

Most specifically in the central African region of the BFH, climate change is forecasted for severely affecting the African continent (James et al., 2013). The increase in average yearly temperatures are probably to surpass 2°C over wide swath of the continents beneath average milieu, which is totality under magnified-emissions milieu are been suggested by warming projections. Warming are anticipated to be relatively higher to lowlands than high land so the BFH will be affected (Pounds et al., 2006), whereas patterns of rainfall are foreseen to alter greatly. In the whole of Africa montane ecosystem are responding to climate change (IPCC, 2014). According to (Thomas et al., 2004) it has been forecasted by world modeling studies that animal and plants species of 30 percent will be threatened to extinction with an increase in yearly mean temperature of 1.5 °C in surplus. In tropical areas this extinction will not be appropriate to be attributed based on a number element such as high endemism and richness in species (Raxworthy et al., 2008). Climate change impacts are expected to aggravate anthropogenic effects (Colwell et al., 2008), as

bushmeat hunting is intermediating with forest transformation and seed spreading (Abernethy et al., 2013).

## **2.10 Conservation Criteria**

Cameroon is a member of Sub-Saharan Africa and suffers the same fate as other countries of the continent when it comes to conservation. These environmental problems include; deforestation, soil erosion, wetland degradation, extinction of endangered species, insect infestation, over hunting, over farming, etc (UN, 2013). To overcome these challenges, there is call for inter-countries sustainability programs and the corporations of the civil, public, and private societies within the country (Biodiversity International and others, 2012). These are the major problems encountered by the ecological niche of the South West region of Cameroon.

To better understand the conservation approached used by the MCE (Mount Cameroon Ecotourism), an application of multiple criteria sorting method proposed by Kadziński et al., 2015. Furthermore it should be understood that the major threat in this region are human activities such as land use alterations. Natural and anthropogenic factors of the soil give a clearer view of these threats. A natural factor shows the potentials of ecosystems to resist environmental perturbations. Anthropogenic factors model perturbations caused by humans. The criteria used in this research are tabulated as follows on Table 1.

Table 1: Factors affecting desertification and corresponding evaluation criteria used for assessing the zone.

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Criterion abbreviation</b>
<b>Natural</b>	Soil erodibility	Soil
	Climate erosivity	Climate
	Drought	Aridity
<b>Anthropogenic</b>	Land use alterations	Land use
	High grazing density	Grazing
	High degree of hunting	Hunting
	Groundwater exploitation	Water

Source: Adapted from Kadziński et al., 2015.

Soil erodibility deals with its texture, surface cover and depth with respect to its stoniness percentage. Land use alterations are seen as a means to study how functional the land has been. A multiple criteria sorting method was used to better define and understand the processes going on within MCE (Kadziński, M et al., 2015). It constituted the definition of the zone and allocation examples in step 1 and later building thresholds and compatible value functions in step 2. A question is posed to whether there exist any compatible value or threshold and if the answer is no, a minimal identification of certain sets of problems and allocating examples (step 3). Should the answer be yes, it then moves to step 4 which is the building up of necessary and possible assignments and later a building up of class thresholds and functional value representatives in step 5. This multiple criteria sorting method is represented diagrammatically below:

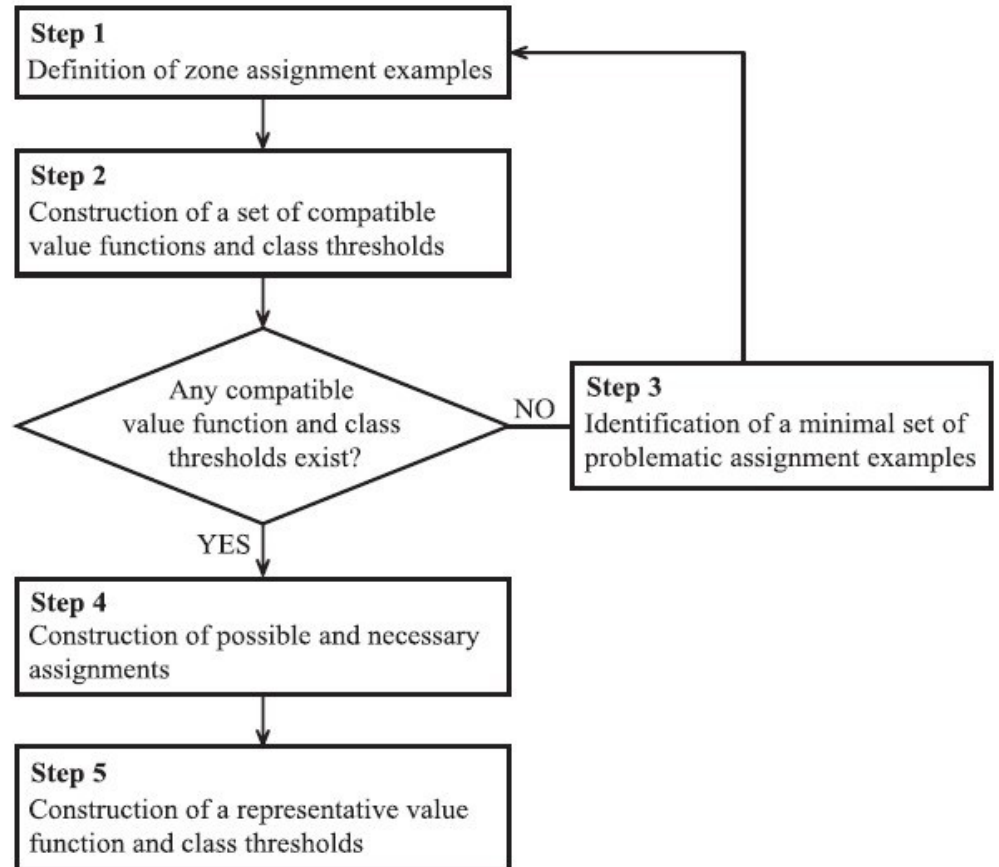


Figure 2: General outline of the multiple criteria sorting method used in the research.  
Source: Adapted from Kadziński et al., 2015

## Chapter 3

### CASE STUDY OF CAMEROON

#### 3.1 Cameroon: Country Study

The first dwellers of Cameroon are the Sao civilization located around the Baka hunters and the Lake Chad basin (Noudou Mbiakop Nadine, 2012). It is located in the South East rainforest. Around the 15<sup>th</sup> century, some Portuguese explorers arrived at the coast of Cameroon and seeing so many prawns in the river decided to name the territory Rio dos Cameros meaning “River of prawns”. This word Cameros gave birth to the word Cameroon. The Germans took over the country in the 19<sup>th</sup> century after the departure of the Portuguese whose main focus was colonization and transforming Cameroon to ‘another Germany’. With such an ideology in mind, they built powerful Fondoms and chiefdoms all over the territory especially in the North, West and North West regions.

Cameroon fully became a German colony in 1884 (Rossi B., 2015). During the First World War (WW1), the Germans were defeated in Cameroon by the British and French forces. As a result this defeat, the German territory was shared into two between Britain and France (Willibroad Dze-Ngwa, 2015).

This sharing gave Cameroon the name, Mandate of League of Nations. Decades of struggles under different colonial and European masters brought about struggle for freedom under the umbrella of independence. This gave birth to a United Peoples’ Party known as “Union des Population du Cameroun” (UPC). In 1960, the French

gave independence to the French section of Cameroon and it became La Republique du Cameroun under the leadership of His Excellency President Ahmado Ahidjo. In 1961, the British or South Cameroon under the British in quest for Independence joined the then Called La Republique du Cameroun and gave birth to the Federal Republic of Cameroon (Willibroad Dze-Ngwa, 2015). Due to the presence of two diverse official languages, the country has under gone ‘mutation’ on its name. In 1972 it was named the United Republic of Cameroon and later in the 1984 changed to Republic of Cameroon till date. Cameroon out stands among all other African States, as a nation which has enjoyed longed political and social stabilities. This stability has brought about infrastructural growth such as agriculture, tourism, petroleum, timber and rubber industries etc. (Willibroad Dze-Ngwa, 2015).

