

Republic of Cameroon

Date of Independence:	January 1, 1960 for East Cameroon (French) October 1, 1961 for West Cameroon (British)
Capital:	Yaoundé
Population:	9,400,000
Head of State and Head of Government:	Paul Biya
Economy:	Mixed

Canada/Cameroon Relations: Cameroon was the first Francophone African country with which Canada established diplomatic relations. A bilingual and moderate country, Cameroon has attracted missionaries, international development agencies and, more recently, Canadian business interests. Canada has a very active co-operation program in Cameroon. CIDA's emphasis is on the forestry, transportation, energy and human resources sectors. Hundreds of Canadians are currently working in Cameroon, and Canadian businessmen have been attracted by the country's great potential. A number of them have developed commercial contacts or are investigating the possibility of joint undertakings.

His Excellency Paul Biya: Born February 13, 1933. Mr. Biya obtained a licence and an advanced degree in public law, and a diploma from the Institut d'études politiques. In 1975, he became Prime Minister, and in 1982, he assumed the Presidency following his predecessor's resignation. He was confirmed as President in January 1984 by popular assent.