

Cameroon

Map of African continent



Indicator	Data
Population, 2019 (no.)	25,876,380
Population density, 2018 (people per sq. km of land area)	53.34
Coastal population, 2014 (no.) ⁴¹	1,986,723
Share of people living in urban areas, 2019 (%)	57.0
Total MSW generated, 2016 (tons/year) ⁴²	3,270,617

Socioeconomic Profile

Cameroon is a lower-middle-income country in West Africa bordered by Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea. The country is endowed with rich natural resources such as fossil fuel reserves, minerals, high-value species of timber, and agricultural products.⁴³ Cameroon is a unitary state divided into 10 administrative regions, each with an elected regional council⁴⁴ and runs a unitary presidential republic system with a parliament.

In 2019, Cameroon recorded an overall GDP (purchasing power parity) just above \$94 billion and a GDP (purchasing power parity) per capita of \$3,642.^{45, 46} With an area of 475,440 km², it has a population of 25,876,380 (2019), as well as a population density of 53.34 people per km² (2019).⁴⁷ The majority of Cameroon's population—57 percent (2019)⁴⁸—resides in urban areas. Just under 2 million people reside in coastal areas in Cameroon (2014),⁴⁹ including the important city of Douala.

Plastic Industry and Ecosystem

In 2018 and 2019, Cameroon had no domestic resin production. Its conversion industry processed 34 kt of resin (9 kt polypropylene [PP], 10 kt PE, 15 kt PET) in 2018 and 39 kt of resin (4 kt PP, 20 kt PE, 15 kt PET) in 2019. Similar to other West African countries, Cameroon is a net importer of plastics. In 2019, 40

⁴¹ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

⁴² Kaza, Silpa, Lisa Yao, Perinaz Bhada-Tata, and Frank Van Woerden. 2018. *What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050*. Urban Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank

⁴³ World Bank Group, "Cameroon—Overview," 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/Cameroon/overview#1>.

⁴⁴ Aaron Neba, *Modern Geography of the Republic of Cameroon*, 3rd ed. (Bamenda: Neba Publishers, 1999).

⁴⁵ GDP, PPP (constant 2017 international \$) and GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2017 international \$).

⁴⁶ World Bank Group, "World Development Indicators," 2020.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Jambeck et al., "Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean."

million kg of plastics were imported into the country, with PE, PP, and PVC accounting for about 99% of the imports.⁵⁰ In comparison, 852,652 kg of scrap plastics were exported from Cameroon that same year.⁵¹

Solid Waste Management

Cameroon generates 0.42 kg of MSW per capita per day and this amounts to an overall daily MSW generation of 8.9 million kg.⁵² However, about 81.4 percent of MSW generated is inadequately managed.⁵³

Plastic waste accounts for just below 6 percent of MSW arisings⁵⁴ with a daily generation rate of about 616,000 kg.

Legislation, Policies, and Other Initiatives

The government ministry responsible for municipal waste management in Cameroon is the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development⁵⁵: Currently, waste management in Cameroon is driven by the following laws/regulations:

- Environmental law 96/12, 1996: This law regulates the handling of waste in Cameroon and includes requirements and provisions for reuse and recycling.⁵⁶
- National Strategy for Waste Management, 2007: This strategy stipulates the guiding principles for waste management in Cameroon—sustainable development, the “polluter pays” principle, the principle of equity, and the right to information of the dangers of dealing with waste.⁵⁷
- Decree No. 2012/2809, 2012: This decree states the conditions for sorting, collecting, storing, transporting, recovering, recycling, treating, and disposing of waste.⁵⁸ Additionally, in 2014, the Cameroonian government introduced a plastic bag ban. This policy instituted a ban on the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags.⁵⁹

⁵⁰ UN Comtrade, “UN Comtrade Database,” 2019<https://comtrade.un.org/>.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Kaza, Silpa, Lisa Yao, Perinaz Bhada-Tata, and Frank Van Woerden. 2018. What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050. Urban Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank

⁵³ Jambeck et al., “Plastic Waste Inputs from Land into the Ocean.”

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Climate & Clean Air Coalition, “Solid Waste Management City Profile: Douala, Cameroon,” 2017, https://www.waste.ccacoalition.org/sites/default/files/files/city_profile_douala_english.pdf.