### **3.2 Geography of Cameroon**

Cameroon lies between the Central and West Africa in the Gulf of Guinea. It is a less developed world country. Its official name is Republic of Cameroon bordered to the East by Central Africa Republic, to the west by Nigeria, to the North East by Chad, and to the South by Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Congo. Cameroon’s coastline is located on bight Bonny made up partially of Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean which creates beach tourism to its coastline (<http://www.peaceau.org/uploads/au2013-en-delim-ademar-of-bound-gen-iss-a-studies-elec2.pdf>) .

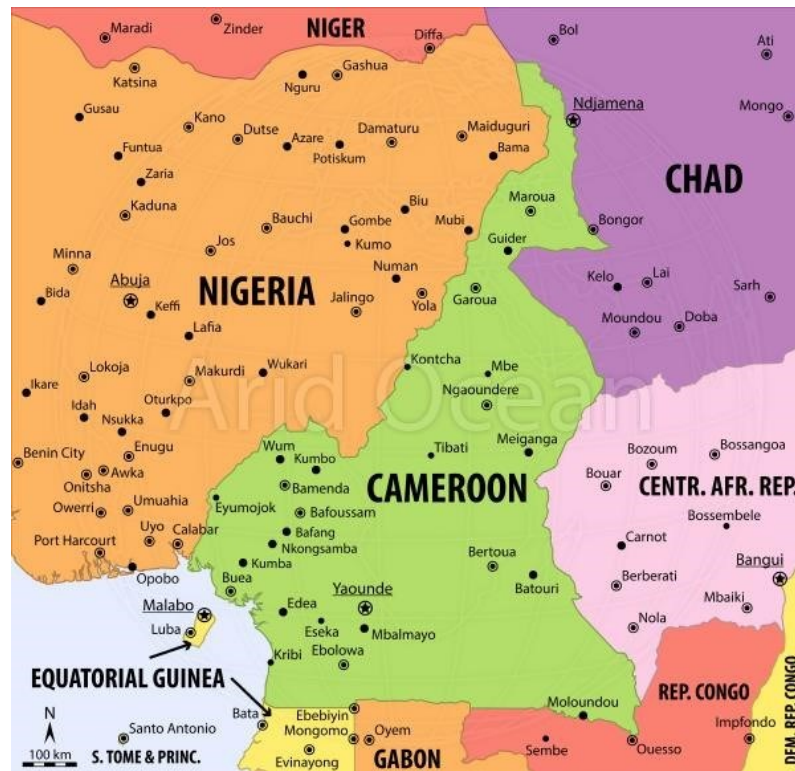


Figure 3: Map of Cameroon (extracted from shaded Relief of Cameroon 1998)  
**Source:** Relief of Cameroon, 1998

“Africa in miniature” is the continental appellation of Cameroon since it has a great biodiversity that consist of every bit of natural resources located all over the African continent. These include fauna and flora, beaches, mountains, rainforests, diverse cultures, and savannas. Cameroon is partitioned into two major sections that is; the English Cameroon (colonized by Britain) and the French Cameroon (colonized by France). These two sections form a great nation called Republic of Cameroon made up of 10 regions and two official languages; English and French. It has a total surface area of 475,440 km<sup>2</sup> with a total population of 21,699,631 according to the Country’s demographic profile of 2013 (United Nations, 2013). The capital of Cameroon is Yaoundé and its economic capital is Douala. Cameroon experiences diverse climatic conditions varying according to its regions. The northern regions, semiarid and Sahel region witnesses 7 months of dry season and are usually hot while Yaoundé situated at the central and western highland witness a very brief dry season. The coastal

tropical forest situated at the Littoral region witnesses a humid and warm climate throughout the year whereas the tropical forest in the south of Cameroon witnesses warmth air and 4 months of dry season throughout the year ([http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/climate/projects/undpcp/UNDP\\_reports/Cameroon/Cameroon.lowres.report.pdf](http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/climate/projects/undpcp/UNDP_reports/Cameroon/Cameroon.lowres.report.pdf)).

### **3.3 Politics of Cameroon**

One of the Nation's assets for decades is political stability and nationwide peace. Cameroon is located in a region where all its neighbors had experience numerous civil wars. Cameroon plays a huge role as a peace keeping force within the region. This stability has brought about economic growth. Cameroon is a democratic nation and its political leadership is under His Excellency President Paul Biya and his ruling party Cameroon Peoples Democratic Movement (CPDM) (Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016).

Cameroon's president within the sub-Saharan African presidents is at the top of the democratic ladder of which he has shown enormous strength in controlling government institutions for decades now. Elections in Cameroon are always believed to be accompanied by huge fraud and this make most opposition parties to boycott elections giving room for the ruling party to carry the majority of votes and Biya winning all clock round. The ruling party takes control of Cameroon's politics and at same time controls the government due to its majority. Notwithstanding in the year 1990, Cameroon experienced a huge political and multi-partism shift which almost tore the country apart (Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016). This period gave birth to so many opposition parties as illustrated on the table below;



Table 2: Major Opposition parties in Cameroon

<b>Political Parties</b>	<b>Leaders</b>
Social Democratic Front (SDF)	Ni John Fru Ndi
Cameroonian Democratic Union (UDC)	Adamou Ndam Njoya
National Union for Democracy and Progress (UNDP)	Maigari Bello Bouba

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics\\_of\\_Cameroon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Cameroon)

Though these oppositions exist, they had failed awfully to fight against the ruling party and President Paul Biya. The reason being that, they find it so difficult to unite themselves and fight for a single goal. As a result, the judiciary system of Cameroon lacks effectiveness and independence. The president is the overall boss, the courts effects money and politics as their responsibilities while the president elect judges (Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016). Cameroon's head of government is Paul Biya with Philemon Yang as its Prime Minister. Cameroon experience a central presidential republic with the president assuming a double function of being its head of state and head of government at the same time though it practice a multi-party system. The government executes the sole executive power in the state.

The government of Cameroon execute the Executive power and the National Assembly of enthrone the Legislative power. Cameroon is divided into two parts; the French and the English Cameroons. The French got its independence in 1960 while the British Cameroon in 1961 (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2015). In the ministry of justice of Cameroon, judiciary auxiliary executive branch and the president is the chief commander over the Supreme Court when

review of constitution is at hand. A hundred and eighty members made up the National Assembly and it holds three times annually (George Ngwane, 2014). During any adoption, maturity votes carry the order of the day and present members are eligible to vote. Central government workers still play the role of local government officials in the ministry of territorial admission of Cameroon.

Based on hierarchy, the president, ministry of justice and judiciary advisers are placed above the judiciary. Councils, courts and traditional rulers also execute governmental functions in their local districts or villages. In 1990, multiparty system was introduced into the Cameroonian society (George Ngwane, 2014). In 1992, Cameroon organized and carried out the first multi-party legislative and presidential elections and later Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) had its birth in 2006 and became the sole organizer of State elections. Cameroon government is built on transparency, fight against corruption, accountability and creating a favorable environment for business though this is not often the case at hand (Cameroon: Senatorial Elections 2013).

### **3.4 Economic of Cameroon**

Cameroon has the best major economic commodities in the Sub-Saharan Africa due to its huge oil reserved and positive agricultural resources. Cameroon though so rich faces unequal income distribution, climatic crisis, corruption and stable per capital income.

During the 1990 era, Cameroon government tilted towards IMF and World Bank programs. Its aim is to enhance trade, augment effectiveness, and recapitalize national banks and business outgrowth investment in agriculture. IMF focuses more on poverty eradication, enhance budget transparency and privatization programs.

Cameroon's budget has been constrained by electricity, food and fuel (<http://www.imf.org/external/country/CMR/>). Infrastructural reform has been so numerous in Cameroon lately and grants the country opportunities to attract diverse investments to overcome inadequate infrastructure (Africa's Economic Outlook (AEO), 2016).

### **3.5 Social Issues**

On the social aspect of Cameroon, poverty, equity and social inclusion will be taken in to consideration. To have control over primary social services, Cameroon has made many endeavors but it was not enough. Reason being that in 2012, according to Human development index (HDI) ranking was 150<sup>th</sup> on 187. In 2008, the poverty index for Cameroon was 31.5% ([http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/countrynotes/CMR.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/countrynotes/CMR.pdf)). Africa has 39.6 percent physicians in every 100,000 while in Cameroon it is 18.4 percent in every 100,000 inhabitants. The rate of HIV/AIDS is increasing every day in Cameroon with 5.1% of the people been infected with this disease when compared with the percentage average rate of African countries which is 4.5%. To control this disease, a system has been made and also programs for medical attention and psychological centers created for cancelling these patients. More so, drugs are been provided to patient at a minimum amount that they can afford (Millennium Developmental Goals, 2013).

According to Hess et al 2015, it was discovered that just 6.6% of women part take when decisions are been taken in the country of which 51% of the population is made up of women. 4.4% of the women working in companies owned by the state, 10% are in government positions, 13.8% in parliament and 8 % are mayors. Why women

are few in these places is because of domestic activities that is hindering them not to part take as compared to the men. In Cameroon women are victims of domestic violence as well as sex violence as 52% of them with age of 15 have been harassed. Also just 4% of women in Cameroon own land (UN Women, 2013 & [www.africa4womensrights.org](http://www.africa4womensrights.org)). The ratio of boys and girls primary schools is increasing. For instance in the year 2000 the percentage was 85% and in the year 2008 it was 86%. Cameroon had joined other international bodies to sign agreements concerning gender equality. Strengthening of gender priorities must be encouraged in the country. Out of the 8<sup>th</sup> millennium goals of development goals, a maximum of 3 is expected to reach its optimum in 2015 via which;

- i. Overall primary education is their responsibility, ii. Giving the communities or citizens excess amount of drinking water, and
- iii. Enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

### **3.6 Resources of Cameroon**

Cameroon has a huge range of diverse natural resources. These resources include; bauxite, timber, petroleum, hydropower, iron oil, etc. For many years, crude oil and petroleum has remained the major exports of the country. Chad and Cameroon is in an oil partnership via oil pipelines running across most of the state's territory. Cameroon finds it difficult to extract cobalt, uranium, bauxite, iron ore and nickel resulting from inadequate industrial infrastructures. Due to this, foreign investors are being encouraged to carryout extraction of bauxite, oil and iron. Mineral laws and taxes are being revised so as to encourage foreign investment (World Resource Institute, 2011). Agriculture is the backbone of Cameroon economy. With this also

Cameroon has diverse natural resources in its ten regions. The ten regions of Cameroon are illustrated below:



Figure 4: The 10 regions of Cameroon

Source: <http://www.cameroontourist.com/cameroon-regions>

These are semi-autonomous regions each run by the administration of an elected Regional Council. It begins with the Extrême Nord (Far North), Nord (North) and Adamaoua (Adamawa). Towards the south of these northern regions, we have Centre (Centre) and Est (East). The South region is located on the southern border and gulf of Guinea. The western region of Cameroon is divided into smaller regions, four in number. These include; Littoral (Littoral) and Sud-Ouest) regions are located on the coast, whereas Nord-Ouest (North West) and Ouest (West) regions are found on the western grass fields.

The Southwest and Northwest are the only two regions which originated from the British Cameroons while the rest regions are from the French Cameroon. South west (SW) region is located in the equatorial rain forest region of the country. SW has a population of 1.5 million persons over a total surface area of 27,250km<sup>2</sup> (Noudou Mbiakop Nadine, 2012). Southwest region of Cameroon is made up of Lebialem, Ndian, Meme, KoupéManengouba, Manyu and Fako. In this region, there are three main mountains viz; Rumpi Mountain (Mt), Mt Kupe and Mt Fako (Cameroon), wide black coastal beach which opens up into the Atlantic Ocean and wide forest reserves (Noudou Mbiakop Nadine, 2012).

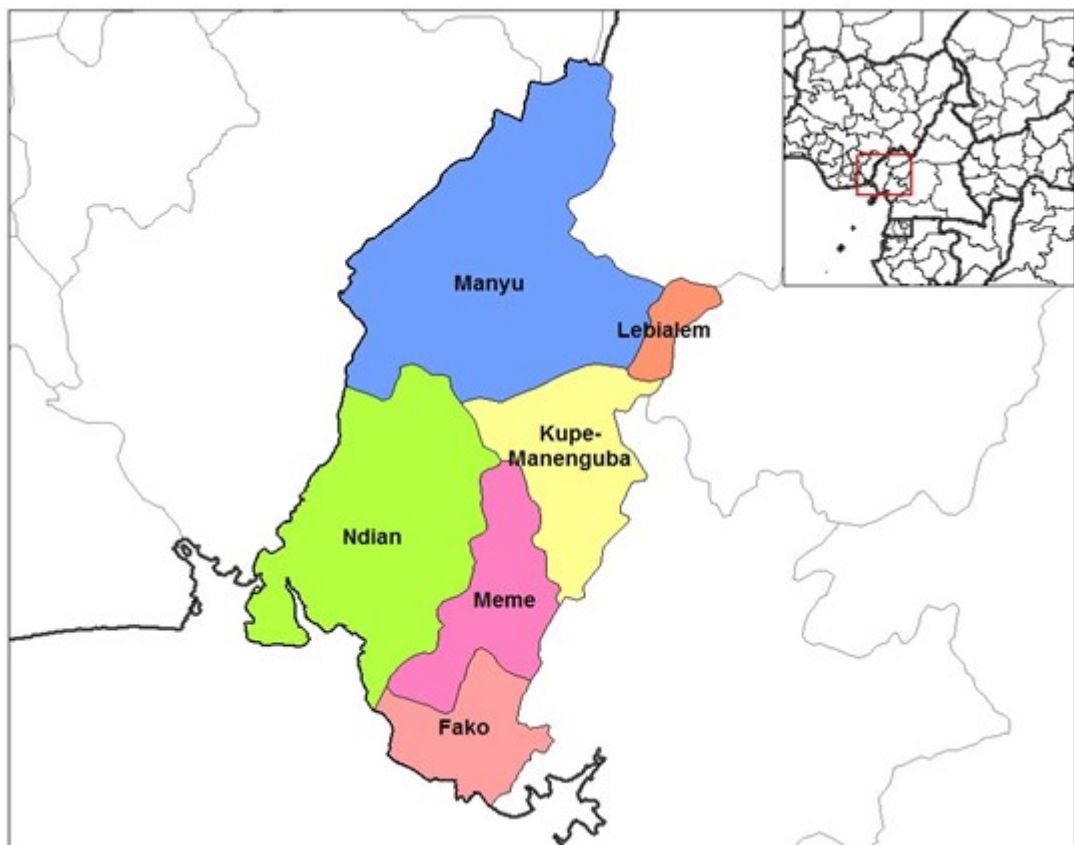


Figure 5: South West region of Cameroon

Source: <http://www.cameroontourist.com/southwest-regions>

An active volcano in Cameroon is Mt Fako lying along the gulf of Guinea which has had eruptions in the years 1999 and 2000. This is one of Africa's largest volcanoes

with heights of 28,420 ft (4,095 metres) beyond the west coast of Cameroon. It runs from the coast via the tropical rainforest onto the bare summit composed of wind, cold and usually brushed with fog. Tourism activities are highly concentrated along the Mt Fako region. It spreads through the Atlantic coast to the enormous Mt Cameroon. Mt Cameroon (Fako) is the highest mountain of central and West Africa (Noudou Mbiakop Nadine, 2012). This mountain is of volcanic origin there by providing fertile soils to the locality which is rich in nutrients. This is the origin of vast farmlands and natural vegetation. There exists a drastic change in altitude which leads to great diversity in natural vegetation. These diverse types of vegetation types such as at sea level we have freshwater swamps, mangrove forests, lowland evergreen forests, mountains and submountain forests and to savannah (sub-alpine grasslands) above 2000 m. These diverse habitats possess diverse groups of endemic and endangered species. These include; drill, forest elephants, Francolin bird, chimpanzee, Chameleons, reptiles and antelopes. Mt Cameroon (Fako) is a wide biodiversity spot made up of diverse species of butterflies, animals, rare birds, and both medicinal and economic plants (Noudou Mbiakop Nadine, 2012).