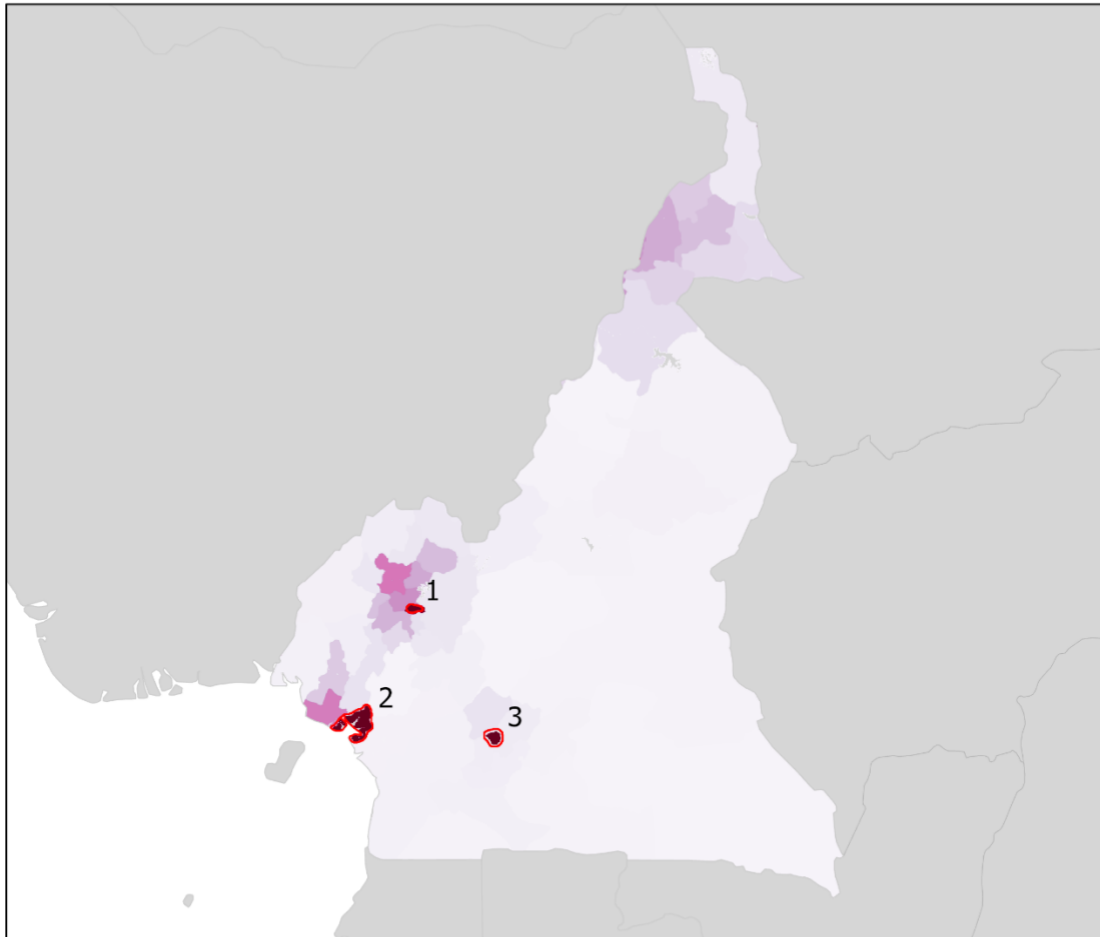
⁵⁶ Chatham House, “Policies.”

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

Plastic Waste in Cameroon



Plastic Generation Hotspots

ID	Locale	Rank	Plastic Waste (kt)	Population	Area (km ²)
1	Bafoussam	47	2.2672	263,091	228.27
2	Douala	13	30.2945	3,515,388	1,672.47
3	Yaounde	10	34.5236	4,006,132	582.08

Total Annual National Plastic Waste Generation: 225.08 kt

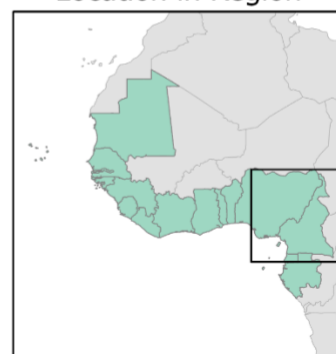
Annual Plastic Waste (kg/km²)



Hotspot Extent



Location in Region



West Africa Regional Gap Analysis: Plastics Circularity

World Bank Group