There exist lava flows, craters of recent eruptions, crater lakes, waterfalls and caves which serve as a point of attraction to mountaineers and nature loving tourist to the region. Swimming and boating opportunities are offered by the beautiful coastline made up of river estuaries and black sand beaches. Limbe wildlife centre and Limbe Botanical gardens are beautiful sites that provide a good collection of animals and plants of the region ([www.mount-cameroon.org](http://www.mount-cameroon.org)). Touristic activities are controlled by the Mount Cameroon Inter-communal Ecotourism Board (Mount-CEO). These activities include tourists hiking around and up the mountain to visit rare animals and plant species, Crater Lake, etc. Looking at the second mountain, Mt Kupe, it has an

altitude of 2400m above sea level. It harbors 25 endemic species of birds in a registered list of 329 species of birds. This mountain is one of the most important Africa's endemic bird areas according to the Cameroon Endemic Bird board ([www.mount-cameroon.org](http://www.mount-cameroon.org)).

### **3.7 Environment of Cameroon**

Cameroon is privilege to have diverse ecosystems with particular plants and animals resources. Nine thousands species of higher plants have been identified in Cameroon with about 8000 – 8300 composed of flowering plants and 600 made up of flowerless plants. Cameroon is 3<sup>rd</sup> rich flora country in Africa. It is a large biodiversity nation beginning with tropical forest moving gradually to steppes of Sahel (<http://www.eolss.net/Eolss-sampleAllChapter.aspx>). Cameroon otherwise described as “Africa in miniature” due to its high possession of biodiversity leading to an enhanced ecosystem. Cameroon has two million hectares of protected grasses and 18 national parks. Community plays high influences on these reserves especially negatively. In a single year, two hundred thousand hectares of reserved land was lost through fire exploitation and commercial. Over grazing has practically destroyed the semiarid lands of the northern regions of Cameroon (<http://www.eolss.net/Eolss-sampleAllChapter.aspx>).

Another source of environmental destruction comes from air pollution generating from chemicals and vehicle emissions. Cameroon possesses a renewable water source of 268cm<sup>3</sup>, 78% urban dwellers and 18% rural communities who are free of fetching drinking water. National wildlife is being jeopardized via illegal hunting and over fishing. Deforestation is almost becoming a unique environmental crisis in Cameroon especially the northern part. Cameroon government has failed to



recognize land rights or habitat rights for the real owners (pigmy) found in the forests of Cameroon thereby making life so difficult for them (UN, 2007).

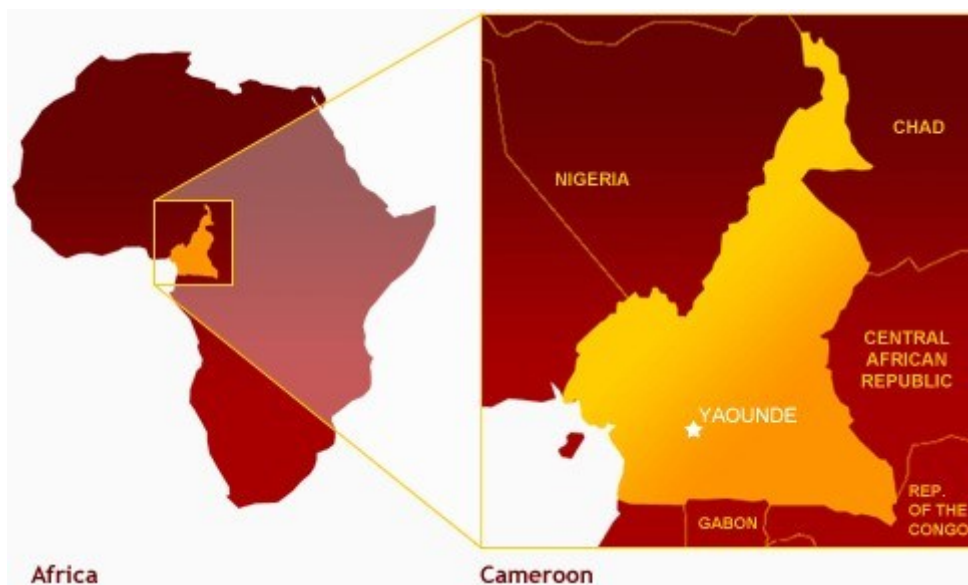


Figure 6: Map of Africa showing the location of Cameroon  
Source: <http://www.cameroontourist.com/africa-cameroon-regions>

### 3.8 Tourism in Cameroon

Tourism industry in Cameroon is experiencing a gradual but continuous growth as regards tourism. Tourism industry can do better in Cameroon (Sumelong, 2012). Though promising, some decades back the government of Cameroon could not realize its goals despite the huge effort and interest it made on the Nation's tourism industry to attract tourists influx (Woodgate et al, 2011). Few expectations lie in the minds of Cameroon as regards Mount Cameroon Ecotourism project (MCEP). The nation's new tourism plan has to be established based on this MCEP (Fonka & Mesape, 2010). Cameroon's ecotourism is a very tender industry undergoing growth and it is being monitored by the government to preserve and protect the natural surroundings. Safety measures are taken to protect tourists and this gives the

industry, a slow but constant growth rate. World heritage is a new appellation for Mount Cameroon meanwhile the nation itself is commonly known as “heaven of ecotourism” and which shows the various natural resources and reserved parks. Based on tourists’ destinations in Central Africa Subregion, Cameroon top leads the list. (Woodgate et al., 2011). Cameroon portray blessings from God as concerns natural resources made up of culturally designed monarchs located along the North, North Western and South Western parts of Cameroon and sandy beaches in Limbe and Kribi. Cameroon has the highest mountain in the Central and Western Africa. Cameroon’s tourism is at its initial growth stage and it attracts closed to five thousand tourists per year but still yet not listed among the major tourists’ destinations. Cultural diversity of the country has shown a leading aspect in attracting tourists into the nation lately. In cultural tourism, there is huge involvement of the community and the nationals in Cameroon as these festivals are scheduled by local communities, government, organizers, etc. to boost up tourism in Cameroon (Cyprian B. N, 2012).

### **3.9 Tourism Challenges**

As far as tourism sector in Cameroon is concerned much work has to be done even though lately there has been an improvement in the tourism sector. Cameroon is known as "Africa in miniature" because of the rich potentials, but despite all these Cameroon has not had more than five hundred thousand tourists a year to be seen as a tourist destination as demanded by world tourism organization (WTO, Sumelong 2012). According to the ministry of tourism in Cameroon, in 2009 Cameroon had 402.580 tourists. In June 2, 2010, the ministry of tourism held several meetings concerning the problems affecting tourism industry in Cameroon and issues were raised while proposed solutions were given as well (Fonka & Mesape 2010). Also

workshop seminar was held in May 31 to June 2 to train journalists about responsible tourism in Yaoundé the capital city by APTOUR "Press Association for Responsible Travel". In this seminar it was discovered that in the international level, there is this lack of promotion of tourism potentials and ecotourism was given as an example tourism that lacked promotion (Fonka & Mesape, 2010). According to Sumelong (2012), the ministry of tourism in Cameroon lacks ways of exercising its duties as it supposed to be done. The problems or challenges ahead of the ministry are more than the budget stated to carry out the activities, and ineffectiveness of the organizations. Also the president of Cameroon TOURCOM by name Bamamba Jean Baptiste said the Cameroon tourism industry is suffering from lack of access to sites, administrative problems, lack of adequate childcare, lack of communication and marketing and police harassment (Fonka & Mesape, 2010). Furthermore, in Sackmen (2003) some tourist destinations have not been developed because of lack of finance and professionalism. With this one can understand what Favre Carole teacher of tourism in London from Colchester University who was present in the world tourism day celebration in Cameroon 2010. He said Cameroon tourism is under developed and doesn't have precise directions. Obviously an opportunity exists but still needs developmental strategies which are thoughtful and encourages collaborations between the people and the state. (Fonka & Mesape, 2010). These are some of the challenges that the Cameroon's tourism industry is facing and these issues has to be look upon and taken into consideration and ensure possible solutions for the industry to be better. For Mount Cameroon ecotourism to develop effectively, the local authorities in that area has to come up with a functional ecotourism (Ostrom et al, 2002).

So in order for tourism sectors to achieve their goals there must be equal sharing of benefits amongst the various stakeholders as defined in 1996 and 1998 workshop named The Developmental and Promotional tourism in the Mount Fako (Cameroon) Project areas (Tanyi, 1998). It is important for the stakeholders to be trained in order to acquire knowledge and commitment, and with this ecotourism will be develop in the area. For example general awareness of waste management, tour guide, environmental respect and hospitality management (Ostrom et al, 2002). For the development of sustainable ecotourism industry there must be this effective communication between guides, tourists and the people in that area. With nice experience received by the tourists, they will always want to recommend it to relatives and friends (Agrawal, 2002).

For this to be effective, the local people have to be taught how to communicate with tourists and treat them well so as to have a positive word of mouth from them about the mount Cameroon and why not Cameroon at large. The allocated area of this study is the Mt Cameroun Ecotourism in Buea, South west region of Cameroon. This organization was created by the German Development Mission in Cameroon focusing on the promotion of mountain tourism in the mountainous region of Fako Mountain (mount Cameroon). Before its creation and erection, visitors wishing to visit the mountain usually took a single pathway to the summit of the mountain. This distance was relatively short and made tourists not to have a wide experience of the wildlife on the mountain such as antelopes and elephants harboring along the mountain slopes. When this organization was created, tourists were placed with numerous options whereby they could experience every wildlife species habiting on the mountain. A single trip could provide double experiences of hiking and wildlife viewing. Many villagers used to poach wildlife along the mountain; this organization

brought forth sustainability of mountain tourism and trained local hunters into tour guides. One of the main biodiversity hot spot and highest mountain in west and central Africa is found in Cameroon known as mount Cameroon. It has an altitude close to 4,100 m asl and extended to sea level. It offers a large panel for touristic attraction for wild life lovers, trekkers and birdwatchers and a wide range of ecosystem as well. Mount Cameroon race of hope hosts national and international visitors every year. This mountain is between the vicinity of two towns in Cameroon known as Buea and Limbe and it is an hour drive from Douala international airport. It constitute a culture based touristic destination and world class nature.

About one thousands tourists especially Cameroonians and the resident expatriates mainly visits the mountain yearly mostly during weekends and seasonal holidays. Despite the lack of ecotourism infrastructures, wildlife, trekking, scenic and other attraction, planning and marketing is presently hindering Mount Cameroon National Park (MCNP) from reaching tourism potentials (Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, 2014). One of the oldest tourism destinations in Cameroon is mount Cameroon ecotourism which is an attractive active volcano to researchers, administrators, Colonialism and missionaries in the nineteenth century (Fonka & Mesape, 2010). The mount Cameroon Ecotourism board aimed at generating income without removing the biodiversity from the mountain. On the mountain there are many secrets activities taking place there. These are the beetles and butterfly hunting by illegal hunters who give them to traffickers of wildlife, the indiscriminating felling of trees to collect backs of trees for traditional medicinal product (Woodgate et al, 2011). Apes and elephants are also killed by poachers for meat and ivory which has negative effects on the environment. Ecotourism is been promoted as an alternative by some authorities as a sustainable fund raising activities on the

mountain without destroying the natural resources at the mountain (Neba, 1999). The initial attempt in developing sustainable ecotourism at mount Cameroon started in December 1996, with some various stakeholders being identified and a work shop organization named The Developmental and Promotional tourism in the Mount Cameroun Project areas (Tanyi, 1998). Those included in work shop were local municipal authorities, tourism promoters, and traditional rulers, some members of the general public and provincial delegation of tourism.

Two years later another workshop came up to examine how far they have gone with the project and if they have attained their goals. The second work shop was full with people that lived around the mountain (Tako, 1999). At this second meeting they deliberated and came up with a new strategy for the development of mount Cameroon ecotourism. There is a need in retraining huntsmen and other inhabitants practicing illegal responsibilities concerning tourism such as protection of the surrounding (Agrawal, 2002). With this notion there were some priorities given to these hunters to be trained in different jobs for example tour guides since they were familiar with the mountain and had knowledge about the environment. Some were also trained in different professions as security guards and were being hired by security firms while the rest were trained as taxi drivers. The aim of this ecotourism in the mountain was to make sure that the local population benefits from the project with activities that does not have threat to the mountain. When it comes to the promotion of ecotourism in Cameroon, Mount Cameroon Ecotourism Organization is leading the way (Mount Cameroon Ecotourism Organization, 2009).

## Chapter 4

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research study is focused on the examination of mountain tourism and conservation in Buea, Cameroon. This seeks to focus on the existence of mountain tourism and how it has been conserved over the past years in Cameroon. Also this research searches on finding if the environmental impacts, economic impacts and socio cultural impacts are related to the intension to support mount Cameroon Eco Tourism. For this to be done, questionnaires were been distributed to some members of the community.

#### 4.1 Research Methodology

In every research methodology, there are two key types of approaches involves; inductive and deductive approaches. The main difference between these approaches is that “induction is the formation of a generalization derived from examination of a set of particulars, while deduction is the identification of unknown particulars, drawn from its resemblance to a set of unknown facts” (Rothschild 1994, 2006). Deduction is “the human process of going from one thing to another, i.e, of moving from the known to the unknown”(spangler, 1986 cited in Altinay and paraskevas 2006).

When using the deduction approach it means using what you know and moving to what it is not visibly seen and prior to the collection of data, there is a clear theoretical position. The conclusion is drawn first in inductive reasoning before the research is proven correct or incorrect. A deductive approach “develops a hypothesis

or hypotheses, expresses these hypothesis in operational terms, test hypothesis, examine the specific outcome of the inquiry and modify the theory in the light of the finding” (Robson 2002). On the other hand, induction is when conclusion is been made by researcher based on the observation of one or more particular pieces of evidence and not the reverse. Thus it starts from the observation to explanation of theories on what has been observed. The method used for this research is deductive method as it talks of mountain tourism and how it has been conserved in Cameroon over these years.

## **4.2 Quantitative Data Collection Method**

In a quantitative data there is the involvement of statistical analysis. It is based on numbers and anything that is measurable. And to draw conclusion numerical evidence is required. In a way to explaining the observed findings, quantitative research classifies features, count them, and construct complex statistical model.

Data collection from quantitative approach is gotten from observation, questionnaire or secondary sources. Quantitative approach results are given in tables, numbers graphs or other kinds of statistics. Quantitative approach findings can be generalized to a population that is larger, direct comparing, valid sampling and significant techniques are been used. This can be seen in the same line with one of the assumptions of Robson’s that deals with quantitative data analysis. Quantitative data collection is used for this study in order to know what the Buea community of Cameroon can say about mountain tourism and how it has been conserved over the past years.



#### **4.2.1 Sample of the Quantitative Data Collection**

According to (Altinay and paraskevas 2008) sampling is seen when a representative selection is made by researchers of part or subset of a total population such that it will be easy to draw conclusion based on the entire population. In drawing samples from group of people, there are many techniques used but Random and Non Random sampling are the two main sampling procedures. Random sampling procedures indicate that those chosen represent a larger group of the population. In Random sampling procedure there are four types; systematic sampling, cluster Random sampling, simple Random sampling and stratified Random sampling. Simple Random sampling is the best method when drawing a sample because it gives equal chance to each and every member of the population to be selected. While Non Random sampling procedure is made up of systematic matching sampling, purposive sampling and accidental quota sampling. Another type of sampling which is unstructured is convenience sampling where participants are selected because they are available or because they are easily accessible. Convenience is also purposive sampling or judgmental sampling.

Furthermore, judgmental sampling is where the participants are carefully selected from the population accessible. If the population to be studied is difficult to locate or some of the members are seen to have more experience or appropriate knowledge then this sampling technique will be the best to use. It is also best used when the population in question is a small number of individuals that are able to understand mountain tourism and how it has been conserved over the past years.

The questionnaire is made up of 25 items that is;

Firstly, Intention to support MCE which consists of 3 items; I intended to support implementation of Mount Cameroon Ecotourism (MCE) project. I will participate in MCE projects, if I will be invited. I intended to support development of MCE within a sustainable framework. These were positive positively related to support MCE project.

Secondly, Economic Impact with 4 items that is MCE a significant economic activity in the region. MCE project have raised the income of local people. MCE is an opportunity for economic development. MCE project is led by community enterprise. These were positively related to the intention to support MCE project.

Thirdly, Environmental impact comprises of 5 items; MCE has brought about a clean natural resource management process. MCE has encouraged environmental conservation. MCE has contributed to better waste management. MCE has raised awareness of the need for conservation. MCE has contributed to the environmental education. These were positively related to the intention to support MCE.

And lastly, social impacts made up of 13 items; MCE is an opportunity for social development.

MCE has contributed to enhanced level of education. MCE has raised the quality of life. MCE has raised the community pride. MCE has contributed to the building of community management organizations. MCE projects have brought numerous social problems. MCE has enabled the participation of local people. MCE has achieved more respect for the community by outsiders. MCE has encouraged respect for different cultures. MCE has fostered cultural exchange. The MCE is based on a

partnership between community and governmental Institutionn. Residents participation in the MCE is significant for the success for the community.The tourism development is based on partnership between private, public, and nonprofit organizations. These were also positively related to the intention to support MCE project (Shahmirzadi, 2012).

### 4.3 Data collection

Through the use of convenience sampling techniques, 150 respondents were available and easily accessible and had knowledge about mountain tourism. This study used data collected from the population of Buea in Cameroon. Questionnaires were distributed to 200 members in that community and 150 samples were used. The research is limited just to one town. The percentage rate that responded was 75%. So for this study, a convenient sample technique is been used to collect data.

### 4.4 Research Model

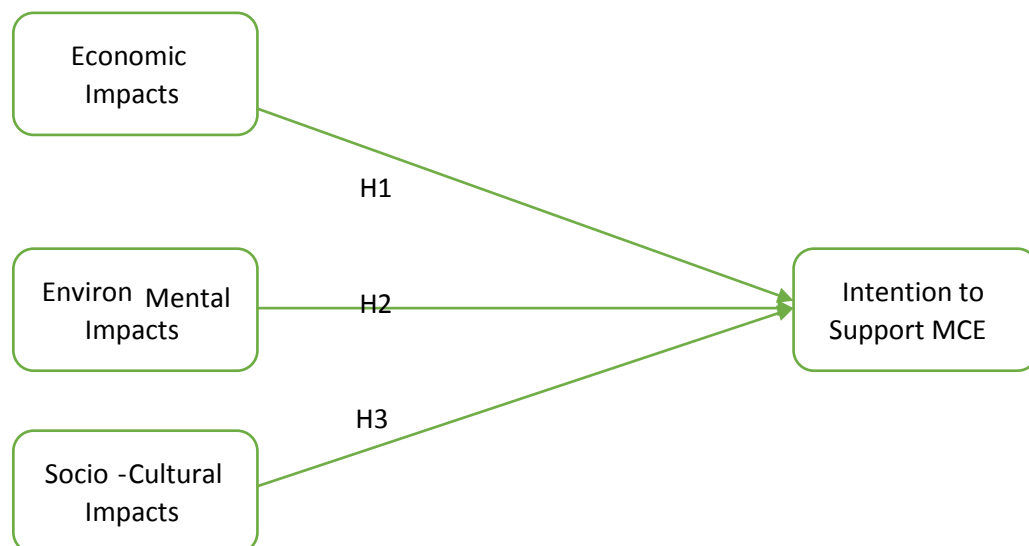


Figure 7: Research Model.

## Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: The positive economic impacts positively related to intention to support MCE

Hypothesis 2: The positive environmental impacts positively related to intention to support MCE

Hypothesis 3: The positive socio-cultural impacts positively related to intention to support MCE

### **4.5 Social Exchange Theory (SET)**

Social exchange theory (SET) has sociological and psychological views which describe social exchange and stability as a method arranged between people in society (Yutyunyong and Scott, 2010). The social exchange theory is gotten from the financial exchange hypothesis. Like a financial trade, social trade expect that individuals take an interest in return conduct since they think their reward will legitimize their cost. If they see that the reward they pick up is less than the cost they contribute, then they will stop the exchange. Unlike the economic and financial trades social exchange theory also deals with intangible costs and benefits such as emotional states or psychological gains and costs. According to many scholars social exchange theory refers to reciprocity rules and interdependent transactions (Emerson, 1976). Those involved in social exchange are obliged to measure their losses and gains. The social exchange could be in process while the participants find out if their benefits out weight costs or whether it is on equilibrium. And in the process if one of the parties finds out that the cost is more than the benefits they may want to drop out from the exchange relationship, social exchange is the motivation for the exchange to meet the profits and interest based on participants involvement (Ap, 1992). The tourists have different purposes while engaging in an exchange relationship but their

travel purpose can be seen as a gain for all while tourism benefits is what is motivating the host population involvement in the relationship.

According to (Ap, 1992; Perdue et al., 1990) a right framework used in developing an understanding of the host population's perceptions of tourism is social exchange theory. The economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts are been examine by social exchange theory, and also determines how tourism development and future development are been responded by the host community or residents (Andriotis and Vaughan, 2003).

More so, Ap's (1992) concluded that by saying resident who sees the benefits of tourism development higher than the costs, they tend to have a positive attitudes towards tourism development there by supporting the tourism projects, but when residents finds there is an imbalance based on the exchange relationship that is the cost is more than the benefits, they tend to have negative perception of tourism development. Generally the outcome of cost-benefit equation is depended on the perception of residents and their support for tourism development (Andriotis, 2005; Pearce et al., 1996). So, future development depends on the mutual benefits between visitors and host. Environmental, economic and socio-cultural components are the main elements produced by the host community (Pizam and Milman, 1986).

## Chapter 5

### DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The demographic features of the participants of the study were analyzed. Results of the analysis showed thus, that out of the 150 participants in the study 2.0% (3) were professional accountants, 0.7% (1) architect, 1.3% (2) army, 1.3% (2) banker, 0.7% (1) barrister, 0.7% (1) bike rider, 1.3% (2) bir, 0.7% (1) black smith, 2.7% (4) builder, 0.7% (1) business consultant, 3.3% (5) business man, 1.3% (2) business woman, 2.0% (3) carpenter, 1.3% (2) civil servant, 2.0% (3) contractor, 1.3% (2) cook, 0.7% (1) council worker, 2.0% (3) counselor, 0.7% (1) custom officer, 0.7% (1) director, 0.7% (1) doctor, 2.0% (3) driver, 0.7% (1) engineer, 0.7% (1) evangelist, 6.0% (9) farmer, other profession displayed multiple frequencies and percentage score results ranging from Gendammerie, hair dresser, head mistress, herbalist, journalist, lab technician, lawyer, lecturer, manager, mayor mechanic, professor, police, nurse, singer, store keeper, soldier, stylist, tailor, trader, typist, waitress etc.

According to the level of education it can be observed that participants without diploma are 2.7% (4), those with high school certificate are 43.3% (65), the ones with bachelors are 42.7% (64) and participants with master's certificate are 11.3% (17). According to the participant's level of income, the participants earning 25000 - 50000 are 24.0% (36), participants earning between 51000-76000 are 46.7% (70), participants earning 77000-100500 are 23.7% (35) and the participants earning 100600-150000 are 6.6% (9). According to their gender it was observed that male

participants are 70.7% (106) while the female participants 29.3% (44). According to their age, participants between the ages of 20-35 are 20.7% (31), those between the ages of 36-45 are 44.0% (66) while those that are above 45 are 35.3% (53). According to the impressions they have about tourism, 56.7% (85) of the participants have positive impression while 43.3% (65) of the participants have negative impression regarding tourism.

According to their perception of on the potential increase of tourism in Cameroon, 70.0% (105) of the participants said yes to the potential increase, while the participants that said no to the potential increase of tourism in Cameroon are 30.0% (45). According to the participants that believe that mountain tourism is economically viable, 73.3% (110) said yes agreeing that mountain tourism is economically viable while 26.7% (40) said no disagreeing that mountain tourism is not economically viable.

Table 3: Results of means, standard deviations, correlation, and Cronbach alpha

Variable	Mean	SD	$\alpha$	1	2	3	4
1. Economic Impacts	3.176	.374	.874	1			
2. Environmental Impacts	3.014	.945	.716	.394**	1		
3. Socio-cultural Impacts	3.923	.828	.703	.027	.317**	1	
4. Intention to support MCE	4.190	.351	.927	.251**	.402**	.531**	1

*Note: \*\**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).  
 $\alpha$  is Cronbach alpha for reliability check. SD is standard deviation.

According to Correlation results, economic impacts is significantly correlated to environmental impacts ( $r=.39$ ,  $P<.01$ ) and intention to support MCE ( $r=.25$ ,  $P<.01$ ).

As seen in table 1. There is no significant correlation between economic impacts and sociocultural. Results revealed that environmental impacts is significantly and positively correlated with socio-cultural impacts ( $r=.31$ ,  $P<.01$ ) and intention to support MCE ( $r=.53$ ,  $P<.01$ ).

Table 4: Results of Hypothesis testing

Independent Variable	Dependent Variables (Intention to support MCE)		Hypothesis result
	$\beta$	t	
Economic Impacts	.237**	3.19	H1: Supported
Environmental Impacts	.363**	4.57	H2: Supported
Socio-cultural Impacts	.441***	4.93	H3: Supported

## 5.1 Results of Hypothesis Testing

The next step involved is the verification of the model itself. Results obtained from the verification of the hypothesis are listed in the Table 2 above. With respect to the results obtained, economic impact is positively and significantly related to the intention to support MCE ( $\beta < .23$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ). This implies if mountain tourism has more of economic impacts, this will lead to more positive interest by community members and the intention to support Mount Cameroon Ecotourism. For example if there are more foreign currency in to economy, job opportunities and an increase in living standards, this will lead to the intention to support MCE. Thus hypothesis one



is supported. As illustrated still on table 2 above, huge effect of Environmental impact on intention to support MCE is positive and significant ( $\beta < .36, P < 0.01$ ).if the environment is properly managed i.e. there is proper waste manage, this will motivate the community members to have the intention to support MCE. Thus hypothesis two is supported.

To verify Hypothesis 3, it indicated that, socio cultural impacts are significantly and positively related to the intention to support MCE ( $\beta < .44, P < 0.01$ ). In relations to socio cultural impacts, MCE showed a positive result in maintaining conservation via socio cultural impacts as seen in the immediate society. This greatly shows that Hypothesis three is highly supported. To sum up everything, all the three hypotheses proposed were accepted / supported.

## Chapter 6

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

#### 6.1 Discussion and Conclusion

From the analysis, a demographic analysis showed that; respondents were of diverse professions. This showed a vivid cross section of all community members based on carrier orientation. It also showed that the distribution wasn't bias. The highest numbers of respondents were farmers with 6.0% followed by businessmen with 3.3% and builders came with 2.7%. The next majority on the list were drivers, counselors, contractors, carpenters with 2.0% each followed by army, bankers, BIR, civil servants and cooks with 1.3% each. Finally, a minute percentage of 0.7% was obtained from bike riders, barristers, architects, business consultants, council workers, custom officers, doctors, directors, evangelists and engineers. This was not the only professions that came to play. Others such as, head mistresses, polices, professors, herbalists, mayor, mechanics, tailors, typists, traders, lab technicians, lecturers, waitresses, store keepers, nurses, etc which showed minute percentages.

Significance of socio-cultural impact in Mountain Tourism has witnessed wide research which gave credits to socio-cultural impact among local residence. Based on this mountain tourism has experienced a huge interest on it socio-cultural impact over decades. This has greatly affected the immediate local community interest on the impacts expected from mountain tourism as regards community conservation.

For Mount Cameroon ecotourism to develop effectively, the local authorities in that area has to come up with a functional ecotourism (Ostrom et al, 2002). So in order for them to achieve their goals there must be equal sharing of benefits amongst the various stakeholders as defined in 1996 and 1998 workshop named, “the developmental and promotional tourism in the Mount Cameroun Project area” (Cyprian 2012). Tourism is a fast growing sector in the world which contributes greatly to gross domestic product of many countries. On the contrary, tourism in Cameroon hinders and underutilizes leading to its incapability to attract 500,000 tourists which can finally be named a touristic destination.

This is as a result of inadequate encouragements of potentials of tourism communication and marketing as well as police harassments. Cameroon government, policy makers and stakeholders should take note of all these challenges and come up with better solutions that will benefit the community at large. That is marketing Cameroon’s touristic potentials on social media where everyone is currently active nowadays. The police should be polite and welcoming not harassing tourists seeking for bribes. The government should see in to these hindrances that all is accounted for. With this Cameroon will be known for its touristic potentials worldwide. Community members have a greater role to play as far as tourism is concerned including mountain tourism and conservation. So the community members have to be treated fairly so that they can participate in tourism projects and contribute in decision making processes. The proceeds gotten from these tourism projects should be beneficiary to the community members. This will motivate the community. It will push them to support mountain tourism and protect natural resources.

Based on the function of protecting and conserving natural resources, protected areas and national parks are important factors of enhancing tourism economic wealth, recreation and education of the communities. When effectively managed and carefully planned, tourism provides important rewards to communities and protected areas. In this research it was seen that there are some factors that has to be noted when conservation projects are carried on. Natural and Anthropogenic factors are the most essential since they deal directly with the dead and living content of the environment. These form two major factors though very broad and diversified, there is need to define each factor into various criteria to ease task and enhance accuracy.

As concerns the natural factor, the criteria used are; soil erodibility abbreviated as soil, climate erosivity abbreviated as climate and drought abbreviated as aridity. Whilst taking a look on the Anthropogenic factor, it is placed under numerous criteria such as Land use alterations abbreviated as land use, high grazing density abbreviated as grazing high degree of hunting abbreviated as hunting and groundwater exploitation abbreviated as water. This gave the researcher a vivid and simplified zoning and data collection.

Social exchange theory was fully utilized throughout this study. This is a give and take theory in simple terms. Communities or community members involved in social exchange theory are obliged to measure their gain and losses. Participants will want to know if their benefits out weight their cost or vice versa. This study illustrated benefits gotten from mount Cameroon ecotourism and how it out weights the cost. So this made the community members to support Mount Cameroon Ecotourism projects.

Relying solely on SPSS statistical software a significant attribute is being studied and obtained theoretically. We can say that this particular attribute may serve as a determinant. This particular attribute challenged all the other attributes. The results of the studies have shown that socio-cultural impacts had a positive significance on Mountain Tourism and the functioning or management of MCE. This further has implications for the immediate community of Buea. Empirically this has a great positive influence on the whole process, community. This study ends by stressing on the major fact of the significance influence of socio-cultural impacts. Previous studies focused more on mountain tourism itself and failed to carry out this empirical studied. Mountain tourism is the major tourism practiced. It welcomes tourists from all nations once a year.

## **6.2 Implications**

This study and its methodological approach isn't a new one but it was blended in such a way as to obtain the best results ever. From all its processing, it showed that economic, environmental and sociocultural impacts were correlated to the intention to support Mount Cameroon Ecotourism projects. These results and the hypotheses could throw more meaning to the research if gender was consider as an impact since women aren't given the same opportunity as the men in the communities. Furthermore, the time take for the research was not timing, i.e this intention to support MCE projects could have been better examined if the study was carried out during an ongoing MCE project within the community. Conclusions wouldn't have been drawn not only from the answered questionnaires but from observations with respect to the ongoing projects of MCE. Further research should be carryout on how gender affects or correlates with the intention to support MCE projects. Also, a qualitative research should be carryout in other to confirm and examine the results

obtained from quantitative analysis. So future researchers should take note and rather focus on the various techniques used to achieve conservation since this will benefit both the researchers and the MCE board of administrators too.

### **6.3 Limitations and Suggestions for Future Studies**

As concerns the limitations of this study, it was carried out in a small locality in the south west region of Cameroon prevent such altitudes. So it makes it so difficult to generalize its findings. Its second limitation comes from limited number of time for data collection. The primary focus of this research was the examination of mountain tourism and conservation. Future research can be done or carryout on the various techniques used to achieve conservation via management team or plans of these tourism organizations.

Managers of Mountain tourism organizations can used the results obtained from this study to better know what to focus on which will in turn pull more community members to focus on their future projects. A major hindrance to this study was obtaining recent data with recent citations. This was as results of many Cameroonian academicians are solely involved into politics and the 'national cake' than focusing on expanding their academic scope through scientific journals.

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## **APPENDICE**

### **Research questions**

For each of the statements below, please indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement by placing a tick in the appropriate box.

The response scale is as follows:

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Undecided or Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree

### **Intention to Support MCE (3 items)**

1. I intended to support implementation of Mount Cameroon Ecotourism (MCE)

Projects.

1    2    3    4    5

2. I will participate in MCE projects, if I will be invited.

1    2    3    4    5

3. I intended to support development of MCE within a sustainable framework.

1    2    3    4    5

### **Economic Impacts (4items)**

4. MCE is a significant economic activity in this region.

1 2 3 4 5

**5.** MCE projects have raised the income of local people.

1 2 3 4 5

**12.** MCE is an opportunity for economic development.

1 2 3 4 5

**22.** The MCE is a project led by community enterprise.

**Environmental Impacts (5 items)**

**14.** MCE has brought about a clean natural resource management process.

1 2 3 4 5

**16.** MCE has encouraged environmental conservation.

1 2 3 4 5

**17.** MCE has contributed to better waste management.

1 2 3 4 5

**18.** MCE has raised awareness of the need for conservation.

1 2 3 4 5

**19.** MCE has contributed to the environmental education.

1 2 3 4 5



**Social Impacts (13 items)**

**6.** MCE is an opportunity for social development.

1 2 3 4 5

**7.** MCE has contributed to enhanced level of education.

1 2 3 4 5

**8.** MCE has raised the quality of life.

1 2 3 4 5

**9.** MCE has raised the community pride.

1 2 3 4 5

**10.** MCE has contributed to the building of community management organizations.

1 2 3 4 5

**11.** MCE projects have brought numerous social problems.

1 2 3 4 5

**13.** MCE has enabled the participation of local people.

1 2 3 4 5

**15.** MCE has achieved more respect for the community by outsiders.

1 2 3 4 5

**20.** MCE has encouraged respect for different cultures.



4. What sex are you?    Male                    —                    Female
5. Which age group do you belong?            20-35                    36-45                    45+
6. What impression about tourism you have in your life?    Positive                    —  
 Negative
7. Do you think that there would be more potential to increase tourism in Cameroon?
- Yes
- No
8. Do you think mountain tourism is economically viable?                    Yes                    No
9. Would you like to work in tourism industry in future?                    Yes                    No

Thanks for your time and comprehension. I pray God Almighty bless you abundantly.

	High school certificate	65	43.3
	Bachelors	64	42.7
	Masters	17	11.3

	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Income</b>	25000-50000	36	24.0
	51000-76000	70	46.7
	77000-100500	35	23.7
	100600-150000	9	6.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	106	70.7
	Female	44	29.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age</b>	20-35	31	20.7
	36-45	66	44.0
	45+	53	35.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>What Impression do you have about Tourism</b>	Positive	85	56.7
	Negative	65	43.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Potential to Increase Tourism in Cameroon</b>	Yes	105	70.0
	No	45	30.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Mountain Tourism Is Economically Viable</b>	Yes	110	73.3
	No	40	26.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Work in Tourism in Future</b>	Yes	54	33.0
	No	96	67.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>

		<b>Frequen cy (N)</b>	<b>Perce nt (%)</b>
<b>Profession</b>	Accountant	3	2.0
	architect	1	.7
	Army	2	1.3
	banker	2	1.3
	barrister	1	.7
	Bike rider	1	.7
	Bir	2	1.3
	Black smith	1	.7

	Builder	4	2.7
	Business consultant	1	.7
	Business man	5	3.3
	Businesswoman	2	1.3
	Carpenter	3	2.0
	Civil servant	2	1.3
	Contractor	3	2.0
	Cook	2	1.3
	Council worker	3	2.0

Counselor	3	2.0
Custom officer	1	.7
Director	1	.7
Doctor	1	.7
Driver	3	2.0
Engineer	1	.7
Evangelist	1	.7
Farmer	9	6.0
Gendammerie	2	1.3
Hair dresser	1	.7
Hair stylist	1	.7
Headmistress	1	.7
Herbalist	1	.7

Housewife	1	.7
Journalist	1	.7
Lab technician	3	2.0
Lawyer	3	2.0
Lecturer	2	1.3
Manager	3	2.0
Mayor	1	.7

Mechanic	3	2.0
Midwife	2	1.3
Missionaries	1	.7
Neurologist	1	.7
Nurse	4	2.7
Pastor	2	1.3
Pharmacist	2	1.3
Plumber	2	1.3
Police	8	5.3
Preacher	1	.7
Professor	1	.7
Quarter head	2	1.3
Radio journalist	1	.7
Radio presenter	1	.7
Radio repairer	1	.7

Receptionist	1	.7
Sales agent	2	1.3
Security head	1	.7
Shoe mender	1	.7
Shop keeper	1	.7



	Singer	1	.7
	Soldier	1	.7
	Store keeper	1	.7
	Stylist	2	1.3
	Surveyant G	1	.7
	Tailor	2	1.3
	Teacher	13	8.0
	Technician	2	1.3
	Television repairer	1	.7
	Tour guide	2	1.3
	Trader	6	4.0
	Traditional chief	1	.7
	Typist	1	.7
	Waitress	1	.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Level of Education</b>	No diploma	4	2.7

Table 4.1: Demographic profile